

SUMMER/FALL 2020

# CENTRAL

CENTRAL COLLEGE

**CIVITAS**

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

**SPECIAL RESILIENCE ISSUE : EXTRAORDINARY TIMES. BOLD INNOVATION.**



# 26

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# RESILIENCE IN CHALLENGING TIMES

BY: MARK PUTNAM, CENTRAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT



Years ago, I was speaking with the head of one of our nation's six regional accrediting associations for colleges and universities. Accreditation was then a carefully outlined process — reliable, consistent and predictable. He said “accreditation flows on a river of form letters.”

His metaphor could have been applied to many of our day-to-day experiences — until recently. The scrambling of our activities feels like looking at a space that has been ransacked. Nothing is where we left it. Everything is completely disorganized. We feel a sense of violation. Suddenly a sleepy river of form letters seems appealing.

These past months it's been difficult to maintain routines. Our minds race with contingencies. The predictable patterns have mostly been disrupted. Policy frameworks strain under the weight of novel conditions. Stress levels increase as workloads grow.

Resilience is born of challenge. It finds life in what's most important. It calls us to protect what matters most. It finds a place to start again. Resilience is a core principle of Central College. Education is fundamentally a human enterprise that can be aided by technology but not supplanted by it. Our desire to live in an academic community has been reinforced as our highest and best calling. We have mustered the strength to overcome the present challenges by always aiming to be connected. It's why we talk about physical distance, not social distance.

Lessons in patience are hard to bear, but we are called to look to the long arc of time. Our shared task is to emerge from this pandemic with greater resolve to pursue our ambitions despite the disruption. Through generations we have learned and relearned that resting and waiting is restorative as hard-won renewal gradually brings new life. Central has endured so long because we are centered on a collective interest and look



arms through time and across the world to see our shared ambition remain strong.

Our deepest commitment is manifested in how we care for each other. In a world without maps it's easy to feel lost. So many opinions. Endless speculation. Political turmoil. But at the core of our being is an impulse that continues to call us to love our neighbors as ourselves. It's the idea that

having a heart for others is also the very best thing for me. Resilience begins with the realization that we are in this together.

We are a community that understands our shared sense of purpose and can be patient in managing change.

The foundation of our resilience is that we are all one. ■

# CENTRAL COLLEGE CIVITAS ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Summer/Fall 2020 | Issues 1 & 2

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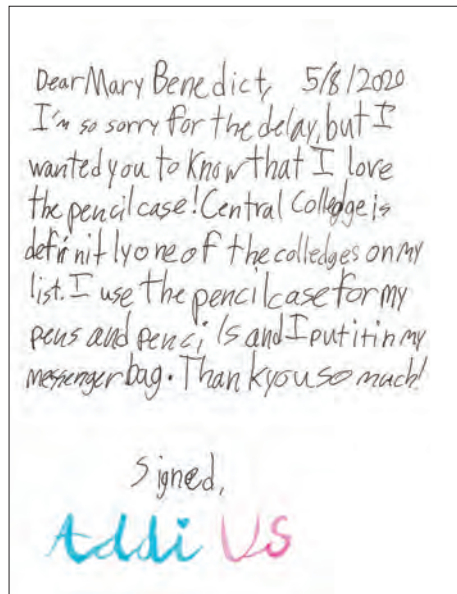




### THE BEST CIVITAS EVER

I just wanted to let you know that this was the best Civitas [Spring 2020] I ever remember reading. I read it from cover to cover and each page was more enjoyable than the preceding one. I especially like the "Forever Dutch" segment. I even enjoyed Dr. Putnam's opening remarks. I am so proud to be a Central grad. Please thank the staff who put this together for a job well done.

— John Grieco '71  
Rye Brook, New York



### THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Cards and letters from Central's little legacies keep arriving in the alumni office thanking Assistant Director of Alumni Relations Mary Benedict for gifts of Central gear. The one above reads: "I'm sorry for the delay, but I wanted you to know that I love the pencil case! Central College is definitely one of the colleges on my list. I use the pencil case for my pens and pencils and I put it in my messenger bag. Thank you so much! Signed, Addie VS"

— Addison Van Soelen  
Daughter of Justin '05 and Jill Williams  
Van Soelen '06  
Sully, Iowa



### CENTRAL SAVES

I wanted to send both an update and a thank you as I read our recent Civitas [Spring 2020]. My wife and I welcomed our daughter, Mirabelle, last July. She's not even a 1-year-old yet and we already talk about how we could make a future for her at Central. She just grew out of her Central hat, but now fits into her onesie.

I am proud to be a Central alum. Central bet on me at a time in my life when I needed it most and saved me in so many ways. My successes in life all started with my Central education. I continue to be proud of Central as I see the decisions you're making in light of COVID-19. We will make a donation to the Journey Scholarship Fund today. Thank you for supporting students like me. I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that Central has saved lives beyond COVID-19.

— Kendra Haack Weston '12  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

### WRITE US!

Civitas welcomes letters and emails from readers concerning the contents of the magazine or issues relating to Central College. Please include the author's name, city and state; anonymous communications will be discarded. Letters selected for publication may be edited for length, content, clarity and style. Address letters to Civitas, Central Communications, Central College, 812 University St., Pella, Iowa 50219 or email Jeff Bersch, Civitas editor, at [berschj@central.edu](mailto:berschj@central.edu).





### Enrollment Management Changes

Central's enrollment management and student development teams underwent new leadership changes effective July 1. **Chevy Freiburger**, *above*, who had been the executive director of admission for the past year, has been promoted to the role of dean of enrollment management. Freiburger has been with the college for 17 years.

In his new role, Freiburger oversees day-to-day operations of the admission and financial aid teams. He collaborates with key institutional stakeholders to develop and implement a comprehensive enrollment strategy aligned with the college's goals and mission.

Freiburger assumes this role following in the footsteps of his longtime mentor, **Carol Williamson**, who has been the vice president of enrollment management and dean of the college since January 2009. Since January 2018 she also has served as vice president of student development. She will remain in that role, in which she oversees wellness and counseling services, residence life and student safety, Campus Ministries, the information center, student support services, the work-based learning program, Upward Bound, Talent Search, and student leadership, involvement and inclusivity.

### Quoted in The New Yorker

**Andrew Green**, professor of political science, was quoted in "The New Yorker." The article focused on Iowa's role in this year's election. Green published a book in 2019 about President Trump's victory in Iowa in 2016. In the article, he's asked about Iowa's support for the President and if Trump will win Iowa again. To read the article: [central.edu/green2020](http://central.edu/green2020).

### Work-Based Learning Director

**Teri Vos** has been named director of a new work-based learning program funded by a grant from Future Ready Iowa.

Vos oversees all aspects of the work-based learning program, a collaborative community project in Pella, Iowa. Partners include Central College, Pella Area Community and Economic Alliance, Pella Corporation, Precision Inc., Vermeer Corporation, Pella and surrounding schools, Career Academy of Pella and Des Moines Area Community College.

The goals of the program include creation, implementation and promotion of a strong work-based student experience. Vos collaborates with regional partners to identify new and emerging training opportunities that align with industry workforce needs. As director, she acts as the liaison between apprentices/students, employers, parents, various schools, career academies and program partners to facilitate a high-quality, work-based learning experience.

Vos is a resource for any high school student who wants the opportunity to earn college credit while gaining important, employable expertise and life skills.

### Faculty Changes

**C.D. Adamson**, department of theatre, and **Sara Shuger Fox**, department of exercise science, earned tenure and promotions to associate professor.

**Viktor Martisovits**, associate professor of physics, was promoted to professor.

**David Timmer**, professor of religion, received emeritus status.

### Faculty Recognition

**Andrew Green**, professor of political science, received the Dr. John Wesselink Award for scholarship with a direct impact on teaching.

**Susan Swanson**, associate professor of art, received the David Crichton Memorial Teaching Award for excellence in teaching that challenges and shapes the intellectual development in students.

**Paulina Mena**, associate professor of biology, received the Frank W. Moore Faculty Award for promoting student learning in the natural sciences.

**Maggie Fisher Schlerman '02**, associate professor of accounting, received the Huffman Award for Outstanding Support of International Education.

# AROUND THE POND

**Lori Witt**, associate professor of history, received the Hutch Bearce Community-Building and Faculty Leadership Award for community building and mentorship or leadership.

**Sam Mate-Kodjo**, associate professor of Spanish, was honored for 25 years of service.

### EOA, TRIO Officers

Three Central employees were elected to serve as officers with the Educational Opportunity Association and Iowa TRIO.

**Ellie Burns**, director of pre-college programs, was named secretary of the EOA.

**Kristin Lewis**, assistant director of Educational Talent Search, was re-elected treasurer for Iowa TRIO.

**Mollie Kingma '13**, Educational Talent Search coordinator, was elected to the board of directors as a member at-large.

## STUDENT NEWS

### Nationally Recognized Scholars

Central students won two of the nation's most prestigious scholarships for academic achievement and leadership in 2020.

**Elizabeth Sheldon '21** and **Katie Wang '21** brought home a Udall Scholarship and a Goldwater Scholarship, respectively. Both are the first Central students to win these awards since the scholarships were founded.

### Udall Scholarship

Sheldon's Udall Scholarship recognizes her commitment to the environment, leadership and public service. An environmental studies major from Chandler, Arizona, with a 3.5 GPA, she is a member of Central's Student Sustainability Coalition, which works to promote environmental awareness in the Central community. The group recently placed recycling bins in all residence hall rooms.

Sheldon also is president of the college's Green Fund, which helps fund student sustainability initiatives. She seeks to become a professional fundraiser for an environmental nonprofit organization.

## STUDENT NEWS CONTINUED



**Elizabeth Sheldon '21**

Last summer Sheldon collaborated with **Lexi Engen '21** on a research project titled "Voted Most Popular: Which Prairie Plants Attract the Greatest Number and Diversity of Native Bees." They presented their findings at the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's 2019 conference.

The Udall Foundation grants scholarships to 55 applicants annually from a pool of more than 500. The scholarship honors the legacies of Morris Udall and Stewart Udall, former Arizona congressmen who advocated for the stewardship of public lands and natural resources and for Native American self-governance and health care.

Each Udall Scholar receives a scholarship of up to \$7,000 plus additional resources to enhance their education and professional development and can network with other Udall Scholars.

**Anya Butt**, professor of biology; **Paulina Mena**, associate professor of biology; **Brian Campbell**, director of sustainability education and partnerships; and **Katelin Valster**, lecturer of exercise science, pre-health advisor and postgraduate fellowship and awards advisor, mentored Sheldon through the scholarship application process.

### Goldwater Scholarship

Wang's Goldwater Scholarship recognizes her outstanding achievements in science. A biochemistry and Spanish major from Minneapolis, Minnesota, with a 4.0 GPA, she also competes on Central's women's soccer team. In 2019, Wang was honored by the magazine "Diverse: Issues in Higher Education" for her academic and athletics accomplishments. In addition, Wang is an Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Award nominee.

Wang plans to obtain a medical or doctorate degree and do clinical research at an academic medical center.



**Katie Wang '21**

Goldwater Scholarships encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in STEM research. In 2020, 396 Goldwater scholars were selected from more than 1,300 nominees representing 461 institutions. Wang is the only student from an Iowa liberal arts college to earn a Goldwater Scholarship in 2020.

The scholarships provide up to \$7,500 per year for sophomores and juniors to cover costs of tuition, fees, books and other expenses.

Wang's mentors at Central are **James Shriver**, professor of chemistry, and **Katelin Valster**, lecturer of exercise science, pre-health advisor and postgraduate fellowship and awards advisor.

### Honorable Presentations

Seven seniors in Central's honors program presented their theses to a virtual audience of Central faculty, staff and students May 9 when classes were moved to a remote environment due to coronavirus.

"Normally we'd do this in person, with refreshments," notes **Brian Peterson**, associate dean for curriculum and faculty development. He encouraged the audience to ask questions of the presenters in real time. "The bling — your honor medallion, certificate and printed and bound copy of your thesis — will be sent to you by mail," he assured the presenters.

Honors projects are the culmination of yearlong individual research projects under the supervision of faculty members. This year's lineup ran the gamut of subjects, disciplines and research methods:

### Finding the Perfect Football Recruit

**Michael Anderson '20**, an actuarial science and economics major from Farmington, Minnesota, presented "Data Analysis and Predictive Modeling in Service of Central College Football Recruiting." His goal: create an algorithm that could help Central's football coaching staff predict

the likelihood of individual future football recruits attending Central. His work incorporated what **Keith Jones**, Mark and Kay DeCook Endowed Chair in Character and Leadership Development and professor of psychology, called "an impressive number of variables." Anderson's program has already proved useful. As data accumulates, Anderson hopes it can eventually compile a profile of "the perfect recruit." He's now a full-time actuary at Sammons Financial in Des Moines.

### "It's More Moral If I Do It"

**Sydney Williams '20**, a psychology major and Spanish and cultural anthropology minor from Springville, Iowa, presented "Egocentric Bias in Perceived Morality of Moral Decision-Making."

"Moral decisions have been studied by philosophers for eons," she says. "But we know less about whether our perception of the morality of a decision depends upon whether we made it or someone else made it." Among her findings: "Participants viewed themselves as more moral even though they made the same decision" as someone else.

### Measuring Rape Culture

**Grace Vaughn '20**, a sociology major from Flower Mound, Texas, who triple-minored in psychology, philosophy and not-for-profit management, presented "Rape Culture: The New College Experience." She defined "rape culture" as one that supported or excused sexual assault and harassment. Her study of Central students discovered that males (especially male athletes), underclass students and those who had no direct or indirect encounter with sexual assault or harassment were more likely to support or excuse sexual transgressions than were women, non-athletes, upper class students and those who had experienced or knew someone who had experienced such transgressions. **Peggy Fitch**, professor emeritus of psychology and Central's Title IX coordinator, plans to follow up on Vaughn's research findings with the Central community.

### Men Talk Like This, Women Talk Like That

**Molly Hayes Marshall '20**, a communication studies major and French and sociology minor from Oskaloosa, Iowa, presented "Gender and Language Use." She studied how men and women use language differently. Among her findings: Men interrupt twice as often as women do, tend to talk in generalities, refer more to facts and



use simpler terms and less emotion. Women are more likely to pause to allow listeners to utter words of agreement, use specific and personal examples, are more relationship-based and are more expressive of emotion. Interestingly, all participants were initially unconscious of their differences in language use and were fascinated to learn more.

#### Aristotle Was Right

**Christian Warner '20**, a philosophy and religion double major, French minor and pre-ministry student from Mesa, Arizona, presented "Aristotle or Nietzsche? The Question of the Rationality of Ethics." Inspired by a contemporary culture that disagrees on basic questions of right and wrong, Warner examined disagreeing philosophers to see if ethical consensus is possible. "If morals are rational, as Aristotle asserted, we can know what is moral," he hypothesizes. Other ethicists have discounted Aristotle for defending slavery and relying on obsolete science, but Warner comes to a different conclusion: "Aristotle can defend himself. He got the details wrong, but his general point is right: We are oriented toward happiness and can know what's right." Nietzsche notwithstanding.

#### Pursuing Targeted Drug Delivery

**Kayleigh Rohr '20**, a biochemistry and Spanish major from Hastings, Minnesota, presented "Synthesis of Cambiarenes." She spent two years working in the lab with **Jay Wackerly**, associate professor of chemistry, experimenting with supermolecular chemistry ("the chemistry behind the molecule") for a way to bind useful "guest molecules." Practical applications include targeting drugs just to cancer tumors, for instance, rather than the whole body, reducing toxic side effects. Rohr is now a graduate student at the University of Indiana School of Optometry in Bloomington.

#### Size Matters

**Ben Turnley '20**, a biology and environmental studies major from Manhattan, Kansas, presented "The Impact of Bee Body Size on Prairie Flower Preferences." He knew Central has a rich tradition of pollinator research and wanted to use the college's big pollinator database and bee collection to answer a previously unasked question: Do different size bees prefer different size flowers? He found out that they do — and also have different flower color and structure preferences. "That means we need a variety of flower species, with different colors and structures,

to support a diverse bee community," says Turnley, who plans to continue his research as a graduate student at the University of New Mexico.

#### Writing Anthology

Central's annual Writing Anthology, a collection of exceptional student work from across the liberal arts curriculum, has been released for the 2019-20 academic year. It has been continuously published at Central since 1981.

**Walter Cannon**, professor emeritus of English, founded the project with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Since then, the anthology has strengthened a college-wide commitment to writing across the curriculum by celebrating exemplary student writing in the liberal arts, STEM and the applied arts. Publications include both traditional and innovative texts that reflect sophistication in a specific academic discipline or masterful integration of several disciplines.

View the Writing Anthology at [central.edu/writing-anthology](http://central.edu/writing-anthology). It includes this year's 10 pieces of work, plus links to past issues.

#### Geisler Penquite Scholars

Central's education department announced its 2020 Geisler Penquite Scholars:

- + **Jenna Clark '22** of Story City, Iowa
- + **Alexandra Doepp '22** of Newton, Iowa
- + **Gabrielle Menninga '22** of Ottumwa, Iowa
- + **Seth Moeller '22** of Bondurant, Iowa
- + **Katie Palmer '22** of Keota, Iowa
- + **Timothy Stammeyer '22** of Newton, Iowa
- + **Allison Stuenkel '22** of Waterloo, Iowa

#### COLLEGE NEWS

##### Board of Trustees

**Mike Van Voorst '93**, below, and **Christine Epperly Ieuter '91**, above right, were elected as new members of Central's Board of Trustees.



Van Voorst was named vice president of finance at Pella Corporation in February 2019 and served as interim CFO from July 2019 to March 2020. He started his career with Pella Corporation in 1993 in the accounting department before leaving for a few years. He returned in 1998 and has served in a variety of financial roles. He currently is responsible for all corporate accounting/financial planning and analysis, operational accounting, and sales and marketing accounting within Pella Corporation. In addition, all finance leads from acquired subsidiaries report to Van Voorst, and he is responsible for the Avanti Windows and Doors operation in Glendale, Arizona.



Ieuter is chief financial officer of ORS Medco, a multinational distribution leader of industrial and automotive tools and supplies with annual sales of \$1 billion. Ieuter is responsible for the entire finance function of the corporation at its world headquarters. Earlier, she was vice president, controller and chief accounting officer of Essendant, a Fortune 500 distributor of office and industrial products with sales of \$5 billion. After leaving her seven-year career in public accounting that included Ernst & Young LLP and PriceWaterhouse LLP, Ieuter was director of the SEC reporting, investor relations and corporate finance and banking at The Allstate Corporation before going to Essendant.

**Karin Peterson** and **John Schmidt** retired as members of the board and were named trustee emeriti.

#### Data Science Studies

Central added a self-designed studies minor in data science beginning Fall 2020. This resulted from a growing interest in the field from both faculty and students.

The minor teaches students to analyze

and visualize data. Courses include Introduction to Computer Science, Calculus I, Applied Statistics and Data Visualization.

