

# CENTRAL

BULLETIN SPRING '09

## **CENTRAL COLLEGE**

means the world to many  
alumni. It creates a bond  
through which we are all

**CENTRALLY  
CONNECTED.**



# Family

Family is very important to who we are as human beings. It helps identify ourselves and others. There are different definitions of family. Immediate family includes parents and children; extended family encompasses cousins, aunts, uncles and grand-parents. Family means “of relation” — those who come from a common lineage. A family can also be a group of similar or related persons. Central College is a family. Not only does Central create a family-like atmosphere on campus as students and peers live and work together,

but Central also is a family outside of our walls.

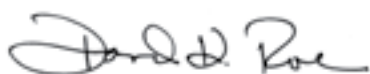
We all are connected in some way to Central: students, parents, family, friends, faculty, staff and alumni. Our experience at Central ties us together in a way that is hard to explain. Messages from former students tell me they still have a strong connection to Central and its people. There are numerous messages from past parents who run into Central grads at different venues and strike up conversations about the college.

Most Central students have a natural “fit” with this institution. Now, what that “fit” is, I cannot tell you directly, but I know it. It’s a feeling of belonging. It’s a sense of everything just being right. You think, “This is it. This is the place I can call home and want to call home for the next four years.” But it extends beyond that. There’s a tie that binds us. It’s what you feel in your heart, head and gut. You just know.

That’s the relationship I’ve had with Central. When I interviewed for this job more than 11 years ago, I just knew. Everything felt right, and I knew this was the place for me and my family.

Each year I have been privileged to serve as president, I continue to be amazed by how special Central College truly is. Central has become a part of me and has been my family for the past 11 years. I’m connected to Central and its people through the time I’ve spent on campus as its leader. I love Central unconditionally and will continue to do so when it comes time to pass the baton to a successor.

For now, I continue to be devoted to keeping Central on an upward path. Central means a lot to me, as it does to all of you. I want Central to have a positive impact for generations to come. For those future generations, relationships cultivated at Central will help them identify who they are and will become. We establish relationships with each other through connections with the past and present. We’re “Centrally Connected.”



David H. Roe

Photo by Paul Gates



▲ David Roe and the Central College family have a special connection.

# CENTRAL BULLETIN

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Photo by Paul Gates

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Photo by Dan Vander Beek

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Photo by Paul Gates

Jon Witt tells students they are a part of Central College.

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



## Jon Witt has new book published



▲ *SOC*, a textbook written by Jon Witt, is used in classrooms nationwide.

A year after his first book, *The Big Picture: A Sociology Primer*, Jon Witt, professor of sociology, found himself in a similar situation when an editor from McGraw-Hill, publisher of

his first book, approached him to write a textbook of 15 chapters in approximately 10 weeks.

"Students don't like to read as it is and putting another boring textbook out there wasn't going to be beneficial for them or professors," said Witt.

Witt and McGraw-Hill came up with a textbook that was visually appealing — magazine-like — without compromising content. *SOC* was released Oct. 20.

"Students don't like to read as it is and putting another boring textbook out there wasn't going to be beneficial for them or professors," said Witt.

The book is an expanded introductory text that follows the basic outline and format of typical introductory text but also incorporates the more personal and

approachable writing style Witt used in his first book.

Colleague Dale DeWild, professor of sociology, currently uses *SOC* in his introduction to sociology course. Students were given the textbooks free this semester and were encouraged to write comments about things they liked and didn't, what worked and what didn't. At the end of the semester, the books will be sent back to McGraw-Hill for evaluation before the second edition hits bookstores.

McGraw-Hill is pleased with the arrangement as it is not very often they get market research like this. Central students think it's cool, too.

"If there's a graph or diagram in the book I don't really think is relevant or doesn't really help display what he's wanting it to display then I'll circle it and write it down," said Jenny Flater, a junior

from Galesburg, Ill. "Or, maybe there's a picture that fits perfectly with what he's explaining — I'll let them know

that, too. We're basically helping him (and the publisher) know what college students find useful in textbooks and what we like."

### GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY ADDED TO CENTRAL'S CORE CURRICULUM

Central is adding a global sustainability component to its newly restructured core curriculum. Few other schools in the nation have sustainability as part of its required curriculum.

By placing global sustainability in Central's liberal studies core curriculum as a common required element, while simultaneously working to infuse it across divisions, all Central students will encounter sustainability in their courses and other credited academic experiences. This will help connect students to their environments locally while raising awareness and understanding of key global dimensions of sustainability.

Global sustainability also is referred to as intergenerational responsibility because of how it meets the needs of the current generation without compromising future generational needs.

The new core will be implemented in fall 2010 for all new students.

### NSSE HELPS GAUGE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Results of the 2007 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) provided evidence that Central College students are highly engaged.



◀ The National Survey of Student Engagement showed Central's students are highly engaged. Central seniors placed in the top 10 percent of all NSSE institutions. Students said Central provides a supportive environment.

In 2007, 610 colleges and universities across the United States participated in the spring administration of the survey. Each year, NSSE gathers information from hundreds of four-year higher education institutions nationwide about student participation in programs and activities that colleges and universities provide for their learning and personal development. The results provide an estimate of how students spend their time and what they gain from college.

In the category of Enriching Educational Experiences, such as study abroad, independent study and co-curricular activities, responses from seniors placed Central in the top 10 percent of all 2007 NSSE institutions.

Central students reported the college provides a supportive campus environment that helps them succeed academically and contributes to the welfare of their communities.

### **COLLEGE RECEIVES \$1 MILLION GIFT FROM ERMINA DYKSTRA**

Central College received a \$1 million commitment from Ermina Dunn Dykstra '35 of Walnut Creek, Calif., to provide funding for the new education and psychology building. The gift will

name the Orville '33 and Ermina Dunn Dykstra '35 Education Wing, bringing Dykstra's total support for Central to over \$2 million.

Her family has a long history with Central College as her grandfather Lewis Dunn was president of the college from 1871-81 and again from 1886-88. Past generations of Dykstra's family named Jordan Hall, one of the oldest buildings on campus, as well as Dunn Cottage, which served as the president's home for decades.

### **TWO \$100,000 GIFTS**

Rich '62 and Mary Roorda Glendenning '62 recently donated \$100,000 to the education and psychology building to name a room in honor of Mary's many contributions to education. Rich is professor emeritus of economics, while Mary is a former elementary teacher for the Pella Community School District.

Jim '65 and Sue Spaans Brandl '65 contributed \$80,000 toward naming a room in the education and psychology building. The Brandl's gave an additional \$20,000 gift to the Central Fund. Sue is a member of Central's board of trustees.

