

# CENTRAL

BULLETIN SUMMER '08



2008 Homecoming/Family Weekend  
Registration Information Inside!

The topic of politics always has been a special interest of mine. I was inspired by my parents, and it was strengthened significantly as a result of my career in the United States Air Force and experience serving as director of the U.S. Defense Department's North Atlantic Treaty Organization policy, special assistant to the director of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon and a White House Fellow during the Ford administration. I, naturally, have followed the political scene in years past and especially have been interested in the historically significant Race for '08.

In December, CBS' "The Early Show" co-anchor and Central College alumnus Harry Smith '73 came to campus to do a segment on politics in Iowa. He interviewed a panel of undecided Iowa voters and caucus goers, including Central College students, who talked about presidential candidates. The Central community experienced first-hand Smith's interview with then-presidential candidate and Republican front-runner Mike Huckabee.

Having candidates on campus this winter was eye-opening for many students, especially those who never have caucused. It sparked interest among students about the caucusing process, which led to groups of students teaching their peers about caucuses, where to go and what to do. The Pella community had one of the largest turnouts in its history this winter on caucus night. As the caucus evening unfolded, associate professor of political science Andrew Green presented an analysis of political coverage on local radio station KNIA/KRLS. The piece received first place in the political coverage category at the 2008 Iowa Broadcast News Association's award ceremony for its coverage of caucus night.

As part of Central's liberal arts curriculum, we try to increase students' political awareness and encourage them to have respectful dialogue when it comes to issues-oriented discussions and especially politics. Central offers several programs which actively expose students to the clash of ideas and perspectives. Our Washington program, in particular, provides students internship opportunities for academic credit in Washington, D.C., in governmental agencies, businesses and the non-profit sector.

I want our students to have life-changing experiences similar to mine. Learning as much as possible about the political system will enable them to become responsible citizens capable of making a difference in the world today and tomorrow.



▲ President David Roe has an extensive background in politics, which includes being a White House Fellow.

Photo by Paul Gates

David H. Roe

# CENTRAL BULLETIN

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Photo by Dan Vander Beek

## 9 POLITICS

Central produces  
civic-minded citizens

## 18 WASHINGTON, D.C. — THE HUB OF AMERICAN POLITICS

Andrew Green, assistant professor of  
political science

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Cover photo by Dan Vander Beek



▲ A memorial flagpole from the  
class of 2008.



▲ Senior pitcher Brett Mahan  
had a record-breaking year.

Photo by Dan Vander Beek

# I N T H I S I S S U E



## Newest residence hall gets a name

Howard McKee '38 toured the newly-named Howard McKee Hall with junior Meghan Swella.



Photo by Paul Gates

The Central College Board of Trustees recognized an emeritus trustee by naming 1203 Independence Residence Hall "Howard McKee Hall."

Howard McKee '38 of Barrington, Ill., also received an honorary degree from the college in 1981. He serves as honorary co-chair of *The Campaign for Central* and served on the board of trustees from 1978-86. He's established numerous scholarships

through the McKee Family Foundation including 60 scholarships to students during the 2007-08 school year.

"Howard greatly enjoyed his time as a Central College student," said President David Roe. "He built on the work ethic and persistence taught him by his family in the Great Depression to forge a solid foundation for the successes he has achieved in his remarkable life. He

has shared significant parts of the fruits of these successes with his alma mater, giving generously to our building and other campaigns along the way, while also honoring a number of his favorite professors.

"The board and I felt the college needed to recognize this generosity and decided naming the 1203 Independence Residence Hall after him is the best way

to honor his contribution,” said Roe. “It seems most fitting that Central’s top-of-the-line student residence hall be named Howard McKee Hall because our students and their futures have always been Howard’s main focuses.”

## KELDERHOUSE RECEIVES FELLOWSHIP

Lindsay Kelderhouse '08, who majored in chemistry and biology, was awarded the Purdue University Claire Boothe Luce Fellowship. It's the first time the prize has been given to a Central graduate.

Kelderhouse, from Island Lake, Ill., will begin a five-year program at Purdue pursuing a doctoral degree in chemistry. The fellowship will assist with researching drug design and discovery.

The Claire Boothe Luce Fellowship includes a yearly stipend and funds to cover tuition, fees, books, supplies, professional development, research and support programs for a two-year period. The award, established in 1989, is given to women in science, mathematics and engineering. Twelve fellowships were given this year to students from around the country, and overall, the program has supported more than 1,500 women.



▲ The class of 2008 raised money for a bench, flagpole and endowed award.

## SENIOR CLASS CHALLENGE

The class of 2008 enjoyed unparalleled success in its senior class challenge. The graduating seniors raised \$3,100



Photo by Paul Gates

▲ Central had a virtual groundbreaking for the education and psychology building.

with 60 percent of the class participating. Outside gifts and matching funds tipped the challenge total well over \$16,000.

A memorial flagpole located in the athletic complex remembering classmate Taylor Brummel, along with an endowed award, are tangible gifts the class leaves behind. The class of 2008 is the first class to reach an endowed award-level gift.

## SCHOLTE HALL RENOVATION

Scholte Hall underwent a nearly \$7-million renovation this summer, which features air conditioning throughout the hall, a newly refurbished lounge complete with a big screen TV, computers, kitchen and workout area. The rooms got a facelift with loftable beds and movable desks.

In addition, two new rooms were created to meet Americans with Disabilities requirements, and the cargo elevator was replaced with a new passenger lift.

## VIRTUAL GROUNDBREAKING

The weather did not cooperate April 18, and Central held its official groundbreaking for the new education and psychology building in Cox-Snow Recital Hall.

Kay Kuyper De Cook '63, national chair and campaign cabinet member of

the education and psychology building project, talked about the history of the project and the importance of this new building.

“It’s essential to have advanced technology in the classroom,” said De Cook, who was a psychology major at Central. “This facility has been a dream for many years, and it’s soon to be a reality.”

The building is scheduled for completion fall 2009.

## GEORGE ANN HUCK AWARD

Central alumni and friends donated \$16,000 for an award to be named after George Ann Huck, director of the Yucatan program from 1975-2006. Huck served hundreds of students during her tenure and impacted the lives of many students and faculty.

The recipient of the award will be a student who demonstrates academic merit and plans to study abroad on the Merida, Mexico, program. The award, will first be awarded for the 2009-10 school year and used to defray travel or tuition expenses for the program.