Students in the Class of 2022 and later will be able to take advantage of the new minor. Two new courses for the minor will be available in Spring and Fall 2021. The goal is for data science to eventually become a major.



### Peace Mall

Work on this donor-funded project, the first significant changes to campus landscaping since the pond was finished in 1964. Now an amphitheater, walkways and history garden, *above*, celebrate the college's veterans and many significant moments and meaningful themes in Central history. The history garden includes a resilience marker and a veterans memorial honoring those from the Central family who have sacrificed themselves for the service of our country. Additional planned markers in the garden will commemorate important moments in the college's history, sharing a cohesive story about the college throughout the garden. Work on this donor-funded project will continue until all funding is in place. To contribute, please contact **Michelle Wilkie**, director of development, at 641-628-5281, [wilkiem@central.edu](mailto:wilkiem@central.edu) or [central.edu/peace-mall/donate](https://central.edu/peace-mall/donate).

## AWARDS AND GIFTS



### Iowa Campus Compact Awards

**Kellie Gorsche Markey '88**, *above*, and OLAS, Central's Organization of Latinx-American Students received awards from Iowa Campus Compact's 2020 Engaged Campus Awards. Markey, who founded Dorothy's House in Des Moines, Iowa, received the Alumni Leadership Award and OLAS received the Presidents' Student Leadership Award.

Markey opened Dorothy's House in January 2016 in Des Moines to serve survivors of human trafficking. It is a long-term, residential home that provides survivors of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation with a space, resources and support needed to find their journey.



OLAS is an organization that represents the Latinx students on Central's campus. With leadership from current president **Michael Escobedo '21**, *above*, the group seeks to create strong bonds and a sense of community among Latinx and non-Latinx students alike on campus. OLAS also hosts activities that improve society, culture and academic life.

### Innovative Learning Lab

Central received \$339,000 in grant funding from the Geisler Penquite Foundation to use toward scholarships and an innovative

learning lab for education students.

The learning lab will provide an innovative, flexible classroom learning environment representative of current and future practice with space, equipment and technology, learning tools and instructional materials for teachers and students. It will help faculty instruct and support students as they engage with state-of-the-art instructional tools and resources.

The Geisler Penquite Foundation was established in honor of John and Gertrude Geisler by their children and spouses, the late Harold and Mavis Geisler and Cecil Geisler Penquite and Loren Penquite. The foundation has provided support to Central for more than 40 years, giving nearly \$2 million to fund scholarships, buildings and statues.

### Moore Funding

The Moore Family Foundation Faculty Development Program for Teaching is providing grant funding for 14 faculty projects at Central for the 2020-21 academic year. The funding total is more than \$76,000.

Funding supports projects, some of which are:

- + An exploratory trip to Chile to develop short-term, faculty-led study abroad opportunities.
- + A workshop to provide faculty an opportunity to develop skills in teaching writing and information literacy.
- + A student-directed effort to create an app to digitize a dichotomous key for identifying bats.
- + An endeavor to complete identification of wild bees in Iowa using DNA barcoding in a collaborative research program with a student.
- + Research for submission of a National Science Foundation grant on the practical applications of a new class of molecules introduced in a research lab at Central.

The Moore Family Foundation has provided significant support to the college over the years. Since 2013, 68 Central faculty have written 105 grant proposals and received \$481,291 in funding from the Moore Family Foundation Development Program for Teaching. The foundation's goal is to provide Central faculty with the opportunity to strengthen engagement with students in the classroom and other education settings. ■



# 3 NATIONAL STANDOUTS JOIN CENTRAL ATHLETICS HALL OF HONOR

STORY BY: LARRY HAPPEL '81

Three former student-athletes who reached the national championship stage and received distinctions in other areas will be the newest members of the Central College Athletics Hall of Honor.

A pair of NCAA Division III individual champions — a men's high jumper and a decathlete — were chosen, along with an all-America defensive lineman who played in the Division III football title game for the Dutch. However, their induction has been delayed until Homecoming 2021 due to the global pandemic.

Established in 2002, Central's Hall of Honor recognizes those who were exceptional performers in the athletics arena as a student-athlete, coach or administrator and who have distinguished themselves in life after graduation through service and leadership. Eligible nominees must have graduated or served as a Central coach or administrator at least 15 years earlier.

## **CRAIG CANTRALL '94**

A high jump champ and physical therapist, Cantrall, *right*, captured Central's first track and field national championship, a number that since has grown to 20. He leaped 6 feet,



11 inches in taking the 1994 crown after previously earning all-America distinction by placing third in 1992 and fourth in 1993 and finishing sixth in the 1994 indoor meet. He was a four-time national outdoor meet qualifier and two-time indoor qualifier.

Originally from West Bend, Iowa,

Cantrall also was a nine-time Iowa Conference outdoor meet place winner and three-time indoor place winner, winning four consecutive outdoor high jump titles as well as the 1994 indoor crown. He helped the Dutch claim four consecutive league outdoor team championships as well.



His 1992 leap of 7-¾ broke the conference meet record and he cleared 7-1 ½ in 1993 to set a school mark that still stands.

Also a classroom standout, Cantrall was named to the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic Team in 1994. He received a doctoral degree in physical therapy from Creighton University, served as a physical therapist in Centerville from 1997-2008 and also was director of rehabilitation services at Mercy Medical Center from 2006-08. He's now a physical therapist at Spencer Hospital in Spencer, Iowa.

### MIKE STUMBERG '89

Stumberg, *bottom left*, ranks among the most dominant defensive players in Central's storied football history. A defensive lineman with a rare mix of strength and

a sprinter's speed, he was a nightmare for pass protectors.

Stumberg shattered Central's pass sacks records with numbers that have not been approached, posting 65 career sacks, including 28 in 1987. He had 296 tackles overall and notched a record 85 career tackles for loss, including 37 in 1987. He also set game marks by twice notching five sacks as well as seven tackles for a loss.

A 1988 nominee for Domino's Division III Player of the Year Award, he was a consensus all-America pick, landing on teams chosen by the American Football Coaches Association, the Associated Press, Football News and Pizza Hut. He was the conference MVP and a three-time first-team all-conference pick.

Stumberg was a member of four NCAA playoff teams and three conference championship squads. He helped lead

Central to the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl game after reaching the national semifinals in 1985 and 1987. The Dutch were 44-6 during his career with only two regular-season losses.

Following graduation, he signed a free-agent contract with the NFL's Seattle Seahawks but after a promising start suffered an injury during training camp, ending his playing career.

Stumberg returned to the national championship field as a member of the officiating crew for the College Football Playoff finale in Atlanta featuring the University of Alabama and the University of Georgia in 2018. He's served as a Big Ten Conference official since 2014, worked the 2015 Big Ten title game and has officiated six major bowl games. He also is a claims manager for Nationwide Insurance and lives in his hometown of Grundy Center, Iowa.

### PETER WAGNER '03

Wagner, *top left*, is a nine-time all-American and three-time NCAA champion and Central's first national winner in the multi-events.

He won the 2001 and 2003 national decathlon crowns while also helping take first place in the 2002 1,600-meter relay.

Wagner received all-America honors nine times, the most ever by a Central athlete, including four times in the decathlon. He was eighth in the decathlon and outdoor high jump in 2000, third in the indoor 1,600 relay in 2001, second in the decathlon in 2002 after finishing fifth in the indoor 1,600 relay and was eighth in the 2003 indoor 1,600 relay.

The Iowa Conference MVP in 2002 and 2003, he placed in a remarkable seven events in the 2003 outdoor meet and was a 20-time league outdoor place winner with 17 indoor place finishes.

His competitive athletics career continued beyond graduation. He was 13th in the 2004 USATF Indoor Combined Events Championships in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and is a four-time top-six place winner in the Drake Relays decathlon, most recently finishing sixth in 2018.

Since 2005 Wagner has served as a criminalist in the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation.

Wagner's wife, **Raegan Schultz Wagner '04**, was inducted into the Central Athletics Hall of Honor last year. ■



# SUMMITT HAS DUTCH P.A. CAREER MIC DROP

STORY BY: **LARRY HAPPEL '81**

If there are personal highlight videos that stream in the memory banks of Central College's basketball, volleyball and softball players from the past 30 years, they are narrated by **Thom Summitt '74**.

In February, Summitt quietly ended his run as public address announcer that launched in 1990. His voice was a constant background presence for athletes during games, along with his ready laugh, encouraging fist bumps and 1970s music. He was at the mic for NCAA Division III championship finals in all three sports and other milestone moments in Dutch athletics history. He radiated the same enthusiasm when announcing half-court shootouts, co-ed dance performances and Parents' Night introductions.

"He brought some energy to the gym," **Andy Waugh '13** says. "Anyone who's been around Central basketball recognizes Thom Summitt's voice."

Never a varsity athlete, as a student Summitt was nonetheless immersed in the Central athletics world while in the equipment room. Friendships established there now extend to countless Dutch athletes and coaches he's met since graduating. He also credits athletics leaders from his undergraduate years with providing a firm guiding hand.

"If it weren't for (equipment manager) **Eldon Schulte '58** and (former football coach and athletics director) **Ron Schipper**, I never would have graduated," Summitt says. "I enjoyed being away from home and they kept me on my toes."

He filled in as announcer for the Dutch once in 1990.

"I think I did it because nobody else was doing it and then Coach Schipper asked me if I wanted to do it the rest of the season and I said, 'Yeah,'" Summitt says. There was no training program for what became a 30-year side gig.

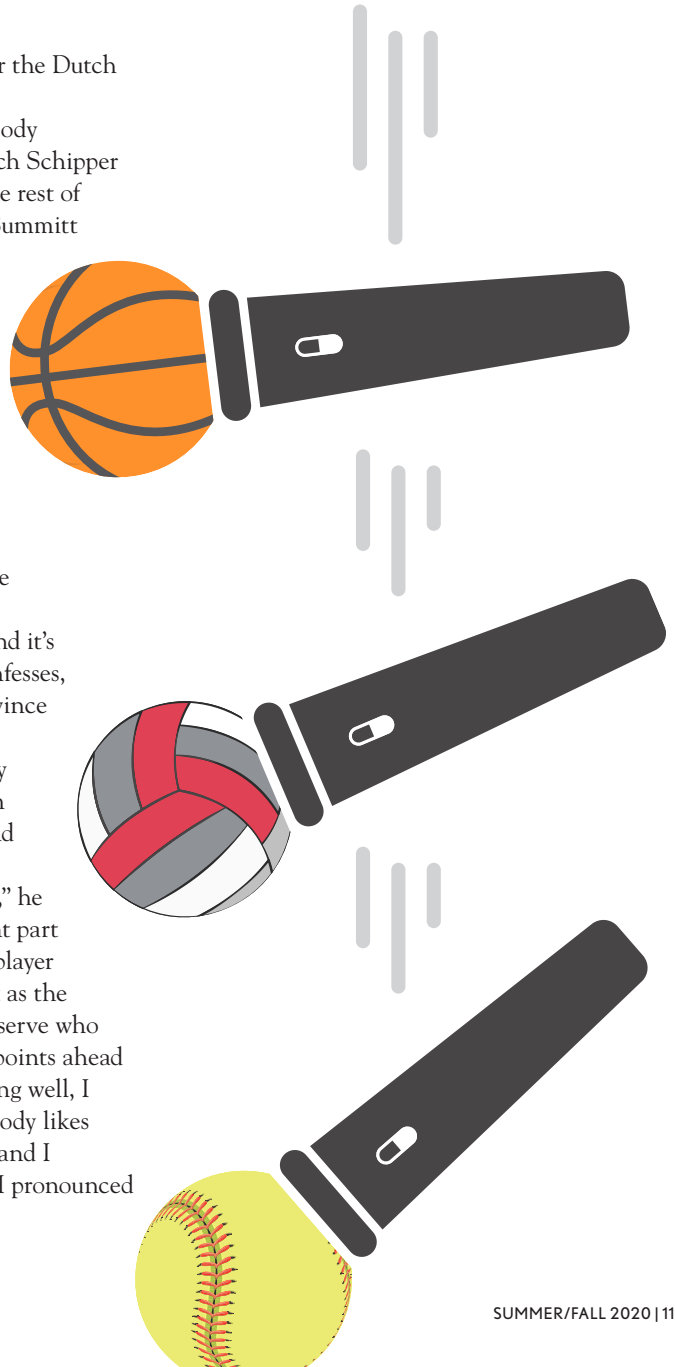
"I just winged it," he says.

At the microphone, Summitt was respectful and quick to congratulate opposing players. Yet with every "And one!" and "Point, Dutch!" the energy in his voice betrayed his Central fervor. Few are more Forever Dutch®.

"You get to know the kids and it's tough not being biased," he confesses, acknowledging an occasional wince at an official's call.

While most announcers play to the crowd, it has always been the athletes who are top of mind to Summitt.

"The game is for the players," he says. "There's the entertainment part of it, but I tried to make every player feel they were just as important as the next player, whether it was a reserve who was in there when we were 20 points ahead or a starter. If they did something well, I tried to use enthusiasm. Everybody likes to have their name mentioned and I always tried hard to make sure I pronounced it right."





**Thom Summitt '74** jokes with former Central volleyball player **Erin Dilger '20** prior to a Dutch men's basketball game. Summitt, a longtime favorite of Central student-athletes, retired as the men's and women's basketball announcer in February after 30 years. He previously announced at home volleyball and softball contests as well.

That feeling was evident to **Craig Douma**, men's basketball coach.

"On Senior Night he came up to me and says, 'Coach, make sure you're taking the seniors out of the game one at a time,'" Douma says with a smile. "He wanted to make sure they're recognized. He cares about those players. That's why he loves the program so much. It's because he loves the kids and he loves people."

Talk to the athletes and it's clear Summitt is as special to them as they are to him.

"You always got a lot of high-fives before the game," says **Justin Madsen '10**, former men's basketball guard. "He's a pretty outgoing guy and he likes to know everyone. He was always around, which I think is great

and is a positive influence on the team."

On the softball field Summitt perhaps flaunted NCAA compensation rules with his tradition of handing out lucky pennies to Central players before games.

"He got to know them as people beyond the player," says **George Wares '76**, Central's longtime softball coach. "I think that meant a lot to the players."

**Rachael Everingham Vice '12** earned all-America honors as a softball designated player. An Illinois native now serving as a physical therapist in Paris, Illinois, Vice made an early connection with Summitt. As a freshman she helped play the team's warmup music over the PA system.

"He was a friend but also in a sense, he

and his wife were somewhat of a family," Vice says. "When my family wasn't able to be at games, he would always come up between games and tell us, 'Good job.' He made sure we always had somebody there, whether it was me or other players."

The interaction with players and officials is what Summitt will miss most. Yet the ties to Central will remain.

"Central, it's so many people you meet," he says. "And whether you're friends with them or not, when I traveled through an airport, I'd see somebody who went to Central and you had that connection. It's just the friendships and relationships you develop and they're there forever." ■

## SPRING SPORTS WRAP-UP

### MEN'S AND WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Four Central College athletes received all-America distinction for the NCAA Division III indoor track and field season from the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. They were: **Drake Lewis '22**, men's high jump; **Brock Lewis '22**, men's long jump; **Kennedy Morris '21**, women's weight throw; and **Mary Gray '21**, women's pentathlon.

### SOFTBALL

Central finished an abbreviated campaign at No. 8 in the NFCA Division III softball rankings, the program's first top-10 national finish since 2015. The Dutch were 6-1 with a surprising tie for second place at the elite 24-team NFCA Leadoff Classic from March 6-8 in Tucson, Arizona, before the season was shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### BASEBALL

Central won three of its final four games but closed at 3-3 when the season came to an abrupt end. **Rece Martin '20** pitched six shutout innings in a 9-0 rout of MacMurray College (Illinois) on March 7.

### ACADEMIC HONORS

Center fielder **Sara Tallman '20** was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-America softball team, the college's second academic all-America award of the year and the 64th in school history. A three-time all-region player, she graduated with a 3.96 GPA, a .399 career batting average and 101 stolen bases.

Women's golfer **Emily Opsal Wilson '20** was named to the academic all-district women's at-large team. A three-time all-conference honoree, she carried a 3.97 GPA.

**Nathan Fritz '20** became the first Dutch wrestler ever selected for the academic all-district men's at-large team. A two-time NCAA national tourney qualifier, he had a 3.44 GPA.





# COMING FROM A REAL PLACE

Pella native and Central College donor **Ryan Danks** treasures his Central role models.

**EDUCATION:** DePauw University, University of Michigan Law School

**CAREER:** Assistant Chief Prosecutor, Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice.

**LOCATION:** Washington, D.C.

Ryan Danks considers himself a child of the college even though he is not an alumnus. His family members are longtime Central community alumni, faculty and supporters; his extended family includes many more. Many of his childhood memories revolve around Central's campus:

- + Saturday afternoons watching football games.
- + Taking classes in the Lubbers Center as a high school student.
- + Playing racquetball at the Kuyper Fieldhouse.
- + Attending concerts at Douwstra Auditorium.

As he grew older, Danks came to appreciate the important role Central plays in Pella. Like many Pella High School seniors, he took his first college course at Central: Introduction to Comparative Politics with Professor of Political Science **Keith Yanner**. He regularly hears about how his parents, Phyllis and **Jim Danks '64** enjoy the Central RED Society. Danks understands the need for the Pella community to rally around Central. The Danks family enthusiastically supports Central students, especially through Journey Scholarships and the **Dr. Maureen Croak Danks Scholarship**, which is in memory of Ryan Danks' late mother, a former Central faculty member.

"She died in 1981," says Danks, sitting at a table in Fred's. "After her death, friends and family sponsored an endowed scholarship in her name. I'm continuing to support that. In the last few years I've been supporting the Journey Scholarships as well. Those funds are put immediately to use and play an important role in allowing students to be able to come here.

"Pella is lucky to have Central and vice versa," he continues. "A great deal of support has come to the college from Pella families and businesses — including some who, like me, are not graduates. People in Pella recognize Central plays an important role in making Pella the great town it is — culturally, economically and recreationally. The town also supports the college by hiring a lot of alumni and offering internships and other experiences to students while they're here."

His support follows the example that his parents, Jim and Phyllis, set. "It is also a testament to just how important the Central community has been to me," he says. "The

most significant people in my life were connected to the college — people who taught alongside my parents, many famous Central names. These are the people I had Sunday dinner with and celebrated holidays with. My support for the college is a way of paying forward the contributions they all gave me."

What was it, exactly, they did give him? Danks thinks for a bit. "Coming from a real place with a strong sense of self and community allows you to carry that with you — even if, as in my case, you are living on Capitol Hill. Growing up, everyone was expected to be involved in something beyond your day-to-day life: volunteering at Tulip Time, school activities. As a result, I think public service is important. It can take many forms — volunteer activities, financial contributions. In Pella, I had good role models for that kind of involvement, and I treasure them." ■

**"PELLA IS LUCKY TO HAVE CENTRAL AND VICE VERSA."**

— RYAN DANKS

## MONTHLY GIVING

**Ryan Danks** supports Central College by giving a monthly gift. Such gifts can be scheduled to occur automatically and fit easily into a donor's budget. Once set up, it will repeat each month, providing a convenient, hassle-free way to give. Many donors enjoy how this approach creates a major impact for Central's students, for as little as \$5 or \$10 per month, while fitting into a monthly personal budget. For more information: [central.edu/give](https://central.edu/give) or call 641-628-7604 to discuss monthly giving.



