

CENTRAL

BULLETIN SUMMER '10



Central's 21st
president,
**Mark
Putnam**



December

December 2009, the Central College Board of Trustees was pleased to announce the election of Dr. Mark Putnam as the 21st president of the college. While the search committee reviewed many capable candidates, at the conclusion of the process, it was clear that the capabilities Mark possesses were most consistent with the qualities the board desired for our new president. Elsewhere in this issue you will see Mark's credentials and the broad background he brings to Central.

Following the board meeting where Mark was chosen as our new president, Mike Orr '69, chair of the search committee; Lanny Little '74, vice chair of the board; and I travelled to Boston, Mass., to meet with Mark, offer him the presidency, and outline our thoughts for priorities over the first year of his presidency. As we spent the afternoon in discussion, all of us became more and more excited about the possibilities that lie before Central. We all recognize nationally we're in the midst of significant change in higher education, but given Central's strong foundation and the creative spirit of faculty and staff, we know we are poised to continue on our journey from good to great. Those of us on the board came away from the meeting even more convinced we had chosen the right person.

Shortly after accepting the position, Mark and his family came to Pella to meet with David Roe, and together they laid out a transition plan to fully prepare Mark for his new responsibilities. Since that initial meeting, Mark travelled to campus at least once a month and met with faculty, staff, student groups, trustees and local alumni. He has journeyed to Washington, D.C., to meet with members of the Iowa delegation, and he met with other presidents of both Iowa and RCA colleges as well as church leaders. He immersed himself in meetings, reports and discussions in order to be fully prepared to assume the presidency. He and his family even donned Dutch garb and thoroughly enjoyed Tulip Time this spring.

In addition to the experience on his resumé, Mark brings a broad view of higher education, a keen intelligence and a curious and insightful mind. He and Tammy are warm and caring and enjoy being with people. Together with their daughters, Emma and Greta, they have fallen in love with Pella and the Midwest. In the next few months, Mark and Tammy will attend a number of events to meet alumni and friends of the college, and I hope you all will take these opportunities to welcome our vibrant new first family.

David Wesselink '64
Chairperson of the board of trustees



▲ David Wesselink '64 (left), chairperson of the board of trustees, introduces President Mark Putnam.

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Central College bids farewell to the class of 2010 at commencement.

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President Mark Putnam

Photo by Paul Gates

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The class of 2010 raises funds to restore the Central College arbor.



Junior pitcher Kiley Lythberg threw five shut outs this season.

Photo by Dan Vander Beek

Sketch by Kathryn Mabree '10

Photo by Dan Vander Beek

I N T H I S I S S U E

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

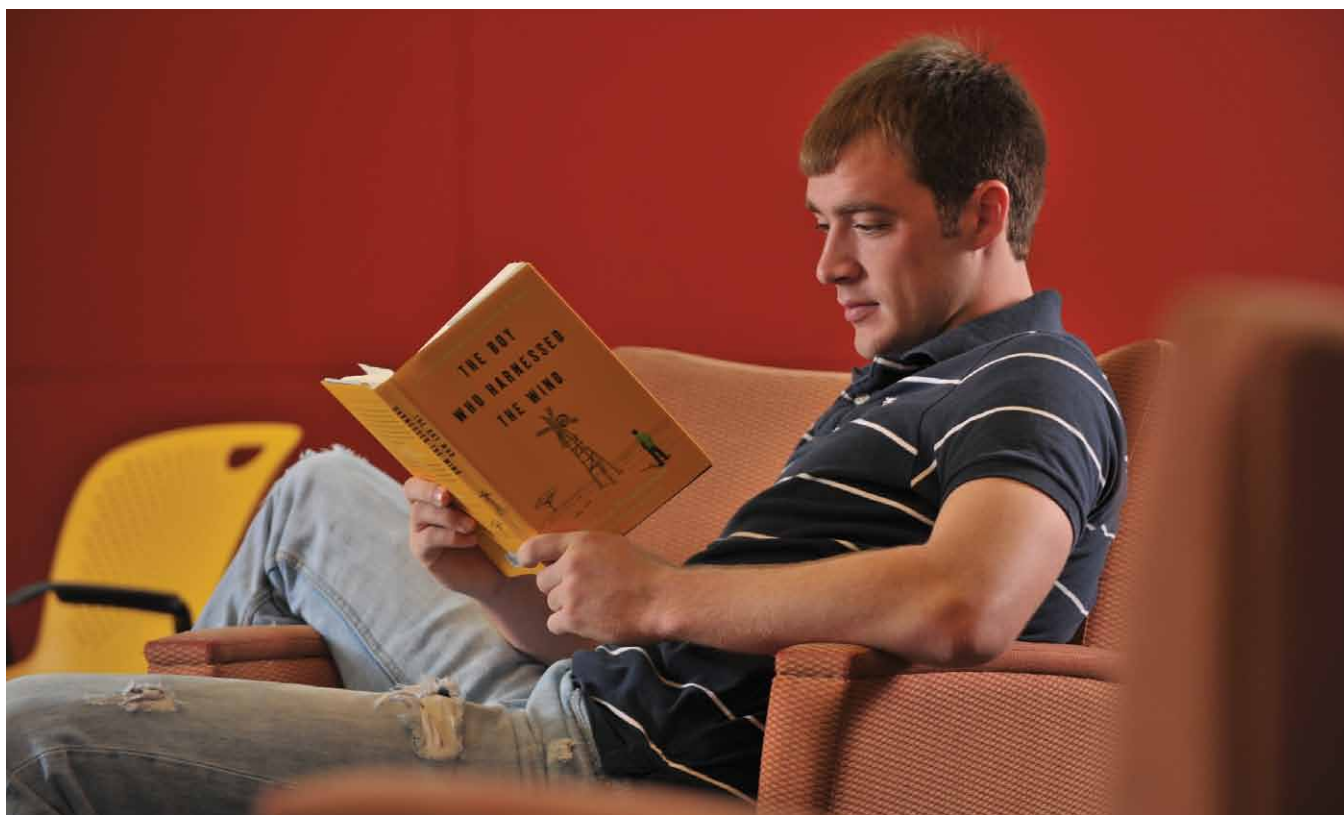


Photo by Paul Gates

The Central College community will come together with this year's common read *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*.

This fall semester's common read for Intersections, a required first-year experience course, is *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. Bryan Mealer, African correspondent for the Associated Press, will be on campus Thursday, Oct. 21, for a morning convocation, book-signing, roundtable lunch with selected students, and an evening Writers Reading session.

Kamkwamba, a young man from Malawi born into poverty, was forced

to leave school to work on the family farm. He shares his story of how he built a windmill from scratch based on a few pictures from outdated science textbooks, using abandoned tractor parts and half of a bicycle, and successfully generated electricity and running water for his family. Kamkwamba is a first-year student at Dartmouth College.

BIOCHEMISTRY MAJOR ADDED

Central will offer a biochemistry major starting this fall. The new major serves as

great preparation for students interested in a variety of careers including biochemistry, biotechnology, pharmacology, agricultural science and pre-professional programs in medicine, dentistry and optometry.

