History teaches us careful planning is the most critical element in ensuring a smooth transition in presidential leadership. For the past two years, Central College has worked diligently to prepare for this process through strong and consistent leadership, extended deliberations within the board of trustees, wide consultation with the campus community, communication with all constituencies, and an effective presidential search process. I’m happy to say, we’ve found my successor, Dr. Mark Putnam from Northeastern University (Mass.). We are working together in this journey of transition that focuses on the execution of a plan we jointly designed.

This time will be marked by a spirit of collaboration and cooperation. We are devoted first and foremost to Central students and continually improving the educational environment provided to them. We also remain committed to supporting each other through this important period in our individual lives, and in the life of the college.

And, while Central is at a crossroads of leadership, a new and exciting step is ahead. While I am sad to leave behind all that is Central, I’m excited for the future of the college and my future. Central isn’t what it is because of the president — it is Central because of the people.

Our students make Central what it is and will continue to do so. Throughout the years, Central students brought energy to this campus by their involvement and genuine interest and concern in a variety of disciplines and activities.

Our academic program gets stronger all the time. Our faculty members do great things like authoring books and textbooks, leading the way in research and continuous quality improvement of not only their programs, but also themselves.

I take great pride in what we’ve been able to accomplish as a team at Central College during my tenure. But, there is more to do. Although I am retiring June 30, I ask you for continued support. You can help by making a gift to Central and if possible a gift to close out Phase II of The Campaign for Central so that together we will have set the best foundation possible for Mark and Tammy Putnam.

The end of a major campaign is an ideal time for a change in presidential leadership. While it is sad and hard on Betsy, our twins and me to leave after all our wonderful years here, we genuinely are excited about the new opportunities and horizons awaiting us in Texas.

When I look back on my presidency, I’m like a proud parent beaming with joy over Central’s ever-growing changes and successes. As president of Central, it should be noted no president does his/her work in a box and it takes a supportive spouse, family and a whole community to make things move steadily forward. I’ve been very lucky to have such wonderful faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends who have accepted responsibility willingly, and even gladly, in helping Central and our students on our journeys. I am grateful for all who worked along side me over the years and to those parents who entrusted their sons and daughters to us. It’s the greatest gift you could have given us. Betsy and I wish you all the best and our thoughts and prayers are with you always. Central College — it’s been an honor and a privilege. Godspeed.

David H. Roe
ON THE COVER
President David Roe
Photo by Paul Gates

8 A LEGACY OF LEADERS
Central is transitioning into a new phase and takes a look back at the past and President Roe’s tenure.
Photos by Paul Gates and Dan Vander Beek

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Jann Freed shares her experience as a faculty representative on the search committee for a new president.

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I N  T H I S  I S S U E
Actuarial science major

This year Central College unveiled its new actuarial science major designed to prepare students for a career as an actuary. Central is one of just a handful of private liberal arts colleges in Iowa to have a specific actuarial science program.

Central’s faculty members feel the new actuarial science major is more deliberate in preparing students to work in the actuarial field. Curriculum was chosen based on professional societies and standards. Students take classes in accounting, business management, computer science, economics and mathematics. Combining the actuarial science major and Central’s liberal arts education gives students a good foundation and prepares them for future careers.

CENTRAL TEAMS UP WITH ALLEN COLLEGE

Starting this semester, biology, psychology or sociology students interested in nursing will be able to enroll in Allen College’s (Waterloo, Iowa) accelerated nursing program to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing (BSN). The cooperative agreement allows transferring
students the option of earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from Central upon completion of the BSN degree if they have also satisfied requirements for the degree from Central. Ellie Du Pré, associate professor of biology, will serve as Central’s liaison.

WOMEN OF THE YUCATAN PUBLISHED

Eight years in the making, Women of the Yucatan: Thirty Who Dared to Change Their World is now available. The book, which profiles 30 women who have dared to challenge gender inequalities set against them at birth in their native Mexico, is authored by Jann Freed ’77, professor of business management and the Mark and Kay De Cook Endowed Chair in Leadership and Character Development at Central College, and George Ann Huck, professor emerita of Spanish.

The idea for the book emerged when Freed taught on Central’s Yucatan program. The profiles, supplemented by photographs, describe the women’s accomplishments and motivations as well as the obstacles they have confronted. The book was published by McFarland in December and is available at mcfarlandpub.com and amazon.com.

CENTRAL AWARDED $250,000 GRANT

Central College was approved by the Iowa Office of Energy Independence for a State Energy Program grant of $250,000 to assist the college with its technology demonstration category project in the education and psychology building. The grant will fund a 25 kilowatt photovoltaic array, which will be located on top of the third floor of the building. The award is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

GIFTS RECEIVED FOR EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY BUILDING

John and Jane Langerak Meier ’62 recently worked with Central to complete a $500,000 charitable gift annuity using the gift portion to name a classroom in the education and psychology building in honor of Jane’s father Willard Langerak ’33. Jane’s brother Bob ’68 also attended Central.

During Willard’s senior year at Central, he was chosen to debate a young man from Whittier College (Calif.) — Richard M. Nixon. Willard spent many years in education and was most proud of serving as principal at Smouse School for the physically handicapped. During those 20 years at Smouse, he enjoyed working with both the staff and children from all over the Des Moines and surrounding area. Willard died in 2005 at the age of 93.

