searching for what's next in communication?!
It’s too late when they arrive as freshmen in college. They bounce onto campus with new hairstyles, the latest clothes and expectations already in place. Innovations colleges were so proud of a few years ago are passé to a new crop of students.

As a new college president who thinks a lot about higher education, I’ve realized eighth graders hold the keys to the future. Fortunately, I am in the catbird seat — an eighth grader lives under the same roof with me.

Our older daughter, Emma, is now a sophomore in college, but when she was in eighth grade I stopped reading the experts and began watching her. One day, Emma bounded down the stairs from her bedroom.

“Where are you headed?” I asked.

“I need to see Angela for a minute,” she replied of her friend across the street. Seconds later she reappeared and started up the stairs.

“What was that all about?” I asked.

“I had to tell Angela to go online so we can instant message,” she responded.

Today informing college students is most successful when using Facebook. According to data by Pew Research, traditional print media lags behind in conveying information to millennials. Only 24 percent cite newspapers as their main news source behind television (65 percent) and the Internet (59 percent). Just think what the shift could be in five years.

Our youngest daughter, Greta, is now in eighth grade. Recently, a deafening clap of thunder startled my wife, Tammy, and me from sleep at 3 a.m. Soon, Tammy’s cell phone alerted her to a new text message. It was Greta, age 13.

Greta: Did u hear that?!?!?! Is it a bad storm?
Tammy: It’s OK

Greta: okayyy sry did I wake u?
Tammy: No
Greta: love u goodnight
Tammy: love you too

I remember when a storm brought children running to jump in bed with their parents. Now, it seems a text message will do. So I wonder, will “U” someday replace “You” in the dictionary? Will punctuation become optional? Six years ago, Emma’s e-mail address mattered to her and still does. Today, Greta just can’t be bothered. Her phone is the only device that really matters to her.

So what can we conclude? First, collaboration will overtake isolation. Peer-to-peer interactions, interdependencies and combined efforts are likely to redefine how we organize information, facilitate learning and assess progress.

Second, repositories of information must take on a different form. Handbooks, manuals and catalogs are being replaced by FAQs, visual media and peer advice. Digital assistants like the help button, Google search and YouTube, will press us to reorganize traditional textbooks, libraries and learning environments.

Third, customization is a growing expectation. Is anyone else completely annoyed when your kids use your computer and change all the settings to suit their needs and interests? I’m happy with my plain desktop background, but wild designs appear when my laptop falls into the wrong hands. It’s a sign of things to come.

We have a long way to go to be ready for eighth graders. In the end we know what Star Trek fans learned years ago. “Resistance is futile. You will be assimilated.”

Get ready.

For the full piece, go to www.central.edu/go/president
Cellular phones are a vital source of communication for everyone, but young people mainly use phones for texting, not talking.

10 ALUMNI PROFILES
Read about some interesting endeavors of alumni.

20 INNOVATE: LIFE IS TOO SHORT TO STAGNATE
Russ Benedict tells about a new prairie biomass project.

DEPARTMENTS
2 Around the Pond
4 Alumni Happenings
6 Alumni Award Recipients
8 Sports Update
18 Financial Report
37 Parting Shot

Honor Roll of Giving, see page 35

Sarah Rankin '13 was one of nine Central students who spent part of the summer on a work mission trip in Haiti. Students spent afternoons teaching English to Haitian children.

GIVING BY SOURCES

Alumni .................. $2,150,013
Friends .................... 983,734
Corporations ............... $462,036
Foundations ............... $1,293,500
Associations/churches .... $103,740
Non-alumni parents ......... $400,416
Total ..................... $5,393,439

A breakdown of Central’s financial report.
Kristin Sullivan Tremper ’03, coordinator of Reformed Church in America Relations, led nine students on a work trip to Pignon, Haiti, July 19-Aug. 3. The group worked with United Christians International to help refugees who have fled to the area following the earthquakes earlier this year. Students poured concrete floors in homes that had dirt floors, worked at the nutrition center run by pastor Jean Jean Mompremier and his family, held vacation Bible school in the afternoons for local children and taught English to community members. In turn, Central students learned about the culture of the people from the plateau region of Haiti.

STUDENTS IN TURKEY THIS SUMMER

In 2004, Terry Kleven, professor of religion at Central College, led a group of six students to Turkey. Kleven, accompanied by Elena Vishnevskaya, assistant professor of religion, repeated the trip this summer by taking eight students on a 15-day excursion in an effort to broaden students’ knowledge of Turkey and the Middle East, including a better understanding of Judaico-Christian heritage and the people and politics of the area. While there, the group visited many places, which pertain to this long history of Turkey’s past.

“There are few areas of the world more in need of our attention and understanding...
focus on one of the four different areas listed above.

Through this program, students broaden their knowledge and perspectives on a variety of real-life, current and social issues; gain a better understanding of themselves, their talents and limitations; develop a unique leadership style; and learn to help others hone their skills as leaders.

“Our hope is this program will provide students with résumé building skills, networking and mentorship opportunities, and knowledge about being a member in the Central and Pella communities,” said Jill Batten, assistant director of student activities.

GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY
NEW TO CORE THIS FALL

This fall, global sustainability was implemented into the college’s new core curriculum. Few other schools in the nation have sustainability as part of its required curriculum.

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

EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

Student activities began the second year of the Emerging Leaders Program (ELP). Thirty-two students are honing their leadership skills and exploring who they are as leaders. Students enrolled in the program are required to attend and/or participate in 12 activities throughout first semester in four different areas: skills-based leadership; interculturalism and diversity; career development; and community service and sustainability. After attending an activity, students completed a brief reflection based on Robert Kegan’s theory of self-authorship. The reflecting process is guided by ELP mentors, second-year students who completed the ELP program last year. Additionally, ELP students attend once-a-month group meetings that focus on sharing and processing experiences, team-building and goal setting. Spring semester, first-year students work with ELP mentors for 10+ hours on a leadership project designed by the mentors with a

Eight students traveled to Turkey this summer to learn about its religious history.

than the Middle East,” commented Kleven, who has taught at Central for 14 years. “Our trip explored ancient, medieval and modern Turkey from its prehistoric and Hittite origins, to the Greek and Roman civilizations, to the establishment of Christianity by Paul, John and other Apostles in Asia Minor, to the period of Byzantine Christianity, to the 600-year rule of the Ottoman Empire, and finally to the establishment of the modern Republic of Turkey. No one passes through this place and returns the same person.”

NEW FACULTY

Central College welcomed 11 new faculty members for the 2010-11 academic year.

