A Servant’s Bond

CENTRAL COLLEGE ALUMNI AND
THE REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA
In this issue of the *Bulletin*, we focus on Central’s affiliation with the Reformed Church in America (RCA) and address some topics of contemporary interest within the college and the church. We, in the Central family, are proud to join Hope College and Northwestern College in serving as the RCA’s three undergraduate, liberal arts colleges.

Central’s path to this affiliation is different than either Hope’s or Northwestern’s in that Central was founded in 1853 as a Baptist college. Supporting two colleges in Iowa became too difficult for the Baptists; they withdrew operational and endowment support of Central to concentrate on denominational support at the other college. In 1916, the citizens of Pella and the RCA stepped in to embrace and sustain the college-valued relationships that continue today.

The formal covenant guiding the relationship between the RCA and its colleges was developed over a series of General Synod meetings in the late 1960s. At its most recent General Synod, the RCA affirmed its colleges and launched a review of the covenant to explore ways to strengthen this relationship. Central hosted the first meeting of church and RCA college representatives in pursuit of this recent charge in March. Central will be honored to host the General Synod meetings in 2006 and 2007.

It is important to note the covenant does not impose on Central or our other RCA colleges a prescribed worldview. Each has full academic freedom to pursue its mission as defined by its constituencies. We do have an obligation to provide a Christian context for the education we offer, as well as an appreciation for the Reformed tradition and its implications for faith and learning. Additionally, we are gratified to provide intellectual resources to the RCA, primarily in the form of talented graduates. Central is very proud of its many graduates who have risen to leadership roles in the RCA and who have served or are serving as ministers, missionaries, and lay leaders at RCA churches, as well as in other Christian denominations. We are also proud of our graduates who are from faith traditions outside Christianity who, hopefully, developed at Central an appreciation for the good Christianity can bring to a troubled world. As a result of its historical heritage and international focus, Central is perhaps the most intentionally ecumenical of the three RCA colleges in pursuit of cultural and religious diversity.

Central’s governance structure reflects the seriousness of our ties to the RCA. As president, I am expected to be an RCA member. Board of trustee guidelines stipulate 50 percent of the board be RCA members. Within that 50 percent, we have six ordained RCA ministers, five of whom serve congregations and one of whom is a faculty leader at an RCA seminary. Furthermore, this academic year we provided Heritage grants of $1,500 to each of our RCA students (in addition to their regular financial aid packages) for an amount totaling $240,000. While this amount exceeds the financial support the college receives from RCA congregations, we regard prayer support, as well as the encouragement of RCA sons and daughters to attend an RCA college, to be even more important. At the same time, many of our most generous benefactors happen to be members of the RCA.

Thus, there exists a vibrant reciprocity between the RCA and Central College that I believe serves the interests of and strengthens both partners.

David H. Roe
8 A SERVANT’S BOND
Central alumni continue to make an impact in the Reformed Church in America and are called to a life of service.

16 FACULTY VOICE
Terry Kleven, associate professor of religion, and Joe Brummel, chaplain, answer questions on key issues involving Christianity and the church.

Departments
2 Around the Pond
4 Alumni Happenings
6 Sports Update
20 Alumni Newsnotes
29 Parting Shot
People and programs highlight Central’s spring semester

NEW YUCATAN PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Alex Sandoval ’92 has been appointed as the college’s Merida, Mexico, program director. He replaces George Ann Huck who will end her service June 30.

Sandoval came to Central as a language assistant and received a bachelor’s degree in general studies. He earned a master’s degree in Spanish linguistics and literature from the University of Iowa. Sandoval taught at Des Moines Area Community College the past eight years and is currently professor of Spanish. He has been the head of Spanish language and culture department for all of DMACC’s campuses the last five years.

Sandoval began work at Central after completing his spring semester teaching and administrative responsibilities at DMACC.

CENTRAL RECEIVES GRANT FROM HUMANITIES IOWA

Central College received a grant award of $5,000 from Humanities Iowa, a state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, in support of the Geisler Library Writers Reading Series for spring 2005.

A portion of the funding went towards an appearance by Billy Collins, former U.S. Poet Laureate. Collins’ April 22 visit was in conjunction with the Des Moines Poetry Festival and was funded by the festival, Central, Pella Community Schools, Pella Corp., Friends of Central Arts and this grant.

The project was deemed particularly meritorious by the select Humanities Iowa committee of Iowans, who are charged with the responsibility of promoting and enhancing an understanding of culture throughout the state.

MCKEE ’38 PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS

Looking for a way to help Central students who are strong academically yet do not qualify for Central’s highest scholarship awards, Central alum Howard McKee ’38, stepped up and made a difference. Each year, the McKee Family Foundation provides $150,000 for scholarships for this group of students. Typically 68 students benefit from McKee’s generosity.

McKee, a retired attorney and bank executive from Barrington, Ill., graduated with a degree in history. He earned his law degree from Northwestern University Law School in 1941, served on Central’s board of trustees and on the advisory board for the Spanning the ‘80s campaign.

In 1981, he received an alumni award and delivered the commencement address when daughter Anne graduated from Central. He contributed to numerous projects on campus including the Weller Center for Business and International Studies and the Maytag Student Center. Currently, he serves with Joan Farver as honorary chair of The Campaign for Central, Phase II.

CENTRAL JOINS PLUS PROGRAM

Central College has been accepted into the Partnerships for Learning Undergraduate Studies Program (PLUS) Consortium for 2005-07. The PLUS program is designed to reach a broader sector of college-age youth from diverse backgrounds in the Middle East, Southeast Asia and North Africa and provide them with a greater understanding of U.S. institutions, society and culture.

The goal of the initiative is to promote educational exchange and cultural understanding between young people from Muslim majority countries and Americans. It helps reinforce common values and provide a platform for posi-
tive dialogue. The 2004-05 academic year was the inaugural start of the undergraduate studies program.

PLUS scholars are chosen based on academic achievement and leadership potential, as well as diversity of experience. Students will spend two years completing undergraduate degrees in the social sciences and humanities at select U.S. institutions. Students are encouraged to complement their academic work with extracurricular activities on campus and in the local community. Between five to 10 students will be admitted at Central College as per scholarship offers. The scholarship primarily is funded by the U.S. State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and includes a pre-academic English language-training component administered by AMIDEAST. Academy for Educational Development manages the academic program, including placement in a U.S. undergraduate program, monitoring and enrichment activities.

LENNARTZ CHALLENGE PLEDGE

Ann Lennartz agreed to match all money received from alumni and friends in Washington during the 2005, 2006 and 2007 calendar years up to $50,000 per year. Lennartz lives in Seattle and is a member of the board of trustees. She is president, vice president and secretary of Seattle's Starflower Foundation, an organization that focuses on preservation of wildlife and plant habitat.

THE IOWA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Each year the Iowa College Foundation (ICF) conducts area campaigns throughout the state of Iowa, raising money for Iowa's private colleges by making calls to businesses. All the funds raised during these campaigns are distributed among the 25-member institutions. The funds are distributed based on a formula: half distributed equally, half distributed based on enrollment. Funds which have been designated by the donor are distributed based on the designation.

The ICF has contributed nearly $1.8 million since Central became a member. In this fiscal year, Central will receive over $71,000.

Each member college volunteers to raise funds for four area campaigns. Last fall, members of Central's advancement team made ICF calls in Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, and Sioux City. Central's final ICF opportunity for 2004-05 was in Ottumwa/Oskaloosa in 2005. Central staff are paired with a development officer from another institution and asked to call on 20-25 businesses over a two-day period. It is an opportunity to get to know development officers from other schools and raise awareness of Central.

ELDERHOSTEL OFFERS IOWA’S UTOPIAN SOCIETIES

Partnering with Elderhostel, the world’s largest education organization for adults 55 and over, Central College will sponsor the weeklong program Iowa’s Utopian Societies: From Old Order Amish to New Age Maharishi.

Sunday, Sept.18, until Saturday, Sept. 24, participants will travel across Southeast Iowa and journey back in time as they visit Amish barns and businesses near Drakesville, survey Mormon and Icarien history in Nauvoo, Ill., and sample the origins of the Amana Colonies and Pella’s Dutch Calvinists. The program begins and ends in Pella and features seven utopian societies of the past and present and will be repeated Tuesday, Oct. 4, through Monday, Oct. 10.

“This type of learning involves all of the senses,” said Diane Van Wyngarden, director of Central College Extended Education and group leader for the new program. “Participants will not only hear the unusual stories of these Utopian communities, but also will see inside their buildings, taste their ethnic foods, feel the handcrafts during demonstrations and even experience the barn smells of the Amish Percheron horses.”
Graduates of the Last Decade are GOLDen

What is GOLD you ask? GOLD stands for Graduates Of the Last Decade. We are specifically segmenting our younger alumni to create events suggested by you and for you, our youngest alumni. We have an active GOLD group in Des Moines, and we’re hoping to start groups in other heavily populated alumni areas.

Our steering committee welcomes your event ideas, so send them in! Members are:

• Kyle Bonnstetter ’97
• Brooke Bouma ’96
• Justin Fletcher ’02
• Heather Sandholm Kleis ’97
• Amy Houston Miller ’99
• Bryan Sandholm ’01
• Ellen Thompson Sandholm ’00
• Rick Sanger ’96
• Scott Schmaizl ’03
• Katie Vander Linden ’04

Want to host your own GOLD event? It’s easy! We’ll need the following from you:

• Your name
• Your e-mail
• Your phone number
• Date of GOLD event
• Location (include full address)
• Contact person at venue and his/her contact info
• Time of event

• Description of event
• RSVP deadline
• Estimated cost to attendees
• Hosted by

Be sure to take and send us pictures!

HOMECOMING/ART DEPARTMENT REUNION

What’s happening at Homecoming Oct. 7-9, 2005? Find details at www.central.edu/alumni/homecoming. This year’s celebration includes a special reunion for all former students and friends of the art department.

REPRESENTING CENTRAL

Many of our alumni represent Central College at events across the country. Thank you to the following people for attending inaugurations on behalf of Central College this past year:

• Major General Cornelius Nugteren ’51 at Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga.
• Gordon DeJong ’57 at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa.
• Kent Simmelink ’59 at East Carolina in Greenville, N.C.
• Joyce Epperly ’60 at Upper Iowa University in Fayette.
• Lynn Freeburger ’69 at Washington College in Chestertown, Md.
• Lanny ’74 and Jane Marshall Little ’75 at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
• Dirk ’84 and Christi Adair Smid ’84 at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington.
• Julie Lawrence Fiedler ’00 at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan.

The Central College Parent’s Council, on campus April 9, 2005, discussed plans for Family Weekend and ways parents can help their children adjust to college life.
HOME COMING CENTRAL

Located in the Boat-Moore-Weller (BMW) Rooms of Maytag Student Center, this will be your location for all things Homecoming. Class message boards, memory books, registration information and event tickets will be available. Computers for checking e-mail and joining the online community will be accessible. Gathering space to visit with classmates, beverages and snacks — all here for you!

FRIDAY, OCT. 7

7th Annual Dan Hocker Memorial Golf Tournament. Details will be mailed to all past participants.