Harry Smith ’73 and wife Andrea Joyce Kuslits gifted $50,000 for an office in the communication studies wing in honor of Bette Brunsting ’56, associate professor emerita of communication. Brunsting taught in Central’s communication studies department for 34 years.

Phil Van Ekeren ’61 gave $50,000 to name the communication studies office suite in honor of his wife Berta’s lifelong commitment to educational excellence.

Ken Braskamp ’65 and Mel and Dorna Haught each gave $50,000 for the Braskamp/Haught Education Office Suite on the first floor of the education and psychology building.
For the first time, fans of Central College are able to upload their personal images and use the logos of the school. Central College teamed up with Bravo Photo to offer a Web site that caters to fans and friends of the Dutch. The online store is similar to more established sites like Snapfish and Shutterfly, but it allows Central friends and alumni the opportunity to use marks and templates of the school.

The site for Central College is www.Centraldutchphoto.com. A community-sharing site is one of the future enhancements, which allows fans from across the country to share their best Dutch photos with the entire college fan base.

On the site, members upload their own photographic images, and have a broad range of photo gift products from which to choose including calendars, photo books, mouse pads, mugs, playing cards, apparel, blankets, invitations and more. The site also offers non-licensed templates and has over 1,800 licensed and non-licensed designs, including seasonal
themes or milestone life events such as graduation and birth announcements. “We’re excited to provide alumni, parents, students and friends with a new and free photo and project Web site with a Central College feel,” said Sunny Gonzales Eighmy ’99, director of alumni relations. “Unlike other sites, if you choose to buy products, a portion of all proceeds benefit the college, and you’ll be helping market Central nationwide.”

SCHOLAR DAY VOLUNTEERS

Alumni and parents served on panels at scholar days, hosted by the admission office, each Saturday in February.

Parent volunteers included Brad and Claudia Brammer, Jeff ’86 and Tari Schouten Eeling ’86, Brian ’80 and Lori Humphrey Fegley ’80, Deb and Tony Huegel ’88, Jon and Rogette Huntington, Mike ’86 and Dawn De Boer Kleis ’86, Mike and Roz Malone, Jon and Amy Ness, Pat and Sherri O’Brien, Bob ’83 and Lynne Van Vark Schueler ’85 and Mike and Cathy Wignall.

Alumni volunteers were Amy Adams ’04, Stacey Sonnek Alberts ’97, Kristi Viehl Bahr ’00, Karen Cleveland ’02, Stacy Schoondyke Dobemecker ’87, Adam Duerfeldt ’06, Nathan Eighmy ’99, Allison Fegley ’08, Angi Irelan Forsberg ’00, Eric Forsberg ’99, Chris Huston ’98, Lindsay Schultz Janke ’04, Meggan Samuelson Jones ’06, Jake Keegan ’01, Lindsay Korver Loomans ’07, Scott Paja ’08 and Jill Parsons ’04.

INAUGURATIONS

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

AI ’75 and Jo Fall Dorenkamp ’74 at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa
Barbara Slabaugh Feichtinger ’73 at the College of Idaho in Caldwell

Clara Miyake ’80 and Greg Stewart at Mississippi State University in Mississippi State
Marvin ’68 and Phyllis Esveld Pothoven ’68 at Quincy University in Quincy, Ill.
Bob and Dorothy Missall Swan ’57 at Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, Calif.

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS for 2010

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 1</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
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<td>Thursday-Saturday, May 6-8</td>
<td>Tulip Time</td>
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<td>Thursday-Saturday, May 13-15</td>
<td>Alumni Advisory Council</td>
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<td>Friday, May 14</td>
<td>Senior dinner</td>
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<td>Saturday, May 15</td>
<td>Baccalaureate, commencement</td>
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<td>May 2010</td>
<td>St. Louis, Mo.</td>
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<td>Tuesday, June 1</td>
<td>Kansas City, Mo.</td>
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<td>June 2010</td>
<td>Iowa City</td>
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<td>Michigan</td>
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<td>August 2010</td>
<td>Seattle, Wash.</td>
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<td>Saturday, Aug. 21</td>
<td>Move in day, Legacy lunch</td>
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<td>Friday-Sunday, Oct. 8-10</td>
<td>Homecoming/Family Weekend</td>
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RED FLEECE BLANKET

A red Central College, laser-etched fleece blanket, 50 x 60 inches, with carry harness, can be purchased for $25. To order, e-mail alumni@central.edu or call 800-447-0287.

PARENTS’ COUNCIL

The Central College parents’ council met with President David Roe; president-elect Mark and Tammy Putnam; Robert Franks, interim chief academic officer; Susan Canfield, director of grants and special projects; and council member Mike Kleis ’86 on campus Feb. 27.

Parents with graduating seniors are Claudia and Brad Brammer (Cara), Terry and Lori Collister Hilker ’80 (Erin and Megan), Mindi and Howard Hively (Niki), Drew and Bubis Hohenboken (Jordan), Mike and Roz Malone (Lauren), Jon and Amy Ness (Matt), AI ’77 and Sandy Paris (Maggie), Bob ’83 and Lynne Van Vark Schueler ’85 (Corben), and Mike and Cathy Wignall (Annie).
Conference title caps banner men’s basketball season

“The growth these seniors made and the leadership they’ve shown has been incredible ... ”
Coming off a 13-13 season, Central College was not favored to win an Iowa Conference men’s basketball title.