To contribute to the building project, call 800-447-0287.

### **ON PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL**

For the third consecutive year, Central College has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for distinguished general community service in recognition of extraordinary volunteer efforts by the school and its students to serve area neighborhoods and communities.

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Honorees were chosen based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovativeness of service projects, student participation in service activities and academic service-learning course offerings.

Along with 83 other institutions, Central was recognized as an Honor Roll With Distinction member. Five-hundred forty-six schools were named to the honor roll, with 635 total schools recognized. Schools receiving distinguished service recognition provided exceptional community service over the past year, contributing time, resources, energy, skills and intellect to serve America. Central is the only Iowa school to be named to the list all three years. ■

## Where is Central College?



Want to know how far the Central College network extends? Central College truly is connected worldwide but our most populated areas are close to home. Numbers were accurate as of February 2009.

### ALUMNI BY CITY (TOP 10 ARE IN IOWA)

1. Pella .....	989
2. Des Moines .....	747
3. West Des Moines .....	328
4. Ankeny .....	264
5. Newton .....	219
6. Cedar Rapids .....	213
7. Urbandale .....	188
8. Knoxville .....	165
9. Oskaloosa .....	140
10. Johnston .....	128

### ALUMNI BY STATE

1. Iowa .....	8,058
2. Illinois .....	900
3. Minnesota .....	582
4. California .....	580
5. Wisconsin .....	410
6. Colorado .....	409
7. Texas .....	374
8. Missouri .....	351
9. New York .....	314
10. Michigan .....	313

### ALUMNI BY CHAPTER/REGION

1. Des Moines .....	2,529
2. Pella .....	1,055
3. Cedar Rapids .....	514
4. Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn. ..	420
5. North Chicago, Ill. ....	376
6. Newton .....	352
7. Iowa City .....	328
8. Ames .....	295
9. Waterloo .....	280
10. Kansas City, Mo. ....	263



## ALUMNI, CURRENT PARENTS, PAST PARENTS, DONORS AND FRIENDS BY CHAPTER/REGION

1. Des Moines .....	6,020
2. Pella .....	3,118
3. Cedar Rapids .....	1,512
4. Newton .....	1,081
5. Iowa City .....	989
6. Waterloo .....	979
7. Ames .....	958
8. Ottumwa .....	930
9. Mason City .....	875
10. Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn. ..	872

## FRIENDS AND DONORS BY CITY

1. Pella .....	758
2. Des Moines .....	199
3. West Des Moines .....	87
4. Newton .....	80
5. Urbandale .....	77
6. Ankeny .....	76
7. Cedar Rapids .....	76
8. Oskaloosa .....	60
9. Holland, Mich. ....	49
10. Iowa City .....	48

## 2009 EVENTS

### Friday, May 15

Senior dinner, Pella

### Saturday, May 16

Baccalaureate, Pella

### Sunday, May 17

Commencement, Pella

### Friday, June 19

San Antonio, Texas

### Friday-Sunday, June 19-21

California whitewater rafting trip

### Thursday, July 16

Leiden, the Netherlands

### Thursday, July 23

Hoops Open Golf Tournament, Pella

### Saturday, Aug. 22

Legacy lunch/move-in day, Pella

### Friday-Sunday, Sept. 25-27

Homecoming/Family Weekend, Pella

### Tuesday, Oct. 13

Wicked at the Civic Center, Des Moines

## LINDA LAINE'S PR CLASS ASSISTS ALUMNI OFFICE

Students taking the Public Relations course from Linda Laine, associate professor of communication studies, helped plan two events for the alumni office this past year. In April 2008, Sonny Cutler '09, Jacinda Davis '08, Emily Grant '08, John Kinzebach '08 and Jennifer Petersen '08 assisted with a luncheon for alumni and friends employed by Pella Corporation. In April 2009, Venice Chan '09, Anna Harmon '10, Amy Ledvina '10, Dannielle Lindsey '09 and Kayla Schipper '09 revived breakfast of champions, the late-night pre-finals breakfast, for young alumni in the Pella area.

## E-MAIL SAVES US MONEY

Do we have your e-mail address on file? Whenever possible, the alumni office likes to relay news in a timely manner and cut postage costs. Help save money and stay in touch. Send your e-mail address to alumni@central.edu or call 800-447-0287.

## ALUMNI AND PARENT PANELS

Thank you to our alumni and parents who assisted with scholar day panels for the admission office in February. Alumni included Sam Vande Weerd '86, Stacy Schoondyke Dobernecker '87, Travis Sterling '93, Chris Huston '98, Nathan Eighmy '99, Cy McMahon '99, Kristi Viehl '00, Scott Enyart '00, Jake Keegan '01, Karen Cleveland '02, Kristin Stecker Enyart '02, Ryan Fick '02, Andrea Enyart Dana '03, Amy Adams '04, Pat Dooley '06, Adam Duerfeldt '06, Andrea Kapusinski '07, Lindsay Korver Loomans '07 and Allison Fegley '08.

Parents included Bill and Lori Lahann Dittmer '81, Craig and Joy Edgerly, Jeff '86 and Tari Schouten Eeling '86, Brian '80 and Lori Humphrey Fegley '80, Dave and Jill Grindberg, Steve and Mary Lee Hill, Laura Imerman, Mike '86 and Dawn De Boer Kleis '86, Rich and Chris Maxwell, Pat and Sherri O'Brien, Jon and Amy Ness and Sandy Paris. ■

## Inaugurations

Many alumni and friends represent Central College at events across the country. Thank you to the following people for attending inaugurations on behalf of Central College and President David and Betsy Roe this past year:

**Paul Aykens '63** at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa

**Rev. Jeanette Beagley-Koolhaas '69** at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Mich.

**Dr. Don Dahm '63** at Cabrini College in Radnor, Pa.

**Dr. Dave DeJong '85** at Bethany College in Bethany, W. Va.

**Brandon '01 and Veronica Myers Eighmy '00** at Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa

**Dr. Joe '80 and Kimberlee Twohill Klesner '80** at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio

**Dr. Shannon Mattiace '90** at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa.

**Don '60 and Shirley Tuinstra Verdoorn '61** at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Winona campus

**Corey Vorthmann '02** at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Mo.

# Dutch women begin hoops turnaround under Nikkel

Photo by Dan Vander Beek



Photo by Dan Vander Beek



◀ Senior Laura Porter (left) joined the 1,000-point club.

Freshman Sarah Paulson (right) averaged 10 points per game.

A young team combined with a veteran coach delivered signs of a turnaround in the Central women's basketball program.