11 a.m.  Heritage Day Worship Service
Noon  Heritage Day Luncheon, by invitation only
1:30-6:30 p.m.  Alumni check in, Maytag Student Center, BMW Rooms
2 p.m.  Fireside chat with retired faculty and staff
3 p.m. & 4 p.m.  Classes on a variety of topics will be offered for all Homecoming participants
3-5 p.m.  Jolene DeJong ’55 reception, Mills Gallery
6:30 p.m.  Alumni barbeque and social

SATURDAY, OCT. 8

8 a.m.-noon  Alumni check in, Maytag Student Center, BMW Rooms
8 a.m.  Dutch 5K Fun Run & Walk, Central Cross Country Course
9 a.m. & 10 a.m.  Classes on a variety of topics will be offered for all Homecoming participants
10 a.m.  Homecoming parade
10:30 a.m.  Family Olympics
11 a.m.-1 p.m.  Information booth open, outside Weller Center
11:30 a.m.  Tailgate under the Big Tent
noon-4 p.m.  Alumni check in, east of Kuyper Stadium
1 p.m.  Football — Central vs. Cornell
5 p.m.  All-alumni reception and dinner — Presentation of 2005 Alumni Awards
7:30 p.m.  Class reunion gatherings

SUNDAY, OCT. 9

11 a.m.  Final Farewell Brunch

* Campus and city tours will be offered throughout the weekend. The art department will be featured during Homecoming 2005. For current details, go to www.central.edu/alumni/homecoming.html
Van Genderen wins national high jump title

Senior Cale Van Genderen captured the NCAA Division III high jump championship at the NCAA Division III indoor track and field meet March 11 in Bloomington, Ill. Van Genderen cleared 6-11, 1.75 inches better than the runner-up. Earlier in the indoor season, Van Genderen broke his own school record with a jump of 7-1.5. His win allowed Central to tie for 15th in the team standings.

It’s the fourth time Van Gnderen received all-America honors in the high jump. He was second at last year’s indoor meet, while placing eighth and sixth, respectively, at the outdoor championships in 2003 and 2004.

Van Gnderen also was named the United States Track Coaches Association’s Central Region athlete of the year.

At the Iowa Conference indoor meet in Decorah Feb. 25-26, the Dutch nearly pulled off a surprise, finishing just one point away from first place and settling for third. The Central women set two conference indoor meet records and finished fourth.

Central’s Kevin Sanger ‘93 was recognized as the league men’s coach of the year. It was the seventh time he’s received the honor but the first time in indoor competition.

ANGEL LEAVING CENTRAL

Mick Angel resigned in March as Central College’s women’s basketball coach to accept a position as a guidance counselor at Harlan High School.

Angel piloted the Dutch for four seasons, compiling a 41-63 record. Angel’s wife, Cathy, served as a volunteer assistant coach for the Dutch.

NEKOLA EARNs ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS

Center Ashley Nekola was a second-team all-Iowa Conference choice for the Central women’s basketball team.

Nekola, a 5-10 junior, averaged a team-high 14.3 points and 8.3 rebounds for the Dutch, who posted a 7-19 record.

Central again earned a berth in the Iowa Conference tournament. Senior guard Rachel Lenox was team MVP. She averaged 10.9 points, 4.1 rebounds and 3.4 assists.

Lenox and sophomore guards Morgan Martin, Katy Paxton and Aimee Schmidt were named to the academic all-Iowa Conference squad.

‘OLD MAN’ HUISMAN LEADS YOUNG MEN’S CAGERS

Year two under coach Mike Boschee produced significant progress for the
Central men’s basketball program, although it wasn’t reflected in the won-loss record.

The Dutch were 7-19 overall, but utilized a 15-player roster that included eight freshmen and still gained a berth in the Iowa Conference tournament.

But it was the team’s oldest player, 6-7 senior forward Scott Huisman, who topped the Central scoring charts with 14.2 points a game. Huisman, 25, averaged 6.6 rebounds and became a two-time second-team all-conference pick.

Clint Driftmier, a 6-10 sophomore, turned some heads, averaging 12.4 points and 7.0 rebounds while hitting 59.5 percent from the floor.

Senior forward Brandon Vos was an academic all-conference selection.

WRESTLERS PLACE SEVEN AT LEAGUE MEET

Central had seven placewinners at the Iowa Conference wrestling tournament.

The squad first-year coach Eric Reed inherited lacked depth, a problem exacerbated by injuries. The Dutch were last at the league tournament and 4-14 in dual action. But Central did score a surprising 31-10 decision over nationally ranked Buena Vista.

Junior 125-pounder Peter Howard put together the most consistent campaign. He placed fifth in the league and was 21-19 overall. Sophomore Ryan De Vriendt made a nice late-season run. He also placed fifth and climbed to 18-19 after a rough start.

Howard was selected for the National Wrestling Coaches Association’s Scholar All-America team.

STARK RECEIVES NCAA POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Central College senior Jamie Stark was awarded an NCAA postgraduate scholarship.

Stark, the Iowa Conference volleyball MVP, previously was a first-team selection to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America Team selected by CoSIDA. The Center Point-Urbana High School graduate is a social science major with a 3.98 grade point average (4.0 scale).

A 5-foot-10 middle hitter and a first-team AVCA Division III all-Central Region pick, Stark is the 16th Central student-athlete to ever receive the NCAA honor, and the first Dutch volleyball player to do so.

Also an academic all-Iowa Conference repeat selection and a three-time winner of Central’s volleyball team academic award, Stark is among 11 Central varsity volleyball players with a 3.50 cumulative GPA or higher. The Dutch carry an overall team GPA of 3.73.

Stark served as co-captain, leading the Dutch to a 28-9 record, a ninth consecutive Iowa Conference title and the program’s ninth NCAA Division III playoff berth.

DE JONG GAINING NATIONAL RECOGNITION AFTER FOURTH STRAIGHT TITLE

Scott De Jong ’84 continues to thrive in the girls’ high school basketball spotlight.

De Jong’s Ankeny High School squad captured an unprecedented fourth consecutive Class 4A state championship March 12 with a 65-57 win over Cedar Rapids Washington in the final girls’ game played at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Des Moines. The Hawkettes were rated second in the nation by USA Today and closed the year with a 44-game winning streak.

De Jong was chosen to serve as a head coach for the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association High School All-America game, held in conjunction with the NCAA women’s Final Four in Indianapolis, Ind. April 2. He earlier was named the District 5 coach of the year by the WBCA and was a finalist for the national coach of the year award.

The WBCA event forced him to miss his induction into the Iowa Girls Coaches Association Basketball Hall of Fame in Cedar Rapids, also April 2.

The Pella native piloted Colo-NESCO High School to four state tournament berths in five seasons before taking over at Ankeny. In his 12 years there, he’s guided the Hawkettes to six state titles and nine state tourney appearances.

This year’s nine-player senior class at Ankeny included De Jong’s daughter, Emily.
Originally a Baptist institution, Central was founded in 1853 by a determined group of Dutch settlers who immigrated to central Iowa to escape religious tyranny. In 1916, Central transferred from Baptist affiliation to the Reformed Church in America. The relationship with the RCA strengthened the college. Families within the denomination sent their sons and daughters to Central to be educated for teaching and the ministry. As its academic reputation grew, Central attracted more and more students from outside the denomination. Yet today, Central holds a strong connection to its RCA roots. Several graduates have held positions in the General Synod, in addition to other affiliated institutions and churches. Many of our graduates are ministers and missionaries helping people throughout the world.

This Bulletin focuses on current issues the RCA is facing and how Central alumni have created an impact in the service-oriented world. Though there has been declining membership in the RCA and the pastoral pool is thinning, Central continues to pass the torch to a new, enthusiastic group of young people determined to lead a life of service.

John Sikkink ’62 gave up his high-corporate job to serve in the RCA for his second career. Now Sikkink helps revitalize and multiply churches across the Midwest and serves as a resource for evangelism. His wife Betty Nagel Sikkink ’61 is secretary of the New Church Development Synod.

Kevin Korver ’77 serves as the senior pastor at Third Reformed Church in Pella and has grown up in the church as his father Harold Korver ’52 is also a pastor. Kevin wasn’t always sure he wanted to be a minister, but the Lord changed his heart.

Phyllis Steenhoek Palsma ’74 is a minister for leadership development in Regional Synod of Albany and writes a monthly article in the Church Herald. It wasn’t until 1979 women were accepted for ordination as ministers of Word and sacrament, and Steenhoek Palsma is one of the first females to have an impact on the RCA. Today, women in the RCA serve as pastors, elders and deacons. They also contribute their time and resources through the Office of Women, the Commission for Women and in countless local ministries.

Rev. Richard (Dick) ’69 and Maja Stiel Westra ’68 are working in Bahrain, a small island off the eastern coast of Saudi Arabia. Dick is an RCA missionary pastor of English while Maja teaches English to first graders. Both serve as mentors to new Christians.

If we are faithful to our mission, we will change. That’s part of the genius of Central’s tradition. We are called to continually reform as God’s Word and Spirit shape our life as a church and a college.
JOHN SIKKINK ’62 — HELPING THE CHURCH GROW

Central board of trustee member John Sikkink ’62 didn’t originally plan on helping the RCA thrive in its time of revitalization. Instead, Sikkink started out in the corporate world, a world much different than the service-missionary world.

“Service is a part of everything we do,” said Sikkink, an economics major at Central. “I was raised with those values and those values were reinforced at Central. Back then, we went to chapel everyday. Now, that’s not saying much because it was nap time for a lot of people, I think Central is doing a lot more service-oriented things now than they ever did when I was there. It reminds people about helping others.”

After graduation, Sikkink went to work at what is now Wells Fargo Bank. He worked in Des Moines from 1962 until 1984 when he was transferred to Minneapolis where he stayed until 1994.

“Two things turned me away from the business world and toward the church,” said Sikkink. “First, I always intended to do some kind of volunteer work as a second career. And second, I realized as I moved up in the corporate world, there’s just a point you reach when you can go as far as you can go. I wasn’t going to be president of the company. I was at a cross roads, and I wanted to make sure I finished strong.”

The transition from corporate wasn’t intentional. A local pastor on a search committee to hire someone to start new churches knew Sikkink through a leadership class they taught together. The committee looked for almost two years to fill the position but was turned down repeatedly.

“So, I reconsidered the position,” he said. “A lot of things had to fall in place, and it worked out very well for me personally. The church at that time didn’t hire a non-ordained person for such a position, and it was a long time that I went to Synod meetings as the only layperson. They hadn’t looked outside that realm.”

Sikkink, the mission advancement coordinator for the RCA Synod of the Heartland in Orange City, Iowa, dove into his “second career” wanting to help the RCA build a stronger, larger mission field that would refresh and renew declining congregations.

“I had a fairly strong conviction back then that North America was a large mission field and needed churches and help. If we can’t do it here, how can we do it elsewhere?”

According to Sikkink, less than 40 percent of the people in the United States are in church on any given Sunday and at least 40 percent of people aren’t even on a church roll. But, 90 percent believe in God.

“So, the church had to change, but my generation didn’t want that,” said Sikkink. “It’s hard for any organization to serve five generations — especially a church. The world is so multicultural. It takes a number of different kinds of ministries to serve all these people.”

Now Sikkink assists with classes in new church development and works with revitalizing ministries. He also serves as a resource person for evangelism and pastoral care networks.

