WE’VE (ALMOST) BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE

BY: MARK PUTNAM, CENTRAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT

“Last Wednesday night I was called out of bed to meet with the Board of Health, who were considering a general quarantine.”

So begins an entry in the Central College president’s diary.

I could have written similar words this spring. The coronavirus pandemic forced us to send students home and move to remote learning for the remainder of the semester. We also needed to halt Commencement 2020 ceremonies and pause many of the college’s cherished spring traditions.

But the diary is not mine.

John Wesselink, Central’s president from 1925-34, wrote the sentence 90 years ago. In the entry that follows he chronicles another trying not to wipe away tears (“Don’t touch your face!”) as she worked. “Are you hanging in there?” he asked gently.

“I have to,” she said, voice choking, “for our students.”

As seniors stopped by a table at Maytag Student Center to turn in their room keys, Mary Benedict, assistant director of annual giving, related how Susan Sikkema, an operator in our student safety and information office, asked a senior she’s gotten to know over the years to join her in prayer before he left campus. “He agreed and it moved us all to tears,” Prokupek shares.

Making the call to move from face-to-face classes to remote instruction in March — which I did in consultation with health officials, local government, Central’s senior leadership team and our board of trustees — was the most difficult decision I’ve had to make as Central’s president.

I encourage you to read “Proud to Be Dutch” beginning on Page 26 and the poignant essay by study abroad student Marin Harrington ’21 on Page 39 for more reflections on the impact of the changes wrought by the coronavirus on the Central family.

Central has weathered much in its 167-year history. Tuberculosis. Polio. Smallpox. The 1918 flu pandemic. The American Civil War. Two World Wars. The Great Depression. The college has met them all with a resilience that’s in our institutional DNA. Often Central acted boldly, adapting to a new set of circumstances virtually overnight, just as we are now.

We’ll detail a few of those pivotal moments in Central’s history in the next issue of Civitas. With your help, we’ll also share more about how the Central community is rising to the challenge yet again. Send your stories of Central community members who are COVID-19 heroes to us at alumni@central.edu. We’ll share as many of them as we can.

The results will be the same as they were in President Wesselink’s time: a strong, vibrant, creative, fiercely unified learning community working together with many roles but one spirit.

By the way, if you hadn’t heard of the “general epidemic” of smallpox in 1930 that President Wesselink mentioned, there’s good reason: it didn’t happen. The quick action of the college and town — though difficult and painful — prevented the disease’s wider spread.

We will never know how many lives we saved by our collective decision to move to remote learning this spring. I recognize your great sacrifice — most especially that of the Class of 2020. And I commend all members of the Central community for your willingness to give personally to ensure the greater good: the students who left campus when asked even as every fiber in their being wanted to stay; the faculty members who embraced with determination and creativity the temporary necessity of remote teaching and learning; the staff members who moved quickly to ensure the safety of our students and the continuity of our operations; and the alumni, parents and friends who immediately reached out to help.

I’m proud of and grateful for your actions. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

ON THE COVER
Klay Bonnstetter, son of Kevin ’05 and Steffanie Bonnstetter
Photo by: Paul Joy

FEATURES

12 IN OUR OWN WORDS
130 years of Central's publicity.

18 CENTRAL WANTS YOU
Four ways to stay connected.

22 LIBERAL ARTS AND MANAGEMENT
CEO
Amy Coughenour ’87

PRESIDENT’S CORNER
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
AROUND THE POND
ATHLETICS
CENTRAL SCENE
DONOR PROFILE
PROUD TO BE DUTCH
HOO-RAH DAY
ALUMNI NEWSNOTES
PARTING SHOT

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.
In response to an increasing number of your letters, we’ve launched a new Letters to the Editor section. To send us a letter, see “Write Us!” below.

LIGHTING STYX

During the Styx concert (“The Best of Times with Styx and Central’s Most Explosive Concert,” Winter 2020 issue, Page 18), Bob Monroe ’76 and I ran the spotlights from the Douwstra balcony. The band’s sound man called the lighting instructions through headphones.

But the show was so loud that Bob and I couldn’t hear him, so we were on our own. Between songs he screamed at us using all kinds of colorful language that we weren’t qualified. We told him that unless he moved to another spot (he was parked in front of the speakers) we wouldn’t be able to hear him. He refused to move so Bob trained his spot to one side of the stage and I to the other. We wished the sound man good luck, took off our headsets and went down to the main floor to watch the rest of the show.

The band played on, the windows broke, the audience enjoyed the show and the rest is history. I don’t recall having any input in selecting Styx, but if the story is still floating around 40 years later, it must have been the right choice.

— Ron Humeston ’76, Pella, Iowa
SCHOLARSHIP DINNER CANCELED
With great regret, the annual Scholarship Dinner celebration scheduled for April 23, 2020, was canceled due to the coronavirus. The college plans for this event to return in 2021. The dinner celebrates the many generous alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff who contribute to the Journey Scholarship Fund. Thanks to you, the fund raised a record $1.34 million and funded 641 scholarships in 2018-19. To contribute to the 2019-20 Journey Scholarship Fund: central.edu/journey. To see the program for the canceled event: central.edu/celebration-program. To see the video created for the dinner: central.edu/journey.

ESTATE GIFT FUNDS SCHOLARSHIP
The estate of Mary Du Bois Wright ’41 gifted the college $200,000.

Wright traveled by train from Wallkill, New York, to Central College because of an introduction through the Reformed Church in America. At Central, she majored in history and English. After graduating, she taught Latin.

Wright was a member of the Wallkill Reformed Church for more than 65 years, was a former Sunday school teacher and served as an officer of the Women’s Guild of the church.

Her estate gift funded the Mary Du Bois Wright Scholarship, given to a Central student from New York or the eastern United States. Including her previous giving, Wright gave more than $275,000 combined to Central.

FUTURE READY IOWA EMPLOYER INNOVATION FUND
Central was one of 22 recipients of the Future Ready Iowa Employer Innovation Fund in a second round of grant funding. The funding helps employers provide postsecondary training and education opportunities for their employees. The latest award was $27,500.

In August, Central became the fiscal agent for the Pella Talent Pipeline Apprenticeship School. The apprenticeship school will provide core curriculum for high-demand occupations with services, including mentorship, financial literacy, and character and leadership development, as well as a residential experience for individuals seeking apprenticeship opportunities after high school.

DROP-OFF TAX PREPARATION
Accounting faculty and students at Central offered free income tax preparation services for Marion County residents. The assistance was made possible through a grant from the Iowa Center for Economic Success. It was the first year for the program.

Students volunteered to prepare taxes under the supervision of accounting faculty through the IRS’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. The program assisted lower-income taxpayers with free tax preparation services.

BEST OF RED ROCK
Congratulations to Dan Huitink ’04 (back row, second from left), Brent Gaulke ’02 (front row, far left), Hannah Wallace Vander Veer ’16 (front row, far right) and Kris Wolthusen Van Gent ’15 (back row, far left) for being named to the 2019 Best of Red Rock Top 10 Under 40. Central College also won best caterer and best meeting venue.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES
Central offers a variety of camps and clinics over the summer for middle and high school athletes, artists and much more. The college also hosts a diverse array of non-college camps and multi-day activities. For more information: central.edu/camps.
NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK
A new year called for a fresh look in Central Market. Plan to see the recently installed artwork during your next meal on campus!

CAREER KICKSTARTER
During winter break, a group of students participated in Central’s new Career Kickstarter program. The free, one-week program offered micro-internships and the opportunity to explore potential career paths. Students toured several area employers, including the Pella Regional Health Center, top left and Cargill, bottom left.
CENTRAL’S SAUNDERS GETS MINOR LEAGUE SHOT

STORY BY: LARRY HAPPEL ’81

Garrett Saunders ’19 signs a young fan’s ball.
The real world beckoned.

A summer job. Medical school applications. Student loans. For Garrett Saunders ’19, it was finally time for baseball and boyhood dreams to fade into the memories of his youth.