But the Dutch did so decisively with a glossy 14-2 league mark, good for a huge four-game margin over three teams tying for second. Central posted a 23-4 regular-season mark, setting a school record for most wins.

It was Central’s 16th men’s basketball title, but its first since 1995 and the first outright crown since 1985. The Dutch also gained their ninth NCAA Division III tournament berth, the most of any conference school.

Central, which hadn’t won a league tournament game in 10 appearances, raised its game in this year’s tourney, sidelining Dubuque 81-66 before issuing a stunning 99-79 beat down of defending champion Buena Vista in the title game.

Senior point guard Miguel Ley of San Antonio, Texas, a three-time all-conference pick, was the league’s MVP. He closed his Central career as the second-leading scorer in school history. Senior forward Loren Laming of Ames, Iowa, was also a first-team honoree, while senior forward Mark Holan of Fontanelle, Iowa, was a second-team choice.

Dutch coach Mike Boschee, who endured a 6-20 rookie season in 2003-04, was tabbed conference coach of the year.

“The growth these seniors made and the leadership they’ve shown has been incredible,” he said. “We still have quality young people in the program who want to be champions as well.”

BRILLHART EARNS ALL-CONFERENCE WOMEN’S BASKETBALL HONORS

Sophomore forward Haley Brillhart of Pella received second-team all-Iowa Conference recognition to highlight an otherwise frustrating women’s basketball season.

The Dutch encountered misfortune almost from the start. Junior center Andrea Clark of Guthrie Center, Iowa, was unable to compete until mid-season because of off-season surgery and was at less than 100 percent. Meanwhile sophomore guard Sarah Paulson of Ottumwa, Iowa, the team’s returning scoring leader, was injured in early December and lost for the year. Other players battled injuries also.

After knocking off Wartburg on the road in December, hopes quickly faded and the Dutch endured a 2-23 campaign. But with a sophomore-dominated lineup, there’s reason to anticipate more favorable results in 2010-11.

VAN KLEY WINS AWARD

Enthusiasm continues to swirl around the wrestling program.

In just his third season after inheriting a 0-18 squad, Central’s Eric Van Kley was named the co-winner of the Iowa Conference Coach of the Year Award.

Van Kley steered the Dutch to a 10-9 dual-meet record, their first winning campaign since 2001. Central then snapped a string of five straight last-place finishes at the conference tournament, finishing seventh in the powerful nine-team league.

And, the Dutch did it with a lineup that included no seniors and one junior.

One of the newcomers, freshman Holden Blythe of Williamsburg, Iowa, scrapped his way to fourth place at 197 pounds at the league tourney, while freshman Joe Atwell of Jamaica, Iowa, was sixth at 149. Sophomore Tommy Van Renterghem of Oskaloosa, Iowa, had the team’s best winning percentage, posting a 19-6 mark at 165 pounds but missed the league tourney because of injury. Sophomore Josh Atwell of Jamaica, Iowa, was 22-9 at 141 pounds.

“It was great to have a winning season, but the kids expected that because of the work ethic and commitment they have,” Van Kley said. “On the other hand, they feel like we can get a lot better.”

DUTCH CAPTURE LEAGUE INDOOR MEN’S TRACK CROWN

Sophomore Ethan Miller of Seymour, Iowa, was named the most valuable performer as the Central men’s track and field team snared its first Iowa Conference indoor title in the seven years. The meet has served as an official league championship.

The Dutch did it in record fashion, with 213.83 points, the most in league history. Miller claimed titles in the pentathlon, long jump and high jump, while placing third in the triple jump and tying for fourth in the pole vault. Junior Matt Graber of Newton, Iowa, took first in the shot put and weight throw, junior Kurtis Brondyke of Clinton, Iowa, won the triple jump, and senior Alex Miller of Adel, Iowa, took the 800 meters.

Second-year coach Joe Dunham, who piloted Central to the outdoor crown last spring, was named the league’s coach of the year.

The Dutch women finished fourth. Freshman sprinter Felicia Coleman of Houston, Texas, and junior pentathlete Jill Ziskovsky of Dallas Center, Iowa, each placed in four events.

Miller and Ziskovsky earned all-America honors at the NCAA Div. III national meet held at DePauw Univ. (Ind.) in the pentathlon with Miller finishing third and Ziskovsky fifth. Graber received his first all-America award in the shot put placing fourth, setting a new school record 54-9.5.
Over the years, Central has been blessed by many important leaders — many who have been president.

Typically, college presidents are judged by where the college was during their presidencies. Where did they take the college, financially and academically? How were challenges and trials handled? But mainly, we look at progress and the detail of their personal leadership styles, what qualities they brought to their jobs and how they conducted themselves on a day-to-day basis with all college constituents.

College presidents challenge and inspire students, faculty and staff. They encourage, motivate and guide the college to new heights. They engage alumni, give faith and provide strength to the community.