"Our chemistry department follows guidelines of the American Chemical Society so biochemistry majors receive instruction comparable to that at larger institutions while benefiting from individualized attention that is the hallmark of Central College," said James Shriver, associate professor of chemistry.

2010 SENIOR CLASS RESTORES 1955 SENIOR GIFT

The class of 2010, combined with a special challenge gift and pledges, raised \$3,032 to resurrect the Central College arbor, the original gift from the class of 1955. Due to construction and campus updates, it was taken down but kept in storage. The money was used to refurbish and install the arbor, which is on the northeast side of the chapel.

HUFFMAN'S INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AWARD

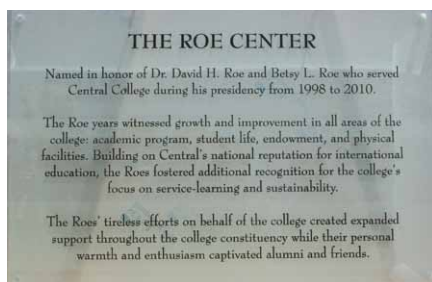
Don Huffman endowed an international studies scholarship in memory of his wife, the late Maxine F. Huffman, professor of biology and English at Central from 1953-96. Scholarships will be awarded to Central and/or co-op students participating in the college's study abroad program. International and cross-cultural studies became a major interest of Maxine and Don, professor emeritus of biology. This scholarship is supported by friends, colleagues and family members of Maxine Huffman.

THE ROE CENTER

Central College's newest academic building, home of the education, psychology and communication studies departments, as well as Central's nation-



Central's newest building was dedicated in May, honoring Betsy and David Roe.



ally honored community-based service-learning program and the college's new Center for Global Sustainability, has a new name. In honor of former President David and Betsy Roe, the building, which opened last fall, is now the Roe Center. The central college board of trustees approved the naming at their spring meeting and the building was dedicated May 14.

For the past 12 years, David Roe

served as president of Central College. David, along with wife Betsy, launched Central on a trajectory of good to great, creating a multifaceted focus on sustainability, which is now a central part of the college's ethos. The newest building on campus was awarded a platinum rating, the highest rating from the U.S. Green Building Council for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. ■

FACULTY AWARDS

Central College honored faculty members with awards at the 2010 faculty recognition reception April 26.

sociology

- David Crichton Memorial Award — Jim Zaffiro, professor of political science
- Huffman Award for Outstanding Support of International Education — Sam Mate-Kodjo, associate professor of Spanish
- Hutch Bearce Community Building and Faculty Leadership Award — Robert Franks, interim chief academic officer and professor of mathematics and computer science
- John Wesselink Awards for Outstanding Performance
 - Professional Growth and Development — Keith Ratzlaff, professor of English; Gabriel Espinosa '79, associate professor of music

- Institutional Service Award — Russ Goodman, associate professor of mathematics
- Effective Teaching — Nicole Kaplan, associate professor of French; Mary Jo Sodd, professor of theatre

Faculty retirees were Linda Blatt, associate professor of English; Dick Bowzer '65, associate professor of exercise science; Carol Lei Breckenridge, Joan Farver professor of music; Paula Lee, instructor of education; and Vivian Rippentrop, assistant vice president for institutional planning.

Two faculty members were inducted into the Heritage Club for 25 years of service to the college: Keith Ratzlaff, professor of English, and Millie Vande Kieft, adjunct instructor of education.

Afghanistan School Supply Drive



Kyle Dykstra '06 spearheaded a school supply drive for students in Afghanistan.



In late 2009, Sgt. Kyle Dykstra '06 and the 82nd Airborne Division began a 12-month deployment to Afghanistan. They were sent to Fire Base Tycz located just outside of Deh Rawood, Uruzgan Province, to help train the Afghan National Police. While on patrol in November, the troop talked with locals and found they were in need of educational supplies necessary for schools. Dykstra quickly called home to his family in Iowa to see if they would be interested in sending school supplies. With the help of his father, Dave '80, and Central College, the response was overwhelming.

During January and February, Central alumni and students gathered supplies in various ways. At Central's annual alumni

day event in February, alumni brought school supplies as donations. Students publicized the collection that generated an outpouring of support for Dykstra's vision. Groups such as the Education Club, Psi Sigma Tau, Sigma Phi Omega, Graham and Pietenpol/Hoffman Hall Councils and Central Volunteer Center, donated several hundred dollars worth of supplies. Campus Activities Board donated a portion of its Charity Ball proceeds to defray the overwhelming shipping costs. The Pella community got involved with Second Reformed Church, St. Mary's Catholic Church and the Pella High School yearbook staff collecting supplies.

More than 50 boxes were mailed,

totaling over 1,530 pounds of supplies. Included in the boxes were 173 backpacks filled with 6,000 pencils, 800 notebooks and 2,450 pens as well as rulers, pencil sharpeners, erasers, glue, scissors and crayons. Additional supplies were provided to teachers in the Afghan schools. Dykstra worked with the Civil Affairs officer and the local Afghan National Police to set up distribution centers.

This effort that started as a single idea by one alumnus grew into an incredible act of service that united Central students, staff, alumni and the greater Pella community.

VAN HEMERT '00 NAMED ALUMNI DIRECTOR



Ann Van Hemert '00 was named director of alumni relations in June. Previously, Van Hemert worked in the admission office at Central,

most recently as associate director of admission.

"After serving the college in the admission office the last eight years, I am excited for the opportunity to take on a different role at Central," said Van Hemert. "Our alumni are the foundation

for Central's history and future. I see the positive impact alumni relationships have on Central, and I look forward to being a part of those connections."

Van Hemert is a native of Waverly. ■

BEEP BEEP!



Take your Central spirit on the road! Order your Central College license plates at www.iowadot.gov/mvd/ovs/plates/private.htm or go directly to your Iowa county treasurer's office. Fees are \$25 for a numbered plate and \$50 for a personalized plate with a \$5 annual validation fee.

ONCE YOU HAVE YOUR CENTRAL PLATES, SEND US YOUR PICTURES!

Go to www.central.edu/alumni/plates for more photos.

Dutch shatter baseball season victories mark

Photo by Dan Vander Beek



Junior outfielder Jarred Lackey was named third-team all-Central Region and all-Iowa Conference. He drove in a record 52 runs this season.

Central landed a record seven players on the all-Iowa Conference baseball squad as the Dutch established a new season wins record with a 27-13 mark and broke 19 school records. Not bad for a team picked to finish sixth in the league.

Junior right fielder Jarred Lackey of Somerton, Ariz., and sophomore shortstop Mike Furlong of Davenport, Iowa, were among the most decorated as each were third-team all-Central Region honorees as well as all-conference picks. Lackey hit .399 and drove in a record 52 runs. Furlong batted a team-high .401 and scored a record 57 runs. Each had 63 hits.

Senior second baseman Ben Tressel of Dubuque, Iowa, ranks first in school history in career runs (150) and second in career hits (180).