He’d allowed the hopes of a pro career to flicker a little longer than most. Some favorable showings in summer wood-bat leagues, combined with the promise and leather he flashed as Central College’s all-conference shortstop, prompted Atlanta Braves scouts to offer some encouragement, if not a contract.

Yet his name wasn’t called during the amateur draft. Undrafted free-agent offers typically surface immediately afterwards, but a week had now passed, and Saunders conceded it was time to move on. He would start applying to medical schools the following day.

Then he got the call. The Braves offered him a spot with Class A rookie league Danville (Virginia). There were no negotiations, only instructions on how to get from Bonaparte, Iowa, to Virginia.

“It was definitely kind of a shock,” Saunders says. “I wasn’t looking for it but at the same time it’s something that you get an instant kind of smile because it’s like, yeah, it’s happening now.”

And that’s how medical school got put on hold — for morning bagels from two-star hotel breakfast bars and 11 p.m. postgame chicken breasts on a paper plate, for bus rides traversing tree-lined Appalachian Mountain slopes and for a chance to cling to his youth just a bit longer, picking ground balls off bumpy dirt infield and anxiously waiting for that next at-bat.

“It’s a lot of fun,” Saunders says. “It’s almost like a Little League career. All that matters every day is waking up and playing baseball. You don’t really have anything else to care about. It’s like you’re going back in the day, playing after school, but now it’s 12 hours a day. It’s all your waking time, pretty much. Then you go back to go to sleep and do it again.”

For most minor leaguers, eyes locked firmly on a major league roster spot, it’s all about the destination, not the journey. For Saunders, the journey is the destination. Sure, 50,000-seat stadiums, charter flights and mortgage payment-sized per diem checks would be nice, but he can’t quite get over the fact that he’s getting paid to play baseball.

“I’ve thought about just how cool it has been,” he says. “My whole athletic career has brought me to this point. It’s neat to look back on. And I definitely don’t have any complaints about the pay and everything. There are some guys that take it a little rough, but at the end of the day you’re making money, more than you’d be making sitting and going to school somewhere.”

Saunders was a two-time all-region pick at Central, hitting .361 with 25 RBIs last spring. Nice numbers, but for Saunders, like his classmates in other fields, Central connections were the key.

“One of the main reasons I ended up with the Braves is connections,” he says. “I played every summer and Coach Matt Schirm always did a good job of making sure I had somewhere to play. That ended up leading to my performing better and got me an opportunity in the Northwoods [an elite summer league]. That obviously helped with exposure.”

Clubs don’t invest a lot in undrafted free agents like Saunders, who had to adjust to life as a backup, making every playing opportunity a precious one. Thus far, he’s defied the odds. In 26 games last summer, he batted .300 with 21 hits and 14 walks, earning him a spring training invitation.

Yet the only thing certain about Saunders’ ride is that someday it will end. Unlike many of his teammates, however, with his Central biology degree, he has a Plan B.

“My long-term goal is to practice medicine where I grew up, basically an

“I LOVED IT HERE. THE PROFESSORS ARE AWESOME.” – GARRETT SAUNDERS ’19
ATHLETICS UPDATES

WRESTLING: Central's Duncan Lee '20 emerged from a stacked field of national contenders to win the 285-pound title at the NCAA Division III Lower Midwest Regional in Dubuque on March 1. Post-baccalaureate student Nathan Fritz '19 was second at 184 pounds and Rob Areano '22 was third at 149 as all three gained berths in the NCAA Division III Championships that were later canceled due to the COVID-19 public health threat. Central was fifth in the 18-team regional field and 12-6 in dual action, placing sixth in the American Rivers behind five nationally ranked teams.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: It was a breakthrough year in the rebuilding of the Central women's basketball team under coach Joe Steinkamp '03. Central recorded its most wins since 1997-98 with a 15-11 mark, gaining its first conference tourney berth since 2004-05. Forward Kendall Brown '20 and guard Kelsea Hurley '23 each received second-team all-conference honors.

MEN'S BASKETBALL: A young and injury-riddled lineup endured a 5-20 campaign as Central lost three key performers for much of the year. Guard Adam Flinn '21 was the league's second-leading scorer (21 points per game) and a second-team all-conference pick.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD: Brock Lewis '22 and Drake Lewis '22 earned NCAA Division III Championship berths in the men's long jump and high jump, respectively. Three women qualified, with Kennedy Morris '21 in the weight throw, Mary Gray '21 in the pentathlon and Mari Stein '23 in the mile. The meet was later canceled. Both squads settled for fifth place in the American Rivers.

Duane Schroeder Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year: Three-time NCAA decathlon/heptathlon champion Will Daniels '19 received the American Rivers Conference’s highest honor. It's based on athletics and scholarly achievements, service, involvement and leadership. Daniels carried a 3.99 GPA and is the seventh Central athlete to receive the award, established in 2002.

FOR UP-TO-THE-MINUTE NEWS ON CENTRAL ATHLETICS: ATHLETICS.CENTRAL.EDU.
A rainbow and its reflection frames the Maytag Student Center on a calm spring day.
This 1957 issue of the "Central College Bulletin" served as that year's admission brochure. Inside, photo spreads featured all aspects of college life from academics to athletics.
These days, Central produces a new suite of admission brochures and digital communications regularly to describe the college, its offerings and Pella to prospective students. But how does this work differ from the way Central presented itself in the past?

We raided the college archives to find out. We found amusingly archaic language. We found charming illustrations. We found nostalgic photographs. We found time-bound references from bygone eras. They all make for fun reading and viewing.

But we also found a remarkably consistent message. As far back as the record stretches, Central has publicized itself as a college that:

+ Combines a well-rounded liberal arts education with pre-professional preparation.
+ Features accessible faculty members and a supportive community of learners.
+ Is proud of its campus and Pella location.
+ Strives to be financially accessible.

It’s a recipe for success that has served Central and its students well for more than a century and a half.

1890s


“Then go to CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, Pella, Iowa,” it continues. “Because a good education is the best paying investment. Because the courses of study and methods of teaching are PRACTICAL and THOROUGH; because the teachers are well educated, wide awake, and friendly; because the students are helpful and enthusiastic; because the expenses are very low and the place pleasant.”

More than just pleasant, “Pella is a beautiful little city of 3,000 people, without drinking or billiard saloons and free from those influences that attract the attention and corrupt the morals of students.”

Central “combines practical knowledge with mental discipline. It has no special departments on which it bestows its favors, but all are equally well maintained. Its students are encouraged in their social life to mingle freely with the teachers,” states an 1891 brochure.

1920s

This surprisingly modern-looking, pocket-sized brochure from 1928 includes profiles of notable Central alumni in several professional fields — as do Central’s admission materials today. “Central College is still doing business at the old stand,” the brochure states. “But the aim remains essentially the same, to help young people to make a life, not merely to make a living.”

1930s

This 1936 viewbook is the earliest large-format admission brochure we found in the archives. For the first time, photography dominates. This spread features campus life.

1940s

In 1945, a half-century or more before the term “STEM” (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) was coined, Central’s admission brochure emphasized offerings in those disciplines — and the attendant laboratories and pieces of apparatus.
1950s
Central has always been proud of its beautiful campus, even in early years when the college had but a single building surrounded by “eight acres of well-shaded lawn.” By the time this map was produced, the college boasted a dozen structures, including the Kuyper Field — and enough foot traffic that students in 1953 were admonished to “use the sidewalk instead of cutting campus” to preserve the grass. Train tracks separated academic buildings from playing fields. Central Red replaced the earlier blue ink and has been used extensively in college publications since.

1960s
A midcentury modern style “lamp of learning” logo arrived by 1963. In a nod to social changes then afoot, the 1963-64 catalog stated Central aimed to develop in students “a creative intelligence which will enable them to deal positively and constructively with the problems of a rapidly changing society.”