Donations are still being accepted. Another \$9,000 would secure an endowed scholarship in Huck’s name. Contact the development office for more information at 800-447-0287. ■

## We want you!

### To register for Homecoming/Family Weekend 2008

It's here! Register for alumni events and Homecoming/Family Weekend on our Web site. Visit <http://www.central.edu/alumni/events> to see our upcoming events and RSVP. Alumni logged into the online alumni community will not have to fill out the entire registration form. RSVPs are also taken at 800-447-0287 or [alumni@central.edu](mailto:alumni@central.edu).



#### NEW TO ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Have you been to the online alumni community lately? Now you can . . .

- Link to your Facebook, MySpace and LinkedIn profiles.
- Update your profile — jobs, marriages, children, degrees, addresses, e-mails, phone numbers.
- Submit information for the *Bulletin*.
- Search online directory by name, class, city, state and/or country.

- E-mail new and old friends.
- Register for Homecoming or other upcoming alumni events.
- View Homecoming memory books — fall class reunion years and football and volleyball team reunions may complete new memory book forms online.
- Download class lists for Homecoming reunion years.
- Participate in Central Connections, a professional networking component for students, faculty and alumni. Search by name, major, vocation, metro area, city and/or state.
- Nominate someone for an alumni award.
- View recent obituaries.
- Read the *Bulletin* and newsnotes.

Visit <http://www.central.edu/alumni/community>.

#### HOMECOMING/FAMILY WEEKEND NEWS

Now is the time to register for Homecoming/Family Weekend. Classes celebrating reunions, the 1988 football team and the 1998 volleyball team may complete Homecoming memory book forms online in the alumni community. All alumni, parents and guests can register online now.

Help us celebrate our special guests for the weekend. The 2008 alumni

award winners include: Bernadette Allen '78, alumni achievement; Third Floor John members Steve Mark '76, Steve McCombs '74, Terry Van Zee '74, Todd Shusterman '74 and Ted Grubb '74, alumni stewardship and service; Mike Farquhar '94, young alumni achievement; Chuck '50 and Bernice Heerema Vander Ploeg '50, Mr. and Mrs. Alumni; Harold and Esther Molenaar Honorary Alumni; and the Pella Community Foundation, fellowship of service.

Bruce Heerema '63, Harold DeBie '65 and Christi Van Werden '91 will be inducted into the Central College Athletic Hall of Honor.

#### REUNION TIDBITS — A LOOK BACK

**1953** — Central Centennial celebration, senior class officers: Dwight Smith '53, president; Peggy Leu '53, vice president; Roger Peterson '53, secretary and Floyd Heideman '53, treasurer; "Messiah" performed

**1958** — President Gerrit Vander Lugt; senior class officers: Bill Smith '58, president; Gail Soerens Remington '58, vice president; Carol Webster Hartmans '58, secretary-treasurer; debaters state champs, choir officers: Laurence Grooters, director; Kenneth Keuning '58, president; Richard Voskuil '59, vice



# Upcoming events for 2008

Saturday, Aug. 23	Women's soccer alumni game
Saturday, Aug. 23	Legacy Lunch/move in day
Friday-Saturday, Sept. 5-6	National Advisory Council
Friday-Sunday, Sept. 19-21	Homecoming/Family Weekend
Friday-Saturday, Sept. 26-27	1998 volleyball team's national championship reunion
Tuesday, Sept. 30	San Antonio, Texas
September 2008	Parents' council
September 2008	Newton, Iowa
September 2008	Knoxville, Iowa
Saturday, Oct. 4	Tailgater at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa
October 2008	Quad Cities
October 2008	Wisconsin
Saturday, Nov. 8	Tailgater at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa

president; Jane Reynen Suntken '58, secretary; Bill De Forest '59, treasurer; Bill Smith '58 and Barbara Zwart Byllesby '59, robe chairmen; organists Elaine Maassen Sherman '58, Kathy Redeker Vande Berg '60, Davis Folkerts '60, Nancy Posthumus Reisetter '60; men's basketball to NAIA tourney; a flu epidemic cancelled Homecoming festivities

**1963** – senior class president Jim Venhuizen '63; new Henry W. Pietenpol dormitory; Bosch House; Bailey House; Harmsen House; Omega House; penny carnival; Club Centralia

**1968** – all-school picnic; Sadie Hawkins Day; President Arend Lubbers; Dean James Graham; Vice President William Thompson; C-Club; *The Ray*

**1973** – dance marathon; Count Basie and Earl Scruggs perform; wind ensemble tours East Coast; Centralettes, Gerald Piester '73, sixth in NCAA javelin; library construction

**1978** – new football field and track; Geisler Learning Resource Center

named; Pella indoor pool; men's basketball to post-season; Greek life; United Black Association sponsors campus events

**1983** – Christmas candlelight concert; Dave Baker '83 crowned grand lemming by Jason Vines '82; mud wrestling; intramurals; White-breast reunion; Becky Rietveld Eversman '83 Homecoming queen; pep rally, bonfire and fireworks; theatre production *Deathtrap*

**1988** – Halloween Homecoming theme "The spirit returns, it's not over 'til it's over;" Madrigal dinner; Pietenpol Cup; spring fever day; football team makes fourth consecutive playoff appearance; women's golf team third at national tournament; softball team wins nationals; fieldhouse opened for student use

**1993** – Homecoming queen Teresa McGovern Hulleman '93; Homecoming theme was Lethal Weapon 6; theatre production, *The Dining Room*; Kaleidoscope; lip sync; women's basketball and softball won national titles; coffee haus, Kim Gearhart