The Dutch placed third in league play at 15-8, earning a berth in the conference tournament.

SECOND STRAIGHT LEAGUE MEN'S TRACK CROWN FOR CENTRAL

Central won back-to-back Iowa Conference men's track and field championships, for 12 team league crowns in the past 20 years. The Dutch dominated with 210 points to Wartburg's 120 after earlier securing the school's first indoor conference title as well. Decathletes Kurtis Brondyke, a junior from Clinton, Iowa, and sophomore Ethan Miller of

Seymour, Iowa, shared league MVP honors after each placed in five events, winning two. Central claimed seven event titles overall.

Meanwhile, the Central women took third for their seventh top-three finish in the past eight seasons.

Ten Dutch athletes earned all-America honors 12 times in five events at the NCAA Division III championships at Berea, Ohio. The Central men tied for 17th in the national team standings, the program's 14th top-25 team finish and the ninth top-20 showing in the past 18 years.

Miller was fourth in the NCAA long jump, while finishing eighth in the decathlon. Brondyke was fifth in the decathlon. The 4x100-meter relay team of senior Mitch Morris of Naples, Fla.; freshman Logan Danko of Centerville, Iowa; sophomore Kyle Wood of Newton, Iowa; and sophomore Allen Scovel of Runnells, Iowa; placed sixth. And the 4x400-meter relay unit of Wood; senior Jordan Gegner of Martensdale, Iowa; senior Luke Bolander of Des Moines and senior Matt Patrick of Dallas Center, Iowa; took eighth.

For the Dutch women, junior Jill Ziskovsky of Dallas Center, Iowa, was one of three Central national qualifiers in the heptathlon and finished fifth.

Second-year coach Joe Dunham was voted conference coach of the year. Miller was the Central Region Division III field athlete of the year, while associate head coach Guy Mosher was the national assistant coach of the year.

CENTRAL CLAIMS 28TH LEAGUE MEN'S GOLF TITLE

Despite a mid-year coaching change, the Central men's golf team did what it does best by winning its 28th Iowa Conference championship.

Clint Brown '03, part-time assistant, was thrust into the interim head coaching job following the January resignation of Charlie Estabrook after 12 highly successful seasons.

The Dutch were wire-to-wire leaders in the 72-hole league tournament, breaking it open on the final day for a comfortable 11-shot advantage over Luther. Central placed four players in the top 11.

That gave the Dutch their 29th NCAA Division III tournament berth. They tied for 17th place at the meet in Hershey, Pa.

Team MVP Andrew Townsend, a senior from Bettendorf, Iowa, finished third at the conference tourney and tied for 32nd at the national meet. Senior Justin Smool of Bagley, Iowa, shared 34th place at the NCAA meet. Townsend also was tabbed for the Cleveland Golf/Srixon All-America Scholars team with a 3.52 grade point average.

Chad Green, previously a coach at Division II Maryville Univ. (Mo.) takes over as Central's head coach in the fall.

CENTRAL RETURNS TO NCAA SOFTBALL TOURNEY

A youthful Central softball squad was back on familiar ground, earning the program's 22nd NCAA Division III tournament berth.

The Dutch cracked the 30-win mark for the 21st time at 30-14.

Junior first baseman Katie Tenboer of Morrison, Ill., became the 20th Central softball player to receive all-America recognition and was presented the Iowa Conference Outstanding Position Player Award as well. Tenboer set a new school record with 40 runs batted in while batting .381 and belting eight home runs.

Sophomore second baseman Angela Davis of West Des Moines was a second-team all-Midwest Region honoree, batting .381 with a record nine triples and a glossy .993 fielding percentage, helping turn 12 double plays.

Junior pitcher Kiley Lythberg of Mount Prospect, Ill., was a third-team all-region honoree with a 19-9 record and a 2.47 earned run average. She tossed five shutouts and also batted .360 with six homers and 31 RBIs.

2010 DUTCH FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sept. 4	Wis.-Oshkosh	1 p.m.
Sept. 11	at Augustana (Ill.)	6 p.m.
Sept. 18	Dubuque	1 p.m.
Sept. 25	at Coe	1 p.m.
Oct. 2	at Cornell	1 p.m.
Oct. 9	Simpson*	1 p.m.
Oct. 16	at Luther	1 p.m.
Oct. 23	Loras	1 p.m.
Oct. 30	at Buena Vista	1 p.m.
Nov. 6	Wartburg	1 p.m.
*Homecoming/Family Weekend		

Defending Iowa Conference champion Central faces some major hurdles in kicking off the 2010 football campaign.

Central opens at home Sept. 4, taking on a Wis.-Oshkosh squad that will likely appear in some preseason Division III rankings, then tackles perennial power Augustana (Ill.) at Rock Island Sept. 11 before beginning conference play.

YOUNG MEN'S TENNIS SQUAD RALLIES

Fourth place felt pretty good to the Central men's tennis team.

Sights were set higher at the start of the year, but the team's No. 1 player, senior Luke Boyd of Fort Dodge, Iowa, was sidelined by illness and missed the last half of the season. That forced an unexpected lineup adjustment at every spot and suddenly a 9-4 squad dropped eight of nine matches.

The Dutch entered the Iowa Conference tournament as the No. 5 seed. Yet just 10 days after getting rocked at Cornell 8-1 in the regular-season finale, the Dutch met the Rams in the tournament's opening round and roared back for a 5-4 victory. Central closed at 11-14 overall, but claimed fourth in the league under second-year coach Steve Tyler, who appears to have his squad headed for loftier heights in the years ahead. Freshman Pat Daly of Shawnee, Kan., took first place in flight C of the conference individual tournament. ■





The Inaugural Year: Horizons of Opportunity

There are certain seasons in the life of an academic community when it is timely to think about what matters most. The beginning of a new presidency offers a fresh opportunity to consider direction, clarify purpose and ensure the best possible outcomes for the college and its students. President Mark Putnam plans to make the most of it by cultivating the fertile soil of the institution to create new ideas, finding ways to innovate and sustain the upward growth of Central College.

The environmental conditions for Central College are changing. New fields of study are emerging at the intersections of academic disciplines. Global experiential learning is reshaping the higher education landscape. Societal challenges are stimulating a new kind of activism among students who want to impact the world. The inaugural year of this presidency presents a rich array of opportunities to think about Central College's past, present and future by defining what its potential could be.

To make the most of the opportunities during the first year of transition, Putnam's presidential inauguration will be unlike most in higher education. Although there will be an inauguration on campus Friday, Oct. 22, Putnam has created a year-long experience for the entire academic community which will incorporate different types of events and activities to generate fresh ideas about the future and will emphasize the active engagement of participants.

The theme is titled The Inaugural Year: Horizons of Opportunity and is an intensive experience of expression, reflection, discussion, and even debate. It will enable participants to explore issues, challenges and opportunities at a deeper level, setting the stage for an intellectual and strategic renewal. Accordingly, a yearlong, collaborative learning experience is a much more meaningful level of engagement for an academic community focusing on a new horizon in partnership with key stakeholders.