Often called the most demanding and challenging position in higher education, who would take on such a task? It’s a huge undertaking. It’s a position where you are ridiculed for a small freshman class or celebrated for the stock market doing well.

“A lot of the job is out of your hands,” said Central’s 20th president David Roe. “The person is not larger than the institution.”

LEAVING THEIR MARK

During Central’s history, the college met special challenges, starting with Dominie Hendrik Pieter Scholte, who established the college in 1853. After Emanuel Scarff
was selected as principal of the academic department in 1854, the college graduated its first class of six students in 1861.

Originally a Baptist school, Central underwent a change in religious affiliation to the Reformed Church in America under the leadership of President John Bailey, who served in that role from 1914-17.

Presidents John Wesselink and Irwin Lubbers guided the college through the Great Depression.

Later, Lubbers’ son Arend “Don,” who was director of development during Gerrit Vander Lugt’s reign, followed in his father’s footsteps and became Central’s president in 1960. The 29-year-old Lubbers was the youngest college president in the United States at the time of his inauguration. During his years, campus was transformed, especially with the addition of the pond, removal of Peace Street through campus, and the birth of Central’s nationally recognized study abroad program.

Following Lubbers was Ken Weller, who faithfully served for 21 years, improved previous programs and was a catalyst for Division III, women's athletics and Title IX.

Both Lubbers and Weller served as resources for Roe when he became president. Roe had direct access to Weller, which was tremendously helpful, as well as key administrators like Harold Kolenbrander '60, who was a former dean of faculty and provost at Central, and later served as chair of the Council of Independent Colleges and president of Mount Union College. Former athletics director Ron Schipper also was a distinguished Central leader who became a mentor to Roe.

“They basically helped me choose positive paths when I was confronted with various issues,” he said. “To their credit, they tended to offer advice only when asked. I went to them with questions, and they provided suggestions or assurances.”

One of Roe’s internal messages is from Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu.

“He characterized the best leaders as those who create an atmosphere where when the work is done, the people say, ‘We did it ourselves,’” Roe explained. “I think I’ve been a cheerleader and door opener; that’s the way I like to reflect on my time here. The reason that’s important is because it’s not about the leader. The leader is a catalyst in bringing talents and energy together to solve a problem or pursue a noble mission such as Central’s.

“I think I stayed true to myself and believe the stage is set for our next president Mark Putnam, someone who is a great strategic planner in his own right. He has the tools in place now that he and the people here together can build what they need to pursue a great vision for the future.”

COMING TO CENTRAL

Sophomores Sarah Fosdick Turnbull '00 and Ryan Stensland '00 got the call to give the campus tour to David and Betsy when they were at Central for interviews. Even though the Central ambassadors had given tours before, it was unnerving to give a tour to Central’s possible future president and his wife.

“We were pretty nervous,” said Stensland. “We knew Betsy had worked in the White House and was a very successful attorney. And, we knew Dr. Roe was a brigadier general and had done great things in the business world as well. We were just a couple of students. What a mismatch!”

But the Roes eased the students’ nerves with their friendliness and conversation.
It was a warm, sunny day, and as in Iowa, humid. The tour guides grabbed a couple umbrellas before heading out the door, which puzzled the Roes.

“We smiled and explained, ‘Well, you just never know in Iowa; it could rain,’” said Stensland. “I'm not sure they were aware Iowa weather can change in an instant.”

But, they found out. Mid-tour, they encountered a “torrential downpour” according to Turnbull.

“They were wearing really nice suits, and I felt bad this was happening on their tour,” she said. “But, they were not the least bothered by it.”

About 30 minutes later, it was sunny again.

“They were really easy to talk with and wanted to know more about us,” said Stensland.

As the tour progressed, the Roes showed their interest in Central and the students. They wanted to know what courses they were taking, what their majors were and what their futures might hold. When Stensland said he was a political science and business management major, Roe immediately started talking about the faculty and in particular, Stensland remembers Roe knowing about Jim Zaffiro, professor of political science, being an expert on Botswana.

“That blew me away,” said Stensland. “I couldn’t believe all the stuff he knew about Central College. He did his research.”

Even after dozens of tours, Turnbull got a question to which she didn’t know the answer, which surprised her since she was pretty well-versed in the campus layout and could usually answer most parent/student questions.

“Dr. Roe asked me how many people the football stadium could hold (4,000),” she said. “I turned beat red and was so embarrassed I didn’t know the answer, so I did what we’re told to do if we didn’t know the answer and I told him, ‘I don’t know the answer to that, but I can sure find out and let you know.’

“I had never been asked that question. It was a tough one!”
“It was an honor to be coached and mentored by [President Roe].”
“After the tour, I joked Dr. Roe didn’t even need us — he knew almost as much as we did,” said Stensland.

He even knew Turnbull was a Coca-Cola scholar. “I swear, he worked for the CIA!” she said. “He knew everything.”

Roe’s tenure was marked by preparation. He was able to recall names and faces of students, alumni, community members, friends and donors.

“His sense of preparation and attention to detail carried throughout his presidency and everything he did,” commented Stensland.

“It was a key thing for Betsy and me to see Central College through the eyes of two students,” he said. “It was the most important perception to capture. As they gave us a tour of campus, we fell in love with Central through their eyes. What they did, perhaps knowingly and perhaps unknowingly, is they affirmed for us the reason Central was a magnetic place. It is because of the individual care and attention they received from faculty and staff.”