McCoy '94 and Shelaine Harbart '93, co-editors of *The Pelican*

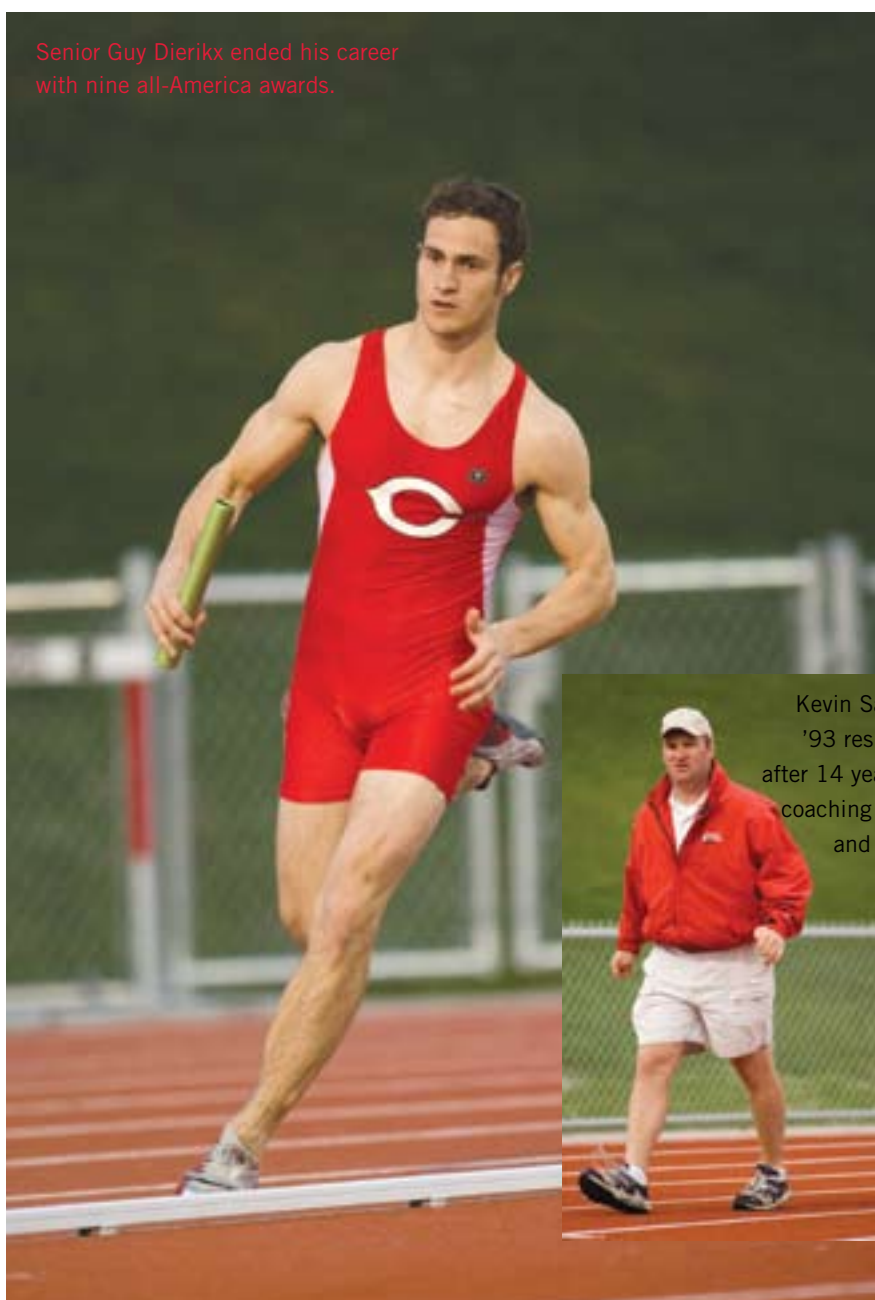
**1998** – Liz Perry Dickson '99 and Andrea Hall Cerwinske '98, co-editors of *The Pelican*; fall theatre opened with *Approaching Zanzibar*; king of hearts Alan Blasio '98; President David Roe makes first commencement speech; volleyball third place in nation; first season for football coach Rich Kacmarynski '92 after retirement of Ron Schipper

**2003** – retro/disco Homecoming with football victory; grand lemming Jeremy Huss '03; Barat Smith '03 and Heather Robb '03 Homecoming king and queen; softball wins fourth national title; Lisa Havel '03 and Carissa Rice Eret '03, co-editors of *The Pelican*

**2008** – Maria Hickie '08 student body president; football team defeated St. John's (Minn.) 37-7 to advance to quarterfinals; Tibetan Monks create Mandala in Mills Gallery; *Shakespeare in Hollywood* theatre performance; CBS' "The Early Show" with Harry Smith '73 on campus. ■

# Dierikx powers Dutch at NCAA men's track meet

Senior Guy Dierikx ended his career with nine all-America awards.



Photos by Dan Vander Beek

Central College senior Guy Dierikx earned all-America men's track and field honors for the ninth time, matching the most in school history, in leading the Dutch to a 17th-place finish at the NCAA Division III meet.

Dierikx and sophomores Matt Patrick, Alex Miller and Luke Bolander placed second in the 4x400-meter relay in 3:12.75. It was the 16th time in the past 17 years the Dutch qualified for the national meet in the event. Dierikx finished fourth in the 400 meters (47.82 seconds).

Freshman Kurtis Brondyke, a three-sport athlete, was fourth in the Division III long jump (23-1.75).

Senior Jason Fisher, a national qualifier in the hammer throw and discus, was named Division III field events performer of the year in the Central Region for the second straight time.

### SANGER LEAVES TRACK POST

After engineering the most successful long-term run of any men's and women's track and field coach in school history, Kevin Sanger resigned. A 1993 Central graduate, he served as head men's team coach for 14 years and took over the women's program in 2000.

Sanger piloted Central to top-10 national team finishes three times. His athletes won 10 individual NCAA Division III championships

Kevin Sanger '93 resigned after 14 years of coaching track and field.





and earned all-America recognition over 90 times.

### CENTRAL'S HUTCHINSON NAMED LEAGUE WOMEN'S TRACK MVP

Senior Kari Hutchinson became the first Central athlete since 1986 to earn Iowa Conference women's track and field MVP honors.

Hutchinson helped score 40 points to push the Dutch to a second-place league finish. She took first in the heptathlon, third in the 200 and 400 meters and fourth in the high jump before anchoring the first-place 4x400-meter relay team.

The relay unit of Hutchinson, freshmen Emily Teas and Jill Ziskovsky and sophomore Rachelle Tipton shattered a 24-year-old school record with a 3:51.04 effort, more than 4 seconds faster than the previous mark.

### DUTCH THIRD IN LEAGUE TENNIS

For the sixth time in seven seasons, the Central College men's tennis team placed third at the Iowa Conference tournament.

A 13-13 dual meet record was a bit misleading as first-year coach Bryan Mours put his squad through a daunting schedule, which he thinks will pay dividends down the road.

No. 1 singles' player Jared Feddersen closed his Central career tied for third on the all-time wins chart with a 56-40 mark. The two-time team co-captain was named to the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District Team for the second straight year, graduating with a 3.93 grade point average. No. 6 player Justin Scherff received the team's De Haan Most Valuable Player Award.

### CENTRAL'S PETERSEN REPEATS AS CONFERENCE GOLF CHAMP

Junior Andy Petersen captured Iowa Conference men's golf MVP honors for the second time.

But an otherwise successful spring campaign had a sour finish as the Dutch took second in the league tournament



Junior Andy Petersen crowned league MVP for second straight year.

Photo by Dan Vander Beek

and were left out of the NCAA Division III tourney field.

