

WINTER 2020

CENTRAL

CENTRAL COLLEGE

CIVITAS

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

A photograph of two women walking on a campus path. The woman on the left is wearing a blue denim jacket over a white sweater and has her hair in a bun. The woman on the right is wearing a black cardigan over a red top and has long brown hair. They are both looking towards the right. In the background, there are brick buildings and bare trees.

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SPECIAL GUEST EDITOR
KYLE MUNSON '94

A FACULTY IS A LEARNING COMMUNITY

BY: MARK PUTNAM
CENTRAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT

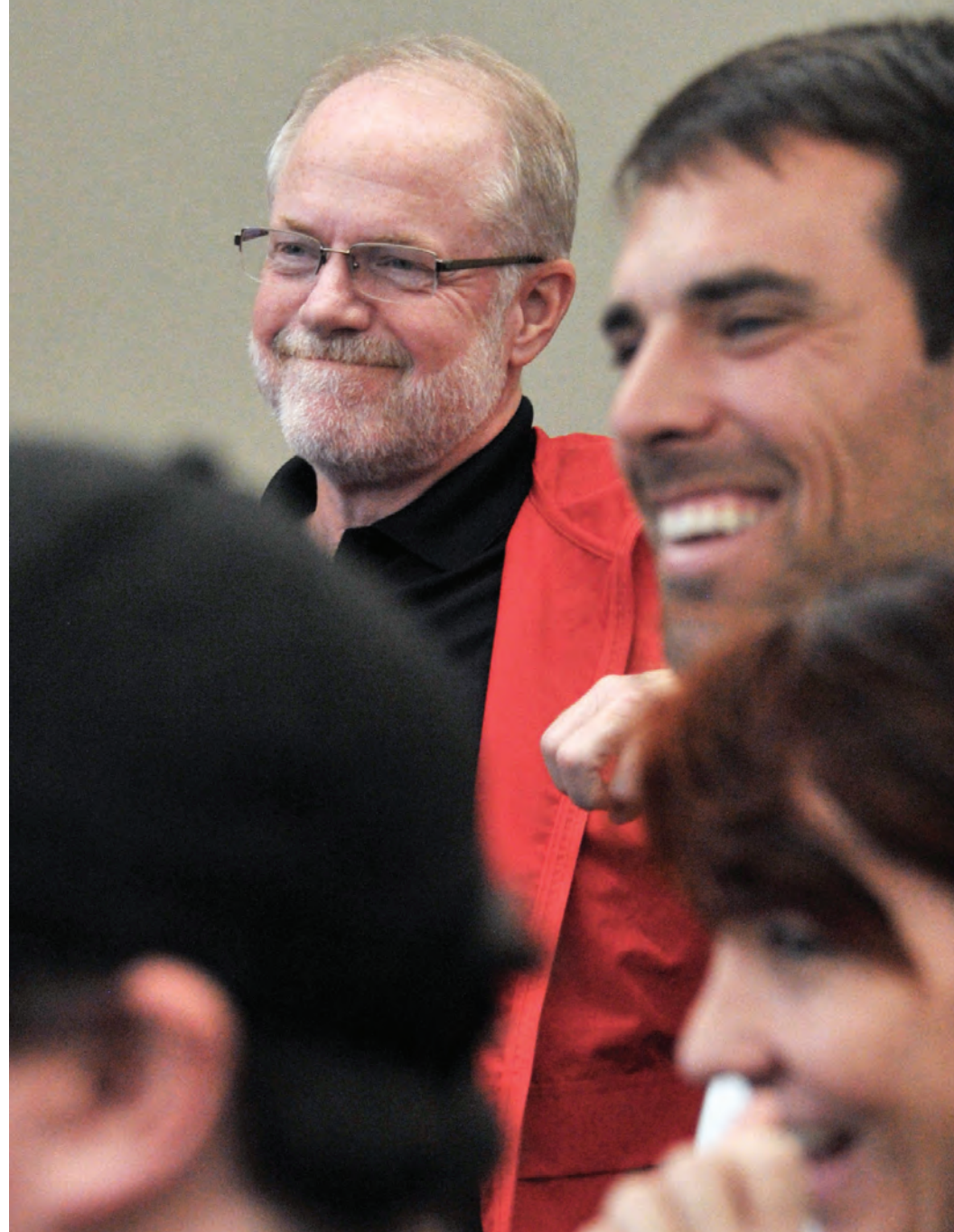
We have a remarkable faculty at Central. Each year I look forward to attending our annual

Endowed Chairs Conference. This event is an internal symposium for our faculty hosted by those who hold an endowed chair or distinguished professorship. The purpose is to share scholarly papers or presentations, teaching innovations and artistic performances.

There is such a warmth of community experienced in this setting as faculty members have the opportunity to engage in a learning community and collectively explore wide-ranging academic interests. These conversations have given rise to research collaborations, international education opportunities and mutual support for teaching excellence. I just marvel at the quality of their work and find such joy simply being present.

Some of the most interesting moments for me come from hearing faculty members explore topics outside their expertise. I see them become students again as scientists reflect on images in art history, musicians encounter emerging economic concepts and sociologists examine themes in literature. I remember one presentation I still don't fully understand in which an economist, a computer scientist and a philosopher presented together on Bitcoin, each using a different lens. It was a wonderful manifestation of collaboration across disciplines.

From time to time, individual faculty members will present a "teaching gem" they have designed and implemented in the classroom, studio or lab. Sometimes these



▲ Central College President **Mark Putnam** smiles during the annual Endowed Chairs Conference.

are ideas they obtained at a professional conference or through a journal within their discipline. The resulting conversation typically is an exploration of how that teaching innovation might be applied to a learning setting in a different discipline. This year I participated in a session in which a group sorting task was used to teach us about specific aspects of anatomy. Yet the point the presenters made was that such an approach could be used in many different disciplines in which a process, system or pattern is a target for learning.

Each year I am impressed as our newer faculty members become the teachers of our more experienced colleagues. I am continually warmed by the interest and affirmation senior members express in the

work of those more recent to the profession. Our new faculty each brings a set of unique interests to explore and seek input from others on ideas they are generating. There is also a sense of appreciation for what everyone contributes to the intellectual and artistic life of our academic community.

There is something special about becoming a student again. We are reminded of the vast and expanding body of knowledge. We recall what it's like to be a novice. We discover new connections among seemingly disparate ideas. A great faculty is really a community of learners who together embody a love for liberal learning.

At Central, we are blessed. ■

CENTRAL COLLEGE
CIVITAS
ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Winter 2020 | Issue 3

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WINTER 2020

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Civitas is published by the Central communications office for alumni, parents and friends of Central College. For information on the Civitas mission, visit civitas.central.edu.

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

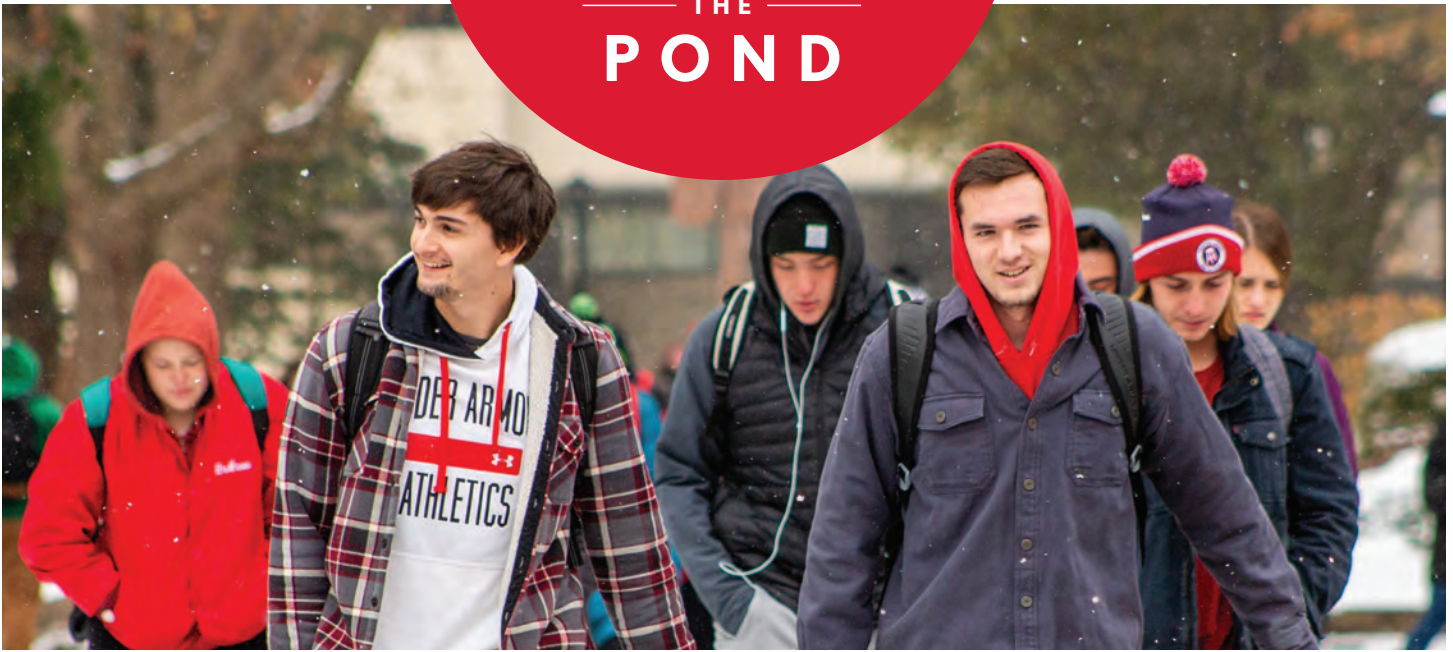
Postmaster: Send address changes (PS 3579) to Civitas, 812 University St., Pella, IA 50219-1999. Address changes also may be sent to alumni@central.edu.



10% Post-Consumer Fiber

Production notes: Civitas is printed with a vegetable-based ink by Town Crier, Pella, Iowa.

AROUND THE POND



▲ NOEL COVER FOUNDATION GIFT

Central recently received a \$50,000 gift from the Noel Cover Foundation of Cozad, Nebraska.

Central is one of four colleges that receive regular gifts from the foundation and the only Iowa institution represented. Since the foundation was established in 1972, Central has received \$1,236,000 in support leading to 273 scholarships for 120 students.

The foundation provides scholarships to needy, deserving and promising young men from Iowa, Colorado, Wyoming or Nebraska who attend one of the following four colleges: Central, University of Denver (Colorado), St. Olaf College (Minnesota) and Hastings College (Nebraska). Recipients must study in fields related to science, scientific research, mechanical engineering and craftsmanship, medicine, medical research or social science.

"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. "Many Central students have benefitted from the foundation's gifts during the past four decades."



◀ WORLD FOOD PRIZE LECTURE



Maria Andrade, a native of the Cape Verde Islands, presented Central's annual World Food Prize lecture in October at Cox-Snow Recital Hall.

Andrade received the prize in 2016 for helping develop disease-resistant, drought-tolerant, high-yielding varieties of orange-fleshed sweet potato that can flourish in the variable soils and climate of sub-Saharan Africa.

It was a breakthrough that reduced the devastating effects of vitamin A deficiency, which contributed to high rates of blindness, diarrhea, immune system disorders and premature death in children and pregnant women in Africa.

▲ IHSSA HALL OF FAME

Dennis Doyle, professor of communication studies at Central, was inducted into the Iowa High School Speech Association Hall of Fame in October. Doyle has been a coach and longtime judge for the IHSSA. He started judging in 1989 when he started at Central.

Doyle has judged at all levels for the IHSSA, including district, state and all-state in both the individual and large group areas. He is the only person ever to judge all six areas in one year.

"I was a bit overwhelmed, but I feel gratitude for the recognition by the IHSSA and proud of my association with the excellent speech education occurring in our state," Doyle says.

Doyle was joined at the ceremony by fellow honoree Marilyn Shaw, an instructor at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. The two became the 66th and 67th inductees since the hall's founding in 1976.



◀ UNDERGRAD RESEARCH

Elizabeth Sheldon '21, left, and Lexi Engen '21 presented "Voted Most Popular: Which Prairie Plants Attract the Greatest Number and Diversity of Native Bees?" during the Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium in Geisler Library. It was one of 15 projects by students who worked full time on the research throughout the summer. Sheldon is an environmental studies major from Chandler, Arizona, while Engen is a biology major from Center Point, Iowa.



◀ SPORTS LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Central offered a Sports Leadership Seminar to area high school athletes and coaches in January. Three 90-minute sessions were conducted on consecutive Sundays.



Athletics director and head wrestling coach **Eric Van Kley**, senior associate athletics director and associate head softball coach **Alicia O'Brien**, head softball coach **George Wares '76** and head football coach **Jeff McMartin '90** facilitated the seminar with special guest instructors and members of Central's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Each session featured presentations, breakout discussions and group activities.



"Leadership has always been viewed as important in athletics,

but in recent years, more and more teams and coaches have discovered how critical a role it really plays in a successful program," Van Kley says. "Central has become very purposeful about developing better leaders on our teams through leadership councils. It makes sense to extend that support to high school teams."

"Central's facilitators are uniquely qualified to lead the sessions," Van Kley says. "Leadership development is a passion for each of them. They are longtime students of the subject beyond the experience they've gained as coaches. Coach McMartin is an instructor at leadership camps across the country each summer. Coach O'Brien and Coach Wares have provided leadership instruction in numerous settings throughout Iowa and around the U.S."



◀ SECRETARY NAIG VISIT

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig visited Central's campus in November to present "Conversations on Clean Water in Iowa."



▲ MID-AMERICANA LAUNCH PARTY

RAYGUN Des Moines hosted a launch party for the podcast "Mid-Americana: Stories from a Changing Midwest" in November. It is a project of Central College professors **Joshua Dolezal**, left, professor of English, and **Brian Campbell**, director of sustainability education.