Sikkink and wife Betty Nagel Sikkink ’61 are passionate about the church. Betty serves as the secretary of the New Church Development Synod. And, both believe Central is a place where passionate people evolve.

“Of current pastors midlife and older, Central provided a large number,” said Sikkink. “But, there were less intentions of raising church leaders during the ’80s and ’90s. Not just Central, but also the world doesn’t consider ministry as a high valued position and now that is changing again. Mainline Protestantism and RCA has been on the decline for 40 years. But during the last four to five years, there’s been a renewal and revitalization for all denominations. There have been very intentional efforts to do this. We’ve created an urgency which drove the action of revitalizing and multiplying churches.”

The need for leadership in the RCA goes back to Central and the other colleges affiliated with the RCA. The RCA needs the brightest and best to go in to ministry to be vital today. According to Sikkink, those called to the ministry need to be identified in the colleges, if not before, in their own church congregations.

“A lot of these faith activities at Central are student driven,” said Sikkink. “The younger generation is more culturally diverse and will continue to be so. They have thrown away the capitalistic culture of the past. They find spiritualism is just as important as money.”

“THE FOCUS IS FORWARD. THE CHURCH NEEDS A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO ARE DEDICATED TO THE CAUSE AND PASSIONATE ABOUT IT.”

10 CENTRAL BULLETIN
KEVIN KORVER ’77 — FOLLOWING IN HIS FATHER’S FOOTSTEPS

Becoming a minister isn’t necessarily in one’s blood line, although that could be argued. Most would say it’s a calling — sometimes one that isn’t heard right away.

Growing up, Kevin Korver ’77 saw what it took to be a minister first hand from his father Harold Korver ’52.

“Quite honestly, I didn’t want to do what he was doing,” said Kevin who serves as senior pastor of Third Reformed Church in Pella. “All the time he put into his work and from my standpoint, the number of hours he put in for not much money wasn’t all that appealing.”

Around graduation time, Korver was approached by Ken Weller, Central’s president, to work in the admission office, which Korver agreed and did for three years.

“It really worked out for me,” beamed Korver. “That’s how I met my wife Laine (Lundy ’80).”

Following Laine’s graduation, the two moved to California so Korver could attend Fuller Theological Seminary.

“I can only tell you my decision was based on the Lord changing my heart,” he said. “I was called to the seminary.”

And so began Korver’s journey into seminary — a road he is glad he decided to follow and at times he sees a little of his father in himself.

Korver, along with brothers Keith ’81 and Ken ’82, who both attended Central and are now ministers, were passed a torch from their father’s generation and will continue to encourage the next generation to help minister to others.

According to Korver, the RCA ultimately needs leaders with heart and character.

“The formation of the fundamentals of character is the issue,” he said. “But where do you find those who have a good heart and want to be in this profession? We want and need persons to lead with integrity, authenticity and not self-serving motives.”

Korver believes there are a lot of issues surrounding leadership in the church, and the church as a whole needs to figure it out.

“I don’t think in past generations the church was led by teams,” he said. “Now, you have to because of the work load and the cultural realities with which we live. Pastors aren’t just preaching on Sundays. We provide Christian counseling, make hospital and home visits, develop strategic plans, fundraise, hire staff, study, etc. It’s just the way things are now. Times have changed and will continue to do so.”

Korver, who serves on Central’s board of trustees, looks at Central as a vibrant faith community — a place to explore the Christian tradition.

“Central has gone through a number of chapters,” Korver said. “In the 1950s, Central was viewed more as a Bible college and the Reformed denomination itself was more conservative. Central is viewed as more liberal than Northwestern College, and it’s hard to draw college students here — parents from conservative Reformed churches send their kids to Northwestern. Plus, there aren’t many schools con-
Rev. Phyllis Steenhoek Palsma '74 — A Pioneer for Females in the RCA

Rev. Phyllis Steenhoek Palsma '74 didn’t know she was going to be a pioneer for females in the Reformed Church in America. She wasn’t sure she wanted a career in the ministry, but as a student at Central, she actively was involved in service, which turned her on the path to seminary.

Palsma served on the campus church board helping with voluntary chapel services. The music major also was a member of the A Cappella Choir, show choir, occasional singers, the wind ensemble and symphonic band.

“We even started a clarinet quartet and played concerts at local elementary schools,” Palsma said.

The Pella native, who grew up two blocks from Central’s campus, was heavily involved not only in music and campus activities, but also in the community. She was raised in First Reformed Church and while in college directed both a children’s choir and an adult choir. It was during this time Palsma began to think about Christian education.

“It just slowly evolved, and I began to realize the personal satisfaction along with knowing I was helping others with my work in the church and Bible studies,” she said. “People were identifying my skills and gifts, but I didn’t know how a music major would fit in.”

She spoke with Davis Folkerts ’60, music professor at Central, and decided to try the transition from music major to Christian educator.

“He [Davis Folkerts] told me he went to seminary, and I saw how seminary and music could be a logical combination,” Palsma said.

After graduating from Central, Palsma attended Western Theological Seminary. However, she would have to overcome a huge hurdle — there were no women in the seminary at that time.

“Women were not being ordained,” explained Palsma. “I wanted to go into Christian education but felt a master of divinity degree was important because it covered all the aspects of the ministry, and I felt it was important for me to learn the full scope.”

While at Western, the process of integrating women into the RCA started to unfold and women were becoming ordained.

Today, the evident need for female leaders in the RCA continues to grow.

“We’ve come a long way,” said Palsma, a trustee at Western. “When I was at Western recently, it was amazing to see how many women were on campus and active in the ministry and in the RCA. My first year there as a student, there were two women in my class — another woman and me. There were only three females total on campus. In Albany Synod, now, there are 14 churches in my classis and five have women.”

Several women influenced Palsma growing up, including Sunday school teachers and other RCA pioneers at the time.

“Fran [DeJong ’57] was a name I heard a lot growing up in First Reformed. When I was in seminary, Fran was at Central, and whenever I came back to Central, I enjoyed talking with her,” said Palsma. “She had a lot of knowledge. In fact, the night I was ordained, Fran gave the sermon. She wasn’t even ordained yet.”

There were no women role models in Central’s religion department and few professional female pastor role models while Palsma was growing up, but that didn’t stop her from pursuing her call.

“While I was in seminary, I did an internship at a church in New Jersey, and I learned the real meaning of work,” she said. “Being a woman in the Midwest, sometimes people in the church were kind of suspicious about my ‘motives’ when in reality I was just answering the call. In New Jersey, they looked at me...
Eight years ago the Westras accepted a call to serve in the city of Manama on a tiny island called Bahrain, just off the eastern coast of Saudi Arabia. While winter temperatures hover around 60-70 degrees Fahrenheit, the mercury reaches over 100 from April to November.

“People think living on an island equals paradise, but this is not so,” said Maja, who teaches English to Bahraini first graders. “Manama is sand, concrete and dirt. We are one of the few homes with a grass yard. It’s a little oasis in the middle of the city.”

A capital city of nearly 150,000 people, Manama is a cosmopolitan melting pot of ethnicities and cultures. Rev. Westra serves as a pastor of the English Language Congregation (ELC) of the National Evangelical Church of Bahrain (NEC). The ELC is one of seven language congregations that belongs to the NEC and since English is a common language among many ethnic groups that work on the island, many people from all over the world attend the ELC.

“This is one of the most vibrant churches I’ve seen,” said Rev. Westra. “There are many members involved in ministries such as hospitality, small group leadership, and assisting with leadership among new language groups such as the Nepalis and Chinese. Young adults have an active role in worship leadership at our two services per week. These people all enjoy developing their faith with others.”

Rev. Westra prepares a Friday evening and Sunday morning service each week. In addition to teaching, Maja is the school’s English language coordinator, revamping the program to better fit the school’s needs. The couple also serves as mentors to new Christians seeking a daily walk with Jesus.

“A lot of these converts are from India and have no idea how to live Monday through Saturday,” said Maja. “We try to help them learn what it means to live a Christian life.”

Throughout all their journeys, Dick and Maja have relied on their faith. Maja’s family immigrated to Canada from Holland when she was 8 years old so her father could pursue his call to serve as a pastor in the Reformed Church. After the family moved to New Jersey so Maja’s father could attend Rutgers University, Maja decided she wanted to attend college at Central.
Maja Stiel Westra '68 teaches English to Bahraini first graders.

“It was almost unheard of for a Dutch immigrant to attend college,” said Maja, who majored in secondary English education. “If we hadn’t moved to New Jersey, there is no way I would have been allowed to think about college.”

After a few phone calls by her father, Maja was on her way to Pella and attended classes for three months without paying tuition. “We had no money,” said Maja. “One day President [Don] Lubbers called me into his office and I was sure he was going to tell me I was kicked out. I was so nervous and shy. I just kept saying ‘Yes, sir.’ ‘No, sir.’”

To Maja’s surprise, Lubbers informed her that Mrs. A.L. Warnshuis of Bronxville, N.Y., had chosen to sponsor her college education with a four-year, full-ride scholarship. “That blessing shows God’s faithfulness,” said Maja. “My parents believed so strongly that He would see us through.”

Maja met Dick at Central after he transferred from the University of Calgary in Canada, where Maja’s father ended up serving as a pastor. “My father told me to look him (Dick) up because he was new at the college,” said Maja, who married Dick in 1968. “Ever since, we have complemented each other. What one lacks, the other makes up for.”

After Rev. Westra’s graduation from Central in 1969, the couple moved to New Jersey where Dick attended New Brunswick Theological Seminary and Maja worked on a master’s degree in education at Rutgers University. Rev. Westra served as a pastor in Ontario, Canada, for nine years before making the decision to take his wife and three daughters, Stephanie Van Wyk ’93, Susan Epperson ’95 and Andrea Roerdink ’97, to the Arabic country of Oman.

“There were as many as 54 different nationalities in their school; their education was international, not Arab,” said Rev. Westra. “They still talk about how living in Oman and having no TV bonded them as sisters.”

After living in the Arab world for five years, the Westras moved to Firth, Neb., where Dick took over pastoral responsibilities at the Firth Reformed Church in 1986. “We’ve seen too many pastors’ families fall apart, so we worked hard to keep ours together,” said Maja. “I stayed home with the children so we could live the rock-solid family life we preached.”

Dick and Maja left Nebraska in 1997 after Rev. Westra was offered the Manama position by the RCA mission secretary for the Middle East, Rev. Roger Shrock. The couple committed to long-term service, holding a post across the globe through Maja’s bout with breast cancer. “Though I had surgery in California, I took chemotherapy and radiation in Manama,” said Maja, who has been cancer-free since 1999. “I think a lot of people would rather have healthcare at home, but it was very good and I didn’t want to be away from Dick that long.”

The Westras plan to stay in Manama through 2006, when the National Evangelical Church celebrates its 100-year anniversary. Dick is busy scheduling speakers and special events to commemorate the church’s celebration. He is also in the process of writing a book detailing the history of the church. “The celebration gives us one reason to stay until June 2006,” said Maja. “But then we think, why not stay until 2007 and make it an even 10 years?”