The events and activities for the inaugural year are anchored by an intellectual framework. Lectures on campus will be supplemented by opportunities to spend time with authors and presenters on key topics. Learning experiences that enable members of the campus community to see different perspectives and explore new ideas will be developed. Social activities will be intentional in building community dialogue, common experiences and a shared vocabulary. The visual and performing arts will provide ways to express our thoughts differently. In each arena, the goal is to foster an environment of inquiry that will encourage participants to examine the core values of the college and envision ways in which those ideals can be affirmed and articulated in new ways.

"It's time to think broadly and deeply about the future," said Putnam. "Imagine a future that is rooted in creativity, innovation and sustainability."

Creating a new start





building on tradition

Mark Putnam, Central College's 21st president, started his appointment July 1. Prior to coming to Central, he was senior vice president for executive affairs at Northeastern University in Boston, Mass., where he took on a succession of leadership roles over 10 years. He also held key administrative posts at Connecticut College and Alliance Theological Seminary. Putnam earned a master's degree and doctorate from Columbia University (N.Y.), and a bachelor's degree from Nyack College (N.Y). Mark and wife Tammy have two daughters, Emma, a sophomore at Northeastern University, and Greta, an eighth grader.

A QUIET PLAN

Halloween weekend marked the beginning, and Operation Tulip was underway. A detailed, color-coded schedule was distributed to each member of the family. Its purpose was to guide a complex set of logistics that made two trips to Pella from Boston possible in one week. The first was to be an undercover trip — a chance to check the place out. The second an extensive interview process that would eventually lead the Putnam family to Central.

Operation Tulip was top secret. Information was shared on a need-to-know basis only. Mark and Tammy to and from airports and hotels; Emma riding trains in and out of Boston to care for details at home; Greta to school, gymnastics and dance; and one friend, Pam, who would be the link to making everything work, including care for the dogs, Hazel and Sophie.

A STEALTH VISIT

Heading to Central without drawing attention to the visit was intended to help the Putnams gain an authentic sense of place. What is this college really like?

Wandering through campus and the community on Saturday provided an opportunity to observe some of the most basic things — the size and feel of Central, its close connection to the downtown area, and the sense of warmth in the life of the campus.

Stopping by the football game to join enthusiastic parents and fans, the Putnams got a glimpse of what Central College is about. Not only was this an impressive, winning program, but the fans, the students and the facilities pointed to a strong sense of pride in the college.

"We spoke to very few people during those few days — not because we were avoiding



Meet Emma

"Last year I was able to take a 30-minute train ride south of Boston to my home. The fact that my family will be 21 hours away will be a big adjustment for me in the fall. But, now I have an excuse to tell my parents to send me care packages!"

- ♦ Graphic design major at Northeastern University.
- ♦ Would like to possibly move to Iowa or the Midwest after graduation to be closer to family; plans to use Skype on her computer to communicate with them.
- ♦ Wants to travel the world.
- ♦ Loves to dance and paint.

conversation, but because we were trying to feel more than interact,” Mark Putnam said. “We were seeking to understand the culture, history and traditions of this place through our own eyes and ears.”

The Putnams were drawn to the sense of community they could feel even though they weren’t actually participating in it.

“We were impressed especially by the subtle things such as the overall design of the campus and evidence that there is thoughtful planning in place.”

“The stewardship of the campus represents more than just the care of facilities,” said Putnam. “It’s symbolic of the sense of pride and commitment the institution has for creating an environment suitable for an academic community. We were impressed especially by the subtle things such as the overall design of the campus and evidence that there is thoughtful planning in place. We could read about all these details in the materials provided, but until we were able to walk around and experience it for ourselves, it was hard to imagine.”

They walked along contemplating what it all would mean for them and their two daughters to make such an important move at this point in their lives.

“We approached this experience as a team. It was more than just a professional opportunity for me. This visit was designed to see if we could place our family here,” he explained. “It was just as important for Tammy as it was for me, because leading a small college and sharing in the community life of Pella means her opportunities to serve should be as compelling as mine.”

Another trait the Putnams noticed was Midwestern nice. People were extraordinarily

friendly both on campus and in the community. The two took some time to familiarize themselves with the campus as well as the town of Pella, visiting the bakeries, meat markets, restaurants and shops.

“People were very accommodating,” he said. “Pella’s rich Dutch heritage charmed us.”

They also drove around the region visiting Knoxville, Oskaloosa and Lake Red Rock, where they went to the visitors’ center and had a conversation with a ranger who took time to tell about the area and its history.

“Wherever we turned, we found people who were genuine and wanted to help,” he said. “No one knew who we were and that was important to us. The people of this community treated us like any other visitor with a very warm welcome.”

A NEW ADVENTURE

Before there was an Operation Tulip, a series of family discussions paved the way. Tammy and Mark decided that before he would take a formal interview, they would talk to their daughters. They felt it was important for them to be part of the process and not just notified of the results at the end.

“The risk you run in discussing this as a family is in how it plays it out for each individual with all the inherent uncertainties of a search process, he said.”

Mark took daughter Emma, a freshman at Northeastern University, to lunch one day in early September and described to her the possibility of him becoming a college president in Pella, Iowa, and asked what she thought. Emma’s immediate reaction was positive, seeing this as an interesting opportunity for the family and for her dad personally. “Go for it, Dad,” she said.

Mark was worried about what to say to his youngest daughter, Greta, a seventh grader. Knowing Greta’s mind for information and extensive questions, Emma suggested a power point presentation. But there was no time to

put one together, so Mark and Tammy, sitting on nearby chairs, invited Greta to join them for a family talk. As soon as Greta plopped down on the couch she felt the vibe in the room.

"I didn't even have three words out of my mouth before she asked, 'Are we moving?'" Mark said. "Nothing gets by her."

They described the situation as Greta listened carefully and asked some questions along the way, but at the end of their talk she said, "I think I'm ready for a new adventure."

The four of them were in agreement as they saw this as a tremendous opportunity for the whole family.

ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEW

According to Putnam, there were few surprises during the interview process; nothing really unexpected. He had gone over all the materials provided, read and reread everything he could about Central and studied hard for his final exam, the on-campus interview. He would meet students, faculty, staff, alumni and members of the Pella community. He felt well prepared, especially with his informal trip to campus earlier.

"When I received the schedule for the interview experience, it was clear to me how well-prepared I would need to be. Tammy and I both wanted to represent ourselves well out of respect for the process, but we were also impressed by the incredible amount of energy the Central family was devoting to the search. We felt compelled to honor that commitment by being well-informed, energetic and enthusiastic about this incredible opportunity."

Knowing the campus community had interviewed other candidates over the previous few weeks, Putnam was a little concerned about the community's stamina going through such a rigorous and demanding process in finding the right successive president for Central College. Tom Courtice, president of Academic Search Inc., who served as the lead consultant on the search, dispelled any of Putnam's concerns

about the Central community being fatigued. In fact, he predicted that the community's energy level would actually grow with the Putnam's visit. Putnam credits those he encountered through the process with lifting him with words of encouragement, genuine interest and an excitement for finding a great match to be Central's next leader.