1970s
The campus’ iconic bridge (with 1970s “lollipop lights” in the background) became the new Central logo in 1978. “The campus bridge is uniquely ours, a focal point of the campus, meaningful to those who pass over it every day,” stated the “Central College Bulletin” in announcing the logo’s adoption. The bridge remains a prominent graphic in Central’s communications today.

1980s
“Where are they now? asked the cover of this “Central Bulletin” edition published in 1989. The college is proud that nearly 100% of its graduates are employed in a field of interest, in graduate or professional school or completing service work such as the Peace Corps or Vista following graduation. It continues to publish the accomplishments of its most recent graduating class annually in “Civitas.”
1990s
The college put its mission on the cover of this 1994 "Central Bulletin," an alumni publication which also served as the college's course catalog and, until 1978, occasionally as an admission viewbook. The cover story discussed what it meant to be a liberal arts college in the Christian tradition — a dual identity the institution has maintained since its founding. In 1994, that tradition was expressed, in part, as “a sense of stewardship for the world, the desire and will to serve others, and an underlying curiosity and sense of mystery about the meaning and value of life not only in their own culture but in a culturally diverse world.”

2000s
A journey theme and scrapbook-like design characterized this 2001 admission brochure. Journey is a word with much resonance at Central, naming college's hallmark scholarship program and connoting the educational experience and the college's study abroad offerings. From the brochure's opening pages: “Getting an education is one of life’s great journeys. And Central College will be an adventure to remember.”
A 2010 admission brochure continues the journey metaphor with a “Go Farther!” tagline. Inside, copy told prospective students Central would feel “more and more like home” during their four years. “Here’s where you could end up,” it concludes, highlighting accomplishments of recent graduates.

Central's liberal arts-based education lets you explore your passions. Find your focus. And be challenged to use every last brain cell to develop the critical thinking and problem-solving skills graduate programs and employers seek.

Different language, perhaps, but much the same message as 130 years ago.
What takes four years but lasts a lifetime? Membership in the Central family! Here are four ways the alumni office helps you stay connected with the college.

STORY BY: DAN WEEKS   PHOTOS BY: PAUL JOY   Klay, left, and Kade, right, Bonnstetter, sons of Kevin ’05 and Steffanie Bonnstetter.
THE BIB EFFECT
“The alumni office sends a bib to each alumni baby at birth. Barb [Little] Butler ['58] started the practice with CUI T-shirts back in '61 and the first recipient was Steve Sikkink ['83], son of John ['62] and Betty Nagel Sikkink ['61]” states an article in the March 1980 “Central Bulletin.”

Steve Sikkink got the program off to a great start. He graduated Central right on time, 22 years later. He's now a Central Club, Heritage Roll of Honor and Forever Dutch Steering Committee member and a Central trustee.

Not every legacy T-shirt or bib recipient ends up as intimately involved in the life of the college as Sikkink. In the 2019-20 academic year, 179 students, or about 16% of Central’s approximately 1,150 students, were “legacies” or “heritage students” — students whose parents or siblings attended Central. The college even puts on an annual Legacy Luncheon for these students and their parents during Welcome Week.

Legacies are no longer made by bibs alone. The alumni office now distributes gifts in increasing frequency: a Central beach ball when the little legacy turns 5. A Central pencil bag when their age reaches double digits. A Central tote bag their freshman year in high school.

Then the college really turns up the swag: High school sophomores get a Central lanyard. High school juniors get a Central phone wallet (a little plastic pocket that sticks on to the back of a cellphone and can hold a credit card or a couple of bills). High school seniors get a welcome letter from a senior legacy student, plus a coupon for 20% off at the Central Spirit Shoppe, Central's gift shop, as an inducement to make a campus visit. There they can buy even more Dutch gear.

It all makes for a solidly Central-branded childhood — something many legacies seem to genuinely appreciate. Mary Benedict, assistant director of alumni relations and the one who sends the gifts, even gets thank you notes. Amber Butler (legacy Class of 2031 or thereabouts), daughter of Wendy Mielke Butler ‘06, sent the charming illustrated note (right). It so touched Benedict she made a keepsake of it.

Benedict has worked for the college for 18 years. She started in the admission office so she's now recruiting her second generation of Central students. Reggie Osborn '05 was a student worker in the admission office then. He introduced his daughter Ava (another potential 2031er) to Benedict on a recent visit to Pella.

“This is Miss Mary who sent you the nice pencil bag,” he said. Ava was grateful, Benedict remembers.

Cooper Vittetoe '21, son of Stephanie Yates Vittetoe '90, wrote a letter to legacies encouraging them to apply. “One actually wrote me back,” Vittetoe says, a bit amazed.

Sometimes, though, all the Hoo-Rah seems to backfire — at first.

“As a daughter of two Central alumni [Brad Fuller '92 and Kristin Tryon Fuller '94], I'd gotten a bib from Central in the mail shortly after I was born,” Mackenzie Fuller Johnson '19 says. “But as a rebellious teenager, no way was I following tradition and going to Central.”

"AS HARD AS I TRIED NOT TO COME HERE, THIS WAS WHERE I WANTED TO BE.” — MARY GRAY '21
Her mother persuaded her to at least visit Central’s campus. “I hated her the whole car ride home because I loved my visit so much,” Johnson says. She graduated student body president.

Patrick Gray ’19 and his sister Mary Gray ’21 can relate — in spades. As son and daughter of David ’87 and Catherine Snyders Gray ’88, nephew and niece of Theresa Snyders Crumley ’89 and younger brother and sister of Riley Gray ’17, they attempted — and failed — to resist the Central lure.

“I wanted to do my own thing,” Patrick says. “I tried to find somewhere that would be unique and individual to me. I looked at other colleges and universities, but none quite measured up.”

“As hard as I tried not to come here, this was where I wanted to be,” Mary agrees.

Their younger brother Evan Gray ’23 is here, too.

“Legacies don’t come here just because we send them bibs and birthday cards,” Benedict says. “They know they have many other choices. But they also realize we know them and are ready to welcome them when they’re ready to visit. They know we care and that resonates with the stories they’ve heard from their parents and other family members about Central. It’s fun to see them discover their own impressions of us once they get here and it’s wonderful to welcome them as first-year students.”

“Legacies don’t come here just because we send them bibs and birthday cards,” Benedict says. “They know they have many other choices. But they also realize we know them and are ready to welcome them when they’re ready to visit. They know we care and that resonates with the stories they’ve heard from their parents and other family members about Central. It’s fun to see them discover their own impressions of us once they get here and it’s wonderful to welcome them as first-year students.”

REFER A STUDENT
Thirty-seven years ago, Central’s alumni office decided to link the college’s longtime leadership in teacher education to its efforts to recruit new students. “Alumni Educators Respond to Admissions Plea, Recommend Prospective Students for Central,” read the headline in a 1983 edition of the “Central Bulletin,” a predecessor to “Civitas.”

“I started getting referrals within hours of the appeal’s posting,” Benedict says. “We aimed it at an alumni audience, but one of the first referrals came from a prospective student. That’s great — we’ll take names and send them their Central gear.”

And what gear would that be? Benedict just smiles. “It’s a surprise,” she says. (Think “cool, branded and easy-to-mail.” She also sends handwritten thank yous to all who participate.)

“Don’t stop there,” the webpage continues. “Once you’ve referred a student, consider reaching out to let them know. They’ll appreciate hearing that you think highly enough of their abilities and care enough about their future to connect them to a place that means so much to you. “Tell them about your experience at Central and encourage them to visit campus — or bring them to campus with you the next time you visit. You can also share stories about current Central students.

“Tell them about your experience at Central and encourage them to visit campus — or bring them to campus with you the next time you visit. You can also share stories about current Central students.

LEGACY STUDENTS: HOW DOES CENTRAL COMPARE?

According to a March 2019 article in Bloomberg, legacy students made up the following percentages of these institutions’ student bodies. (Central’s figure is from Central’s registrar.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baylor</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USC</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CENTRAL</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvard</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Princeton</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Initial response ... has been very good,” the article reported: Dozens of alumni educators in Iowa and elsewhere had responded to the call for names of promising students.