Central claimed championships in the 16-team Central Dutch Classic, the 22-team Loras Invitational and the 17-team Buena Vista Invitational. But league tourney host Luther pulled out a 4-stroke victory in the weather-shortened 63-hole meet. Senior Reid Turner joined Petersen in receiving all-conference honors after placing eighth.

Coach Charlie Estabrook's club returns four of its top five for next season.

### DUTCH RALLY FOR THIRD-PLACE BASEBALL TOURNEY FINISH

A late-season surge propelled the Central baseball team to a third-place finish at the Iowa Conference tournament.

The Dutch, 22-21, needed a three-game sweep at Dubuque the final weekend of the regular season to grab the last spot in the six-team tourney and did so. They beat Coe and Simpson in the first two rounds of the conference tournament before faltering.

Seniors Brett Mahan, a pitcher, and first baseman Michael Edwards were first-team all-conference picks. Mahan, 7-3 with a 2.81 ERA, set school career records for wins (24), strikeouts (219), innings (264) and ERA (2.80). Edwards batted .329 with 40 RBIs. He tied for first



Senior Kelly Harris earned all-America honors.

Photo by Dan Vander Beek

in school history in career doubles (41), and ranks third in hits (163) and fourth in RBIs.

### ALL-AMERICAN HARRIS LEADS YOUNG SOFTBALL SQUAD

With wins in seven of the regular-season's final eight games, a freshman-dominated Central softball squad left coach George Wares encouraged.

After a 24-16 campaign, the Dutch were fifth in the powerful Iowa Conference, the lowest finish of coach George Wares' 24-year tenure. But, as many as four of the team's 17 freshmen were in the starting lineup this spring.

Still, next year's team will have difficulty replacing senior catcher Kelly Harris, the Iowa Conference MVP and 18th Central player to receive all-America honors. Harris hit .462, the second-highest season mark in school history, and batted a school-record .379 for her career. She also set school season marks for runs (49) and home runs (9) while leading the team with 19 stolen bases. Harris set several career records as well, including most baserunners picked off (48).

Junior outfielder Hannah Weindruch was a first-team all-conference pick while sophomore shortstop Afton Nelson was a second-team choice. ■



Jarret Heil '03 is running for a Republican seat in the Iowa State Senate after getting a taste of politics following graduation from Central.



Politics — a hot topic, especially this year. The Race for '08 is discussed in coffee shops, schools, work places and churches across America. You can't turn on a television without seeing a campaign ad, debate or update on the presidential election. The media has plastered political information for everyone to see over the past year and a half.

Iowa, in particular, was of interest to the media when it held the first caucuses Jan. 3. During winter break for Iowa colleges and universities, TV cameras flooded campuses as candidates campaigned. It was clear the focus was on Iowa and young voters.

Voters in Iowa have the opportunity to set the tone for the rest of the country at caucus time. Young voters played a strong part in this presidential primary season, a trend started in 2004. Young voter turnout declined in all but

one election year between 1972, when 18-year-olds first voted, and 2000. According to Rock the Vote, the young voter advocacy group, around 44 million 18-29 year olds are eligible to vote in 2008 — nearly a quarter of the electorate. By 2012, it will be almost a third.

Iowa election laws allow out-of-state students attending college in Iowa to vote, and 17-year-olds can vote in the caucuses as long as they are 18 by Election Day.

In Iowa, caucuses are local party precinct meetings, where registered Republicans and Democrats gather to discuss candidates and vote for their candidate of choice for their party's nomination. After the caucus vote, each caucus sends a certain number of select delegates, based on the population it represents, to the county convention. The delegates at the county convention, in turn, select delegates for



the congressional district state convention, and those delegates choose delegates who go to the national convention.

The Iowa caucuses played a significant role in this year's upcoming presidential election. Twenty-two percent of Democratic caucus goers in Iowa were under 30, up five percent from 2004. There was an especially large turnout in Marion County, including 2,300 Democrats and 2,034 Republicans.

Central junior Lindsay Schumacher of Indianola, Iowa, was a first-time caucus goer. In fact, she was a precinct captain. After working in the Marion County office for a semester for Barack Obama, Schumacher found herself motivated to excite others about the caucuses.

"There was an overwhelming amount of supporters," said Schumacher. "Out of about 120 in the caucus I was in, roughly 60 were

Obama supporters, but that changed to 70 after realignment. It was nice to see my hard work paying off, winning Pella and Marion County.

"Being involved in the campaign was an amazing experience," she said. "I learned so much, met amazing people and gained great memories during the caucus and working the campaign."

All over the country, young voters rolled through Super Tuesday in record-breaking numbers and could make an election-altering turnout in November. The percentage of young people eligible to vote in primaries and caucuses rose in 15 states, where comparisons with 2004 or 2000 were possible. The percentage of young people tripled in Georgia, Iowa, Missouri and Texas and quadrupled in Tennessee.

#### TARGETING YOUTH

Campaigns are more interested than ever to target voters under age 30.

This year, main topics on young voters' minds are the war in Iraq, college costs, the economic slowdown, gas prices and unemployment rates.

A Central College survey (on the political attitudes of Central College students) was modeled from Gallup Poll questionnaires and conducted by seniors Amy Abbas of Oskaloosa, Iowa, Jeremy Hinkel of Long Beach, Calif., and Erinn Lauterbach of Waterloo, Iowa. It paralleled hot topics for college students across the country.

With 54 females and 39 males participating in the survey, the War on Terror topped the list of concerns. The results are comparable to the opinions of those who attended college during the Vietnam War. This generation also is growing up in the midst of war and seeing friends and family members leave home to serve their country. The United States has been in conflicts over 10 years of college-aged students' lives. It makes sense the current war is of interest to them.

Another hot topic among college students is the environment. At Central, all participants

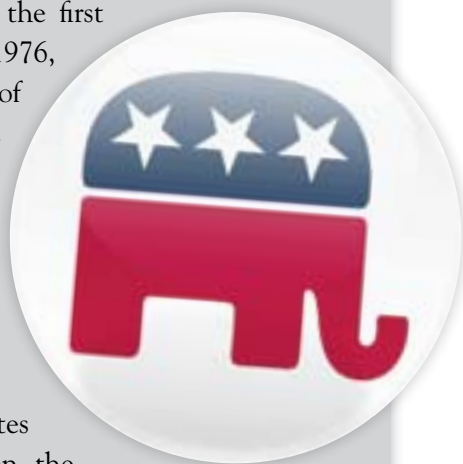


Lindsay Schumacher '03, a first time caucus goer, was a precinct captain.