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## CENTRAL SCENE

PHOTO BY: ANDREW GORMAN '19

A memorial to Central's veterans flanks the college's new Peace Mall history garden and **Wallace Spencer Stepske '64** Amphitheater.

For more information, [central.edu/peace-mall](http://central.edu/peace-mall).







STORY BY: DAN WEEKS

# THE FACTORY **FACTOR**

In 1935, Central College went industrial to help students fund their education.



A model of Old Central Hall made by Central Industries shares a tabletop with a photo of student workers posing with cultivators made by the Industries.



Nearly three decades before the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 created federal work study programs, Central College built its own.

Initially called the Earn-Your-Way Corporation and later Central College Student Industries (Central Industries for short), the innovative program helped hundreds of Central students pay for their educations during the depth of the Great Depression.

### THE BAD OLD DAYS

Unemployment topped 20% nationally in 1935. Central, then 82 years old, enjoyed an excellent academic reputation and no shortage of interested students. But many didn't have tuition money or any way to earn it. Would-be college students seemed locked out of higher education; some already enrolled risked dropping out. The college faced a declining enrollment it could ill afford.

Most colleges hunkered down during the depression. They reduced payroll by attrition and more than 80% of institutions surveyed cut faculty salaries, often while increasing workload. They cut campus construction projects by nearly 90%. Some elite colleges with wealthy students raised tuition to make up for lost revenue from their endowments, according to "Depression, Recovery, and Higher Education," a report published in 1937 by a special committee of the American Association of University Professors and cited in "The Bad Old Days: How Higher Education Fared During the Great Depression."

### A BOLD VISION

Central wasn't most colleges. Unwilling to lower the quality or accessibility of its education, it developed a plan that involved three new hires, renovating its most iconic building and making a Central education affordable to students with financial need.

At a spring meeting, "the much-discussed proposal for an 'earn-your-way' corporation was brought before the board [of trustees] with much enthusiasm, and a committee

was formed to report to the board in June," announced The Central Ray in a March 22, 1935, article. [All quotes to follow also are from The Central Ray.]

By May 10 of that year, the college proclaimed it was "entering upon a new plan of giving aid to worthy needy students" by creating a factory staffed by college students. The college promised that if a student was "efficient and cooperative," they'd be able to earn a large portion of their college expense. Students could even work year-round — enough to allow them to earn sufficient funds to maintain a full course load and graduate with their class.

### PROFESSIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

The college didn't mess around. It hired **Simon Heemstra** (sometimes spelled Hiemstra), a manufacturing executive formerly with Standard Oil Company, General Motors and National Biscuit Company. He was given the title professor and the mandate to start a factory to make high-demand products with as little capital as possible.

Heemstra in turn hired **George Heeren**, a former industrial foreman. The two came up with something they called Buildertoy: A kit of parts from which children could

assemble "a complete living room, bedroom and dining room suite, all contained in a neat box" along with a tube of glue.

The college took over the old Two Van Shoe store in downtown Pella for a workspace. Heemstra and Heeren designed and built some woodworking machines, devised an assembly line and started putting students to work sawing, sanding and packaging kits. The kits were sold in stores in Pella so as not to undercut local businesses. Heemstra went on the road and secured wholesale orders from chain department stores such as the S.S. Kresge Company, one of the 20th-century's largest discount retailers, later renamed Kmart Corporation.

### STARTING ON A DIME

Buildertoy retailed for 10 cents. Heemstra and Heeren figured that way, any parent could afford to buy one for their children for Christmas. They were right. Soon shifts of Central students were working "from 10 to 12 in the morning, all afternoon and sometimes into the evening" to keep up with orders. The raw materials were so cheap and the assembly line so efficient that even at a dime a kit the product made money.



After Pellacraft branding was introduced, many Central Industries products were identified by this label printed by a hand-carved block.



**Ben Hoeksema** leans on a bandsaw while addressing student workers. An experienced Pella woodworker and cabinetmaker, he served as manager of Central Industries.



Later, the industries branched out into making larger products, including furniture, some of which was used in residence halls and classrooms. **Norman Den Hartog '51** of Knoxville, Iowa, stains an end table; **Bill Baird '50** of Johnstown, New York, finishes a bookshelf; and **Tom Carlson '50** of Chicago, Illinois, assembles a table with a brace and bit.

Central Industries quickly followed up with a farm set with “a hog house, chicken house, granary, etc., with a large amount of fence and posts, uniquely designed, so that the child can build his own fence around the farmyard.” It, too, was a mass-market hit.

### A CLASSIC SUCCESS STORY

From there, Central Industries took off. Art Professor **Vernon Bobbitt** became another mainstay, helping design products and overseeing manufacturing. **Ben Hoeksema**, an experienced Pella woodworker and cabinetmaker, eventually joined as manager.

Central Industries kept coming up with new products, including:

- + Church-shaped wooden banks sold to congregations for use in fundraising.
- + Folding ironing boards for the Rite-Hite Ironing Company of Des Moines, Iowa.
- + Laundry baskets to go with the above.
- + Wooden footstools of varnished and waxed wood with woven rush tops.
- + Folding wooden banquet tables.
- + Garden tools, including a wholesale order of 7,000 hoes for the Garden City Cultivator Company of Pella, Iowa.

- + Spark Arrestors for chimney tops to prevent sparks from setting roof fires, for the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company of Grinnell, Iowa.

The business outgrew one facility, then another. Over time, the factory and offices hopscotched all over Pella’s downtown. In addition to the Two Van Shoe store, they filled the buildings formerly occupied by the Woodrow Washing Machine Factory, the Feeder Works, the Garden City Overall Factory and the Vos Implement Company.

Students become not only workers but foremen, accountants, managers and board members, learning business skills that supplemented their courses. A 15-member student board — eight elected by Central Industries student workers and seven appointed by management — elected its own officers and met twice per month. By fall semester 1937, Central Industries employed 85 students — a significant portion of the college’s student body at the time.

In 1938, in addition to producing products for branding and sale by others, Central Industries introduced its own Pellacraft brand. The biggest seller was the industries’ folding banquet tables sold to



Completed church banks are lined up and ready for packing and shipping.



churches, schools and lodges. The industries made up to 50 tables monthly and “found it impossible to keep production ahead of orders” because of demand.

In 1940, 90 students worked at the plant during the academic year; 15 over summer break.

During the late 1930s Central Industries also:

- + Renovated Jordan Hall.
- + Made “much of the furniture for the college,” including tables, chairs, dressers, desks and more.
- + Imported and distributed tulip bulbs from Holland. (“Bulbs may be ordered at any time and will be shipped to any point.”)
- + Acted as a job shop equipped to do “all types of woodwork” and “most types of metal work, besides having some skillful sign painters.”

Archival photographs of Central students with graduation dates as late as 1951 indicate the industries likely continued through at least the mid-1940s.

### A TIMELY SOLUTION

Central Industries boomed during an economic bust. It created needed products of high quality at reasonable prices. It helped Central improve its buildings and furnishings when other institutions were deferring maintenance. It trained students in useful trades and crafts and in the operation and management of a sizable business. Most important, all its profits went to pay the college expenses of its student workers.

Central Industries, noted The Central Ray in May 1938, “is helping to solve one of the major problems for college men and women — finances. Every student who will cooperate ... will not only make a great success of Central College Student Industries but will also train ... in some valuable experiences which will make ... life more pleasant, richer and more sympathetic with ... fellow workers, not only in college, but also out in the wide, wide world.”

Experiential learning, internships, work study and co-op programs are popular now, and for good reason. But we know of no other small liberal arts college that bootstrapped an entrepreneurial manufacturing industry during a financial crisis solely for the benefit of its students — and succeeded at such scale. ■

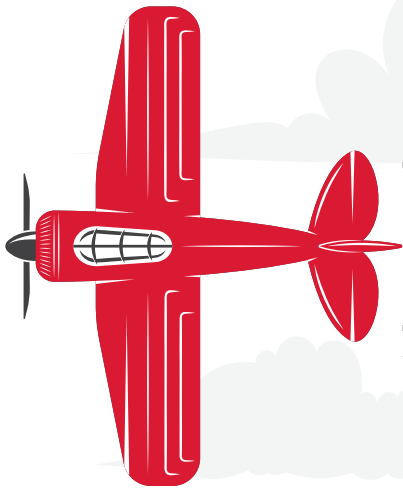


Central students assemble and pack thousands of church-shaped banks. They were sold to congregations and used to take up special collections.



The shop floor. Central Industries' rapid expansion caused it to occupy five buildings in as many years.





# A PIVOT TO PILOTS

Between Spring 1941 and June 1944, Central taught hundreds to fly for the Army and Navy.

STORY BY: **DAN WEEKS**



Cadets get ground instruction from **Earl Pohlmann** at the Pella airport.

In the early 1940s, nearly every man on Central College's campus was studying to be a pilot.

That took some doing. Pella, Iowa, didn't even have an airport in 1940. And Central was a liberal arts college with an otherwise almost entirely female student body (most male students were off to war). But the armed services needed more pilots than the military could train. According to *The Central Ray*, Central President **Irwin Lubbers** "offered the services of the college to the government in a trip to Washington and was assured that Central would be one of the first small colleges considered in any war time education plan."

The government was good to its word. Central launched a flight training school virtually overnight.

## NO EASY COURSE

As part of the federal government's Civilian Pilot Training program — later called the War Training Service — Central offered four, eight-week courses of 240 hours of study each. Students were paid a stipend of \$100 per month — "scant enough to keep one in board and room and shoe polish," according to a Sept. 4, 1942, article in *The Central Ray*.

CPT was no easy course: Even the so-called "Elementary Ground School" consisted of:

- + 20 hours of Physics
- + 26 hours of Math
- + 16 hours of Civil Air Regulations
- + 10 hours of General Science of Aircraft
- + 36 hours of Navigation
- + 22 hours of Code

- + 58 hours of Military and Physical Training
- + 12 hours of Military Science and Discipline
- + 24 hours of Meteorology
- + 12 hours of Aircraft Identification and
- + 35 hours of flying from the hastily constructed Pella airport

The secondary school taught more of the same, plus Theory of Flight and Aircraft and Aircraft Engine Operation.

"Students begin flying at sunup and at 8 o'clock they begin the ground school day. The afternoons are spent in flying, evenings in classes and study. Saturday mornings are kept for inspections and flight. ... Central's school of the air has so far drawn only unqualified praise from the inspectors," reported *The Central Ray*. The program had its own bus to shuttle students from campus to the airport five times daily. At the program's height, training aircraft burned 6,000 gallons of aviation gas per month.

## FROM LATIN TO AIRCRAFT CONSTRUCTION

At first, classes were held in various buildings in downtown Pella and students were civilians. Later, classes met in Jordan Hall and students were Army or Navy cadets (the U.S. Air Force wasn't established until 1947). Military instructors taught flying, while Central faculty taught ground school classes.

**Tunis Prins**, director of athletics and professor of physical education, coordinated the program. **Henry Pietenpol**, academic dean and professor of mathematics and physics, taught the cadets physics. **Gerrit Vander Lugt**, professor of mathematics and later president of the college, taught math and navigation. Long-time Professor of Latin and Greek **Herbert Mentink** taught Theory of Flight and Construction of Aircraft.

**Laura Nanes**, beloved professor of history, taught meteorology. **Ray Doorenbos '56** taught mechanics.





A rare color photograph of **Paul Metcalf**, flight instructor, ready for takeoff.





The pilot training program literally took over Graham Hall, transforming it from a women's residence hall to a barracks.







## POW ISN'T AS BAD AS IT SOUNDS



**Lt. Robert G. Menning '42** was copiloting a B25 C bomber such as this when he was shot down in the mountains of North Africa.

Credit: United States Air Force

**Lt. Robert G. Menning '42** was shot down in combat. He was listed as missing in action on Jan. 22, 1943, and feared dead.

But eight days later, his family got a letter from him. "I am well and safe and will be home as soon as the war is over," he wrote — to the huge relief of his wife, **Lolly Menning '42**.

He miraculously survived and was taken prisoner by the Germans.

His letter was published in its entirety in *The Central Ray* April 2, 1943. It is a model of nonchalance and reassurance:

"I am now a prisoner of war, but please don't worry about me because a prisoner of war isn't as bad as it sounds or as you think," he began.

"I was shot down in the mountains of Africa. I was the only one who got out alive. I bailed out at 200 feet. It was by the providence of God that I was saved.

"The Germans treat us very good. Good food, sports, movies, candy, cigarettes, etc., mostly from the Red Cross. ... The officers live together. We even have colonels and majors here, three colonels from Iowa. ... We all have one consolation as prisoners and that is that we will be alive after the war. The first thing they do after the war is that they exchange prisoners. ... Don't worry about me and tell everyone to write. Lovingly, Bob"

True to his letter, he returned home alive and well after the war's end.

## MORE VINTAGE PHOTOS!

Unless otherwise indicated, the photos illustrating this article are from the Florence E. Meredith Lilly collection in the Central College Archives. To view these and other photos from this collection: [central.edu/lilly-collection](http://central.edu/lilly-collection).



**Jake DeHaan and Bob Nemmers** getting ready to fly.

Apparently the faculty made the disciplinary leaps well. According to the military, 40% of cadets washed out of military flight training programs; less than 5% of CPT-trained pilots did. They went on to fly everything from ferry planes to combat planes.

### MILITARY TAKEOVER

Life for Central's female student body changed dramatically, too. They were kicked out of Graham Hall as the "women's dorm" was converted — in three days flat — to a barracks.

"Giggles, howls of 'Who's got the iron?' and the swish of formals were replaced by butch haircuts, navigation cases and the purr of electric razors," wrote **Carol Hubrex '46** in a June 2, 1944, article in *The Central Ray*. The women were moved to "five attractive cottages" surrounding campus.

### BACK TO NORMAL

By June 1944, the military had ramped up its own pilot training and the War Training Service no longer was needed. Central faculty went back to teaching their liberal arts curriculum; women moved back into Graham; and Central waved goodbye to the aviators — apparently with good feelings all around.

"Central College has given to Cadet Flight Training much more than the courses offer. It has furnished the cadets with a Christian atmosphere and a cultural environment. It has been in every respect a college as well as a training ground. Students at Central, whether in military service or in the regular college training, are to be congratulated," wrote Lt. James S. Duncan, the resident naval officer, upon his departure.

Hubrex put it more simply. "Really," she wrote, "it's been fun having the cadets on campus." ■





The fleet of training aircraft and the number of cadets had grown significantly by the time the program ended in 1944. This photo shows only half the cadets and one-third of the aircraft present at the program's height.



Flight instructor **Paul Metcalf** poses with an early flight simulator — called a Link trainer — used in Central's ground school instruction.



Navy cadets in a classroom with **Marvin Baker**, instructor.

## "LOVE [AND LOSS] VIA BomBER"



**Lt. Walter J. McCain '42** was killed when the bomber he was piloting was attacked, caught fire and crashed in Germany.

Perhaps the most heartbreaking story of the era concerns **Lt. Walter J. McCain '42** and **Martha Childress Miller '44**. McCain, a Central student from Closter, New Jersey, enlisted in the Army Air Corps after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He joined the first Civilian Pilot Training course offered at Central. Somehow, he and Childress managed to find time to fall in love during McCain's pilot training in spite of the dawn-to-dark cadet regimen.

McCain entered the Army Air Corps service soon after the completion of his pilot training during his second year at Central, forcing him to leave Childress behind. But when he found he'd be flying his B-17 E Flying Fortress Heavy Bomber right over Pella on a flight from Topeka, Kansas, he wired her the approximate time. According to a Nov. 13, 1942, article in *The Central Ray* titled "Love Via Bomber," Childress stood in front of Graham Hall in the cold and dark for over an hour just to hear the plane's engines as he passed overhead.

Maybe she had a premonition, because days later she left Central for a week to visit McCain in Topeka. They were married just 18 days before he was deployed. Childress was still a student.

On April 19, 1944, the B-17 McCain co-piloted was hit by anti-aircraft fire over Germany and caught fire. McCain and his fellow pilot managed to keep the bomber in the air long enough for the other eight men in the crew to bail out. But the pilots went down with the plane and were killed. The surviving crew members were taken prisoners. All came to pay their respects to McCain's family after the war for his heroism in helping ensure their survival. McCain is buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.





The Quest, a bronze statue on Central's Peace Mall, masks up and studies remotely during spring semester. Central students did the same.



# College

## DURING CORONAVIRUS

How the Central community is innovating its way through a pandemic.

STORY BY: **DAN WEEKS**

Students have always come first at Central, and it was the pandemic's impact on students that was first on the minds of the entire community. All students, except a few who had an urgent and compelling health or welfare reason to remain on campus, were sent home for their safety at the start of spring break in March. Break was extended from one week to two weeks; faculty used the extra time to prepare for remote teaching and learning for the remainder of the semester.

All in-person classes and events for the second half of the spring semester were canceled — a move ultimately made by nearly every institution of higher learning in the country. Athletics seasons went incomplete. Study abroad programs, internships, research and community service projects all were affected. The result hit the Class of 2020 particularly hard: Goodbyes with classmates, faculty and staff were hasty or impossible and the much-anticipated Commencement ceremony was put on hold.

The college quickly adapted. Central pivoted to remote teaching and learning, invented new ways to serve and support students and accelerated campus improvement projects. It's been a challenge, yet academic progress hasn't missed a beat. Enrollment numbers and donations have set records. And Central students and alumni are pitching in — some in life-altering ways — to serve their communities and save lives.

Here's an overview as of late August 2020 when this issue of the magazine went into production. Quoted passages have been edited slightly for style and space.

### ACADEMICS

When coronavirus hit, **Mary E.M. Strey**, Central's vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, had two priorities:

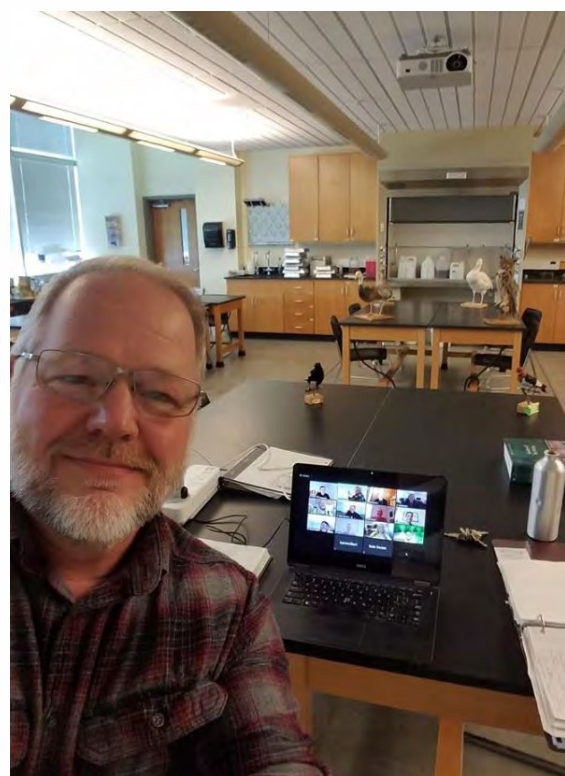
1) Make sure students' academic progress continued unimpeded and 2) ensure they did not lose financial aid. That meant providing nearly every student with a full course load — wherever they happened to live.