**Melinda Graham-Hinners ’00**, visiting instructor of psychology
**Shelli Green ’07**, visiting instructor of exercise science
**Marie Hopwood**, visiting assistant professor of anthropology
**Sushmina Manandhar**, visiting instructor of computer science
**Jessica McCurren Schuring ’04**, visiting instructor of economics
**Maria Snyder**, assistant professor of French and German studies
**Margene Van Horn**, visiting instructor of exercise science
**Chen Ying**, visiting scholar of Chinese

**Maria Carla Chiarella ’95**, associate professor of psychology
**Thomas Davis**, instructor of education
**Katelin Gannon**, visiting instructor of exercise science and assistant women’s soccer coach

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2010 Legacy Lunch

The annual Legacy Lunch honoring Central College students and their alumni family members was held on Aug. 21 with 105 people attending.

First row, from left: Rachel Boertje '14, Kyle Wyckoff, Elisha Wyckoff '14, Justin Wyckoff '12, Krysta Gooding Wyckoff '91, Mark Fevold, Jessie Fevold '13, Lynnette Ziskovsky Fevold '78, LuAnn Lundy Smith '83, Kevin Smith '82, Trent Smith '14, Reed Smith, Jenna Schulte, Braden Schulte and Eldon Schulte '58.

Second row: Bruce Boertje '79, Cyndi Boertje, John White '78, Marue White, Jesse White '14, Miranda Beckler, Diane Wehde, Mike Wehde '85, Mary De Master Schulte '62 and Austin Schulte.

Third row: Stephen Sarcone, Annie Sarcone '14, Stephanie Harvey Sarcone '79, Rob Judkins '87, Jordan Judkins '14, Grant Judkins, Shannon Peck Judkins '87, Olivia Schouten '14, Carla De Ruiter Schouten '86, Miranda Wehde '14, Carol Schulte, Lyndi Schulte and Lenora Van Norden.

Fourth row: Rachel Pashon '13, Tanner Price '14, Austin Blom '14, Bruce Schouten '84, Erica Schulte and Heidi Schulte '14.

Fifth row: Katie Knaack '14, Molly Pashon, Tim Pashon '88, Nan Pashon, Wayne Price, Patty Joy Price '78, Pam Blom, Mark Blom '87 and Matt Schulte '86.

Sixth row: Angie Knaack, Jeff Freel '76 and Rosemary Freel.


Eighth row: Julia DeYoung, Amanda DeYoung '14, Brianna DeYoung, Todd McClaran, Mallori Ghent '12 and Katie Creps Ghent '78.

Ninth row: Teresa Kehoe Dusil '81, Alan DeYoung, Allison DeYoung, Denise Koolmees, Jeff McClaran '90, Sanae Spencer Glendening '84 and Sarah Glendening '12.

Back row: Ryan Dusil '14, Randy Dusil, Don Koolmees '77, Denise Koolmees, Megan Koolmees '14, Eric Glendening '85 and Brett Glendening '14.
HOW I FOUND CENTRAL
by Ann Van Hemert ’00
Director of alumni relations

After attending my first Legacy Luncheon this summer as alumni director, I took a moment to reflect on how I became a legacy student. I also know after being an admission counselor, many of us had similar experiences.

Did any of us ever really think our parents knew what they were talking about? As a high school student with much more important things to think about — like which T-shirt I was going to throw on with my jeans, and with which friends I was going to the football game — there was no way I was going to listen to my dad when he told me I should check out Central. How on earth could he know what he was talking about? The guy who had been talking about being a Theta and touring with the choir could not possibly have any idea what I wanted in my college choice.

Little did I know that both he and my mom had a better idea of where I would thrive than I did. As I see the number of students who have a family connection to Central and as I hear their stories, I hear one common theme: they believe that Central is a place where people don’t just receive a top-notch education but have the opportunity to become a better version of themselves. And it isn’t just the sons and daughters, brothers and sisters of alums; it is a student who visits the campus on the day of a home football game. It is a student who stays overnight to see the fall theatre performance and doesn’t see one empty seat. It is the story of what Central offers that makes others want to be a part of it. It is the individual stories that tell others what Central offers.

I am often teased incessantly from my family for not only choosing Central as a student but then working in the admission office and talking Central 24/7, and now I have the opportunity to work with alumni whose passion for Central makes mine pale in comparison.

Turns out mom and dad were right.

CLASS OF ’60 GIVES $120,000

Who would believe 50 years have passed since Arend Lubbers took over as Central’s president? Surely not the class of 1960, which celebrated its 50th reunion during Homecoming/Family Weekend in October. And to cap the weekend, the class of 1960 reunion didn’t wind down until 1 a.m. (four hours after the class of 2000 reunion ran out of steam) as class members reminisced about the mischief they caused during their time at Central.

Forty-three of the original 94 returned to campus for the reunion. Eight people on the steering committee spent 22 cumulative hours in conference calls planning for the weekend. As the class gathered to celebrate on the first evening of Homecoming, 22 posters were made so members of the class could parade into the football game showing their Central pride. Of the 43 who returned, 28 traveled from states other than Iowa. Those states include California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin.

Even more remarkable than the 50th anniversary is what this class has given back to the college. The most notable accomplishment of the class of 1960 is it gave over $120,000 for its 50-year class gift, exceeding the previous record by nearly $70,000.

CENTRAL TRIVIA

Think you know everything there is to know about Central College? Take the quiz to see how much you REALLY know!

1. Who was the first president of Central?
2. Which denomination was originally affiliated with Central?
3. Where do campus ministries groups travel during winter break?
4. Name three of Central’s study abroad sites.
5. Mark Putnam is the newest president of Central; what number is he?
6. What was Central’s highest enrollment and what year did it take place?
7. When was Maytag Student Center built?
8. Which athletics program has the most national championships?
9. How many theatre performances are there each year?
10. What academic programs were originally held in Jordan Hall?
11. What is Central’s newest major?
12. What is the name of the course all first-year students now take?
13. When was the pond built?
14. Where will the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band be touring this January?
15. Where does the highest population of Central alumni live today?

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Burt Voss '49

The Alumni Achievement Award is given to an alumnus who has displayed exceptional professional and life accomplishments. Burt Voss graduated from Central College in 1949 with biology and chemistry degrees. He went on to earn a master’s degree and a doctoral degree from the University of Iowa. Following his schooling, he accepted a teaching position at Pennsylvania State University and then a position at the University of Michigan School of Education in 1963, where he retired as professor emeritus in 1993. He later served as a science consultant to the state of Michigan for six years.

Recognitions Voss has received include the Michigan Science Teachers’ Association Lifetime Achievement Award and the Carleton Award for National Leadership from the National Science Teachers Association.

