

# CENTRAL

BULLETIN CENTER '09



*we are*  
**CENTRAL**

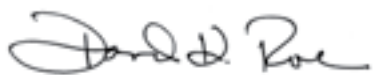
Central College is blessed with extraordinary faculty and staff serving the educational needs and aspirations of the marvelous students who entrust us with their baccalaureate preparation for life. While I have become admittedly biased, I do believe I am still qualified to make this assertion based on the 11 years I have been part of this special community, in the context of 24 years as an officer in the Air Force who served worldwide and 10 years as a leader in the financial services sector. Additionally, as a non-alum, I can attest to the vital role played by alumni who serve across the faculty and staff spectrum with me.

We designed this issue of the *Bulletin* to highlight a few of the many alumni service stories that abound. The breadth and depth of alumni expertise on the faculty and staff of Central offer a vivid portrait of the advantages offered by a great liberal arts education such as that provided by Central. A list of 101 Central alumni, who comprise about one-quarter of the personnel, along with their class year and department, is presented on page 18. While the majority of our faculty and staff, including Betsy and me, come from backgrounds different than Central, collectively the alumni employees are inspirations to the rest of us regarding what our students and recent graduates become and are living examples of Central's core ethos of "students first." They also serve as the critical ensurers of this ethos regardless of changes wrought in meeting the pressures and demands of the real world surrounding our ivory tower.

A strong liberal arts education, like that provided at Central College, instills critical life skills in those who work through it. Among these are knowing how to learn or teach oneself new perspectives and methodologies, communicate effectively in oral and written form, including new technological media, and think through problems from a number of different disciplinary approaches. Many experts have observed these skill sets are exactly what are most needed for effective leadership in both for-profit and non-profit organizations, especially educational and religious entities.

You, the alumni and friends of Central College, make it possible for Central not only to survive tough economic times but also to thrive as we stride boldly into our second sesquicentury. Central College graduates are making the world a better place, and all of us associated with this remarkable institution can be

proud of the alumni it has produced and is producing, and grateful many alumni choose continued service inside these hallowed halls.



David H. Roe

▲ Central College alumni, who are also employees, help President David Roe keep Central College true to its core ethos.



# CENTRAL BULLETIN

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Central alumni gathered for an employee luncheon in October.

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Cover photo by Paul Gates

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A story about Central's alumni who are also employed by the college

## 20 CHANGE & CONTINUITY AT CENTRAL

Dawn Stiemsma Reece '89, assistant professor of sociology, talks about being a student and now faculty member

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## CORRECTION

Kevin Den Adel '91 and Jann Freed '77 & John Fisher were inadvertently left out of the Faculty & Staff section of giving in the 2007-08 President's Report.



▲ The new education and psychology building.

2



▲ Miranda Kouba received all-conference recognition.

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

Photo by Dan Vander Beek

Photo by Chris Gales '09

Photo by Dan Vander Beek

## Central College receives grant from Kresge



▲ An \$850,000 challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation will assist funding of the new education and psychology building. To help meet the challenge grant and give a gift, go to [www.central.edu/edpsych/pledge](http://www.central.edu/edpsych/pledge).

The Kresge Foundation recognized Central College with a capital challenge grant of \$850,000. The selective grant will assist funding of Central's new education and psychology building. The grant is made on a challenge basis to help Central raise the balance required to complete funding the building project. To meet the Kresge challenge, Central needs to raise \$3.5 million in new gifts and pledges for the building by Dec. 30, 2009.

"We are both delighted and humbled by this terrific grant from The Kresge Foundation," said President David Roe.

"This vote of confidence in Central's envisioned future underscores the value that discerning professionals from outside the Central family place on our efforts to lead by example and serve our society by educating tomorrow's leaders and teachers."

Central's education and psychology building project is underway and will be completed in time for the start of the fall 2009 semester. Central is committed to its students as well as energy conservation and environmental responsibility. The new 57,460-gross square foot building has

U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) elements. Central hopes to receive the highest rating — platinum.

The Kresge Foundation is a national, private foundation that seeks to influence the quality of life for future generations by creating access and opportunity for health, environment, arts and culture, education, human services and community development.

To make a donation to the education and psychology building and help Central meet the Kresge challenge, contact the



▲ The Eco-Makeover class composted over 3,000 pounds of food this fall.

advancement office at 800-447-0287. To view a video about the education and psychology building, go to [www.central.edu/development](http://www.central.edu/development).

### BEAKES HOST WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES

In September, Central's Beta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity sponsored Walk a Mile In Her Shoes: The Men's March to Stop Sexual Assault and Raise Awareness.

Members of the college and community literally walked a mile in women's shoes to raise awareness for sexual assault. With T-shirt sales, free-will donations and matching gifts, the organization raised nearly \$3,000 for Crisis Intervention Services of Pella and Oskaloosa, a nonprofit organization that provides support, resources and hope for a better future to persons affected by domestic abuse, sexual assault and other crises. President David and Betsy Roe personally matched the BKE's donation of \$350.

Walk a Mile In Her Shoes started small in 2001 and has grown each year since with 115 walks scheduled in 2008. The march is part of Venture Humanity, a nonprofit corporation that develops peace, violence prevention and community projects.

### ECO-MAKEOVER

Josh Dolezal, assistant professor of English, conducted an Eco-Makeover course this fall, which is a spin-off of Intersections. Dolezal was inspired to design this course after reading a paper on food waste written by one of his students last year. Seventeen students learned about the green economy and the ethos of sustainability. The group constructed a compost at Pella's landfill using food waste from Fareway Stores Inc. in Pella.

"While many present-day communities have municipal composting programs, most food waste in Pella ends up in the landfill, thus, Pella needed an 'eco-makeover,'" said Dolezal.

The group collected and distributed four loads of composting materials averaging about 700 pounds each for the pilot project. Students wrote and presented a research report at the end of the term and distributed it throughout the community in hopes their pilot project will turn into a sustainable community composting program.

### INTERSECTIONS CLASS

An Intersections class taught by Russ Goodman, assistant professor of mathematics, held a rummage sale Nov. 8, and raised nearly \$250 for Aid and Care Inc., a group that aids struggling villages affected by war and natural disasters.

Intersections is a required class at Central for first-year students. As a part of this year's curriculum, the Intersections classes read *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, an account of how author Ishmael Beah survived the war in Sierra Leone.

"My class chose this particular project because they were emotionally affected by their reading of Beah's memoirs and wanted to take action," said Goodman. "Keith Yanner, professor of political science, has a colleague Dominic Diing, who is one of the 'Lost Boys of the Sudan' and founder of Aid and Care Inc. It seemed a natural fit for the class to take on a big fundraising project for a cause that is now so much more personal to

them all. I'm already proud of my class's efforts and will measure the 'success' of this rummage sale in terms much more valuable than money."

### STUDENTS DONATE TO CROPWALK

Central College was once again a strong contributor to Pella's annual CROP Hunger Walk this fall. Over 650 Central students donated their meals Oct. 8 raising \$5,338.20 for Church World Service (CWS), an ecumenical organization that supports a variety of charitable initiatives, along with community development programs in the United States and abroad. Central dining services totals the cost of meals donated and submits a check for the amount to CROP Hunger Walk. Once again, Central's club associated with athletic training provided water for the walkers as participants endured a 5K route. ■

### FRENCH MAJORS SURVEYED

"I have traveled the world and done amazing things thanks to my French!"

"Central has a wonderful, comprehensive French program that extends beyond classrooms to the language house and to the year abroad in France."

"If you are able to work with others in a language in which they are most comfortable, you are able to make connections that facilitate working relationships and create bonds you never could if only speaking English."

These are responses from a recent survey of French majors who graduated in the past 15 years on how they use their language skills. Suggestions provided Pat Westphal, associate professor of French, the opportunity to evaluate and strengthen the curriculum. The survey offered positive feedback and ways to continuously improve the existing curriculum.