The article closed by broadening the appeal to all Central alumni. “Anyone who knows high school juniors or seniors who should be recruited by Central College is encouraged to send those student’s names, addresses and other pertinent information to either the Alumni or Admissions Office without delay.”

Now the college is relaunching that referral program — but with incentives and a high-tech twist.

The Be Forever Dutch® Student Referral Program debuted on Central’s website in January.

“Do you know a promising student who would benefit from a Central education? Let us know by filling out our referral form,” says the new webpage at central.edu/refer. “We’ll be in touch to invite them to learn more about Central, visit campus and apply. We’ll send you some Central gear as a token of our thanks — first when you refer a student and a second time if a student you refer enrolls.”

“Do you know a promising student who would benefit from a Central education? Let us know by filling out our referral form,” says the new webpage at central.edu/refer. “We’ll be in touch to invite them to learn more about Central, visit campus and apply. We’ll send you some Central gear as a token of our thanks — first when you refer a student and a second time if a student you refer enrolls.”

SEND US YOUR BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS!

We’ll make sure your new arrival gets a bib, a birthday card and a warm welcome into the Central family. Call 800-447-0287 or email alumni@central.edu.

“I STARTED GETTING REFERRALS WITHIN HOURS OF THE APPEAL’S POSTING.”
— MARY BENEDICT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

REFER A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT AT:
central.edu/refer.
Central RED Society

There’s another series of events frequented by Central alumni: the Central RED Society, a lifelong learning program that sponsors a series of 15-20 classes per year. Past classes have included a tour of Vermeer Corporation and a live interview of former Iowa congressman Neal Smith by CBS senior correspondent Harry Smith ’73. Classes are open to Central Red members; hosted on campus and sponsored by an independent 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. About 45% of attendees are Central alumni, as are many of the presenters. Central RED currently has 190 members and the average class size is 70.

For more information: central.edu/red.

Forever Dutch®

“Watching a future Central student discover what it means to be Forever Dutch® can be a tremendously rewarding experience. It’s something they’ll remember you for the rest of their lives.”

Benedict and the folks in Central’s admission office say the last part is true — and a big reward of their jobs. They’re determined to make it easy for members of the Central family to experience that joy as well.

Central in the City

The newest official alumni program, Central in the City, got its start nearly 10 years ago when some alumni wanted to throw a party for other Central graduates in their area. The college was more than happy to help, and soon was working with alumni in various locations — Minneapolis, Des Moines, Phoenix and elsewhere — by sending out invitations, keeping track of RSVPs, finding alumni hosts and even chipping in here and there for refreshments. These days, it’s not unheard of for someone from the admission or development offices to show up when their travel schedules allow to reconnect with alumni and visit with prospective students. The events have even popped up right in Pella at Smokey Row, a coffee shop and eatery a few blocks from campus.

“We realized quite a few local alumni were driving right by campus every day on the way to work but that we never got to see them,” Benedict says. So the college set a date and offered to buy a cup of coffee for any alumni who showed up. Representatives from the alumni office and other advancement staff mingled with alumni and all enjoyed staying in touch. The Pella event is now annual. Remote events happen several times per year.

Sometimes the events are hosted by a group of classmates or near classmates; former teammates; or alumni that bonded over a study abroad experience, participation in a musical group or other affinity. Larger gatherings might feature a talk by one of the alumni or someone from the college, such as a coach; visits from students who live in the area if the event is over a Central break; and a dinner.

The alumni get a mini-reunion and the college gets to connect with alumni who might be interested in supporting a Central initiative, hosting an intern, working with admission, mentoring students or speaking to classes. Win-win-win.

To inquire about hosting an event call 800-447-0287 or email alumni@central.edu.

For information on upcoming alumni happenings including Central in the City events: central.edu/alumni/events.
Study abroad led to an international career for this CEO of a high-tech nonprofit.

STORY BY: DAN WEEKS

“A smaller Dutch town?” Amy Coughenour ’87 said to her father in the summer of 1983. He’d just suggested she travel with him from their hometown of Holland, Michigan, to Pella to visit Central College.

“I’d already accepted admission and registered at another college,” she remembers. But after meeting with a Central German professor, hearing about Central’s study abroad program in Vienna and overnighting with a student in a residence hall, she changed her mind. “Everyone was so friendly, and the opportunities sounded amazing,” she says.

INTERNATIONAL ASPIRATIONS

Coughenour’s family had traveled abroad and hosted exchange students from Finland. “I loved political science, learning about the world and its cultures,” she says. “I wanted to learn languages and do something internationally.”

She credits her Central education with developing that interest into a career that’s taken her all over the world. It eventually landed her in the top job at a nongovernmental organization that aims to document and map the land rights of 8 million people in 30 countries by 2022.

She majored in German and naturally chose to study abroad in Vienna, including a two-month stint beforehand at the Goethe Institute — a total-immersion experience of studying and living with students from many countries, all while communicating only in German. On campus, she lived in Central’s international house and in language houses and was active in Central’s A Cappella Choir, wind ensemble and theatre.

A trimester in the Mérida, Mexico, program her senior year was eye opening. “I was taken with Mexican and Latin American culture,” she says. “I was also struck by poverty, by underdevelopment, by social and economic inequalities. I loved Vienna, Europe, speaking German — all of that — but I really wanted to work in international development on issues I first saw in Mexico. It influenced the rest of my career.”

After graduating, Coughenour returned to Germany on a Fulbright Scholarship, taught English and applied to the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Now called the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, it’s a graduate school within Middlebury College. There she earned a master’s degree in international policy studies.

“I show up at work every day passionate about what we do because I know it can really matter.”
— Amy Coughenour ’87
VARIED EXPERIENCE
Her first post-graduate school job was directing a nonprofit startup in Laredo, Texas. “A group of activists got funding to provide pro bono legal counsel to refugees seeking asylum,” she says. “I was their first hire. As the director, it was my job to hire a lawyer and a paralegal and recruit and manage a bunch of volunteers — including lawyers who worked for us pro bono. I did everything — fundraising, board management, grant writing, bookkeeping, paralegal work. I’ve been in leadership roles my whole career, because that’s where I started.”

After two years there, Coughenour spent the next several years working for nonprofits providing services and advocacy for immigrants, refugees and low-income people in Texas. First, she helped address hunger and immigrants’ rights. Then she transitioned to working in vocational technical education at a center for occupational research and development — one route out of poverty for the people she served.

“We did curriculum development and training for math, science and technology,” Coughenour says. “I saw we could internationalize the programs and funding. We took the programs we developed to Turkey, Mexico, Chile, Brazil. Every country had common issues — a lack of achievement in math and science and a disconnect between the skills being taught and the skills in demand. We’d advocate with ministries of education about how to solve these issues with teacher training and applied, hands-on curriculum. In the late ’90s, that was not a common approach to teaching these subjects. The approach worked. Thousands of secondary students improved their academic scores and went on to important technical careers, traveled and got to know people from all over the world.”

She ended up as the International Vocational Technical Association’s vice president for North America, running the association’s program out of Washington, D.C. “If you want to do international work,” she says, “D.C. is the place to be.”

There she moved from programming into policy work. Coughenour was a deputy director at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank, and worked in the interaction between U.S. policy and those of Caribbean countries, overseeing leadership programs, fundraising, administration and management and editing publications for the Americas Program.

AN EPIPHANY
Then she had a watershed moment.

“Working at the policy level, you don’t often see what’s happening on the ground. You are dealing with the elite decision makers, the powers that be, the heads of states and their ministers and policy makers. After a while, it did not get me up in the morning.”

She wanted to get back to international development where she could see her actions directly benefit ordinary people. Between 2002 and 2011, she was deputy executive director for the Pan-American Development Foundation. Funded mostly by the U.S. government, it worked in Latin and Caribbean countries on social and economic programs.

“We had a broad mission,” she says. “We worked in rural development and agriculture, community-led development — even some disaster relief and recovery.”