"I have to tell you, it was phenomenal," Strey says. Starting during the extended two-week spring break, "faculty organized and hosted distance-teaching workshops for each other so those who were experts could help teach others. Information Technology Services provided all the equipment we needed on campus and hand-delivered, in many cases, technology to students: laptops, personal Wi-Fi hot spots, microphones, whatever they needed to participate." ITS also made sure faculty and students had access to the software and platforms they needed to communicate and collaborate.

As courses continued remotely, faculty and students "extended grace in both directions." Faculty voted to allow students to elect to have their course graded on a pass/no-credit basis and offered students flexibility in reaching academic objectives. Students were patient with professors who were teaching remotely, many for the first time.

Other academic activities continued in altered form: Honors students shared their senior honors thesis to the Central community remotely and the annual celebration of faculty accomplishments and announcements of awards also took place virtually. "There was great participation because folks were so eager to be connected," Strey says.

At the end of the spring semester, a group of faculty surveyed students for the results. The consensus: "We found that synchronous education — everyone participating in real time — worked better than online learning,



**Flocking to class:** Professor of Biology **Russ Benedict** missed having students physically present to watch his lab demonstrations during remote learning. So he invited the department's collection of stuffed bird specimens to sit in for them during his Zoom ornithology teaching sessions.

where everyone worked individually. But nothing was as good as face-to-face," Strey says. "Students and faculty really missed each other."

Still, there was an upside: "Some faculty found ways to revise some aspects of their face-to-face teaching to make it even better," Strey says.

There was no letup during summer: Facilities management went through the campus room by room to determine what the new capacities of each space are when incorporating 6-foot physical distancing; fall courses were reassigned rooms accordingly. And faculty continued to engage in professional development to help them teach in person while at the same time allowing any students who may need to be in quarantine to participate remotely in real time.

Fall saw other adaptations as well: Due to the danger of spreading infection while singing and playing instruments, there are no live concerts during the first semester of the 2020-21 academic year, though the college planned to livestream student recitals.

The result is increased resilience. “We take with us the wisdom of experience,” says **Brian Peterson**, associate dean for curriculum and faculty development. “We learned that in an emergency, we can teach remotely and still maintain the quality education we are known for. We now understand how to keep functioning during an emergency that might otherwise shut us down.”

“Students and faculty really missed each other.”

– **Mary E.M. Strey**,  
Vice President for Academic  
Affairs and Dean of the Faculty

## OFF-CAMPUS STUDY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Central prides itself on how much of its programming takes place out in the world. Off-campus study, internships and community service are integral to a Central education both as stand-alone and course-embedded experiences.

COVID-19 threw a wrench in all of them.

One of the most fraught aspects of Central’s experience with the coronavirus — and some of its greatest triumphs — came as the college worked to preserve as much educational continuity amid the chaos as possible for each student. That effort was a collaboration between the study abroad, registrar’s, career development and civic engagement offices.

First, students studying off campus had to return from their host locations before borders closed — no easy feat when flights were filling and canceling by the minute. With lots of above-and-beyond work from the

college’s study abroad site directors and campus staff, all Central students got back in time and safely, though some trips were hardly routine (see “A Whirlwind of Emotions” on Page 31 and “It Was the Best of Times, It Was the Worst of Times” in Spring 2020, Page 34.)

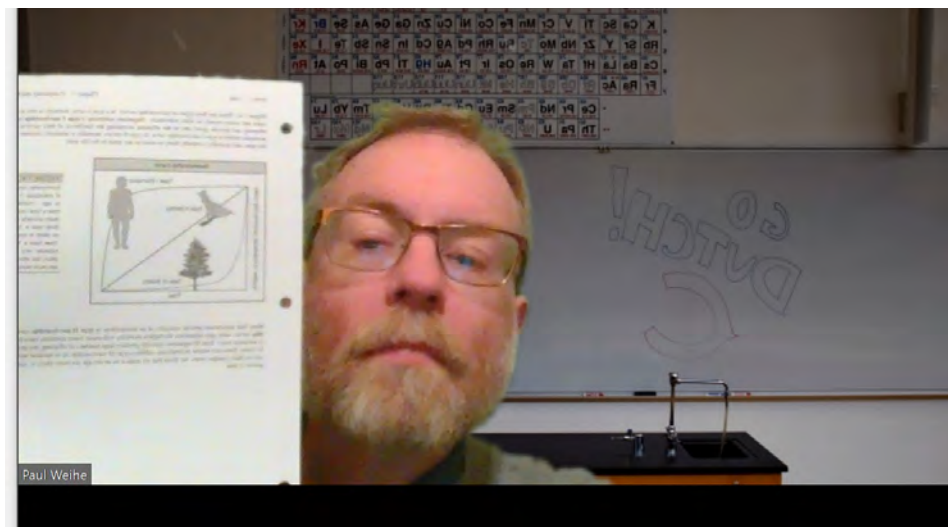
Then came the question of how to keep these students moving forward in their coursework. Fortunately, most of the college’s off-campus study program courses switched to remote learning at around the same time

gig-economy-meets-internship space. Several did.

There were some unexpected benefits: Most students found they adapted quickly to remote work. And several employers realized they could offer more flexible internship arrangements than they’d previously realized.

## COVID-19 SUMMER CLASS

To keep engagement high during the summer, Central offered An Interdisciplinary Conversation on COVID-19. This free,



**Paul Weihe**, associate professor of biology, leads a class session using Zoom.

Central did, and most could continue to accommodate Central students’ continued participation. For those that could not, alternative courses taught remotely from Central’s campus were found or developed, or professors took on one-on-one independent studies with students.

Next came the issue of internships and community service experiences. Many — even though based in other countries — were able to continue as virtual experiences. “We had students doing research for an organization in Vienna from their homes in the United States,” Peterson says.

Some experiences, such as those working with vulnerable youth or in long-term care, were unable to safely continue. For students involved in those, Assistant Dean for Career Development and Civic Engagement **Jess Klyn de Novelo ’05** and the community-based learning team contacted the college’s long list of internship and community partner organizations and alumni for alternatives. Other students satisfied requirements by completing a career-related remote course developed by the college. Klyn de Novelo also worked through the Pella Area Community and Economic Alliance to encourage local businesses to post short-term professional projects students could complete for them — a sort of

11-week, two-credit remote learning opportunity was offered in versions for incoming first-year students and for returning students. Both courses began the week of May 25 and continued into the first week of August. Nineteen faculty from 12 departments and three academic areas taught the classes; more than 200 students enrolled.

“It gave faculty an opportunity to work with students on a topic they may otherwise only have touched on tangentially, and for students to work with a faculty member they may not have been able to while on campus. For incoming first-year students, it was a chance to introduce them to our exceptional faculty and to begin to build a community,” Peterson says.

“Everything we’ve seen in the media about the pandemic is a part of interdisciplinary analysis,” Peterson continues. “How do we communicate about it, with what metaphors? How does it relate biologically and historically to SARS and other pandemics? What are the ethical implications, and what have been the artistic responses? This course gets students to realize this is something to view from many different angles in order to truly understand what’s going on.”



# CENTRAL COLLEGE CAMPUS TOUR



A virtual tour, given by **Madeline DeLeon '20**, helped keep prospective students interested in Central when on-campus visits weren't possible.

## STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Student development at Central incorporates much of the programming for students outside the classroom: campus activities; campus ministries; residence life; work-based learning; wellness, safety and counseling; and pre-college programming.

Vice President for Student Development **Carol Williamson** added another responsibility to her many roles in March: relocation coordinator. Charged with helping more than 1,000 students vacate the campus on short notice, "We stored items, shipped items — a staff member was on the phone in a student's residence hall room while the student was telling him where to find their chemistry notes," she remembers. "I still have a student's bike in my garage." Many of her staff did the same. Individual requests were honored.

Somehow, it all worked. By the second half of spring semester, there were less than a dozen students on campus for whom that was the best place to be. The college arranged

cleaning and meal delivery service for them so they could safely stay.

Then her team helped the financial aid and treasurer's offices refund pro-rated room and board fees. They also established a Central Cares Fund to help students meet COVID-19-related expenses and administered Federal CARES Act funds to provide emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives were disrupted by COVID-19.

Throughout the spring, student development continued to offer events and services to students remotely through residence hall virtual programs and the counseling center. It continued Central's long-standing Upward Bound and Pre-College programs for school-aged children entirely virtually.

Concurrently, the team began planning for the fall. They innovated ways to continue Central's tradition of experience-rich residential life and extracurricular options, many in new, pandemic-safe ways.

"Our work is to prepare students to be healthy and to encourage them not to lose sight of their dreams," Williamson says. "We've kicked off the semester with a new, outdoor Forever Dutch® event for the whole campus community. All the cautions were taken, and we celebrated everyone being back together."

Behind the scenes, student development has built on the college's already strong relationships with Pella Regional Health Center and Marion County Public Health. They're working closely with both to monitor and respond to ongoing conditions and to make sure Central students get the health care they need.

## ADMISSION

Recruiting an incoming class during the most uncertain times in a century posed a host of challenges. Chief among them: how to maintain the personal touch Central is known for while the world was in lockdown.

Before lockdown, the admission team visited all 377 high schools in Iowa. After COVID-19 hit, Dean of Enrollment Management **Chevy Freiburger** and his admission team upped their phone, email, text and digital contacts with prospective students, worked with Central's communications team to create a video tour and scheduled one-on-one and group video chats with high school students and families.

"In March, we had to flip on a dime," Freiburger says. "We had to regroup and go 100% virtual. We were really excited about the ability to adapt and keep the ship moving."

"It goes back to the product of Central, the affordability and the value you receive here," he says, emphasizing the tuition price of \$18,600 announced in September 2019. "Students and families saw that."

Meanwhile, Director of Financial Aid **Wayne Dille** and the admission office made it clear Central considered the needs of applicants whose family financial situation had been hurt by the pandemic. In person tours restarted June 1 and visitor attendance topped past years by a wide margin.

As a result, 325 first-year students and 31 transfer students joined the Central community for the fall semester.

**"I cannot overemphasize the need for vigilance. Never has the continued health of the college, the Central community and, indeed, of our state and nation been more directly dependent on the day-to-day choices made by each one of us."**

**— President Mark Putnam,  
July 24**





The support of many hands uplifted Central's fundraising efforts.

## DEVELOPMENT

In spite of the pandemic, Central enjoyed another record-breaking year in its fundraising efforts for the Journey Scholarship Fund and saw tremendous overall support for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

More than 4,000 alumni and friends donated \$5.67 million, an increase of more than 20% giving from the previous fiscal year. Central also saw an increase in participation with more total donors than the previous year.

A record \$1.38 million went toward the Journey Scholarship Fund. The college's 48-Hour Challenge, held in August 2020, by itself raised more than \$185,000 for the fund, surpassing its goal. This year, more than 700 students received a Journey Scholarship thanks to generous donors. At Central, 100% of gifts to the Journey Scholarship Fund directly support students.

The college also established the Central Cares Fund to help students demonstrating need for emergency assistance due to changes in economic or health conditions because of the coronavirus pandemic.

It also was a significant year for the Forever Dutch® initiative as renovation work began on the lower level of P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium and most of it was finished in August 2020. Some of the funding momentum included a 48-Hour Challenge in August 2019 that raised \$291,588, surpassing its goal of \$220,000. It included gifts from 328 friends and alumni.

"We are so grateful to our donors for helping continue the tradition of giving that allows current and future students to have access to a Central education. Philanthropy helps underwrite every aspect of our mission," says **Sunny Gonzales Eighmy '99**, vice president for advancement. "We are so incredibly fortunate to have donors — alumni, friends and foundations — who are committed to this amazing institution."

## FACILITIES

Central's cleaning crew always has gone above and beyond. But as a precautionary measure,

the 50 employees who make up Central's facilities department adjusted cleaning protocols following recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Facilities management custodial staff increased cleaning frequencies in high-traffic areas such as Maytag Student Center and Central Hall to keep these areas as clean and germ free as possible," says **Craig Roose**, director of facilities maintenance. "In addition, we spent the summer deep cleaning academic and residential areas."

In residence hall rooms, they clean everything from toilets to showers while restocking toilet paper and emptying trash. They thoroughly clean classrooms, including desks and tables. They make the gym floor shine. They make common areas the perfect place to relax or study.

It's all about the students, says **Kim Roorda**, custodian and team leader. "We want them to come here and we'll take care of them."

Her colleague **Trisha Van Wyk** agrees. "Pella is a clean community and Central wants to share in that."

There was also a bit of a silver lining to the students temporarily leaving campus in March: The college had planned to wait until summer to begin some parts of the Forever Dutch Phase Two update to the P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium to avoid interfering with athletics activities. But with students off campus, they were able to accelerate the schedule of renovations to the athletics training room and coaches offices. Facilities also used the time to finish renovating shop space at its warehouse.



**Kim Roorda, Olga Saoutina-Crumes and Trisha Van Wyk** are three of Central's facilities staff following new cleaning protocols to help keep the campus as germ-free as possible.



## STUDENTS

### A Whirlwind of Emotions

"Every day I watched the Spanish news with my host mom, Encarna, as the news got worse. **Veronica Garcia Montero**, our Granada, Spain, study abroad program director, drilled us on safety, protocols and travel restrictions. Suddenly EVERYBODY was talking about the coronavirus. On March 13 our program was suspended and we learned we must go home as soon as possible. I was relieved but mortified. I wanted to be home, but I didn't want to leave. I rushed to buy the earliest, most direct flight to the United States, and left three days later. During those days, the virus made unbelievable progress in Spain. The president announced a nationwide State of Alarm — it was illegal to leave your home except to buy groceries or medicine, or to work. For two days, I sat inside in fear and sadness. I was terrified of what this virus could do, and even more terrified of having to travel home.



**Rylie Conway '21** was studying in Spain when the coronavirus hit and brought her and her fellow study abroad students back to the United States in March.

"There is no script for this moment ... we are a community hardwired to care ... connecting with each other wherever we are."

— **President Mark Putnam,**  
March 30

It was extremely difficult, but I made it through customs and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention screening and was free to go — but not home. I still had to quarantine for two weeks — fortunately, with fellow Central student in the Granada program **Katie Huhe '21** in her sister's apartment about two hours from my house. (Huhe's parents had Huhe's car at the airport filled with 'gas and groceries and all the essentials.') I had plenty of time to reflect on how grateful I was for the time I did have in Spain. It was whirlwind of emotions, but I wouldn't trade it for the world."

— **Rylie Conway '21**

### It Doesn't Matter That We're Separated

"The sudden ending of the school year made me realize just how much I loved college. My



Bible study that Campus Ministries started is still in touch despite the distance between us all. Here is a pic of us all, *above*, at our first meeting! It doesn't matter that we're separated by states when we were already such close friends."

— **Madison Zink '23**



### The World's Health Is More Important

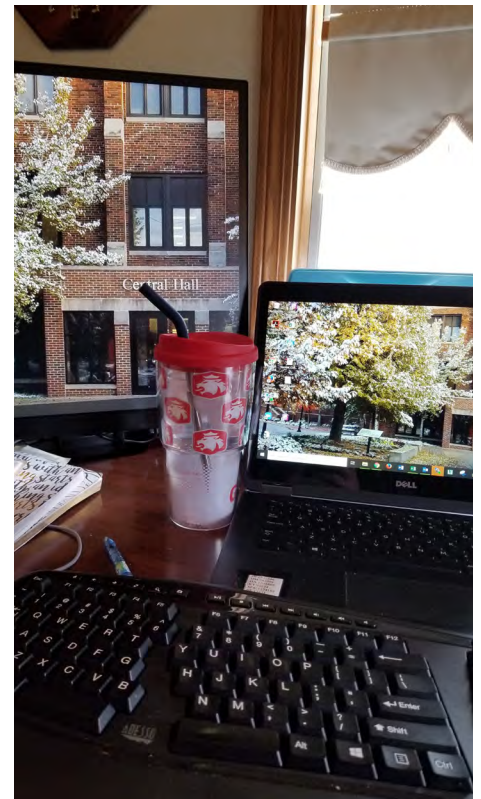
**Kiki Pingel '21**, *above*, was a member of the Central women's track team in March when she was interviewed by the Pella Chronicle: "We had a few athletes in North Carolina ready to compete at the DIII National Indoor Meet, when the season was called off ... it was a crazy few days. Multiple sources had us wondering if this was an overreaction. How could this be affecting a small DIII school like Central College in Pella, Iowa? At times you really wondered what was real. No school, no practices and no meets all of a sudden. My heart went out to the seniors on our team. Everyone is doing their best to adjust. ... Track will end in four years; it is the least to be worried about. School is not over. We need to stay on top of our education. This virus is bigger than all of that. The world's health is more important."





#### Student Mask Makers

Leighia Van Dam '22 and Lexi Engen '21, *above bottom*, decided to make good use of their time making masks while quarantining in Cedar Rapids after returning from Central's Mérida, Mexico, study abroad program. Sharaden Boggs '23, *above top*, also in Cedar Rapids, made and donated with her sister 120 face masks to the college and many more for area hospitals, friends and family.



Many faculty and staff members worked remotely during early months of the pandemic. **Jeanette Budding**, Central's prospect management and research coordinator, made sure her home office had plenty of reminders of campus.



## FACULTY AND STAFF

### Getting Creative

"We've had to get creative during quarantine! Our students missed spending time in the chapel, so we hosted an attic-cleaning Zoom call! We found some unique treasures and caught up with our students."

— **Brooke Ehrenberg '19**, campus ministry coordinator

### Learning by Doing

"I couldn't be more blessed to work with our teacher education colleagues. I LOVE our students! I have received several messages of encouragement from students in my courses. Their messages of thoughtfulness and prayer support are amazing! This experience is truly 'learning by doing.' It's challenging. It's uncomfortable, at times. I'm becoming a better professional by learning to navigate teaching/learning in a different way. Learning is messy and it's a great opportunity to grow — even when it's uncomfortable."