In the meantime, Rev. Westra fills his spare time scouring the coast for shells to add to his collection of over 2,000 species. The couple belongs to a club that allows Dick to golf, even if it is in the sand. Though Dick and Maja plan to return to the United States within two years, they know they will follow wherever they feel the Lord leads them. “I’ve felt a call since I was born, since I’ve been aware,” said Rev. Westra. “It’s what’s driven me as a pastor, and I still love doing it.”
Students also developed new friendships and were able to bond as a community of believers while on the trip.

“It’s always awesome to do mission work and make some sort of difference in people’s lives, but what I enjoyed most about this trip was getting to know some amazing Central students,” said junior Heather Van Den Hoek.

Students built meaningful relationships not only with one another, but also with the people and children of Reynosa.

“I met a little girl at the orphanage named Erika, ironically,” said junior Erika Anthony. “She told me her life story, and I just wanted to adopt her and bring her back with me. She was a beautiful girl, inside and out.”

“During college, I’ve come to realize there’s more to an education than just books and academics,” said Volger. “Service-learning opportunities, like this mission trip, are a chance not only to give something back, but also to put into practice all you’ve learned so far in school. It helps you to continue to grow as a person.”
Today in the church: Worship in the 21st century

In this faculty voice, Terry Kleven, associate professor of religion, and Joel Brummel, chaplain, share their thoughts and reflections on key issues influencing Christianity. Go to www.central.edu/alumni/bulletin for the responses in full.

Define contemporary worship service and traditional worship service.

Kleven: The terms “contemporary” and “traditional” promote a misunderstanding of what is essential to and characteristic of Christian life and devotion. Unless we are willing to use different terms and therefore different ideas, we will not discover the essence of what Christian teaching is regarding prayer or worship. The terms encourage us to think temporal differences most accurately distinguish different forms of prayer and worship. The more accurate way of inquiring the essentials of Christian prayer and worship is to make an inquiry into what scripture teaches and to study the way scripture has been read by the church.

Brummel: “Contemporary” almost has a slang usage within the church. It implies something different than “liturgical” and usually hints toward an open form of worship. Contemporary implies traditions will not dictate the style, leaving room for more spontaneity.

When and why did contemporary services start?

Kleven: All services conducted today are contemporary services, are they not? We are all modern people living in the modern world. Some types of prayer and worship are more characteristic of scriptural teaching and others are not. Two popular revivals in English-speaking Christianity, one in the 18th century and the other in the early 19th century, emphasized the importance of music and of various techniques of preaching and evangelism to get people to “respond” and “convert.” In regard to music, the long-standing teaching of the church, which sought to distinguish the standards of sacred music from secular music, was overlooked. In regard to evangelism, the aim of preaching was to encourage an immediate response to the appeal rather than instruct and educate individuals in a full range of teachings of faith. The appeal was Jesus could fulfill the immediate needs of the person and community, the need for belonging, relationships, psychological health and spiritual comfort.

In the 1960s, a renewed interest in these techniques to revive Christianity and the “church-growth movement” grew out of this period of North American Christianity.

We should not underestimate denominations and ministers are always under pressure to be successful. Ministers need to show they are changing people’s lives — there needs to be significant numbers of “converts,” crowds of people, well attended programs, and budget needs met and exceeded. There is tremendous pressure on ministers to use techniques and styles that “work.” Many ministers genuinely want to increase their parishioners’ wisdom and practice of virtue. The superficial and trendy come and go? We teachers know most students today, even those who attend church, do not know scripture well.

Brummel: Worship services have always been “contemporary” or at least in transition. When my home church (Ebenezer Reformed, Leighton, Iowa) changed from Dutch to English in the 1920s, wasn’t it quite contemporary? When that church out on the plains decided men and women could finally sit together (instead of opposite sides of the sanctuary), wasn’t that breaking with tradition? In the 1950s, when the first “Cross and the Switchblade” movie was played during a Sunday night church, wasn’t that contemporary? When that church out on the plains decided men and women could finally sit together (instead of opposite sides of the sanctuary), wasn’t that breaking with tradition? In the 1950s, when the first “Cross and the Switchblade” movie was played during a Sunday night church, wasn’t that contemporary? When that church out on the plains decided men and women could finally sit together (instead of opposite sides of the sanctuary), wasn’t that breaking with tradition? In the 1950s, when the first “Cross and the Switchblade” movie was played during a Sunday night church, wasn’t that contemporary? When that church out on the plains decided men and women could finally sit together (instead of opposite sides of the sanctuary), wasn’t that breaking with tradition? In the 1950s, when the first “Cross and the Switchblade” movie was played during a Sunday night church, wasn’t that contemporary?
music from the inside of the church wasn’t that contemporary? Contemporary implies a variation of “how it is done,” and the church continues to add new variations year after year.

**Why do some churches hold both contemporary and traditional services?**

**Kleven:** Churches are trying to please many different views, and they hold different services to accommodate these different views. Unity of thought and devotion can only be achieved in understanding the nature of Christ Himself and how He has instructed the church to pray. The nature and work of Christ always must remain the standard, and the church needs to teach how the nature and work of Christ establish the nature of Christian prayer. The teaching of the church is lex orandi lex credendi, “the law of prayer is the law of belief.” How one prays is what one believes.

**Brummel:** Worship’s number one objective is to glorify God. It also purposes to enable everyone to experience the heart of God, and then respond to His goodness. Some feel they can reach these objectives with a liturgical or traditional form of worship. Others believe a more visually driven service (i.e., images, dance, drama, video analogies, photography and multiple musicians) is the way to go. Could it be our journey through the issues of “traditional” and “contemporary” is the church seeking to worship God in the most excellent way?

**Why are so many churches switching to contemporary services? Is it for recruiting younger members?**

**Kleven:** We often want church to look like what we want or are comfortable with in another context. We want church to be in a building like a concert hall, gymnasium or theatre because these surroundings are similar to what we find elsewhere. We want to think there is no separation between God and us, and we can come into His presence casually, comfortably and without any reminder there is any distance between God’s holiness and ourselves. We want services that encourage ecstatic experiences because we would rather dream than think, especially when thinking may be about our shortcomings. We want “sermons” by promotional speakers that are short, intellectually undemanding, and mostly humorous stories about people. We tend not to want to fall on our knees and say we are “miserable offenders.” We want to be considered “cutting-edge,” and we do not like the loneliness of being rejected, even if Christ Himself was rejected. He promised blessing to those who are willing to be rejected for truth’s sake (Luke 6:28).

Jesus commissioned His disciples to “teach all nations” and “to teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you,” not only make converts (Matthew 27:18-20). Jesus sent the masses away so he could teach the small number of his disciples (Matthew 13:36 and 14:22). Quality is more important than quantity.

**Brummel:** The extreme changes in form and style of worship in the last 25 years reflect the desire by church leaders to find ways to reach a lost generation. Church attendance dropped 12 percent from 1991-2004. We are a post-Christian nation with 60 percent not even attending church in a given week. Since 1991, the number of unchurched adults in America has doubled (rising from 39 million to 75 million). The contemporary church is not “recruiting.” It is being faithful in its call to bring the lost into the Kingdom of God. Complaints by 20-somethings include: “The church isn’t relevant … my church doesn’t get who I am … the church uses words, and I have no idea what they even mean!” The purpose of worship will always be to glorify Christ, yet the purpose of worship in a post-Christian era will be more and more an introduction to who Christ is. Many non-Christians feel
worship is designed for those “already in the loop.” The extreme contemporary nature of the church reflects a desire by leaders to reach a culture that no longer knows God and desperately wants to reintroduce that culture to Him through worship that is innovative and fresh. *Information from The Barna Group (www.barna.org)

**Will the traditional worship service be phased out?**

**Kleven:** John’s vision into heaven found in Revelation 4 and 5 describes an account of worship around the throne of God in eternity. Twenty-four presbyters of the church are clothed in white, on their knees and prostrate before the throne, and singing the Sanctus anthem from Isaiah 6 — an anthem 800 years old at the time. In Revelation 6:9 we also read of an altar in that heavenly place of worship. John joins these presbyters and falls and worships too (Revelation 22:8). There are numerous other references to heavenly worship in Revelation. Phased out? These patterns do not seem to be phased out in eternity. The long-standing teaching of scripture is the sacrifice of Christ is the center of Christian worship. If Holy Communion is not the central action of corporate Christian worship, it is easy for substitutes to seem important. The early church celebrated Communion every week (Acts 20:7).

**Brummel:** Church leaders have already seen some young people drifting back to a liturgical form of worship, and find meaning in it. Some even believe the symbolism and quietness of the traditional forms of worship will be quite inviting to 20-somethings when they rediscover them.

It seems the non-traditional services are more popular on campus (i.e. The Calm, a Sunday evening service; NINE, Inter-Varsity’s contemporary service). Why do you think those are better attended than the chapel service on Tuesdays?

**Kleven:** Numbers would not be the most important indication of scriptural obedience, would it? Given Jesus’ emphasis in the gospels, truth cannot be judged by numbers. God is none too pleased with David for counting his troops because it indicated David thought the victory was won through numbers (2 Samuel 24). The masses can be fickle, one day singing Jesus’ praises as he enters Jerusalem, five days later yelling “crucify him.”

**Brummel:** I believe evening worship is better attended because it doesn’t interfere with classes the way the Tuesday
worship does. I often hear from students who wished they could come to Tuesday worship but have labs, or class or a meeting. Of course, the traditional style does scare some away from Tuesday. (I once read that .2 percent of the U.S. population enjoys listening to organ music in their free time. I wonder what the percentage is for college students?) The popularity of The Calm and Nine is really a reflection of our students’ culture and what is happening in the churches they represent.

Does the Bible offer guidance as to how worship should be formatted and carried out?

Kleven: The Bible as a whole is devoted to three essential teachings: right thought, word and action in worship, and right action in morality and justice. Every book of the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments, makes a contribution to these three teachings. To know and to love the good requires all three. The work of Christ is the foundation of right thought and action in worship in the NT. The purposes of OT worship are brought through into the NT, with the substitute of Christ as sacrifice, the worthy Lamb and Christ, the worthy priest. Worship is not for financial gain, nor even for community or relationships, nor the fulfillment of most of our human needs. The one great need we have is to know and to be reconciled to God. Nothing else.

Brummel: The idea of worship within the word of God is not an hour-long event, but rather a lifestyle. Worship includes both our attitudes and our actions. And, these are to be reflected in all of life. Worship is an English word meaning, “worth-ship,” meaning God is worthy of all our praise. Hosea 6:6 reads, “For I desire mercy, not sacrifice …” Sacrifice became an empty ritual for the Israelites, and rituals carried out with a heart far from God are empty and meaningless. God is quite clear He desires our hearts more than our rituals, especially if love is not behind the ritual. Thus, the only qualifier for real worship is we give our whole heart to Him. Micah 6:8 also asks, “What does God require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

The format of worship in the early church most commonly is believed to consist of four parts: teaching, table-fellowship, breaking of the bread and time for prayers (Acts 2:42).
THE ’40S

Neal Kuyper ’46 and wife Christina live in Bradenton, Fla. Neal is confined to a wheelchair with peripheral neuropathy. He facilitates a monthly neuropathy group with the aid of a neurologist and a nurse. Neal also collects books for the library of the Presbyterian College in Kikuyu, Kenya.

Mary Marshall Tucker ’49 will be in Chicago, Ill., the week of June 12-20. Any former classmates interested in joining Mary in Chicago should contact her at her home in Monroeville, Ala.