Coughenour was in charge of resource development and programs there and helped the organization quadruple in size over nine years. “Part of what I do is grow organizations,” she says.

She spent the next nine years as chief operating officer of the International Programs of the National Cooperative Business Association, which she describes as “the apex organization for U.S.-based cooperatives.” She ran the international programs working in 20 countries. By the end of her tenure, she said, she was ready to take on a new leadership role.

“To lead an organization you have to be a critical thinker and a good writer. You need to be able to conceptualize and articulate things.” — Amy Coughenour ’87

HIGH-TECH NONPROFIT
That led her to the position of CEO of Cadasta, which she describes as a hybrid tech startup and nonprofit, advancing land and resource rights with innovative technology for vulnerable populations all over the world. The organization’s goal is to help document and map the land rights of 8 million people in 30 countries by 2022.

“Traditional land-administration systems only serve a small fraction of the world’s population,” she says. “About 70-80% of the world’s land is undocumented. In Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria, for instance, 60% of applications for aid from FEMA were rejected because people did not have title to their land.”

Disaster recovery aside, Coughenour says, land insecurity inhibits development. “People aren’t going to invest in their home and business and expand their crops if the land can be taken from them at any time.

Two children who reside in an urban neighborhood find their home on a Cadasta map.
If we can work to secure tenure, then we can unlock that development potential that is unrealized.”

“Cadasta makes state-of-the-art geospatial technologies such as high-quality satellite, drone and other remote sensing imagery available to people who would otherwise not be able to access or afford it,” Coughenour explains in an article she wrote in the March-April 2019 issue of Land Administration magazine. To date, Cadasta has helped strengthen property rights for nearly 1.8 million people.

That’s a huge impact. And Coughenour credits much of her accomplishments to her Central education. “I am very much a liberal arts person,” she says. “To lead an organization you have to be a critical thinker and a good writer. You need to be able to conceptualize and articulate things.

“I’m having the time of my life,” she confides. “What more can you want? I show up at work every day passionate about what we do because I know it can really matter — we can be an agent of change in a very concrete way.”

Cadasta uses a user-friendly mobile app and platform that uses geospatial positioning technology to help landowners map and document property rights.
Richard ‘62 and Mary Roorda Glendening ‘62 have dedicated their lives to advancing Central’s mission.

**CAREERS:** Educators  
**LOCATION:** Pella, Iowa  
**SERVICE TO CENTRAL:** Central RED Society, Central Club, EAM Advisory Council, Town & Gown Volunteer, Heritage Club, Heritage Roll of Honor, Cornerstone Society, Central Class of 1962 Reunion Chairs and Central Alumni Award recipients, 2017.

Rich and Mary Glendening graduated eighth grade, high school and Central College together — and they’ve seen all four of their children graduate Central, too: Eric Glendening ‘85, Mary Glendening Jaco ‘87, Kara Glendening Busker ‘89 and Erin Glendening ‘92. Rich’s mother, Helen Vander Linden Glendening ‘35, began the legacy.

Rich is professor emeritus of economics who joined the faculty in 1966; Mary is a retired Pella first and second grade teacher. Together they have influenced many generations of students.

“I really enjoy getting kids interested in the world around them through literature and contact with people from around the world — schools in Australia, Mexico, Wales,” Mary says.

Rich was a business major who initially wanted to go into banking but found he loved studying. Don Butler, former professor of economics, suggested grad school; teaching followed.

At Central, “the interaction with the students was invigorating,” Rich says. “I enjoyed the subject, my colleagues, the environment. The level of faculty commitment and interest in the student body was very high. I knew my students.”

It is perhaps no wonder then the Glendenings have dedicated their lives to advancing Central’s mission through their professions and their philanthropy.

---

MORE THAN 35 CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF GIVING

**THE INTERACTION WITH THE STUDENTS WAS INVIGORATING.”**  
– RICH GLENDENING ‘62
I can’t say how proud I was

I was studying abroad spring semester in Granada, Spain, and loving every second of it. I know all of us there recognized each day as the privilege it was to be there.

As the coronavirus outbreak in Europe worsened, I can’t say how proud I was of the way Central handled the situation. Many of my classmates at the Center for Modern Languages in Granada were pulled home immediately, prematurely and without any warning from their institution, while Central, I feel, reacted coolly and responsibly. We were listened to about our perspective of the severity of the situation in Granada specifically and Central College was communicative and rational in the steps it took to recall us home.

While I am sad to have left my study abroad early, I understand and agree with why we had to leave. Everything was done to enable us to stay.

This is one of my proudest moments as a student — to have been supported by my institution when others didn’t involve their students in the decision process, and to have had the months I did in Granada in the first place. Central College has shown us nothing but support and handled this situation with grace and determination. Proud to be Dutch!!!
**EMILY OPSAL ’20**  
**IT’S KIND OF WEIRD**  
It’s kind of weird to think my time on campus as a student is pretty much over. I still get to be part of classes and connect with people online for the next two months, but it’s strange to not be in Pella for Hoo-Rah Day and other spring events. Yet I will be an alum soon and participate in a whole new way. I still get to support the women’s golf team, be part of Homecoming and other events and maintain all my friendships. I’m excited for all that is to come.

**SARAH FOSDICK TURNBULL ’00**  
**DOING OUR BEST TO BE READY**  
Thirteen years ago, my daughter was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy (often called the child form of ALS). After spending the last decade navigating the medical system on our daughter’s medical journey, I decided to become an EMT so I could give back to our community of Pella. I have been an EMT for just a few months now and feel strongly that God gave me the push to join Pella Ambulance at just the right time when perhaps we might be most needed. We are doing our best to be ready.

**CATHLEEN HOWE ’77**  
**WE’RE IMPROVISING**  
I’ve been sewing masks for family and friends who are immunocompromised. I have also donated several to folks who work in health care. To date I’ve made 126 masks and just got fabric to make more. It’s impossible to get elastic, so we’re improvising with ribbon and stretchy hair bands.

**DR. ANDRIA PETERSON BARR ’99**  
**DOING MY PART**  
We are living in extraordinary times. I am doing my part by continuing my work as an OB/GYN in Bettendorf, Iowa. We are doing our best to provide support for all our patients, especially our pregnant moms, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to our brave nurses and hospital and clinic staff who are each doing their part.
Forever Dutch® means being a part of something deep in traditions. It's being a part of a family that loves deep, pushes you to do the best and holds you accountable! Central is a place where memories are made and your friends become family!!

I'M PROUD TO BE FOREVER DUTCH.

Jaelyn Monhollon '17
HOMETOWN: Topeka, Kansas
CAMPUS ACTIVITIES: Study Abroad and Softball
Central College celebrated its fourth annual Hoo-Rah Day on Tuesday, April 7. This year the coronavirus prevented in-person events. But virtual participation was stronger than ever, logging more than 83,000 social media impressions in just 24 hours — including more than 5,000 hits to the college’s Hoo-Rah Day video at central.edu/fight-song. Donations also set a new Hoo-Rah Day record, exceeding the 2019 total by more than $7,000.

This year the college also launched a new Central Cares Fund to aid students experiencing hardship during the coronavirus pandemic. The fund helps students with the cost of technology and access required for remote learning, unexpected travel, shipping and storage expenses, book and course materials, student accounts and other needs as determined by the college. These needs continue to accumulate, and it’s not too late to help out.

To donate to the Central Cares Fund, visit ignite.central.edu/centralcares.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this Hoo-Rah Day so successful.
MORE THAN
83,000
IMPRESSIONS

$225,372 RAISED

241 GIFTS

Since it's #HoorahDay it's only fitting to post this as we await our new family member.

We can't wait for our son to become a @centralcollege fan too.

Happy #HoorahDay! I am missing this place sooooo much right now. I am currently a sophomore at Central College majoring in biochemistry, minorin in Spanish, and in the pre-dental program. Central has taught me so many amazing things these past two years and I can't wait to see what the next two years hold for me. I have met so many amazing people and had so many great opportunities that I couldn't have had anywhere else. Thank you for everything Central and I can't wait to be back on campus in August.