## Alumni trips and events

### California and Leiden, the Netherlands

#### A WEEKEND IN CALIFORNIA WITH CENTRAL COLLEGE! Friday-Sunday, June 19-21

Don't miss whitewater rafting, camping, community, eating, campfires, laughing, nature, fun and games! All ages are invited to join Central College alumni, parents,

students and friends at Whitewater Connection, one of California's premier Whitewater Rafting outfitters in Coloma, Calif., Friday-Sunday, June 19-21.

Multiple packages are available for this Central College weekend with special family prices and weekday rates

for the weekend. Invite your friends and all receive Central rates. Owner Don Koolmees '77 and staff are dedicated to making the experience high quality, fun and unforgettable. South Fork American River is a great class III rafting experience! Visit [www.central.edu/go/whitewater](http://www.central.edu/go/whitewater) to learn more.

Meals: No skimping here! Breakfast includes omelets, ham, pancakes, fruit and more. Lunch is a deli-style buffet. Hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m. are followed by an evening meal of steak, lobster, chicken, potatoes, bread, salad, dessert and drinks.

Rentals: Two-person tents with two six-inch foam pads, two night special Central rental, \$25

Facilities: Hot showers and modern toilets, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, beautiful river views

Rafting equipment: New and safe

**Weekend package** — \$259 per adult or children ages 6-17 (for every paid adult, a child 17 and under is half price, \$129.50).

Five meals, two nights camping, two rafting trips

**Saturday only one-day rafting with lunch** — \$119 per adult, child 17 and under \$59.50

**Half-day rafting Sunday** — \$94 per adult, child 17 and under \$47

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *for 2009*

Thursday, Jan. 22	GOLD in West Des Moines
Friday, Jan. 23	Alumni track meet in Pella
February 2009	GOLD in Phoenix, Ariz.
Friday, Feb. 13	Vriendschap Village in Pella
Saturday, Feb. 21	Alumni Day in Pella
March	Tucson, Ariz.
March 27-28	Alumni Advisory Council in Pella
Saturday, April 18	Softball alumni picnic in Pella
Thursday-Sunday, May 7-9	Tulip Time
Friday, May 15	Senior dinner
Saturday, May 16	Baccalaureate
Sunday, May 17	Commencement
Friday-Sunday, June 19-21	California whitewater rafting
Thursday, July 16	Leiden, the Netherlands
Friday-Sunday, Sept. 25-27	Homecoming/Family Weekend
Tuesday, Oct. 1	Wicked at the Civic Center of Greater Des Moines

**Camping and meals only (no rafting)**

— \$87.50 per person

Five meals, two nights camping

RSVP to the alumni office by Monday, June 1. Call 800-447-0287, e-mail [alumni@central.edu](mailto:alumni@central.edu) or register online at [www.central.edu/alumni/events](http://www.central.edu/alumni/events).

**TRIP TO LEIDEN, THE NETHERLANDS  
THURSDAY, JULY 16**

Make plans now to visit the city in the Netherlands housing Central's study abroad program. Whether you're coming back to where you studied abroad or seeing it for the first time, you'll enjoy the Dutch landscape and friendly faces.

Thursday, July 16, join us on a two-hour walking tour of downtown Leiden, featuring historical, artistic and cultural highlights and led by Steef Eman, art historian and resident director of Central College Abroad, Leiden, at 1 p.m.

A special alumni and friends reception with a traditional Dutch dinner on site at the university begins at 6 p.m.

Cost for Thursday's tour and dinner is \$20 per person. Payment is required in advance. RSVP to the alumni office by Wednesday, July 1. Call 800-447-0287 or e-mail [alumni@central.edu](mailto:alumni@central.edu).

We suggest you build in a few more days before or after the event for additional sight-seeing. While travel arrangements will be made on your own, several additional trip suggestions include:

Leiden – Explore more of Leiden. Visit the market on the canal on Wednesdays to see an impressive collection of fresh food, fish, clothing, art and more. Eat Dutch pancakes at a nearby pancake house. Take in the cityscape sights and sounds.

Recommended hotels near Central's site, downtown and the railway:

Hotel De Doelen

[www.dedoelen.com](http://www.dedoelen.com)

[hotel@dedoelen.com](mailto:hotel@dedoelen.com)

Mayflower Hotel

[www.hotelmayflower.nl](http://www.hotelmayflower.nl)

[info@hotelmayflower.nl](mailto:info@hotelmayflower.nl)



▲ (Top) Alumni and friends gathered for an event in Ames, Iowa, Dec. 4. (Left) The 1957-58 men's basketball team, which won the conference championship 50 years ago, was honored Dec. 6. (Right) Alumni, family and friends gathered for a reception prior to the annual Candlelight Christmas Concert Dec. 12.

Nieuw Minerva Hotel

[www.nieuwminerva.nl](http://www.nieuwminerva.nl)

[hotel@nieuwminerva.nl](mailto:hotel@nieuwminerva.nl)

The Hague — 10 minutes by train. Visit the beautiful government capitol-city housing the Dutch Parliament and queen.

Scheveningen — beach, harbor, shopping area, museums and more.

Amsterdam — 25 minutes by train. See the canals, Rijksmuseum, Van Gogh Museum, the Anne Frank House, the Royal Palace and more.

Brussels and Brugge, Belgium — Tour the small, famous city of Brugge on your way

to Brussels.

Or, visit Germany, Luxembourg, Spain, England or France via train or a short, affordable plane ride.

Sample itineraries to nearly all locations are available at [www.central.edu/go/leiden](http://www.central.edu/go/leiden).

**AWARD NOMINATION DEADLINE**

The alumni office is accepting award nominations for our 2009 honorees through Monday, March 2. Go to [www.central.edu/alumni/awards.html](http://www.central.edu/alumni/awards.html) to review award descriptions, a list of past recipients and to nominate someone. Recipients will be recognized on campus at Homecoming 2009, Sept. 25-27. ■

# Eight gain all-conference men's soccer recognition

Photo by Dan Vander Beek



Eight men's soccer players received all-Iowa Conference recognition and Garry Laidlaw was tabbed as the league's coach of the year for the second time.

Laidlaw's squad again came painfully close to an elusive league title. Central swept nationally ranked Loras College and Wartburg College in a four-day span and matched Loras' 7-1 conference record but lost the crown on points.

The Dutch navigated a demanding schedule with a 12-7 record, giving Central a 93-34-9 mark over the past seven seasons.

Midfielder Cruz Herr of Robins, Iowa, became the third Central player ever to earn all-conference honors four times. He was a first-team pick for the third straight year and was joined on the first team by senior defender Scott Erie of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and sophomore forward Brett McKenzie of Lindenhurst, Ill.

## ROOKIE PAULSON IS LEAGUE GOLF MVP

Freshman Sarah Paulson of Ottumwa, Iowa, fueled a resurgence in the women's golf program, which ended 25th in the NCAA Division III national rankings. This marks Central's first appearance in the rankings since they began in 1996.

Paulson captured the Iowa Conference tournament title by eight shots,

firing a school-record 76-71-81-78—306 over two weekends. Junior Eva Downes of Woodstock, Ill., was seventh, earning all-league honors, and Jodee Schaben was named conference co-coach of the year as the Dutch tied for second place, their highest finish since 1993.

## FOUR EARN WOMEN'S TENNIS HONORS

After recording a solid third-place finish at the conference team tourn-



Photos by Dan Vander Beek

◀ Garry Laidlaw was named league coach of the year, while Cruz Herr (right) earned all-conference honors.



ament, 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.

### KOUBA, RIPPERGER LEAD DUTCH VOLLEYBALL SQUAD

Central posted a 20-14 record and knocked off nationally ranked Wis.-Whitewater, but saw its 12-year reign as Iowa Conference volleyball champion come to an end.

Outside hitters Miranda Kouba, a senior from Dubuque, Iowa, and junior Michelle Ripperger of Urbandale, Iowa, were first-team all-conference honorees, while junior middle hitter Lindsay Jennings of Atkins, Iowa, received honorable mention.

For a record-tying eighth straight year, Central received the Game Plan/AVCA Team Academic Award for having a combined team grade point average above 3.30. Six Central players were named to the academic all-conference team.