You can listen to the first season, available on the website www.midamericana.com, and it can be downloaded through Apple, Google Play, Spotify and Stitcher.



▲ TOOTHBRUSH CLUB

Central's Toothbrush Club is the newest and largest student club on campus with 546 members. **Micah Vermeer '05** (*second from left*), dentist at Pella Family Dentistry, donated toothbrushes and toothpaste to the club for one of its meetings.



▲ SERVICE DAY

Central held its annual Service Day Oct. 29 with more than 600 volunteers taking part in nearly 50 projects. Students, faculty and staff volunteered in Pella, Knoxville, Newton, Oskaloosa and the Des Moines metro area.

The milestone event has been part of Central's commitment to service learning since 2006. More than 45 academic courses across 15 departments have semester-long components in service-learning.

"Service Day is just one component of our holistic approach to service-learning and community engagement," says **Cheri Trout**

Doane '98, director of community-based learning. "Service Day really complements what we do year-around. It's an activity that advances our ability as students, faculty and staff, along with the college and community partners, to strive to reach potential."

Each year during Service Day, tulip bulbs are planted for the Pella Historical Society and Museum in preparation for Tulip Time. Other projects this year took place at the Children and Family Urban Movement in Des Moines and the Centre for Arts and Artists in Newton.

DUTCH KICKING STAR **ALBERTS** CLUTCH IN CLASSROOM

BY: LARRY HAPPEL '81



Jon Alberts '20 tests well.

Whether he's being tested in a Principles of Finance exam in the Weller Center or by a last-minute field goal at Ron and Joyce Schipper Stadium, he gets high marks.

Yes, exams in the Weller Center tend to draw fewer spectators.

Alberts carries a 3.91 GPA as a senior business management and philosophy double major, while kicking field goals at an 86.4% clip for the Central College football team, with a perfect 59-for-59 mark in extra points in the regular season. He helped the Dutch to a share of a record 31st conference championship and a 21st NCAA Division III playoff berth.

Alberts confesses that a decisive kick stirs up more uneasiness than an essay question.

"I wouldn't say I get nervous for tests," Alberts said. "I kind of enjoy them, in a weird way. It's satisfying when I take a test and know everything. Some people freak out about tests, but I don't."

But as the clock ticked down Nov. 9 with Central nearing field-goal range and knotted 49-49 against nationally ranked Wartburg College, Alberts felt a surge of anxiety. That's when his mental preparation became as important as his physical training.

"I was definitely trying to fake it until I made it by just acting super calm and telling myself I was calm," he says. "There's no way to avoid pressure sometimes, and when I go out there I feel it in my legs, but I try not to overthink. I try not to let the pressure get to me. But if it does, I block it out and think

about my keys — keeping my shoulders still and swinging up through the ball — so I don't get in my own head."

Alberts became Central's 15th AFCA All-America pick, earning first-team honors, and was a finalist for the Fred Mitchell Award as the nation's top small-college kicker. He received all-conference recognition for the third consecutive year and was cited as the league's special teams player of the week four times this year and nine times overall.

He's also a first-team CoSIDA Academic All-America pick and a three-time academic all-conference honoree. His 48-yard field goal Oct. 5 at Luther College was the longest in the conference. His school-record 55-yarder last year at Wartburg was the

longest in Division III. About the only thing hampering his All-America hopes was, ironically, Central's offensive efficiency. The Dutch turned 46 red zone trips into 36 touchdowns, leaving fewer field goal opportunities for Alberts than many of his competitors.

That's fine with him.

"I always say I like to kick extra points rather than field goals because that means we scored a touchdown," he says.

But the life of a kicker can sometimes be a lonely existence. Teammates run drills. Alberts kicks. Teammates review game plans. Alberts kicks. Teammates watch film. Alberts does homework.

A kicker's playbook is pretty slim.

"My coaches will send me film, and I watch all my kicks," he says. "But that takes me 15 minutes, whereas they game plan for the other team."

The time on the field is brief, but with the game on the line, the kicker's role suddenly is most important. That responsibility fosters a self-discipline that translates well to academic life.

"My position is very accountable," Alberts says. "In high school, my coach just kind of let me loose. He said, 'You just have to be ready for the five minutes we do extra

points and the 10 minutes we do kickoffs. The rest of practice, we don't really care what you're doing.' I would take advantage of that and go find an open field and kick on my own."

He uses a similar motivation when it's time to study.

"I've always been disciplined about the things I cared about," he says. "I've always cared about grades, so I do my schoolwork as best I can."

Alberts initially eyed law school and opted for a philosophy major, but now he's aiming for a career in finance. His first philosophy class was with **Mark Thomas**, assistant professor of philosophy, now his advisor.

"I always thought that I would be a good lawyer because I like arguments, writing and persuasive things like that, and that's sort of what philosophy is," Alberts says. "We had good classroom discussions. I wound up liking it and stayed with it."

He's stayed with the Dutch as well.

"We've had a tradition of great kickers here, and he is raising the bar," coach **Jeff McMartin '90** says. "He really pushes himself. He's just a rock-solid kid and a rock-solid kicker. He loves the big moment." ■

FALL SPORTS WRAP-UP



1 FOOTBALL

10-2 overall, 7-1 conference. Won share of record 31st league title and gained 21st NCAA Division III playoff berth where team advanced to the second round.

2 MEN'S SOCCER

14-4-2 overall, 6-1-1 conference. Won first-ever conference title and received first NCAA tournament berth. **Taylor Petkovich '20** named league defensive MVP. Head coach **Garry Laidlaw** and assistants named staff of the year.

3 WOMEN'S SOCCER

6-10-2 overall, 1-6-1 conference. **Elise Askelsen '20** named CoSIDA Academic All-District for second year in row.

4 MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Fourth in conference, eighth of 28 teams at NCAA Division III Central Regional. **Nate Sanders '21** on all-region team.

5 WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Fifth in conference, 21st of 30 teams at NCAA Division III Central Regional.

6 WOMEN'S GOLF

Fourth in conference. **Emily Opsal '20** gains all-conference honors for third time.

7 WOMEN'S TENNIS

5-6 overall, 4-4 conference (fifth place). **Karleigh Schilling '21** gains all-conference honors for third time.

8 VOLLEYBALL

17-13 overall, 2-6 conference (tie, seventh place). Outside hitter **Krissa Larson '22** receives honorable mention all-conference.



"I'VE ALWAYS BEEN DISCIPLINED ABOUT THE THINGS I CARE ABOUT."

— JON ALBERTS '20



CENTRAL SCENE
PHOTO BY: PAUL JOY

A mix of seasons on Oct. 29, 2019, makes for a beautiful view on Central's campus.



CONNECT FOUR

Students have four pivotal years at Central College to create the connections they'll need to formulate a lifetime of success. Central's programs and offerings prioritize these crucial encounters between students and top-tier influencers.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY: CYVANNAH VECCHIO



Pictured from left to right, **Zach Goering '22**, **Sam DePauw '22** and **Alex Garcia '22** pose in front of Vista Tower during a frigid boat tour along the Chicago River in late October.

MOVE-IN DAY

Fresh coffee, tart lemonade and sugary donut holes: This trio of welcome refreshments sweetens Move-In Day at the start of Central College's fall semester. Incoming freshmen and their families are greeted by a bustling hive of students, alumni, faculty and staff busily hauling new students' belongings into their campus home away from home. **Betty Balder Bollard '84** knows how crucial these first interactions are for the fresh wave of students and their parents.

"I want to be the warm, friendly face that greets the families with a smile and an encouraging word on what can be a somewhat stressful day," Bollard says. "It's nice Central has volunteers available to answer last-minute questions for incoming freshmen and their parents. The Move-In Day process says to parents, 'Yes, somebody here cares about your child.'"

"The refreshments we offer are a sweet perk, too!"

Bollard is among a group of alumni who are teachers in Pella and have volunteered at Move-In Day for more than 15 years.

"Having alumni at welcome tents on Move-In Day is so important in welcoming the newest members of the Central family to campus," says **Mary Benedict**, assistant director of alumni relations. "It's a great example of how you are a member of the family even after graduation. It's fun when alumni volunteer at the tents at the residence hall they lived in, telling stories about when they lived there."

Central's expansive and invested base of alumni and friends interacts with students at every stage of their educational journey. Opportunities are sprinkled throughout the year, often organized around shared interests.

OFF-CAMPUS OFFERINGS

Central's economics, accounting and business management department (EAM) trip to Chicago, for example, is packed full of face time with business professionals in Chicagoland through informative and relaxed conversations with Central alumni.

The three-day trip's anonymous sponsor, from the Central Class of 1991, says her motivation behind funding the annual expedition is "to show students they can do anything and go anywhere with a Central degree."

Now in its third year, the Chicago EAM trip is a fantastic experiential learning opportunity for a select group of Central students majoring in business-related fields.

Applicants are required to submit a résumé, information about their chosen majors and minors, and a statement about what they hope to gain from the experience. Spots are awarded by the two faculty members who staff the trip: **Tuan Nguyen**, assistant professor of economics, and **Maggie Fisher Schlerman '02**, associate professor of accounting, in consultation with all EAM faculty members.

"We really try to select sophomores and juniors who are likely to go to Chicago for an internship, to participate in the Chicago Semester or pursue a full-time job in Chicago after graduation," Schlerman says.

This year's crop of students included eight sophomores, three juniors and one senior with majors in accounting, actuarial science, business management, economics, management information systems and political science. They were whisked around

Chicago by alumni and friends of Central, logging more than 10 miles of walking in two days, as they learned how a Central degree translates into real-world careers.

In addition to business tours, Central students were wine and dined by Central alumni at Smoke Daddy — known widely as "Chicago's best barbeque" — across the street from Wrigley Field. Alumni **Kent Jager '80**, **Christine Epperly Ieuter '91** and **David Bock '95** mingled with students. Huddled conversations peppered the dining room as alums circulated among students, with the old-timey backdrop of a live bluegrass band.

"The Chicago trip opened my eyes to opportunities in a different environment and location that I would never have been introduced to without Central and its amazing alumni," says **Luke Lubbers '22**, an undeclared major from Winterset, Iowa.

CHICAGO EAM TRIP



▲ Front row (seated, left to right): Director of Career and Professional Development **Jessica Klyn de Novelo '05**, **Ashley Millard '22**, **Sam DePauw '22**, **Riley Albertson '22**, **Alex Garcia '22** and **Terry Hefel '22**. Back row (left to right): Three Walgreens employees, **Chace Palm '21**, **Joel Collett '21**, **Taylor Petkovich '20**, Associate Professor of Accounting **Maggie Fisher Schlerman '02**, Assistant Professor of Economics **Tuan Nguyen**, **Luke Lubbers '22**, **Zach Goering '22**, **Kale Weis '22**, Walgreens employee, **Myah Wegman '21**, **Dean Chapman '86** and Walgreens employee.

Dean Chapman '86, former director of supply chain at Walgreens, kicked off the Chicago business tours in the board room. Students were intrigued by the two-year rotational strategy used to give new hires a well-rounded perspective on supply-chain processes. Qualitative anecdotes revealed most employees emerged from rotations with a newfound respect for jobs they hadn't been interested in pursuing. Central students found this model attractive in its intention to give new employees the opportunity to explore the wider workplace before committing to a narrower career track. "I like the idea of trying different areas before making a decision," says **Zach Goering '22**.



David Bock '95, vice president of operational risk at the global financial services firm ABN AMRO Clearing, made the Central student visitors feel the Dutch love with an offering of stroomwafels. ABN AMRO's storied history as a Dutch bank echoes the Pella heritage. Internship possibilities at ABN AMRO were appealing to Central students, given the globetrotting opportunities to Australia, the Netherlands and more. Bock double majored in math and computer science, minored in business management and participated in Central's London study abroad program.

HANDSHAKE

Connecting with alumni and Central partners is easy for students. In fact, all it takes is Handshake. Handshake is a digital community created for students, recent grads, employers and career centers. Handshake lets students:

- + Access Central's Career and Professional Development resources and create appointments with staff.
- + Discover career opportunities.
- + Get job and internship recommendations.
- + Ask for advice from fellow students who got great jobs.
- + Central College is connected through Handshake with 1,500 employers, locally and nationally.
- + Employers have posted more than 4,000 jobs for Central students since August 2019.
- + Central students have submitted 90 applications for jobs posted in Handshake.

Employers can find future leaders at central.join.handshake.com.

Handshake connects employers, talent and colleges in one convenient location.

CAREER KICKSTARTER

Central sophomores can participate in a new, weeklong Career Kickstarter program offered during winter break.

This program has guaranteed "micro-internships" — a one-week shadowing experience — with local alumni or other professional mentors to engage with a local organization. Participants do in-depth career exploration and career planning workshops on such topics as networking, résumé preparation, the use of professional social media and how to apply and prepare for an extended internship.

"As a psych major with plans to continue my education beyond Central, I was pleased that Kickstarter included a session on applying to grad schools," says **Abby Malecha '22**. "That was unexpected and very helpful."

The reality of the working world is that employers want more and more experience for entry level positions. The Career Kickstarter program gives students a jumpstart early in their educational journey, with additional internship opportunities down the road.

"Employers are engaging with students earlier and earlier in their college careers and want to see workplace experience on their résumés," says **Jessica Klyn de Novelo '05**, Central's director of career and professional development. "And Central has a large and enthusiastic local alumni base that's eager to provide such experiences. I see it as a natural way for students to make connections off campus and gain professional experience early in their time at Central."

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Central introduced "Leadership for the Common Good: Women's Leadership Conference" in Fall 2019. The three-day conference gave Central juniors, nominated by faculty and staff members, the opportunity to meet with regional female leaders. These leaders, including Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, are experts in their fields and embody character traits that set an example for women scholars and future leaders.

"Participants learned about teamwork, civic leadership, curiosity and entrepreneurship, and honed negotiation skills," Klyn says.