# ELECTION 2008

## IOWA CAUCUSES

Caucuses have been around since the early 1800s. Iowa's Democratic Party made several reforms to its delegate selection process in the early 1970s. These reforms included requiring a minimum of 30 days between the precinct caucuses and the county, district and state conventions. After the 1972 Democratic State Convention May 20, new rules dictated the precinct caucus would be Jan. 24, making it the first statewide test for presidential candidates in the nation. In 1976, recognizing the increased exposure, the Republican Party of Iowa moved its caucus to the same date as the Democrats'. Presidential candidates and the media have observed Iowa's caucuses as the "first in the nation" ever since. This year, Iowa moved its caucus date to Jan. 3 in order to remain first in the nation.

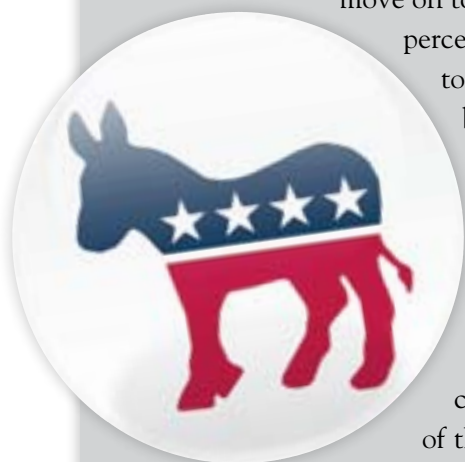


## HOW DO CAUCUSES WORK?

In Iowa, people gather by party preference to elect delegates to the 99 county conventions. Presidential preference on the Republican side is done by straw votes of those attending the caucus. The vote is done by a show of hands or by dividing into groups according to the candidate. In precincts that elect only one delegate, the delegate is picked by majority vote and must be by paper ballot.

Democratic candidates must receive at least 15 percent of the votes in that precinct to move on to the county convention. If a candidate receives less than 15 percent, supporters of the non-viable candidates have the option to join viable groups, another non-viable candidate group to become viable, join other groups to form an uncommitted group or choose to not be counted. Non-viable groups have up to 30 minutes to realign. If they fail to do so in that time, they can ask for more time, which is voted on by the caucus as a whole. If the caucus refuses, re-alignment is complete and delegates are awarded.

A third party may hold a convention to nominate one candidate for president and one for vice president. The results of this caucus activity on both the Democratic and Republican sides are not binding on the elected delegates, but most delegates feel obligated to follow the wishes expressed by caucus goers. Thus, the initial caucus results provide a good idea of the composition of Iowa's national delegation.



Source: Iowa Caucus Project

in the survey, regardless of political affiliation, favored action regarding the environment.

#### WRITING ON THE WALL

A new generation is finding its voice in the political process, partly due to technology and advances on the Internet. Political candidates have stormed social networking Web sites like Facebook, MySpace and Friendster. The enthusiasm translates to young people being “friends” with candidates. Students show their political support by joining others in groups favoring candidates or joining groups against candidates.

*“Those types of networks help candidates build relationships with younger people. If there’s any way they can feel connected to a candidate, that’s probably the best place to start.”*

– JARRET HEIL ’03

No one knows whether such online excitement can translate to actual votes, since traditionally, masses of young people don’t vote. Such a phenomenon wasn’t a factor in the 2004 election. It is highly unlikely anyone is going to be elected as president of the United States because he/she is all the rage in cyberspace.

“Those types of networks help candidates build relationships with younger people,” said Jarret Heil ’03 of Marshalltown, Iowa, who works on Iowa Republican Congressman Tom Latham’s district staff. “If there’s any way they can feel connected to a candidate, that’s probably the best place to start.”

#### HELPING STUDENTS PREPARE

Central College partners with The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, an educational non-profit

organization serving hundreds of colleges and universities in the United States and other countries, by providing selected students challenging opportunities to work and learn in Washington, D.C., for academic credit. Internships like the Washington Center benefit Central College students, as they get a taste of big-time politics. Generally, two Central students participate in the program each year.

Eldon Mulder ’80, owner of The Mulder Company, a government consulting company in Anchorage, Alaska, gained experience in politics while attending Central. As a sophomore at Central, he interned in the legislature for Rep. Elmer Den Herder, who was from Mulder’s hometown, Sioux Center, Iowa. And from that experience, he was connected with Republican then-Rep. Terry Branstad, who was running for lieutenant governor. Mulder worked on Branstad’s campaign that summer, driving with the candidate to all 99 counties in Iowa. Their hard work paid off as Branstad was elected.

Jeff Link ’89, owner of Link Strategies, a political consulting and public affairs firm in Des Moines, got involved while in high school with Democratic Sen. Tom Harkin’s first campaign in 1984. He gained valuable experience as an envelope stuffer, phone caller and door knocker.

“You know, all the glamorous jobs in campaigns,” he joked.

After one year at Central, Link went out on the campaign trail, which kept him out during the fall trimester of his sophomore year. The following summer, he took a job working for presidential candidate Joe Biden and then Sen. Paul Simon from Illinois, after Biden dropped from the presidential race.

With all his political involvement, Link had to buckle down academically in order to graduate a summer late.

“The first time I left and came back to Central, it wasn’t that hard,” he said. “I just missed one trimester and got back in the swing



of things. The second time I was gone for just about a year, and that was harder because I had a couple different jobs and lived in a couple different apartments. It was sort of a challenge, but I buckled down and focused on getting my school work done because I was going to go work on another campaign as soon as I finished.”

Academics are important, especially in the political world. A lot of the people Link worked with on campaigns made it a priority to say, “You have to finish your degree.”

“It was really smart advice,” said Link.

#### INTERESTS CONTINUE AFTER GRADUATION

A lot of people’s interests in politics start before college. Some grow up in political families. This is partly why Heil is running for a Republican seat in the Iowa State Senate District 22. When he was in middle school, his dad ran for county auditor of Marshall County and served as auditor for eight years, so Heil became involved in politics at the local level at a young age. And with that, his interest in current events slowly grew.

After graduating from Central with a degree in business management, Heil applied for and received an internship with Iowa Republican Sen. Charles Grassley’s office and the ball rolled from there.

In the spring of 2004, Heil was hired as an intern in the health area of the finance committee, but soon became Grassley’s state scheduler. Heil was working side-by-side with the man who was sworn in as a U.S. Senator the same day Heil was born in 1981.

“Working directly with him on a daily basis, I got a pretty good idea of how he works and thinks, and what he believes,” said Heil. “To him, politics is a service to Iowans. And I’ve decided I want to use my valuable experience to serve Iowans as well.”