### FYFE, DUNHAM TO HEAD CROSS COUNTRY PROGRAM

For the second time in three seasons assistant Stephen Fyfe '87 took on interim head coaching duties for the Central men's and women's cross country teams.

Late in the year Fyfe was promoted to be associate head coach to new head coach Joe Dunham, who takes over both programs after earlier being appointed head men's and women's track and field coach.



Photo by Dan Vander Beek

▲ Freshman Sarah Paulson took top honors at the conference tournament.

Fyfe made it a smooth transition once again. Senior Jess Clark of Port Byron, Ill., earned all-Iowa Conference honors as the Central women's squad placed fourth. Junior Amber Mayer of Essex, Iowa, made rapid improvement down the stretch and was Central's top runner at the NCAA Division III Central Regional, where the Dutch finished 13th in a strong 26-team field.

Junior Pierre Taylor of Montgomery, Ill., also developed swiftly and was the men's leader in every race. The Dutch were sixth in the league and 18th in the region.

### KUCHY, WOMEN'S SOCCER SQUAD POINT TO FUTURE

It was a transition year for the Central women's soccer program.

New coach Colin Kuchy was hired late in the recruiting cycle and his already thin squad sustained injuries to key players, leading to Central's 3-15 campaign with a 2-6 Iowa Conference record.

Junior midfielder Jenna Hindman of Swisher, Iowa, was a second-team all-conference selection. Hindman and sophomore defender Alyssa Brobst of Pella also were named to the *ESPN The Magazine* academic all-district team.



Photo by Dan Vander Beek

▲ Punter Kurtis Brondyke led the league with a 40.6-yard average.

### YOUNG FOOTBALL SQUAD SHOWS PROMISE

Replacing 16 starters from last year's NCAA Division III quarterfinalist team was challenging enough but a young Central football squad also had to weather a series of season-ending injuries to key players.

Yet the Dutch scratched their way to a hard-fought 6-4 season, the school's 47th winning year since 1960. Two Central games went to overtime and four others were decided by 3 points or less.

Among the many promising newcomers coach Jeff McMartin '90 brought to Central was freshman defensive stinger Shane Wong of Des Moines, who led the Iowa Conference in sacks with 10. That tied for 12th in Division III. Sophomore all-conference punter Kurtis Brondyke of Clinton, Iowa, led the league and ranked 10th nationally with a 40.6-yard average. Receiver Matt VerMeer of Montezuma, Iowa, part of an 18-player senior class, finished with a flourish, placing third in the conference in receiving yards (63.3) and tying for fourth in catches with 38. Sophomore Jake Viggers of Altoona, Iowa, was third in field goals with eight in 11 tries. ■



# coming HOME

Alumni are our friends, co-workers, even employees. It's hard to walk across Central's campus without running into an alum. Nearly 1 in 4 Central College employees are alumni of Central. We all love Central and have a special connection to this institution, but most of us as alumni, feel something a little more special. It's the place where we grew up, matured, experienced new things and had our eyes opened by faculty, staff, classmates and friends. Yet, some of us stayed and some of us came back to a place where we'll always feel at home.

No doubt Central College has changed over the years. Physically campus is different from two years ago, let alone 50 years ago. New buildings, renovations and additions benefit students, faculty and staff. A revolving door, Central has

touched the lives of many throughout the years including the 101 employees who call Central home. As most who walk through our doors say, "It's the *people* who make this place so special." We agree.

## WEARING DIFFERENT HATS

Eric Jones '87 jokes he's interim director of interim affairs at Central College. He's had at least 11 different titles, several job descriptions and is very familiar with, "Other duties as assigned."

He first came to work at Central as interim director of residence life and successfully changed Gaass Hall from an all male dormitory to co-ed.

The following year, Jones worked 50 percent as a counselor and one quarter each as instructor



of exercise science and assistant football coach. Along the way, he also taught introduction to college success classes and has been involved with academic alert, a program that highlights students struggling with their classes. He's been a hall director of three different dormitories, an admission counselor and has worked in four different departments during his career at Central.

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*"When everything goes well ... the entire person, mind, body and spirit, evolves. I thrive helping young people reach their potential."*

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"I really enjoy working with students," Jones said. "Central is a great place with great people.

"When everything goes well and clicks, the entire person, mind, body and spirit, evolves," said Jones. "I thrive helping young people reach their potential."

John Edwards '72 also has helped develop young people. His first job at Central was as an admission counselor, an office where he worked for 23 years. He's also been an assistant football coach as well as head baseball coach. He has been a dorm director for two different halls. Edwards is also familiar with interim positions as he was assistant financial aid director for one year and served two terms as interim athletics director. After leaving the admission office as associate director, he became associate athletics director. Currently, Edwards is special assistant to the athletic director but his duties include running the equipment room, coordinating student managers and student workers and all the NCAA event scheduling. He also heads up concessions. All those different tasks keep things interesting.

"We are here for the students," said Edwards. "I believe you do what has to be done to do the job right. Central College has been a model

Photo by Paul Gates



**ERIC JONES '87**

Hometown: Redfield, Iowa

Major: Social science

Title: Director of academic support services

others have looked up to, and I believe it is because we have had great people working to provide a quality experience for our students."

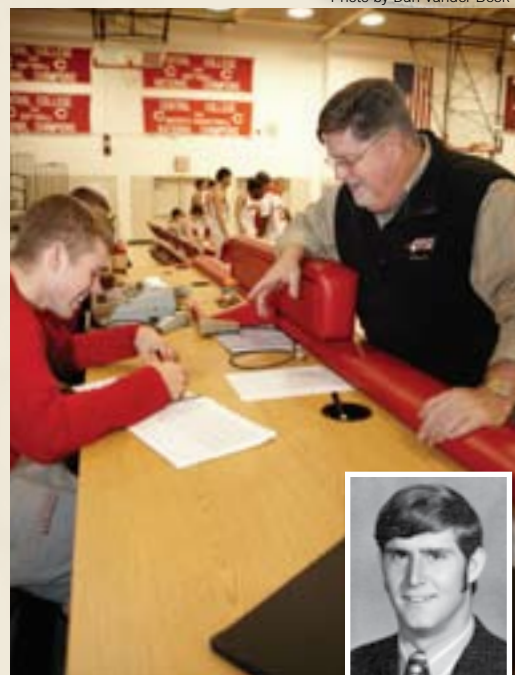
#### THE FIRST GO AROUND

Growing up in Redfield, Iowa, a town of about 800 people, Jones didn't know about Central College let alone picture himself enrolled at a college like Central. His high school baseball coach Chris Adkins '80 told Jones Central would be a good fit for him.

"He said, 'You don't have to sell your soul off to play football at Central,'" said Jones, who still makes reference to his coach's advice when speaking with student-athletes.

Coming to Central gave Jones opportunities to see a broader sense of himself and what he could do with his life.

"I was surrounded by people who had high

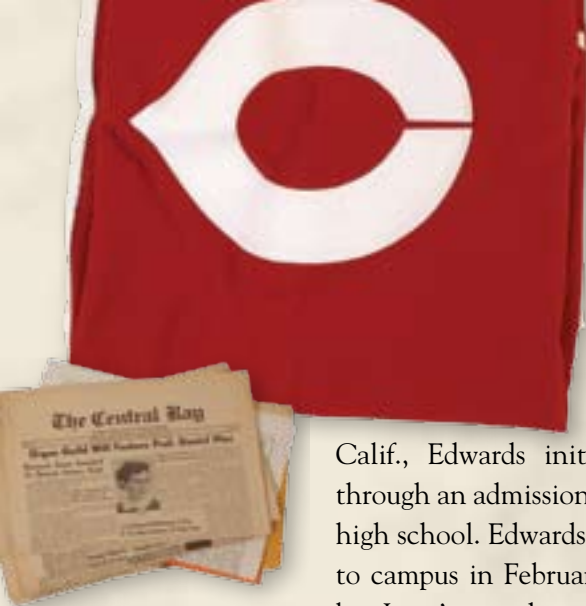


**JOHN EDWARDS '72**

Hometown: San Jose, Calif.

