

WINTER 2021

CENTRAL

CENTRAL COLLEGE

CIVITAS

ALUMNI MAGAZINE



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**THE DIARY OF
A CLASS DEAN**
BRIAN PETERSON SHARES
HIS EXPERIENCE

IT'S COMPLICATED

BY: MARK PUTNAM, CENTRAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT



President **Mark Putnam** greets students during Welcome Week in August 2020 with enthusiasm for learning and safety measures for navigating campus during the pandemic.

I find myself using that phrase more often these days. The advance of technological innovation and globalization are yielding greater societal complexity. At the same time some things seem easier for the same reason. Tech trends have made it possible to support the college's response to COVID-19 for both remote and in-person learning. I wonder what higher education would have looked like if COVID-19 had come five, 10 or 15 years earlier?

While the tools themselves change equations, so does the intelligence they lead us toward. Easy access to online information seems to make things less complicated ... yet interpreting that information seems more complicated. The ability to complete many transactions online makes life easier ... yet having

less human interaction makes it more difficult to express the nuances of our own experience. We often think that technology makes things more customized and convenient ... yet the processes also become quite uniform, forcing more conformity. In the end it feels like things are reduced ... not simplified.

We have easier access to information than at any time in history to support student learning ... yet the body of knowledge is expanding at a rate that makes it nearly impossible to gain full expertise.

Generally speaking, we read less deeply and find ourselves quickly scanning smaller portions of text. We write less thoughtfully as even the "one-pager" has been reduced to a slide, a text or a tweet. Some argue

this approach simplifies and speeds communication. I wonder if we are actually less informed, more likely to react and find ourselves more conflicted. Again, it feels more like reduction than simplification.

This presents quite a challenge for educators, especially when the tools themselves are getting us through the pandemic, making learning possible. While many argue "less is more," I wonder if less is just less. As we speed very young students through a learning process designed to check more boxes more quickly, we deny young learners the time it takes to process, absorb, sort, categorize and apply their learning.

In our haste to get students into a shrinking workforce, are we satisfying a short-term labor demand at the cost of long-term societal productivity? I sometimes remind policymakers they have not yet passed a law to repeal human development. As we attempt to press young high school students into premature life and career decisions, we are likely to be disappointed with the results. When we focus on career entry rather than successful persistence, we mask attrition that goes undetected.

What I have always loved about the learning community at Central College is that we begin with the learner. We remind ourselves the process of adolescent and young adult development is messy. During the past year, it has been messier than ever, and we have adapted. And so, it will ever be. Our task is to give students a center from which they can move out to explore and discover, and a foundation on which they can find a life, not just a job. In "normal times" the thoughtful integration of liberal learning, professional learning and experiential learning is the bedrock for developing well-rounded citizen-leaders who will adapt to a changing world and find solutions to emerging challenges in the workplace, local communities and society as a whole.

As educators we dare not reduce the education of our student because we want to make it easy. It's complicated. ■

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EDITORS

Jeff Bersch
berschj@central.edu

Denise Lamphier
lamphierd@central.edu

Melody VanderLeest
vanderleestm@central.edu

Cyvannah Vecchio
vecchioc@central.edu

SENIOR DESIGN DIRECTOR
Melody VanderLeest

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Jeff Bersch
Jordan Bohr '15
Cyvannah Vecchio

AROUND THE POND EDITOR
Alex Wilson

PHOTOGRAPHER
Paul Joy
joyp@central.edu

NEWSNOTES EDITORS
Mary Benedict
Lisa Thurman Fyfe '87
Peggy Johnson Van Den Berg '83
alumni@central.edu

SPORTS EDITOR
Larry Happel '81
happell@central.edu

**DIRECTOR OF INTEGRATED MARKETING
COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA**
Denise Lamphier

**DIRECTOR OF ANNUAL GIVING
AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT**
Corey Falter
falterc@central.edu

**VICE PRESIDENT
FOR ADVANCEMENT**
Sunny Gonzales Eighmy '99
eighmys@central.edu

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Photo by: Paul Joy

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ALUMNI@CENTRAL.EDU
CIVITAS.CENTRAL.EDU

812 UNIVERSITY ST., PELLA, IOWA 50219
800-447-0287



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AROUND THE POND

CENTRAL FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH PUBLISHED IN CHEMISTRY JOURNAL

A Central professor and four students had their research on a byproduct of indigo dye featured in RSC Advances, a peer-reviewed journal of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

James Shriver, professor of chemistry; **Katelyn Wang '21**; **Andrew Patterson '21**; **James De Young '19**; and **Richard Lipsius '20** published the research paper "Exploring an Anomaly: The Synthesis of 7,7'-Diazaindirubin Through a 7-Azaindoxyl Intermediate" in the broad-topic chemistry journal in October.