High school hall of fame coach Jerry Nikkel '66 took over as head coach following last year's 4-21 season and helped the Dutch double their win total with an 8-17 mark. Nikkel was joined on the bench by energetic assistant Andy Campbell and former longtime head

coach Gary Boeyink '59.

Central also profited from the return of senior point guard Laura Porter from Monroe, Iowa, who missed 2008-09 with a knee injury. She averaged 15 points and 3.1 assists per game and became the 12th member of Central's 1,000-point club, finishing with 1,035 for her career. She ranks third in career assists (292).

Among the promising newcomers is freshman guard Sarah Paulson from

Ottumwa, Iowa. After winning Iowa Conference MVP honors in women's golf in the fall, Paulson averaged 10 points and 4.2 rebounds per game in her rookie basketball campaign.

"We came a long way," Nikkel said. "We wanted to establish a style of play where we play pressure defense and push the ball on offense. I think we did that. We just have to grow, get more physical, and become better shooters."



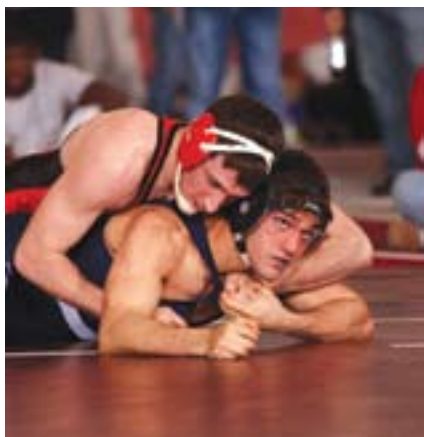


Photo by Dan Vander Beek

▲ Freshman Tommy Van Renterghem helped the Dutch snap a losing streak.

## DEEP FRESHMAN CLASS FUELS WRESTLING OPTIMISM

It isn't yet reflected in the Iowa Conference standings, but coach Eric Van Kley's mission to take the Central wrestling program back to the top is right on schedule.

The squad Van Kley inherited finished 2007-08 with just 10 wrestlers. Relentless recruiting by Van Kley and assistant Jason Zastrow yielded 19 talented freshmen and 16 finished the season. More help is on the way, Van Kley promises.

Meanwhile the young Dutch made significant strides, snapping a 44-dual match losing streak and finishing 3-12. Central was still ninth at the rugged Iowa Conference tournament, but the team's point total mushroomed from seven last year to 30. Freshman Tommy Van Renterghem of Oskaloosa, Iowa, finished sixth at 165 pounds and posted a 20-13 record, Central's first 20-win wrestler in three years. Central's nine-man conference lineup included six freshmen, two sophomores and a junior.

"The system is in place and the resources at Central are great; we need to utilize them and that starts right now," Van Kley said after the league tournament. "We have to get better and stronger. The guys have carried a great attitude throughout the season, and I think we will have a positive off-season as well."

## FOUR EARN WOMEN'S TENNIS HONORS

After recording a solid third-place finish at the conference team tournament, four women's tennis players earned all-conference status at the league's individual tournament.

Senior Hilary Baehr of Des Moines was cited in both singles and doubles. She was third in Flight A singles and teamed with sophomore Stephanie Gibbons of Ankeny, Iowa, to finish second in Flight A doubles. Also honored were junior Faith Bliss of Ottumwa, Iowa, and freshman Kayla Donner of Metamora, Ill.

Central's Bryan Mours was the league's co-coach of the year. The Dutch were 10-8 in dual action.

## CENTRAL'S LEY TOPS MEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUE SCORERS

After graduating three starters from a 14-win club in 2008, Central recorded its second highest men's basketball victory total in 13 years with a 13-13 campaign.

The Dutch did it with an all-junior starting lineup, headed by point guard Miguel Ley from San Antonio, Texas, who already has accumulated 1,053 career points. He was the Iowa Conference scoring leader, averaging 17.4 points a game. Junior Loren Liming of Ames, Iowa, a 6-foot-7 forward, returned to the program after a two year absence and fit in nicely, averaging 12 points and 6.3 rebounds. Junior Zach Cooper of Johnston, Iowa, a 6-9 center, racked up 46 blocks, the second-highest total in school history, and helped the Dutch shatter the team season blocks mark with 139.

Central earned its 10th Iowa Conference tournament berth in the last 11 seasons, but exited in the first round with a 73-65 loss at Loras College.

## MEN SECOND, WOMEN FOURTH IN LEAGUE INDOOR TRACK

Sophomore Kurtis Brondyke of Clinton, Iowa, placed in four events as the Central College men's track and

field squad finished second at the Iowa Conference indoor meet Feb. 27-28, while the Dutch women placed fourth.

Central's weekend was highlighted by a school- and conference-record performance in winning the men's 4x800-meter relay in 7:59.59 with the team of sophomores Spencer Coulter (Beaman, Iowa) and Elliot McDowell (Grundy Center, Iowa), and juniors Derek Townsend (Perry, Iowa) and Alex Miller (Adel, Iowa).

Sophomore Matt Graber of Newton, Iowa, won the shot put and was third in the weight throw.

Brondyke was second in the high jump and was among four Central athletes in the top five in the event. He was also fifth in the long jump, fourth in the triple jump and sixth in the 55-meter hurdles.

Under first-year coach Joe Dunham, Central also had three placewinners in the 400 meters.

Sophomore Emily Teas of Indianola, Iowa, was a four-event placewinner for the Dutch women. Teas was fifth in the 200 meters and sixth in the 400 meters, while helping Central take third in the 4x200- and 4x400-meter relays. Junior Angie Berry of Norwalk, Iowa, was second in the 5,000 meters. ■



Photo by Dan Vander Beek

▲ Junior Miguel Ley has racked up 1,053 career points.

# THE COFFEE GROUP



Photo by Dan Vander Beek

Several members of the coffee group include (clockwise from back): Orville Dunkin '53, Jack Thomassen '53,

Arvan Menninga, Tony Tysseling '30, John Vander Wert '50, Mark Vander Ploeg '50,

Bob Verdoorn '56, Chuck Vander Ploeg '50 and Bob Wallinga '57.

Like clockwork, every morning a Central-related group of men starts to trickle into In't Veld Meat Market on the town square in Pella for coffee and conversation at 7:45 a.m. They meet six days a week to catch up on the latest happenings.

"We even meet on Saturdays," said Don Ringgenberg, who lives in Pella. "Although, every day is like Saturday for us since we're retired," he added.

"We'd even meet on holidays if it [In't Veld's] were open," Marlyn Klimstra '50 offered.