Major: Physical education

Title: Special assistant to the athletics director



standards for me,” he said, which in turn, made him have higher standards for himself.

Originally from San Jose, Calif., Edwards initially learned of Central through an admission counselor who visited his high school. Edwards liked the counselor, came to campus in February and wasn’t discouraged by Iowa’s weather. He also hoped to play football and baseball at the college and received a scholarship. Since that August, Edwards has remained at Central.

#### EDUCATED AT CENTRAL

Without a liberal arts education, Central alumni wouldn’t be where they are today. They learn and develop life-long skills.

“It doesn’t matter what your major is, you need to be able to communicate and write well,” said Jones.

The late Don Butler, former professor of economics, helped Jones improve his writing skills by making him stay after class for three weeks. Jones would write a paragraph, and Butler would look it over and give him suggestions to improve it.

“It did make me a better writer and helped me in grad school,” Jones said. “I was better prepared in that regard than I would’ve been. I learned a lot about writing in that class ... probably not as much as I should’ve learned about economics though.”

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*“The best thing about Central is the people ... special relationships develop with faculty, classmates, the kids, ... It’s a good feeling. It is what makes this place special.”*

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#### CENTRAL IS THE PEOPLE

Interactions with faculty, relationships with students, and working with colleagues strikes a chord with alumni who work at Central.

“The best thing about Central is the people who have come through the door,” said Edwards. “From when I was in school to today, special relationships develop with faculty, with classmates, with the kids I have coached and what is really neat is now some of the their kids are showing up to experience what Central is all about. It’s a good feeling. It is what makes this place special.”

#### JOBS AT CENTRAL

Jones’ positions began with interim director of residential life, and continued with interim director of student activities, hall director of Scholte, Pietenpol and Hoffman Halls, admission counselor, associate director of admission, instructor of exercise science, assistant football coach, counselor and is currently director of academic support services.

Edwards started as volleyball coach his senior year when it was a club sport. Following graduation he held positions as admission counselor, volunteer football coach, offensive line coach, head baseball coach, hall director of Pietenpol




#### DAVIS FOLKERTS '60

Hometown: Forreston, Ill.; Major: Music

Title: Professor emeritus of music, organist







and Gaass Halls, assistant financial aid director, assistant director of admission, associate director of admission, associate athletics director, interim athletics director — twice, director of the Kuyper Athletics Complex, baseball liaison to the Iowa Conference as well as serving on the national baseball championships committee for four years, and is now special assistant to the athletics director.

#### FROM STUDENT TO FACULTY, MENTEE TO MENTOR

In eighth grade, Davis Folkerts '60 tagged along to Central College for a campus visit with his dad, sister and juniors and seniors in high school from his hometown of Forreston, Ill. While touring campus, the tour guide said, "We understand you play the organ. Would you like to play the Douwstra Chapel organ?" Without hesitation, Folkerts did and knew then he would attend Central College four years later.


Folkerts played the organ for local church services and also directed church choirs while attending Central. He studied organ under Larry Grooters, who suggested they both take more lessons and train with Russell Saunders at Drake University.

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*"The further I got in graduate school, the more I appreciated ... a liberal arts education ... I could write papers and do research much better than most."*

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"I don't know many places in the world where that could've happened," Folkerts said of Grooters' willingness to take a student outside the college for more training. "Very often faculty feel the need to teach their students themselves. Larry was happy to teach me but thought it'd be good for us both to get some wider experience."



#### LIBERAL ARTS IS BENEFICIAL

That extra attention helped Folkerts move on to greater opportunities following graduation. He attended Union Seminary School of Sacred Music in New York. At first, he was concerned about competing with classmates who had years of training at conservatory schools. But, his liberal arts education from Central led him to the head of the pack.

"The further I got in graduate school, the more I appreciated how a liberal arts education does a lot of valuable preparation that the conservatory students with all their hours in music didn't have," he said. "I could write papers and do research much better than most. I found I was really well prepared."

Folkerts was interested in organ and choral work in churches. After completing a master's degree, he went on to New Brunswick Theological Seminary. While there, he played the organ for a church in New Jersey.

After leaving New Brunswick, Folkerts was offered a job at a church in a nearby town and took over the music program. Six months later, he received a call from his freshman-year college roommate who notified him of a job opening for an organ teacher at Jamestown College in North Dakota.

"I always thought about teaching at a college," said Folkerts. "So, I went out on a red-eye flight on a foggy night right after church choir rehearsal. After that visit, I absolutely knew teaching at a college was for me."

He taught at Jamestown for two and a half years.

In February 1967, Folkerts played a recital at Central.

Photo by FJ Gaylor



**MARK BABCOCK '91**

Hometown: Newton, Iowa  
Major: Music; Title: Associate professor of music, director of choral activities





Afterward, the music department along with President Arend Lubbers offered Folkerts a job to be a leave-replacement for Grooters, who was wanting some time off, with plans to expand Central's music department the following year. It was too much for Folkerts to pass up and that fall semester, he was back at Central.

"When I think about how young and arrogant I was at that point, I wonder how it ever worked out," said Folkerts, who wasn't even 30 at the time.

Folkerts notes the time away from Central was beneficial and he felt accepted by his former teachers. He also was comfortable teaching courses.

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*"Faculty here certainly are engaged with students. They are so concerned about students' growth and development ..."*

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#### FOLKERTS' TURN TO MENTOR

During a Newton High School music concert, Folkerts discovered Mark Babcock '91, who was the organist. That very night, Folkerts called Babcock to see where he was in the college search process and convinced him to come to Central for an organ audition.

"I remember very well Mark's audition for scholarship, and we decided he was a person of very great promise. We had no idea how great a promise he would be because when he got here he really took off," said Folkerts.

What Babcock appreciated the most about Central was the intense attention from faculty members.

"Faculty here certainly are engaged with students," he explained. "They are so concerned about students' growth and development in all departments, majors and non-majors. And although I

was coming to major in music, some of the greatest joys I wouldn't have guessed about my education at Central were my non-music classes. It really opened my understanding of the liberal arts and what it means to be well-rounded and have a broad education."

Like Grooters did when Folkerts was a student, Folkerts took Babcock to special seminars and concerts.

"Some of the best things Davis did were outside of the classroom," said Babcock. "Getting me involved in the American Guild of Organists Organization and actually taking me to meetings and off-campus recitals was wonderful."

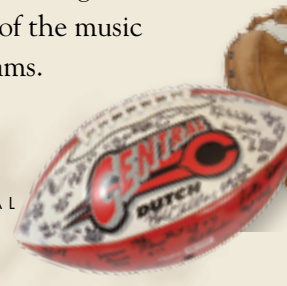
"My work with Mark as an organist was very rewarding and he progressed quickly," said Folkerts. "He was a terrific sponge. Whatever I assigned him, he'd learn quickly because he had a great sense of discipline."

Folkerts convinced Babcock to attend Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J., after graduating from Central. It was a long way from home and a brave move for Babcock, but Folkerts helped him through the audition process and kept in touch.

After Babcock completed a master's degree, he returned to Iowa to teach at Union High School in La Porte City while working as an organist and choir master at First Congregational Church in Waterloo. After three years, Babcock made the move to Cedar Rapids and was director of music at St. Paul's Methodist Church, the largest Methodist church in the state at the time, with 500 people participating in its music program.

#### TRANSITIONS BACK TO CENTRAL

In 1999, Folkerts retired from teaching and Babcock got a call from then-head of the music department, David Williams.







"It never crossed my mind to come back to Central until that phone conversation with David Williams," said Babcock, who mentioned Folkerts' retirement from teaching full time came a lot sooner than he thought it would.

Babcock's transition to Central was a smooth one. Just like when Folkerts returned to Central, the faculty were welcoming and respectful of what Babcock had done and how he evolved since his student days at Central.

All along the way, Folkerts remained a large figure in Babcock's life and continues to work closely with him as organist for the A Cappella Choir, which Babcock directs.