After graduating from Central, Mulder completed a master’s degree in political science from the University of Colorado before coming back to Iowa to work on Terry

Branstad’s gubernatorial campaign, as a field representative. When the campaign was over, Mulder got called to Iowa one more time to run a congressional campaign. Even though defeated, Mulder learned a lot about what it takes to run a major campaign and running for office.



Jeff Link '89 has spent almost 25 years working behind the scenes for political candidates.

Photo by Paul Gates

# Electoral College

## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PROCESS

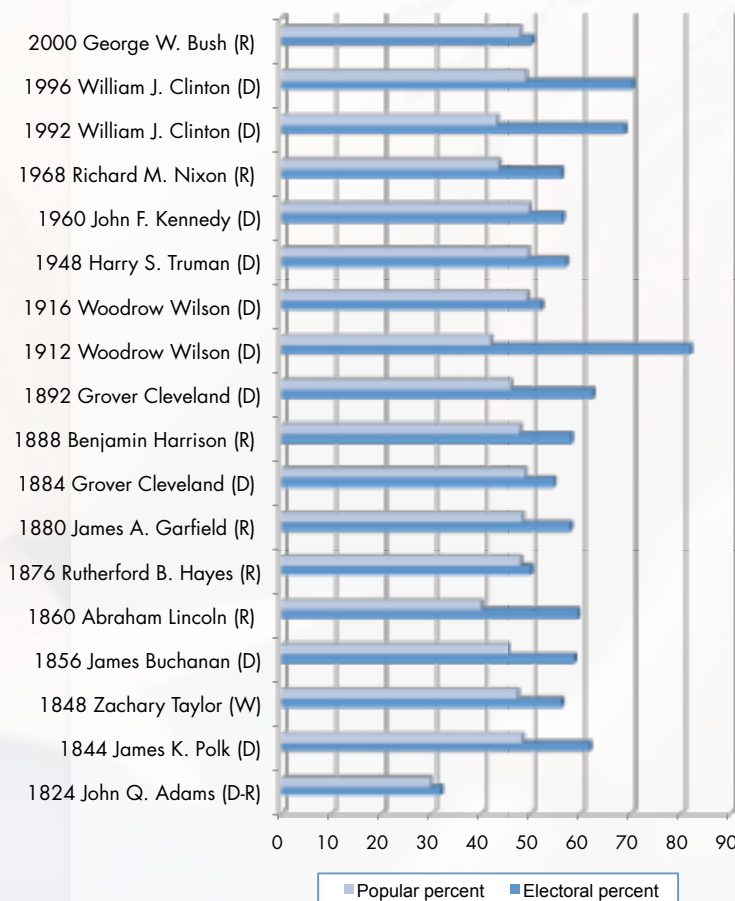
The President of the United States is elected by the Electoral College, not directly by the general population. The American public really is selecting electors, who will elect the president and vice president. Each state is assigned electoral votes based on the number of senators, always two, and representatives it has in Congress, which is determined by the state's population. In most of the states, the election is winner-take-all; whichever ticket receives the most votes in that state (or in D.C.) gets all the electors. Exceptions include Maine and Nebraska, where two electors are chosen in a winner-take-all fashion. The remaining electors are determined by the winner in each congressional district, with each district voting for one elector.

## ELECTORS ELECT THE PRESIDENT

The president is elected by receiving an absolute majority of the electoral votes. If there is no majority, the House of Representatives chooses the winner from the top three candidates. The vice president is selected in the same manner, but in a separate vote. If no candidate earns majority, the Senate selects the winner from the top two candidates.

Fifteen candidates (three of them twice) have become president with a popular vote less than 50 percent of the total cast. However, presidential electors were not chosen by popular vote in all states in elections before 1872. In 1824, John Q. Adams was picked by the House of Representatives over Andrew Jackson, who had a plurality of both electoral and popular votes, but not a majority in the Electoral College.

Presidents with less than 50 percent of the popular vote



\*D - Democrat R - Republican W - Whig D-R - Republican

Sources: National Archives and Records Administration, Information Please

It didn't take Link long to get back on the campaign trail, this time becoming a campaign manager right after graduation. Link expanded his horizons outside of Iowa politics and moved to Pennsylvania. He worked for the speaker of the house in the Pennsylvania legislature for three years before serving as campaign manager when the candidate decided to run for governor in 1994. He also ran campaigns for congressmen in Ohio and delegates in Virginia.

Not only did Link get nationwide experience, but he also received international experience running a campaign for a party in Aruba, which elected a prime minister.

*"It was very helpful to live in different places to give me a better sense of politics around the country. By doing so, you get a broad view of how people think about elections and campaigns in different parts of the country."*

– JEFF LINK '89

In 1996, Link was beckoned back to Iowa to run Sen. Harkin's re-election campaign. For a few months, Link commuted from Virginia, where his wife was teaching, to Iowa. Following Harkin's re-election, Link was hired as his chief of staff and moved to Washington, D.C., to run Harkin's office from 1997-99.

"It was very helpful to live in different places like Iowa, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, to give me a better sense of politics around the country," said Link. "I worked in big cities and rural areas all over the country. By doing so, you get a broad view of how people think about elections and campaigns in different parts of the country."

## VOTE FOR ME

People want to elect individuals who are pragmatic to create sound public policy.

Although Heil is 27 and some of his critics think he's too young to be in office, Heil has a very different point of view and a lot of experience to back it up.

"I think it's pretty important young people get involved because we need others to join me in stepping up to the plate and offering service to set the table for the next generation. If young people do not step up, as some small Iowa towns diminish today, many more communities will suffer later down the road."

But along with working for the public, community people can turn on candidates and be vocal about what they want and how they want it done. For a lot of candidates, the most difficult part of being elected to office is being scrutinized and living under a microscope.

"I don't think anyone adequately prepares you for those things," said Mulder, who served in Alaska's House of Representatives for 10 years. "And, despite the best intentions and best efforts, being in public office gives perfect strangers 'the right' not to like you for no reason. No matter what you do, at least 25 percent of the people are going to dislike you. You're just never really emotionally prepared for that."

Fundraising also can be a challenge but is a necessary evil that goes along with being elected to office. It's difficult to run a successful campaign without money.

It's also difficult to distribute time effectively without losing balance in life.

"Basically, you have very limited free time, especially when you have a two-year seat," said Mulder. "In the House of Representatives, you are campaigning all the time. If there's a function that's going on, you have to be there, and even if there isn't a function, you're going door to door. You pass up opportunities you'd have with your kids and family. The time commitments and the things you forgo with your family can take a toll on you."





Eldon Mulder '80 served in Alaska's House of Representatives for 10 years and now is a government consultant.