Central women visited with businesses and nonprofits in Pella and Des Moines. The conference was made possible through funding from the Monticello College Foundation, the Vermeer Charitable Foundation and private donors.

"Each day after spending upward of eight hours speaking with successful women, I felt more confident in my abilities," says exercise science major **Jaiden Ackerson '21**. "I feel

comfortable going for my goals. It was refreshing to see so many women doing exactly what they want to be doing and know that I can, too."



CONNECTION QUEEN

Director of Career and Professional Development **Jessica Klyn de Novelo '05** (right) is Central students' go-to resource for career connections.

HOMETOWN: Pella, Iowa

MAJORS: Spanish and Art

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES: Spanish Club, Art Club, Modern Language House and Work Study

STUDY ABROAD: Mérida, Mexico (two semesters), and Hangzhou, China (summer)

INTERNSHIP: Uxmal de Taxco, Mérida

Jessica Klyn de Novelo '05 began working at Central immediately after graduation. Her work always has focused on building relationships and helping connect students to opportunities that give them a chance to move out of their comfort zones, experience something new and put into practice what they're learning in the classroom.

"Central has a long, successful tradition of excellence in high-impact practices including service, internships, study abroad and undergraduate research," Klyn says. "There's nothing more rewarding than seeing students have aha moments when they begin to see connections between their studies, interests and passions, and the unique ways they can apply those in their lives. The joy is really compounded when alumni step forward and offer to help make these experiences happen."

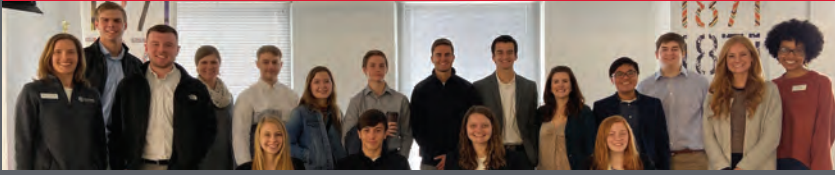
A former Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, Klyn currently serves as the Rotary Youth Exchange coordinator for the Pella Rotary Club while also serving on its board. In addition, she volunteers for Iowa Justice for Our Neighbors, translating for lawyers and clients in asylum cases for Spanish speaking immigrants. Recently, Klyn translated an asylum case for an immigration attorney, also a Central alum, who takes these cases pro-bono.

Klyn's significant accomplishments and deep commitments to her communities earned her recognition as an Emerging Leadership winner with the Iowa Campus Compact in May 2019.

"THE POSSIBILITIES ARE TRULY ENDLESS."

— JESSICA KLYN DE NOVELO '05

CHICAGO EAM TRIP



▲ Front row (seated, left to right): **Sam DePauw '22**, **Alex Garcia '22**, **Ashley Millard '22** and **Riley Albertson '22**. Back row (left to right): 1871 Executive Director Mackenzi Huyser, **Kale Weis '22**, **Zach Goering '22**, Director of Career and Professional Development **Jessica Klyn de Novelo '05**, **Terry Hefel '22**, **Myah Wegman '21**, **Chace Palm '21**, **Joel Collett '21**, **Taylor Petkovich '20**, Associate Professor of Accounting **Maggie Fisher Schlerman '02**, Assistant Professor of Economics **Tuan Nguyen**, **Luke Lubbers '22**, 1871 Recruitment, Communications and College Relations Assistant Director Sara Chiang and Recruitment and Marketing Coordinator Kelsey Brooks.

Mackenzi Huyser is executive director of the Chicago Semester program. Central was one of the founding members of the Chicago Semester program. The Chicago Semester recently moved offices to 1871, Chicago's center for technology and entrepreneurship. 1871 is a business incubator dedicated to Chicago's digital startup community. This modern hub is home to nearly 500 fledgling tech firms. Central partners with the Chicago Semester as an off-campus program for qualified juniors and seniors of any major. The semester-long coursework and internship equips students for integrated personal, professional and public lives through internships, academic seminars and access to networking in the third-largest city in America.

Founded in 2012, its name was inspired by the ingenuity in rebuilding after the infamous 1871 fire engulfed the city. Huyser gave Central students a tour of the workspaces that house startup businesses such as Cameo, a company tech firm that allows users to pay celebrities (often \$100 or more) to send custom video shout-outs to their friends and family and got its start at 1871. Colleges such as Northwestern University and global companies also share the space.



Tammy Williamson Chase '90, director of communications and media relations for Chicago Transit Authority, graduated from Central with a degree in political science. Central's liberal arts curriculum equipped Chase with the ability to thrive in a variety of fields outside her major, including journalism, marketing, communications and media. Chase emphasizes the importance of creating connections with people who have more experience or can offer valuable insights. She often invites these professionals to chat over a cup of coffee — a bold move she says many young grads have yet to master. "Bring your 'A' game every day to what you're doing," Chase says.

Learn more about Central's Chicago Semester:
central.edu/chicago-dc.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Central has many more opportunities for students to make connections that will guide them toward success. Central is dedicated to building those connections and encouraging positive relationships between students and their communities.

Students can attend Central's internship fair and discover internships to earn academic credit at organizations in Pella or a quick drive away in nearby communities such as Des Moines, Johnston, Grinnell, Newton, Oskaloosa or Knoxville. "Pella is home to global organizations that offer excellent work and internship experience," Klyn says. "Beyond the resources close to campus, Central supports students wherever they want to intern. That means identifying opportunities close to wherever they call home, in their dream city or around the world through Central's study abroad programs, which offers the chance to do something like work alongside a member of parliament in London. The

possibilities are truly endless."

In addition, students can participate in mock interviews to prepare them for future careers. Each semester several days are dedicated to honing students' interviewing skills. Human resources professionals in the community conduct one-on-one interviews with students as if the student was seeking a real internship or job at that company.

"Mock interviews allow students to gain experience, get targeted feedback and give employers insight about Central and its students," Klyn says.

MAKE THE CONNECTION

How can you help make a connection for Central students?

▲ **Share your time.** Devoting quality time to students is a simple expression of their worth within the Central community and the future of the working world. Visiting a class and answering questions, attending an on-campus event or participating in student-led activities are

simple and effective ways to share your time with Central students.

- ▲ **Share your knowledge.** Tell stories from your authentic experiences, especially ones that highlight mistakes and failure. We all know mistakes often produce the most valuable lessons and set up the next success.
- ▲ **Share your resources.** Scholarship donations and other giving paves the way for more active learning by students. If you're passionate about a certain field, would you want to support a program similar to the EAM Chicago trip for a major or group of majors in a city near you?
- ▲ **Open doors.** Post internships and jobs at Central at central.join.handshake.com.

Creating connections with students is as simple as visiting campus and dining at Central Market during lunch hour. Want to connect with students in any of the ways mentioned above? Contact **Mary Benedict** at benedictm@central.edu. ■

President **Mark Putnam**, center, and Associate Professor of Music **Gabriel Espinosa '79** congratulate **Jeremy Vester '19** following graduation.

CYCLE OF GENEROSITY KEY TO SCHOLARSHIPS AT **CENTRAL**

FOLLOWING TUITION ANNOUNCEMENT, SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING NEEDED MORE THAN EVER

BY: JEFF BERSCH

When it comes to generosity, the Central College family puts its money where its mouth is.

Central always has had a generous group of donors. Alumni, parents, friends, faculty, staff, foundations and even students help fund meaningful scholarships. The hope is that graduates continue the cycle. After all, membership at Central is for a lifetime.

"Everybody has a heart for others and a heart for helping. We take care of our own," says **Sunny Gonazales Eighmy '99**, vice president for advancement. "The Central family always wants to be supportive."

The scholarships the college awards students are a tangible vote of confidence in their futures.

Central enjoyed a record year of fundraising for its Journey Scholarship Fund, bringing in \$1.34 million from July 2018 through June 2019. Of course, that was before Central's historic announcement of a new annual tuition price of \$18,600 for Fall 2020.

The bold move made Central a leader in promoting transparency in the cost of higher education. The old model offered what essentially were discounts, and few students paid the published price. For decades this has been routine practice for nearly all colleges and universities.

The change means Central no longer can offer large discounts — disguised as scholarships — to incoming students. The new price puts Central's tuition in line with large state universities.

Central's commitment to scholarships, however, has not evaporated. In fact, it's more important than ever, Eighmy says. As the college continues to offer scholarships in proportion to the new tuition price, it's also true that no current student will pay more in Fall 2020 than they do now.

But it also means that all Central scholarship offers now must be funded. The shell game of discounts is over, and every dollar is real.

"A lot of donors I work with want to know how they can help," Eighmy says. "We are grateful for all gifts to the college but some of the most meaningful are those that support and open doors of opportunities for students. I love this human connection."

WHAT DONATIONS FUND

With the change in tuition price, Eighmy and her advancement team have been charged with raising more money, especially for scholarships.

The goals are ambitious but indicative of the deep commitment to students, families and affordability.

With 640 Journey Scholarships and 269 endowed scholarships available for approximately 1,150 students enrolled at the college, Central would love to increase the number of scholarships available to support all students. If every Central student received one scholarship, the current funding pool would fall short, and it's true many students receive more than one scholarship.

Through endowments and the Journey Scholarship Fund, nearly \$3 million in scholarships is fully funded each year. Growing that amount to back the college's commitment to families is essential.

Students, of course, receive additional aid, such as federal and state grants, work study, student/parent loans and outside scholarships. But every scholarship dollar now carries more impact.

"We're in a whole new world," says **Wayne Dille**, director of financial aid. "We're early, but we know the tuition announcement has piqued interest. Our

biggest priority is helping students with their level of need."

THE SCHOLARSHIP PUZZLE

Dille's job is to assemble the puzzle that matches scholarships with students.

The college offers two types of scholarships: annual and endowed.

- + An annual scholarship is a gift that must be replenished every year to support a student. It has an immediate impact.
- + An endowed scholarship lasts a lifetime and is a gift that keeps giving. Each year, a percentage (usually around 5%) of the whole is used to fund a scholarship.

At Central, the Journey Scholarship Fund supports annual scholarships. This year, 640 students received a Journey Scholarship. The average award is around \$1,000 apiece. Every dollar donated to the fund supports students directly and is awarded based on need.

On the endowed side, 10 new scholarships were funded this past fiscal year, bringing the total to 269. Central suggests a minimum of \$50,000 to start an endowed scholarship. That amount approximately would fund a \$2,500 annual scholarship.

Endowed scholarships also can be designated for certain students. This is where the puzzle begins for Dille. Some are simply earmarked for students in need. Others are very specific, offered only to students from named counties in Iowa or interested in a career such as Christian ministry.

At Central, 28% of endowed scholarships are unrestricted; the other 72% are restricted with a clear designation.

Dille also works with incoming students and families on receiving federal or state aid such as a Pell Grant or the Iowa Tuition Grant. At Central, 28% of students are eligible for the Pell Grant, which ranges from \$657 to

"THANKS TO YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT, I'VE HAD AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES PUT IN FRONT OF ME. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO PURSUE WHAT I DESIRE IN MY EDUCATION. I'M SO BLESSED TO BE HERE AND AM SO THANKFUL."



— ALLISON REINBOLD '20

HOMETOWN: Springfield, Missouri

MAJORS: Mathematics and Psychology

SCHOLARSHIPS: H.S. Kuyper, Ministry and Mission

SCHOLAR DAY

Scholar Day brings together admitted students to compete for scholarships beyond what they've already been awarded. It's offered twice in the fall semester and twice in the spring semester.

Students have the chance to earn Central's most prestigious scholarships, up to full tuition; other Scholar Day awards from \$500-\$2,000 also are available.

Students and parents are invited for the day, beginning with a welcome from Central President **Mark Putnam**. From there, all students take part in a collaborative group discussion with faculty. This year, the topic was London surgeon John Snow, who ultimately solved the mystery of how cholera spread.

Parents, meanwhile, take part in a panel discussion with alumni and current parents. Prospective students also interview with faculty and staff and participate in a panel with current students.

Scholar Day participants enjoy a formal luncheon and can take full tours of campus and meet with financial aid administrators.

"That's the real starting point," Freiburger says. "It's their chance to come to campus, meet faculty, to be celebrated as a scholar and meet future peers. They want to impress. They're prepared for the day. They're great students we want in this community."

This year's Scholar Days were well received, bringing hundreds of students to campus to compete for scholarships and build relationships with peers and faculty.

For more information, visit central.edu/scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

The scholarship dinner is an invitation-only event each April to celebrate significant scholarship donors, whether annual or endowed.

This gives student scholarship recipients the opportunity to personally thank and share dinner with donors who help make their Central educations possible. More than 560 donors, students and parents attended the April 2019 dinner in P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium.

Scholarship recipients shared their Central experiences via video. Longtime Central donor **Amy Dietrich Eilers '88** presented "My Central Gratitude Story: From Great to Grateful" and led an interactive activity that encouraged attendees to share their stories with each other.

"That human connection is huge," Eighmy says. "Donors see they are making an impact, that they are opening doors for students. Students see donors who care and who have personally invested in them as people."

The next scholarship dinner is scheduled for April 23, 2020.

\$6,125 based on need. The Iowa Tuition Grant offers \$6,000 to qualifying students (about one-third of Central's student body). Standards for both grants are determined after filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and calculating the estimated family contribution.

That money helps reduce the average out-of-pocket cost to Central students. Still, there remains an urgent need to fund scholarships.

"With the positive energy out there and being more transparent, more authentic, more open, we also need to be open that

we don't have enough funding to be as generous as we want to be," Eighmy says. "But people are on board and excited. Central pride has never been higher."

WHAT DONATIONS FUND

Chevy Freiburger, executive director of admission, has seen firsthand the effect of the new tuition price.

"Students and parents are eager to talk, they want to go through the process," he says.