On the community level, he served as an elder and deacon in the First Presbyterian Church and was on the boards of both the Ecumenical Campus Center and the Campus Ministry at the church. Voss spends much time now on the board of his condo association and in the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor. At Central, Burt and wife Jackie Vander Lugt Voss ’50 were co-presidents of the alumni association, and he is a member of the Alumni Advisory Council. Burt and Jackie have three married sons, Bob, David and Mark, and seven grandchildren.

YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Rusty Johnson ’03

Rusty Johnson, a 2003 Central College graduate, is this year’s Young Alumni Achievement Award recipient. The award is presented to an alumnus who graduated from Central College within the last 15 years and has demonstrated significant professional and personal accomplishments since graduation.

Growing up as a foster child in Oskaloosa, Iowa, Johnson uses his past to advocate and connect with youth, foster parents, communities and legislators. He’s received numerous awards, including a certificate of recognition from the Iowa State Executive Branch for starting Rusty Johnson’s American Dreams, an annual benefit for foster youth which is now a national tour.

Between 2006-09, Johnson worked with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services as a subject matter specialist for the Dallas-Fort Worth region. Currently, he is a trainer for Jonathan’s Place, a private child-placing agency serving the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In addition, Johnson travels coast to coast giving keynote speeches motivating countless child welfare advocates.
At 30, the talented saxophonist has opened for five-time Grammy Award winner Steven Curtis Chapman, shared the stage with Peruvian drummer Alex Acuna, two-time World Olympic opening act and Gaither recording artist, Marvin Mathews, and many others. He will soon release his first album, which he co-produced with world-renown keyboardist and song writer Eric Willis.

**ALUMNI STEWARDSHIP, SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP AWARD**

*Phil VanderWilt ’63*

The Alumni Stewardship, Service and Leadership Award is earned by an alumnus who has demonstrated exceptional stewardship, service, leadership, integrity, energy and sustainability efforts to Central College and in his community.

Phil VanderWilt graduated from Central College in 1963 and earned a master’s degree from Webster College (Mo.). He started his career as a pilot in the Air Force in 1967, retiring after 20 years and achieving the rank of Lt. Colonel. VanderWilt then joined American Airlines as a commercial pilot, eventually climbing through the seniority system to captain. Upon retirement from American Airlines at age 60, he was hired by a flight management company managing the Intel Corporation’s aviation fleet. Currently, he is chief pilot and his wife is a flight attendant for Ken Behring, founder of the Wheelchair Foundation. VanderWilt has flown to more than 120 countries, giving away more than 899,000 wheelchairs.

He and wife of 52 years, Carol, are involved with their church with Bible studies and singing events. The VanderWiltons have three daughters and six grandchildren.

**MR. AND MRS. ALUMNI AWARD**

*Trent ’90 and Kris Brandt Vaughn ’90*

The Mr. and Mrs. Alumni Award is presented to alumni couples who have enthusiastically supported the mission of Central College. True representatives of the Central family, this year’s recipients are Trent ’90 and Kris Brandt Vaughn ’90 of Flower Mound, Texas.

The couple met at Central College their junior year during phonathon for the development office. They were married two weeks after graduating from Central. Kris majored in business management and Trent in mathematics.

Trent works for Republic Insurance in Dallas, Texas. He has had many articles published in professional and academic journals and is a frequent speaker at industry events. Kris is an avid volunteer and has chaired the Alumni Advisory Council since 2002. She has served in a leadership role in the PTA for 10 years and is currently membership chair for Texas PTA, chair of the strategic communications committee and a member of the field service committee for the national office. Together the two have been Central class representatives several times, were Omaha alumni chapter chairs, reunion chairs twice and reunion giving chairs once. Trent and Kris have two children, Grant, 14, and Grace, 12.

**HONORARY ALUMNUS AWARD**

*Jim Van Tuyl*

Because of his attendance at a variety of college activities, involvement with college programs, financial support and expressed interest in and dedication to the college’s well being, Jim Van Tuyl of Bella Vista, Ark., is now an honorary alumnus of Central College.

Van Tuyl attended the University of Iowa for two years before transferring to the University of Northern Colorado, where he earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees. He taught in the Des Moines School District while continuing his own education by taking classes in the summers. He was involved in the Des Moines Education Association’s contract negotiations and was elected to serve at several national Education Association conventions.

After retiring in 2003, he and wife Eunice Vander Zyl Van Tuyl ’68 moved to Bella Vista, where he serves on the board of directors for the local access television station and volunteers several times a week.

He became a supporter of Central when he was on campus for the first time in 1993 for his wife’s 25th class reunion. He and Eunice set up a scholarship for overseas studies because they strongly affirm the college’s goal of students having an overseas experience.
A pair of consensus all-Americans and a pioneering coach were the newest inductees into the Central College Athletics Hall of Honor.

Initiated in 2002, the hall expanded to 36 members with the induction of football defensive end Jeff Blythe ’87, women’s basketball NCAA scoring champ Emilie Hanson Brown ’95 and longtime women’s basketball coach Gary Boeyink ’59. They were honored during Homecoming/Family Weekend Oct. 8-10.

Central’s hall of honor recognizes those who were exceptional performers in the athletics arena as a student-athlete, coach or administrator and have distinguished themselves in life after graduation through service and leadership. To be eligible for consideration, a nominee must have graduated or served as a Central coach/administrator at least 15 years earlier.

Athletics Hall of Honor inductees

President Mark Putnam welcomed three new inductees into Central’s Athletics Hall of Honor. Jeff Blythe ’87, Emilie Hanson Brown ’95 and Gary Boeyink ’59 were inducted during Homecoming/Family Weekend festivities Oct. 8.
A member of four Iowa Conference champion football squads, Blythe was one of the top defensive ends in Central history. He was a three-time all-conference pick and a two-time first-team selection. Blythe was tabbed for the Associated Press college division all-America squad in 1986, chosen from athletes at NCAA Division II and III schools as well as NAIA schools. He received Central’s Lankelma Award in 1985 as the team’s top underclassman and the Mentink Award for inspiration and leadership on the field and in the classroom. He was the team’s lone captain in 1986.

Blythe was also a three-time Division III playoff participant, helping the Dutch reach the national championship game in 1984. Central advanced to the semifinals in 1985 and the quarterfinals in 1986.

Central was 7-2 during Blythe’s freshman year, then didn’t lose another regular-season game in the remainder of his career, part of a school-record 36-game regular-season winning streak. Central was 40-5 overall during his career.

A leader of some of Central’s most stifling defenses, Blythe topped the Dutch tackle charts in 1985 with 92, including 13 tackles for loss and a remarkable 14 sacks. He was third in tackles in 1986 with 107, made 19 tackles for loss and had eight sacks. The Dutch defense yielded just 6.9 points and 173.2 yards a game in 1985, while giving up 8.0 points and 197.1 yards in 1986.