Go Dutch!
Betty Bollard - Central College

When your only choice to get together with friends is virtually, this is what you do! ❤️ #HooRahDay — with Karen Jensen Vander Horst and Linda Goodman.

Mollie Kingma

#HooRah
#trioworks #centralcollegeETS
#hoorahday #zoom @iowaTRIO @central college

Cory Springhorn

@CorySpringhorn

So many choices for today's business attire! #HooRahDay #workingfromhome @CentralCollege hoorah.central.edu/giving-day/230...

Happy Hoorah Day!!

From the class of 2020 and soon to be class of 2024!

Jana(Daberkw)Rieker

@JanaRieker

It's @CentralCollege HooRahDay. Proud to support my alma mater.
THE ‘50s

Gordon De Jong ’57 received the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population’s Laureate Award for groundbreaking work on migration and for creating a dual-degree training program in demography at Penn State University. He is grateful to Central for introducing him to the scientific study of societal issues in economics, psychology and sociology courses as an undergraduate. Gordon is a distinguished professor emeritus of sociology and demography at Penn State. Gordon and wife, Caroline, live in State College, Pennsylvania.


Janice Kooiker Gegenheimer ’63 and husband, Lee Gegenheimer ’63, of Scottsdale, Arizona, enjoyed a Class of 1963 reunion in late January with several couples who traveled to Arizona from as far away as Maryland to celebrate their 57th reunion. The wives formed lasting friendships as students when they shared living quarters on the second floor of Graham Hall. Left to right: Lee Gegenheimer ’63, Marilyn Walraven Cummings ’63, Steve Igo, Sandra Miersma Igo ’63, Janice Kooiker Gegenheimer ’63, Sherry Lokhorst Wissink ’63, Karen Bast Bartell ’63, Eugene Bartell ’63 and Phil Cummings.

THE ‘60s

Marilyn Klimstra ’50 of Pella, Iowa, above, and son, Stephen Klimstra ’73, witnessed the Central football team’s big win over Wartburg College at the Ron and Joyce Schipper Stadium this fall. Stephen and wife, Diane, live in Germantown Hills, Illinois.

Julia De Penning Thoel ’66 of Manson, Iowa, and Jane Vander Kooi ’66 of Broomfield, Colorado, enjoyed a mini reunion this fall at the home of Marge Postma Vander Wagen ’66 in Downers Grove, Illinois. Julia was a special education teacher and supervisor in Iowa, Jane a chemistry professor at the University of Pennsylvania and Marge a medical technologist and later an ordained RCA minister. The friends enjoyed an outing to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.
THE ’70s

For information about Stephen Klimstra ’73, see the ’50s. For information about Michael Gardner ’75, see the ’10s.

Glenn Brown ’76 is the lead tax research analyst at The Tax Institute at H&R Block in Kansas City, Missouri. Glenn and wife, Christine Muenz ’77, live in Shawnee Mission, Kansas.

Berta Aug ’84 of Preston, Minnesota, celebrated a traditional American Thanksgiving with students and staff at the Vienna program office in Austria. She also visited Christmas markets in the Baroque-style castle Halbturn and Gothic-inspired castle Lackenbach in Burgenland province south of Vienna. Berta participated in the Vienna Study Abroad Program from 1982-83.

THE ’80s

For information about Rita Heemsbergen Gardner ’80, Laureen Umlauf Durfey ’82, Evan Durfey ’82, Mark Knouse ’82, Diane Cronin Brockway ’84, Bob Cronin ’85, Nan Funke Benson ’86 and Carolyn Cronin Vipond ’89 see the ’10s.

Brad Depke ’82 is the leader and owner of Global Data Standards and Processes in Grayslake, Illinois. Brad and wife, Janet, live in Third Lake, Illinois.

Amy Hotaling Wittman ’85 is the deputy director of public and congressional affairs at Naval Surface Warfare Center Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Amy and husband, Jack, live in Burke, Virginia.

Karen Regal-Johnson ’86 retired from North Iowa Area Community College after 28 years teaching writing, public speaking and literature. She is looking forward to new opportunities and adventures and is open to suggestions. Drop her a line at klregal705@gmail.com. Karen and husband, Gary, live in Mason City, Iowa.

Glenn Hay ’89 is the regional president of Fidelity Bank and Trust in Tipton, Iowa. Glenn and wife, Lisa Scharff Hay ’89, live in Lowden, Iowa.

THE ’90s

For information about Mary Chamberlain Cronin ’90 and Bill Cronin ’90, see the ’10s.

Lois Van Haften Vroom ’91 practices family law and adoptions at Vroom Law Office in Knoxville, Iowa. Lois and husband, Jeff, live in Pella, Iowa.

Howard Feitel, Jr. ’94 of Alameda, California, earned certified financial counselor recognition from the Association of Certified Credit Counselors. Howard is a financial counselor at BALANCE and provides on-site coaching for Smart Money Coaching, a program managed by the Office of Financial Empowerment in San Francisco, California.

Ondrea Moser Dory ’95 and Doug Greene of Mount Ayr, Iowa, married Dec. 21, 2019. Ondrea is the director of human resources at Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa.

THE ’00s

For information about Joe Stalsberg ’09, see the ’10s.

Jed Eichhorn ’00 owns and operates The Shell, LLC, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Jed and wife, Liz, live in Marion, Iowa, with their two children.

Megan Alvarado ’01 of Rock Island, Illinois, is a national sales assistant at television station WQAD in Moline, Illinois.

Jennifer Cook Hardman ’01 teaches fourth grade in the Knoxville Community School District, Knoxville, Iowa. Jennifer and husband, Chad, live in Pella, Iowa, with their four children.

Jessica Leibold Reynolds ’01 began her career in the Story County attorney’s office in 2008 and was named a Story County attorney in 2016. In December, Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller appointed her Iowa’s prosecuting attorneys training coordinator and executive director of the Iowa County Attorneys Association. Jessica and husband, Christopher Reynolds ’00, live in Huxley,
Kurt Rietema '04 is a chief strategy officer for Hope of the Nations based in Tanzania, East Africa. Kurt and wife, Ami, worked for the organization in Tanzania for almost four years and now reside in Hamilton, Michigan, with their four children. Kurt does development and awareness-raising for the organization by giving presentations and leading teams to Africa to hike Mount Kilimanjaro. This fall Kurt made what he thought would be his fourth and final hike to the top of the mountain. Once there, he demonstrated that Central spirit has no boundaries as seen in this photo. Since his return, Kurt has received several requests to lead another group on a “Kili trek,” so he may be doing a fifth hike in 2020.

Iowa. Christopher is the chief operating officer at Phoenix Renewable Resources in Urbandale, Iowa.

Amy Banwart Long '02 is the office administrator at Crown Homes in Des Moines, Iowa. Amy and husband, Andrew, live in Adel, Iowa. Together they own and operate Crown Homes.

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

Justin Snyder '02 is a town planner at Town of Hillsborough, North Carolina. Justin and wife, Sara, live in Burlington, North Carolina. Justin achieved the American Institute of Certified Planners certification in May 2019.

Jason Braithwaite '03 is a transportation and logistics manager at Vermeer Corp. in Pella, Iowa. Jason and wife, Tara Buch Braithwaite '05, live in Pella. Tara is a stay-at-home mother of their three sons.

Sara Rope Honnold '03 is an at-risk coordinator at Clarinda Community School District in Clarinda, Iowa. Sara and husband, Bradley, live in Clarinda with their three sons. Sara is a master's degree candidate in professional school counseling at Buena Vista University.

Nick Kuennen '03 is an IT data/voice networks manager at Pella Corp. in Pella, Iowa. Nick and wife, Sarah, live in Pella with their two children.

Laura Petty '04 is an abstractor at Security Title and Escrow Services in Montezuma, Iowa. Laura lives in Montezuma with her three daughters.