Although most are retired, don't be fooled into thinking they aren't busy. At 8:30 a.m.,

a few leave for "work." By 9 a.m., the rest are heading out the door all talking about what they have to get done that day.

The essence of the group has been around since the 1930s when Pella businessmen active in the community met at In't Veld's for a coffee break at 9 a.m.

"I retired 20 years ago," said Klimstra. "And, this group has been going strong. It used to be mainly Pella natives, but we've let some others into our group," he joked.

It's an eclectic group of men: some are alumni, some had sons and daughters attend Central, some are Pella natives and some



retired to Pella. One is even a Wartburg College graduate, and the Central grads don't let him forget it.

"It's all in good fun," said Gary Dirksen '69 of the rousing of Wartburg grad Don Ringgenberg, whose daughter Kari Ringgenberg Pingel graduated from Central in 1991.

A main topic for the group is Central College, especially Dutch athletics since all of them are sports fanatics. They follow the teams closely and offer advice to anyone who will listen. As sports enthusiasts, all sports are a common topic. During baseball season they'll include non-Central teams such as the Chicago Cubs, and give Klimstra a hard time about being the lone White Sox fan of the bunch. They also rib each other about one another's golf game when the weather is warm enough to play.

"We all have Central in common," said Dirksen. "We're all very active in college activities and are retired professionals for the most part. Central, in particular, takes up a lot of our conversation. We talk about every season and every sport; we'll talk about the games the night before and offer our opinions, but we're usually not heard," joked Dirksen.

They'll also discuss recent vacations and have a genuine interest in each other's lives.

"As an outsider, I find it very nice knowing this group of guys is so committed to each other," said Mike Morgan, who retired to Pella a couple years ago. "They really made me feel welcome to the community."

And, don't underestimate their commitment to each other. They're like family. When one is ill and needs to go to Des Moines for medical treatments, they all get out their calendars and take turns driving their friend to the city.

"We look after each other like a family," said Orville Dunkin '53. "We visit former coffee group members and all the other men who are now at the nursing home."

Members of the group gather at the Pella Regional nursing home the first Wednesday of every month.

The two topics you'll never hear at the table are religion and politics.

"It's too personal and controversial," said Alvin DeWild '57. "We want to remain friends — or at least friendly."

During the winter months, about a third of the group migrates to find warmer weather, usually to Arizona. The Arizona group keeps a close tab on what's going on at Central.

"Sometimes they know what's going on [in Pella] before we do," said Arvan Menninga, a longtime friend of Central College.

Dirksen, whom the group refers to as the mother hen, keeps everyone up-to-speed on what's happening in Pella and particularly at Central College. E-mail and the internet make it quite easy for everyone to stay in touch.

"We all have Central in common.  
We're all very active in college  
activities ... We talk about every  
season and every sport; we'll talk  
about the games the night before ...

Dirksen has a "coffee group" distribution list for Central updates, jokes and birthdays.

"When it's someone's birthday, I send reminders because the group might not remember," said Dirksen, who makes sure the birthday boy buys a round of bologna and cheese for breakfast the morning of his special day.

Sometimes athletics director Al Dorenkamp '75 brings in new coaches to introduce them to their "assistant coaches." According to Dorenkamp, the group definitely has some Central College flavor to it.

"A lot of the discussions when I'm there are focused on the college. They're a supportive bunch and always want to know what's going on," he said. "They'll also reminisce about when they were in school. A lot of the world's problems are solved at In't Veld's."







Photo by Dan Vander Beek

#### COFFEE GROUP MEMBERS WITH CENTRAL CONNECTIONS

Bob Buyert '60

Verlan Den Adel '62, wife Karen Westerveld Den Adel '62 and children Mark '89, Kevin '91 and Sara '94

Alvin DeWild '57, wife Marlys Korver DeWild '56 and children Michael '80, Machelle '82 and Milli '88

Gary Dirksen '69, former Central administrator

Orville Dunkin '53, wife Edwarda Grandia Dunkin '56 and children Scott '77 and Susan '79

Bruce Heerema '63, trustee emeritus, wife Sandra Klein Heerema '62 and children Julie '83 and Tim '88

Marlyn Klimstra '50, trustee emeritus, children Stephen '73 and Susan '86

Howard Knutson, friend of Central

Arvan Menninga, friend of Central

Don Meyer '57, professor emeritus of mathematics, wife Mildred Ratmeyer Meyer '57 and children Tim '85, Sue '86 and Sara '88

Mike Morgan, friend of Central

Jerry Nikkel '66, Central women's basketball coach

Bill Peters '49, children Mary '83 and Sandra '85

Don Ringgenberg, friend of Central, child Kari Ringgenberg Pingel '91

Duane Robus, friend of Central and Pella native

Eldon Schulte '58, former Central coach and employee, wife Mary De Master Schulte '62 and children Matt '86, Stephanie '90 and Rich '92

Jerry Southmayd, Central assistant football coach, children Scott '02 and Mike '07

Rudy Thies, former Central administrator, wife Glenys Schouten Thies '58 and children Kathy '81 and Nancy '86

Jack Thomassen '53

Gary Timmer '55, former Central administrator, children Craig '81 and Sheri '88

Tony Tysseling '30, child Linda '62

Chuck Vander Ploeg '50, wife Bernice Heerema Vander Ploeg '50 and children Carla '75 and James '79

Mark Vander Ploeg '50, wife Carol Ebert Vander Ploeg '52

John Vander Wert '50

Bob Verdoorn '56, wife Arlys Van Zee Verdoorn '56 and children Beth '80 and Lisa '84

Bob Van Dyk '61, children Laura '81 and Sheryl '82

Bob Wallinga '57, wife Darlene Van Zomeran Wallinga '56 and children Thomas '86 and Mary '90

Wayne Whitham, friend of Central, children Andy '01 and Rob '04



# CENTRAL CONNECTIONS

## DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Join over 600 alumni and become a career resource for Central College students and alumni. Central Connections is an online database, available to current students, alumni, faculty and administrators at Central. We need thousands of alumni from every walk of life.

## WHAT WILL I DO?

You might be called upon to:

- Review a student's resume.
- Share information about a certain career field or company. Alums can post their company's Web sites.
- Describe the city or region where you live. A new feature allows searchers to look by metro location such as Des Moines, Chicago and Washington, D.C.
- Coach the searcher regarding best Web sites, best practices, best advice related to certain careers.
- Respond to a faculty member's request for topical information or speak to a class.
- Assist in relocating to your community.
- Offer leads on internships or other work experience.
- Help navigate graduate school applications/processes.
- Assist in building a student's network.