THE ’50S

Charles Ausherman ’54 lives in Trenton, Maine, with wife Rieneke. Charles serves on the board of the local radio station, where he co-hosts a current events program.

Howard Den Hartog ’58 is serving a three-year term on the county mental health alcohol and drug advisory board. Howard and wife Esther Rezelman Den Hartog ’59 live in Sisters, Ore.

Paul Tambrino ’58 is the director of adult and theological education at First Presbyterian Church in Maitland, Fla. Paul and wife Faye live in Fern Park.

THE ’60S

For information about Jeff Brandsma ’65 and Anne Fortuin Brandsma ’68, see the ’60s decade.

Marvin Kolosiek ’60 of Kalona, Iowa, is a retired rural mail carrier and farmer.

John Kuester ’63 retired after 24 years in the Air Force and 15 years flying for American Airlines. John and wife Betty live in Ocean Grove, N.J.

Sharon Breen Vander Zyl ’64 was inducted into the Wisconsin Army National Guard Hall of Honor in March for a career of service and achievement. Sharon and husband Rollie live in McFarland.

Lynn Haines ’66 and wife Sylvia are assisting the people of Indonesia who lost everything during the tsunami disaster. They are coordinating volunteer reconstruction crews as they rebuild 72 homes in the Meubolah area.

Jerry Nikkel ’66 was named assistant women’s basketball coach at Central College. Jerry and wife Judy live in Pella.

Stanley Bomgardner ’69 earned a divinity degree in scripture in 2002 from Graduate Theological Foundation in South Bend, Ind. Stan and wife Sylvia live in Fulton, Ill., where Stan is the pastor at Fulton Presbyterian Church.

Robert Foreman ’69 is professor and chair of the department of physiology at the University of Oklahoma. He is traveling the world attending board meetings, conducting experiments on heart pain and making keynote presentations. Bob and wife Charlotte Poppen Foreman ’69 live in Edmond.

Jennifer Boerefyn Hart ’69 of San Clemente, Calif., was voted KLAC radio’s “Fabulous Finds” contest winner for the month of June. This distinction made her eligible to compete against 11 other contestants for a recording contract. Jennifer sings professionally with several big bands in Orange County and has her own one-woman show.

Charles Jones ’69 is assistant superintendent of Hackensack Public Schools in Hackensack, N.J.

THE ’70S

For information about Gloria Gosselink Valster ’70 and Susan Ballard Vander Linden ’77, see the ’70s decade.

Laura Hassell Fedorczyk ’70 is in charge of two libraries at Alton Central K-8 School in Alton, N.H. In June, Laura will meet a long lost cousin in Spain whom she discovered during genealogical research. Laura and husband John live in Middleton.

Richard Gray ’70 is assistant professor in the school of criminal justice at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, N.J. Richard and wife Florence live in Highlands.

Faythe Vander Woude Dornink ’71 and daughter Sarah launched their own clothing line, Dornink: Des Moines-New York. Faythe and husband Dennis Dornink ’70 live in Des Moines. He is president of The Counselor Employee Family.

Steve Huston ’71 accepted a job in Homeland Security in the Ozarks after 18 years at the State Training School in Eldora, Iowa. Steve and wife Kathleen live in Osage Beach, Mo.

Joseph Lucas ’71 will retire in June after 33 years of service with the Iowa National Guard with the rank of brigadier general. Joe and wife Nancy live in West Des Moines.

David Snuttjer ’71 of Arlington Heights, Ill., is an account executive at Siemens Building Technologies in Mt. Prospect.

David Claassen ’72 is a pastor at Mayfair-Plymouth Congregational Christian Church in West Toledo, Ohio. He is a published author of several books. David and wife Diane live in Toledo.

Deborah Kiewiet ’72 of Port Charlotte, Fla., is a watercolor artist and freelance writer for the Englewood Review.

Lorna Medd Sopac ’72 is the assistant professor of German and director of the Bonn Program at Ripon College in Ripon, Wis. Lorna participated in a leadership program in the field of German language education this summer in Germany.

Barbara Cole Conkling ’73 of East Chatham, N.Y., sells real estate in Columbia County. Barbara and husband Doug own and operate Northeast Pro Aqua, a tropical fish farm.

Thomas DeVries ’73 is a parish priest at St. James Catholic Church in Mequon, Wis. Thomas serves on the board of priest personnel in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Darla Horman ’74 is a research analyst II with the division of workforce development at Missouri State Department of Economic Development. Darla and husband Chris Spurgeon live in Columbia.

Charles Laug ’74 of Pella is the regional sales manager of national accounts at Pella Corp.
Mark Van Hemert ’75 was appointed to the Washington State Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission. Mark and wife Sue live in Montesano.

Mary Parker Bleeker ’76 received the support of her Central College friends while her son recovered from wounds he received in Iraq. Mary and husband Gary live in Sioux Center, Iowa, where Mary teaches high school.

Tim Schipper ’77 teaches math and coach-es football at Fennville High School. He was named Regional Coach of the Year by the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association. Tim and wife Karen De Vries Schipper ’77 live in Holland where Karen teaches kindergarten.

Kevin Curry ’78 is the corporate quality management coordinator at Bethesda Health Group, Inc., in Saint Louis, Mo. Kevin and wife Jean live in Barnhart with their two sons.

James Borgman ’79 owns and operates Borgman Paint Company. He lives in Owatonna, Minn., with wife Jean.

Bruce Lear ’79 is the director of the Iowa State Education Association. Bruce and wife Jo Mizuno Lear ’78 live in Sioux City. Jo is a substitute elementary school teacher.

Robert Meinhard ’79 is senior manager of global sales operations at Cisco-Linksys, LLC in Irvine, Calif. Robert and wife Rebecca Dwyer Meinhard ’78 live in Mission Viejo. Rebecca is a consultant at Synergy 7.

Marilyn Shelquist Rowley ’79 is presidente nationale of La Societe de Femme, an organization that supports child welfare, youth sports and veterans’ voluntary services. She teaches high school English and drama in Hot Springs, S.D., where she lives with husband Jim.

THE ’80S

Karen Thomas Daughtrey ’80 is the program director and camping services administrator for the Girl Scouts of Ulster Co., N.Y. She also teaches swim lessons and is taking an EMT recertification class. Karen and husband Rod live in Saugerties.

Craig Timmer ’81 is a sales support manager at Peoplesoft in Indianapolis, Ind. Craig and wife Susan live in McCordsville with their two children.

Terry Cooney ’82 of Sterling, Va., is a senior project engineer at Aerospace Corp. Terry retired with the rank of major after a 20-year career in the military.

Marisa Brooks ’83 of Terre Haute is the director of the Interlink Language Center at Indiana State University.

Lori Lehman ’83 is a patent scientist for Monsanto at the Calgene site in Davis, Calif. Lori and husband Wayne Fitzmaurice live in Vacaville with their two children.

Timothy Venter ’83 is director of systems development at Ross-Simons. Tim and wife Martha live in Warwick, R.I.

Lynn De Boer Robinson ’84 is a law clerk at the United States District Court in Spokane, Wash. Lynn and husband Bryant Robinson ’84 live in Liberty Lake with their children. Bryant is a park ranger at Liberty Lake County Park.

Jacqueline Von Arb ’84 is director of the Norwegian Institute of Recorded Sound in Stavanger, Norway. Jacqueline lives in Hundvåg with her three children.

John Briggs ’85 is an airbus 320 captain with United Airlines. He is chairman of the Chicago pilots with the Airline Pilot’s Association. John and wife Cynthia live in West Des Moines with their son.

Lynette Reinhard Jacques ’85 is the marketing director at Staff Management. Lynette and husband David live in Rockford, Ill., with their two children.

Theron Schutte ’85 is superintendent of the Boone Community School District. Theron and wife Conny live in Boone, Iowa, with their two daughters.

TIJUANA TOADS ON THE RUN

Paul Lovell ’90 (middle) spotted Todd Christensen ’92 (second from left) from Altoona, Iowa, and Ron Cox ’92 (right) from Mooresville, Ind., at the 2003 Living History Farms Road Race in Des Moines. The three former Central track and cross country runners made plans to run again adding a few more CUI runners. The newly named “Tijuana Toads,” which include Corey Kluesner ’90 (left) from Des Moines and Mike Linch ’93 (second from right) from Creston, participated in the November road race. This spring the “toads” met Steve Ackley ’91 in Indianapolis, Ind., to run a half-marathon. Paul lives near Cresco, Iowa, with wife Jeanie Backes Lovell ’91. He is an orthopedic nurse at Cedar Valley Medical Specialists in Waterloo. Jeanie is the director of corporate and foundation relations and campaign director at Luther College in Decorah.

Debra Dietz ’86 of Chicago, Ill., is a service director at the international rate desk of United Airlines.

Karen Regal ’86 of Mason City teaches in the writing and education departments at North Iowa Area Community College. Her name appeared in the eighth edition of Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.

Amy Coughenour Betancourt ’87 is deputy director of the Pan American Development Foundation in Washington, D.C. Amy and husband Victor Betancourt ’87 live in Silver Spring with their two children. Victor is the director of admission at the University of Maryland.

Tom Carlson ’87 is a product underwriting staff consultant at Allied Insurance in Des Moines. Tom and wife Melanie Gustafson Carlson ’87 live in Clive. Melanie is a stay-at-home mother to their four children.

Stacy Schoondyke Dobernecker ’88 earned a master’s degree in secondary education in 2002 from Viterbo University. Stacy and husband Steve live in Nevada, Iowa, with their two sons.

Nick Van Egmond ’88 of Neenah, Wis., worked on President Bush’s re-election campaign and was rewarded with an invitation to the Constitutional Ball and the inauguration.
Mitchell DeStigter ’89 is the associate general counsel at Exempla Healthcare in Denver, Colo. Mitchell and wife Becky live in Arvada with their two children.

Jeffrey Henry ’89 is the senior underwriter at Blue Cross Blue Shield in St. Paul, Minn. Jeff and wife Ann live in South St. Paul with their daughter.

John Miceli ’89 is a database engineer at Berkley Technology Services in Des Moines. John and wife Christi-An live in Waukee with their three children.

Gary Shaver ’89 is general manager of SunEarth Inc., in Fontana, Calif. Gary and wife Chino Sato Shaver ’92 live in Claremont.

Tamre Sutphen ’89 is senior vice president of sales and marketing girls’ toys at Jakks-Pacific in Malibu, Calif.

THE ’90S

For information about Scott Donkersloot ’97, see the ’00s decade.

Kristopher Reis ’90 attended a week-long seminar, “Returning to the Wild,” at the North Carolina Center for Advancement of Teaching. He was chosen by NC Teach to develop and teach an online honors earth science class. He teaches at an alternative high school in Franklin. Kris lives in Otto with wife Karmen.

Stacy Simbro ’90 and Dana Daffitito of Newton, Iowa, were married Sept. 6, 2004. Stacy is a project manufacturing chemist in material processes at Maytag Corp. She is a certified LeanSigma black belt.

Bradley Thomas ’90 is an NCOIC at Midwest Counterdrug Training Center in Johnston, Iowa. Brad and wife Lisa Kappelmann Thomas ’90 live in Knoxville with their son. Lisa teaches kindergarten for Knoxville Community Schools.