— **Julianne Taylor**, lecturer of education



### A Live-Music Lift

With churches mostly empty and most services online on Easter, people needed a live-music lift. **Mark Babcock '91**, M. Joan Kuyper Farver Endowed Chair in Music and associate professor of music and director of choirs, played a 30-minute carillon concert Easter morning at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Des Moines, Iowa, where he also is choirmaster and organist. "It was a unique idea this year, trying to find ways to give people sights and sounds that would connect them to meaningful memories of the past," Babcock says. He had learned to play the carillon while on sabbatical. "It was a great project since we have one here at the cathedral, and organists are often

carillonners," he says. The carillon's 25 bells rang through the streets of downtown, where hundreds of people were listening in their cars. There were 30,000 online viewers, and two Des Moines TV channels and Iowa Public Radio featured the event.

Professor of Music **Ian Moschenross** played a virtual piano recital June 10 to share some of his classical favorites with the Central community. He encouraged his 281 listeners to consider donating to the Central Cares Fund during the live concert.

### Epidemiology Gets Real

"I taught two sections of epidemiology. Each week we met via Zoom to discuss a topic related to the pandemic that applies what we

have learned. Topics include the eradication of smallpox, monitoring systems designed to prevent pandemics, testing, social distancing, globalization, human impact on the environment, how all of these are related to the pandemic and what we need to do to reduce the likelihood of a future pandemic of this scale. While none of us wants to be a part of this pandemic, it has provided me with an opportunity to put what we learn in epidemiology into practice. Students can relate to the subject as we are all affected and they can better understand the process, the confusion, the need for mitigation and the roles each person plays in this process."

— **Ellen DuPré**, professor of biology



### Eating Healthy in Quarantine

"I try to stay in contact with students and I sent them my healthy food pictures. Here's one of my spinach pancakes, along with the recipe.

1 cup oats - blend  
1 banana  
1 cup spinach  
1 cup water or any nut milk - blend  
Add 1/3 cup oats  
Make waffles or pancakes

You can also add 1 scoop of vanilla plant-based protein powder, spirulina or hemp seeds."

— **Sara Shuger Fox**, associate professor of exercise science



### The Show Must Go On

Assistant Professor of English **Kate Nesbit** created two videos for her students that take a creative alternative to pedagogy. In “The Great British Writing Show,” (a spinoff of “The Great British Baking Show”) shot in her kitchen, she shares the recipe for an effective introductory paragraph for her English 160: The Literary Imagination course – complete with outrageous English accent and lots of foodstuffs for props. In “Blog Dissection,” (a play on frog dissection) she dons a lab coat, goggles and gloves to deconstruct two “species” of blogs for students in English 344: Writing for Nonprofit Organizations. She slices through the headline and into the body of a blog printout with scissors to reveal what it’s made of. “Here we have a hyperlink!” she exclaims, holding up a bit of text with tweezers.

### The Economy Will Come Back

Economist and Associate Dean for Curriculum and Faculty Development **Brian Peterson** was interviewed by KNIA/KRLS radio about the pandemic economy in June.

“The effects of COVID-19 will be fairly long-lasting,” he predicts. “At some point at the end of the year or into next year, you’ll see positive gross domestic product growth, but nothing close to where we were for quite some time,” he adds. For investors, “Ride it out is good advice,” he says. “Don’t look at your quarterly report as long as you have a long time horizon. As long as we plan on a long recovery, we’ll be OK.”

### ALUMNI

#### Doing Everything We Can

“I work as the health and fitness director at a senior living facility outside of St. Louis, Missouri. With COVID-19 having the most dramatic impact to our senior population, we are doing everything we can to keep them safe during this time. Every hour we have something new for them to do. From sit-and-chat to exercise to karaoke for happy hour, we do what we can to put smiles on their faces. My role in helping our seniors in the time of need is important. Staying active is one of the most important things a person can do. Being able to provide them with the materials and knowledge of exercise and its importance is why I love what I do. I feel like I can be a light for the residents and a smiling face they can see every day.”

– Daniel Weir '18

#### The Way We Respond Has Drastically Changed

“My wife is a flight nurse for Airlift Northwest based out of Yakima, Washington.

I’m a firefighter/AEMT for the City of Pasco, Washington. My department has treated a fair share of patients who present with coronavirus symptoms. My wife flies these patients from the hospital to high levels of care. We also still respond to the ‘normal’ calls that we face every day – fires, car accidents, EMS calls. But the way we respond to these calls has drastically changed with the presumption that every patient is infected until proven otherwise. Thankfully, we both work for progressive departments and are equipped and trained to handle these issues.”

– Derek '09 and Kate Knutson

### Jumping in With Both Feet

“Here in Michigan, we have been jumping in with both feet as teachers to figure out how to do remote learning. We have been learning how to run Zoom meetings and using Google Classroom, Quizizz, BrainPOP and Khan Academy to help deliver assignments, instructional videos and assessments. The learning curve is high. Parents have been great, but there is a wide variety of available technology. So, there have also been many packets of materials that have been delivered and paper/pencil task alternatives. To top it all off, I had just announced in February that I will be retiring at the end of the year. Never could I have imagined that I would not have



Packages of donated, handmade masks cover the desk of **Mary Benedict**, Central’s assistant director of alumni relations. Dozens of volunteers made and sent more than 1,000 pieces of protective equipment for Central students, faculty and staff – mostly masks and face shields – and many in Central colors or with Central logos. Those volunteers included more than 30 students and their friends, siblings, parents, grandparents and other relatives; Central alumni and their spouses; Central employees and retirees; college neighbors and Pella residents – even parents of students who attended Central summer camps. In total, volunteers sewed more than enough masks to allow the college to give one hand-made-with-love mask to each Central student. Each mask came with a tag identifying the mask maker. It all goes to show that there’s no such thing as a tenuous connection to Central!



these final months with my students to savor my 'lasts' with them. (We also have a high school senior who is missing out on the end of his year.) We are doing our best to maintain a new normal and trusting that God will see us through."

— Jan Damsteegt DeJong '86

#### Consider an Advanced Directive

"I am a palliative care physician at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula, Montana. I am helping patients and their families with the hardest decisions during this pandemic, both in person and through telemedicine. Palliative care helps patients get the care they want while avoiding care they do not want. We're often termed the quality of life team due to our focus on helping people live more comfortably. I also help patients with symptoms such as anxiety or symptoms from COVID-19 directly. Please consider completing an advance directive, also known as a living will, during this time at home. It will protect your wishes and guide your family if you are unable to voice your opinion while sick. I hope you all stay safe during this time.

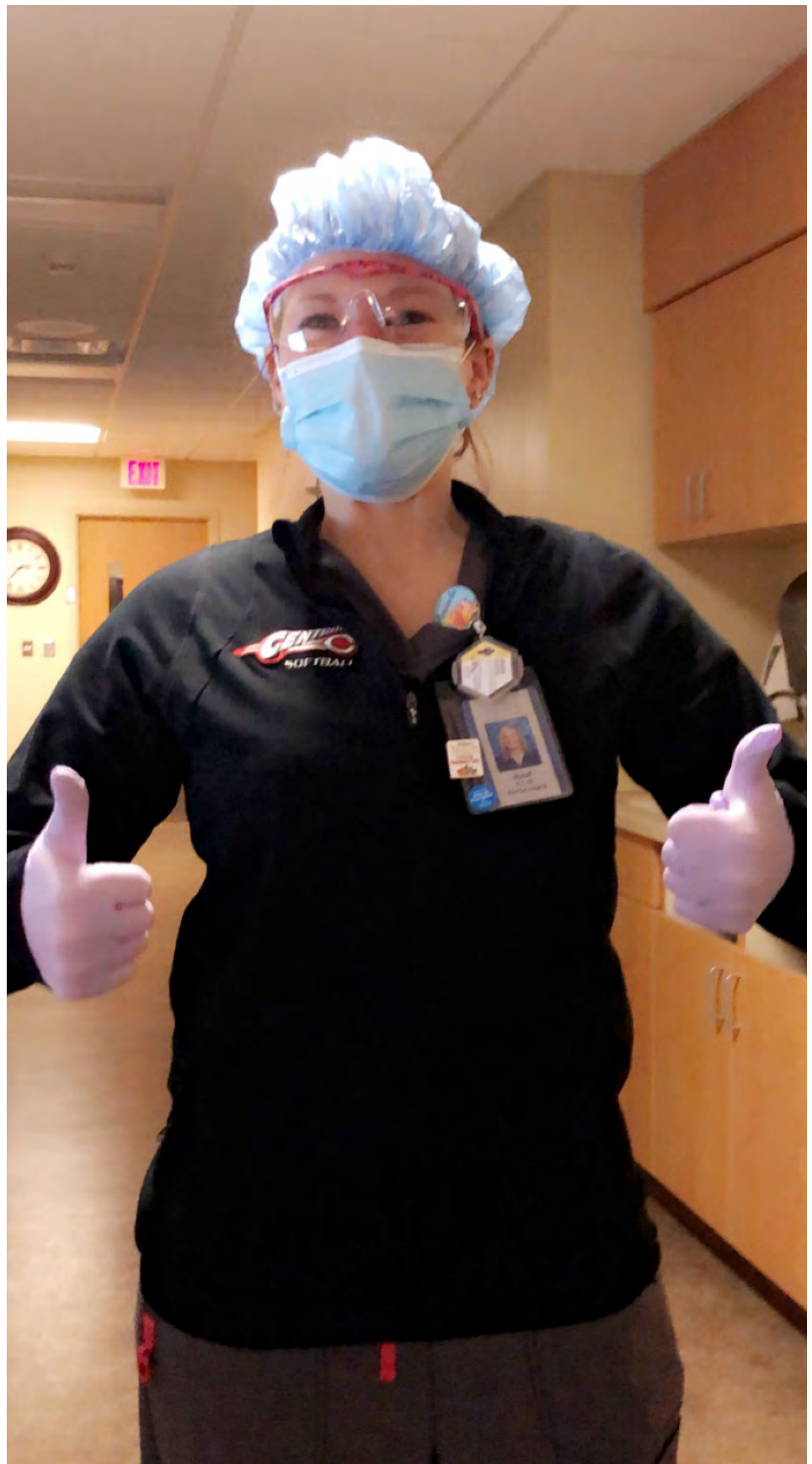
— Nick J. Furlong '00, M.D.

#### Being Good Neighbors

"We are delivering meals under the Meals on Wheels program. Every Sunday at 1:30 p.m., people in our neighborhood come out and greet neighbors. Some walk up and down the street to chat, keeping the recommended distance. If we have to run to grocery store or pharmacy, we send out a round-robin email to neighbors asking if they need anything."

— Robert Morley '57

**Michael Hicks '83** is general manager at Andresen Digital, an imaging and graphics company in San Francisco, California. The sign and graphics business ground nearly to a halt during the pandemic until a university hospital asked if the company could make face shields. His wife, Lisa, says, "We have sourced as much material as we can and are making about 1,500 a day. Other hospitals are asking as well. We won't make any money, but we will be able to put some employees back to work and help some of those on the front lines." Hicks arranged for Andresen to manufacture, donate and ship 500 face shields to Central for which the college is extremely grateful.



#### From Athletic Training to X-Ray

"I'm currently representing Central in Blue Earth, Minnesota. Athletic training at the high school is postponed so I'm working on the front lines of this crazy virus going around as an X-ray technician and an EMT on our local ambulance."

— Amanda Higgins Giesking '14, above ■



# DON'T BLAME THE BATS!

Viruses have been around for thousands of years. It's human activity that's increasing their impact.

STORY BY: **Russ Benedict**,  
Professor of Biology

Bats need a good PR person. How often do you hear positive stories about bats?

Unfortunately, appreciation for bats is taking another hit during the COVID-19 pandemic.

And bats do appear to have played a role. The closest DNA match to the virus causing COVID-19 in humans is with a virus found in the intermediate horseshoe bat, a species widespread in China and Southeast Asia. But the DNA is just different enough that it appears the virus did not jump directly from horseshoe bats to humans — a currently unknown third species was involved, possibly a domestic animal or one we use as a food source. Some evidence suggests that the history of this coronavirus involved poorly regulated “wet markets” that sell live or recently slaughtered animals in unsanitary conditions — an ideal place for viruses to move from species to species. Research into the evolution of the virus is advancing rapidly, so stay tuned.

But the bigger story has to do with what we humans are doing.

Roughly 18 months before the pandemic began, researchers predicted a coronavirus outbreak involving bats in southeast China or surrounding areas. Why? Because human



Professor of Biology **Russ Benedict** holds up a bat for students to examine.

activities are driving an increase in disease transmission from wildlife to humans, and that region is an epicenter of these activities. These actions include deforestation, unregulated use of wildlife as food and a rapidly growing human population. As expanding human populations move into wildlife habitats and people exploit wildlife for food or other uses, contact between humans and wildlife increases. And, as people push into natural ecosystems, they bring pets and livestock with them, putting these domestic animals into frequent contact with wild animals as well.

Then there's climate change: As the world warms, animals either move to stay with their preferred climate or stay put and try to survive

warmer conditions and the accompanying increase in “natural” disasters. Both options put animals (and humans) in greater stress. Stress weakens the immune system. Weaker immune systems mean the percentage of the population carrying viruses increases, along with the likelihood viruses will jump from one species to another.

So if you want to blame someone for COVID-19, don't blame bats — look in a mirror. Viruses like COVID-19 likely have been around for thousands of years — it is the action of we humans that is increasing their impact. Unfortunately, this will not be the last pandemic we face. The pressure humans are putting on the globe will only increase in future decades.

## A TIMELINE

*From Pella to COVID-19 and Back*

The pandemic evolved rapidly and so did Central's plans and operations. Frequent, sometimes daily, communications from President **Mark Putnam** to the Central community charted the college's course. Here's a summary of announcements and events. For the full narrative: [central.edu/health/covid19-archive](https://central.edu/health/covid19-archive) and [central.edu/health](https://central.edu/health).

**March 11:** Study abroad may be affected; spring break travel discouraged.

**March 12:** Spring break extended one week.

**March 16:** Remote learning to begin March 30; students to get pro-rated room/board refund. Students move off campus, college events canceled, Commencement postponed.

**March 17:** Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds declares public health disaster emergency.

**March 19:** Temporary staff alternative work assignments allow some to work from home.

**March 20:** Out-of-state travelers to self-isolate.

**March 30:** Summer off-campus study canceled. Spring semester resumes; remote learning begins.

**April 6:** Virtual visit days begin.

**April 7:** Hoo-Rah Day gets 70,000-plus social media hits; raises a record \$225,272.

**April 13:** Fall off-campus study in Austria, Spain and Mexico canceled (all other international programs eventually follow); Central Cares Fund established.

**April 20:** Spring Dutchies go virtual and Student Scholarship Celebration was canceled; in person Commencement planned for Sept. 27.

**April 27:** Board of Trustees commends faculty and staff.

**May 4:** Putnam thanks students for “resilience, energy and determination.”

**May 11:** COVID-19 Campus and Athletics Protocol Task Forces formed.

**May 18:** COVID-19 summer class offered.

**May 19:** Spring semester ends.

**June 1:** In-person summer visits begin.

**June 15:** Schipper Fitness Center reopens

**July 2:** Return to Campus Health Initiative published: [central.edu/health/protocols](https://central.edu/health/protocols)

**July 24:** Face coverings mandatory in public spaces on campus.

**July 28:** Altered fall semester athletics schedule published.

**Aug. 3:** Remote-working staff return to campus.

**Aug. 7:** Welcome Week reconfigured.

**Aug. 11:** Football, men's and women's soccer and volleyball competition postponed.

**Aug. 17:** Changes to campus life and events published.

**Aug. 22, 24:** Students move into residence halls.

**Aug. 26:** Fall semester classes begin.

**Sept. 25-26:** Virtual Homecoming offered for alumni along with a few in-person events for students.

**Sept. 27:** 2020 Commencement ceremony held at Ron and Joyce Schipper Stadium.





# Better Late Than Never

In some ways, this is a story about what wasn't.  
There were plans for Homecoming and Commencement and then there was 2020.

STORY BY: **JEFF BERSCH** and **DENISE LAMPHIER**





Central hosted the inaugural Forever Dutch celebration for faculty, staff and students to celebrate being back together on campus.

Central College President **Mark Putnam** wasn't certain the weekend would happen.

From safety measures for COVID-19 to asking former students to return to campus, there were many questions that needed answered before a Commencement ceremony could take place.

Two stuck out most.

"How on Earth will we do this?"

Putnam told a group of Class of 2020 graduates gathered the night before their long-awaited Commencement ceremony. "And will it rain?"

Well, it rained right up until the start of the ceremony, but it certainly didn't dampen the spirits of the many graduates and their families gathered on the wet and chilly Sunday afternoon at Ron and Joyce Schipper Stadium.

### UNTRADITIONAL TRADITIONS

The Commencement event came at the end of a Homecoming weekend like no other at Central.

The Lemming Race wasn't run for the first time since it started in 1977. A Homecoming football game wasn't played for the first time in, well, forever. And with Commencement in September, it was only

the second time in the college's history graduates weren't celebrated in May.

In 2020 — a year when so many things have changed — everything was different.

As the college has done since the start of the pandemic in March, members of the Central family adapted to the times. A mostly virtual Homecoming was held for alumni, while events for students on campus were sparse. Activities like the traditional crowning of the royalty and a casino night with lots of winners continued as planned. In addition, the college supported the Class of 2020 with an evening reception and an in-person Commencement.

Despite the 53-degree, rainy weather, they came to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2020. They came with chairs in bags under a sea of umbrellas and plastic tarps to put on their laps. Families huddled together under blankets while **Ian Heetland '20** launched the event with an a cappella rendition of the national anthem. The stage was set in the north end zone in front of the goal post — a subtle (or not so subtle) reminder that goals can still exist in a pandemic.

Nearly 200 graduates sat 6 feet apart in rows on the yard lines of the waterlogged



**Joseph Pepe '21** and **Kennedy Morris '21** were selected royalty winners of the Homecoming court.



Students participate in Casino Night during Homecoming weekend.

stadium. Water puddled on the stage and track as well as on chairs and mortarboards. Masks got damp and more uncomfortable than normal. Still they came for a Commencement that was better late than never — and not to be forgotten.

Amidst shivers, graduates turned their tassels and were officially welcomed into the Central alumni family.

To stagger leaving, there was no recession. Some families stood in place and marched to the beat of the recorded music. Some graduates lingered to throw their hats into the air and take pictures with friends.

Throughout the weekend, everyone displayed Forever Dutch® pride and revealed the enduring resilience of the Central spirit. "We will make the best of this," they said.

Nothing could steal the joy of this day. Nothing. Serving a poignant reminder: The simplest things in life are often the ones that matter the most. Bad circumstances are less bad when you have friends to help you and the Central community to support you. And every problem has a solution — even if it is just a good attitude partnered with rain gear and plastic bags.

It never hurts to keep looking for sunshine. ■





President **Mark Putnam** and **Anne Williamson '20** chat during a Class of 2020 reception the night before Commencement.



Families got creative to avoid the weather. **Katarina Safford's** family found refuge under the bleachers for the proud moment. Kate is now a tax consultant in Kansas City, Missouri, "using her accounting degree," her mother beamed.



After taking a panoramic picture at the end of the ceremony, President **Mark Putnam** told the Class of 2020 to "Go and do great things!"