Cale Van Genderen '05 of Davenport, Iowa, is the vice president of marketing at Vibrant Credit Union.

Ryan Boone '06 is the chief operating officer at Premier Communications in Sioux Center, Iowa. Ryan and wife, Erika Anthony Boone '06, live in Sioux Center with their two sons. Ryan is a member of the Governor’s Empower Rural Iowa Initiative Connect Taskforce, chaired by Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg '06.

Curt Hunt '06 is a diagnostic imaging field service engineer at RadSource Imaging Tech, based in Kansas City, Missouri. Curt and wife, Alyssa Jones Hunt '08, live in Pella, Iowa, with their two daughters.

Lindee Russell Jeneary '08 is the chief deputy clerk for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the southern district of Iowa in Des Moines. Lindee and husband, Phillip Jeneary '07, live in Waukee, Iowa, with their two children. Phillip is a government relations director and lobbyist for the Iowa Association of School Boards in Des Moines.

Ryan Engholm '09 of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is an occupational therapist at Advance Therapy Pediatric Clinic in White Bear Township, Minnesota.

Austin Ewell '09 is an operational risk consultant at Athene in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Andrea Montague '09 of North Liberty, Iowa, is a human resource specialist at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Iowa City, Iowa.

Kristin Brodie '10 lives in New Zealand, where she volunteers for FamilyLife. Previously, Kristin served as a Peace Corps Education volunteer in a rural African village.

Mark Holan '10 is a property claims manager at Nationwide Insurance in Des Moines, Iowa. Mark and wife, Kelli Ziskovsky Holan '13, live in Altoona, Iowa, with their two children.

Justin Madsen '10 is a financial advisor at Edward Jones Investments in Pella, Iowa. Justin and wife, Natalie, live in Pella with their son.

Emily Miller Mendez '10 was promoted to executive director and president of Dental Connections, Inc., in Des Moines, Iowa. Emily and husband, Miguel Mendez '10, live in Norwalk, Iowa, with their two children. Miguel is an eligibility and enrollment services supervisor at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines.
Ashley West ’11 is employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Plant Introduction Station in Ames, Iowa. Ashley and husband, Ryan Sonner, live in Nevada, Iowa.

Jon Riebhoff ’12 is a senior analyst at Mercer Marketplace in Urbandale, Iowa. Jon and wife, Katy, live in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Abbey Sparks Rock ’12 is a finance and treasury manager at Precision, Inc., in Pella, Iowa. Abbey and husband, Kirby Rock ’12, live in Pella with their two children. Kirby is a route salesman for Mahaska Bottling Company in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Ellaine Watkins ’12 of Des Moines, Iowa, is a clinical therapist at Integrative Counseling Solutions with offices in West Des Moines and Indianola, Iowa. In February, she obtained Nation Counselor Certification.

Nikki Akers ’13 is an executive director at JPMorgan Chase in New York, New York.

Lindsey Hillgartner ’13 is a digital archivist at History Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Samuel Parker ’13 is a global product marketing manager at Körber Logistics Systems GmbH in Denver, Colorado. Sam and wife, Jeana Newendorp Parker ’13, live in Denver. Jeana is a work-from-home reporting consultant for SAP Concur based in Bellevue, Washington.

Lindsey von Gillern Roach ’13 is a recruiter for JDA Software in Tempe, Arizona.

Jeff VanderPlaats ’13 of Des Moines, Iowa, is a senior processing executive at Cognizant Technology Solutions in Des Moines.

Andrew Waugh ’13 of Waukee, Iowa, is a sales supervisor at Wells Fargo Financial in Des Moines, Iowa.

Ryan Dusil ’14 is a transportation planner II at North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Megan Koolmees ’14 is an assistant general manager at Turley Wine Cellars in Folsom, California.

Miguel Marcelino ’14 of Coralville, Iowa, is a youth specialist at Foundation 2 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and employed by Core Fitness in Iowa City, Iowa.

Jacob Mollman ’14 is a regional vice president at Athene in West Des Moines, Iowa. Jacob and wife, Molly Ammerman Mollman ’14, live in Huxley, Iowa.

Anne Dillon Youngman ’14 is a public relations and digital marketing specialist at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City, Iowa. Anne and husband, Jordan Youngman ’14, live in Washington, Iowa, with their daughter. Jordan is an activity director at Lantern Park Specialty Care in Coralville, Iowa.

Madi Van Gilst ’18 took advantage of her sister Tiffany Van Gilst ’23 transferring to Central by joining her for a CAB-sponsored event the first weekend after Christmas break. Left to right: Maddy Dingman, Tiffany Van Gilst and Madi Van Gilst. Madi was promoted to psychiatric support staff at Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services in Pella, Iowa. She also is the library reference assistant at Central College.

Sarah Calderwood DeWaard ’15 is an optometric assistant at EyeCare Partners, P.C., in Pella, Iowa. Sarah and husband, Jacob DeWaard ’17, live in Pella. Jacob is a department manager at Pella Corp.

Aric Balk ’16 and wife, Ellen Murphy Balk ’16, were ordained as ministers on Dec. 1, 2019, at Second Reformed Church in Pella, Iowa. They are pastors at Parkway Community Church in Hicksville, New York.

Jesse Merk ’16 of Santa Clara, California is an onboarding specialist at SAP in Palo Alto, California.

Trent Dailey ’18 is a point of sales analyst under TEKsystems Corp. at Buffalo Wild Wings in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Lexi Johnson ’18 and Nick Greteman ’18 of Scottsdale, Arizona, married June 1, 2019. Nick is a field sales pro at BSN Sports in Scottsdale. Lexi is an account executive at Yelp in Scottsdale.

Scott Wilson ’18 of Urbandale, Iowa, is a software engineer at Kingland Systems Corp. in Ames, Iowa.

Brandon Zumbach ’18 is a minor league athletic trainer with the Houston Astros in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Jackson Lewton ’19 of Ankeny, Iowa, is an intern with the Joe Biden for President campaign.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Justin Snyder ’02, a master’s degree in urban and regional planning and GIS from Eastern Michigan University, 2004.

Ryan Engholm ’09, a master’s degree in occupational therapy/therapist from University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, 2019.

Ellaine Watkins ’12, a master’s degree in clinical mental health counseling from Drake University, 2017.

Anne Dillon Youngman ’14, a master’s degree in business administration from Mount Mercy University, August 2019.

Kora Scotton ’17, a Doctor of Physical Therapy from University of Iowa, December 2019.

NEW ARRIVALS


Katherine and Bryan George ’06, a daughter, Elena Catharine, Dec. 30, 2019.

Jana and Trent Weiler ’06, a son, Noah Joseph, Aug. 29, 2019.

Chris and Stephanie Turner Finneghan ’07, a son, Henley Lawrence Reed, May 9, 2019.

Jeff and Ashley Rottinghaus Keen ’08, a daughter, Elizabeth Mary, Nov. 10, 2019.

Emily and Garrett Hill ’09, a son, Frank William, Dec. 11, 2019.


Joe and Amanda Scott Drey ’10, a daughter, Rylee Grace, Nov. 13, 2019.


Mark ’10 and Kelli Ziskovsky Holan ’13, a daughter, Emery Rose, June 6, 2019.

Andrea and Austin Hill ’11, a daughter, Mary Teresa, Dec. 27, 2019.

Paige and Brock Caves ’12, a son, Grady Dean, Nov. 8, 2018.

Emery ’13 and Brittney Hubers Davis ’11, a daughter, Tessa Raelynn, Jan. 14, 2020.


Adam ’14 and Kait Connealy Shell ’14, a daughter, Zoey Grace, July 19, 2019.

Jonathan ’11 and Rachel Jordan Lindstrom ’10, a son, Lucas Owen, Nov. 21, 2019.

Jordyn ’14 and Anne Dillon Youngman ’14, a daughter, Jayden Beth, Oct. 29, 2019.

IN MEMORIAM

Earl Vogelaar ’45, Newton, Iowa, Nov. 28, 2019.