That process is discussing a fit at Central. Freiburger and his admission



"RECEIVING THIS SCHOLARSHIP MEANS A LOT, AND IT'S HELPING ME ACHIEVE A GOAL NO ONE IN MY FAMILY HAS BEFORE ME. WITHOUT THE GENEROSITY OF DONORS LIKE YOU, I COULDN'T AFFORD TO GO TO COLLEGE. I THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND HOPE EVERYONE APPRECIATES YOUR DONATIONS AS GREATLY AS I DO."

– TREVOR CORMENY '20

HOMETOWN: Unionville, Iowa

MAJOR: Information Systems

SCHOLARSHIPS: Central Transfer, Journey, Breed, Houseman and Leu



▲ Above and top right, Students and donors interact during the Scholarship Dinner in April 2019 in P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium. Top left, **Jamel McKnight '19**, an admission representative at Central, leads students on a tour during Scholar Day in November 2019.

team highlight personal attention, small classroom sizes, research opportunities and internships.

“When students leave here, they shine in a way that’s different,” Freiburger says. “It’s a transformative experience. We give them that through scholarships, through affordability. We have to be competitive in the competitive market in Iowa.”

No one benefits more from the tuition change and the ability to offer scholarships than students. They are the two biggest factors in recruitment.

“We get students from a variety of income levels — wealthy to needy,” he says. “Each wants a scholarship. It’s our way of

acknowledging we want you here, that we feel you’ll be a great fit and a graduate of Central. It’s giving them a little gift, showing them some Central love.”

Year after year, Freiburger sees graduates leave Central proud to be Forever Dutch®. That pride then turns into generosity.

If you want to help support students with the gift of a scholarship, visit central.edu/give or contact the Office of Advancement at 641-628-7604. ■

CENTRAL STUDENTS GIVE THANKS

“A big part of my success is because of the amazing support I received from people like you. Your generosity takes pressure off me and my family and allows me to focus on what I’m here for — learning and studying. I’m beyond grateful for the scholarships I have received. If I didn’t have scholarships, this wouldn’t be possible.”



– EFRAIN GARCIA '20

HOMETOWN: Oskaloosa, Iowa

MAJORS: History and Spanish

MINOR: Philosophy

SCHOLARSHIPS: Trustee, Journey, Vander Lugt-Voss, Central Spanish Award

“Thank you for sponsoring me so graciously with one of your scholarships. I consider myself truly blessed to be a student here, and I have you to thank for this opportunity.”



– JOHN HORNER '21

HOMETOWN: South Sioux City, Nebraska

MAJOR: Mathematics

SCHOLARSHIP: Pella Rolscreen

THE BEST OF TIMES WITH

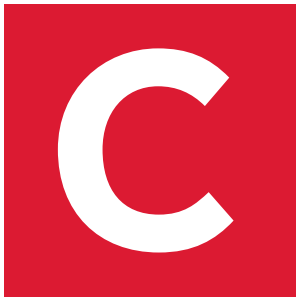
STYX

AND CENTRAL'S MOST
EXPLOSIVE CONCERT

BY: KYLE MUNSON '94



The members of Styx, after Tommy Shaw joined the band, are shown in a 1970s promotional photo, clockwise from far left: Chuck Panozzo, John Panozzo, Dennis DeYoung, Shaw and James "JY" Young.



considering the recent gorgeous \$2.2 million renovation of Central College's Douwstra Auditorium, it may sound

odd to dwell on cracked and shattered windows the venue suffered 45 years ago.

But trust me: What broke the glass makes the story.

The culprit wasn't a rock flung by a hooligan student.

It was the rock show staged by the band Styx on Jan. 22, 1975. That night turned out to rate a milestone both for Central's original stately chapel built in 1939 and the up-and-coming purveyor of romantic ballads and proggy bombast from the south side of Chicago.

It officially qualifies as the most explosive concert in the history of Central. Here's why.

First, it was a hot ticket.

"Everybody who was anybody went to the concert," says **Al Paris '77**, who attended the show and now lives in Runnells, Iowa.

By the time the doors opened, the line of 750 or so students had become "an anxious mob," according to student newspaper *The Ray*. "There was such a mad rush to get inside that people got wedged in

the doorway and barely squeezed through with a lot of help from behind."

Keep in mind that this wasn't the Styx of "Come Sail Away" or "Mr. Roboto." The band at the start of 1975 still was four years away from its biggest hit song (1979's "Babe") and six years from its highest-charting album (1981's No. 1 "Paradise Theater").

This was the scruffier, hungrier band that had begun in the early 1960s with a former accordion player (singer-keyboardist Dennis DeYoung) backed by the twin Panozzo brothers as his rhythm section. Guitarist Tommy Shaw wouldn't join the band (replacing John Curulewski) until the end of 1975.

Yet the Styx that played Pella already had released four (mostly forgettable) albums. But stale two-year-old single "Lady," thanks to a fresh promotional push by the band's new record label, suddenly was racing up the charts. It already was No. 1 in Des Moines, according to *The Ray*. By March it would reach the nationwide Top 10.

Central's student concert committee first had tried to book Styx as early as September 1974, looking for a hot rock act at a bargain price. Memories have faded, but perhaps Styx signed the contract for a sum well below \$10,000. Closer to the gig, the band lobbied for more money.

"They were filling such large venues they wanted a percentage of the gate," says **Art Alt**, then the student activities director. (He and his wife, **Diane**, who ran the college's media center, spent 27 years on campus. They now relish retirement in sunny Florida.)

Styx's request for a cut of the gate made Alt laugh: Tickets were free to students.

The *Ray* at the time noted, "Central College is one of the smallest places Styx has played for a long time."

In hindsight, the show was even more significant in the annals of Styx: Pella was the last tiny stepping stone before the band's career took flight. A week later Styx was in Columbus, Ohio, to spend the rest of winter and spring opening sold-out concerts on Queen's "Sheer Heart Attack Tour."

What made the Styx concert historic for Central was its sound — but not a sound that emanated from the instrument or voice of any band member.

The *Ray* observed that the pre-encore performance of the song "Krakatoa" (on album a weird dissonant thing barely more than a minute long) "included an echo effect through the synthesizer and a concluding explosion."

That explosion, according to *The Ray*, "blew out three and broke four more panes of glass."



▲ Styx is shown performing Jan. 22, 1975, in Douwstra Auditorium — an infamous concert that literally shattered expectations (in the form of Italian window glass).

“THE LOUDEST BOOM I’VE HEARD IN MY LIFE” — AL PARIS ’77

Paris witnessed this from his perfect vantage point in the balcony.

“It was incredible,” he says. “It was probably the loudest boom I’ve heard in my life.”

Styx had arranged at least one canon on either side of the Douwstra stage. A large flame reportedly erupted from each canon as well as the furious boom.

The audience responded with a huge roar and cheers, although everybody in the room also was a bit stunned — including the band. Yet the concert went on uninterrupted.

The band and the vast majority of fans probably were oblivious to the shattered glass, which written accounts from 1975 failed to explain.

Alt provides the answer: The auditorium’s heavy velvet drapes had been drawn shut, all the better for the band’s light show. So the shattered glass either spewed outward or cascaded down between the interior wall and the drapes.

“It’s not like you see in the movies where the glass comes crashing out,” says **Ron**

Humeston ’76, who helped book the concert and ran a spotlight but by the end of the show was watching from the back of the main aisle.

Had the drapes been open, perhaps the students would’ve been showered in shards of glass.

Styx “put out a lot of sound for the little chapel with their equipment” — 118 decibels according to the KCU sound meter, as reported by *The Ray*. And the band “did not have nearly their full PA system set up,” the story wryly observed.

In a letter to the editor in *The Ray*, **John Hanna ’76** lamented “that 75% of the crowd didn’t really loosen up until Dennis DeYoung ... actually told the people to stand and put their hands together.”

One assumes that by the time of the Krakatoa explosion, everybody in the audience — perhaps across campus — was awake.

School administrators, meanwhile, objected to the destruction of what turned out to be expensive Italian glass. The student activities budget had to absorb more than \$3,000 in replacement windows, Alt says.

And that was the end to pyrotechnics in Douwstra.

At the time, *The Ray* observed of

Alt that he “has never seemed so relieved, so worn out or so happy as during the concert.”

The surprise explosion supposedly was another symptom of Styx’s fast rise: Their pyrotechnician was a relative novice who, Alt says, “loaded the cannons with too much black powder.” From then on the roadie was instructed by the band to measure more precisely.

“It will forever be burned in everybody’s memories who was in Douwstra that night — literally,” Paris says.

It’s not as if concerts by name acts were completely foreign to Tulip Town. The college had been visited by the likes of Count Basie, the Smothers Brothers and Mason Proffit.

Later there was the infamous October 1983 concert by the Tubes, an MTV-era band who — decades before #MeToo — became (The Ray again) “very controversial, largely due to scenes in their stage show that portrayed women in a degrading and derogatory manner.”

Tommy Shaw and his first post-Styx band performed April 23, 1985, in the P.H. Kuyper Gym.

MORE ’75 MEMORIES

These tidbits also appeared in the Jan. 24, 1975, issue of *The Ray* that featured the front-page Styx concert review:

- ✦ The opening act for Styx was a band from Virginia called Morning Sun that apparently played a mix of both soft and hard rock.
- ✦ Styx took the stage to the tune of the “William Tell” overture.
- ✦ We couldn’t help but notice this letter to the editor tucked inside the issue, with somewhat idiosyncratic use of ALL CAPS: “The Wrestling team last week insinuated through the Crier that they make better LOVERS than the CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM. Well, we the Cross-Country team would like to challenge the Wrestling team, to prove once and for all that we are the NO. 1 LOVERS on campus. We will

take you on any terms, but you must make all the arrangements. From, THE CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM”

- ✦ There also was this correction from previously published Student Senate minutes, which sounds rather quaint compared to the concerns over social media: “Senate is just looking into the matter of a graffiti board. There is not going to be one set up in the cafeteria, as of yet.”

STYX IN 2020

If you missed the 1975 Styx concert at Douwstra, never fear: The two modern factions of the band continue to tour.

The Tommy Shaw-led Styx already has dates booked throughout 2020. Go to styxworld.com. Former frontman Dennis DeYoung also has a full tour schedule, including shows devoted to the 1977 Styx album “The Grand Illusion.” Go to dennisdeyoung.com.

They were paid \$5,000 and drew 811 fans.

Afterward, Shaw said that the audience reminded him of the 1950s because it was a “really clean-cut crowd.” (Except when the Tubes were in town?)

Eric Jones '87, now Central's dean of the Class of 2020 and a volunteer football coach, worked security for both the Tubes and Shaw concerts.

Shaw's music “had a little bit more of an edge to it than the traditional Styx stuff,” he says.

More edge, less gunpowder.

Shaw that night told the student newspaper that he hadn't spoken to

his former Styx bandmates since their 1983 breakup.

Yet today Shaw leads the current incarnation of Styx while DeYoung tours with his own band.

Here's the logical next step in this saga: Both the DeYoung and Shaw factions of Styx should return to campus for a glorious reunion show. They could reconcile at a site that symbolizes their original artistic drive before global fame and platinum record sales complicated their lives.

To quote Styx: “Deep inside we're all the same.”

Only one caveat: No pyro in Dowwstra. ■

Kyle Munson '94 served as a journalist for 24 years at *The Des Moines Register*, where he spent a decade as Iowa's chief pop music critic, interviewing the likes of Bono, Paul McCartney and Slipknot. That's why it made perfect sense for him to write this story. He currently is senior content strategist and writer at Principal Financial Group.



▲ The current incarnation of Styx, led by Tommy Shaw, includes, from left: Chuck Panozzo, Ricky Phillips, Todd Sucherman, Shaw, James "JY" Young and Lawrence Gowan.



DONATE TO DOUWSTRA RENOVATION

Here's your chance to help fill Dowwstra with historic melodies for generations to come: Phase II of fundraising for Dowwstra asks our alumni and other friends to become “Pipe Organ Donors.” The original chapel in 1939 included a grand pipe organ, and the college intends to restore one to the modern auditorium, hand built by world-renowned craftsmen at Casavant Frères. **Go to central.edu/douwstra to donate, or simply call the Advancement Office, 800-447-0287.**

Note: Special thanks to **Kyle Winward**, Central's technical services librarian. We know he doesn't have too much time on his hands, yet he took time to scour the college archives for Styx articles and photos.

NEWSNOTES



▲ **Wilbur "Webb" Van Dokkumburg '49** of Hendersonville, North Carolina, is going strong at 92. The former CUI basketball letterwinner continues to work out three times a week at Planet Fitness. In 1946, Webb was among the charter members of the Beake & Coffee Club Fraternity. Bottom row, left to right: **Bob Mosier '48, Maurice Mineart '48, Don Klaaren '50 and Frank Moore '49.** Second row, left to right: **Don Senne '49, Webb Van Dokkumburg '49, Jack Collins '50 and Marion Ter Louw '49.** Third row, left to right: **Don Bell '50, Ken Lincoln '50 and David Schreur '49.** Top row: **Les Sadler '51.**

THE '50s

For information about **Don Klaaren '50, Jack Collins '50, Don Bell '50, Ken Lincoln '50 and Les Sadler '51**, see above.

Ruth Jolly Knapman '53 of Fairbanks, Alaska, was honored by Pioneers of Alaska as its 2019 Queen Regent. During her reign as queen, Ruth represented the Pioneers at several events across the state. In May, Ruth was honored as the Female Lifetime Fitness of Fairbanks, North Star Borough. She has enjoyed a lengthy career as the local tour guide. Recently, she drove to the end of the Dempster Highway in the Yukon and Northwest Territories of Canada.

Doran Simmons '58 began commuting by bicycle in 1968, averaging about 1,000 miles per month. In August 2017, Civitas reported his talent for finding things along the road. A month after publication of the magazine, he was hit by a distracted driver. He has finally recovered, but at 87 his biking future is uncertain. During his biking career, Doran had a knack for finding unusual discarded items of which he collected and donated \$3,526.94 and enough tools to open a hardware store. Doran and wife, **Bonnie Kuyper Simmons '58**, live in Sacramento, California.