## COMMENCEMENT COROLLARIES



"We are excited to actually have graduation," says Shari Nobel of Huntley, Illinois, who made the trip to Pella with her family to watch her daughter **Stephanie** cross the stage. "The kids worked hard so it is nice to have the ceremony. I cannot be more proud and happy for how well Central prepared her." A biology major, Stephanie is now in graduate school at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign studying to become a veterinarian.



"It was a cold one. We were driving here in the pouring rain. It was so good to see everyone. Despite the weather, I enjoyed it. The speaker (**Kelly Gorsche Markey '88**) was so amazing," says **Gabrielle Lillie '20**, a psychology major from Burlington, Iowa. She's currently working in a group home for patients with disabilities and applying to graduate schools.

"This is not how I expected to graduate. I was a marshal as a junior, so I was ready. But it was good to be here this weekend on the football field. It was so good to be on the turf again and seeing my teammates," says **Daniel Anderson '20**, a Boone, Iowa, native, who is looking at graduate schools. On the same field a year ago, Anderson, a defensive back, had interceptions in wins over Loras and Nebraska Wesleyan.



**Kelly Gorsche Markey '88** served as the Commencement speaker and received an honorary degree of doctor of public service honoris causa during the ceremony.

"If I impart one idea on you today it would be to define yourself on the things that you are rather than the job that you do," she told the graduates. "Work as hard as you can to be a great friend, a supportive life partner, an outstanding parent and an active, engaged part of the community you live in. Then, do your job to support those goals. You are in a unique position to launch careers in a life where 'going to work' is being redefined. So, demand the balance that allows you to be whole."

In 2016, Markey opened Dorothy's House in Des Moines, a long-term residential home that provides survivors of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation with the space, resources and support they need to heal.



Students walk into Ron and Joyce Schipper Stadium for Commencement on Sunday, Sept. 27.



Students listen and reflect on their time at Central during Commencement.

## HELP SUPPORT THE CLASS OF 2020

The senior class gift is a longstanding Central tradition in which the class joins the philanthropic community by supporting the college's needs or enhancing campus life. This year's class voted for outdoor furniture as an expansion of the Peace Mall renovation.

Central wants to celebrate and honor the Class of 2020 by securing funding for the completion of the project. This year's efforts were cut short when students left campus in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**For more on the project or to donate, visit [ignite.central.edu/scg20](https://ignite.central.edu/scg20).**



# NEWSNOTES

..... Heritage Day has been rescheduled for Friday, April 9, 2021. ....

## THE '60s



▲ **Tom Marsden '65** retired from active ministry in the Reformed Church in America in 2012. During his career, Tom serviced two pastorates in New Jersey and spent three years as a U.S. Navy chaplain and retired with the rank of captain. Tom volunteers at the veteran's home in Milton, Delaware, where he lives with his wife, Judy.

Harley Riak '69 and wife, Debra Fini, started a leisure and corporate travel, meetings and special events business, HBR & Co., White Plains, New York.

## THE '70s

For information about Steve Bancroft '70, Stephen Paris '73 and Nancy Greer Paris '74, see the '00s.

Pam Krauss '76 of Vero Beach, Florida, is on the board of directors of Vista Plantation in Vero Beach.



▲ **Lorna Medd Sopcak '72** of Ripon, Wisconsin, retired in May from Ripon College where she was a professor of German since 2002. She also served as chair of the German department and director of the Bonn study abroad program (2002-17), as associate dean for faculty development (Spring 2018) and as director of the collaborative learning center (2018-19).



▲ **Gary Schwartzhoff '74**, professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, received the Marshall Bartholomeu Award from the Intercollegiate Men's Choruses. The award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to male choral music. During his storied career, Gary conducted several national festivals honoring former U.S. presidents and in 2019 conducted the 75th Anniversary of D-Day and the Liberation of France in Paris. Since his retirement in 2017, Gary has conducted The Master Singers and is director of music at the First Congregational Church of Christ in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Gary and wife, **Nancy Silliman Schwartzhoff '74**, live in Eau Claire. During her career, Nancy taught third grade for the Eau Claire School District.



# NEWSNOTES

## THE '70s (continued)



▲ **Bob Meinhard '79** of Palm Desert, California, and **Mark Miller '79** of Schwaigergasse, Austria, planned a first-time reunion for participants of the Central College 1976-77 Vienna International Study Program. The event took place June 27 to July 2, 2018, in Vienna, Austria. According to Bob, they had a blast and most had not seen one another since 1977. The group enjoyed Johann Strauss's "Die Fledermaus" at the Volksoper and many toured Schönbrunn Palace, Belvedere Palace and had fun at the dance school. They also attended a reception given by **Ruth Verweijen**, the director of the Vienna program. They are planning another reunion. *First row, left to right: Lisa Juliano Contini '79, Brenda Taylor Conry '78 and Becky Dwyer Meinhard '78. Second row, left to right: Dacia Biermann Boeyink '79; Eilene Bayard Stephens and Barb Bunce Patten, who are alumni of the Vienna program but not Central; Lori Leable Grubaugh '78; Karen Mennenoh Mayrhofer '77; and Garry Davis '79. Third row, left to right: Bob Meinhard '79, Mark Boeyink '78, Deb Schachet Paulsen '79, Anne Johnson Borst '78, Steve Eau Claire '78 and Mark Miller '79.*

## THE '80s



▲ **Dave Dykstra '80** and **Aanna Roslien '20** competed in the Des Moines Triathlon in January. Aanna was a member of Central's newly minted triathlon team. Dave is a financial advisor at Valic, West Des Moines, Iowa. Dave and wife, Louisa, live in Windsor Heights, Iowa, with two of their children.

For information about **Dave Balk '86**, **Kristi Jaarsma Balk '88** and **Tony Braida '89**, see the '10s.

**Fred Hopke '80** was unanimously confirmed as a new judge of compensation for the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Workers' Compensation. Fred and wife, Mary, live in Metuchen, New Jersey.

**Dave Dailey '81** of Brentwood, Missouri, is a senior vice president at Regions Financial in Clayton, Missouri.

**Terry Cooney '82** of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is a senior project engineer in the Airforce Research Lab at Aerospace Corp. in Albuquerque.

**Brian Bisbey '83** and wife, **Renee Watts Bisbey '82**, retired to Venice, Florida, where they enjoy the beach and golf course. Brian had a 35-year career in banking with Wells Fargo and in community banking with First National Bank in Beloit, Wisconsin. Last summer they enjoyed a walk around Central's campus and noted all the changes that took place since they were students. They hope to stop back again.



▲ **Sue Berkompas McFerrin '81** and 11 of her classmates met as first-year students at Central in 1977 and remained in touch since. They met in Pella for their 20th Reunion in 2001, for their 50th birthday year at the home of **Kathy Bartlett '81** in Fairplay, Colorado, and for a 55th birthday gathering at the home of **Lisa Garrett Schmulewitz '81** in Clear Lake, Iowa. In August they celebrated their 60th birthday year at Sue's home at Lake Waconda, Nebraska. *Front row, left to right: Cindi Strobbe Lafayette '81, Greta DeCook McCarty '81, Kathy Bartlett '81, Wendy Kelleher Merritt '81 and Sue Berkompas McFerrin. Back row, left to right: Sandi Brecht Lafferty '81, Lisa Garrett Schmulewitz '81, Becky Peter Marlow '81 and Teresa Andersen Scarrow '81. Not pictured: Jana Timmer Bastian '81 and Mary Koets Schira '81.*



**Eric Sickler '83** is a freelance marketing strategist in Pella, Iowa.

**Ruth Burchett Volk '83** is an independent consulting analyst at Aetna, a CVS Health Insurance Company in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Ruth and husband, Greg, live in Eagan, Minnesota. They are the parents of four children.

**Mary Jankowski '84** is the owner of Coffee Cats in Des Moines, Iowa. Mary and husband, Dean Brooks, live in West Des Moines, Iowa.

**Bert Reiser '85** is a partner in Latham & Watkins' Washington, D.C., office, where he is a member of the firm's Intellectual Property Practice and International Trade Commission Patent Litigation Practice. Reiser also is a member of the firm's Training and Career Enhancement Committee. Latham & Watkins practice moved from Tier 2 to Tier 1. Reiser lives with his wife, **Stephanie Vruwink Reiser '85**, in Reston, Virginia.

**Cindy Clark Williams '85** retired after 35 years teaching elementary and middle school special education. Cindy and husband, Tom, live in Villisca, Iowa. They have two children.

**Ben Collins '86** retired from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville after 20 years. He is now a technical solutions engineer for Epic Systems in Verona, Wisconsin. Ben and wife, **Nancy Prickett Collins '87**, have four children.

**Heidi Hanssen Hoffman '89** is a county director for Muscatine County Extension and Outreach in Muscatine, Iowa.

**Jon Phillips '86** and wife, Cindy, live in Burlington, Iowa, where Jon is president of JP Global Inc. In February, Jon was named vice president of the board of directors of the Burlington Golf Club.

**Tim Hackel '87** is a production planner for Hormel Foods Corp. in Austin, Minnesota.

**Phyllis Romp Fevold '88** is a mortgage banker at Banker's Trust in Ames, Iowa. Phyllis recently completed her term on the board of directors of the Iowa State University Alumni Association. Phyllis and husband, Tim, live in Ames and have two children.

## THE '90s

For information about **Kevin Egan '98** and **Mark Babcock '91**, see the '00s. For information about **Brett Roelofs '92** and **Tim TenClay '97**, see the '10s.

**Todd Connelly '90** of Cedar Falls, Iowa, is a regional president at Caesars Entertainment, Inc.

**Karen Burkett '91** of Holly Ridge, North Carolina, is the branch manager of Pender County Library in Hampstead, North Carolina. Karen has one child.

**Shari King '91** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is a hospital administrator at UnityPoint Health-Marshalltown.

**Jill Cryer '92** is a second grade teacher at Iowa City Community Schools. Jill lives in Iowa City, Iowa, with her two daughters.

**Roger Johnson '93** is a high school/middle school principal at North Nodaway R-VI School District in Hopkins, Missouri. Roger and wife, **Kathy Nickell Johnson '97**, have four children.

**Carmen Whetstone Madigan '93** of Lena, Illinois, is a reading specialist at Freeport School District #145 in Freeport, Illinois.

**Jason Reynolds '93** is the superintendent of schools for the Peoria Unified School district in Peoria, Arizona. Jason and his wife, Mara, live in Phoenix, Arizona, with their two children.



▲ **Pam Nippa Gramling '91** ran into fellow Central grads at the Alpine Visitors Center in Rocky Mountain Park in July: **Tim Dykstra '91**, daughter-in-law, **Morgan Merritt Dykstra '18** and son **Mark Dykstra '16**.



# NEWSNOTES

## THE '90s (continued)

**Terry Eisenbarth '95** is the principal at St. Francis Catholic School in Marshalltown, Iowa.

**Faendra Seidlitz Mattox '95** is a patient service advocate at Advocate Aurora Health in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where she and husband, Brent, live with their seven children.

**Jeff Zadow '95** is a senior national category sales manager at Hormel Foods Corp. in Austin, Minnesota. Jeff and wife, Tonia, live in Austin with their two sons.

**Sarah Kuhn Henderson '96** was promoted to senior director at Managed Print Service Solutions for the Clover Imaging Group. She was elected to the board of directors for Managed Print Service

Association and recently spoke at the International Imaging Technology Exhibition. She serves on the Parks and Recreation Commission for the City of Urbandale, Iowa. Sarah and husband, Todd, live in Urbandale with their two children.

**Kara Kohler Hoogensen '96** is a senior vice president-specialty benefits at Principal Financial Group in Des Moines, Iowa. Kara and husband, Stephen, live in Ankeny, Iowa, with their two daughters.

**Stephen McWilliams '96** of Herndon, Virginia, is a business development and implementation manager at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

**Chad Ryan '96** of Urbandale, Iowa, is the boys basketball coach at Des Moines East High School.



▲ **Chris Stone '96**, second from left, above, is the director of disability resources at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. In January 2020, Chris traveled to Guayaquil, Ecuador, as keynote speaker and featured presenter at the first Inclusion School Conference, hosted by the InterAmerican Academy and the Associate of American Schools in South America. He spoke on universal design for learning and best practices in student learning and activities. Chris and wife, Claire, live in St. Louis.



## MOTIVATION GONE VIRAL

**Dean Furness '94** is a business systems consultant at Wells Fargo in Des Moines, Iowa, brother of **Kelly Furness '96** and father of **Raigen Furness '20**. He lives in St. Charles, Iowa, served on the school board of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District in Martensdale, Iowa, for eight years and coaches high school girls basketball and boys football. A lifelong athlete, he ran track and played football at Central.

Rendered a paraplegic following a farming accident in 2011, he's currently a wheelchair athlete who has completed seven marathons — including the Chicago and Boston marathons — and more than 10 half-marathons. He's also a motivational speaker who shares his perspective about "grit, determination and what it takes to keep moving through daily challenges." His recent TED@WellsFargo talk about overcoming challenges and resetting your personal average received more than 630,000 views in the first nine days it was posted.

"In school with our test scores and today with our salaries and job performance, it seems as if those personal averages are almost always used to measure where we are in comparison to our peers," Furness says in his talk. "I think we should look at that a little differently. That personal average is very personal, it's for you. And I think if you focus on that and work to build that you can really start to accomplish some really amazing things." To watch his talk: [central.edu/DeanFurness](https://central.edu/DeanFurness).





▲ **Bobbi Roll '97** and Christopher Hancock of Council Bluffs, Iowa, married Nov. 2, 2018. Bobbi is starting her 13th year teaching for Glenwood Community School District in Glenwood, Iowa.

**Julie Wiley Weinstein '96** is the chief information officer for Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii. Julie and husband, Brian, live in Kaneohe, Hawaii, with their two children.

**eva creydt schulte '99** is the executive director of institutional advancement at Whatcom Community College in Bellingham, Washington. eva and husband, **Brock Schulte '99**, live in Ferndale, Washington, with their daughter. Brock is the director of business development at Advanced Technology Solutions.

**Michelle Stolte '99** is the director of global dealer experience at Valmont Industries in Valley, Nebraska. Michelle and husband, Michael Johnson, live in Omaha, Nebraska, with their two children.

**Nathan Eighmy '99** is the vice president of operations at Legacy Cabinets in Eastaboga, Alabama. Nathan and wife, **Sunny Gonzales Eighmy '99**, live in Birmingham, Alabama, with their four children. Sunny is the vice president for advancement at Central.

## THE '00s

For news about **Becky Hedges Pospisal '04** see the '10s.

**Krista Determan Deur '01** is an academic affairs coordinator at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. Krista and husband, Brian, live in Zeeland, Michigan, with their three children.

**Brian Lillis '01** is a senior brand manager at Hormel Food Corp. in Austin, Minnesota. Brian and wife, **Monica Calvert Lillis '01**, live in Austin with their three children.

**Jason Viel '01** was named 2020 Sports Medicine Specialist of the Year by the Iowa High School Athletic Director's Association. Jason is an athletic trainer at Pleasant Valley High School near Bettendorf, Iowa, and a physical therapist at Rock Valley Physical Therapy in DeWitt, Iowa. Jason and wife, **Carrie Lund Viel '01**, live in DeWitt with their two sons. Carrie teaches high school speech at Central DeWitt Community School District.

**Desmond Breadon '03** is a fifth grade teacher at Black Hawk School District in South Wayne, Wisconsin. Desmond and wife, Tara, live in South Wayne with their two children.

**Robert Zirkelbach '03** is the global head of issues and advocacy at ExxonMobil. Robert and wife, Katie, live in Washington, D.C.

**Chad Van Riessen '04** is the men's basketball coach at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

**Janet Bailey '05** is an independent living housekeeper at Terrace Glen Village in Marion, Iowa. Janet and husband, Chris Bulger, live in Marion.

**Reggie Osborn '05** is a loan officer at Highlands Residential Mortgage in Brighton, Michigan. Reggie and wife, Melissa, live in Howell, Michigan, with their four children.

**Bob Blanchard '06** is the football coach, boys track and field coach and a social studies teacher at Big Lake High School in Big Lake, Minnesota. Bob and wife, Jill, live in Big Lake with their two children.

**Stephanie Van Ommeren Bosgraaf '06** is a graduation and academic record manager at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Stephanie and husband, Matt, live in Lafayette, Indiana, with their two children.

**Jennie Hedrick-Rozenberg '06** leads the women's triathlon squad at Central College. Jennie is a veteran swim coach, triathlon competitor, and swim instructor. Jennie and husband, Tracy, live in Pella, Iowa.

**Trent Weiler '06** is a police officer for the City of Clive in Clive, Iowa, where he and wife, Jana, live with their son.



▲ **Kyle Paris '05** and Lydia Devine of West Des Moines, Iowa, married Oct. 5, 2019. Kyle is an operational risk consultant at Wells Fargo, Des Moines, Iowa. From left to right: **Tyler Dose '05, Rodney Sundine '05, Betsy Kane Kuecker '05, Matt Kuecker '05, Keith Wasoba '05, Lydia Devine Paris, Kyle Paris '05, Steve Bancroft '70, Nancy Greer Paris '74, Stephen Paris '73, Kevin Egan '98 and Stephanie Paris Egan '00.**



## THE '00s (continued)

**Amber Beachy '07** of Des Moines, Iowa, is a cardiac surgical ICU nurse at MercyOne Medical Center in Des Moines.

**Eric Bentzinger '07** is the senior director of development at Ivy College of Business at the Iowa State University Foundation in Ames, Iowa. Eric and wife, **Kelsey Zlab Bentzinger '07**, live in Des Moines, Iowa, with their two children.

**Denny Hanson '07H** is the chair of Community Resource Bank board of directors. Denny and wife, **Kristine '07H**, live in Norwalk, Iowa.

**Tanner Lawton '07** is the membership coordinator at Iowa Cattlemen's Association in Ames, Iowa. Tanner and wife, Amber, live in Jefferson, Iowa, with their three children.

**Trenton Blythe '08** is the director of major gifts at Sunshine Enterprises Chicago and Sunshine Gospel Ministries in Chicago, Illinois. Trenton and wife, Jessie, live in Chicago with their son.

**Alicia Cosimo '08** teaches high school Spanish in the Carlisle School District in Carlisle, Iowa. Alicia lives in Des Moines, Iowa, with her two sons.

**Trichelle Velky Jackson '08** is an optometrist at Family Eye Care Centers in Britt, Garner and Forest City, Iowa. She was recently named Young Optometrist of 2020 by the Iowa Optometric Association. Trichelle and husband, **Adam Jackson '05**, live in Forest City with their two children. Adam

is a regional vice president at Power/mation.

**Trevor Jones '08** of Des Moines, Iowa, is a licensing manager at Corteva Agriscience.

**Joshua Noonan '08** is a senior manager, supply chain services at C.H. Robinson in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. Joshua was recently selected as a member of Produce Business magazine's 40-Under-40 Rising Stars for 2020. Joshua lives in Burnsville, Minnesota, with his son.