Brown, one of the most decorated student-athletes in Central history, was the first Iowan to receive the NCAA Top VIII Award, presented to the nation’s top student-athletes for athletics and academic achievement.

A finalist for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award in 1995, she was Division III women’s winner of the Woody Hayes National Scholar-Athlete Award and received an NCAA postgraduate scholarship. She was a two-time first-team CoSIDA Academic All-American and was the 1994-95 Academic All-America women’s basketball player of the year.

Brown was a consensus pick as the 1994-95 NCAA Division III basketball player of the year after being a finalist in 1993-94. She was also a finalist for the Honda Award as the top women’s collegiate Division III athlete in 1994-95.

A two-time first-team all-America pick, she twice led Division III in scoring, averaging 29.6 points per game in 1993-94 and 27.8 in 1994-95. Central’s all-time scoring champ, she established 15 school records. Her 800 points in 1993-94 rank No. 5 in Division III season history, and she ranks No. 13 on the all-time Division III career scoring list with 2,235 points.

A two-time league MVP, Brown led the Dutch to three league titles and three NCAA Division III playoff berths. In 1993, she helped Central claim the Division III championship before an overflow home crowd in P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium.

Boeyink helped launch the women’s intercollegiate athletics program at Central and started the women’s basketball program in 1973. He was the team’s first and only head coach for 28 years, leaving the program in 2001. Boeyink came out of retirement to serve as assistant coach and is in his fourth season in that role.

He oversaw the development of the women’s program as associate athletics director from 1973-98 and was interim athletics director in 1993-94.

Under Boeyink, Central compiled a 399-287 mark including the 1993 NCAA Division III championship. He was tabbed Division III coach of the year by Basketball Gazette after earning regional honors in 1985.

Central won or shared six conference titles during his tenure, reaching the NCAA Division III tournament five times.

A Sioux Center, Iowa native, Boeyink was Central’s head baseball coach from 1968-70, head softball coach in 1975 and from 1977-84 and was interim women’s golf coach in 2010. He served as assistant football coach from 1967-68 and assistant men’s basketball coach from 1967-71.

As an undergraduate, Boeyink was a three-year varsity letterwinner in baseball and men’s basketball.

Boeyink returned to Central in 1967 following a brief Iowa high school coaching career.
With her youngest child about to start kindergarten, what is a stay-at-home mom to do?

Eight years ago, Kris Daly Boettger ’88 pondered that very question.

“I wanted to do something to keep me occupied and perhaps bring in a little money for the family,” Daly Boettger said. “But, I also wanted to be able to give the kids a hot breakfast before they got on the school bus and I really wanted to be home after school ended.”

She approached her husband Tim ’90, a minister, about it, and they prayed.

“We prayed for a year before, one night at 10:30 p.m., a thought came to me to turn that barn outside our house into a store,” she said.

“It was a working barn before so it needed a lot of work,” said Daly Boettger, who along with family and friends spent weeks scraping, power washing and bleaching the 78-year-old barn near Cedar Falls, Iowa, in order to turn it into a restaurant and gift shop, which opened in 2003.

Now the aroma of fresh brewed coffee, homemade pastries and made-from-scratch soups and sandwiches fills the air instead of hog manure.

Initially, one of the biggest challenges she faced, besides cleaning the barn, was the learning curve of opening your own business. There were many things she had to learn quickly such as zoning and planning regulations, health codes, marketing, bookkeeping and money management.

After being open for almost a year, Barn Happy caught the attention of the local newspaper which ran an article. Almost instantly, Barn Happy’s business picked up with people coming
“We feel it is important to preserve the agricultural heritage and values of the Midwest ... Barn Happy works to give customers and visitors a genuine snapshot of the state.”

So the idea of selling all-Iowa product gift baskets at Barn Happy was a no-brainer. At her first job out of college, her boss gave her an Iowa gift basket for Christmas, which had a ham and an Iowa mug and some caramels made in Iowa.

“At 23, I thought that was the coolest thing!” she explained. “But, I couldn’t eat a whole ham by myself so I took it to my parents’ for supper. I was so excited about it and told my family all about the gift.”

She ships all-Iowa product gift baskets, especially around the holidays, all over the United States.

“We feel it is important to preserve the agricultural heritage and values of the Midwest,” said Daly Boettger. “Iowa is a unique and valuable asset to the country. Barn Happy works to give customers and visitors a genuine snapshot of the state.”

Nearly 80 percent of merchandise sold at Barn Happy is produced in Iowa and almost all the food sold in the restaurant is Iowa grown.

Other gift items in the barn include locally made arts and crafts, and a hay loft full of antiques and collectibles complete the nostalgic Iowa experience.

Daly Boettger, who majored in art at Central, also creates homemade crafts and art out of old windows. Before opening the barn, her studio was a spare bedroom.

“Iowa is more than just hogs, corn and beans,” she said. “There are many talented and innovative people in Iowa who have much to offer with their crafts and skills.”

Barn Happy started with a full coffee bar and homemade baked goods that Daly Boettger and her neighbors would make. A year and a half later, she got requests for a lunch. At first, it seemed like an overwhelming request.

“I could barely put together meals for my family of four and there was a request for lunch daily?” she gasped in disbelief.

But for the past six-and-a-half years, she’s been serving lunch, too. First homemade soups, and now sandwiches and quiche.

Barn Happy has grown exponentially since it first opened in 2003. Daly Boettger, who once did it all, relies on the help of her neighbors, friends, family and staff.

“I was envisioning a place for me to work part time that would allow me to get my kids on the school bus and go to their evening activities,” she said. “It has its own life.”

One of the benefits of having the store 200 yards from the house is her family plays an active role in the business. Her husband Tim, who attended Central for one year and received a degree in business from the University of Iowa, took over the bookkeeping two years ago. He also moonlights as a handyman making sure all the appliances work. Both kids bake a pan of bars each night, and her daughter works during the summer pouring coffee drinks, running the register and bussing tables.

“It gives them a little spending money and keeps our family involved and connected,” she said.
Bruce Anderson ’70 didn’t have a passion for teaching until he saw his wife Susan’s excitement for her job, and he wanted that, too.

After working for a couple of years following graduation from Central, Anderson went back to school at Drake University and received certification to teach. The day after receiving his certification, he received a call from the Des Moines school system. He accepted his first teaching position and taught in numerous elementary schools in the Des Moines district for 33 years, including 20 years teaching fifth grade.

“The reason I didn’t teach any grade higher than that is because I knew I was smarter than a fifth grader,” he joked.

During his career, Anderson tried to have as much fun as possible. He was a facilitator for Heartland Area Education Agency (AEA) and taught a course to educators called Sense of Humor, in which he encouraged teachers to have fun on the job.