THE '60s

For information about **Alex Glann '69**, see the '70s.

Graham Fee '61 was inducted into the Knoxville Hall of Fame in January. He was a three-year starter at quarterback for the Knoxville Panthers. He led his team to an undefeated season in 1954. He was named all-conference each season and all-state as a senior. He was also a standout in basketball, earning all-conference honors. Graham is best known to fans as the "Voice of the Panthers," having spent 42 years as the announcer at Panthers football games. Graham and wife, Roxanne, live in Knoxville, Iowa.



▲ **Dave Humphrey '62** and wife, Carolyn, of Orange Park, Florida, celebrated their 53rd anniversary traveling to many sites around the Mediterranean onboard the Wind Surf cruise ship. While in Dubrovnik, Croatia, the captain, with a few officers in attendance, assisted Dave and Carolyn in the renewal of their vows.

Fern Blumenthal Van Hise '69 taught fourth, sixth and eighth grade math, East Windsor Regional Schools, Hightstown, New Jersey, until her retirement. Fern and husband, Robert, live in Hightstown.

THE '70s

For information about **Steve Rooker '78**, **Steve VanderPol '79**, **Larry Fry '79**, **Duane Willhite '79** and **Bryan Poulter '79**, see the '80s.

Katherine Van Roekel Howsare '73 was elected to a second term on the Urbandale School Board in November. Before her retirement, Katherine was librarian, Urbandale High School, Urbandale, Iowa. Katherine and husband, Galen, live in Urbandale.

Marlys Den Hartog Grimm '76 accompanies both the Grinnell Singers and the Grinnell Oratorio Society at Grinnell College on piano during their rehearsals and performances. She regularly plays with soloists at Herrick Chapel on campus and the Mayflower Retirement Home in Grinnell, Iowa. She was featured in the October issue of the Grinnell College Scarlet & Black online newsletter. Marlys and husband, **Norman Grimm '75**, live in Newton, Iowa. Norman is a student teacher supervisor, Central College. He taught high school vocal music at Newton Community School District until his retirement in 2017.

Jeff Kisner '77 is a commissioner, Roxboro Housing Authority. Jeff and wife, **Janna Koskamp Kisner '77**, live in Roxboro, North Carolina. Janna is retired minister of music, First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown, West Virginia.



▲ **Al Paris '77** joined a group of former Dutch football players in early August for a fishing trip to Lac Seul near Hudson, Ontario, to honor their former coach, Ron Schipper. The group spent a week on a houseboat telling stories (some true), playing spirited card games and enjoying fantastic food and great fishing. Some of these men returned to campus in October to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the 1974 football championship at the Stagg Bowl. *Front row, left to right: Gary Cutler '75, Alex Glann '69, Jim Boeke '77 and Mike Street '75. Back row, left to right: Dave Mick '78, Steve Rohach '77, Al Dorenkamp '75, Al Paris '77, Randy Busscher '75 and Doug Black '70.*



▲ **Karen Walsh '77** and fellow French majors have more than the language in common. They remain good friends. This summer they met for a reunion at Finger Lakes, Geneva, New York. *Left to right: Liz Tucci Calisesi '77, Karen Walsh '77, Carolyn Shocker Zimmerman '77 and Jill Plefka Scherer '77.*

Peg Heishman German '78 is a director, organizational development, Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, Grinnell, Iowa. Peg and husband, **Randy German '77**, live in

Grinnell. Randy is president, German Plumbing and Heating and Cooling.

Vince Vandelaar '78 is an adjunct professor, Rockhurst University Continuing

Education Center, Kansas City, Missouri. Vince and wife, Melissa, live in Olathe, Kansas.

Greg Tracy '79 of Ankeny, Iowa, is a production manager, Des Moines Performing Arts, Des Moines, Iowa.

THE '80s

For information about **Lisa Scharff Hay '89** and **Glen Hay '89**, see the '10s. For information about **Kevin Azinger '86** and **Connie Kemp Azinger '88**, see the '90s.

Mark Gillispie '80 retired in 2016 from his optometric practice in Rancho Mirage, California. Mark and wife, Darlene, live at Cherokee Lake near Knoxville, Tennessee.

Bill Northup '83 is vice president and wealth management advisor, Liberty National Bank, Des Moines, Iowa. Bill and wife, Lisa, live in Clive, Iowa.

Mark DeVries '84 retired from Northern Trust in June after 34 years. Mark and wife, **Ann Ernst DeVries '87**, live in Western Springs, Illinois. Recently they hosted **Steve '83** and **Lisa Gulick** at their home. Mark continues to do consulting work in Wisconsin, and together they enjoy traveling to see their three children who are enrolled at various colleges from Michigan to Nashville, Tennessee.

Ron Fadness '87 is general counsel, Bruening Rock Products, Decorah, Iowa. He is president of Decorah Community School District board of education and member of the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union Board of Directors. Ron and wife, Marcy, live in Decorah.



▲ **Jeff Menary '80** of Grinnell, Iowa, was the surprise guest at a party hosted by wife, Renee, to thank classmates who supported him during his illness and as a belated 60th birthday party. In September 2017, Jeff was diagnosed with the West Nile virus. He fought his way back and has been able to return to his job as president and CEO, Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance. Front row, left to right: **Barb Murphy VanderPol '80**, **Deb Cullinan Willhite '80**, **Jeff Menary '80**, **Steve Rooker '78**, **Mary Piper Poulter '80**, **Sandi Brecht Lafferty '81**, **Pam Trisler Wilkin '81**, **Vicki Dierks** and **Terry Wiebenga '86**. Back row, left to right: **Steve Soma '80**, **Paul Tanis '80**, **Ann Sammon Long '80**, **Dave Long '80**, **Maureen Friskey Tanis '80**, **Steve VanderPol '79**, **Kent Dierks '81**, **Scott Raymer '82**, **Larry Fry '79**, **Rod Wiebenga '81**, **Duane Willhite '79**, **Marc DeJong '78**, **Craig Wilkin '81** and **Bryan Poulter '79**.



▲ **Kathy Reilly Snyder '83** hosted a few Sigma Phi Omega sisters in October in Augusta, Georgia. There was much laughter and shared memories as they celebrated their Central College sisterhood. Front row, left to right: **Ann Eastburn Koopal '83** and **Kim Dykstra '83**. Second row, left to right: **Lynnae Ricard Derry '85**, **Kathy Reilly Snyder '83** and **Lynda Twohill Rogers '82**. Back row, left to right: **Barb Watson '83**, **Sue Van Duyn Ramirez '83** and **Jill Crawford Steinsultz '85**. Not pictured, but with them in spirit, **LuAnn Gipple '82**, who passed away in June.

THE '80s (continued)

Michael Main '87 of Leawood, Kansas, was one of 200 nominees entered in this year's list of Top Doctors by Ingram's, Kansas City Business Magazine. Michael is cardiologist at Saint Luke's Mid-America Heart Institute; chairman of the cardiovascular division for the parent system's physician group; co-medical director for its cardiovascular service line; author of cardiology research papers and professor of medicine, University of Missouri-Kansas City's School of Medicine.

Mark Hennessey '88 is director, talent acquisition and workforce planning, Congruex Group LCC, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Mark and wife Lori live in Cedar Rapids.

THE '90s

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

Robert Luken '90 is director, talent acquisition and management, Truck Hero, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Robert and wife, **Richele Moore Luken '91**, live in Farmington, Michigan, with their two children.

Brad Thomas '90 is bureau chief, department of administrative services, human resources, State of Iowa. Brad and wife, **Lisa Kappelmann Thomas '90**, live in Knoxville, Iowa, with their son. Lisa teaches elementary education, Knoxville Community School District.

Kim Hansen Dirks '91 is a senior associate, accounting and controlship, Collins Aerospace, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Kim and husband, **Craig Dirks '90**, live in Cedar Point,

Iowa. Craig is captain, Cedar Rapids Fire Department.

Lori Owens '92 is an attorney, Owens Law Firm, Denver, Colorado. She is the general counsel for eNett International. Lori and husband, Shane Thomas, live in Denver.

Joe Bock '93 is executive vice president, account management, Havit Advertising. Joe and wife, Kim, live in Vienna, Virginia, with their daughter.

Brian Uhlmann '93 of Calabasas, California, is director, business intelligence, Velocity Snack Brands, Los Angeles, California.

Brent Vander Waal '93 is chief executive officer, ITA Group, West Des Moines, Iowa. Brent and wife, Esther, live in Johnston, Iowa, with their son.

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

Kyle Munson '94 was guest editor for this edition of Civitas. A former reporter at the Des Moines Register, Munson now is a senior content strategist and writer at Principal Financial.

Robert Guritz '96 is IT desktop support team lead, DXC Technology, St. Louis, Missouri. Robert and wife, Brittany, live in Dardenne Prairie, Missouri, with their daughter.

Stephen McWilliams '96 of Herndon, Virginia, is business development and implementation manager, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.

Maria Mattiace Hauser '97 is a student counselor, Mercy College of Health Sciences, Des Moines, Iowa. Maria and husband, **David Hauser '97**,

live in Polk City, Iowa, with their two children. David is a probation/parole officer II, Department of Corrections Services, Des Moines.

Mike Tinich '98 is a stem education instructional coach, NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center, Edwards, California. Mike and wife, Shauna, live in Maize, Kansas, with their two sons.

Jennifer Schuler Schroeder '99 is director, Langdon Daycare Center, Langdon, North Dakota. Jennifer and husband, David, live in Langdon with their three children.

THE '00s

For information about **Sheri Hawker Petersen '07**, **Ryan Petersen '07** and **Evan Olson '09**, see the '10s.

Daniel Haag '00 of Downers Grove, Illinois, is an on-scene coordinator, emergency response branch two, Environmental Protection Agency.

Ellen Thompson Sandholm '00 is an academic advisor, Des Moines Area Community College, Ankeny, Iowa. Ellen and husband, **Bryan Sandholm '01**, live in Ankeny with their four daughters. Bryan is a software developer, Advanced Technologies Group, West Des Moines, Iowa.

Kate Vocolka Osborn '01 is an optometrist, Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital, Jefferson City, Missouri. Kate and husband, **Zach Osborn '99**, live in Columbia, Missouri, with their two sons. Zach is a neuropsychologist, clinic manager, Harry S. Truman Veterans' Hospital.

April Hazen-Bosveld Hill '02 is a professor of chemistry, director of criminalistics, Metropolitan State University, Denver, Colorado. April and husband, Randy, live in Englewood, Colorado.

Dave Hopkins '02 was elected to the fourth ward of the Pella City Council in the November elections. He owns and operates Hopkins Roofing. Dave and wife, **Brystal Jones Hopkins '02**, live in Pella, Iowa, with their four children.

Jason Braithwaite '03 is an export supervisor, Vermeer Corporation, Pella, Iowa. Jason and wife, **Tara Buch Braithwaite '05**, live in Pella, with their two sons. Tara teaches second grade, Oskaloosa Community Schools, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Karen Broman '03 of Prescott Valley, Arizona, is an overdose prevention coordinator, Sonoran Prevention Works, Prescott. She recently completed a year of service through AmeriCorps VISTA.

Gary Christensen '03 was elected to the Saydel School Board in the November election. Gary and wife, Lisa, live in Des Moines, Iowa, with their three children. Gary is a staff pharmacist, Hy-Vee, Inc.

Adam Jackson '05 is a regional vice president, Power/mation. Adam and wife, **Trichelle Velky Jackson '08**, live in Forest City, Iowa, with their two children. Trichelle is a doctor of optometry, Family Eye Care Center, Forest City.

Tyler Cobb '07 is a digital marketing campaign coordinator, Alltech,



▲ **Dan Gabrielson '97**, and wife, Andrea, of Belmond, Iowa, married July 17, 2019. Dan is physician, OBGYN, Gabrielson Clinic for Women. Front row, left to right: **Dan Gabrielson '97**, Andrea Gabrielson and **Darren Glenn '96**. Back row, left to right: **Cam Fletcher '97**, **Ben Byers '97**, **Eric Lamb '99**, **Debbie John Byers '98**, **Kevin Azinger '86**, **Ryan Glenn**, **Connie Kemp Azinger '88**, **Ed Maroon '93**, **Alexa Azinger '15**, **Patrick Hagen '97**, **Jen Gabrielson Coppola '95**, **Brandi Byrum Gordon '94** and **John Gordon '96**.

Nicholasville, Kentucky. Tyler and wife, Christine, live in Winchester, Kentucky, with their daughter.

Bonnie Merkley '08 and Jason Joyce of Des Moines, Iowa, married Aug. 18, 2019. Bonnie is a senior compliance advisor at IFG in Des Moines.

Joshua Noonan '08 is a director of distribution and supply, C.H. Robinson, Eden Prairie, Minnesota. He was nominated for Produce Industry Top 40 under 40. Joshua lives in Burnsville, Minnesota, with his son.

Jim Jensen '09 of Spirit Lake, Iowa, is a senior controls engineer, TDS Automation, Waverly, Iowa.

Andrea Levine '09 is a human resource program manager, AmeriCorps, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Alison Mason '09 is an institutional advancement manager, Iowa Lakes Community College, Estherville. Alison and partner, Brian Fisher, live in Milford, Iowa, with their daughter.

Rebecca Skalsky '09 is an art director, de Novo Marketing, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

THE '10s

For information about **Alexa Azinger '15**, see the '90s. For information about **Marissa Drake '18**, **Joshua Johnson '18**, **Cory McCleary '18** and **Wes Wheat '18**, see "Class of 2019 Where Are They Now?," p. 30.