Student senate had some concerns about Roe’s military background. Some thought he might be a drill sergeant, but soon found he had a heart of gold.

“He was genuinely interested in each student as a person and wanted to know what you were all about,” explained Turnbull. “No one was a number to him. He totally turned our heads. We didn’t expect that from him. He’s been amazing.”

MORE THAN JUST A COLLEGE PRESIDENT

One of the unique opportunities that comes with being the president is choosing your extra duties. Roe wanted to get involved on campus and be more than just a president. He asked then-head football coach Rich Kacmarynski ’92 if he’d like some help with the kickers. Kacmarynski took Roe up on his offer. Roe went to practices and stood on the sidelines for the next nine years before taking a one-year hiatus only to finish out his tenure at Central on the sidelines this past fall.

“Betsy wasn’t thrilled about me being on the sidelines for my final season,” said Roe. “And, as it turned out, with good reason.”

Roe has taken his hits in the academic realm but literally being knocked down by football players in the middle of the game was something else.

During the game against Stevens Point, Wis., this season, Roe was caught in the middle of a tackle that ended up on the sidelines and hyper-extended his leg. Although very sore and slow moving for a few weeks, Roe remained at his post on the sidelines the rest of the season.

But, you take the bad with the good, and the good was helping the Dutch. His rewards are in the numbers; he’s coached 25 kickers/punters, and Central’s been in the top of the Iowa Conference in that category.

“It’s pretty impressive to have a college president be your coach,” said former punter Keith Wasoba ’05. “It was an honor to be coached and mentored by him. He’s a great leader — on and off the field. He has an open door policy — not just with the kickers, but with the whole student body.”

Roe served as a mentor to his players. Wasoba remembers a week before the first away game his sophomore year.

“The football team dresses up in suits and ties for road games, and President Roe wanted to make sure we were prepared for every aspect of football as well as life,” he said.

Roe pulled Wasoba and Troy Hocker ’03 aside after practice and took them to the coaches’ locker room to show them how to tie a tie properly. Wasoba and other kickers now know how to tie a half-Windsor, a full Windsor and an overhand knot.

“We were looking good that first game,” said Wasoba.

Roe’s positive outlook helped the kickers come into their own. According to Wasoba, Roe always was giving them praise or positive feedback.

“He could tell when one of us wasn’t having a great day or a very good practice; and he
always was encouraging and trying to get us to look on the bright side,” he said.

Roe isn’t a yeller and wasn’t negative in front of the players. If one of them had a really great punt, he’d jump around and hoot and holler. One of Roe’s signature moves was to turn to the crowd in the stands on Saturday afternoons to get them to cheer loudly when the Dutch needed it.

“I love how he’d get the crowd involved at football games,” said Wasoba. “The student body really appreciates his enthusiasm.”

Roe’s enthusiasm spilled off the field into the rest of the campus. A self-described “cheerleader” for Central College, Roe is his own Gee Whiz story, a phrase used by Roe to capture amazing stories related to the college.

FIRST LADY

David wasn’t the only coach in the household. Betsy helped out with mock trial team when she could. She brought a lot of insights to the team and was very influential to many young people and their career paths.

“Here’s a college president who’s working with the football team with the kickers and his wife is helping out with the mock trial team,” explained Stensland, whose wife Abbe Brunink Stensland ’02 was encouraged by Betsy to become an attorney. “They were very hands-on and got involved right away in the college. They brought a tremendous amount of positive energy that helped the college when we needed it.”

Working side-by-side and supporting David, Betsy has served as college ambassador and been heavily involved in the Pella community and the state of Iowa serving on numerous boards and committees. At the state level, she served on the Governor’s Strategic Planning Council for Iowa, the State Banking Board and the State Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board. She co-founded and chaired the nonprofit Iowans for a Better Future, a bipartisan organization seeking to build consensus for public policy initiatives. In Pella, she led the city’s strategic planning effort in 2001 and served on the board of a local community bank. She also co-founded and chaired the Pella Welcoming Community Team and the Pella Professional and Business Women’s Forum.

COMMUNITY BONDS

From the start, Roe knew his transition would be easier for him and his family if he got involved in the Pella community. It also was important for him as the head figure of the college.

“He was immediately involved in Pella’s famous Tulip Time activities,” said Larry Klein ’67, agent and owner of Ver Dught Agency Inc., in Pella. “He and his family wore Dutch costumes and participated in the parade and other activities around town. If everyone jumped in like they did, it would be great for Pella.”

Klein served on the Tulip Time planning committee in Pella for several years while Roe was president.

“He was quick to get involved in the community, even outside of Tulip Time, serving on several committees,” said Klein. “President Roe took a pro-active role and made a commitment to be a part of the community.”

Roe is president of the Community Betterment Organization of Pella and a board member of the Pella Area Development Corporation.

But his service also extends outside of Pella. He served on the board of directors for the
Institute for Tomorrow’s Workforce, a task force appointed by the governor and state legislative leaders to review the role of public education in meeting the needs of employers in the future. He also is chair of the board of directors for the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy and has served as chair of the Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. He is a board member and on the executive committee of the Iowa College Foundation and has represented Central College in various other organizations, locally and nationally.