"We respect each other's artistry and musicianship, and are good friends," said Babcock. "We are able to work together really well. Davis is such a gracious man and has made it easy to be a friend, colleague and mentor because he's such a great person."

#### FROM CLASSMATES TO CO-WORKERS

Central College became a commonality for three classmates. Even though Leslie Keuning Duinink '90 hadn't considered college until a Central College student teacher brought it to her attention sophomore year at Monroe High School, she took a look and decided it would be a good move.

"I'm glad I did it. I made lifelong friends along the way," Duinink said about Central.

Jeff McMartin '90 from Grundy Center and Kent Clayberg '90 from Story City were both set on playing football in college.

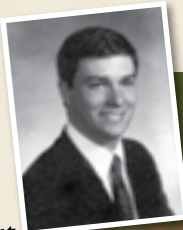
"I was looking for a small liberal arts college and wanted a place where there was positive energy," explained McMartin. "A place where people would get to know me as a person."

Though Clayberg's older brother Brett '85 was a student at Central, Clayberg found himself visiting campus after then football coach Ron Schipper came to his high school.

"We didn't talk about football," said Clayberg. "We talked about what is important in life — integrity, character, being a good leader. While it didn't stroke my 18-year-old ego, there was a passion and purpose to him I just liked."

Clayberg followed up with a campus visit and spoke with Marjorie Giles, associate dean of students, who also talked about Central in the same way.

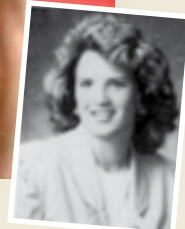
"They came from two very different offices and roles on campus, but what they said was honorable," said Clayberg. "It was nothing an 18-year-old truly understood, but I could sense the passion in Coach Schipper's voice when he talked about Central, and I could sense the passion in Marjorie's when she talked about it. I just felt like this was the place for me."



**JEFF MCMARTIN '90**  
Hometown: Grundy Center, Iowa  
Major: Physical education  
Title: Head football coach, instructor of exercise science



Photo by Paul Gates



**LESLIE KEUNING DUININK '90**  
Hometown: Monroe, Iowa; Majors: History, secondary education  
Title: Head athletic trainer, assistant professor of exercise science





Clayberg and McMartin were only teammates a few days as Clayberg suffered a career-ending injury after six days of practice. McMartin knew Duinink through his future wife Laurie Rieken '90, a housemate and track and field teammate of Duinink's.

#### TEAMWORK

As head football coach, McMartin works closely with Duinink, the head athletic trainer who works primarily with the football team.

"When Jeff introduces me to parents he introduces me as a

classmate," said Duinink. "I think we have that special connection; we all know and love Central. We grew up here and came back."

Duinink, Clayberg and McMartin all teach in the exercise science department. Duinink acknowledges she missed teaching.

"I enjoy teaching, and I had the opportunity here to get back in the classroom," she said. "I love both parts of my job. Without the clinical, you lose your skills. But I also love teaching classes and watching students learn."

McMartin and Clayberg, head volleyball coach, worked together when Clayberg worked in admission. They also talk a lot about recruiting and bounce ideas off of each other.

"Even though we have different schedules and are both coaching fall sports, we have a shared commonality," said Clayberg. "What I saw in Central, I'm certain Jeff and Leslie saw, too. They both display a passion,

not just for the jobs, but also for the place. I don't think it's a surprise we're here coaching and

working in this environment because it was the environment that inspired us."

#### THE CENTRAL EXPERIENCE

"Coming to Central opened me to a whole different world," said Duinink. "I have experiences no one can take away from me."

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*"... I figured out what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. ... there were a lot of people who wanted to help me to where I wanted to go ..."*

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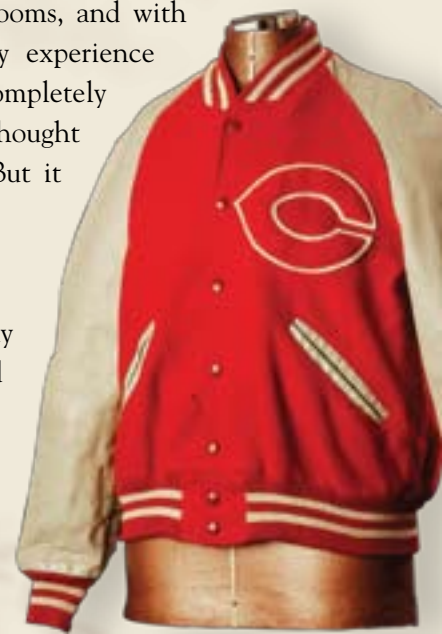
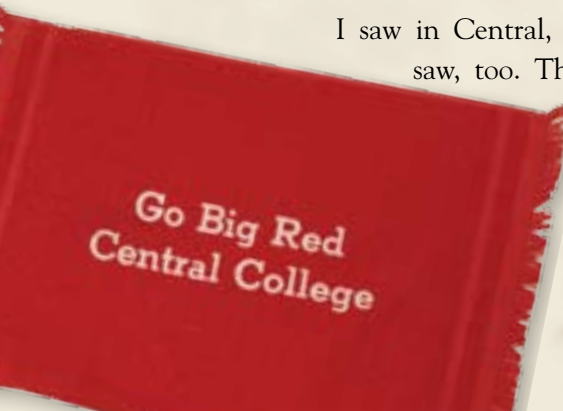
For McMartin, he learned what he wanted to do after graduation through adversity, suffering a broken arm twice during his football career. He ended up being a student coach while his arm was healing.

"Because of a broken arm, I figured out what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," he said. "I also learned there were a lot of people who wanted to help me to where I wanted to go. I developed great friendships and felt very connected to the people on campus."



"Experiences never go exactly how you think they're going to go," said Clayberg who came to realize what Schipper told him earlier would help him get through not solely identifying himself as an athlete. "I came to understand as a young adult athletics isn't the end all be all. It's what we do on the field, in the dorms and classrooms, and with our relationships. My experience at Central was completely different than what I thought it was going to be. But it was 10 times better."

#### COMING HOME

The distance away from Central helped all three develop skills and knowledge







that would help them once they returned as employees. Duinink taught, received an assistantship at Indiana State where she earned a master's degree and worked in different medical clinics before returning to Central to be an athletic trainer and teach in the exercise science department.

"Central College is a different place than when I was a student," said Duinink. "It's hard to pinpoint. And maybe it's just a different perspective because times have changed."

Clayberg also taught and coached before his return, while McMartin had several coaching stints across the Midwest.

"Coach Schipper was here when I was here and you just never see that changing," said McMartin. "I think when you plot out how your life is going to go and you set some goals for yourself, you can't truly predict how things will work out. I've been fortunate and can't imagine being anywhere else."

Clayberg echos, "I loved my time as a student. When I came back and interviewed for an admission job, I walked around campus thinking, 'I'm going to work at Central College — this is the coolest thing ever.' I love this place."

"To me, the best thing about Central right now and back then is the people," said McMartin. "The people make this place. We have a great student body. We have fantastic faculty, administration and great staff and just really high quality people on this campus. They make working, going to school, coaching and playing a great experience. I always say the people make the place and the people here make this a special place."

#### AN OFFICE FULL OF ALUMNI

Most assume the alumni office at Central has alumni working in that department. And, they would be right, but one department on campus is full of Central alumni — the Central College

Abroad office.

It makes sense. Brian Zylstra '92, Annique Brown Kiel '99, Jennifer Stewart Larson '04, Jessica Klyn de Novelo '05 and Maria Hickie '08 know Central's abroad programs first-hand. Each studied on one or more programs while attending Central as a student.

For several, study abroad was a deciding factor in choosing a college.

"Study abroad definitely was a huge draw," said Zylstra, who studied on two programs.

And even though study abroad wasn't initially a deciding factor for others in the office, it is a constant reminder of personal growth. Growing up in the Pella area, Klyn de Novelo wanted to get out and explore the world.