Lois Terfehn Clauson ’53, Omaha, Nebraska, Jan. 16, 2020.


Wayne Baker ’64, Hermosa, South Dakota, July 11, 2019.

Richard France ’70, Iowa City, Iowa, Dec. 15, 2019.


Gregory Ongna ’90, Oskaloosa, Iowa, Dec. 12, 2019.

Jeni Newland ’95, Marion, Iowa, Jan. 8, 2020.


HOMECOMING

PLAN TO JOIN US! SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2020

For a complete schedule of events visit: central.edu/homecoming
IN MEMORIAM

**FORMER CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSOR MARTIN FEENEY**


A native of Boston, Massachusetts, Feeney earned a bachelor’s degree in communication and theatre studies from Boston College. He served in the U.S. Navy submarine service aboard the Polaris Missile submarine George C. Marshall during the Vietnam War. He then obtained master’s and Ph.D. degrees from Bowling Green State University in Ohio in communication studies and popular culture. He had a particular interest in film and media history and criticism.

In addition to teaching communications studies courses, Feeney coached Central’s speech team and advised its student newspaper, The Ray, and radio station, KCUI. Students remember him for lively and innovative class discussions, David Letterman-style top-10 lists and Mason jars filled with Hershey bars to reward great work. A lifelong athlete, he won 104 medals at the Iowa Senior Olympics and was a gold medalist in the 2009 Governor’s Cup Race in Des Moines, Iowa.

Feeney leaves his wife of 35 years, Susan Eggert ’88; children Rob and Caroline Feeney; sister Pearlan Feeney-Grater; grandson Nolan Charles Feeney; and nieces and a nephew.

---

**CORY SYNHORST SERVAAS ’44**

Cory Synhorst SerVaas ’44, former editor of The Saturday Evening Post, physician, inventor, health educator and television personality, died March 6, 2020, in Indianapolis, Indiana. She was 95.

Born June 21, 1924, on a farm near Pella, Iowa, SerVaas attended a one-room country school. She graduated from Pella High School in 1940 and was a member of the gymnastics team during her two years at Central College. Later, she served on Central’s Advisory Board and its National Advisory Council. She loved and supported Central throughout her life.

SerVaas earned a degree in journalism from the University of Iowa and did postgraduate work at Columbia University while working as a seamstress in New York City’s garment district. Her first journalism job was as editor of the Lionel train magazine. She met her husband, Buert SerVass, in church and asked for his help in patenting her Cory Jane Clamp-on Apron she’d invented while a seamstress. The two were married in 1950 and moved to SerVass’s hometown of Indianapolis.

In 1969, after the couple’s five children were in school, Cory SerVass graduated from the University of Indiana with a degree in medicine.

In 1970, Buert SerVass bought The Saturday Evening Post and Cory became its editor-in-chief. She excelled at translating complex medical concepts into terms readers could readily understand and wrote two popular columns for the magazine: “Medical Mailbox” and “Ask Dr. Cory,” along with numerous books on health and wellness. She also promoted exercise and good nutrition to young people in publications such as Jack and Jill and Humpty Dumpty.

A champion of public health, SerVaas founded the Benjamin Franklin Literary and Medical Society and its two divisions — the Saturday Evening Post Society and Children’s Better Health Institute. She also hosted a weekly program on health on the Christian Broadcasting Network. There she advocated for preventive medicine initiatives and was at the forefront of national conversations on a range of health issues. And SerVaas didn’t just advocate: In the 1980s she deployed mobile units that screened for heart disease and cancers.

Ronald Regan appointed SerVaas to the President’s Commission on the HIV Epidemic. George H.W. Bush appointed her to the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sport.

In 1993, with a nod to Pella and her Dutch heritage, she founded the annual Tulip Time Scholarship Games in which students nationwide competed in athletic and academic events for college scholarships. More than $1 million in scholarships were awarded between 1993 and 2006.

“Cory was a crusader and woe to anyone who stood in her way,” read her obituary in The Indianapolis Star. “She was audacious and mission-inspired, with an intense desire to make the world a better place by solving problems that matter to society.”

Photo credit: Courtesy Saturday Evening Post © SEPS
“This might be the happiest I’ve ever been.”

I spoke those words to my friends exactly one week before learning Central College canceled my study abroad program in London and I had to return to the United States two months sooner than anticipated.

When I woke up to the news that President Trump was banning travel from all European countries in the Schengen region, but this ban (at the time) did not include the U.K. or apply to U.S. citizens traveling to the U.S. from Europe, I was mostly confused. What was the point in excluding the U.K.? Weren’t there more pressing coronavirus-related issues within the U.S.? Wouldn’t Americans fleeing countries deemed high-risk and clogging up airports be more dangerous than staying put?

As I commuted into central London for my internship, I was anxious in a way I had not yet experienced since coronavirus entered the U.K. Something pushed deep into my stomach, as though it was going to rupture. I couldn’t focus.

My face flushed from nerves, causing me to wonder if I was getting sick. I was equally terrified at the idea of getting sent home.

At work that day, I learned two of my fellow interns’ programs were suspended and they would return to their home countries as soon as possible. That in itself was a massive loss. We had arrived in the U.K. in January and all planned to stay until the end of May. Goodbyes that I expected to occur with poignancy and closure in the end of May. Goodbyes that I expected to occur with poignancy and closure in the end of the term. We made a list of all the things we wanted to do: visit the pub below Waterloo Station with over 800 board games, have a spring picnic in Richmond Park, go salsa dancing.

Yes, there are bars and parks and dance clubs across the U.S., but we made a home together in London that cannot be replicated in the U.S., especially since we don’t live in the same American cities.

London was not just a place for us, but a central point that drew us together. Instead, we must attempt to plan for an uncertain future and ask questions that do not have easy answers. What happens to our tuition and housing costs? Will we still have our summer jobs in the U.S. so we can pay back the expenses of studying abroad? If we don’t get course credit for this term, will we graduate on time?

I know I will feel more displaced when I return to the U.S. than I ever did when I first arrived in London. This city embraced me in a way I didn’t know cities could. Its diversity and openness gifted me a freedom I would not have found if I hadn’t, with fear in my heart, reached out to London first.

On my very first night in London, when my outlet adapter wouldn’t work and my barren dorm room looked like a prison cell and I got lost trying to find a building on my campus, I earnestly asked myself: ‘Can I do this?’

After I accepted there would be struggles abroad I could not plan for and I needed to depend on others’ help more than ever, I realized just how much I could do — make new friends, work as an intern at a British magazine, memorize Tube routes that once confused me.

Now, forced to return home under circumstances I never would have imagined, I must ask myself that question again: ‘Can I do this?’ And I believe I can, difficult as it will be.

London taught me I am capable of much more than I give myself credit for. I’ll keep working and studying and remembering until I can return to London again someday. I know it will be waiting for me.

Marin Harrington ’21 studied in London for two months with Central’s study abroad program. While there, she was also an editorial intern for Great British Mag, a digital magazine for international students in the U.K. The COVID-19 pandemic sent her back to the United States in March, but she is already plotting her return to London. In the meantime, she’s entertaining herself with lots of British literature.

This essay is adapted from Harrington’s piece “Coronavirus Cut My Study Abroad Short, But I’m Even More Afraid to go Home” published Saturday, March 21, 2020, in the London publication METRO. Used by permission. To read the original: central.edu/metro-uk.
The campus was already emptying for spring break and the athletics world was plunging into a COVID-19 shutdown when the Central women’s tennis team took the final swings of the Dutch athletics year March 13 at the A.N. Kuyper Athletics Complex courts. Maddie Hartley ’22, above, and teammate Bronwyn Metcalf ’22, background, dropped an 8-4 decision in their No. 1 doubles match against Northwestern College (Iowa). But each prevailed in their singles matches and the Dutch won the team battle 5-4 to improve to 9-7 for the year. All Central spring sports seasons were abruptly halted just a few hours later.