“You can plan to have fun and have a good day at work. It’s all up to you. Not only do you want to plan fun and exciting lessons and experiences for the kids, you want to have fun and enjoyment yourself. You plan to fill their cups and your cup, too.”

Anderson encouraged teachers to look for creative and innovative ideas to connect to students. One of those ways was getting local high school students involved at the elementary schools.

“The older students loved coming to the elementary classrooms because they felt wanted
and the younger students loved it because right in front of them, reading to them, were the kids they admired,” he said.

In his own classroom, Anderson engaged students first thing every morning by starting each day with a joke an assigned student would read to the class.

“I wanted students to come into my room smiling and hopefully leave my room smiling,” he said. “That was a wonderful strategy that worked for me.”

Laughter often times followed the smiles. Anderson would play Abbott and Costello’s famous “Who’s on First?” bit when the World Series rolled around, exposing a new generation to classic comedy.

They also enjoyed doing ice breakers or mood breakers by dancing the Macarena.

“I’d get their bodies moving and their brain stimulated,” he said.

One of Anderson’s favorite lessons was to challenge his students to write to their favorite author, celebrity, sports star or someone who was a role model.

“I did this to get them excited about writing.”

“I did this to get them excited about writing,” he said. “But, everybody asks for autographs, so I had the kids ask for a pair of shoes.”

Anderson’s classes got shoes from authors, celebrities, sports stars. The students would put them on and read in them.

“The people we contacted for shoes had just about as good a time as the students did receiving them,” said Anderson, whose classes received shoes from Iowa’s last four governors and their wives.

Anderson’s next assignment would be to have students think about what it is like to be in the shoes of a famous person and write a short story about being in the shoes of ______ for a day.

By the time Anderson retired in 2007, he had over 50 pairs of shoes from celebrities. He purchased a “shoe case” to showcase the collection.

“It was just a whimsical idea that turned out to be a winner,” he said.

Anderson, a national board-certified teacher, returns to Central each fall to share his experiences and teaching methods with students in professor of education Phil George’s classes, offering tips and motivation to those who will soon be educators.

“Mr. Anderson answered questions and gave suggestions that would be helpful for beginning teachers,” said Central sophomore Libby Herriot. “He stressed the importance of active engagement. I also enjoyed his magic tricks.”

“Mr. Anderson displayed a passion and enthusiasm for teaching that was contagious,” said junior Kelly Martin. “He encouraged us to be the best teachers possible.”

“Hopefully I shared some wisdom and challenged them to have a passion, or a fire in their belly for teaching young students,” Anderson said.

Anderson wanted to share even more than his experience as a teacher to Central. He and his late wife Susan Berical Anderson ’70, who died of cancer last year, set up the Susan Berical Anderson Education Fund to help support the Central Teacher Academy, a collaborative arrangement involving Central College, Pella Community Schools and the Heartland AEA. Prospective teachers from Central are paired with a mentor teacher for three years and have continuous interaction with AEA consultants. In addition to assisting students at Pella Community Schools, the Central Teacher Academy facilitates the professional development of prospective teachers and mentor teachers.

“Susan inspired me,” said Anderson. “She loved teaching, and I was lucky enough to share in her passion. She was a master teacher and wonderful educator. The greatest honor I could give her would be a scholarship in her name. It seemed to fit my idea of giving something back and paying it forward to the future of education.”
Right out of college, Kendra Daly ’93 was like most fresh, young graduates. She didn’t know exactly what she wanted to do for the rest of her life, but she was full of energy and creativity that could not be boxed up.

After a brief stint at a country western radio station doing ad promos, she moved to Des Moines to work for an ad agency called Strategic America. It was there where she met one of their big clients, Bill Krause, one of the owners of Kum and Go convenience stores.

“[Kum and Go] hired me away and created a position for me as director of public relations,” said Daly, who worked there for almost five years. “I coordinated between the stores and corporate staff, internally and to the public.”

Before event planning was vogue, Daly was in the thick of that industry creating high-energy events for the company.

“I learned a ton at Kum and Go, from the Krause family and the executive management team,” she said.

She decided she had done all she could with that role and made a difficult decision to leave Kum and Go in 2000.

“The farthest thing from my mind was to start my own business, but people were calling me and asking if I could help them set up this event or that party or help them organize a showcase,” she said. “It was then that I realized I could do this independently.”

With a client base already established, she started her own company Daly Happenings three months later.
“It was through connections I made at Kum and Go that made Daly Happenings a reality. It truly was a blessing because I love working with people and events — and putting my own creative flare in it,” Daly said. “I love being creative. I love owning a project and seeing it to the end.”

Depending on the magnitude of the projects she’s working on, Daly usually takes on 3-6 projects at a time, including 1-2 larger or premier events.

“There are several things that factor into how many projects I take on at a time such as when it is and how large of an event it is,” she said. “I tell my clients I can offer them my time, skill and judgment.”

Even though most of the time she’s a one-woman show, she will hire some help when needed.

“I really think putting employees on a payroll would take a lot of the fun away from me,” said Daly. “It would put me possibly one step away from the fun, the client and the interpersonal connection. I think that’s what keeps me energized and what has made me successful.”

Each February, she hires people to help with the Bravo Gala black-tie event in downtown Des Moines, an eight-month project.

Another large event Daly works on each year is the World Food Prize celebration in Des Moines in October which draws people from more than 70 countries.

“It’s like the Nobel Prize for food,” she said. “It’s a really big deal. It shines a spotlight on Des Moines. We can show off the capital and the state of Iowa.”

“...I love the excitement and thrive on the unexpected. In the end, all you want is the event to be a success ...”

Daly has also organized football camps for former and current NFL players.

“Tim Dwight came to me after a couple years in the NFL and said he wanted to have a football camp in Iowa City,” she said. “I told him I have no idea how to put on a football camp, but he said he didn’t either. Just figure it out. So I did.”

For seven years, she put on the Tim Dwight football camp in Iowa City with the largest group of kids topping 600. With 10 days before the camp, Dwight, an ex-Iowa Hawkeye football player and former NFL player, called Daly to tell her former NFL quarterback Doug Flutie was also going to be at the camp. Daly put out that information and in the eight days before the camp, she had 120 more campers sign up.

“It was great for the camp and everything went well, but it was a lot of extra and last-minute preparation,” she said. “We needed more of everything: coaches, T-shirts, footballs, volunteers. I love the excitement and thrive on the unexpected. In the end, all you want is the event to be a success and that nobody saw anything but excellence.”

Through Dwight, Daly met former Iowa Hawkeye football players Nate Kaeding and Robert Gallery and planned their camp for four years.

Daly Happenings morphed over the years. Daly still has some clients who have been with her from the start. She has some clients whom she works with for a project or two and some who have her plan events for two or three years but then end up hiring an internal person to take over duties.