James Van Cleave ’90 is the tech support and help desk leader at Sauer-Danfoss in Ames. James and wife Connie live in Des Moines with their daughter.

Donna Decker Hefner ’91 and husband Jeremy live in Park Forest, Ill. Donna is a stay-at-home mother of three children.

Ann Sobiech Munson ’91 is a lecturer in the department of architecture at Iowa State University in Ames. Ann and husband Kyle Munson ’94 live in Des Moines with their son. Kyle is a music critic and entertainment reporter at The Des Moines Register.

Kyle Nelson ’91 and wife Jill Bancroft Nelson ’94 of Pella were among a group of alumni who represented Central College on a medical mission trip to Honduras with Dr. Larry Sieverdits, father of Matt Sieverdits ’99. For two weeks they worked with underserved patients in the mountainous highlands of west central Honduras. Also on the trip were Phil Webber (professor) and wife Jan, Kristin Siewert, Jenn Kettler Schmidt ’03, Gloria Gosselink Valster ’70, Sherri De Waard ’00, Marty Schmidt ’99, Dan De Cook ’95, Denise Van Zee Schemper ’94, Dennis Vanderhorst, Charlie Farver, Tom and Susan Ballard Vander Linden ’77.

Teresa Newcomb ’91 of West Des Moines is a fraud investigator at Citicorp. Jennifer Brandl ’92 is employed at Pro Metrics. Jennifer and husband Chris Hollenback live in Eagan, Minn.

Brad Dunlap ’92 is the marketing director at Baxter Healthcare Group. Brad and wife Stephanie Oswalt Dunlap ’93 live in Hoeilaart, Belgium. Stephanie is a stay-at-home mother to their two daughters.

Kim Zylstra ’91 and Peter Sessions of Tampa, Fla., were married Oct. 30, 2004. Kim manages a Marriott Residence Inn.

Jennifer Brandl ’92 is employed at Pro Metrics. Jennifer and husband Chris Hollenback live in Eagan, Minn.

Brad Dunlap ’92 is the marketing director at Baxter Healthcare Group. Brad and wife Stephanie Oswalt Dunlap ’93 live in Hoeilaart, Belgium. Stephanie is a stay-at-home mother to their two daughters.

Kim Zylstra ’91 and Peter Sessions of Tampa, Fla., were married Oct. 30, 2004. Kim manages a Marriott Residence Inn.

Jennifer Brandl ’92 is employed at Pro Metrics. Jennifer and husband Chris Hollenback live in Eagan, Minn.

Brad Dunlap ’92 is the marketing director at Baxter Healthcare Group. Brad and wife Stephanie Oswalt Dunlap ’93 live in Hoeilaart, Belgium. Stephanie is a stay-at-home mother to their two daughters.
Andrea Hall Cerwinske '98 is chief of staff to the president’s office of the National Rifle Association, where she divides her time between the Des Moines and Fairfax, Va., offices. Shooting a gun is nothing new to Andrea, who spent her childhood duck hunting with her father. Her position allows her to travel and hunt regularly. Last fall, Andrea was in South Dakota where she hunted with a group of sportmen that included Ted Turner and the governor. The week of the Super Bowl, she went target shooting with former NFL coaches and players in Jacksonville, Fla., and beat them. Andrea and husband Tim Cerwinske '98 live in Des Moines. Tim teaches Spanish at Southeast Warren High School in Lacona. Last spring, Andrea and Tim chaperoned a group of high school Spanish students on a trip to Mexico.

Jamie Brandsma Lowe '92 is a unologist and husband Michael Lowe '89 teaches English literature. They live in the Glenwood Springs, Colo., with their two children. Grandparents are Jeff Brandsma '65 and Anne Fortuin Brandsma '68 of Augusta, Ga.

Mark Nierling '92 is the customer service manager at Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Mark and wife Rita live in Fairfax with their two sons.

Kevin Molloy '93 is the discipleship pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Farmington, N.M. He directs the annual Passion Play of Four Corners. Kevin and wife Cathy Beatty Molloy '92 live in Farmington with their four children. She directs the church’s vacation Bible school.

Amy Muller '93 of Kansas City, Mo., is the senior team coordinator at Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance.

Jeff Olson '93 is a second-year cardiology fellow at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Indianapolis, Ind. Jeff and wife Karlon Vande Berg Olson '93 live in Fishers. Karlon is a staff podiatrist with Preferred Podiatry Group.

Travis Sterling '93 was honored during the American Physical Therapy Association's combined sections meeting for becoming a board certified orthopedic clinical specialist.

Brian Stewart '93 is a principal at Keystone Consulting in Chicago, Ill. Brian and wife Sheri live in Gilberts with their two daughters.

Jade Huener Van Ert '93 is vice president and learning manager at Bank of America. Jade and husband Aaron live in McKinney, Texas.

Kimberly Willis '93 of Levittown, Pa., achieved a personal goal completing the Walt Disney World Marathon in January to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Cammy Coburn '94 and Daniel Wall of West Orange, N.J., were married Oct. 16, 2004.

Ding Ding '94 of Wayland, Mass., is a quantitative programmer at Fidelity Investments.

Chris Holst '94 is a senior finance analyst at Deere & Company in Moline, Ill. Chris and wife Leann live in Orion with their three children.

Kim Poam Logan '94 of Urbandale, Iowa, was invited by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to participate in its International Trade Leadership Training. She serves on the Governor’s Asian and Pacific Islanders Advisory Council. Kim is president and executive director of the Asian Alliance in Des Moines. She was Central’s TRIO program honoree in March.

Paul Miller '95 of LaSalle, Ill., is the operating manager of Oco Drug in Peru.

Bridget Roll Penick '95 is a shareholder and practices law at Dickinson, Mackaman, Tyler and Hagen, P.C. Bridget and husband Wes live in Clive, Iowa, with their two daughters.

Ann Koster Schaffer '95 is a marketing analyst II at Waterloo Industries, Inc. Ann and husband Theodore live in Waterloo, Iowa, with their three children.

Scott Sickle '95 is head of the math department at Channelview High School. Scott and wife Amy live in Highlands, Texas, with their two daughters.

Faedra Seidlitz Swedberg '95 is employed by student services in Cleveland, Wis. She and husband Tim live in Sheboygan with their three children.

Lorie Barber Thompson '96 is an analyst at Minnesota Life Insurance Company. Lorie and husband Kurt Thompson '96 live in Apple Valley. Kurt is an IT specialist at Thrivent Financial for Luthernans.

Debbie Tindle '96 and J.O. Parker of Montezuma, Iowa, were married Sept. 25, 2004. Debbie is a freelance writer.

Michelle Criswell Van Zante '96 is employed by Maytag Services in Newton, Iowa. Michelle and husband Jason live in Sully with their two children.

Jeffrey Zadow '95 of Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif., is the western region category sales manager for Hormel Foods Corp. in Orange County.

Julie Wagemann Carroll '96 was the focus of a feature article in The Des Moines Register regarding the energy she brings to her language and literature classroom at Valley Southwoods Freshman High School. Julie and husband Kevin Carroll '96 live in West Des Moines with their son. Kevin is a therapist at Orchard Place in Des Moines.

April Kirkpatrick Charters '96 is a circulation resource specialist at Gazette Communications, Inc. April and husband Steve Charters '94 live in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with their two children. Steve is a PGA golf pro at Twin Pines Golf Course.

Dale Dennler '96 of Cresco, Iowa, teaches biology and is the assistant football coach at Howard-Winneshiek Community Schools.

Stephanie French '96 is a program manager at Peacebuilding for Catholic Relief Services of Bujumbura, Burundi, in East Africa. She has been assigned to a short-term post in Darfur, Sudan.

Amy Smith '96 and husband Tracey Hill were married Nov. 3, 2001. They live in Pearl City, Ill., with their son. Amy works in human resources at Malcom Eaton Enterprises in Freeport.

Heather Vote Johnson '96 works in the sales and service department at The Principal Financial Group in Minneapolis, Minn. Heather and husband Allan live in Carver with their daughter.

Jeannette Juricic '96 and Jorge Valencia Fritz of Merida, Yucatan, were married Jan. 1. Jeannette is a consulate at the United States Department of State.

Sarah Glasgow Mejia '96 teaches fifth grade language arts at Rogers Middle School. Sarah and husband Silvio live in Pearland, Texas.

Brian O’Neill '96, a fifth grade teacher at English Valleys and head girls’ basketball coach, was named the Iowa Basketball Association girls’ 1A Coach of the Year. Brian and wife Amy live in North English with their two children.

Melissa Coder Schipper '96 is a senior financial analyst at Rockwell Collins. Melissa and husband Scott Schipper '96 live in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with their son. Scott is the assistant principal at Prairie Middle School.

Joseph Warner '96 is an optometrist at Visionary Eyecare Professionals in Chicago, Ill.

Eric Graham '97 is the founder and managing partner of LanguageLink Sprachdienste GmbH in Vienna, Austria.

Wendy Esdall Jensen '97 is a human resource specialist at Allied Insurance. Wendy and husband Aaron live in Des Moines with their son.

Jodi Fisher Joslin '97 is an application analyst lead at Principal Financial Group. Jodi and husband Todd Joslin '97 live in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Todd is the pastor of youth and discipleship at Cedar Hills Community Church.

Melissa Kenton '97 and Alex Kerrigan of Ames were married Aug. 21, 2004. Missy attends Mercy College of Health Science in Des Moines and is working toward a nursing degree.

Nathan Meyer '97 is an attorney specializing in insurance litigation at Meagher and Geer in Scottsdale, Ariz. Nathan and wife Brenda Streecky Meyer '99 live in Phoenix, where Brenda is a claims examiner at Bristol-West Insurance.

Shane Michael '97 of Urbandale received a juris doctor degree from Drake Law School in 2002. He is a claims attorney at Allied Insurance in Des Moines.

Jami Peiffer '97 and Chris Holthaus of Waverly, Iowa, were married Oct. 9, 2004. Jami
is a life insurance underwriter at CUNA Mutual Life Insurance.

Jennifer Powers '97 is the director and curator at Eye Candy Gallery in London, England.

Amy Uhl Roesler '97 is an accounting manager at Commander Services Group in Minneapolis, Minn. Amy and husband Eric Roesler '98 live in Golden Valley with their daughter. Eric is an account manager at C. H. Robinson Company in Eden Prairie.

Glenda Hall Simmons '97 is a stay-at-home mother with three children. Glenda and husband Timothy Simmons '97 live in Omaha, Neb. Tim is a general agent at Ohio National.

Amy Wood Thomas '97 is a freelance artist. Her work is displayed in galleries around the country. Amy and husband Brian Thomas '97 live in Des Moines with their daughter. Brian is a senior credit analyst in risk management at Wells Fargo Bank.

Stephanie Storm Wilson '97 is an education consultant at Spindustry Technical Training in Johnston, Iowa. Stephanie and husband Doug live in Runnells with their two daughters.

Carlos Araya '98 is an information technology consultant at California State University in Chico.

John Chambers '98 of Montgomery, Ill., received a master's degree in technology management from the University of Phoenix. John is a systems administrator at Memorial Library in Arlington Heights.

Krista Sjaardema Grant '98 is an international sales associate at Fisher Corp. Krista and husband Marc live in Conrad, Iowa, with their daughter.