Dave Baker '10 is an assistant finance manager, Iowa State University, Ames. In 2009, Dave began combining his passion for history and love of photography by documenting Iowa towns, including ghost towns. He is

THE '10s (continued)

available to speak to historical groups about his research. To learn more about his project, see his blog, 29th State, or follow The 29th State on Facebook. Dave and wife, **Danielle Larimer Baker '10**, live in Ankeny, Iowa. Danielle is a research assistant, DuPont Pioneer, Johnston, Iowa.

Jana Stallman Olson '10 is a senior strategic communications executive, Philip Morris International. She was recently featured in "Chemical & Engineering News." After she was approached by Philip Morris and realized their offer gave her an excellent opportunity to communicate in several wide-ranging areas of research, Jana left her previous job in research behind. In 2017, Jana and husband, **Evan Olson '09**, left their home in Houston, Texas, and moved to Lausanne, Switzerland, where her primary role is to help produce the scientific update the company produces twice a year about its smoke-free products. Evan is a postdoctoral researcher, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne.

Katie Papke '10 is a study abroad program manager, Green River College, Seattle, Washington.

Greg Best '11 is director, talent acquisition, SAC Wireless, Chicago, Illinois.

Shannan O'Bryan Burgess '11 is a senior project analyst, Nationwide Insurance, Des Moines, Iowa. Shannan and husband, Greg, live in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Tara Prine Kelly '11 is a talent management specialist, NovuHealth, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Tara and



▲ **Melanie Louis '12** and **Ryan Schmidt '12** of Elkhart, Iowa, married Sept. 7, 2019. Melanie is volunteer coordinator and Ryan is land stewardship specialist, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Des Moines, Iowa. Front row left to right: **Alyssa Schwartz Furlong '13**, **Mallory Sturtz Shipley '13**, **Melanie Louis Schmidt '12**, **Ryan Schmidt '12**, **Kate Callan '12** and **Lydia Kosbau Youngdahl '12**. Second row, left to right: **Cyndi Johnson O'Rourke '11**, **Molly Ullestad**, **Claire Stewart Snead '15**, **Tayler Keitzer '12**, **Derek Miner '15**, **Jenna Broghamer Schomack '13**, **Melony McDermott Gerber '13**, **Emma Nelson Finger '14** and **Jamie Baumer Larson '13**. Back row, left to right: **Jacob Peterson '11**, **Jack Shipley '14**, **Casey Tanner '12**, **Mike Furlong '12**, **Michael O'Rourke '11**, **Adam Petz '12**, **Jeremy Snead '12**, **Ben Schornack '13**, **Patrick Kelley '12**, **Brett DeHoogh '08**, **Kenny Harrington '12**, **Brandon Clough '13**, **Mark Holan '10**, **Jessica Riebkes Clough '14**, **Kelli Ziskovsky Holan '13**, **Lars Larson '13**, **Adam Ledvina '13** and **Mary Benedict**.

husband, Sean, live in St. Michael, Minnesota, with their two children.

Anthony Miller '11 is assistant vice president, branch operations, Deere Employees Credit Union, Davenport, Iowa.

Hannah Anderson '12 teaches sixth and seventh grade humanities, American School of Bangkok, Thailand.

Stephanie Brammer '12 and **Landon Medvec** of Woodbury, Minnesota, married Sept. 22, 2018. Stephanie is an ultrasound technologist, Children's Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Kimberly Van Zee '12 and **Zachary Marsh** married Sept. 14, 2019. Kimberly is an assistant billing manager, Kinetic Edge Physical Therapy. Kim and Zach live in Pella with a daughter.

Dave Young '12 is an assistant director, sports performance, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida. His career has taken him from a stint with the NFL's San Francisco 49ers, where he was assistant coach responsible for the implementation of programming for NFL athletes, to Vassar College, where he was responsible for the performance enhancement and injury prevention of student-athletes. Dave is a certified strength and conditioning specialist by the National Strength and Conditioning Association and a USA weightlifting Level 1 sport performance coach.

Sampson Brue '13 of Oxnard, California, is an assistant men's and women's basketball coach, Oxnard College.

Amanda Meacham Livingston '13 teaches kindergarten, Indianola

Community Schools, Indianola, Iowa. Amanda and husband, **Justin Livingston '14**, live in Des Moines, Iowa. Justin is a certified personal coach, Golftec.

Matthew Schulte '13 is director, strategic insights, Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, Grinnell, Iowa.

Hannah Altheide '14 and **Matthew Ridgway '15** of Pella, Iowa, married April 7, 2018. Hannah is a children's ministry director, Federated Fellowship Church. Matthew is an associate business manufacturing supply chain analyst, Pella Corp.

Austin O'Brien '14 is a health coach, Profile by Sanford, Des Moines, Iowa. Austin and wife, **Callie Aunan O'Brien '15**, live in Waukee, Iowa. Callie is a new business case coordinator,

Principal Financial Group, Des Moines. Austin qualified for the 2020 Olympic marathon trials by finishing the Indianapolis Monumental Marathon in 2 hours, 18 minutes, 38 seconds. He was one of 10 men to qualify for the trials by completing the race in less than 2:19. The Olympic trials are Feb. 29 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Katie Zellmer '14 of Johnston, Iowa, is an AmeriCorps program director, Habitat for Humanity of Iowa.

Isabelle Hicks '15 and Michael Alexander of Walnut Creek, California, married May 11, 2019. Isabelle is an investment advisor representative, Dudum Financial, Lafayette, California.

Jordan McDonald '15 is an underwriting assistant, IMT Insurance, West Des Moines, Iowa. Jordan and wife, **Lindsay Young McDonald '15**, live in Adel, Iowa, with their daughter.

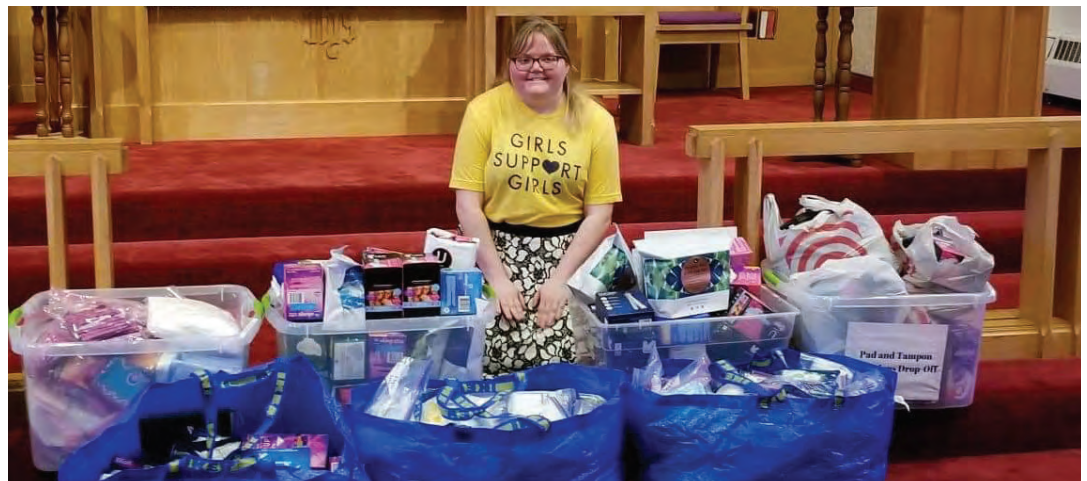
Kyle Newendorp '15 is a product specialist, Vermeer Corporation, Pella, Iowa. Kyle and wife, **Megan Current Newendorp '15**, live in Pella.

Yaw Sapon-Amoah '15 is a business systems consultant, Wells Fargo, Des Moines, Iowa. Wife, **Megan Flynn Sapon-Amoah '15**, teaches in the Des Moines Public Schools.

Jessica Boertje '16 is a study abroad advisor, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

Gen Scholtes Richards '16 and husband, **Mark Richards '16**, are stationed in South Korea with the United States Army.

Cody Bock '17 is pursuing a master's in philosophy, development studies, St. Antony's College, Oxford,



▲ **Megan Gustafson '17** of Story City, Iowa, was volunteering at the Loaves and Fishes food pantry in Story City several months ago when she learned of the need for more than food. To help remedy this, Megan organized a donation drive for area schools and food pantries to collect feminine hygiene products. She raised more than \$1,000 and donated over 7,000 products to Roland-Story Community Schools and three local food pantries. Her effort was covered by the Ames Tribune and Story City Herald newspapers.

England. Her research focuses on citizenship practices and migration in Francophone, West Africa. Recently, Cody was named general section of St. Antony's International Review, the University of Oxford's only student-run, peer-reviewed, academic journal of international affairs.

Zach Moss '17 of West Des Moines, Iowa, is save our streams coordinator, Izaak Walton League of America.

Mitchell Phipps '17 of Indianola, Iowa, is president, You First Moving, Des Moines, Iowa. His company recently expanded to serve locations around the state and supports national moves.

Karl Weaver '17 of Longmont, Colorado, is a wellness technician, St. Vrain Valley Schools, Longmont, Colorado.

Melissa Charlton Carpenter '18 is a broker dealer counselor, Principal Financial Group, Des Moines, Iowa. Melissa and husband, **Joshua Carpenter '17**, live in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Nick Greteman '18 is a field sales pro, BSN Sports, Scottsdale, Arizona. Nick and wife, **Lexi Johnson Greteman '18**, live in

Scottsdale. Lexi is an account executive, Yelp, Scottsdale.

Emily McDonald Miranda '18 teaches English, Northside High



▲ **Paige Wilkin '17** and **Nick Drucker '18** of Clive, Iowa, married Aug. 17, 2019. Paige teaches ninth grade math at Waukee Community Schools. Nick is assistant acquisition manager, Meredith Corp., Des Moines, Iowa. Front row, left to right: **Kyle Smith '18**, **Jaden Moody '20**, **Mitchell Yaw '19**, **Luke Posivio '18**, **Corey Broxson '18** and **Jordan Driggers '17**. Second row, left to right: **Sheri Hawker Petersen '07**, **Nick Oelmann '20**, **Gabby Wilson Doughan '16**, **Ben Clark '18**, **Beth Dillon Clark '17**, **Nicholas Drucker '18**, **Katie Roling Minger '16**, **Paige Wilkin Drucker '17**, **Shannon Stuart '17**, **McKenna Kilburg Woodward '18**, **Emma Disterhoft '18**, **Bailey Winterhof '19**, **Jacob Hay '18** and **Lisa Scharff Hay '89**. Back row, left to right: **Ryan Petersen '07**, **Ben Lechtenberg '13**, **Alan Schmidt '19**, **Jake Carey '19**, **Lauren Mazour '17**, **Nicole Ewoldt '17**, **Alex Koolmees '17**, **Jane McKown '17**, **Nick Greteman '18**, **Zach Matter '17**, **Glen Hay '89** and **Craig Douma**.

THE '10s (continued)

School, Jacksonville, North Carolina. Emily and husband, **Jaime Miranda '17**, live in Jacksonville. Jaime is a transportation specialist with the United States Marine Corps.

Anna Shaw '18 and **Taylor Heitkamp '18** of Marshfield, Wisconsin, married Sept. 15, 2018. Anna is a wellness coach and Taylor is a medical sales representative in Marshfield.

Cole Silver '18 is department manager, Metal Plant Paint Lines, Pella Corp., Pella, Iowa.

Kyle Smith '18 is a regional sales associate, Musco Lighting, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Jahleel Vester '18 is a real estate loan representative, People's Bank, Oak Harbor, Washington.

NEW ARRIVALS

McKinsie and **Kyle Bonnstetter '97**, son Briggs Kyle, Sept. 12, 2019.

Andrew and **Jen Van Utrecht Groenenboom '03**, daughter Greta Ruth, Jan. 14, 2019.

Lisa Crabbs and **Mike Kobylinski '03**, son Calvin James, July 30, 2019.

Byron and **Katie Deglopper Stover '04**, son Theodore Barrett, March 9, 2018.

Lon and **Jamie Danielson Varangkounh '04**, son James Danielson, June 8, 2019.

Adam '05 and **Trichelle Velky Jackson '08**, son Judah Douglas, March 12, 2018.

Nick '06 and **Laura Van Utrecht Anderson '06**, son Jack Phillip, Feb. 6, 2019.

Brady and **Carrie Jo Calisesi Pearson '06**, son Rory Schreiner, Oct. 23, 2017.

Jason '07 and **Sarah Benz Boyce '06**, daughter Ebbyn Blythe, Jan. 29, 2019.

Christine and **Tyler Cobb '07**, daughter Elsie Ann, Aug. 6, 2019.

Joshua Noonan '08, son Zayn Taylor, Nov. 1, 2017.

BJ '09 and **Alysa Tanis Pilling '08**, son Hudson John, Feb. 28, 2017.



▲ **Kathleen Connolly '18** and **Jake Temple '15** of Johnston, Iowa, married Aug. 24, 2019. Kathleen is marketing consultant, ARAG Legal Insurance, Des Moines, Iowa. Jake is claims specialist, Nationwide Insurance, Des Moines. Front row, left to right: **Mark Babcock '91**, **Mitch Stearns '14**, **Leah Farrington Stearns '11**, **Jill Campbell Connolly '79**, **Ellie Pearson '19**, **Jake Temple '15**, **Kathleen Connolly Temple '18**, **Keegan Flaherty '18**, **Ellie Stoakes '18**, **Emily McDonald Miranda '18**, **Josie Youel Hulme '18**, **Jack Wilson '13** and **Jackie Boat Wilson '12**. Second row, left to right: **Tony Braida '89**, **Sydney Pratt '18**, **Emma Disterhoft '18**, **Devin McCain Walter '19**, **Jamie Sobczak '19**, **Kylie Gerstein '18**, **Regan Nelson '18**, **Kacey Hayes Beyer '06**, **Geoff Sellers '17** and **Tom Temple '81**. Back row, left to right: **Steven Peterman '18**, **Evan Fischer '16**, **Cody Walter '17**, **Danny Beyer '04**, **Jared Lichman '18**, **Dalton Hulme '17**, **Trevor Sensor '16**, **Josh Forst '15**, **Trevor Rau '17** and **Brandon Hunt '15**.