THURSDAY, NOV. 5: THE GAUNTLET

A grueling 14-hour day began with a quick breakfast, then a student-led campus tour at 8 a.m. followed by a meeting with Al Dorenkamp '74, athletics director. Then Mark held Q & A sessions with staff, students, faculty and the Pella community.

During the community portion, Mark was talking and answering questions when he glanced down in the audience at Tammy, who was looking at her Blackberry. She had just received a text from Greta asking, "Where is Emma?" Operation Tulip had just suffered its first major setback. Emma was to be home by now to stay with Greta for the next couple of days. However, she inadvertently took the wrong train out of Boston and ended up in Walpole, Mass., about 12 miles away. Trained to be a solution thinker in this family of planners, she handled the circumstances well and called some nearby church friends, who offered her a ride home. It all worked out.

But text messages don't always communicate the appropriate emotion behind the message. Greta wasn't necessarily worried about her sister, but more upset that she was late for supper. She had made chicken parmesan for the two of them and that kind of effort deserves an on-time arrival. In the meantime, Mark is talking with the community, and Tammy is handling life. As with all plans, no matter how detailed — even color-coded — there are sometimes glitches.

"It was one of those times where you plan Operation Tulip carefully yet something goes wrong," he said. "In that moment, this is what reminds you of the importance of multitasking,

Get to know Greta

"When I was little, Dad and I were working in the garden while he was on a conference call for work, so I just kept dropping seeds in the hole where he told me to put them. I think the whole garden was planted by the time his conference call was done!"

- ♦ Likes dance and recently finished competing at level five in USA gymnastics.
- ♦ Enjoys school, especially English and language arts.
- ♦ Helps with special needs kids at church and school.
- ♦ Enjoys going out to eat, watching movies and spending quiet time at home with the family.



but also the fact family life is always present for all of us. Even though we were focused on that community meeting at that moment and the board interview that followed, we had to quietly manage the circumstances at home. It was a reminder that everyone, including us, has lives that are complex and challenges sometimes converge at certain moments.”

What also helped the Putnams get through that hectic, long day were those who were involved in the interview process. The smiles, the head nods, the words of encouragement helped make the day much more bearable.

“The end of the day was the most intensive portion, because it included back to back sessions with faculty, the entire campus community and representatives of the local community, and concluded with a board interview and dinner, which finished about 10:30 p.m.,” he said. “I think the board members all knew the day was very long. I have very little memory of what I said at that point in the evening. In fact, I’m not sure I said anything coherent at all, but they were sending me these wonderful cues: a smile, a head nod, a pat on the back. That spoke volumes about the character and culture of this community.”

IT’S ALL ABOUT THE FIT

Given all the evidence and all the information, the Putnams kept bringing it back to the original question: Was this going to be a place where they could thrive and not just survive?

The interview on campus was the capstone experience. It gave Putnam an opportunity to ask questions, to have priorities reinforced, ambitions expressed, and dreams and visions cast to the future; all that combined made for a compelling case.

By the time they completed the formal interview process, Tammy and Mark had made a decision.

“We had to leave Central knowing whether this could be it or not,” he said. “When we got in the car to go to the airport, we didn’t get

halfway to Des Moines before looking at each other and saying if the offer comes our way, this is our future.”

DONE DEAL

Mark and Tammy left Iowa Saturday morning to fly back to Boston. The flight was quiet — reading, listening to music, staring out the window. By Sunday afternoon, however, the process continued behind the scenes as phone calls began. The search consultant was checking in from time to time, and evidence of conversations with references began to surface over the next few days. The search committee met to deliberate, and the board of trustees convened by conference call to consider the committee’s recommendation.

“For me, it was never about a presidency at any cost. It had to be an alignment of my best skill sets, knowledge and background that would serve an institution very well,” said Putnam. “This is the only presidency I’ve ever pursued. When the opportunity was presented to me, I was able to honestly say this is in fact the right place at the right time for me personally, professionally and spiritually. That assurance grew through the early stages.”

“Mark performed well during the on-campus interviews, and the community feedback was so positive, that when our search committee met to make our selection, we already had a strong consensus that Mark was ‘the one,’” said Mike Orr ’69, chair of the presidential search committee.

Nonetheless, the board spent the better part of a day comparing the top two candidates against each of the criteria set out in Central’s position profile for what the college was looking for in Central’s next president.

“That process confirmed our initial feelings and led to an enthusiastic and unanimous recommendation to the board that Mark become Central’s 21st president,” said Orr. “At the top of that list was Mark’s deep understanding of the major issues facing

Meet Tammy

"I look forward to the new challenges ahead, whatever they may be, and want to immerse myself in the college community, Pella community and church activities."

- ♦ Graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education; taught for five years — two years sixth grade, three years third grade.
- ♦ Volunteers with school, community and church.
- ♦ Likes to read, knit, walk the dogs, study the Bible and make and drink lattes.
- ♦ Has a passion for ministry to women.



independent higher education and his broad administrative background at both large and small colleges. And, we felt Mark and his family would fit very nicely within the Central and Pella communities.”

Meanwhile, Mark was trying to be patient and let the process unfold. He felt he represented himself well during the interview process so there was no anxiety wishing he would’ve done something differently. However, the wait seemed like an eternity, until he got the call.

On Thursday following the interview, Putnam took the train home from Boston after a regular day of work and got to the house around 6 p.m. Tammy was on her way to take Greta to gymnastics practice.

Mark walked into the house and called for Hazel and Sophie. He opened the front door and stood on the porch as the two dogs sniffed around the front yard. Mark took a deep breath and sighed enjoying home and the crisp air when his Blackberry started to vibrate on his belt. He glanced at the phone and saw it was Orr. Quickly taking inventory of where the dogs were (Hazel on one side of the property and Sophie on the other), Mark answered.

“Mike, how are you?”

Orr asked if Putnam would be able to join a conference call with Dave Wesselink ’64, right now.

“Of course I can,” said Putnam.

“Let me give you the number,” said Orr.

Panic. It’s dark outside, standing on the middle of the porch with dogs on either side. “So here we are,” he thought.

“You go brain dead in those moments, so I put the Blackberry up to my chest,” he said. “I mean, I could’ve muted the phone. I could’ve said, ‘Mike, let me call you back, I’m outside right now.’ But no, I put it up to my chest and asked him to hold on for one minute while I found a pen.”

Putnam ended up chasing the dogs around the yard trying to corral them, and of course,

the dogs thought it was play time and started chasing each other. After what seemed like minutes, but in reality was probably only a few seconds, he got them inside and went into the kitchen to grab a pen and paper to write the number.

Later, Putnam told Orr all this and Orr said, “Yes, I thought it was awfully noisy to find a pen.”

“The commitment of the search committee in general, and the leadership exhibited ... was incredibly impressive to me.”

Putnam dialed in. The three of them agreed a meeting in Boston was in order to talk about the final stages of this process and have a celebratory dinner.