Their research focuses on two methods of generating indirubin, a side product from commercial indigo production. Indirubin is emerging as a promising pharmaceutical platform, with its derivatives being studied for their anti-cancer properties, potential to treat diabetes and anti-inflammatory response. Indigo has been used and independently developed as a dye in many cultures. It dates back as early as 6,000 years ago in Peru.

The research was supported by funding from the Moore Family Foundation, the Arthur J. Bosch Endowment for Student Research and the John Wesselink Endowment. The project started in Summer 2019 and ran through Summer 2020.

The Royal Society of Chemistry is one of the world's leading chemistry communities. Its members and publications work to shape the future of chemical sciences — for the benefit of science and humanity — through promotion, support and celebration of chemistry.

48-HOUR CHALLENGE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS HELPS STUDENTS

Central's Journey Scholarship 48-Hour Challenge raised more than \$185,000 for students from 325 alumni and friends of Central in August.

"We continue to see tremendous support from our generous donors who remain loyal to this amazing institution," says **Sunny Gonzales Eighmy '99**, vice president for advancement. "Central family members truly have a heart for others. Nowhere does that show itself more than with those who allow current and future students access to a Central education."

The challenge kicked off the 2020-21 academic year and the Journey Scholarship Fund's 10-year celebration. The fund was created to help students pursue their dreams at Central and has awarded thousands of scholarships to students from around the country.

For the second year in a row, the Journey Scholarship Fund saw record support. During the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2020, a record \$1.38 million went toward the Journey Scholarship Fund, surpassing the previous year's total of \$1.34 million. At Central, 100% of gifts to the Journey Scholarship Fund directly support students.

PROFESSORS LAUNCH SEASON 2 OF "MID-AMERICANA" PODCAST

"Mid-Americana: Stories from a Changing Midwest" launched its second season in October. The podcast is the brainchild of **Joshua Dolezal**, professor of English, and **Brian Campbell**, director of sustainability education and partnerships.

The project explores the history and identity of the Greater Midwest through the lives and stories of individual people. "Immigration" is the theme of the second season, which features eight stories from people who left their native countries to make a new home in the Greater Midwest. Dolezal and Campbell ask their guests what pulled them from their homelands, what challenges they faced while making a home in the Heartland and how they contribute now to a changing Midwest.

The debut season, with the theme "Homecoming," featured eight native Iowans who left the Midwest and came back to stay. All episodes of the podcast are available at www.midamericana.com.



▲ WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Central hosted a five-day women's leadership conference on campus in mid-August. The event brought together women from the region, state and beyond to discuss issues in women's leadership, knowledge, skills and values.

It is the second year for the conference, designed to provide opportunities for Central seniors nominated by faculty and staff members. The event allows students to meet with experts in their fields whose character sets an example for women scholars and future leaders. The conference's keynote speaker was **Jann Freed '77**, professor emerita of business management and the former Mark and Kay DeCook Endowed Chair in Leadership and Character Development at Central. During her 30 years at the college, Freed was department and division chair, served on numerous committees and acted as interim vice president for academic affairs.

Central also welcomed 10 other speakers to campus. Attendees also traveled to Des Moines to meet with civic leaders, engaged over lunch with an executive leadership panel, participated in team building exercises at nearby Lake Red Rock and took part in individual career counseling sessions.

A FOCUS ON DIVERSITY

Eddie Moore Jr., recognized as one of the nation's top motivational speakers and educators, presented a live and virtual discussion on his book "The Guide for White Women Who Teach Black Boys" in Douwstra Auditorium in August.

Moore delivered an impact exercise and facilitated a discussion with participants about the book that will transform the next 25 years of educating Black boys.

Moore has pursued and achieved success in academia, business, diversity, leadership and community service. In 1996, he started America & MOORE, LLC, to provide comprehensive diversity, privilege and leadership trainings and workshops.

FELLOWSHIP TO STUDY EARLY TALKING BOOKS

Katherine Nesbit, assistant professor of English, has been awarded a Bibliographical Society of America Fellowship to help fund a one-month research trip to archives in England containing early talking books. She'll take the research trip after it becomes safe to travel internationally again.