## HOW WILL I BE CONTACTED?

Users contact you by e-mail based on your criteria. If you're not able to help when contacted, just let him/her know. This is not a job service. Students and alumni are seeking expertise about a career field or location of interest.

In 2007-08, there were 773 on-campus searches from students, faculty and administrators and 334 off-campus searches from alumni seeking out their peers. On average, each search generates 11 contacts.

## SIGN UP!

Log in to the online community, click on the Central Connections link and then "Sign up to be a mentor now!" Submit the form to the alumni office. Within a few days you will be in the database.

If you are not registered for the alumni community, call 800-447-0287 or send an e-mail to [alumni@central.edu](mailto:alumni@central.edu). In order to register for Central Connections, we need your e-mail address, title, employer's name and career field in our database.

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

A feeling of real satisfaction knowing your knowledge, time, experience or expertise made a difference in the life of another member of the Central College family. It's an easy way to give back to Central.

"Central Connections was very useful during my senior year. My mentor helped me prepare for the interview process and coached me during my job selection process." – Amy Olson Brownlee '03



# SERVICE-MINDED



Stephanie French '96 with detainees in Darfur, Africa, in 2005. French is one of several housemates who committed to a life of service, others include Charley Swanson '96, Matthew Van Zetten '96 and Jenn Jacobson Welbaum '96.

It's not unusual for people who live together to have similar interests and aspirations. For four former Prins housemates, a tie to mission wasn't necessarily a common thread during their time at Central. However, since graduation, they have found a way to serve others through the church.

"There were always lively theological conversations in Prins," said Stephanie French '96. "I think post-graduation a lot of us actively sought out faith communities."

French, who is Catholic, ended up in an ecumenical, non-violent faith community in Minneapolis, Minn. Many of the community members were involved in professional ministry and had lived in Central America. Two years after graduation, she found herself on her way to Central America to study Spanish and work

with a non-governmental organization run by a Nicaraguan nun. The experience left her hungry for more.

When she returned to the states, she received a master's of divinity from Emory University's Candler School of Theology and since then, has worked on international development of human rights.

"I had always been interested in human rights and social issues, but majored in theatre and English, so I wasn't quite sure what I was going to do after Central," French said.

Her good friend Erin Kaufman '96, who also lived in Prins, went to divinity school after Central. French never would have considered it herself had it not been for Kaufman.

"I don't even think I knew what divinity school was before Erin applied!" said French.



French, who has worked mostly in conflict-affected countries including Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire and Sudan, is now based in Angola working as a program manager for an economic justice program with Catholic Relief Services.

While not many in the group were heavily into organized Christian service at Central, a lot had strong faiths and a well-honed sense of ethics, social responsibility and values.

Their relationships at Central play a role in their lives today.

"As frustrating as dorm-like living can be, I really think sharing living space with so many bright, thoughtful people my senior year played a huge role in my professional preparation and personal development," French said.

Also playing a role for the Prins group was their experiences through Central's study abroad program that left them wanting to make the world a better place.

"We all care a great deal about the world we live in," said Matthew Van Zetten '96. "A semester in China through Central's study abroad program was so valuable as to how I view the world today. It prepared me so well."

Even though Van Zetten isn't directly involved in the ministry, his work reflects his faith and values. Van Zetten's work involves public policy for Kent County (Mich.), specifically for services to children and families primarily with low incomes.

"The values I developed at Central, and especially through conversations with my friends from Prins, shape how I view what I do today," said Van Zetten. "The discussions and conversations late into the evening were just as important as the classroom activities."

The same goes for Charley Swanson '96, who works in the communications department at Woodland Hills Church in St. Paul, Minn.

"I think all of us who lived in Prins shared a common belief that we should be working to make the world better," said Swanson. "We often disagreed about the best way to do it, but I'm sure those experiences played some part in

why I left my corporate job. At the time my co-workers joked I was going to 'work for God.' But as great as that company was, for me, it lacked a sense of meaning and purpose."

A year out of college, Jenn Jacobson Welbaum '96 needed something else in life. She decided to leave the workforce to go to Hong Kong for the summer to teach English with a program through the Reformed Church in America.

"It was an amazing, eye-opening experience," she said. "I especially found it interesting given my preconceived notions about religion in China."

After returning to the states, Welbaum became very active in her home church in Minneapolis, Minn., chaperoning youth mission trips, teaching Sunday school and mentoring young kids. She has been on two overseas trips, one as part of Habitat for Humanity to Guatemala and the other as a translator on a volunteer medical trip to Nicaragua, in which she traveled with French. Both trips left Welbaum feeling very fulfilled and yearning to find a way to use the Spanish she mastered while at Central.

"Central introduced me to like-minded people and helped me follow my dreams of studying abroad," said Welbaum. "I don't think it was planned for many of us to get involved in these ways; it just happened."



Jenn Jacobson Welbaum '96 (center) with students she taught through Students With A Purpose, a program through the RCA.



# ROUND ROBIN



Pictured at a reunion in Chicago, Ill., 10 years after graduation: Vivian Vroom Hildebrandt '67, Eileen Klinger

VandeBunte '67, Marge Schaper Scherer '67, Sharon Van Dalen Damkot '67, Nancy McDonald McClimen '67,

Judy Lorier Kading '67, Linda Bergeson Anderson '68, Linda Spaans-Esten '67

and Marcia Wiersema Renkes '67. Not pictured: Barb Duven Armstrong '67, Helen Van Zanten Hemmes '67,

Pam Wilson Larsen '67 and Connie Rozeboom Moore '67.

It started with a letter. Now, over 40 years later, a group of 13 women who lived on second floor Graham Hall and then third floor south side Scholte Hall, continue that letter, and get together every five years for mini-reunions.

Friendships formed quickly as the women arrived at Central. Despite different majors and interests, they all became friends.

Marge Schaper Scherer '67 attended Central one semester. Connie Rozeboom Moore '67 and Nancy McDonald McClimen '67 each married after sophomore year, yet all 13 have remained in contact over the years as they moved all over the country.

Eileen Klinger VandeBunte '67 and Vivian Vroom Hildebrandt '67 saw a picture in *The Des Moines Register* spring semester of their senior year that made them want to try a round robin

letter with their group of friends. The photo was of a small group of elderly women in rocking chairs on a porch.

"They had started a round robin letter upon graduating from college, kept it going all those years and periodically gathered," said VandeBunte, who was immediately excited about doing the same. "It sounded like a wonderful idea."