Jared and **Amanda Zook Rokke '08**, daughter Leah June, Jan. 26, 2018.

Ryan '08 and **Taryn Krug Shropshire '08**, son Elliott James, Oct. 7, 2018.



▲ The National Advisory Council met on campus at its annual meeting Nov. 8. Members of the National Advisory Council serve as ambassadors, offer support, share expertise and advocate on behalf of the college. Front row, left to right: **Joe Vande Kieft '99**, **Kerry Maynard Vande Kieft '99**, **Casey Quinn McMurray '01**, **Catherine Elwell '19H**, **Kristine Cox Ward '85**, **Sinikka Wainionpaa Waugh '96**, **Mike Dahlhauser '94**, **Chris Huston '98**, **Josh Manning '03** and **Ryan Fick '02**. Second row, left to right: **Kim Soo Hoo Vann '74**, **Nyla Rozeboom Heerema '63**, **Annajean De Graaf Goins '70**, **Jeff Boeyink '85**, **Kimberly Watts '88**, **Trevor Jones '08**, **Lori Humphrey Fegley '80**, **Jeanie Backes Lovell '91**, **Amanda Hansen Fletcher '00** and **Brooke Bouma Kohlsdorf '96**. Back row, left to right: **Jeff DeVries '87**, **John Cross '89**, **Al Paris '77**, **Danny Beyer '04**, **Chad Huyser '97**, **Justin From '06**, **Tony Braida '89**, **Chris Epperly Leuter '91** and **Heather Sandholm Kleis '97**.

Quinn '09 and Miranda Kouba O'Brien '09, son Joseph Daniel, Dec. 31, 2018.

Tony and Sarah Vandenberg Van Zee '09, daughter Serenity Ruth, July 23, 2019.

Thomas and Lindsay Sevde Hegel '10, son Hank Thomas, Oct. 16, 2019.

Adam '10 and Haley Drusky Rohloff '15, son Eli Walter, June 27, 2019.

Sean and Tara Prine Kelly '11, son Jackson Reid, May 20, 2019.

Jameson '11 and Alex Kleis Rosien '12, son Holden James, Oct. 4, 2018.

Blaine and Haley Brillhart Damman '12, daughter Vivian Denise, May 9, 2018.

Brandon '12 and Whitney Halder Wagner '12, son Carson Jeffrey, March 2, 2019.

Nicholas and Allison Redman Westfall '13, son Omni Keith, Sept. 19, 2019.

Jordan '15 and Lindsay Young McDonald '15, daughter Joy JoAnn, Aug. 26, 2019.

Matthew '15 and Hannah Altheide Ridgeway '14, daughter Elena Amber, Sept. 6, 2019.

Aaron and Shelbi Stimpson Followwill '16, daughter Aubri Jade, July 3, 2019.

IN MEMORIAM

Ann Chermak Viedenkamp '49, Crown Pointe, Indiana, April 14, 2019.

Melvin DeVries '50, South Holland, Illinois, July 1, 2019.

Paul Tedford '50, San Diego, California, Dec. 28, 2018.

Bonna Van't Hull Wilson '50, Damascus, Oregon, June 21, 2017.

Margaret Kusters Hospers '51, Grand Haven, Michigan, May 17, 2019.

Robert Rebertus '51, St. Paul, Minnesota, April 7, 2019.

Ralph Van Dusseldorp '51, Tucson, Arizona, Sept. 4, 2019.

Gwen "Elaine" Lyon Warren '51, Eldon, Iowa, Feb. 7, 2018.

Ruth Joan "Jo" Vander Wal Harmeling '52, Pella, Iowa, Sept. 26, 2019.

Gerald "Jerry" Muilenburg '52, South Sioux City, Nebraska, May 27, 2018.

Roy Kats '53, Kalamazoo, Michigan, April 11, 2019.

Violet Kuiper Boot '54, Pella, Iowa, Aug. 30, 2019.

John "Jack" Smies '57, Oostburg, Wisconsin, Aug. 2, 2019.

William Vander Voort '57, Houston, Texas, Jan. 12, 2019.

Janice Mol Knoop '62, Knoxville, Iowa, Sept. 4, 2019.

Jerry Hoogenakker '63, Charlotte, North Carolina, Aug. 12, 2019.

Dennis Dykstra '64, Friesland, Wisconsin, Sept. 2, 2019.

Wayne Sandee '64, Mankato, Minnesota, Sept. 16, 2019.

Frank Douglas Jr. '65, Pella, Iowa, Sept. 1, 2019.

Ron Roetman '66, Cumming, Georgia, Sept. 21, 2019.

Steven Danielson '69, West Plains, Arkansas, Oct. 13, 2019.

Peter Dumaresq '69, Schererville, Indiana, Dec. 2, 2018.

Jack Lindine '71, Sherman Oaks, California, Aug. 28, 2019.

David Swank '71, Chelsea, Michigan, Dec. 7, 2013.

Emily Langstraat Dieleman '72, Bella Vista, Arkansas, Sept. 17, 2019.

Jill Mensch Cross '76, Brownsburg, Indiana, Sept. 12, 2019.

Lu Ann Gipple '82, Atlantic, Iowa, June 10, 2019.

Michael Kraayenbrink '85, Sibley, Iowa, Nov. 2, 2019.

Marshal Johnson '18, Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 15, 2019.

Laurie Hopp Wynveen '57, Solon, Ohio, Oct. 23, 2018.

Avis Verhoef Moulton '60, Turlock, California, May 16, 2019.

Ronald Symens '60, Sheffield, Iowa, Nov. 28, 2017.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Ben Thomas '90, master's degree, business management, Trident University, 2006.

Robert Guritz '96, master's degree, educational technology, University of Missouri-Columbia, 2008.

Ellen Thompson Sandholm '00, master's degree, communication leadership, Drake University, 2009.

Kate Vocolka Osborn '01, doctor of optometry, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2006.

Karen Broman '03, master of public health, epidemiology, University of Minnesota, 2016.

Alison Mason '09, master of public administration, non-profit management, Drake University, 2011.

Amanda Meacham Livingston '13, master's degree, education, Viterbo University, July 2019.

Karl Weaver '17, master of public health, physical activity and healthy lifestyles, Colorado School of Public Health, Colorado State University, May 2019.

IN MEMORIAM

CENTRAL STADIUM NAMESAKE JOYCE SCHIPPER DIES

Joyce Schipper, wife of Central College's late College Football Hall of Fame coach Ron Schipper, died Dec. 29 in Holland, Michigan. She was 90. Ron and Joyce Schipper Stadium was named in their honor in 2006.

The former Joyce Post, a Holland native and 1951 Hope College (Michigan) graduate, moved to Pella with her family in 1961 when Ron Schipper was named Central's football coach. He coached for 36 years and recently was named one of the 150 greatest college football coaches by ESPN. Joyce taught kindergarten and English as a second language in Pella.

Following his retirement in 1996, the couple returned to Holland. He died in 2006.

She is survived by her three children, Tim and Sara, who live in Holland, and Thom, who lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan, as well as five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



▲ **Joyce Schipper** with former Central President **David Roe** at the naming of the Ron & Joyce Schipper Stadium in 2006.

2019: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

It's less than a year since they graduated, but members of Central's Class of 2019 are already making their mark in the world.

Ericka Abell teaches kindergarten, Creston Community Schools, Creston, Iowa.

Samantha Aguilar is a graduate student, nursing, Mercy College of Health Sciences, Des Moines, Iowa.

Abigail Anderson is in land and water stewardship, AmeriCorps.

Annika Anderson is a college program cast member, The Disney Company, Orlando, Florida.

Trevor Argo is a financial analyst, Mutual of Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska.

Emma Arickx is an LED repair technician, Fuse Technical Group, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Kayla Bagby is an actuarial associate I, Athene USA, West Des Moines, Iowa.

Lauren Bagby is athletics recruiting coordinator, Central College, Pella, Iowa.

Sadie Baugher is assistant athletic trainer, Central College, Pella, Iowa.

Emily Benedict teaches eighth and ninth grade language arts, Melcher-Dallas Community School District, Melcher-Dallas, Iowa.

Katie Berkley is a graduate student, physician assistant medical program, University of Lynchburg, Virginia.

Cassidy Bos teaches special education, Newton Community Schools, Newton, Iowa.

MaRenz Bruce is a customer service representative, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Pella, Iowa.

Chase Brumm is a conservation tech, Mills County Offices, Glenwood, Iowa.

Nash Bucher is a professional actor, Sacramento, California.

Hailey Budke McLeary and **Cory McLeary '18** of Lenexa, Kansas, married July 13, 2019. Hailey teaches kindergarten, Lansing Elementary School, Kansas. Cory is a mechanical designer, Kiewit, Lenexa.

Whitney Burgardt is a personal trainer, Aspen Athletics, Des Moines, Iowa. She also is behavior analyst, Balance Autism, Altoona, Iowa.

Adam Carey is assistant baseball coach, Central College, Pella, Iowa.

Austin Carney is a graduate student, Worsham College of Mortuary Science, Wheeling, Illinois.

Kelly Cavner is a software engineer, Principal Financial, Des Moines, Iowa.

Caitlyn Champ is a graduate assistant athletic trainer, St. Cloud State University, Minnesota.

Ben Conine is a licensing specialist, Tata Consultancy Services, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Daniel Coovert teaches physical education, Sycamore Community School District, Illinois.

Brittany Coppess is an assistant golf professional, The Club at Chatham Hills, Westfield, Indiana.

Anne Coughenour is a graduate student, social sciences, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Hannah Cross is a graduate student, University of Lincoln, England.

Christian Daniel is a graduate student, engineering, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

Will Daniels is a graduate student, sciences, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Shelby Davis is a sales consultant, Wes Finch Auto Plaza, Grinnell, Iowa.

Olivia Denham teaches physical and health education, varsity volleyball coach, Nevada High School, Nevada, Iowa.

Ciera De Santis is an assistant office manager, LOH Family Chiropractic, Littleton, Colorado.

Jessica DeWaard teaches first grade, Winterset Community School District, Winterset, Iowa.

Devin Dilley is a certified alcohol and drug counselor, Bridges of Iowa, Des Moines, Iowa.

Paige Doehrmann is a graduate student, nursing, Allen College, Waterloo, Iowa.

Delanie Donovan is in talent acquisition, Pella Corp., Pella, Iowa.

Brooke Ehrenberg is worship and ministry team coordinator, Central College, Pella, Iowa.

Dalton Ehret is a consultant, Source Allies, Inc., Des Moines, Iowa.

Austin Engstrom is a technical project coordinator, Wells Fargo, Des Moines, Iowa.

Taryn Ernst teaches first grade, Winterset Schools, Winterset, Iowa.

Natalia Espinosa is a senior customer service processor, Metlife, West Des Moines, Iowa.

Mary Fair teaches English, Sycamore High School, Illinois.

Mariah Fritz is a graduate student, physician assistant medical program, St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa.

Nathan Fritz is an athletic trainer, Kinetic Edge Physical Therapy, Pella, Iowa.

Mackenzie Fuller Johnson and **Joshua Johnson '18** of Adel, Iowa, married June 29, 2019.

Madison Gay teaches elementary English language learners, Perry Community School District, Iowa.

Tanner Gilliland is a research development engineer, Dee Zee Manufacturing, Des Moines, Iowa.

Lauren Goeke is a graduate student, occupational therapy, Rockhurst University, Kansas City, Missouri.

Andrew Gorman is a full stack web developer, IMT Insurance, West Des Moines, Iowa.

Patrick Gray is a graduate student, engineering, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana.

Zachary Greder is a graduate student, school of law, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.

Donald Groezinger is a software developer I, FedEx Services, Des Moines, Iowa.

Matthew Gubitz is a market sales leader, Campbell Soup Company, Des Moines, Iowa.

Brooke Hague is an associate production supervisor, Hormel Foods Corp., Dubuque, Iowa.

Marie Hakeman is an associate product specialist, Pella Corp., Pella, Iowa.

Hillary Hamilton is a graduate student, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Janae Hannemann is direct administrative assistant, Schuring & Uitermarkt, PC, Pella, Iowa.

Macin Harvey is a medical scribe, ScribeAmerica, Davenport, Iowa.

Corey Hauptmann is an auditor, State of Iowa, Des Moines.

Hope Heitman is a multiple line representative, State Farm, Burlington, Iowa.

Parker Hill is leading agroforestry and environmental work, Peace Corps, Senegal.

Hannah Hirl is a graduate student, school of law, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa.

Logan Hoefer and Sipres Shurila of Bellevue, Nebraska, married July 10, 2019. Logan is a project engineer, Sachs Electric Company, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Kristin Hubert and **Wes Wheat '18** married June 15, 2019. Kristin is a fitness and lifestyle coordinator, Human Good, Phoenix, Arizona.

Natalie Huisman is an intern athletic trainer, Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa.

D.J. Imoehl is a software developer, FullCount, Ankeny, Iowa.

Shannon James is an accountant and financial coordinator, Ewing Land Development & Services, Ankeny, Iowa.

Jenna Jensen is a resource teacher, Bright Horizons: Vermeer Yellow Iron Academy, Pella, Iowa.

Kaitlyn Johnson is a graduate student, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana.

Kirsten Jordan is a front office associate, Des Moines Children's Dentistry, Des Moines, Iowa.

Luke Kalal is in aviation, United States Navy.

Analise Keller is a graduate student, occupational therapy, St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa.

Jen Kern is a behavior technician, Balance Autism, Des Moines, Iowa.

Cameron Kiner and **Marissa Drake '18** of Corning, Iowa, married June 8, 2019. Cameron is a personal trainer, CHI Health, Corning.

Drew Kithcart is an actuarial associate, Athene USA, West Des Moines, Iowa.