**NOT ALL ROSES**

Upon Roe’s arrival, Central was struggling with some difficult times. Enrollment was down, alumni were disconnected, and the Pella community was wondering what was going on at the college and how bad things were going to get.

His first order of business was to help Central re-establish a faith in itself, which he did with the assistance of others. He helped bring about a planning environment, which enabled academic and staff departments to build plans and execute strategies to accomplish goals.

“I regard the situation at the college when I arrived like there was a black cloud over the place,” explained Roe. “But, I was able to get the people of this community to see how good they were, and more importantly, how good they could be as we planned and established an ethos of continuous quality improvement, which was affirming the historical excellence and building stronger foundations and processes pointing toward an even brighter future.”

He also mentored and coached the senior team and intermediate managers to become better leaders.

But, one of the hardest aspects for Roe to deal with was the pace of change of higher education.

“I knew the academy moved slowly, but I had no idea,” he said. “Compared to my two former lives (military and business), this is very slow. I’ve tried to keep my impatience in check.”
Another part of higher education Roe has come to find untrue is the metaphor of a college president being a CEO.

“It’s inaccurate,” he explained. “A college president is the CEO in name only, not in function, because of the shared governance system. I’ve been trying to find ways to help improve our nimbleness while preserving the many benefits of a strong and interactive system of shared governance.”

THE GOOD FAR OUTWEIGHS ANY OF THE BAD

Roe’s greatest reward is handing Central students diplomas during commencement. He looks on like a proud papa as Central graduates set forth and go out into the workforce to help make the world a better place. He knows Central’s students are well prepared.

He especially has a soft heart for those students he’s gotten to know well, whether through coaching, teaching a leadership class or working with student-body leaders.

He has fond memories of meeting wonderful alumni around the world, the community of Pella and the college as a whole.

In particular, Roe looks back on being a part of four national championships and many NCAA playoff contests. His and Betsy’s most vivid personal memories of NCAA playoff contests were Central’s football upset of Wis.-La Crosse in 1999 and “the miracle in the mud” at Linfield, Ore., in 2000; Central’s volleyball quarterfinals in Pella, where Central women dominated a big, talented team from San Diego, Calif.; two final fours in Huntingdon, Pa.; and the final four in Pella leading to three consecutive national volleyball titles.

In 2003, when the Dutch softball team was playing in the national tournament in Salem, Va., Roe was hoping to go on Sunday (the only game he could make, but did not go because of weather). It was Central’s sole loss in the tournament before winning the national championship.

“I was listening to the championship game on the car radio when Kris Hughes Gardner ’03 hit the grand slam, and I almost ran into a telephone pole I was so excited!” he explained. “Luckily, I regained my composure quickly [and control of the car]. But, it was the most exciting thing, and I felt like I was there.

“We’re helping students become their best in mind, body and spirit,” Roe said. “Our strong liberal arts foundation is something in which I take great pride.”

The college’s continuing commitment to international studies, service-learning and global sustainability also defines part of Roe’s legacy. He was instrumental in moving the study abroad program from Carmarthen, Wales, to Bangor in 2006 as well as re-establishing Central’s China program and supporting Central’s efforts to establish a program in Ghana. He’s been a strong supporter of our nationally recognized service-learning program and a participant in Central’s Service Day each year.

But, the important thing for Roe is what Central’s people have accomplished and what they are doing now. Roe committed the college to environmental sustainability by signing the Talloires Declaration, a 10-point action plan for incorporating sustainability in teaching, research, operations and outreach, and in becoming a charter signatory to the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment. While Roe has been at Central, the college received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design ratings from the U.S. Green Building Council for three buildings on campus, and the faculty has embraced sustainability as part of the core curriculum.

During his tenure, Central’s endowment reached $84 million before the economic downturn. The Campaign for Central will close well over its goal of $86 million. Central had 1,750 students enrolled in the fall of 2004 making it the second largest student body in Central’s history and on-Pella campus enrollment the largest ever. The third largest freshman class in school history was enrolled
that fall with 442 reporting, and the second largest class of 443 this past fall. These accomplishments just scratch the surface of what has happened over the last 12 years.

“We are fortunate to have talented faculty, staff and alumni,” he said. “It’s the Central College community that drives this fine institution.”

“BEST JOB I’VE EVER HAD”

Roe has had a wide range of jobs from the military to business but he has been quoted that being president of Central College has been the “best job I’ve ever had.”

“It’s been the most personally fulfilling,” he explained. “Because of the growth in faculty, staff and students—particularly students—it is emotionally and psychologically sustaining.”

Roe references athletics director Al Dorenkamp ’75 who often talks about extra paychecks. It’s not monetary—it’s the e-mails from current students who are having wonderful experiences student-teaching in classrooms, from alumni who found their dream jobs, from students who have been here and are doing great things that will help them reach their goals and fulfill their dreams. Roe calls these extra paychecks Gee Whiz stories.

The constant feedback fuels Roe’s motivation to keep going and do what is best for Central students.

He also thinks this is the best job he’s ever had partly due to where he is in his passages in life. For the first time, he’s not on a quest—other than Central’s quest for greatness—or focusing on what he’ll do next.