"The flip side of that is a real sense of satisfaction when you accomplish things. And you make contributions to the daily life of others."

Although politics are usually a family affair, Link believes there should be only one candidate per household as his wife was elected to the Des Moines school board in September last year.

"I think one candidate per household is plenty," said Link. "However, I have a huge

amount of respect for anyone who puts his/her name on a ballot and runs for office. It's a big sacrifice in terms of your time, energy and privacy in some ways. I enjoy what I do and how I contribute to the process, but I don't think being a candidate is for me. It's a tremendous sacrifice and whoever runs for office is truly amazing."

## RUNNING A CAMPAIGN

Running a campaign isn't easy. There are a lot of bells and whistles needed to make things tick like clockwork.

Link says a smooth campaign is one people hardly notice.

"People see rallies and ads on television and get mail in their mailboxes. People don't think about what we really do when we start up an organization from scratch," Link said.

For example, one of Link's clients decided to run for public office in February 2005 for the November 2006 election. The candidate raised and spent a couple million dollars, hired and trained 10 staff people, and traveled all across the district and to Washington, D.C.

"There is a huge logistical challenge to an operation that raises and spends millions of dollars in 19 months and starts from scratch," said Link. "There are a lot of moving pieces to these campaigns, unnoticed by most people."

Link also said the only time anyone notices anything is when things go awry.

"If it's done really well, you never notice anything. When candidates show up where they're supposed to be and do everything they're supposed to do, you don't ever notice it," he said. "But, if they miss a schedule, show up late or not at all, that's when you say, 'Oh, this campaign must be a mess.' To make it so there aren't problems, it takes a lot of planning and a lot of work by a lot of people."

Having been there and done that, Mulder offers tips for anybody who's thinking about running for public office. Be in the race to win and be committed.

“A lot of people go into races for too many reasons other than to win. Some just want to make a point or have a popularity contest.”

Second, Mulder says develop a support group within your organization that will help you throughout that campaign.

“When you’re getting into these battles, sometimes you can get too close to the forest; you can’t see the trees. You need people at arms length looking at it who can tell you where you’re making mistakes and where you are gaining ground.”

And in doing so, it’s important to develop a strategy.

“Think about, ‘What’s it going to take to win? Who are the people who are going to be most likely to vote for you?’ Then you have to go out and garner their support by getting them to turn out on Election Day,” Mulder said.

Most importantly, Mulder says, “Don’t be afraid of hard work. It goes without saying but campaigning takes a lot of time from you and your family, but that’s what it takes to win.”

Along with that, he stresses not to be afraid to lose and learn from mistakes and losses.

## OUTSIDE LOOKING IN

Mulder benefited from reappointment in his first race, but also became a victim his last term and backed out of a contentious primary to move on to government consulting, also known as lobbying.

“From my perspective of being on the inside, I do appreciate the value lobbyists can play in the political system,” said Mulder. “I think the world of lobbying has changed and now lobbyists are purveyors of information. I wouldn’t represent somebody if I didn’t agree with their position. Most people look at lobbyists and see special interests as a negative, but people fail to recognize everybody is part of a special interest.”

Lobbyists are hired because they understand the political system and how it works. Lobbying

gives organizations a voice that their interests are being represented and advocated.

## CIVIC-MINDED CITIZENS

As part of Central College’s mission, the college strives to prepare students to be responsible citizens, empowering graduates for effective service in local, national and international communities.

*“I do appreciate the value lobbyists can play in the political system. I think the world of lobbying has changed and now lobbyists are purveyors of information. Most people look at lobbyists and see special interests as a negative, but people fail to recognize everybody is part of a special interest.”*

– ELDON MULDER ’80

For Schumacher, taking political science classes at Central has given her better insight to political processes and behind-the-scenes action during elections.

“I’ve been involved in campaigns since my junior year of high school, and I plan to be more involved as this year’s election inches closer,” she said.

This summer, Schumacher is participating in a 30-40 hours-per-week fellowship program training in grass roots organizing and constituent outreach. After training, she will be placed somewhere in the state to start organizing a campaign with a field organizer.

“This is what I want to do for the rest of my life, so I definitely will be involved in many more campaigns to come,” she said.

One of the most important parts of being a U.S. citizen is utilizing the political system by voting. This November, and many other elections to come, it’s time to vote. ■

# Washington, D.C. — The hub of American politics

by Andrew D. Green, assistant professor of political science

Central College has long been known for its international study abroad programs. Some students, however, have a desire to study off-campus or complete an internship in an urban setting without leaving the United States. The Washington Center provides excellent opportunities for students to live and work in our nation's capitol.

Founded over 30 years ago, The Washington Center (TWC) is a non-

profit educational organization, which provides students a chance to intern and live in Washington, D.C., while receiving academic credit. TWC facilitates the opportunity for students to spend a semester in Washington by assisting in locating and securing internships, both governmental and non-governmental, and providing housing in suburban Maryland and Virginia. In addition, each student takes one academic course and

participates in "The Leadership Forum," which consists of keynote speakers and site visits to promote civic responsibility when the student returns to his/her home campus and greater community. Students who participate in the TWC program get the whole Washington experience like navigating the city on the Metro; enjoying the museums, cultural and fine arts events; and working in the city many consider to be the epicenter of the globe.

TWC also offers non-semester length programs for students in Washington, D.C., and around the country. One such program is the Campaign Seminar Series hosted every four years during a presidential election year. The Seminar Series, which originated during the 1984 presidential election, allows students to learn and work at one of the national party nominating conventions for academic credit. Students not only have hands-on experiences with delegates and candidates at the nominating conventions, but also learn about the integral issues of the current campaign through guided reading, keynote speakers and discussions led by faculty members from colleges and universities around the country.

For the Campaign 2008 Seminar Series, TWC also hosted "Inside Washington 08" in January. "Inside Washington 08" was a two-week program designed to examine presidential elections and the influence of the media

## Andrew D. Green

### **Assistant professor of political science, director of the pre-law program**

- Entering fourth year at Central College
- Mock Trial faculty adviser
- Completed bachelor's degree in political science from Wartburg College in 1999
- Master's and doctoral degrees in political science from The University of California – Riverside in 2002 and 2005, respectively
- Teaching and research interests include American politics and policy, political behavior, and state and local politics and government
- Prior to accepting appointment at Central College, Green was a transportation planning analyst for San Bernardino Associated Governments, the council of governments and transportation planning agency for San Bernardino County, Calif.
- A native of Sioux Falls, S.D., he and his wife Amber reside in Pella





◀ This past January, Andrew Green (far left) took students to The Washington Center's "Inside Washington 08," a two-week program that explored presidential elections and the media's influence on American politics. Below, students toured the capitol and other historic sites in Washington, D.C.

in American politics with a focus on the 2008 presidential primary season. Students attended morning keynote addresses from past and present members of Congress, prominent journalists and other "power players" in American politics who provided "behind the scenes" insight into the 2008 primary season and American politics in general. Students completed site visits to think tanks and public advocacy organizations, and participated in facilitated discussions integrated with guided reading. To fulfill the academic component, students completed an academic journal to synthesize the events of each day and two end-of-the-week essays.