**Maria Hickle Rohach '08** was promoted to director of education abroad at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Maria and husband, **Matthew Rohach '06**, live in Des Moines.

**Sara Wade Sump '08** is an administrative services officer for the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office in Lincoln, Nebraska. Sara and husband, Chad, live in Lincoln.

**Alex Billings '09** of Pella, Iowa, is a metal installation crew leader at Hopkins Roofing.

**Danielle Jacobson Burmeister '09** is the director of marketing communications at Homesteaders Life Company in West Des Moines, Iowa. Danielle and husband, Brian, live in Ankeny, Iowa, with their son.

**Rachel Boeke Caspers '09** is an assistant athletic trainer at Upper Iowa University in Fayette, Iowa. Rachel and husband, Jon, live in Fayette with their daughter.

**Jared Fritz-McCarty '09** is a major gifts officer at Roosevelt University in Chicago, Illinois.

Jared and husband, Christopher, live in Chicago.

**Rebecca Skalsky '09** is a creative services manager-design department at de Novo Marketing in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

## THE '10s

**Loren Liming '10** and wife, **Kiley Lythberg Liming '11**, live in Overland Park, Kansas, with their son. Loren is a chiropractor and opened Virtue Chiropractic in Overland Park in October 2019. Kiley works as an evaluation manager and associate researcher at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

**Derek McLaughlin '10** is the director of strategic partnerships at Coursedog in Iowa City, Iowa. Derek and wife, **Melissa Mount McLaughlin '10**, live in North Liberty, Iowa. Melissa is a dietitian at Hy-Vee in Marion, Iowa.

**Kassandra Holcomb Munoz '11** of Ankeny, Iowa, was promoted to claims specialist I-non-injury at Nationwide Insurance in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Mark Visser '11** is the director of financial planning and analysis at West Liberty Foods in West Liberty, Iowa. Mark and wife, **Lindley Roorda Visser '11**, live in Coralville, Iowa, with their two children. Lindley is a fifth grade teacher at Solon Intermediate School in Solon, Iowa.

**Adam Hale '12** is the wrestling coach at Newton High School in Newton, Iowa. Adam and wife, **Jacqueline Hauber Hale '13**, live in Pella, Iowa, with their two children. Jacqueline is the communication coordinator at Federated Fellowship in Pella.

**Andrew Roberts '12** is a formulation specialist at Integrated DNA Technologies in Coralville, Iowa. Andrew lives in North Liberty, Iowa.

**Abbey Sparks Rock '12** is an assistant controller at Musco Sports Lighting in Oskaloosa, Iowa. Abbey and husband, **Kirby Rock '12**, live in Pella, Iowa, with their two children.

**Nathan Wolff '12** is an assistant football coach at Pella Christian



▲ **Josh Woodvine '11** and Beth Christensen of Adel, Iowa, married Sept. 28, 2019. Josh is a regional vice president at Sammons Financial Group in West Des Moines, Iowa.



High School in Pella, Iowa. Nathan is also a member of the Pella Police Department.

**Brandon Clough '13** is a natural resources specialist at Story County Conservation in Ames, Iowa. Brandon and wife, **Jessica Riebkes Clough '14**, live in Bondurant, Iowa. Jessica is a land projects assistant at Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation in Des Moines.

**Rachel Purdy Eash '13** is a preschool teacher at St. Cecilia Catholic School in Ames, Iowa. Rachel and husband, **Zac Eash '13**, live in Ames with their daughter. Zac is a middle school social studies teacher at West Marshall Community School in State Center, Iowa.

**Cory Keller '13** is a quality assurance supervisor at T. Marzetti Company. Cory and wife, Andrea, live in Newton, Iowa, with their two children.

**Jacob Petersen '13** is a financial analyst at DLL Finance in West Des Moines, Iowa.

**Gary Sorich '13** is a payroll processor and specialist at The Payroll Department in Durango, Colorado.

**Cameron Van Kooten Laughead '13** is the executive director of Room for All in Albany, New York. Cameron and husband, Ian, live in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Katlyn Alves '14** of San Antonio, Texas, is the assistant director of experiential learning: service-learning and undergraduate research at Trinity University in San Antonio.

**Morgan Baustian '14** is an area operations manager for QPS Employment Group in Davenport, Iowa, overseeing the Quad Cities; Quincy, Illinois; and Mexico, Missouri.

**Hannah Davy '14** and Chris Galfre, of Shakopee, Minnesota, married May 21, 2020. Hannah is a compliance analyst at Prime Therapeutics in Shakopee.

**Adam Clark '15** of Chariton, Iowa, is a GIS specialist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Melanie Nielsen Dahlhauser '15** is a nurse practitioner at UnityPoint Health in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Melanie and



▲ **Mariah Brammer '14** and Robert Watson, of Eagan, Minnesota, married March 21, 2020. Mariah is a paraprofessional at Woodland Elementary School in Eagan. For her bachelorette party, she went to the Knotty Nail in West Des Moines, Iowa, which is owned by **Becky Hedges Pospisal '04**. Pictured left to right: **Becky Hedges Pospisal '04**, **Lindsay Young McDonald '15**, **Stephanie Brammer Medvec '12**, **Jennifer Brammer Lindsay '08**, **Mariah Brammer Watson '14**, **Julia Mohr Flaherty '15**, **Noel Murray Turk '15** and **Cara Brammer Heffling '10**.

husband, Andrew, live in La Porte City, Iowa.

**Eli Horton '15** is a physical education instructor at Chariton Community School District in Chariton, Iowa.

**Hillary Hotz '15** of Omaha, Nebraska, is an associate

director of recruitment operations at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Allison Nayder '15** is a middle school mathematics teacher at St. George School District in Bourbonnais, Illinois.



▲ **Aric Balk '16** and wife, **Ellen Murphy Balk '16**, celebrated their installation as co-pastors at Parkway Community Church in Hicksville, New York, with family and friends. They are pictured front row, left to right: **Ellen Murphy Balk '16**, **Alli Balk '16** and **Kristi Jaarsma Balk '88**. Back row, left to right: **Brett Roelofs '92**, **Tim TenClay '97**, **Aric Balk '16** and **Dave Balk '86**.



▲ **Jordan Strumpfer '13** and **Danielle Stensrud '16** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, married Sept. 28, 2019. Jordan works for Collins Aerospace in Coralville, Iowa, and Danielle is a pro service specialist at Lowe's in Cedar Rapids.



## THE '10s (continued)



▲ **Andrew Buenger '16** and **Kaitlyn Damerval '17** of Des Moines, Iowa, married Oct. 5, 2019. Andrew is a media buyer with Customized Newspaper Advertising in Des Moines. Kaitlyn is an integrated service coordinator at Community Support Advocates in Des Moines. *Front row, left to right: Abigail Messer '18, Mary Ready, Kaitlyn Damerval Buenger '17, Katelyn Woodsmall and Jacob Anderson '16. Back row, left to right: Chris Hildreth, Andrew Buenger '16 and John-William Bowling '16.*

**Elizabeth Carman '16** and **Garrett Pavey** of West Des Moines, Iowa, married June 27, 2020. Elizabeth is an administrative assistant at InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA in West Des Moines.

**Cole Decker '16** of Des Moines, Iowa, is an account executive at Hormel Foods.

**Ben Field '16** is a U.S. probation officer at U.S. Courts Probation and Pretrial Services.

**Beth Clark '17** is a program director at Apartment Life in Ladson, South Carolina. Beth and husband, **Ben Clark '18** live in Ladson. Ben is an account representative at Crown Lift Trucks.

**Kendra Conforti '17** is a school counselor at McCombs Middle School in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Megan Gustafson '17** of Story City, Iowa, was named 2019 Volunteer of the Year by the Story City Greater Chamber Connection. Megan is a student at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, pursuing a master's of divinity degree and seeking ordination in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Megan also won a Daily Point of Light Award for hosting a pad and tampon drive in August.

**Jesse Merk '17** of Santa Clara, California, is a North America onboarding lead at SAP in Palo Alto, California.

**Zachary Steward '17** is a supernumerary with the Minnesota Opera in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



▲ **Brittany Carlson '16** and **Josh Prokupek '18** of Pella, Iowa, married Oct. 12, 2019. Brittany is the assistant director of annual giving at Central; Josh is a business analyst at Pella Corporation. *Front row, left to right: Andrew McMillan '18, Kelsey Roxworthy Schroder '17, Josh Johnson '18, Mackenzie Fuller Johnson '19, Felicia Roppe '18, Josh Prokupek '18, Brittany Carlson Prokupek '16, Madi Gause Wiese '16, Jen Kern '19 and Josh Pierce '18. Second row, left to right: Nicole Williams '19, Laura Bade '09, Emma Disterhoft '18, Tony Braida '89, Mark Babcock '91, Nelson Wiese '16, Betsy Van Haaften '17, Logan Hoefer '19, Ian McNees '16 and Beth De Vries Kuttler '18. Third row, left to right: E.J. Schroder '17, Bryce Leonard '18, Jackie Sunderman '18, Salvador Villanueva '18, Owen Shawgo '17, Becca Peanasky-Wall '15, Hannah Drost '15, Josh Phillips '19 and Dann Kuttler '16. Back row, left to right: Zach Butters '18, Seth Signs '18, Joe Eilers '18, Calvin Bill '18, Maegan Bruene '18, Hayley Mullins '15 and Zach Russell '16.*



▲ **Ashley Oblander '16** is serving a one-year fellowship with the Nature Conservancy. Pictured at the Nature Conservancy's Niobrara Valley Preserve, *left to right: Chris Helzer, Dat Ha and Ashley Oblander '16.*



**Noah Stochl '17** is a judge advocate general for the 18th Airborne Corps of the U.S. Army. Noah and wife, **EmmaGrace Walter Stochl '18**, live in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

**Steven Adkins '18** of Severance, Colorado, is a strength and conditioning intern with University of Oregon football program in Eugene, Oregon.

**Kylie Gerstein '18** of Waterloo, Iowa, received the Jane E. Hasek Excellence in Nursing Award from Allen College.

**Maddi Hennessey '18** is a membership and social media specialist at IGONC in Raleigh, North Carolina.

**Sara Rodriguez '18** of Cary, North Carolina, is a social media marketing manager at the University North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

**Kate Patton '18** is a quality control assistant, Countryside Tank Company, Osceola, Iowa.

**Will Daniels '19** received the American Rivers Conference's Duane Schroeder Male Scholar Athlete of the Year for 2018-19. Will is pursuing a master's degree in clinical exercise physiology at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa.

**Taylor Kooker '19** is a recruiter at Palmer Group in West Des Moines, Iowa.

**Loren Liming '10**, a doctor of chiropractic from Cleveland Chiropractic College, April 2019.

**Kiley Lythberg Liming '11**, a doctor of philosophy in social welfare from University of Kansas, May 2020.

**Cory Nikkel '12**, a master's degree in educational leadership from University of Northern Iowa, July 2020.

**Nathan Herring '13**, a doctor of philosophy in theoretical physics and cosmology from University of Pittsburgh, July 2020.

**Katlyn Alves '14**, a master's degree in community engagement with a concentration in higher education from Merrimack College, May 2020.

**Mercedes Rutherford-Patten '14**, a master's degree in library and information science from San Jose State University, May 2020.

**Jesse Merk '17**, a master's degree in education leadership from Southwest Minnesota State University, May 2020.

**Noah Stochl '17**, a juris doctor from University of Iowa, December 2019.

**Tyler Olson '18**, a master's degree in biomedical science from Iowa State University, May 2019.

**EmmaGrace Walter Stochl '18**, a master's degree in physician assistant studies from Des Moines University, June 2020.



▲ **Scott Wilson '18** and **Emily Opsal '20**, of Ankeny, Iowa, married April 18, 2020. Scott is a software engineer at Kingland Systems in Ames, Iowa. Emily is a utility analyst with the Office of Consumer Advocate in Des Moines, Iowa.



▲ **Chase Petty '19** and **Anna Rethmeier '20**, of Des Moines, Iowa, married June 27, 2020. Chase is a 7-12 social studies teacher at Melcher-Dallas Community School in Melcher-Dallas, Iowa. Anna teaches second grade at Studebaker Elementary in Des Moines.

## THE '20s

**Class of 2020, let us know what you're up to! Go to Handshake > Career Center > First Destination Survey**

**We'll report what we hear from you in an upcoming issue of Civitas.**

## ADVANCED DEGREES

**Sarah Kuhn Henderson '96**, a master's degree in library and information science from San Jose State University, December 2019.

**Patrick Roland '97**, a master's degree in addiction counseling from Grand Canyon University, April 2020.

**Desmond Breadon '03**, a master's degree in education with a minor in coaching from Wisconsin Lutheran College, May 2020.

**Ashley Wiederin '09**, a master's degree in public health from Creighton University, April 2020.



## NEW ARRIVALS

Adam and **Angela Vander Werf Kruse '03**, daughter Ava G., Oct. 18, 2018.

Jill and **Bob Blanchard '06**, son Boden Tedmar, March 4, 2020.

Matt and **Stephanie Van Ommereen Bosgraaf '06**, son Charles William, April 29, 2019.

Hannah and **Nicholas De Penning '06**, daughter Rose Lynn, Dec. 18, 2019.

Jana and **Trent Weiler '06**, son Noah Joseph, Aug. 29, 2019.

Stephen and **Sarah Soldner Lepke '07**, son Luke James, July 27, 2019.

Aaron and **Sarah Koebrick Nelson '07**, son Liam Daniel, June 11, 2019.

**Eric '08** and **Lindsay Ahlgren-Blythe '08**, son Everett Francis, July 19, 2019.

Seth and **Brittany Waack Goings '08**, daughter Ivy Josephine, March 21, 2019.

Jim and **Niki Hively Aldrich '09**, son Sawyer James, March 27, 2019.

Jon and **Rachel Boeke Caspers '09**, daughter Leighton Irene, Nov. 12, 2019.

Chris and **Dana Peterson Black '10**, son Sterling Beckham, Dec. 2, 2019.

**Marko '11** and **Kaurie Kincaid Marinkovich '13**, daughter Mila Alice, March 9, 2020.

Adan and **Amy Meyer Rodriguez '11**, son Gavin Santino, May 10, 2020.

Jessica and **Joe Russell '11**, daughter Brynlee Jo, July 20, 2018.

**Justin '11** and **Chrystal Belz Von Ahsen '12**, daughter Penelope Laine, May 28, 2020.

**Josh '12** and **Melissa Dunlap Atwell '11**, daughter Piper Opal, Nov. 21, 2019.

**Adam '12** and **Jacqueline Hauber Hale '13**, son Case H., Feb. 28, 2020.

Katelynn and **Zach Jacobs '12**, daughter Joselynn Ona, March 2, 2020.

Courtney and **Cory Nikkel '12**, daughter Keira Lee, June 13, 2020.

**Colin '12** and **Kayla Swartzendruber Tadlock '12**, twin daughters Cora Raline and Charlotte Anne, April 7, 2020.

Maddie and **Kendra Haack Weston '12**, daughter Mirabelle Lynn, July 4, 2019.

Kyle and **Celeste James Yoder '12**, son Manning Kent, June 20, 2019.

**Zac '13** and **Rachel Purdy Eash '13**, daughter Faith Anne, March 6, 2020.

Tasia and **Palmer Scott '13**, son Langley Roger, June 18, 2019.

**Sean '14** and **Shelby Messerschmitt-Coen '15**, daughter Raye Diann, Oct. 8, 2019.

Thomas and **Alexandra Cessna Farmer '14**, son Jack Edward, Feb. 8, 2020.

**Spencer '15** and **Ashley Wiersema Beekman '12**, son Beckett Daniel, June 22, 2019.

Brendan and **Kaitlyn Matzen Ehlke '15**, son Beckett William, Feb. 10, 2019.

**Blake '15** and **Rachel Boertje Rozendaal '14**, son Bennett Thomas, Dec. 4, 2019.

Kurt and **Kelly Ryan Townsend '15**, twin daughters Cora Jane and Hallie Rae, Oct. 16, 2019.

**Taylor '16** and **Michala Brand Cox '18**, son Hudson Steven, March 20, 2020.

Logan and **Miranda Ebeling Conklin '16**, son Sawyer Michael, Feb. 25, 2020.

**Adelmo '17** and **Sarah Bowen Marchiori '17**, daughter Sienna Ann, April 3, 2020.

Darris and **Brock Morris '17**, daughter Mavry Mae, Dec. 9, 2019.

**Owen '18** and **Katelyn Temple McConnell '17**, son Brior James, Feb. 9, 2020.

Lyman and **Molly Hayes Marshall '20**, son Oliver Lyman, Dec. 2, 2019.

**Tristan Miedema '18** kept the Central community's spirits high during the pandemic by performing musical theatre fan favorites from "Dear Evan Hansen," "Godspell," "Hamilton" and more, plus an original song. The Central College Music Department hosted the virtual concert Aug. 13. It was attended by 257 listeners. Miedema earned a Master of Arts degree in voice performance from the University of Iowa School of Music in Iowa City, Iowa. He is a teaching artist of voice in the theatre department at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, and also teaches voice privately.

**Andie Arthofer '17** helped the University of Iowa Mobile Clinic transition from its traditional, in-person medical services to telemedicine appointments during the pandemic in order to continue serving patients. She is the clinic's operations coordinator and a third-year medical student at the University of Iowa's Carver School of Medicine. She lives in Iowa City, Iowa.

**Noah Busker '16** is the director of development at Bessie Green Community, a nonprofit based out of North Reformed Church in Newark, New Jersey, that is feeding and otherwise aiding 400 people a day during the pandemic. He lives in Oakland, New Jersey.

**Devin Abel '13** works for Grain Processing Corporation filling tanker trucks — sometimes 21 times per day — with grain alcohol used to make disinfectants and hand sanitizer during the pandemic. He is married to **Shannon Skalla Abel '13**.

## CORONAVIRUS NEWSNOTES

*In this special Newsnotes section, we share just a few of the ways Central alumni are responding to the challenges of life in a time of Coronavirus.*



**Amanda Whittle Drost '10** was chosen as the March Shining Star at Pella Regional Hospital, Pella, Iowa, by her co-workers for her commitment, communication and sense of ownership while serving as the hospital's primary public information officer as the pandemic began. Drost lives in New Sharon, Iowa, with husband, Jackson, and their son.

**Kendi Beyer Arndt '08** teaches engineering at Pella High School. She uses the school's five 3D printers to make up to 25 parts for faceguards per day and donates them to Pella Regional Health Center. Kendi and husband, Brandon, live in Pella, Iowa.

**James Baier '08** is a psychiatry resident in Connecticut taking care of COVID-19 patients. He lives in Hamden, Connecticut, with wife, Amanda, and their daughter.

**Joshua Noonan '08** is a senior manager of supply chain services for C.H. Robinson in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. He and his team are responsible for helping manage the food supply chain to grocery and retail chains during the pandemic. He lives in Burnsville, Minnesota.