“For such an important decision in the life and future of Central College, Dave Wesselink and I felt strongly that we wanted to formally extend the offer to Mark to become Central’s next president in person and on his turf,” said Orr. “Plus, it would give us a chance to welcome Mark and Tammy to the Central family over a nice dinner in a warm and personal way.”

In addition, Orr recognized Putnam’s thoughtful preparation and insightful questions prior to the dinner, reconfirmed the board’s decision to make him president.

“The commitment of the search committee in general, and the leadership exhibited by board members Mike Orr, Lanny Little ’74, and Dave Wesselink [chair] was incredibly impressive to me,” said Putnam. “Once together, we envisioned what things would look like over the next year and the opportunities available to us during the transition. As we talked, I learned more about Central, and it was a continuing affirmation that we all arrived at the same place. I experienced a growing passion

for Central and a clearer sense of the exciting opportunities on the horizon.”

INSPIRATION FOR THE TRANSITION

There was a flurry of activity after the announcement went out, first at Central and then Northeastern University, where Putnam had been for a decade.

“I got a lot of congratulatory notes,” he said. “But what the people from Central were writing were very thoughtful, personal comments about the college. Most were sharing stories about their connectedness to a multi-generational family and unique experiences they wanted me to know about. It was overwhelming because from the moment of the announcement, people were already beginning to teach me by the comments and reflections they offered: statements about values and commitments, predictions about the warmth of the welcome we would receive and a bit about their own life journeys.”

One note in particular became Putnam’s inspiration for the transition as he carries it around in his wallet. An e-mail from a 2005 graduate: “I can tell you that you have signed up to lead a special group of people who invested not only in my academic education but also in my development as a person and citizen of the world.” It was a reminder that this is a group of people. This place is about the people; it’s not just an institution. The thoughts also suggest that the power of Central’s education is in the integration of academic learning, personal development and global citizenship.

“It is the best synopsis of everything I had experienced in the search process,” he said. “It put in my mind a set of guidelines about how this transition really should unfold.”

Visiting campus a number of times, even in December when Putnam put together Operation Frozen Tulip during a blizzard, he was always aware of the fact he was entering into an unfolding saga called the Central story.

“The important thing for me in climbing the learning curve is to really understand that

story,” he explained. “I need to identify the ways in which I can connect to that ongoing narrative — one that comes from those who are a part of this community and devote their lives to its success.”

Putnam feels lucky to have the generous support of David and Betsy Roe throughout this process.

“David and Betsy have been incredibly generous to us. Their love for Central College runs deeper than anything I’ve seen, and they have been an inspiration for Tammy and me as we join this community.”

The transition was a shared experience as both Roe and Putnam share a set of common goals around the transition. Working as a team, they mapped a model transition that was seamless and enabled Putnam to hit the ground running. The two spent many hours together discussing the college, appearing at events, and meeting members of the community. The cooperation was obvious to members of the campus community.

TRANSITION

The question most often asked before starting at Central was, “How’s the transition going?”

“It’s going extremely well,” Putnam replied.

The benefit of the extended period of time (about seven months), is that it allowed Putnam time to build relationships with people who helped define Central’s past as well as those who are critically important for Central’s future. Putnam cultivated such a relationship with President Emeritus Ken Weller.

“We always had a cup of coffee when I was in Pella, and he helps me figure out the past and we talk about the future,” said Putnam.

The history of the institution is marked by generations of faculty, staff, students, trustees and alumni who believe that this college will continually reach toward a vision that not only yields a superb educational experience, but is also transformative in the lives of students who will in turn impact society and the world.



"This is a legacy worthy of our highest commitment," said Putnam.

One of the greatest advantages Putnam had with the extended time of transition was the opportunity to have almost a first year in the presidency before actually being president. Many presidents come in without having any established relationships. But with the longer transition, Putnam was able to get his feet wet before his official start date of July 1.

"Many presidents start at square one," he said. "I'm not starting there. By the time we moved to Pella, I had a total of seven trips under my belt since the announcement of my appointment. I was able to build important relationships with students, faculty, staff and trustees, as well as prospective students, parents and alumni. I had the luxury of time to learn, think and plan."

Northeastern University's leaders were extraordinarily generous with the time they gave Putnam. Joseph Aoun, president of Northeastern, told Putnam his principal charge once appointed was to be successful at Central College.

However, usually where there's an upside, there's also a downside.

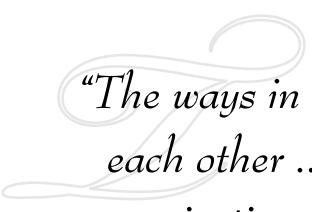
"The challenge of a prolonged transition is every time I came here, I left more of myself at Central," said Putnam, who described the challenge leading two lives concurrently in different parts of the country as if in a game of tug-of-war. "Tammy and I had to steel ourselves a little bit, emotionally. There was always something we didn't want to miss, and although wonderful, it was difficult being pulled in both directions. I knew each time I returned to Massachusetts, I had to ride the train into Boston the next morning and reorient myself back into that world. What made it possible was the strength of relationships on both ends. We feel incredibly supported by many people who care about us on a deep personal level."

Principal among these is Ardie Pals Sutphen '64, executive assistant to the president. "Ardie

carried an unbelievable load the past year," Putnam said. Not only did she actively serve as the administrator for the search process, but she also simultaneously supported David Roe in his final year, and me through a very intensive transition. She has the gratitude of many who have been deeply involved in this process and know how much time and energy she has devoted to making this transition in leadership a great success."

CREATING THE CENTRAL EXPERIENCE IN A NEW ERA

How does one create an environment which will inevitably change the institution for the better while still honoring the past? For Putnam, a gardener in his spare time, the analogy is one that fits well into Iowa's agricultural tradition. He is ready to roll up his sleeves and dig in and do what it takes to nurture and sustain Central College.



*"The ways in which we nurture
each other ... will lead to an
organization that will continue
to accomplish great things."*

"The difference between people who are gardeners and people who like flowers is that gardeners care about soil conditions," said Putnam. "I care about the wellbeing of the college as a community of people. The ways in which we nurture each other and allow room for growth will lead to an organization that will continue to accomplish great things. A lot of creativity and innovation will come from a healthy environment and will enable us to ensure a sustainable future as we care for Central College."

Unleashing creativity

by Mark Babcock '91, associate professor of music and director of choral activities

I was pleased and slightly scared when asked by our new president, Mark Putnam, to write the Faculty Voice for his first issue of the *Central Bulletin* focusing on “Create” from his inaugural year theme, Horizons of Opportunity: Create – Innovate – Sustain. I was pleased to be asked because I know as an alumnus and a faculty member for 12 years, Central College encourages wonderful creativity in teaching and learning. I was slightly scared, however, because creativity can be applied to any imaginative thinking

or activity. How do we define, develop and harness creativity for solving life’s challenges? Under the heading of “Create,” how do we as faculty help students reach their full potential? How do we guide them from being young freshmen to seniors who are liberally educated, fully engaged citizens with a global perspective prepared to lead?