**JENNIFER STEWART LARSON '04**  
Hometown: Lisbon, Iowa  
Major: Communication studies  
Studied abroad: London, England  
Title: Coordinator of institutional relations



**JESSICA KLYN DE NOVELO '05**  
Hometown: Peoria, Iowa; Majors: Art and Spanish; Studied abroad: Merida, Mexico; Hangzhou, China; Title: Senior coordinator of institutional relations





### BRIAN ZYLSTRA '92

Hometown: Rock Valley, Iowa  
Major: German  
Studied abroad: Vienna, Austria;  
Merida, Mexico; Title: Manager  
of on-campus operations

"Although I chose to study at a college in my hometown, Central made it possible for me to travel the world," said Klyn de Novelo. "I got to study, intern and live in Mexico for a year and had the chance to intern in China for a summer. These experiences challenged me and pushed me to grow."

### EYES WIDE OPEN

Each person's experience led to different options and opened up doors in a way they didn't expect.

For Zylstra, studying abroad meant opening his eyes to a career he hadn't originally planned in pursuing. After studying abroad his junior year, he knew he wanted to get involved in international business. He attended American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird) and earned



### MARIA HICKLE '08

Hometown: Grand Mound, Iowa  
Majors: Global political science,  
cultural anthropology  
Studied abroad: London, England;  
Hangzhou, China  
Title: Territory representative

a master's degree. For a time, he worked in Minneapolis, Minn., for an import/export company in the accounting finance department but found he longed for another international



experience and took a job teaching English in Japan for three years. That's what made him realize he wanted to work in international education.

"The study abroad experience itself was the most influential time for me," said Zylstra. "When I was abroad, I was given different opportunities to work and do internships. I don't know if I would have gone abroad or pursued the international field if Central hadn't provided the opportunity."

Some of the employees in Central College Abroad liked their time away so much they studied on more than one program. Kiel studied abroad for a year and a half so her abroad experience overshadows everything.

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*"I felt like I already had seen the world even before leaving Central's campus. ... I remember my eyes opening to what is possible."*

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"When I think about my time at Central, that's what jumps out," she said. "I think I grew a lot and I wasn't really expecting that."

But she also gained valuable knowledge on campus through Central's well-rounded curriculum.

"I felt like I had seen the world even before leaving Central's campus," Kiel said. "I was introduced to new ideas and concepts. I remember my eyes opening to what is possible."

### MAKING THE RETURN

Returning to work at Central after being away for a while can be an overwhelming experience.

"I still get that feeling in my stomach when I come to campus," explained Larson. "When I first came back, I wondered if people would still remember me. Would I still fit in? Is this the same Central? It was an interesting transition to make when I had grown so much."







Dennis Doyle, professor of communication studies, was one of the first people Larson met on campus before her freshman year, and he was one of the first to welcome her back to Central as an employee.

"It's so nice to have relationships with people across campus," Larson said. "I felt more comfortable and more at home knowing I was remembered."

### THE OFFICE NOW

"Being an alumna of Central College and of two of Central's abroad programs is a huge advantage for me as I am able to speak to students from experience and relate to the things they are going through," said Klyn de Novelo. "I remember how nervous I was to board the plane for China, and how excited I was when I realized I was finally able to understand complete phrases in Spanish while I was in Mexico. I can tell the students more specific details about the programs and the locations I wouldn't have been able to learn any other way."

Kiel believes there's a stronger sense of trust with students and parents when they know you've been through what they are about to go through. It also gives parents a sense of comfort.

"It's a very personal experience," she said. "We're effective in recruiting because we're able to talk about what we went through as a student."

It gives the staff credibility because they each chose Central College and chose to go on its study abroad programs.

"I wouldn't be working in international education had it not been for my different opportunities abroad," said Hickle. "It's easy to talk to students about the benefits of the same programs in which we studied and are familiar. Students will have similar opportunities."

### A CHALLENGE

Although having an entire office of Central alumni is beneficial in many ways, the group does see the challenge of not having an outside perspective.

"Those who study through our competitors would perhaps bring new ideas to the table," said Kiel.

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*"When you believe in the institution you work for ... that affects the performance you give. We all want to see Central succeed. ..."*

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However, each had different experiences following graduations, which brings a rich diversity to the office.

"From an outside perspective, we all studied abroad, and we all wanted to work here so that sends a very positive message," she said. "We all had a great experience and believe in it."

Larson believes there's a bond between her and her co-workers since they all shared in the Central College experience. Even though all came from different backgrounds and came to Central for different reasons, there was a common factor, something everyone was looking for that they found in Central College.

"When you believe in the institution you work for I think that affects the performance you give," she said. "We all want to see Central succeed, especially since Central provided us with such positive experiences as students. I wouldn't trade it for anything and I want other students to have a great experience, too. And, I want to do a good job for Central." ■



**ANNIQUE BROWN KIEL '99**  
Hometown: Greenfield, Iowa  
Majors: International studies, French; Studied abroad: Leiden, the Netherlands; Paris, France; Title: Director of institutional relations



## Central College alumni employed by the college January 2009

NAME	DEPARTMENT
Marv Tysseling '51 .....	facilities planning and management
Gary Boeyink '59 .....	athletics
Davis Folkerts '60 .....	music
Tony Hoekstra '61 .....	facilities planning and management
Dave Sutphen '61 .....	development
Ardie Pals Sutphen '64 .....	president's office
Dick Bowzer '65 .....	exercise science/athletics
Jerry Nikkel '66 .....	athletics
Sally McGilvra Baar '71 .....	modern languages/economics/ ..... accounting/management
Tony Bethards '72 .....	dining services
John Edwards '72 .....	athletics
Guy Schwab '72 .....	facilities planning and management
Diane Van Weelden Schuring '72 .....	campus services
Sue Brunscheen Cerwinski '74 .....	admission
Jo Fall Dorenkamp '74 .....	post office/campus security
Louise Roetman Esveld '74 .....	pre-college programs/education
Keith Pothoven '74 .....	IT services
Al Dorenkamp '75 .....	athletics
Mona Schaver Roozeboom '75 .....	business and finance
Valerie Grimsley '76 .....	Central College Abroad
Cathy Hinga Haustein '76 .....	chemistry
Connie Aalbers Marlow '76 .....	development
Ronda Dobson Redman '76 .....	library
Terri Arkema Vander Molen '76 .....	campus services
George Wares '76 .....	athletics/exercise science
Janice Cook '77 .....	English
Jann Freed '77 .....	business management
Grace Scanlan Booth '79 .....	facilities planning and management
Gabriel Espinosa '79 .....	music
Paul Jones '79 .....	development
David Booth '80 .....	facilities planning and management
Jane Vandelaar Dingeman '80 .....	admission
Sue McGilvra Drey '80 .....	campus security
Sheryl Meyer Kamerick '80 .....	controller
Lee Vande Voort '80 .....	IT services
Larry Happel '81 .....	marketing and media relations
Don De Waard '82 .....	athletics
Pamela Simmons Vande Voort '82 .....	education
Carol Nolte Van Weelden '82 .....	IT services
Lynne Larson Steenhoek '83 .....	dining services
Brian Vande Lune '83 .....	communication studies
Peggy Johnson Van Den Berg '83 .....	development
Andrea Busker Van Wyk '84 .....	art/education
Tom De Young '87 .....	facilities planning and management
Matt Diehl '87 .....	Student Support Services
Stephen Fyfe '87 .....	computer science/athletics
Eric Jones '87 .....	academic affairs
Kathy Cashen Thompson '87 .....	development
Terri Snyders Crumley '89 .....	admission/music
Gregg Gustafson '89 .....	Student Support Services
Dawn Stiemsma Reece '89 .....	sociology
Kent Clayberg '90 .....	athletics/exercise science
Leslie Keuning Duinink '90 .....	exercise science/athletics
Jeff McMartin '90 .....	athletics/exercise science
Mark Babcock '91 .....	music
George Clark '91 .....	counseling services
Kevin Den Adel '91 .....	accounting
Mary Dunsmore Robertson '91 .....	Student Support Services
Eric Pingel '92 .....	athletics
Brian Roberts '92 .....	art
Brian Zylstra '92 .....	Central College Abroad
Jean Vander Wert '93 .....	financial aid
Kyle Munson '94 .....	communication studies
Michele Greubel Ramsey '94 .....	mock trial
Connie Henle '95 .....	controller
Dan Alcorn '97 .....	campus security
Matt Paulsen '97 .....	athletics
Cheri Doane '98 .....	service and community-based learning
Charlemagne Gililand Eekhoff '98 .....	music
Jay Rhoten '98 .....	athletics
Sunny Gonzales Eighmy '99 .....	alumni
Annick Brown Kiel '99 .....	Central College Abroad
Ann Van Hemert '00 .....	admission
Reid Evans '01 .....	athletics/marketing and media relations
Jeff Sanger '01 .....	controller
Abby Gonzales '02 .....	marketing and media relations
Kyle Johnson '02 .....	athletics
Cristina Ortiz '02 .....	modern languages
Clint Brown '03 .....	athletics
Monica Jansen '03 .....	campus ministries
Jaci Ray '03 .....	health services
Joe Steinkamp '03 .....	athletics
Kristin Sullivan '03 .....	admission/development
Mary Vande Hoef '03 .....	alumni
Melissa White Anderson '04 .....	admission
Jennifer Stewart Larson '04 .....	Central College Abroad
Jacob Oyen '04 .....	marketing and media relations
Ryan Roy '04 .....	Talent Search
Melissa Miller Brock '05 .....	admission
Jessica Klyn de Novelo '05 .....	Central College Abroad
Jake Fisher '05 .....	athletics
Kyle Halfpop '06 .....	athletics
Drew Sikkink '06 .....	student life
Shea Stamp '06 .....	admission/athletics
Olga Saoutina-Crums '07 .....	facilities planning and management
Sarah Schlager '07 .....	campus ministries
Kelly Harris Dooley '08 .....	AmeriCorps
Maria Hickle '08 .....	Central College Abroad
Scott Paja '08 .....	admission
Austen Schueler '08 .....	athletics
Nick Rohner '08 .....	athletics