After merging his insurance company with a larger one, he was too young to “retire” and looked to be either a dean of a business school or perhaps, better yet, a president of a small, liberal arts college.

“The good Lord gave me the privilege to have this job,” he said. “When I first started, I thought I’d retire in summer 2006, I am fortunate I’ve had an extra four years in heaven.”
“It’s been the most personally fulfilling ... it is emotionally and psychologically sustaining.”
Paying It Forward

When Mark Putnam takes his seat in the president’s office in July, Roe hopes he’s given him the building blocks to do what Putnam would like to do to advance the college.

Looking Forward to Central’s Future

Roe is grateful to Central’s students, faculty, staff, friends, alumni, the Pella community and the broader college community for their support throughout the years.

“Change does not frighten me; I didn’t have the formula for everything, but I did some positive next steps on the journey to greatness.”

“I feel we are giving him a pretty good rudimentary planning ethos structure,” said Roe. “Ideally, he should be able to leverage his considerable skills right away.”

When Roe came to Central, his first order of business was strategic and operational plans. “Operational plans can be difficult in higher education because you always want a means of measurement and in some areas, it’s very hard to do,” he said.

Roe compared it to physical change and improvement. In education, there are some indices, but it’s not black and white. “It’s not like an athlete working with Jake Anderson, our strength and conditioning coach,” he said. “We can’t just clock a 40, measure a vertical jump or record how much a person can squat.

“With a college, there are some easier things to measure, such as enrollment numbers and money brought into the college. However, how do we measure what a student learned in order to receive a diploma?”

There are some ways, such as percentage of alumni being accepted into graduate school programs, or how many recent graduates are placed in jobs within a year of commencement. But so many variables factor into the equation of Central’s student body pool.

“I know in my heart, we provide our students the nurturing and guidance to make everything possible,” said Roe. “I say that prejudicially, as do our alumni who are doing great things now.”

“Each is individually and collectively important in continuing the sustainability and success of the college,” he said. “It’s not about the head of the college or the leadership team. Those people cannot do it by themselves.”

Roe asks the Central community to give Mark and Tammy Putnam and their family the same love and support it has shown David, Betsy and their family.

“There’s a lesson we try to teach here that the choices you make as an individual are working to make a difference,” he said. “You serve to make the best of something or opt out of your responsibility and blame it on others. It’s up to you to accept responsibility; that’s a lesson in citizenship.”

Central is dependent on the support of prayers, money and care of the community and people who love it. One doesn’t have to go far to see schools who struggle. But Central is not struggling and will continue to thrive under new leadership.

“I’ve been blessed,” said Roe. “The board of trustees has done a tremendous job picking the next president in my eyes. That’s reassuring, because after spending more than twelve years of my life in this very special community, I am hoping my successor will help take this extraordinary college to an even higher level. Change does not frighten me. I didn’t have the formula for everything, but I hope I helped the college take some positive next steps on the journey to greatness.”

S P R I N G  2 0 1 0  1 9
Searching for a new leader

by Jann Freed ’77, professor of business management

As one of the three faculty members on the presidential search committee, it was an honor to serve with a dedicated team committed to finding the best person to lead Central College into the future. Besides the three faculty members, the committee consisted of nine board members, one senior administrator and one student. Trustee Mike Orr ’69 was our fearless leader with Dave Wesselink ’64, board president, as ex officio member of the committee and Mike’s loyal co-pilot on this journey. Ardie Pals Sutphen ’64 was the executive secretary who made sure we stayed on task, completed our assignments and ate well.

Tom Courtice from Academic Search assisted the committee in identifying the distinctive qualities of a Central College experience and the opportunities for new presidential leadership in order to write a profile that accurately reflected the college, position and community. We decided the next Central College president would have the affirming opportunity to build on a decade of growth and institutional momentum as he or she formulated his or her own fresh vision for the college. We were searching for a strong financial manager, knowledgeable about academic business models and capable of adjusting the business plan to maintain and improve the college’s future financial security. We were interested in finding a person who could extend the resource base in enrollment, development and work with granting agencies.

We wanted a person who could build a strong administrative team with the ability to use full discretion in determining the best structure for his/her management style and Central’s administrative needs.

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PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

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Tej Dhawan ’91
Betsy Farver
Jann Freed ’77
Mark Johnson
Keith Jones
Amy Ledvina ’10
Lanny Little ’74
Ed Ollie ’93
Mike Orr ’69
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Board of trustees
Board of trustees
Board of trustees
Board of trustees, chair of search committee
Senior administrative staff
Chair of board of trustees, ex officio member of search committee
Executive assistant to the president, executive secretary of search committee
Consultant, president of Academic Search Inc.

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West Des Moines
Rancho Mirage, Calif.
Des Moines
Pella
Pella
Toledo, Iowa
East Amherst, N.Y.
Ann Arbor, Mich.
Monona, Wis.
Pella
Ballwin, Mo.
Pella
Holland, Mich.
Pella
Washington, D.C.
The new president needed to be a person who could articulate the vitality of the church relationship and who was committed to intercultural competence because of Central’s emphasis on international programs and education. Since Central is considered by many to be a “hidden treasure,” the committee agreed Central’s distinctiveness deserved wider public recognition. Therefore, the new president needed to be comfortable in actively extending the college’s image.