Jacob Brueck graduated this spring at the top of his class majoring in exercise science, planning to attend graduate school for physical therapy this

fall at the University of Iowa. I have been pleased to know Jacob through his vibrant participation in the A Cappella Choir the past four years. He was elected to be a choir officer during the past year and provided tremendous leadership in this capacity. He organized our choir’s poffertjes Tulip Time stand, one of our major fundraising efforts, and the annual Christmas caroling to our extended Central family in the Pella area.

Right before the final concert of our recent Washington, D.C. tour, Jacob quietly pulled me aside to thank me, saying his college experience would not have been the same without the artistic experiences and meaningful relationships he cultivated within the choir. In a solemn moment, I remembered how the full Central College experience comes together for our students — how a creative approach to education worked to help Jacob discover experiences, ideas and people he did not know existed. It was not always easy for Jacob to juggle his major responsibilities with choir participation. But at a place like Central, we creatively worked together for the best education possible for Jacob.

Where else can a student focused on a very specific career path in physical

• FACULTY PROFILE • FACULTY PROFILE •

Mark Babcock '91

Associate professor of music, director of choral activities

- 12th year at Central College
- Graduate of Central College, 1991; master’s from Westminster Choir College, Princeton, N.J., 1993; doctoral work at the University of Iowa
- Organist of Iowa recitalist, Iowa State University, 2005
- Chair, American Guild of Organist Region VI Convention, 2011
- Frequent guest choral director, clinician, organ recitalist and consultant for schools and churches
- Organist/choirmaster and fine arts series director, St. Mark Lutheran Church, West Des Moines



Mark Babcock '91, associate professor of music, helps students develop their talents and unleash their creativity.

therapy create a real education that is flexible, diverse, broad and thorough? In that moment on choir tour, I told Jacob the words and actions the choir regularly hears and sees from me regarding the liberal arts education at Central College are more than just notes from cue cards. I believe we teach students to look creatively at the world's challenges by authentic exposure to a variety of academic disciplines. We help students understand the destructive nature of isolation among distinctive groups in our society by participation in diverse campus organizations like the A Cappella Choir. We encourage imaginative problem-solving abilities by providing leadership opportunities in and out of one's major.

The A Cappella Choir is a microcosm of the larger campus. Students from a variety of perspectives — religious, socio-economic, major, hometown, political — choose to create a unified

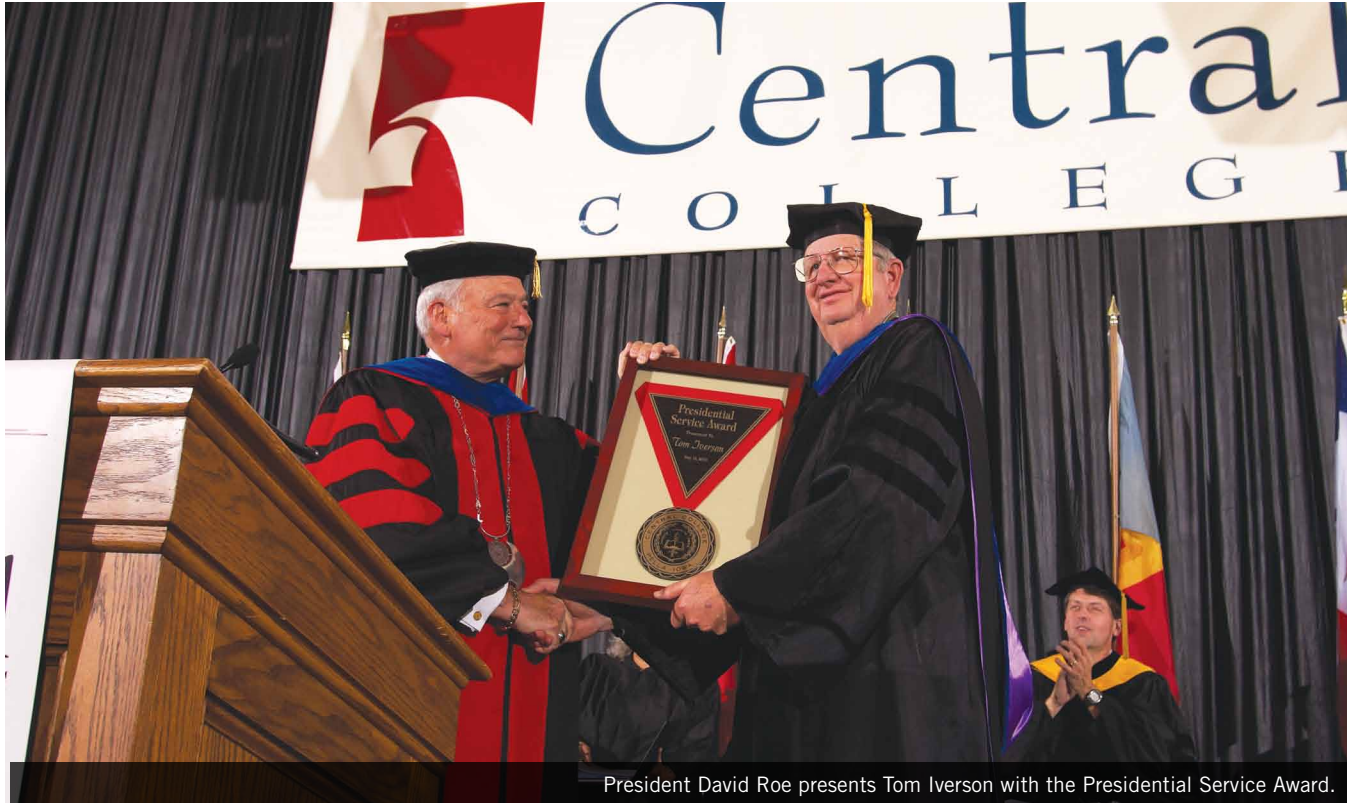
artistic experience for themselves and literally thousands of audience members throughout the course of a year. With this diversity, we have many ideas as to what makes a good tour, a good program, a good rehearsal, a good choir. We creatively bring these ideas together and artistically make choices for the overall good. Creativity is opening the mind and imagination. Artistry is choosing the best of the ideas collected and serving the greater good.

We provided Jacob with the essential information for acceptance into graduate school. Not so different from other schools. What sets us apart is our creative, individualized approach to whole person development. Jacob's well-rounded liberal arts education, interdisciplinary approach to life skills and diverse experiences will make him a better physical therapist in the future. In addition to the specific skills learned in major course work, I

contend that Jacob's bedside manner and interactions with colleagues will be influenced by his tour to Italy, Christmas caroling experiences, connection with a variety of students from all majors and his peer leadership in the A Cappella Choir.

Seniors tend to reflect, and I am glad Jacob chose to reflect aloud with me. He realized what I have known and embraced at Central College for a long time: We imagine lives well-lived in the future for our students. We provide the necessary support and energy to help them embrace their own education. We help them see possibilities. We uncover the lens of creativity opening their vision and then give them the tools to pick the best of what they see. Jacob could not see this day as a freshman. But I could.