I had the privilege to take eight Central College students to "Inside Washington 08." It was a phenomenal professional development opportunity for me as a political scientist, but most importantly it was an exceptional learning experience for the students who participated for several reasons.

First and foremost, the students heard keynote speakers with vast experience in the field of American politics. The keynotes focused not only on the upcoming presidential election, but also on our responsibilities as citizens of the United States and our local communities. Speakers ranging from Ralph Nader to Sen. Chuck Hagel urged students to exercise their rights to participate

in our political system and take full advantage of what our country offers. In addition, keynote speakers, including Ted Koppel and Sam Donaldson, as well as Central alumnus and emeritus board of trustee member Steve Bell '59, who served as faculty director for the second week of the program, focused on how the media covers American politics and how elected officials and candidates use the media as a tool to disseminate information to their constituents or potential voters.

Second, students utilized influential think tanks, public advocacy organizations, and political consulting firms to learn how each functions within the Washington community. Students attended a presentation at The Heritage Foundation, a prominent conservative think tank, where they learned how research is conducted, synthesized and disseminated to national political leaders. Students also attended a presentation at The Mellman Group, a political consulting firm which provides public opinion research to candidates and elected officials, including the Democratic Congressional Leadership.

Finally, students toured historic landmarks and other locations in Washington, D.C. Students toured



World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, FDR, Lincoln and Iwo Jima memorials. The group also spent a morning in the U.S. Capitol highlighted by sitting on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. Finally, the students visited the Saudi Arabian Embassy, where a diplomat discussed the nation of Saudi Arabia and fielded questions about government, politics and living and working in that country.

The TWC program was an excellent chance for our students to learn about national politics while in our nation's capitol. They returned to Pella with a renewed sense of optimism about our country and a desire to become or remain active in local, state and national level politics. In January 2009, I plan to lead a group of students to the Inauguration program to see the swearing in of our nation's 44th president. It should be an exceptional opportunity to learn about presidential transitions and the history of the presidential inauguration. ■

# GRADUATION 2008



Two-hundred ninety-seven students received diplomas from Central College May 11. Harold Kolenbrader, a 1960 graduate and an honorary doctorate recipient in 1996, gave the address titled, "What's It All About, Alfie?" Kolenbrader is a member of Central's board of trustees. Don and Maxine Huffman, professors emeriti of biology and English, were awarded honorary degrees.





# Respectful dissension

## A long-term fix for political rhetoric

by Betsy Roe, Central College ambassador

Harry Smith '73, co-anchor of CBS' "The Early Show," observed he has not seen our country as divided by bitter partisan political differences since the Vietnam War. That political divide has only deepened over the years, with our major political parties more concerned with scoring points against the opposing party than forging bipartisan consensus on public policy issues.

There is little incentive to reach across the aisle to find common ground in solving critical issues facing the nation — a staggering national debt load, the solvency of entitlement programs, lack of affordable health care, dependency on Mideast oil and more.

Our Central College students reflect the influences of this bitter political environment. As they look to elected officials and other national leaders, they see few adults modeling how to engage in respectful debate of issues involving strongly held personal beliefs, and how to find some basis for consensus to live in peace and take positive action to address problems.

My husband David and I were privileged to serve as White House Fellows — he in the Ford administration and I in the first Bush administration. This nonpartisan program, started by President Lyndon Johnson in the 1960s, is a way to build bridges between the federal government and disaffected and cynical young people. The program brings a small number of individuals in midcareer, with no previous public policy experience, to Washington, D.C.,

to serve as special assistants to Cabinet Secretaries or senior members of the White House staff for one year. It was a life-changing experience.

During and since our service, David and I have developed strong friendships on both sides of the political aisle. We also learned an important lesson. Most Americans, whether Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians or members of the Green Party, agree on many key public policy goals: good, high-paying jobs for all Americans, an excellent educational foundation for all children, safe streets, a sustainable environment, affordable health care and strong national security. We disagree on the best means to achieve these goals. This is grounds for great hope that we can find common purpose and solve these problems together — as Americans first and partisans last.

The emergence of John McCain and Barack Obama as the standard bearers for the Republican and Democratic parties is also cause for hope of changing the direction of these negative trends. Both men have emphasized their desires to bring the country together — to work with the opposing party to achieve lasting change. They recognize this continued political stalemate is crippling our nation, hurting our citizens and diminishing our influence overseas.

The long-term fix to these problems begins closer to home — in your home and mine, and in our institutions of higher education. Exposure to a Central liberal arts education with its broadening



▲ Former White House fellow Betsy Roe.

influence, and modeling by our faculty and staff of our core values of acceptance and mutual respect, are the best antidotes to this poisonous atmosphere our generation has created.

In the last 10 years, our college community engaged in animated debates on campus on a range of factious topics. Each time, we managed to do so in a way that allowed opposing viewpoints to be voiced and heard without denigration and, in some instances, allowed those with differing initial views to move toward a more common viewpoint.

Central is committed to training the next generation of young leaders to be capable of passionate but respectful public discourse and to view problems and possible solutions from many perspectives, including their own. When they are ready to take their place in the public arena, whether at the national, international or local level, they will have the tools to take on the most difficult problems and truly make a difference in the world. It will not be a moment too soon. ■



# Malawi Mission Trip



Virgil '58 and Dorothy Sikkink Dykstra '59 led a Central student group along with campus ministries staff on a mission trip to Malawi, Africa, May 15-29, working with Save Orphans Ministries, a non-profit Christian organization. The group finished a kitchen next to an HIV/AIDS clinic and visited other Save Orphans Ministries' sites, kids' clubs and Bible camps.



Students on the trip were senior Adrienne Towe of Urbandale, Iowa; juniors Alex Billings of Dallas Center, Iowa; Nicole De Groot of Rose Hill, Iowa; Brandon Ramirez of Des Moines; sophomore Kerry Van Hemert of Pella; freshmen Melissa DeRuiter of Robins, Iowa; Crystal Van Kooten of Pella; and Kathryn Williams of Bemidji, Minn. Towe and Van Kooten remained in Malawi until Aug. 1.



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