Taylor Kooker is a team member solutions advisor, Vermeer Corp., Pella, Iowa.

Kelsey Kramer is an athletic training graduate assistant, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Lauren Kriegel is an associate technical analyst, Pella Corp., Pella, Iowa.

Louis Kriegel is an accountant, Tarbell & Co., P.L.C., Prairie City, Iowa.

Caitlyn Landuyt is a resource teacher, Bright Horizons: Vermeer Yellow Iron Academy, Pella, Iowa.

Jacob Lehmkuhl is a sales manager, In't Veld Meat Market, Pella, Iowa.

Luke Leon is a diamondkast operator, Perfect Game, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Paige Letcher is a claims adjuster, Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, Grinnell, Iowa.

Michaela Lillie is a treatment counselor, Orchard Place. She also is youth specialist, Lutheran Services in Iowa, Des Moines, Iowa.

Cara Mack is a brand manager, Bluespace Creative, Denison, Iowa.

Jessica Makenas is a graduate student, Regis University, Denver, Colorado.

Gretchen Mann and Bryant Clapper married June 15, 2019. Gretchen teaches fifth grade reading, seventh grade language arts, Roland-Story Middle School, Story City, Iowa.

Claire Marburger is an office assistant, athletic training room, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.

Michaela Mathews is a graduate student, school of dentistry, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Makenzie Matt teaches fourth grade, Chariton Community School District, Chariton, Iowa.

Devin McCain is a leasing and sales consultant, Richdale Apartments, Des Moines, Iowa.

Quinn McClurg is in private security, G4S Secure Solutions, West Des Moines, Iowa.

Drew McDonough is at Musco Sports Lighting, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Jamel McKnight is an admission representative, Central College, Pella, Iowa.

Lynzie Miller is an ADA specialist, Balance Autism, Des Moines, Iowa.

Melissa Miller is a risk management associate, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Tylor Newhouse is a staff accountant, Bohr, Dahm, Greif & Associates, P.C., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Aroni Niyikiza teaches English as a second language, CIPTC, Shenzhen City, China.

Alex Oldham is a dental assistant, Anamosa Dental, Anamosa, Iowa.

Tiffany Olerich is a treatment specialist, Community and Family Resources, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Kylie Olson is a graduate student, nursing, Allen College, Waterloo, Iowa.

Kyle Pape is a graduate student, physical therapy, Clarke University, Dubuque, Iowa.

Brent Parker is an associate marketplace specialist, Brownells, Inc., Grinnell, Iowa.

Natalie Parker is a medical claims analyst, Equian, West Des Moines, Iowa.

Elizabeth Pearson is a graduate student, social sciences, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado.

CJ Pestano of Waukee, Iowa, is a software engineer, Woodman Controls Company, Urbandale, Iowa.

Rachel Peter teaches elementary music, Keokuk Community School District, Keokuk, Iowa.

Tristan Peters is a design engineer, Vermeer Corp., Pella, Iowa.

Riley Petersen is a graduate student, sciences, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

Chase Petty teaches seventh through 12th grade social studies, Melcher-Dallas Community School District, Melcher-Dallas, Iowa.

Tyler Pfaltzgraff is a soybean research assistant, Stine Seed Company, Adel, Iowa.

Josh Phillips is an associate network administrator, Pella Corp. and head soccer coach, Iowa Rush Soccer Club, Pella, Iowa.

Miguel Pina is a graduate student, nursing, Allen College, Waterloo, Iowa.

Jake Poster is an underwriter trainee, Bitco Insurance Companies, West Des Moines, Iowa.

Dallyn Putz is a graduate student, physical therapy, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Danielle Riley is a graduate assistant athletic trainer, Missouri Valley College, Afton, Iowa.

Sydney Roudabush is a graduate student, Northwestern Health Sciences University, Bloomington, Minnesota.

Lane Rumelhart is a right of way agent, JCG Land Services, Urbandale, Iowa.

Brandon Ryerson is a production manager, Pella Corp., Pella, Iowa.

Trenton Sann is a member advocate, Businessolver, West Des Moines, Iowa.

Garrett Saunders plays minor league baseball, Atlanta Braves, Danville, Virginia.

John Searcy is a flex supervisor, Central College, Pella, Iowa.

Andrew Schlatter teaches special education, Brubaker Elementary School, Des Moines, Iowa.

Madeline Schmiegelt is a tax accountant, Zurich North America, Schaumburg, Illinois.

Hannah Scotton teaches first grade, Newton Community School District, Newton, Iowa.

Kendra Sexton is an office manager, Sexton Oil Company, Danbury, Iowa.

Paige Shanno is an applied behavioral analyst specialist, Balance Autism, Des Moines, Iowa.

Addison Shrum is a settlement auditor, John Deere. He is a soccer coach and board member, Genesis Youth Foundation, Des Moines, Iowa.

Scott Sievert is an IT support specialist, Vermeer Corp., Pella, Iowa.

Emma Skahill is a reporter, Knoxville Journal-Express, Knoxville, Iowa.

Taylor Smith is a graduate student, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Josiah Soderstrum is a claims adjuster, Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance, Grinnell, Iowa.

Ashley Sojka teaches third grade, North Mahaska Community School District, New Sharon, Iowa.

Jenna Stewart is a graduate student, Skaggs School of Pharmacy, University of Colorado, Aurora, Colorado.

Olivia Stoops is a project planning specialist, Musco Lighting Corp., Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Courtney Tabor is a college program member, The Disney Company, Orlando, Florida.

Alex Tamerius is a director of marketing and sales, Precision Optical Group, Creston, Iowa.

Kendra Miller trains teachers, Hope of the Nations, Kigoma, Tanzania.

Steven Tuggle is a national resource specialist and park ranger, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Arlington, Texas.

Cody Tuttle is a sales associate, Fastenal, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Dylan Tuttle is an estimator, Hopkins Roofing, Inc., Pella, Iowa.

Bryant Tyler teaches seventh grade social studies, Central Lee Community School District, Donnellson, Iowa.

Brooke Vanderham teaches kindergarten through fifth grade special education, Dallas Center-Grimes School, Dallas Center, Iowa.

Heidi Vanderholm is a department manager, Pella Corp., Pella, Iowa.

Emily Van Gent is an events and volunteer organizer, Many Hands for Haiti, Pella, Iowa.

Madi Van Gilst is a library reference assistant, Central College, Pella, Iowa.

Jeremy Vester is a graduate student, sciences, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia.

Amy Walter is a graduate student, social sciences,

University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Devin Walter is a sales and leasing consultant, Richdale Apartments, Des Moines, Iowa.

Kaitlyn Wells teaches special education, Des Moines Public Schools, Des Moines, Iowa.

Lucas Wiebenga is a data analyst consultant, Keyot LLC, Des Moines, Iowa.

Nicole Williams is a product owner/software development, Principal Financial Group, Des Moines, Iowa.

Eleanor Witt teaches pre-kindergarten through fourth grade music, Estherville Lincoln Central Community School District, Estherville, Iowa.

Marissa Wright teaches third grade, Edgewood-Colesburg School District, Colesburg, Iowa.



DONOR PROFILE

A Wisconsin dairy farmer who never attended Central College gave hundreds of thousands of dollars to ensure generations of students would benefit from the education he never received.

Earl Simmelink, who was 95 when he died almost four years ago, saw the benefits of the Central experience through the eyes of his sister, **Ruth Simmelink Sims '45**.

He first donated to the college in the early 1970s and gave more than \$600,000 to Central throughout his life. That included more than \$500,000 from his estate.

Central recognized Simmelink's generosity by naming the atrium in Graham Conference Center in his honor. The Earl Simmelink Atrium was dedicated Nov. 8, 2019, during a meeting with the National Advisory Council.

"The Earl Simmelink Atrium will serve as an enduring symbol of his warmth, generosity, humility, stewardship and legacy," says **Sunny Gonzales Eighmy '99**, vice president for advancement. "We thank him for his faith in and extraordinary support of Central College."

Simmelink's life was marked by his generosity and service to other people. He provided a substantial gift to the college's endowment to fund scholarships in his name.

"I believe the most important work of God is to give love to others," he once said.

Simmelink lived his entire life on a farm in Baldwin, Wisconsin, originally owned by his grandparents. His love for the land stemmed from his upbringing and strong faith. He implemented conservation practices that protected the land and refused to apply chemical herbicides or fertilizers.

Simmelink did not attend Central but was connected to the college through his sister. Ruth died Nov. 28, 2007.

Dan Sims, Earl's nephew and Ruth's son, shared his reflection on his uncle's life:

"While I was growing up, my parents and I would visit Uncle Earl twice a year — once at Christmas and once during the summer. As a bachelor dairy farmer, he



**"I BELIEVE THE MOST IMPORTANT
WORK OF GOD IS TO GIVE LOVE
TO OTHERS."**

— EARL SIMMELINK

had very little opportunity to travel and few other relatives with whom to spend the holidays. My grandparents passed away when I was quite young.

"Thus, we made a commitment to be with him. Earl represented a selfless devotion to duty that is hard to imagine these days. I believe part of him wished he could have studied and traveled the way my mom did. As the only male heir to the dairy farm, he felt it was his duty to take it over and keep it going.

"And he did that well. The farm was steadily productive through the years, and he was able to save enough money to make the generous donation."

The Earl Simmelink Endowed Scholarship, established in 2016, is awarded to a student with financial need and is renewable for four years. So far, it has funded 13 scholarships totaling more than \$24,000

to six students. It will continue to support Central students for generations to come.

"I've always enjoyed young people and I wanted to help them," Simmelink said. "These scholarships are my way of doing that."

Simmelink died March 19, 2016, at Birch Haven Assisted Living in Baldwin, Wisconsin, at age 95. His Bible was at his side. ■

EARL SIMMELINK ATRIUM

Dedicated Friday, November 8, 2019

Central College gratefully celebrates the legacy of Earl Simmelink, whose life was marked by service toward others. His generous support of scholarships, in life and through his estate, continues to help Central students year after year. A farmer and conservationist, Earl came to know Central through his connections to the Reformed Church in America and sister, Ruth, a 1945 graduate.

"I've always enjoyed young people and I wanted to help them. These scholarships are my way of doing that."

'Now What?'

FOR LOCAL NEWS AND THE LIBERAL ARTS?

BY: KYLE MUNSON '94

Writers, beware of reading your old work.

I was a Central College senior when in the Spring 1994 issue of the alumni magazine I filled an entire page with a jumbled essay under the title "Now What?" I failed to answer that or any other question. Arguably I did live up to the issue's theme of "Life After Central" by demonstrating some students' utter incomprehension at the true nature of real life in the professional world.

Kudos to editor **Kevin Cool '82** and his staff writer, the late **Shawn Presley**, for their benevolence in publishing my heartfelt knotted prose.

I rambled incoherently about U2's Bono and Hank Williams and ended the essay with perhaps its only clear sentence: "Check back with me in 10 years."

Twenty-six years later I can report that I was prescient in one respect: In 2002 I spent a day with Bono as he led a bus tour through the Midwest to raise funds and awareness for African debt relief. (This was before social media — that entire humanitarian campaign today no doubt would be handled with a single hashtag.)

I've invested my entire career in words and media. I worked 24 years in daily news with The Des Moines Register, the newspaper I grew up reading at my grandparents' kitchen table. A year and a half ago, I pivoted my reporting and digital storytelling skills into content strategy and marketing for global financial services company Principal.

Along the way I developed a bedrock faith in two institutions that shaped my early life: a liberal arts education and local journalism.

They have a lot in common. For instance, both are grounded in asking sharp, critical questions — of our neighbors, of people in power and (perhaps most important in the final analysis) of ourselves.

Both the liberal arts and journalism exist to defy intellectual or social boundaries. Think of them as cultural engines ideally designed to move information, access and opportunity across every barrier of class distinction or privilege.

We often talk about how the Internet ushered in new expanded horizons for humanity. In some ways that's true. But in another sense we've never before lived under such intense quantitative scrutiny, where Mark Zuckerberg often seems to anticipate our every move. The world within our social media bubbles can feel so incredibly small.

Liberal arts and journalism traditionally have drawn boundaries in the best way, by building a shared identity and lending a cohesive voice to their local geographies. These often are small towns sprinkled across rural America for which these institutions are cherished cornerstones.

Or at least they used to be.

A report published last fall by nonprofit the PEN America on the "decimation" of local news has been just one of many to trace the closure of 1,800 newspapers and the loss of about half of the journalists in America in the past 15 years.

"At a time when political polarization is increasing and fraudulent news is spreading," the report said, "a shared fact-based discourse on the issues that most directly affect us is both more essential and more elusive than ever."

That one scary sentence sums it up. When you extract thorough beat reporting

and investigative journalism from a community, transparency and the informed electorate suffer. We need to maintain a sense of community with our physical neighbors that doesn't rely on political affiliation, or other categories that tend to divide us.

All this contributes to why I cheered Central's price change to \$18,600 — a vote in favor of transparency for students and families and for a saner overall higher-education economy.

In the past 30 years, tuition at public universities skyrocketed by 213%. According to the Institute for College Access and Success, the average bachelor's degree in 2018 came bundled with \$29,200 in loan debt.

It doesn't take too many sharp, critical questions to realize that local communities are healthier with reliable nonpartisan news and affordable liberal arts education.

So it's with an entirely different context in this issue of Civitas that I ask, "Now what?" Do we as Americans have the gumption to preserve these institutions that I would argue have contributed incalculable value to all that we cherish about our society?

I would reprise my final line from 1994 — "Check back with me in 10 years" — but that might rattle me more now than when I was a befuddled college senior.

At least this time maybe I've rambled a little less.

When in doubt, end with a hashtag: #GoDutch. ■



▲ **Kyle Munson '94** sits in Douwstra Auditorium holding the Spring 1994 issue of Central Bulletin, then the alumni magazine. As a senior, Munson wrote an editorial titled "Now What?"

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