The beauty of Jacob's story is it is the Central College story — a creative, imaginative, possibility — envisioned education. ■



President David Roe presents Tom Iverson with the Presidential Service Award.



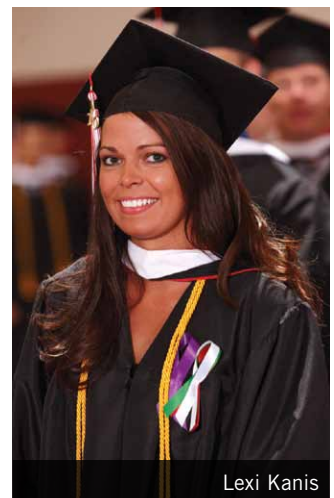
Chris Weaver



Tim Scarrow and
Jennifer Vande Zande



Aaron Jones,
Kim Wilson and Ben Lewis



Lexi Kanis

President David Roe distributed diplomas to his final graduating class at Central College May 15-16. Three hundred thirty-six seniors participated in commencement exercises in H.S. Kuyper Fieldhouse. Speaker Dianne Dillon-Ridgley, an environmentalist and human rights activist and director of Interface Inc., addressed the class with a speech titled "A High-Definition Life." Tom Iverson, professor emeritus of mathematics, received a Presidential Service Award. Iverson served the college for nearly 26 years in several different capacities including faculty member, interim dean, interim president, and provost and senior vice president before retiring in 2002.

2010 CENTRAL COLLEGE Homecoming/Family Weekend

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 8

- 8 a.m. — 4 p.m. Classes open. Central's faculty open up their rooms.
- 10 a.m. Heritage Day Reception. Lower Chapel.
- 11 a.m. Heritage Day Worship Service, Chapel.
- 11 a.m. 2nd annual Coach Ron Schipper Memorial Golf Tournament, Bos Landen Golf Club, Pella.
- 2 and 3 p.m. Campus tours from the admission office in Central Hall.
- 3 p.m. Central Spirit picture.
- 6 p.m. **Lemming Race**, Peace Mall. A Central tradition since 1977.
- 6 — 7 p.m. Alumni & Family Barbecue. (\$)
- 7 p.m. Street party: pep rally and coronation. Broadway Street.

Saturday, October 9

- 8 — 10 a.m. Pancake Breakfast. (\$)
- 9 and 10 a.m. Campus tours, Central Hall, Alumni Office.
- 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Pella tours, Central Hall parking lot.
- 9:30 — 10:20 a.m. Lifelong learning classes.
- 9:30 — 10:30 a.m. Central College Abroad information session, Weller 101.
- 10 — 11:30 a.m. **Family Carnival, Graham Conference Center Banquet Room.**
- 10 — 11:30 a.m. Greek reunion open house — Greeks are invited back to celebrate & reconnect.
- 10:30 — 11:20 a.m. Lifelong learning classes.
- 10:30 a.m. Reception for the unveiling ceremony, aerobics room of Schipper Fitness Center.
- 11 a.m. Athletic hall of honor plaque unveiling ceremony, Schipper Fitness Center.
- 11 a.m. Tailgate Under the Big Tent, corner of Independence and W. 3rd (\$)
- 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m. Greek reunion tailgate.
- 1 p.m. **Football — Central vs. Simpson Schipper Stadium.** (\$)
- Post-game Exercise Science/Athletic Training Open House.
- 5:30 p.m. **Alumni Dinner.** (\$) All are welcome to celebrate.
- 5:30 p.m. Pizza, movies and more. (\$) Bring your child(ren) (ages 1–12).
- 7:30 p.m. Class reunion gatherings.
- 8 p.m. Parent reception. Central parents are invited to the President's home.

Sunday, October 10

- 11 a.m. Sunday Brunch Central Market. (\$)
- 1 p.m. **Fourth annual Flying Pans**
Alumni Steel Band Concert,
Dowdstra Auditorium.

more details
available at
www.central.edu/homecoming



Go on, give back!

50-year reunion class challenges in big ways

"Transition brings opportunities. Just as we were graduating from Central, President Vander Lugt was leaving for an appointment at New Brunswick Seminary. Taking his place was Don Lubbers, at the time the youngest college president in the United States. It was a time of transition and exciting new opportunities for our college. We are again witnessing transition with the retirement of President David Roe and the inauguration of Central's 21st president, Mark Putnam. It is an anticipated transition full of promise and opportunity!"

— taken from a letter to the class of 1960

In honor of its 50-year reunion, the class of 1960 established a new gold standard for future class gifts and planned giving by challenging members of the class to give in a huge way.

The first part of the challenge is to achieve 100 percent participation by the 94 members of the class to reach a total class gift of either \$75,000 (cum laude), \$85,000 (magna cum laude) or \$95,000 or more (summa cum laude). The gifts and pledges, which may be made over a three-year period starting this year, will go toward student scholarships.

The second part of the challenge is membership in Central's *Heritage Roll of Honor*, Central's planned giving society, recognizing alumni and friends who have informed the college of a bequest or another documented type of gift. Examples of planned gifts include:

- Bequests: Donors include a statement in their will designating either a stated

sum of money or percentage of assets to Central.

- Beneficiary designations: Donors can support Central by naming it a beneficiary of a retirement plan, life insurance policy or an IRA.
- Charitable gift annuities: Donors can make a charitable gift to Central in exchange for a flow of income in fixed payments for life. Donors also receive an income tax deduction and the ability to spread capital gains over a number of years.
- Charitable remainder trusts: Donors receive income each year for the rest of their lives from assets they give to create the trust with the remainder of the trust assets going to Central as a charitable gift. Donors also receive a charitable tax deduction.

- Charitable lead trust: Donors give assets that pay Central for a set number of years. When term of years expires, the remainder of the assets go to the donor, donor's family or other beneficiaries donor selects.

Already, the class of '60 has nine *Heritage Roll of Honor* members and would like to double that number.

Members of the steering committee are Davis Folkerts, Judy Gosselink Grooters, Andrea Boat Roorda, Erv Roorda, Arlo Stoltenberg, James Vande Berg, Kathleen Redeker Vande Berg and Carol Dulmes Vruwink.

The result of the class gift will be announced during Homecoming/Family Weekend at the alumni dinner Saturday, Oct. 9. ■

SUMMER 2010

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CENTRAL COLLEGE'S A CAPPELLA CHOIR AND CHAMBER SINGERS TOURS THE MIDWEST AND THE NATION'S CAPITOL FOR THEIR ANNUAL SPRING TOUR.

The choir has gained a reputation for choral excellence and variety in its programming. It performs regularly on and off campus. Each year includes a major tour with an international tour every fourth year. Last year, the choir performed a two-week tour in major basilicas and cathedrals throughout Italy.

This year's tour included performances at churches in Illinois, Virginia and Maryland and was highlighted with a choral prelude at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Mark Babcock, associate professor of music, is director, and Davis Folkerts, professor emeritus of music, accompanied the choir.