# Homecoming/Family Weekend 2008





## Change and continuity at Central: What is new and what is not?

by Dawn Stiemsma Reece '89, associate professor of sociology

When people find out I was a student at Central, they often ask, “What is it like to teach at your alma mater?” I am not sure what answer they expect, but many are surprised when I begin to tell them, to me, in some key ways it is not really the same place. Let me explain.

The actual campus I walked on in the late 1980s was dramatically different.

The physical changes to the campus are striking. When I was on campus we sat on the hard, linoleum covered steps inside the student union. It was the place to congregate — a place to see and be seen. Now instead of sitting on steps, students lounge on modern chairs and congregate around pleather couches in the Maytag Center. If we wanted to work out we would have to walk down to the “tin can” shack outside the gym that housed a few free weights and stationary bikes

or do aerobics (which were very hot back then) in the student union basement. There was no fitness center fully equipped with exercise balls, elliptical machines and a great stereo system. Good coffee on campus was unheard of. Now I go to the Café@Geisler where I get my skinny, iced, caramel latte located in what used to be called the fishbowl — a 24-hour study site. It doesn’t end there. Since my days on campus, we have new student living spaces, a LEED-certified science center, a new cafeteria, more parking spaces, a peace pole and a native plant garden. Don’t worry; although the bridge is new, the pond is still the pond, beautiful from a distance and a murky brownish-green up close.

Of course, there are also the massive technological updates which have changed the campus. I have a picture from my days in Scholte Hall, in which I am sitting in the small phone booth on fourth floor. That’s right, the one and only phone for all the girls on our side of the dorm. Popularity was in some ways determined by how many phone calls you got and how much time you spent in the booth. No cell phones, no text messages. It is amazing we stayed connected to anyone.

Student ID to  
faculty ID for  
Dawn Stiemsma  
Reece '89. ►





## Dawn Stiemsma Reece '89

### Associate professor of sociology

- Grew up in Hospers and Rock Valley, Iowa
- Earned a bachelor's degree from Central College
- Participated in Central's Abroad Program (Merida)
- Earned a master's and doctorate from Iowa State University
- Spent five years as a research associate at The Center for Family Research at ISU
- Started teaching at Central in 1998
- Teaches Principles of Sociology, Sociology of the Family, Minority Groups, Sociology of Gender and Methods of Social Research
- Lives in Pleasant Hill with husband Jeff and six-year-old daughter Celia

Back then, the library was a popular and crowded place because it had computers and those were hard to find. Computers on campus have gone from slow and scarce to wireless, portable and omnipresent. By this time I am sure you are thinking, wow that really was a long time ago!

Next, being a good sociologist, I often launch into a discussion of how a social structure like Central can be viewed through different lenses depending on a person's status or position. Central is not the same because my position within the institution is not the same. As a student I viewed things from strictly a student's standpoint. I was concerned about getting work done for my classes, our next intramural match, how to get into the housing we wanted, and the food (please tell me it was food) served at the cafeteria. I was less exposed to the politics within and across departments, budget issues, committee work, and the history, both academic and religious, of the institution. Now, as a professor I view the institution through different, and yes, more wrinkled, but hopefully wiser eyes.

However, the conversation doesn't end there. Let me tell you how Central is still the same place I began to love years ago. When I came to Central from

small-town Iowa, I had a lot to learn. The professors I had in class met me where I was intellectually, spiritually, academically and emotionally. They were an interesting, curious (in a good way) and passionate bunch making it exciting and even fun to learn. A few of those professors became true mentors. Central professors encouraged me to dream bigger (graduate school) and go farther (Mexico). They challenged me to write well and think critically. I was given a safe place to practice my skills and refine my ideas. I learned my faith wasn't a liability when studying sociology, but it could be an asset. I learned the value of multiple perspectives. I was exposed to the qualities of a liberal arts education and I embraced them as my own.

This is how I believe Central is the same. Buildings have been remodeled and cell phones are essential, but relationships between teacher and student can still be personal, developmental and caring. At Central, the spirit of the liberal arts continues to inspire, inform and enrich young lives. When I receive e-mails from students saying how Central prepared them well for the real worlds of work and family, when they send me their wedding invitations and then pictures of their



Photo by Paul Gates

▲ Dawn Stiemsma Reece '89 has fond memories as a student and makes more as a faculty member.

babies, when they inform me they are outperforming their peers in graduate-level courses, and most certainly when they thank me for the investment I made in them — then I know the essence of Central, my Central, lives on. ■

# Award winners

CENTRAL COLLEGE HOMECOMING 2008

## ALUMNI AWARDS

Annual alumni awards were presented as part of Homecoming/Family Weekend festivities Sept. 20. The Alumni Achievement winner was Bernadette Allen '78. Members of the band Third Floor John received the Alumni Stewardship and Service Award. Chuck '50 and Bernice Heerema Vander Ploeg '50 were named Mr. and Mrs. Alumni. Pella Community Foundation received the Fellowship of Service Award. Mike Farquhar '94 was honored as the Young Alumni Achievement Award winner, and Harold and Esther Molenaar became honorary alumni of the college. Full biographies are available online at [www.central.edu/go/alumniawards](http://www.central.edu/go/alumniawards).



Bernadette Allen

### ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*Bernadette Allen '78*

The alumni achievement award is presented to an alumna who has displayed exceptional achievements in a professional career. Bernadette Allen '78, the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Niger, was this year's recipient.

A career foreign service officer at the U.S. Department of State, Allen was commissioned into U.S. diplomatic service in January 1980. Nominated by President Bush in October 2005, to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Niger, she was sworn in as ambassador in March 2006. She has served in various capacities on assignments in Asia, Africa and the Western Hemisphere, as well as domestic assignments at the U.S. Department of State.

Allen earned a bachelor's degree in French civilization and linguistics. She completed a master's in human resources management from George Washington University in 1989.

### ALUMNI STEWARDSHIP & SERVICE AWARD

*Third Floor John — Ted Grubb '74, Steve Mark '76, Steve McCombs '74, Todd Shusterman '74 and Terry Van Zee '74*

Members of the band Third Floor John received the alumni stewardship and service award. This award is given to those providing exceptional stewardship and service to the college and demonstrating the spirit of the mission of Central College in stewardship and service in their environments.