Amy Hakeman '98 and Christopher Johnson '98 of Canton, Mo., were married June 19, 2004. Chris is the head men's basketball coach, and Amy teaches in the biology and physical education departments at Culver-Stockton College.

Kelly Powell Loeffler '98 teaches kindergarten and first grade at Van Buren Elementary School in Douds, Iowa. Kelly and husband Korby Loeffler '97 live in Keosauqua with their son. Korby is a business manager at Golden Furrrow Fertilizer.

Jay Rhoten '98 is a firefighter for the City of Des Moines. Jay and wife Sarah Gibson Rhoten '99 live in Urbandale with their daughter.

Kevin Thompson '98 of Minnetonka, Minn., is a business unit controller for the parts, apparel and accessories division of Polaris Industries in Medina.

Pamela Vande Berg '98 and Rob Shroyer of Johnston were married Oct. 2, 2004. Pamela is an accounts payable clerk at McAninch Corp. in West Des Moines.

Jason Zotalis '98 is the regional development director at the University of Minnesota Foundation. Jason and wife Jennifer live in Minneapolis.

Jina Bos '99 and Chad Heisdorffer were married Oct. 23, 2004. Jina and Chad live on a farm north of Sigourney, Iowa. Jina teaches first grade and is the assistant volleyball and softball coach at Pekin Community Schools.

Annique Brown '99 and Adam Kiel of Decorah, Iowa, were married Sept. 25, 2004. Annique is the director of the Winneshiek County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Amy Jerred Conrad '99 received a doctorate in counseling psychology from the University of Iowa. She is a post-doctoral intern at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City. Amy and husband Chad live in Cedar Rapids with their daughter.

Joseph Eason '99 teaches religion and history at Pennington Boarding School. Joe and wife Jennifer Deklotz Eason '00 live in Pennington, N.J. Jennifer is a crisis intervention specialist at Mobile Crisis Response Service.

Jennifer Ellingson Hall '99 is a certified athletic trainer at Condell Medical Center. Jennifer and husband Randy live in Grayslake, Ill., with their daughter.

Hester Hustedde '99 is a freelance linguistic specialist in Madrid, Spain.

Erin Pierce Nardo '99 is an information services manager at Mentium Corp. in Minneapolis, Minn. Erin and husband Adam live in Burnsville.
Colleen Rogers ’99 is a program assistant for the college of agriculture development office and the sustainable rural livelihoods (SRL) program at Iowa State University in Ames. She received a master’s degree in environmental education from the University of Wales/Trinity College.

Brock Schulte ’99 is the business development manager at OmniLingua. Brock and wife Eva Creydt Schulte ’99 live in Kansas City, Mo. Eva is a community organizer at the Kansas City Church Community Organization.

THE ’00S

For information about Sherri De Waard ’00, Jennifer Deklotz Eason ’00, and Jenn Kettler Schmidt ’03, see the ’00s decade.

Kelli Anderson ’00 and Brian Reinhart of Alleman were married Sept. 6, 2003. Kelli is an operations coordinator at the Kum and Go corporate office in West Des Moines.

Clint Basener ’00 begins his orthopedic surgery residency in Tulsa, Okla., this summer.

Enda Breadon ’00 returned to teach and be a movement coach at the children’s theatre in Nashville, Tenn., after he completed work as assistant director of Nothing is the Same at the Honolulu Theatre for Youth. American Theatre magazine published a four-page write up on the play in the January issue. The Nashville theatre was featured in the Nov. 15, 2004, issue of Time magazine.

Charles Cibula ’00 of West Des Moines is in clinical rotation as a third-year medical student at Des Moines College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery. He also works part time for the Iowa Donor Network as a donor technician.

Tosh Dillinger ’00 and Crystal Hill of Ankeny were married Oct. 2, 2004. Tosh is a network consultant at Alliance Technologies LLC in Des Moines.

Bradley Eckerman ’00 of Pella is a sales training specialist at Pella Corp.

Jedidiah Eichhorn ’00 is a parks and recreation director for the City of Belle Plaine, Iowa.

Kirstin Van Rooyan Hagerty ’00 is an account manager at Teksystems, Inc., in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Kirstin and husband Justin Hagerty ’99 live in Marion. Justin is a bank examiner at Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. in Hiawatha.

Shannon Hoekstra ’00 is a CRM business analyst at Pella Corp. Shannon and wife Jeanna Redman Hoekstra ’01 live in Pella. Jeanna teaches English at Pella Middle School.

Brian Huinker ’00 of Decorah, Iowa, is the men’s tennis coach, assistant volleyball coach and director of tennis camps at Luther College.

Julia Burdals Hutchings ’00 is a global business analyst for total compensation resource center at 3M Human Resources in St. Paul, Minn. Julia and husband Benedict live in Inver Grove Heights.

Martha Rivas Zylstra ’00 and husband Jason live in San Antonio, Texas, with their son. Martha is a buyer for Bexar County Purchasing.

Megan Alvarado ’01 of Bettendorf, Iowa, is a media planning assistant at The Dispatch, Argus & Leader newspapers in Moline, Ill.

Matthew Dunsbergen ’01 and Rochelle Miller of Sully, Iowa, were married Sept. 4, 2004. Matthew teaches at Lynnville-Sully Schools.

Charles Fortin ’01 and Kim Brinkmeyer of Waukee were married Oct. 16, 2004. Chuck is a marketing research analyst at Nationwide in Des Moines.

Naomi Greels ’01 is the coordinator of diversity services at Florida Atlantic University in Jupiter.

Heidi Hemmen ’01 and Kent Saleska of Chicago, Ill., were married Aug. 21, 2004. Heidi is an office manager at Pediatric Dental Office.

Leah Hoffman ’01 of Milwaukee is a teaching assistant at the University of Wisconsin.

Melissa Johnson ’01 and Phillip Jensen of Grimes, Iowa, were married June 26, 2004. Melissa teaches second grade at Waukee Community Schools.

Jake Keegan ’01 of Pella is a finance director at the Christian Opportunity Center.

Hannah Pinkerton ’01 and Coy McLaughlin of Pella were married July 24, 2004. Hannah teaches pre-kindergarten at Lincoln Elementary School.

Angelique Roseman ’01 and Emyrwyn Jones of Muscatine, Iowa, were married Dec. 31, 2003. Angelique is a technical writer and illustrator at The HON Company.

Melanie Schutte ’01 is a computer operator for the Berrien County Intermediate School District in Berrien Springs, Mich.

Michael Vroeg ’01 is a master claim representative at Allied Insurance in Des Moines. Michael and wife Jennifer live in Pella.

Jessica Wietzke ’01 attends Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, N.J.

Luke Willis ’01 and Sarah Steinberg of Chariton were married May 15, 2004. Luke is finishing a master’s degree in statistics from Iowa State University.

John Brandt ’02 received a doctor of physical therapy degree from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. John is a physical therapist and athletic trainer at AthletiCo in Aurora, Ill.

Melissa Eittrein ’02 and Rick Krug of Des Moines were married Oct. 16, 2004. Melissa is a social worker at the Department of Human Services.

Erin Gardner ’02 of Ames, Iowa, is the associate acquisition editor at Blackwell Publishing.

Brent Gaulke ’02 and Bethany Nikkel of Pella were married Nov. 20, 2004. Brent is the western Iowa area administrator for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

Tony Nelson ’02 is an education account executive at The Principal Financial Group, Inc. in Overland Park, Kan.

Angie Nielsen ’02 and Ryan Sears of Ankeny, Iowa, were married Dec. 21, 2004. Angie teaches social studies and is the head volleyball coach at Boone High School.

Kate Humiston Oleson ’02 and husband Anthony Oleson ’01 of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, are employed by Great American Leasing. Kate is a funding specialist while Tony works in finance.

Mathew Petty ’02 of Park City, Utah, is an equities analyst at Wasatch Advisors in Salt Lake City.

Patrick Sawyer ’02 of Saugus, Calif., is a recreation director at The Club at Colorado Center in Santa Monica.

Justin Van Wyk ’02 and Jolene Blum of West Des Moines were married May 8, 2004. Justin is a loan officer at Signature Mortgage Group in Urbandale.

James Barclay ’03 of West Des Moines works in the computer operations and marketing department at Goalsetter Systems Inc. in Pella.

Kris Hughes Gardner ’03 assists in the production of instructional sports videos at Championship Productions in Ames, Iowa. Kris and husband Christopher Gardner ’02 live in Huxley. Chris is employed by Signature Builders.

Amber Shutts Goemaat ’03 is the assistant volleyball coach and substitute teacher at Lynnville-Sully Community Schools in Sully, Iowa. Amber and husband Dan live in New Sharon with their son.

Jarret Heil ’03 of Chevy Chase, Md., is employed in the office of Sen. Chuck Grassley in Washington, D.C.
Jessica Heyer '03 of Algona, Iowa, teaches middle school language arts in the Titonka Community School District.

Rusty Johnson '03 was asked by recording artist and nationally renown producer Marvin Mathews to record on Mathews' latest inspirational CD project by Lucy Jim titled Imagine, which was scheduled to be released in April.

Joshua Perkins '03 of Hermosa Beach, Calif., is a commercial real estate broker assistant at Tiarna Real Estate Services in Newport Beach.

Jason Schippers '03 of Urbandale is an account coordinator at Zimmerman, Laurent and Richardson in Des Moines.

Michael Warden '03 and Olya Zelenski of Ankeny, Iowa, were married Nov. 13, 2004. Michael is a computer software implement specialist at Incode in Ames.

Melissa White Anderson of Sully, Iowa, is an admission counselor at Central College.

Michael Augustin is an IT support analyst at Maytag Corporation in Newton, Iowa.

Mary Ellen Duncan Bell is employed by International Resources Inc., in Altoona, Iowa.

Krista Blythe is employed by Wells Fargo Financial in Des Moines.

Catherine Ruefer Brand is a seventh grade language arts teacher at LeMars Middle School in LeMars, Iowa.

Angela Edwards Clark is employed by the Department of Natural Resources in Des Moines.

Amy Jones Den Hartog is a sales consultant for Jolesch Photography in Des Moines.

Sara Dietrich is a family support and respite coordinator at Easter Seals of Southern Georgia in Waycross.

Kylie Dirks is a milieu treatment counselor at Orchard Place in Des Moines.

Susan Dixon is a self-employed public relations and communications consultant in Louisville, Ky.

Robyn Duffe is an in-touch-with-teens resident counselor at the House of Mercy in Des Moines.

Andrea Cook Dykstra of Pella is employed by Mid American Home Mortgage.

Emilie Elsamiller and Dietrich Drenkow of Ann Arbor, Mich., were married June 5, 2004.

Lauren Fifer and Chip Terpstra of Oskaloosa, Iowa, were married July 17, 2004. Lauren attends Des Moines University.