**Sarah Plowman '07** works for the City of Boston Office of Emergency Management. She and her OEM colleagues have been assisting Boston's first responders as they respond to COVID-19. Boston OEM has worked to acquire thousands of masks, gowns, bottles of hand sanitizer and other PPE for police, fire and EMS personnel. She lives in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Rob Robison '06** teaches pre-engineering in Johnston, Iowa. While schools were closed during spring, he got up at 4:30 a.m. each morning to set up his school's digital printers, relocated to his garage, to print 20 headbands per day for face shields he donated to Iowa hospitals, nursing homes and other health care facilities in need. Robison lives in Johnston.

**Joe Vande Kieft '99** has put his hobby to work making face shields that he distributes free of charge to health care workers. He and wife, **Kerry Maynard Vande Kieft '99**, live in Urbandale, Iowa.

**Sinikka Wainionpaa Waugh '96** began hosting a free Zoom event from 1:15-1:45 p.m. weekdays focusing on topics relating to working and being well during the pandemic. She runs Your Clear Next Step, an Iowa-based training company. She lives in Indianola, Iowa, with husband, **Spencer Waugh '98**, and their two daughters.

**Rev. Nathan Busker '89** is senior pastor of Ponds Reformed Church in Bergen County, New Jersey. The church is challenged with ministering to a physically separated congregation and running the local food pantry that's seen the need for its services spike since the pandemic. He and wife, **Kara Glendening Busker '89**, live in Oakland, New Jersey.

**Chris Murray '89**, working from her home on the shore of placid Quacumquasit Pond in rural Brookfield, Massachusetts, is nevertheless at the center the international battle against the coronavirus. A former WHO and CDC employee,

Murray now works for Partners in Health, a world leader in tracking the path of the pandemic, sussing out nuances of how and where it spreads for clues about how to stop it.

**Thom Wierenga '83** manages Keck Airport Parking in Des Moines. When airline flights all but shut down, he put his 18 employees to work with an offer to do grocery shopping, run errands, transport to doctors' appointments and more for his over 5,000 customers in Des Moines — all free of charge. Thom and wife, **Joan Keck Wierenga '85**, live in Des Moines with their two daughters.

**Ann Vermeer '80** presented a Zoom panel open to the Central community free of charge April 2 to examine the virus from an ecopsychological perspective. Vermeer is vice president at Viridis Graduate Institute, a nonprofit distance learning graduate program that confers degrees in ecopsychology and environmental humanities. She lives in Overland Park, Kansas.

**Vera Gosselink Refnes '56** says she should have used her newfound free time to clean closets and drawers, but instead chose to lighten the mood with a pandemic poem, "The Grinch Who Stole Easter." It begins: "I, the Grinch, am reeling from a loss./I tried to steal Christmas, I dressed as Santa Claus./So here I am again with Easter on my mind./I'm hoping to steal it from all mankind!/But what can I be? A disguise never seen!/I'll come as a virus called Covid Nineteen!" Refnes and husband, Philip, live in Sacramento, California.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Lenore Huibregtse Davis '43**, Lebanon, Tennessee, March 19, 2020.

**James Ebberts '48**, Pella, Iowa, March 3, 2020.

**Joyce Prins Schneider '48**, Sarasota, Florida, Feb. 13, 2020.

**Barbara "Babs" Jacobs Soros '48**, Santa Barbara, California, Feb. 16, 2019.

**Carl Vogelaar '48**, Santa Rosa, California, Feb. 23, 2020.

**Patricia Cox Chamra '50**, Oskaloosa, Iowa, April 17, 2020.

**Dorothy Sandberg Menning '50**, Bryant, Arkansas, March 13, 2020.

**Norman Den Hartog '51**, Ames, Iowa, Dec. 26, 2019.

**Roger Norman '51**, New Ulm, Minnesota, Jan. 13, 2020.

**Theodora "Theo" De Koster Jones '51**, Lenexa, Kansas, Feb. 8, 2020.

**Earl Logterman '51**, Centennial, Colorado, July 29, 2020.

**Bob Mitchell '51**, Ottumwa, Iowa, Aug 9, 2020.

**James Winegarden '51**, North Liberty, Iowa, Aug. 9, 2020.

**Jean Byrd Ganson Crawford '52**, Simi Valley, California, July 27, 2019.

**Allen Shuler '52**, Chico, California, Jan. 8, 2020.



## NEWSNOTES

### IN MEMORIAM (continued)

**Loren Vander Wert '52**, Pella, Iowa, March 10, 2020.

**Vernon Harmelink '53**, Phoenix, Arizona, July 16, 2020.

**Margene Vlieger Reeder '53**, Annapolis, Maryland, July 9, 2020.

**Katherine "Kathy" Sampson Keiser '54**, Gladbrook, Iowa, May 14, 2020.

**Geraldine Vander Pol Wagoner '54**, Pompton Plains, New Jersey, Aug. 6, 2020.

**Alberta Lourens De Jong '55**, Pella, Iowa, July 12, 2020.

**Philip Mentink '56**, Port Washington, Wisconsin, May 28, 2020.

**Wayne Zoutendam '56**, Marshfield, Wisconsin, Jan. 5, 2020.

**Lorys "Lory" Gluen Tichelaar '56**, Rochester, Minnesota, Aug. 8, 2020.

**Carol Jean Webster Hartmans '58**, Guelph, Ontario, Canada, Jan. 27, 2020.

**Willard Punt '58**, Sheldon, Iowa, March 20, 2020.

**Fred Aldridge '59**, Aurora, Colorado, Feb. 16, 2020.

**William deForest '59**, Duaneburg, New York, Aug. 14, 2019.

**Ruth De Zeeuw De Jong '59**, Spirit Lake, Iowa, June 23, 2020.

**Judith Foote Dicken '59**, Marion, Iowa, April 1, 2020.

**Emily Nagel Tracy '60**, Saugerties, New York, July 24, 2020.

**Janet Andrew Maas '61**, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 29, 2020.

**Roger VanderPol '62**, Grand Haven, Michigan, Feb. 27, 2020.

**Judith Groendyke Doorenbos '62**, Iowa City, Iowa, March 26, 2020.

**Raymond Fuhr '63**, Georgetown, Texas, Aug. 8, 2020.

**William "Bill" De Vries '68**, Palos Heights, Illinois, July 24, 2020.

**Linda Feagins Lehet '69**, Ballston Spa, New York, Aug. 22, 2019.

**Merridy Wulz Gram '70**, Gainesville, Georgia, April 12, 2019.

**Allan Janssen '70**, Glenmont, New York, April 3, 2020.

**Eugene Van Zee '70**, San Jacinto, California, July 21, 2019.

**Connie Jo Edie-Weidlinger '77**, North Beach, California, Jan. 2015.

**James Lee '81**, St. Louis, Missouri, April 7, 2018.

**John Claussen '85**, Des Moines, Iowa, March 18, 2020.

**Andrew Thompson '85**, Marietta, Ohio, May 13, 2020.

**Jeff Haarsma '87**, St. Petersburg, Florida, Aug. 7, 2020.

**James Mooney '87**, Urbandale, Iowa, June 29, 2020.

**Jay Jackson '94**, Clarion, Iowa, April 4, 2020.

**Sherry De Bord Schumacher '95**, Waterloo, Iowa, April 11, 2018.

**Zachary Cooper '10**, Tualatin, Oregon, April 9, 2020.

**Renee Van Roekel '14**, Pella, Iowa, April 2, 2020.

## CELEBRATE HOO-RAH DAY

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# HOO-RAH HOO-RAH



## IN MEMORIAM



### BARRY GRISWELL

**J. Barry Griswell**, Central College trustee emeritus, died Friday, June 5, 2020. He was 71.

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Griswell grew up selling newspapers, bagging groceries and loading trucks to help his family make ends meet. He graduated from Berry College in Rome, Georgia, and earned an MBA from Stetson University in DeLand, Florida. He rose through the ranks of MetLife to become president and CEO of MetLife Marketing Corporation. He then joined Principal Financial Group in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1988 and ascended to the roles of president, CEO and chair.

An accessible, well-liked, hands-on manager, he led Principal to invest heavily in its employees and in its community. Griswell was active in many Central Iowa nonprofit and economic development initiatives. Following his retirement from Principal, he became president of the

Greater Des Moines Community Foundation. In the process he earned a long string of philanthropic, business, arts and community service awards.

A Central trustee from 1996-2008, Griswell served on the Campaign for Central, the Endowment Committee Cabinet, as a Central Connections Mentor and as a member of the Cornerstone Society and the Central Club. He contributed generously to the college over the years, including a gift of \$1 million toward the building of the Roe Center, to the college's athletics facilities and by founding the Griswell Family Scholarship for students in business, psychology, international studies or foreign languages.

He was named an honorary alumnus at Central in 2004. In 2008, he presented "The Adversity Paradox – An Unconventional Path to Building Character and Leadership Skills" as part of Central's Mark and Kay De Cook Distinguished Speaker Series. He later cowrote a Wall Street Journal best-selling book titled "The Adversity Paradox: An Unconventional Guide to Achieving Uncommon Business Success."

Griswell leaves behind his wife Michele and sons John and **Michael '02** and two granddaughters.

## IN MEMORIAM



### ALLAN JANSSEN '70

**Allan Janssen '70** of Glenmont, New York, died April 3, 2020, of complications from COVID-19. Born in 1948, Janssen was a native Iowan and the oldest child in a family of preacher's kids. At Central, he majored in philosophy, was a member of Alpha Zeta Mu, Band, Campus Church Ministries, choir and Theta. He also attended Vrije University in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

After graduation from Central, Janssen earned his master's degree in philosophy from the State University of New York in Albany and his master's of divinity from New Brunswick Seminary in New Jersey and Western Seminary in Holland, Michigan. He was ordained in 1973 and served as pastor of several Reformed churches in New York and New Jersey. Beginning in 1999 he taught at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. He became a general synod professor of theology in 2012. Following his retirement in 2018, Janssen was declared a general synod Professor Emeritus and served as a retiree chaplain through the RCA's Board of Benefits Services, calling on retired ministers.

During his career he wrote several volumes in the RCA's Historical Series and edited and translated others from Dutch to English. He was considered one of the RCA's foremost authorities on the RCA's church order.

He leaves behind his wife **Colleen Kelch Janssen '72**, son Jonathan, daughters Sarah and Emily and two grandchildren.



## IN MEMORIAM



### DON MAXAM

**Don Maxam**, professor emeritus of sociology at Central, died at home June 3, 2020. Maxam taught at Central from 1971-96.

After graduating from Hope College in Holland, Michigan, Maxam served as a missionary at the School of High Hope for boys in Basrah, Iraq, where he taught English and particularly enjoyed coaching basketball. His school's team often played against U.S. Navy teams from ships that docked in the port.

He then completed a divinity degree at New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Jersey. While a student there, he served in various churches in the area as part of his training, which is how he met his wife, Elsie. Following his graduation and their marriage, he served as a pastor at several churches in Baldwin, New York, and Rossmoor, New Jersey.

After witnessing the racial turmoil of the 1960s, he completed a Ph.D. in religion and society at Princeton Seminary and joined Central, where he served as both department chair and division

chair. Maxam believed sociology was a tool to better understand how the world works and use that knowledge for good.

He loved to teach. He had a lifelong interest in social justice and created a popular course, Social Movements, which he offered through the sociology department. In his Principles of Sociology class, he assigned students to work in groups to create an "ideal society" from scratch; in Planning for Change students worked on applied projects designed to bring about positive social change.

Maxam loved working with his colleagues and built a department committed to effective teaching and positive social change, a legacy that continues. He also enjoyed counseling, Dutch athletics, 10 a.m. coffee time with faculty colleagues and even officiating at several of his students' weddings. He liked everyone, had a gift for giving students a few words of encouragement and he was at home both in the pulpit and in front of the blackboard.

After retirement, he and Elsie returned to Rossmoor, where Don served as chaplain in the retirement community where they lived. They later moved to Silver Spring, Maryland. Don remained an avid walker and read The New York Times and The Washington Post cover-to-cover each day.

He is survived by his wife, Elsie, of Silver Spring, Maryland; daughter **Leslie Maxam '88**; grandson Luka of Kensington, Maryland; and son Daniel of Grandville, Michigan.

## IN MEMORIAM



### MARGE ZONDERVAN

**Margaret Louise Netz Zondervan**, former director of Central College Health Services, died June 2, 2020, at age 73.

A native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Zondervan graduated in 1968 with an RN from Abbott Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She moved to Pella soon after with her husband Leon Zondervan, now a retired high school teacher and a student teacher supervisor in Central's education department. In Pella she served as a nurse in various departments of the Pella Community Hospital before joining Central's staff in 1987.

As director of the health center, she was caretaker to Central students, faculty and staff, seeing 20-25 Central community patients per day for everything from sniffles to flu vaccines, blood pressure checks, strep tests, doctor and hospital referrals, transportation and more. She and her husband welcomed several Central students with special housing needs into their home. For a quarter-century of Central students, "Take a chill pill and see Nurse Zondervan in the morning" was the prescription for whatever ailed, according to an Oct. 16, 1996, article in The Central Ray.

In addition, Zondervan was a 25-year volunteer EMT for the Pella Ambulance Service and completed many mission trips as a nurse to underprivileged communities in Romania, Africa and Haiti. For 37 years, she directed a support group for Pella single mothers. She also served on the board of Pathways of Pella, a pregnancy care center.

Zondervan was a longtime supporter of Central as a member of the Cornerstone Society, Central Club and Heritage Roll of Honor. She contributed to the Central Fund, Roe Center,

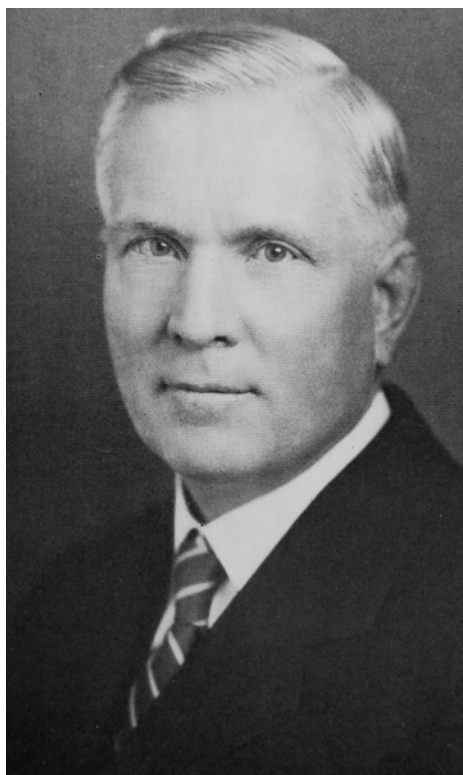
P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium, Journey Scholarship and various additional memorials and scholarships.

She leaves behind her husband Leon and her sons Russell, Ryan and **Randall '98** and six grandchildren.

# HISTORY REPEATS

The Class of 2020 missed its spring Commencement.  
The Class of 1930 would have empathized.

STORY BY: **DAN WEEKS**



**John Wesselink**, Central's President from 1925-34, had the unhappy duty of calling off Commencement for the class of 1930 due to a smallpox epidemic. It was "a great disappointment to the graduation class and to all concerned," he wrote.

In 2020, many high school, college and university graduations were put on hold worldwide — including Central College's. As President **Mark Putnam** notes, at Central there is a 90-year-old precedent.

His President's Corner essay ["We've (Almost) Been Through this Before," Spring 2020, Page 1] told the story of the commencement-canceling small-pox quarantine of 1930, citing then-President **John Wesselink's** May 24, 1930, diary entry.

We thought you might be interested in the student perspective of that event. In its May 30, 1930, edition, *The Central Ray* captured emotions that resonate with those of the Central community in May 2020:

"NO COMMENCEMENT AT CENTRAL," announced the page-one headline. "Plans, Hopes, Expectations All Shattered By Small Pox Quarantine" continued the subhead.

"The most dramatic moment of the year was perhaps when Dean **Henry Pietenpol** announced at the dorm before breakfast that because of the smallpox quarantine all college functions except examinations must be called off. ...

"What can be more deplorable than Commencement without friends and family, church and speaker, music and oratory, pomp and circumstance? ...

"Plans made months ago were broken and made over by dozens. Telegraph wires fairly sizzled ... [Parents'] is the greatest disappointment of all; theirs was the sacrifice for their young hopefuls; theirs was to have been a well-dressed reward ... .

"No one fears contagion; all are vividly mindful only of the dulling of one of life's brightest hours. ... This is not an editorial ... but only to attempt to record the spirit of the time."

According to another article in the same issue of the student newspaper, the 24-student senior class "slowly marched into the chapel Thursday evening, May 29, 1930. The small audience of students allowed to be present stood in respect ... President John Wesselink ... expressed the regret of all, that no public gathering was possible."

The "spirit of the time" is similar this year. The plans were different: Central held commencement for the Class of 2020 Sunday, Sept. 27, one with most of the features of a traditional ceremony.

The Class of 1930 would approve. ■

# BEST WISHES TO THE CLASS OF 2020!

You don't have to be a member of the Class of 1930 to offer a heartfelt congratulations to an exceptional class. Many Central College alumni wrote to offer theirs. Here are snippets from a few of those received:

"Congrats, Class of 2020! You'll always have a unique set of memories to bind you — a bond you'll share with all 2020 graduates across the country and even the world. May it inspire you to a special sense of community and solidarity. We're rooting for you!"

— **Hilary Hekel '02**

"You have arrived at the finish line — graduation — and it is playing out differently than anyone could have imagined. Times are uncertain and a new normal is coming. The world needs Central grads — those who are determined, who strive for excellence, who look for the best in others and who are ready to go out and make a difference in the world. As you go out into the world, remember that you ARE part of the Central family and we stick together. We will be here to support you on this next journey. And remember, You Are Forever Dutch!"

— **Brian '80 and Lori Humphrey Fegley '80**

"This year is like no other before and probably no other to come. But it's still your year and it will always be special and memorable for you and your families. There will be more times in the future to gather, celebrate and cheer each other. I remember 41 years ago, when all the ceremony and celebration was over, pausing and thinking to myself, 'Now what?' Believe me, the best is yet to come! Scary? Absolutely. Exciting? Oh, yeah!"

— **Alan Van Zee '79**

"Thank you for the resilience you have shown during this challenging close to your career at Central. More than that though, thank you for the vibrancy, the caring and the academic diligence that has been a hallmark of your class during the last four years. In your honor, I am making a donation today to the Central Cares Fund, to help the students following behind you, who will always remember the leadership example you have set for them. Good luck in this next stage of your life. Continue to hold dear the memories of your time at Central. Congratulations on your graduation!"

— **Lanny Little '74**





Central was grateful to receive more than 1,000 pieces of personal protective equipment made by more than 30 volunteer students, staff, alumni and friends of the college during the summer — including enough masks to give one to each Central student. Many of the hand-sewn masks sported Central's logo or school colors; some individual volunteers made hundreds of the face coverings. Each mask was handed out with a tag identifying the mask maker.