Following graduation, they kept in touch through their own round robin letter, which has gone around the world at times, as some have lived in foreign places such as Africa and the Netherlands. Initially, the letter made it around to everyone two or three times a year. Now it is passed around about once a year.

"The letter started with us writing about our boyfriends and weddings," said Judy Lorier





Kading '67. "Then we wrote about our children, complete with pictures, of course. Then our careers, and now our retirements, grandchildren and deaths in the families."

After graduation, both VandeBunte and Hildebrandt were living on the East Coast and suggested a get-together. They sent surveys to everyone, with questions such as whether members of the group should come alone, bring spouses, bring children; how long the gathering would be; where to meet, etc. The results set the precedent for coming alone, meeting Friday to Sunday.

In 1977, 10 years after graduation, the group got together for its first reunion. They tried for a central location and decided on Chicago, Ill., as by then, most had scattered across the United States. One lived in Hawaii, one in Florida, several in Iowa, two in Michigan and Illinois, and one each in Vermont, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Minnesota and California.

"We rotate the duties of who plans the reunions on a volunteer basis," said Kading. "And, we meet all over the country. We've met in Minneapolis, Minn., and the last reunion was in Holland, Mich. We rented a big house on the beach."

They try to make it convenient for people by meeting every five years during the summer.

So what happens when a group of friends of over 40 years gets together?

According to McClimen, organizers of the first reunion had planned questions and topics to talk about.

"We pretty much talked around the clock for the entire weekend," McClimen recalled. "In many ways it felt as if we'd never been apart, and we attributed that to keeping in touch through our letters."

"We have much to catch up on, and we all bring pictures of our families," Kading said. "We talk about Central and reminisce about the people we knew. Several bring yearbooks. We also talk about the events we witnessed while there — pigs in the dorm, horses in the boys'

bathrooms, the drenching of each person when they got engaged, the formals and parties, the traditions. We all have a lot of stories!"

"It has been an amazing, shared journey," said VandeBunte. "Our paths have gone in our own unique directions, then weave back together again at reunions. We immediately pick up where we left off and talk until we can't stay awake another minute."

Besides talking around the clock, the crew also explores the city where they meet going to local shops, restaurants, museums and tourist attractions. Many of the group believe a liberal arts college helps generate awareness of the world and appreciation of fine arts and international experiences.

"Our time at Central is special because of the friends we made," said Kading. "It is wonderful to have 'old' friends who knew you when you were young. Central was a special place, and I think it still is. It still feels like family, and I hope that feeling is there for others as well."

"Central gifted me with cherished, lifelong friends," said VandeBunte. "In fact, our group picture is always on my refrigerator."



The round robin group gathered for a 40th reunion in Holland, Mich., in 2007: Marcia Wiersma Renkes '67, Connie Rozeboom Moore '67,

Linda Bergeson Anderson '68, Vivian Vroom Hildebrandt '67, Barb

Duven Armstrong '67, Eileen Klinger VandeBunte '67, Judy Lorier

Kading '67, Nancy McDonald McClimen '67, Linda Spaans-Esten '67,

Sharon Van Dalen Damkot '67 and Helen Van Zanten Hemmes '67. Not pictured: Pam Wilson

Larsen '67 and Marge Schaper Scherer '67.



# PALMER COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC



Carrie Jo Calisesi '06, a student at Palmer College of

Chiropractic, performs chiropractic work on Central

alum and fellow student at Palmer, Cody Huisman '07.

Photo by Paul Gates

After graduating from Central, stepping onto a new campus can be intimidating. New location and buildings, different faculty and students. However, when Carrie Jo Calisesi '06 arrived at Palmer Chiropractic's campus in Davenport, Iowa, she saw a familiar face — Central College graduate Taylor Vanden Wynboom '07.

At orientation, he came over and sat at Calisesi's table.

"I didn't even know Taylor was going to Palmer until I met him on orientation day," said Calisesi. "We started talking and found out we

have some of the same friends."

Calisesi and Vanden Wynboom ended up as lab partners later that year.

"What are the odds of that!" said Calisesi.

"I had no idea so many Central students went to Palmer or that so many were even interested in it," said Vance Schuring '07, a second-year student at Palmer. "I knew a couple but other than that, I had no clue."

It's not uncommon to walk across campus or through buildings and see Central College T-shirts. Even some of Calisesi's friends have noticed.





"Some of my friends from other states have gotten to recognize and know other Central students," she said. "They feel like they know Central, too. I think it's great Central has such a good representation on campus."

Calisesi's friends who graduated from large, state universities find it weird that most everyone knows each other on campus.

"They think Palmer is small," she said. "But, I love the intimacy and knowing everyone. It reminds me of Central."

It is as though there's a mini-Central on

"I see other people from Central all the time. Central alums are awesome and always eager to talk. We have that close connection."

Palmer's campus with seven Central alumni taking classes.

"From my point of view, it's been really fun to have familiar faces around and to be able to talk to others and reminisce about college," said Calisesi, who teamed up with Cody Huisman '07 for an intramural dodge ball tournament at Palmer this winter.

"It's nice to see people from Central I know and talk to them," said Schuring, who usually sees alumni in the weight room and fitness center. "But since we are in different classes, we don't all have the same schedules."

On occasion, Central alumni are paired with each other for labs and other academic projects. Andi Baiotto Dorris '06, one of Calisesi's friends, is even Dorris' student clinic chiropractic intern this semester.

Dorris first went to Calisesi for advice about Palmer knowing Calisesi's dad had been a student there. Later, Dorris was more than willing to let Calisesi follow her around to classes for a day and talk to some other students and that experience helped her choose Palmer as well. Unlike Dorris, Calisesi already

had a Central connection before she stepped on campus.

"I see Carrie Jo frequently," said Dorris. "I see her at clubs and seminars. It helps we were friends at Central, so we make it a point to say 'hi' and to check in to see how the other is doing."

"Seeing people with whom I went to undergraduate school is always a good time catching up and seeing how things are going for them," said Schuring, who often sees his football teammates Vanden Wynboom and Huisman. "It's fun to see them [Vanden Wynboom and Huisman] and joke around."

"I see other people from Central all the time. Central alums are awesome and always eager to talk," said Calisesi. "We have that close connection."

Central alumni at Palmer include: Carrie Jo Calisesi '06,

Andi Baiotto Dorris '06, Vance Schuring '07,

Taylor Vanden Wynboom '07, Cody Huisman '07, Dustin

Veldhuizen '08 and Joe Whitehead '08.





# THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY



Photo by Paul Gates

Fourth-year dental students at the University of Iowa and also Central alumni are Kimber Jones '05, Rachel Revell '05, Micah Vermeer '05 and Brandon Vos '05.