In 1997, Steve Mark became involved with a charitable organization called Songs of Love, devoted to providing personalized songs to youth facing difficult medical challenges. The band members learned of the foundation and listened to recordings of the songs Mark wrote for children. They assembled at Mark's recording studio a year later to write and record for Songs of Love. This summer, members met for the fourth time and completed another round of songs.

Mark became a recording engineer and producer and has worked with scores of musicians in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and produced his solo album with original songs. He owns and operates a successful production business called Applause Audio Video in Arlington.

Steve McCombs has taught at Pella Community Schools since 1989 and is in charge of the percussion program at the high school. He directs two bands, teaches lessons at all levels, has a private studio and is an affiliate instructor at a nearby college.

Since 1979, Todd Shusterman has taught in Rockville Centre, N.Y. He directs three concert bands, a small marching band and a jazz group and performs on weekends.

Ted Grubb received a doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Massachusetts and moved to Colorado Springs in 1981. After 15 years in clinical practice, he works for the Center for Creative Leadership, a non-profit organization that provides leadership development training and consultation.

For the last 25 years, Terry Van Zee of Urbandale, Iowa, has been a salesperson and director of service for Prairie Pella Inc. Van Zee has also been involved with his church, international missions and various civic organizations.



Steve Mark, Todd Shusterman, Terry Van Zee, Ted Grubb and Steve McCombs



Chuck and Bernice Heerema Vander Ploeg



## MR. AND MRS. ALUMNI AWARD

*Chuck '50 and Bernice Heerema*

*Vander Ploeg '50*

Chuck '50 and Bernice Heerema Vander Ploeg '50 of Pella were named Mr. and Mrs. Alumni this year. Mr. and Mrs. Alumni is awarded to a couple who are Central College alumni and have enthusiastically supported the mission of the college.

Chuck graduated from Drake Law School in 1953. He was an insurance adjuster for Farm Bureau and worked at Pella National Bank for 33 years. After many mergers and what is now known as U.S. Bank, he remains on the board.

Bernice was secretary for Pella Products and a part-time nursery school teacher.

Both have been active attendees at many Central, church and community events over the years. The Vander Ploegs have 30 immediate family members who attended Central College.

## FELLOWSHIP OF SERVICE AWARD

*Pella Community Foundation*

The Fellowship of Service Award is given to Pella area organizations, which have provided significant support to the college to enhance its educational mission. Pella Community Foundation received the award this year.

The foundation's main purpose is to enhance the quality of life for people living in Pella by transferring funds from those who donate to the foundation, into the nonprofit organizations that can directly help others. Established in 1992 under the leadership of Ken Weller, former president of Central College, the foundation has made 262 grants to 61 different organizations totaling \$472,000 in the past 16 years, including over \$20,000 worth of support for Central. Weller retired this year, and Jim Brandl '65 is now president of PCF.

The Pella Community Foundation supported Central College initiatives including Fiesta Mexicana, a program at Central that placed Latino performers

into the Pella schools, the library, Shakespeare Festival and other programs.

## YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

**AWARD** *Mike Farquhar '94*

Mike Farquhar '94 received the Young Alumni Achievement Award, designed for an alumnus who has graduated from Central College in the last 15 years and has demonstrated significant professional and personal accomplishments since graduation.

Farquhar earned a bachelor's degree in accounting, obtained a CPA certificate and joined Pella Corporation in 1995. As director of operations, he was responsible for the assembly and supply plants at the Pella site, as well as the custom product manufacturing plant in Shenandoah, Iowa.

Over a year ago, Farquhar was named president and chief operating officer (COO) of EFCO, a Pella Company, in Monett, Mo. As EFCO president and COO, Farquhar has responsibility for all functional areas of the EFCO business including manufacturing, sales and marketing.

While living in Pella for 17 years, he was a volunteer EMT and coached youth sports. He serves on Central's National Advisory Council, economics/accounting/management department advisory council and volunteers as a student mentor.

## HONORARY ALUMNI DESIGNATION

*Harold and Esther Molenaar*

The 2008 Honorary Alumni are Harold and Esther Molenaar of Holland, Mich. This award celebrates the Molenaars' involvement with the college's programs, their financial support, and expressed interest in and dedication to the college's well-being.

Harold, a 1952 graduate of Kalamazoo Christian High School and a 1956 graduate of Hope College, received a degree in business administration. Harold served nine years on the Central College Board of Trustees.

Esther is a 1951 graduate of Kalamazoo Christian High School. Esther was a stay-at-home mother, and spent 15 years as manager in the development office of Hope College.

Long-time Central Club members, the Molenaars are members of the Cornerstone Society at Central and are on the Heritage Roll of Honor. Their generous financial support has assisted many students over the years. ■

Photos by Dan Vander Beek

Pella  
Community  
Foundation,  
Ken Weller  
and  
Jim Brandl



Mike  
Farquhar



Harold  
and  
Esther  
Molenaar



# A true liberal arts education

by Lucy Thoms '12

John Dewey said, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." As a student just beginning my four years at Central College, this resonates with me as I begin my higher educational journey. When I walk across the stage to receive my diploma in May 2012, my education will be far from over. I want my liberal arts education to help me prepare for the life I have ahead of me.

As part of my liberal arts education, I hope to have professors who are dedicated to teaching and helping me learn. I want my professors to be interested in my education. I will get much more out of my time at Central if professors take an active role to help me realize my dreams and how to achieve them. I believe I'll find this at Central. Central's small class sizes make professors more available to students, and the classes give professors more opportunities to be thoroughly involved with student learning. The first line of the college's mission statement reads, "Central College is a residential liberal arts college dedicated to helping students discover and develop their greatest potential." I think that line says it all — the people I encounter at Central will push me to be more and go farther than I ever dreamed.

Being truly educated means being able to communicate effectively. By the time I leave Central, I hope to have the tools for communicating with the world around me. William Cronon lists qualities each student should have like listening and hearing, reading and understanding,



Photo by Paul Gates

▲ Freshman Lucy Thoms wrote an essay about what she expects from Central.

talking with anyone, and nurturing and empowering people. I want to leave as a confident young adult ready to do anything and work with anyone. Having the ability to effectively communicate with others will help me throughout my entire life, whether it is for professional or personal reasons.

The biggest thing I want to gain from my liberal arts education is the ability to see the world and all of its wonderful opportunities. While the world can seem to be a sad, hopeless place, I believe there really is somewhere out there where each of us will find our niche. For my liberal arts education to be deemed successful, I need to experience the wonderful things in life. I also believe I have to experience hard situations to teach me some of life's

lessons. I want to be challenged and put to the test. That way, when I have made it through, I will know I have succeeded and have become a better person for it.

A liberal arts education is more than just reading required books and taking tests. It is about learning every single day of our lives. Learning does not end when we receive a diploma. Education means being pushed to be more by the people around you, communicating, and getting through the challenges to experience the happiness of life. ■

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Lucy Thoms is a freshman from Alden, Iowa.

This is a portion of a paper she wrote Sept. 15 for Intersections, a required course for all first-year students designed to introduce students to the intellectual life at a liberal arts college.



## INTERSECTIONS ART – PERSONALIZE YOUR MASTERPIECE



◀ Artist David Williamson unveiled an Intersections sculpture Dec. 4 in Maytag Student Center's atrium. The piece is titled "Personalize Your Masterpiece."

All parts of the sculpture are recycled trash from Lake Red Rock except the base. Each Intersections class contributed to the design. Students also assisted in creating the piece, twisting and bending the metal until they were content with the shapes and forms they created. Pieces not used for the sculpture, such as old farm tires, were sent to the Boone County Landfill for recycling.

Earlier this fall, Central displayed Williamson's art exhibition featuring sculptures of recycled scrap metal collected during Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition) and a volunteer riverside clean-up project sponsored by Iowa's Department of Natural Resources.