As of Feb. 28, 2005, the following information is on file in the alumni office. Please notify the alumni office at 800-447-0287 or log onto the alumni community at www.central.edu/alumni to update your record.
Clint Larson of Pella is an assistant track and field coach at Central College.
Jodi Huff Light is vocal music director at Albia High School in Albia, Iowa.
Emma Livingston is interim county youth coordinator at the Iowa State Extension Office of Wright County in Clarion.
Gabriel Martinez is attending the University of Oklahoma in Norman.
Jason Masters is a fixed annuities representative at ING U.S. Financial Services in Des Moines.
Matt McCombs of Coralville, Iowa, is an Internet operations manager at Deere Community Federated Credit Union.
Benjamin Meisgeier of Des Moines is an IT customer support analyst at Maytag Corporation.
Benjamin Metzger of Mason City, Iowa, is a claims representative at Progressive Insurance.
Matthew Miller is a consultant for Accenture Inc., in New York, N.Y.
Megan Mitchell is a transportation sales representative at C.H. Robinson in Omaha, Neb.
Ian Moore is a PACS-RIS analyst at the Pella Regional Health Center.
Peggy Moriarity works at Pella Corporation in Pella.
Nicole Oxenford is attending the University of Iowa in Iowa City.
Jacob Oyen is the webmaster for the Cedar Rapids Community School District in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
Kristen Van Veldhuizen Parks of Oskaaosa, Iowa, is the staffing coordinator in human resources at Central College.
Laura Petty is an instructor at Imagine the Possibilities in Oskaloosa, Iowa.
Kathy Pilling is an annuity commissions coordinator at ING-Equitable Life in Des Moines.
Luke Rasmussen is a business analyst at Target Corporation in Minneapolis, Minn.
Kurt Rietema was a contestant on “The Price is Right” in December 2004. In January, Kurt began two months of mission work in Africa.
Ryan Roy is a milieu treatment counselor at Orchard Place in Des Moines.
Amanda Salmond is a pre-kindergarten teacher at the Freedom School in St. Louis, Mo.
Jeanne Schooley teaches Spanish and is the assistant drama coach at Williamsburg High School in Williamsburg, Iowa.
Ian Smit works at 2nd Wind Exercise Equipment in Clive, Iowa.
Brandon Sowers is an animal research technician at Veterinary Resource Inc., in Ames, Iowa.
Jennifer Stewart is an admission counselor at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa.
Andrew Toivonen works at Allied Insurance in Des Moines.
Amanda Urfer of Pulaski, Iowa, is a broker and dealer at Cambridge Investments.
Amber Van Dam of Clive, Iowa, is a financial adviser at American Express.
Kathryn VanderLinden is a property and casualty actuary at Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance in West Des Moines.
Mari Verburg works at ING in Des Moines.
Cindra Porter Visser of Pella is a graduate student in the school of social work at the University of Iowa.
Raegan Schultz Wagner of Pleasant Hill, Iowa, is an underwriter at Principal Life Insurance Company.
Elizabeth Wallace of Spokane, Wash., is a law student at Gonzaga University.
Danette Cary Webber is assistant manager at JoAnn’s Fabrics.
Adam Weiler is the youth director at Rose Park Reformed Church in Holland, Mich.
Robert Whitham of Pella is the assistant manager at Brown’s Shoe Fit.
Jill Young is an eighth grade special education teacher and volleyball coach for Southeast Polk Community Schools in Urnella, Iowa.
Amela Zdionica is employed by the department of human services for the State of Iowa in Des Moines.

ARRIVALS

Mark and Kathy Cashen Thompson ’87, son Cashen Renwick, Jan. 1.
Melanie and Jeffrey Hall ’88, daughter Lindsay Grace, Oct. 8, 2004.
Christine and Gregg Cashen ’89, son Donovan James, May 19, 2003.
Michael ’89 and Jamie Brandsma Lowe ’92, daughter Alicia Beatrice, April 5, 2004.
Greg and Leslie Keuning Duinink ’90, daughter Rae Ann Kay, Jan. 3.
Connie and James Van Cleave ’90, son Reece James, Jan. 18.
Michael and Amy Fink Ramey ’91, daughter Angela Cate, Dec. 10, 2004.
Brad ’92 and Stephanie Oswalt Dunlap ’93, daughter Emma Elisabeth, June 1, 2004.
Mike and Amy Fox Berarducci ’93, daughter Mia Lynne, May 10, 2004.
Steve ’94 and April Kirkpatrick Charters ’96, son Liam Kerry, March 17, 2004.
Wendy and Scott Rains ’94, son Kemble Jobe, Jan. 11.
Dan and Jennifer Reimer Haddinger ’95, daughter Hallie Marie, Aug. 9, 2004.
Rick and Faedra Seidlitz Swedberg ’95, twin daughters Lauren Ella and Riley Peyton, Aug. 18, 2004.
Todd ’96 and Tricia Tomlinson Applegate ’97, daughter Mya Claire, April 1, 2004.
Paul ’96 and Amy Hoger Ramsey ’97, son Mason Thomas, May 12, 2004.
Lucas ’01 and Lindsay Rowell Boeke ’01, daughter Emily Katherine, April 13, 2004.
Jason and Jennifer Eaton Jones ’01, son Carter Thomas, Jan. 2.

IN MEMORIAM


Donald Elscott ’36 of Newton, Iowa, Feb. 1.
Andrew Klyn ’36 of Pella, Feb. 20.
Arnold Bogaard ’40 of Pella, Jan. 27.
Loren Loupee ’40 of Newton, Iowa, Feb. 4.
Grant Ashby ’46 of Onalaska, Wis., Jan. 1.
Hope Fagen Robinson ’46 of Perry, Iowa, Jan. 18.
Carl Ostic ’64 of Rockford, Ill., Jan. 18.
Charles Lorraine ’72 of Utica, N.Y., Nov. 22, 1996.
Kathleen Fournier ’80 of Denver, Colo., Jan. 22.
Laura Van Dyke Edgeton ’81 of Altoona, Iowa, Jan. 10.

Harold J. Haverkamp, former dean of Central College, passed away Saturday, Jan. 22, at University Hospital in Louisville, Ky. A resident of Hanover, Ind., he was 92.

Harold was born July 29, 1912, in Monroe, S.D., the only child of Rev. Anthony Haverkamp, former minister of First Reformed Church in Pella, and Jennie (Lubbers) Haverkamp. He was raised in Sioux Center, Iowa, graduated from Central College in 1935 and earned a doctorate degree in psychology from the University of Iowa. In 1940, he married Ruth Boot of Prairie City, Iowa. A lieutenant in the U.S. Navy in WWII, he taught at Hope College in Holland, Mich., from 1946-52 and served as dean of Central College from 1952-62 before accepting the position of academic dean at Hanover College (Ind.) where he retired in 1977 as vice president of academic affairs. Widowed in 1973, he married Mary (Hudson) Hansen of Louisville in 1978. He received the Central College Alumni Award in 1977.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; six children, Larry (Wenche), Judson (Ann), James (MC Taylor), Beth, Kirk and Jennifer (Jeffrey Kehne); four stepdaughters, Denise (Tim) Brewer, Belinda (Ward) Irvin, Lisa (Steve) Porter and Natalie (Fred) Lape; and 18 grandchildren and step-grandchildren; as well as two sisters-in-law, Edna Van Zee of Prairie City and Ellen (Ken) Donelson of Iowa City. He was preceded in death by his first wife Ruth and a stepson, Reeve “Skip” Hansen.

A memorial service was held Saturday, Feb. 28, at Hanover Presbyterian Church in Hanover. Memorial contributions may be made to the Kentucky Unit of Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, for which he was a long-time volunteer reader, at their National Office, 20 Roszel Rd., Princeton, NJ 08540, 866-752-3585, www.rfdb.org.
Caught in a tsunami by Shannon Bowzer '04

It was another beautiful morning in Thailand, Land of Smiles. I never imagined Phuket, my paradise island, would soon become a nightmare. How could I? The sun was bright, the beach was gorgeous, and I didn’t have a care in the world.

Dec. 26, 2004, three friends and I set out to enjoy our last day on Kata beach. I never noticed the first warning: the tide had receded dramatically. The first of three tsunamis hit — the water rushed in and people ran to shore. Surprisingly, no one panicked or understood the magnitude of the situation.

The tsunami was small in comparison to what would follow. Nonetheless, the first tsunami completely destroyed the beach. Soon, the water receded, and the ocean returned to its original state. People began to search for lost items among the debris. A nearby official assured us everything was fine.

Shortly thereafter, a second, smaller tsunami hit.

It appeared our day at the beach had ended. So my friend Gina left to run an errand, just thirty seconds before the third and largest tsunami hit. Luckily, it gave her enough time to get out of immediate danger. Mere seconds were enough to save a person’s life.

The rest of us faced the force of water, which exploded over the retaining wall and poured onto the street. I don’t remember hearing or seeing the water until it was 10 feet away. It was as if my world was in slow motion.

My memory of the following events somewhat resembles snap shot photos, void of sound or smell.

I remember the wave pushed me toward a storefront window, while simultaneously separating me further from Karen and Maria. “I cannot go through that!” I thought. An outstretched hand helped me grab hold of a tuk tuk (a taxi-like truck). I will never forget the sound of shattering glass, only four feet behind me. I climbed to the front of the tuk tuk. To my amazement, the driver was still in his seat. For a moment we exchanged the kind of glance words cannot express. We shared the terror, reality and hope of the situation.

I still had no idea where my friends were. With a weak smile, I hopped off the tuk tuk and called for them. There was no response — fear set in. It was all I could do to fight the rising panic in my chest.

About a half hour later I found Maria. She told me Karen was alive at Phuket hospital but a major artery in her leg was severed. We contacted the hospital and told the staff we would pay any amount of money, as long as they could take us there. The ride was quiet, but the streets were in chaos.

At the hospital, Maria and I waited for Karen to come out of surgery. A man who helped save Karen’s life was waiting for us — he gave us an update and her belongings. He was truly an angel.

Gina arrived at the hospital at 8 p.m. Her afternoon was completely different than ours. She decided to blend in with people from a four-star hotel, who were taken up a mountain to safety. They were told everything was okay, so Gina hadn’t been worried until she returned and realized what had happened.

At last we were all together safe inside the hospital, but the challenge was far from over. Getting to Bangkok was risky with my friend’s injury, but that night we were able to board a plane. Reaching Bangkok was a relief. I stayed with Karen until her family arrived from the United States; Maria and Gina returned to Japan.

Karen is beginning the long road to recovery. I finally made it to Japan. It’s amazing how the human spirit reveals itself in times of disaster. My heart goes out to all of those affected. The tsunami and earthquakes may be finished, but the aftermath is far from over. I only hope that the world does not turn its heads from giving the help and relief needed.

Shannon Bowzer is teaching in the JET program in Japan. Go to www.central.edu/alumni/bulletin for the full story.
MUSIC: HIP-HOP
SUBJECT: DIVERSITY

Central celebrated diversity at two special events this spring. Central's third annual Hip-Hop Summit and Step Show was Feb. 25. Keynote speakers addressed the history of hip-hop/rap music and its impact on American society in Douwstra Auditorium. Step show performances in Kuyper Gymnasium featured live performances from national and local steppers, spoken-word and rap artists, drum lines and more with Jon Cruz from 106.3 The Beat in Des Moines broadcasting the show live. Central then hosted the sixth annual White Privilege Conference (WPC) April 27-30. “Women Activists: Their Fight Against White Privilege, White Supremacy and Oppression” was the conference theme. Based upon Peggy McIntosh’s book “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack,” WPC takes a comprehensive look at complex issues related of privilege and oppression. The conference helps to examine and explain a variety of topics including gender, race, economics, religion and language.