“But then I’ll get two more clients so it usually evens out,” Daly said. “There’s that volatility, which keeps it fun and interesting and fresh.”

Her sister Kris Daly Boettger ’88 also caught the entrepreneurial spirit creating her own business as well, Barn Happy. Daly attributes some of that to their upbringing.

“My dad owned his own business,” she said. “He is a retired dentist and had his own practice for 30 years. He worked hard but took his last patient at 4 p.m. so he could do chores on the farm and go to our school events. He was a good demonstration of how to achieve a balance and modeled it well for us.”
Four years ago, Michael McLoughlin ’06 had never been on an airplane. Since then, he's become a world traveler taking trips to Australia, New Zealand, Croatia, France and, most recently, an eight-week stay in Tanzania.

One year into medical school at the University of Iowa, McLoughlin saw this summer as his last hoorah before his studies took over his life. While most students stay to do research, McLoughlin felt he needed to do something different and was drawn to the idea of doing international research.

“I wanted to go somewhere to figure out if it’s something I could do — not just imagine,” he said.

A former Dutch cross country runner, he was drawn to East Africa, a region known for producing world-class distance runners.

“The University of Iowa has a history of global work,” said McLoughlin, who met with the school’s global program coordinator to see if a summer in Tanzania would be a possibility. “Generally, first-year medical students don’t work in district hospitals in Tanzania; they work at private hospitals or aid organizations.”

McLoughlin, along with a classmate, became the first medical students to work at a district hospital in Same, Tanzania, where the university sends mostly physician assistants.

The cultural adjustment took a little bit of time, especially the language barrier. Tanzania’s main language is Swahili, the same as many nations surrounding the country.

“I wanted to go somewhere where I could learn a language that would be useful and
many countries in Africa speak Swahili,” said McLoughlin. “Learning enough to be able to communicate was fairly simple. I’m sure it’s easier than learning English. People understand even if you don’t say everything properly.”

“Basically, there are a lot of areas where we could learn from each other …”

Tanzania is not a highly developed country. Same, a city of 17,000, has one public Internet connection for the whole town that, according to McLoughlin, only worked about two-thirds of the time.

The two classmates found a house for rent by a family member of an official of a Lutheran church federation, which has a partnership in Iowa.

“The family was great,” said McLoughlin, who practiced speaking Swahili with the family.

One of the children, a 23-year-old daughter, had a disability that made it hard for her to communicate. Each day when McLoughlin got home from the hospital, she would be in the front yard sitting in her wheelchair waiting to greet him. They’d talk a little, and then he’d give her a fist bump before turning to his house for the evening.

“She loved it and now gives her dad a fist bump each day,” he said with a smile. “It’s just something they don’t do so that was cool for me to see her take on an American custom.”

One of McLoughlin’s hopes for the trip was to experience the African medicine system and culture and to build relationships between the Tanzanian hospital and the University of Iowa.

“A lot of times, people don’t know what hospitals need or want,” McLoughlin said. “The frustration for them is receiving medical equipment their country is not equipped to use. One hospital has an ultrasound machine, but their electricity wiring is 220 volt; ours is 110. The first time they turned it on, it was fried, and they don’t know how to fix it. It was well-intentioned, but not useful.”

As first-year medical students, McLoughlin wasn’t aware they’d be thrown into the mix.

“In Tanzania/East Africa, there really isn’t a distinction between medical student and doctor,” he said. “Just about as soon as you enter medical school, people call you ‘doctor.’ Often times we had to say we weren’t comfortable doing procedures but would learn by watching.”

The medical structure was different than U.S. hospitals, and McLoughlin sees ways to improve their system. One would be to bring Tanzanian professionals to the U.S., not only to learn but for Americans to collaborate with them to determine better health practices, such as Tanzanians’ usage of fresh foods and its benefits.

“Basically, there are a lot of areas where we could learn from each other,” he said. “And, if we’re only going there and very few of them are getting the chance to come here, it ends up being really one-sided and not as helpful as it could be. I think we learn more about our own challenges by having someone from the outside come here and question what you’re doing — it makes you defend why you do things.”

McLoughlin’s summer wasn’t all work. He visited a couple national parks, saw Africa’s wildlife and even climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, a four-and-a-half-day excursion to the top of the volcano.

“I have to thank cross country training for being able to continue past the summit to the crater that makes the mountain,” said McLoughlin, who admits to not running nearly as much as he once did.

After his mountain excursion, McLoughlin visited Eldoret, Kenya, to check out a hospital and a school, where he talked with students and got a tour of the farm on school grounds. To thank him for coming, the school gave him a sheep named Neema.

“I was humbled and honored by the gift,” said McLoughlin, who actually raised sheep for 4-H in high school. “But, she stayed there with her buddies.”
Financial Statements

Financial statements for fiscal year ended June 30, 2010. Figures are in actual dollars. For the collegewide audited financial statements, contributions are on an accrual basis while gifts are on a cash basis in the fundraising statements.
**TOTAL GIVING BY YEAR**

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**10-YEAR REVIEW**

**GIVING BY SOURCES**

- Alumni: $2,150,013
- Friends: $983,734
- Corporations: $462,036
- Foundations: $1,293,500
- Associations/churches: $103,740
- Non-alumni parents: $400,416

**Total**: $5,393,439

**GIVING BY DESIGNATION**

- Capital purposes: $2,664,385
- Endowment: $1,103,056
- Central Fund: $1,337,256
- Other restricted annual gifts: $288,742

**Total**: $5,393,439

**SCHOLARSHIP GIVING**

- Endowment: $303,411
- Central Fund: $566,200

**Total**: $869,611
Innovate: Life is Too Short to Stagnate
by Russ Benedict, associate professor of biology

The word “innovate” means to create something new, to make changes, or do something in a new way (Merriam-Webster Dictionary). This word was chosen by Central College President Mark Putnam as a key word in the underlying theme for his inaugural year: Horizons of Opportunity: Create – Innovate – Sustain.

As a college professor, one can learn and change throughout your whole life — in fact, you are expected to. Innovate also has tremendous relevance at this point in human history: given the enormous social and environmental challenges facing the human race, people with innovative minds are needed now more than ever.

Innovate also is a primary reason I chose to spend my professional life teaching at the college level. In my opinion, Central is a place where the innovative spirit of students and faculty alike can soar. This fostering of innovation is due to several factors, with one being the nurturing, supportive...
most of all, an innovative spirit has led to a revolution in my research path.