That’s all we wanted — someone who could walk on water and lead Central way into the future. During the process, we realized David and Betsy Roe were leaving big shoes to fill in so many ways. After much discussion and conversation, the committee arrived at a consensus in bringing four qualified candidates to campus. Three men and one woman had intensive two-day campus visits with all of them bringing strengths and distinctive characteristics to the community.

In the end, the committee selected Mark Putnam as the best person to be named the next president of Central College. As someone who has worked for three separate presidents, he understands the challenges and opportunities that accompany this position. But, this is such an important move for him and his family — so important the Putnams came to campus the weekend before his interview to explore Central and the community incognito. They even made a brief appearance at the football game. Fortunately for us, they liked what they saw during the official and unofficial visits, and Mark Putnam is our next president.

“Central’s momentum has the college superbly positioned to capitalize on the prospects that lie ahead of us,” Putnam said. “I see at Central a desire to become ever more effective and have an ever more profound impact on the students who will shape the future of our society.

“For me and my family, this is a unique and exciting opportunity to help lead an accomplished institution to even higher levels, and to be part of the dedicated, passionate and driven campus community,” he said. “I am eager to begin working with the exceptional faculty, students and staff on campus, alumni around the world and neighbors in Pella.”

We are just as eager to begin working with him and getting to know the Putnams better.
FRIDAY, OCT. 8
8 A.M. - 4 P.M. Classes open.
10 A.M. Heritage Day Reception
11 A.M. Homecoming Worship Service
11 A.M. 2nd annual Coach Ron Schipper Memorial Golf Tournament
12 P.M. Heritage Day Luncheon
2 and 3 P.M. Campus tours
3 P.M. Central spirit picture
3:30 - 5 P.M. Class of 1960 reception
6 P.M. Lemming Race
7 P.M. Homecoming coronation, pep rally, bonfire
6 - 7 P.M. Alumni & Family Barbecue

SUNDAY, OCT. 10
11 A.M. Sunday Brunch
1 P.M. 4th annual Flying Pans Alumni Steel Band Concert
Spring Break 2010!

It wasn’t the typical spring break trip to South Beach or Cancun. This past spring break, Central College students traveled across the United States, and even to Haiti, to help those in need.

**Austin, Texas**
Alternative spring break

**Pignon, Haiti**
Campus Ministries

**Moab, Utah**
Alternative spring break

**New Orleans, La.**
Habitat for Humanity

**Natchez, Miss.**
Habitat for Humanity
The Roe Women
by Ellen Gallinger ’04

Too often those who are important to us do not get proper acknowledgement. The Roe family is special to me. Central has been blessed to have them and I personally was lucky to have an intimate connection to them — I was their nanny.

I first met Betsy Roe in 2001. I was a freshman on the women’s tennis team, and we were invited to the Roe home for a team dinner. David and Betsy welcomed us with warmth and ease. Later, as their nanny, I would learn hosting these dinner parties is just one of Betsy’s many talents as hours of preparation goes into planning each meal, coordinating the calendars of family and college events, and of course, getting to know friends of the college. The dinner was fabulous, but partway through, Betsy had to stand because at nine months pregnant, the twins were quite active. Despite standing for the remainder of the meal, she asked questions, listened and was genuinely interested in all of us and our season.

Although I didn’t have direct contact with Betsy the next few years, I respected her from afar. She attended campus events smiling and cheering on the Dutch and was able to balance her role as a mother and ambassador of Central College.

Christmas 2004, I was afforded a stronger connection to her life and gathered a newfound perspective when I became the nanny of their then three-year-old twins. On my first day, Betsy became a mentor to me, and I became part of the family.

As their nanny, I learned more about life than I perhaps did in my previous 21 years. Betsy’s inner strength and genuine kindness is something I’ve never seen any likeness to, and it is what I strive toward daily. A former Rhodes Scholar, White House Fellow, and lawyer, she put her career aside to come to Central — and never looked back. She embraces her role with strength and passion that can’t help but be admired. Family is most important to Betsy, and even with all the college trips and evening dinners, she never once skipped a night of snuggling with the girls or calling them to hear their voices. Betsy is one of the most remarkable women I’ve ever met and is a major reason why her girls are so extraordinary, too.

The twins have been greatly influenced by living in Pella and I believe feel part Dutch. While nannying, I saw firsthand how much the girls loved Pella and Central College, and that love could only have been modeled for them by parents who love it even more. Only second graders, Caitlin and Caleigh are quite accomplished young ladies — taking piano and violin lessons, playing sports and participating in girl scouts. They will miss their friends once the Roes move to Texas, but being close to family and having their own rooms might be worth it.

After my nannying days, I moved away but feel a piece of them with me everyday. I know Pella and Central College will greatly miss them. And while they’re moving on to a new chapter in their lives, the legacy they leave behind will continue to live. The future remains an adventure for the Roes. They are ready to embrace an exciting change in Texas, but Pella will always be a part of who they are. And perhaps someday, there will be a return of the Roes. At eight-years-old, both Caitlin and Caleigh believe Central College may perhaps be in their future, a future I know will be very bright indeed. ■
Celebrating 12 years of leadership

Thank you for your support!