It's a small world after all for Central College alumni at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. Four of the 70 fourth-year students enrolled there graduated from Central. Yet, chances were slim all were going to end up in Iowa City.

Micah Vermeer '05 applied to a couple different schools but settled on Iowa because of its national reputation as one of the top dental schools in the country and the fact he could receive in-state tuition.

Brandon Vos '05 didn't apply to any school but Iowa.

"If I wasn't accepted, I was just going to pursue a job as a chemist or look into the field of forensic science," Vos said.

However, Vos and Vermeer, along with Kimber Jones '05 and Rachel Revell '05 were all accepted and started school in the fall of 2005. Right away, Vermeer and Vos were grouped together through the alphabetical system Iowa uses.



"It makes you feel good to see people from Central on campus. It provided a common bond from day one, which made the transition a lot more smooth."

"I knew Brandon from a few classes at Central, but due to the amount of time we've been around each other at Iowa, I would say I've definitely gotten to know him better during dental school," commented Vermeer. "Due to our proximity in alphabetical order, Brandon and I have been able to stay in a little closer contact than most Central alumni at Iowa."

Vos found it especially nice his first year at Iowa to see familiar faces on campus.

"It makes you feel good to see people from Central on campus," Vos said. "It provided a common bond from day one, which made the transition a lot more smooth."

First-year student Brett De Hoogh '08 shares an apartment with Vos.

"I know Brandon will help me if I need anything, so it's comforting to have Central people there who will assist you," said De Hoogh. "I also see my Central classmates a lot, and it was definitely nice at the beginning of the year to see familiar faces."

De Hoogh often sees classmates Ryan Brandt '08, Jenny Menary '08 and Cody Negrete '09 walking through campus. Paul Kearney '08 graduated from Central a year early and is in his second year at Iowa's dental school. In total, nine Central alums are enrolled out of Iowa's almost 280 dental students. Jones and Vermeer will leave campus after the June 5 graduation. Vermeer plans to practice in Pella, while Jones will be working in Omaha, Neb. Vos will specialize in endodontics, and Revell will specialize in pediatric dentistry.

"I think it speaks very highly of Central as admission to dental school is getting quite

competitive," said Vermeer regarding all the Central students accepted at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry.

Vermeer credited Central for a well-rounded education noting he feels his communication skills provide a big boost for good relationships with patients.

"I've found often times being able to effectively communicate and interact with patients can be just as important as the actual treatment you provide them."



Central alumni at the University of Iowa College

of Dentistry include Kimber Jones '05,

Rachel Revell '05, Micah Vermeer '05,

Brandon Vos '05, Jeff Millet '07,

Cody Negrete '09, Rob Thompson '99,

Ryan Brandt '08,

Brett De Hoogh '08, Paul

Kearney '08 and Jenny Menary '08



## Central College: Out of Many, One

by Jon Witt, professor of sociology



Photo by Paul Gates

▲ Jon Witt discusses how we are connected to Central by its past, present and future.

Sitting across from me is the future of Central College. It is a Saturday morning in February and I am conducting a series of interviews with high school seniors who came to campus in hopes of securing a top scholarship. Each is impressive in his or her own way. She is bright and ambitious and wants a future in international business. He is curious and friendly and wants to study abroad. She hopes to participate in

student government and, while interested in sociology, loves psychology. I ask each questions designed to get at what kind of person they are, but I also know they are sizing us up. In the coming months, each must make a decision that will profoundly influence the course of his or her life: Will I make Central my home?

By my side is Central's present — our here and now. When we conduct these

interviews, we do so as a team that includes both a student and professor. I most enjoy hearing what our current students say when asked by the prospective student about life at Central. It's wonderful to see the gleam in their eyes as they tell a bit about their own Central stories. They speak highly of classes and professors, share about studying abroad or late night conversations in the dorm, and tell of the



## Jon Witt

### Professor of sociology

- Jon Witt is a native of Sheboygan, Wis.
- Earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Trinity College (Ill.)
- Earned a master's and doctorate in sociology from Loyola University (Ill.)
- Joined Central's faculty in 1993
- Authored two books, *The Big Picture: A Sociology Primer* and *SOC*, both published by McGraw-Hill
- Lives in Pella with wife Lori and their daughters Emily (14) and Eleanor (12) and Jessie, their Pembroke Welsh Corgi
- Blogs at [www.soc101.com](http://www.soc101.com)

importance of friends or teammates who were there for them when they needed it most. You might think we pay them to say such nice things, but they are volunteers (an impressive level of commitment for a college student at 9:30 a.m. on a Saturday). Such accounts remind me of the Gee Whiz stories President Roe shares during his state-of-the-college updates — the kind that give you hope in the present and faith in the future.

Of course Central's present and future are only made possible by our past, by those who have come before us and laid the foundation upon which we depend. For me this especially means the recent past including those with whom I worked who have retired or moved on. Within my department I think of Don Maxam and Steve Ybarrola. Beyond that, I remember other significant leaders such as Tom Iverson, Marjorie Giles, John Miller, Bette Brunsting '56, Ron Schipper, Suzanne Wallace and Dan Bruss. And from before my time the names of Ken Weller, Harriet Heusinkveld '39, Jim Graham, Larry Mills, Edith LeCocq '43, Laura Nanes, and many others still echo through the hallways because of the legacy they left behind.

When I think of how all these people from the future, present and past come together to form Central College,

I am reminded of the motto *E Pluribus Unum* (Out of Many, One). I don't mean some kind of Kumbaya singing, big hug giving, maudlin sense of oneness without difference or conflict, but I do believe we are linked together through shared experiences. On campus, for example, students regularly find common bonds and pockets of solidarity through group projects, intramurals, choir trips, athletic events, fraternities and sororities, student government, lemming races, romantic rendezvous, oh, and classes, too.

When students disperse and the one becomes many, they take Central with them. While not all will stay in touch, the experiences they had and the relationships they built will always be part of who they are.

But what happens when the ride is over and graduating seniors embark upon their journeys into the "real world?" When students disperse and the one becomes many, they take Central with them. While not all will stay in touch, the experiences they had and the relationships they built will always be part of who they are. In the past, such connections might be reignited through writing letters or attending homecoming festivities. Today, technology makes it easier to maintain

or re-establish contacts we may have thought were lost forever. Somewhere, even now, there's a Central alum signing up for a Facebook account for the first time and "friending" someone they've not heard from in years.