I have studied mammals for decades but have long wanted to change direction to have a greater impact on conservation and sustainability. Four years ago, I read an article describing research examining the biomass produced by growing diverse mixes of prairie plants. As the number of species in research plots used by the scientists increased from one to 16, the biomass produced increased plant matter that can be converted to ethanol, electricity or other energy sources. As a long-time lover of prairies, I wondered if it might be possible to work with the agricultural community to reconstruct tallgrass prairie, one of the most endangered ecosystems on earth. This moment marked the beginning of the Prairie Biomass Project.

Roughly 85 percent of Iowa used to be covered with tallgrass prairie, a lush ecosystem dominated by several grasses but also containing an incredible diversity of other plants. Today, over 99.9 percent of this ecosystem is gone from our state, with over 96 percent loss continent-wide. But the saving grace for these plants, and thousands of animal species that rely on them, may be their ability to annually produce huge amounts of plant matter. This ability, coupled with advances in technology, may allow us to restore large land areas with diverse mixes of native plants, gain many environmental and agricultural benefits, and make money while doing it.

The broad goals of the Prairie Biomass Project are to further examine the use of diverse plantings of prairie vegetation to simultaneously produce biomass for fuels and provide numerous environmental benefits. Using over 350 plots at Central’s Carlson-Kuyper Field Station, we will plant different mixes of plants containing from one to 64 different species. The objectives are to determine the best mixes of plants and the best methods of planting and harvesting to simultaneously:

- Produce biomass for energy (to produce ethanol, to burn in coal-fired power plants, etc.);
- Provide habitat for plants and animals that are declining due to habitat loss;
- Store carbon in the soil, thus combating Global Climate Change;
- Decrease soil erosion;
- Support native pollinators and beneficial, predatory insects in an agricultural landscape;
- Reduce runoff or atmospheric release of agricultural phosphorus and nitrogen;
- Provide forage for livestock.

Our research site also will be used as a demonstration area for farmers, agricultural leaders and business people. We hope to become leaders in the Midwest in encouraging the use of native prairie plants for agricultural use. Additionally, our research will involve students in every phase of the project, including the design and analysis of research, the physical management of the research site, and giving presentations to the public, school children and business agricultural leaders.

With our work, the Midwest may look different in the future. Instead of monocultures of non-native species, farmers could use diverse mixes of native prairie plants along streams, on terraces, and in livestock pastures. Additionally, millions of acres that can’t be farmed could be planted with diverse prairie mixes. These plantings could be harvested to produce fuel, and prairie plants and animals may rebound in numbers — truly a win/win situation.

Does this all sound like a dream? Maybe so. But ultimately that’s what innovation is — the courage to dream and the perseverance to make something happen. As members of the Central College family, I encourage you to reinvigorate your innovative spirit. The world needs you.

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**Faculty Profile**

**Russ Benedict**

Associate professor of biology

- Born in Ramstein, Germany; raised in a military family
- Began bird watching in sixth grade, opening a door to a love of biology
- Earned a bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree from the University of Nebraska
- Long-time lover of bats and other mammals as well as prairies
- Married with two daughters (Sarah, 24, and Emily, 20)
ALUMNI CLASS REUNIONS

HOME COMING / FAMILY WEEKEND 2010

CLASS OF 1970

First row (left to right): Rick Ryan, Chuck Whittenberg, Craig Sevde and Bill Thomas.

CLASS OF 1955 AND BEFORE


CLASS OF 1960

First row (left to right): Carol Dulmes Vruwink, Andrea Boat Roorda, Kathy Redeker Vande Berg, Judy Gosselink Grooters, Rosalie De Wall Park, Jane Koskamp Ratmeyer, Eileen Fredriks Fikse, Glenadean Van Zee Betterton, Grace Dykstra Scholten and Treva Keuning De Jong.
Second row: Marleen Duven Rempe, Erv Roorda, Barbara Bosch, Dorothy Van Houweling Cage, Jim Vande Berg, Joyce Van Roekel Epperly, Dorothy Tish Taylor, Vivian Harms Huisman, Carly Wagamon Harada and Adilee Rozeboom Bruggink.
Third row: Jerry Rempe, Marvin De Jong, Mary De Jong Trevisan, Davis Folkerts, Art Downey, Carla Debbink De Master, Darlene Maasdam Schoon, Paul Schoon and Stephen Brink.
Back row: W. David Tyler, Arlo Stoltenberg, Dick Ter Maat, Dick Doeden, Wendell Roelofs, Harold Kolonbrander, Glen Sandbulte, Harlan Ratmeyer and Neal Busker.

CLASS OF 1965

First row (left to right): Trudy Huizenga Feldt, Connie Neevel Loomans, Becky Kettler Sneller, Bea Werner De Bie, Linda De Jong Klavohn, Judith Stemsrud D'Amico and Ruth Ellen Kuyper.

CLASS OF 1970

First row (left to right): Rick Ryan, Chuck Whittenberg, Craig Sevde and Bill Thomas.
CLASS OF 1975
First row (left to right): Diane Schaa Jackson, Lynn Herndon Howard, Deanna Derynck Jobe, Gail Campbell Gaetz and Jill Tyseling Golrick.
Back row: Hiram Evans, Gary Wiersema, Marty Miller Sartipi and Stan DeVore.

CLASS OF 1980
First row (left to right): Brian Fegley, Lori Humphrey Fegley, Lori Collister Hikker, Beth Verdoorn Draheim and Thad Scarrow.

CLASS OF 1985
First row (left to right): Jennifer Donelon Lefevre, Joan Keck Wierenga, Tracy Long, Cindy Clark Williams, Danielle Shaw Jaschen, Jane Healy Bollinger and Joe Martin.
Third row: Joe Tecklenburg, Scott Dahm, Craig Good, Kris Dieleman Gandrow, Mark Seaton, Eric Glendening and Brian Goldsworthy.
Back row: Brett Clayberg, Mike Bohning, Brad Havran, Scot Storjohann, Dave Cutler and Greg McCann.

CLASS OF 1990
First row (left to right): Jeff McMartin, Laurie Rieken McMartin, Becky Bosch Sikand, Crystal Brand Bruxvoort, Sonja Squiers, Angie Brower Harris and Kris Brandt Vaughn.
Second row: Sara Vander Kooi Huyser, Kevin Huyser, Rob Smith, Rodney De Ronde, Andrea Aykens, Tammy Roseman-Burton and Stephanie Yates Vittetoe.
Back row: Mike Fry, Trent Vaughn, Jim Bruxvoort, Stephanie Schulte Heinz, Kristin Moorhead, Paul Dange and Mary Gesiriech Cason.

CLASS OF 1995
First row (left to right): Emilie Hanson Brown, Anne Isaacson Rempe, Desha Craver Bruxvoort, Kristy Wagner Huerter, Kelle Hutchcroft Holgorsen and Jennifer Gabrielson Tenold.
Second row: Mary Popson Klein, Clodagh Slevin, Kasey Tickel, Deb Sampson Jones, Kristy Ellerman Runge and Stacey Andrews Lapp.
Back row: Kevin Stitlsworth, John Mitchell, Chris Johnson, Shawn Runge and Brian Ahrens.

CLASS OF 2005
First row (left to right): Mandy Bahr, Angie Grey, Kelli O'Neil, Melissa Miller Brock and Kirsten Walvoord Minton.
Back row: Corey Sedrel, Erich Minton and Ryan Bredlau.

Photos by Dan Vander Beek
Horizons of Opportunity: Create, Innovate and Sustain is the theme providing a platform for the entire Central community during the inaugural year to explore various topics in greater detail. The inaugural year encourages participation in activities, lectures, art exhibitions, musical performances and more to generate new perspectives through a collaborative learning experience.

Jeff Corwin, “100 Heartbeats”
Conservationist, television host and author Jeff Corwin kicked off the inaugural year events with his presentation “100 Heartbeats” based off his book 100 Heartbeats: The Race to Save Earth’s Most Endangered Species.

Ellen Wiener, “Ways of Looking”
Artist Ellen Wiener’s exhibition “Ways of Looking” traced the trajectory of working from simple sketchbooks to an evolved series of works directly stemming from daily notes and firsthand observation.

Inauguration of Mark Putnam, Central College’s 21st president
President Mark L. Putnam presented his inaugural address titled “Enduring Values” about rediscovering academic community.

Ellen Bryant Voigt, poet-in-residence
Poet-in-residence Ellen Bryant Voigt was guest author at Writers Reading and read from several collections of poetry including her most recent book Messenger: New and Selected Poems 1976-2006.

Kevin Doyle, “Environmental Initiatives for a Sustainable World”
Kevin Doyle, brother of Central’s Dennis Doyle, professor of communication studies, is president of Green Economy, an independent consulting, research, facilitation and training firm serving public and private institutions that are growing a more sustainable global economy. He spoke about the most recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Recycled Percussion, “America’s Got Talent” finalist
A finalist from NBC’s hit TV show “America’s Got Talent,” Recycled Percussion plays different genres of music including metallic, reggae, techno, jazz, rock, hip hop and “junk” on recycled objects such as ladders, pots, pans and 50-gallon drums.

“It’s time to think broadly and deeply about the future,” said President Mark Putnam. “Imagine a future that is rooted in creativity, innovation and sustainability.”
Central College celebrated Homecoming/Family Weekend Oct. 8-10.

Highlights of the weekend included a 38-10 Dutch victory over Simpson College, the uniquely Central Lemming Race, the second annual Coach Ron Schipper Memorial Golf Tournament, a mob dance and coronation of King Austin Patton of Perry, Iowa, and Queen Jill Ziskovsky of Dallas Center, Iowa, at the barbecue pep rally.
Sept. 4, 2007
Writing my dissertation at Smokey Jim’s Campus Coffee this afternoon, I discovered myself staring at a beautiful young lady with fluorescent-green eyes and a gray T-shirt that read “2 kool 4 u.” As the shop was full, I offered her the empty seat across from me. “T-Y,” she said, tilting her head 90 degrees and smiling. “I’m Helga T.M. Long, but just call me Helga. L-O-L.” She removed a tiny cellular phone from her pocket and dropped it on the table. “Are you a prof there?” She sipped her coffee as I explained I was a semester away from my doctorate in American history. “O-R-L-Y?” she asked — or, at least I thought she was asking. I had no clue what “O-R-L-Y” meant, but I didn’t want to show my age. “Oh lawd, I don’t think I could handle that,” she continued. “I-M-O, all that work would really own me. L-M-A-O!”
I contemplated asking her what “L-M-A-O” meant when “The Entertainer” blasted from her phone. “L-O!” She twirled her sleek blonde hair with her free hand. “O-M-G! N-W! That so sucks oars! But, hey, some P-P-L are just noobs like that.”
I pretended to sift through my papers while eavesdropping on her conversation. This girl spoke a foreign language.
“O-M-G! Well, I G-T-G, so G-L with that, and I’ll catch you laters on M-S-N. B-B!” She laid her phone on the table and turned her head sideways grinning. “S-R-Y bout that. I guess that’s what I get for being A-F-K last night!”

I chuckled, as if I knew what I was laughing at and asked her what she was studying. “English, she replied. “I-M-H-O, I think I’d be aleet English teacher, but I-D-K.”
“I have no idea what you’re talking about,” I replied, but she smiled sideways as she rushed out the door.

Sept. 6, 2007
I received electronic mail from Helga today, which was both odd and enlightening. Using a website known as “Google,” I typed in some of the foreign words I found in her message and obtained their English translations:
L-O-L = laughing out loud;
O-R-L-Y = oh really;
I-M-O = in my opinion;
O-M-G = oh my God;
G-T-G = got to go;
I-D-K = I don’t know;
T-T-Y-L = talk to you later.
Some of her language still confused me, and her sideways smile was puzzling. I didn’t believe I’d ever use her gibberish myself, but I thought perhaps I could give it a try when I saw her again. L-O-L? No, I just couldn’t do it.

Sept. 21, 2007
I get e-mails from Helga every day, and I don’t rly have much trouble understanding her language NEmore. Sadly, tho, I haven’t actually seen her IRL (I know that means “in real life”) for a week. Its amazing how shes affected me.

Oct. 12, 2007
i finally ran in2 helga at smokey jims 2day, although she wasn’t looking the gr8est. her eyes glistened with tears and blotches of mascara speckled her cheeks as she plopped into the chair across from me. “this suxorz,” she cried. “mac and i … well, we …”
i extended my arm across the table and patted her shoulder while she sobbed into a napkin. “don’t worry bout me, pl0x,” she said. “idc nemore.”
i nodded and handed her a fresh napkin.
i rly couldn’t think of what 2 say.
“im a mess rite now,” she said. “i rly gtg, but thx 4 listening to me.”
“cya laterz,” i whispered as i slid back in2 my chair. “i’ll never 4get u.”
The Central College community celebrated the installation of the 21st President Mark L. Putnam Oct. 22. Putnam gave his inaugural address titled “Enduring Values,” which focused on rediscovering academic community. Putnam was presented with a presidential medallion crafted by Brian Roberts ’92, associate professor of art.

Helping the college celebrate at the inauguration ceremony were Harry Smith ’73, co-anchor of CBS “The Early Show;” David Wesselink ’64, board of trustees chair; Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, general secretary of the Reformed Church in America; delegates from higher education institutions as well as Arend Lubbers, the 17th president, and David Roe, the 20th president. The Central College A Cappella Choir, College-Community Orchestra and Symphonic Wind Ensemble performed.