As for me, I have now been at Central for 16 years, so, in addition to being part of its present and future, I, too, am part of its past. I am reminded of former students who helped me become who I am as a professor. As a sociologist, I am keenly interested in the ways such webs of relationships come to shape who we are and what we become. We are interdependent. We need each other. One of the reasons to attend a place like Central College is because it is here we can find significant others. Those with whom we work, play, laugh, cry, become ourselves, and pursue our dreams.

All this reminds me Central College is so much more than a physical institution consisting of buildings and land. It is a living, breathing collaboration that must be renewed each and every year. Sociologists sometimes use the analogy of games to talk about how society works. Games have rules that establish guidelines for behavior, resources to be manipulated, and roles for the players

to take on. But a game is not a game until it is enacted. The same goes for organizations. All the bureaucratic flow charts and policy handbooks in the world cannot make it come alive. We are the ones who make Central College what it is. It exists only to the extent that all the people who are linked together through Central continue to play their essential roles helping to make the college what it was, what it is and what it will be. ■

# HOMECOMING & FAMILY

## Weekend 2009

### schedule of events

event details available at [www.central.edu/homecoming](http://www.central.edu/homecoming)

#### Friday, Sept. 25

11 a.m. .... Homecoming worship service, **Chapel**

2 and 3 p.m. .... Campus tours depart from admission office in **Central Hall**

2:30 - 5 p.m. .... Special Open House for classes of 1956, 1955, 1950 and older, open to all

3:30 - 5:45 p.m. .... Carlson-Kuyper Field Station tour. Tour leaves from **Central Hall**

6 p.m. .... Lemming race, **Peace Mall**

6:15 - 7:15 p.m. .... Alumni and family barbecue - **Tent between Central Market and Maytag**

7:30 p.m. .... Homecoming pep rally, **Ron and Joyce Schipper Stadium**

8 p.m. .... Homecoming coronation, **Douwstra Auditorium**

#### Saturday, Sept. 26

8 a.m. .... Dutch 5K Fun Run/Walk, **Cross Country Course**

8 - 10 a.m. .... Pancake breakfast, **tent between Maytag and Central Market**

9:30, 10:30 a.m. .... Pella tours, leaving from **Central Hall**

9 - 11 a.m. .... Campus tours, leaving every half hour from **Central Hall**

9:30 - 10:20 a.m. .... Lifelong learning opportunities

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. .... Central College Abroad information session

10 - 11:30 a.m. .... Family Carnival, **Kruidenier and VSC lawn**

10:30 - 11:20 a.m. .... Lifelong learning opportunities

11 a.m. .... Athletic hall of honor plaque unveiling ceremony, **Schipper Fitness Center**

11 a.m. .... Tailgate Under the Big Tent

1 p.m. .... Football - Central vs. Coe, **Ron and Joyce Schipper Stadium**

Post-game .... Reception for athletic hall of honor inductees **under the tent north of Kuyper**

4:30 p.m. .... Class reunion pictures and reception

5 p.m. .... Pizza, movies and more. Children (ages 1-12)

5:45 p.m. .... Alumni Homecoming dinner

7:30 p.m. .... Class reunion gatherings

#### Sunday, Sept. 27

11 a.m. .... Sunday Brunch, **Central Market**



*Homecoming/Family Weekend* is Sept. 25-27. Look for the Homecoming/Family Weekend brochure, including a registration form, in the summer issue of the *Central Bulletin*.

**online registration open now!**



# Alum helps Central athlete

by Lisa Goodell '09

Never underestimate the kindness of a Central alum. Curtis Hobbs, a sophomore from Gilman, Iowa, and a graduate from Grinnell High School, learned firsthand how caring Central alumni can be when he sustained a serious injury during a wrestling match in Wisconsin in December. He was taken to the hospital and watched over by Bob De Smidt '61 of Cedar Grove, Wis., and National Advisory Council member, who was cheering on the Dutch wrestling team.

The Central wrestling team was competing in the Milwaukee School of Engineering Invitational Dec. 6. Hobbs collided heads with an opponent, fracturing his orbital bone, which holds the eye, causing him severe pain. The athletic trainers at the event suggested he be taken to the hospital, but with only a bus for transportation and no knowledge of local roads, head wrestling coach Eric Van Kley didn't know how they were going to get him there.

De Smidt, who was at the meet to support Central, offered his help.

"I feel Central and everyone connected to Central is part of my family," said De Smidt. "I'm here to serve others and helping people is simple."

He got his car from the parking lot, braving the cold, windy and rainy weather, and picked up Hobbs at the door. He drove Hobbs to the hospital, where he took notes and asked doctors questions while keeping Hobbs company.

"He took good care of me," said Hobbs. "And, we didn't even know each



Photo by Dan Vander Beek

▲ Sophomore Curtis Hobbs suffered an injury at a wrestling meet in Wisconsin.

other. All I knew was that he graduated from Central."

De Smidt stayed with Hobbs most of the afternoon and into the evening, bringing him back to the gym when it was time for the team to return to Pella.

"We, as a staff, couldn't have been more grateful," said Van Kley. "I can't begin to thank Mr. De Smidt enough for his caring, generosity and helpfulness."

De Smidt followed up with Hobbs several times to see how he was recovering from his injury. He even received Christmas and thank you cards from Hobbs and his family.

"I was pretty worried when I got the call," said Hobbs's mother Michele. "The

injury was severe and to have someone there with your son means a great deal to a parent."

De Smidt and Hobbs have plans to meet the next time De Smidt is in Pella.

"That's what makes Central so special," said De Smidt.

"He's the man!" says Hobbs, "I'm glad I had him there to look after me at the hospital."

Coach Van Kley also appreciates De Smidt's kindness.

"He not only showed his caring for one of our student athletes, but also for our wrestling program and Central students as a whole," said Van Kley. ■



Photos by Paul Gates

This spring semester, the admission office put a call out to alumni for help with recruiting students for the 2009-10 school year. With the economy down and media messages swirling about how tough times are financially, colleges and universities across the country are anticipating negative effects on enrollment.

Central's admission office asked alumni to make three phone calls to students considering Central. Ann Van Hemert '00, assistant director of admission, sent an e-mail to alumni to see who would be willing to help and within 45 minutes of hitting the send button, Van Hemert received 95 responses. Less than 24 hours later, she had 200 e-mails from willing alumni and spouses who will contact more than 700 prospective students.

The admission and alumni offices teamed up to find an easy, non-financial way alumni could give back to the college.

"We're always eager to have alumni help in the recruitment process and connect with the college," Van Hemert said. "Hopefully this will positively impact our incoming freshman class. We all are here for our students and who better to tell them about how great Central is than our alumni family."