Her work there will inform her forthcoming book "Listening to Books: Reading Aloud and the Novel, 1800-1935." Nesbit writes that "Victorian ... proponents of mass literacy recommended reading aloud as a safe mode of encountering text for the century's so-called 'new readers': women, children and workers. Household reading distracted the working man from the drink and radical politics tempting him at the pub; allowed parents to censor their children's reading material; and prevented women from poring over novels alone, thus neglecting the duties of hearth and home."

TALK DES MOINES

Jessica Klyn de Novelo '05 served as a panelist for a TALK Des Moines webinar discussing campus recruiting during COVID-19 during the fall semester.

TALK (Talent Acquisition Leadership Keynotes) is the world's largest organization of talent acquisition professionals, with nearly 5,000 members representing 80 chapters in North America. The TALK platform enables talent acquisition leaders to connect, share best practices, innovate, improve their business processes, manage local events and make new friends.

STUDENTS EARN GILMAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Four Central students received Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships, which enable students to study or intern abroad:

+ **Alora Nowlin '23**, a political science, Spanish and French major from Council Bluffs, Iowa, plans to intern in Spain.

+ **Madolyn Clark '22**, a biochemistry major from Clarinda, Iowa, plans to intern in Mexico.

+ **Samantha DePauw '22**, a business management major from Mineral, Illinois, plans to intern in Mexico.

+ **Jenna Clark '22**, an elementary education major from Story City, Iowa, is undecided on plans.

Since March 2020, Central has not been sponsoring international travel for students, faculty or staff. The students will pursue their travel plans once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. The college continues to monitor the pandemic and travel warnings issued by the U.S. Department of State. Gilman Scholars also can use their awards to support credit-bearing virtual international opportunities through Dec. 31, 2021.

HARRY SMITH SPEAKS AT CLIMATE ACTION EVENT

Harry Smith '73 served as the keynote speaker at the annual Called to Climate Action: Uphold and Upheave virtual event co-hosted by Central and Iowa Interfaith Power & Light in October.

Smith, an award-winning national television news journalist currently working as an NBC News correspondent, shared his experience as a journalist covering environmental stories from all areas of America and his coverage of climate change in the lead-up to the 2020 Iowa caucuses.

The event also featured Iowa college students who have organized action for climate justice on campuses across the state, including **Tiffany Van Gilst '23**.

Van Gilst recently published a commentary, "Young activists like me need support from older generations." In preparation for the event, Iowa student leaders have drafted an Interfaith Statement on Climate Change, which they invite all Iowans of faith and conscience to sign.

CENTRAL RECEIVES GRANT FOR SPECTROMETER

Central received a \$145,000 grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust to replace and upgrade its nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer.

The new 400 MHz spectrometer will replace the aging 300 MHz spectrometer purchased and installed by the college in 2003. The 300 MHz unit was part of a larger equipment upgrade supported by the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust in conjunction with the 2003 renovation of Vermeer Science Center.

Central's chemistry department used the spectrometer the past 17 years to increase students' exposure to modern *(continued)*



CAREER DEVELOPMENT CHANGES

Jessica Klyn de Novelo '05 has been promoted to assistant dean for career development and civic engagement. Klyn de Novelo has worked at the college since graduating.

Klyn de Novelo worked for eight years in study abroad before serving as associate director of community-based learning for four years. Since 2018, she has been director of career and professional development.

In her new role, Klyn de Novelo leads the career and professional development team, the community-based learning team, the director of civic engagement and the director of sustainability education and partnerships.

Other changes among the departments Klyn now oversees include title changes and new roles for **Cheri Trout Doane '98** and **Brian Campbell**. Doane, previously director for community-based learning, now is director of civic engagement. Campbell is director of sustainability education and partnerships, adding the work with partnerships to his title.

Rachelle Bahl Talbott '12 also was promoted to associate director of community-based learning. She has experience as an AmeriCorps VISTA, manager roles with the Girl Scouts of America and as a volunteer engagement specialist with the United Way of Central Iowa.



▲ CENTRAL RECEIVES GRANT FOR SPECTROMETER (continued)

instrumentation within the curriculum and through nearly universal participation in undergraduate research within the department. An NMR spectrometer helps determine the molecular structure of organic compounds.

Every Central student who takes organic chemistry is trained to operate the NMR and use the data to evaluate the results of their experiments. This includes all chemistry, biochemistry and biology majors, as well as students pursuing a career in the health sciences from other majors. The new, more powerful spectrometer will allow the department to continue this momentum while increasing the quality of laboratory instruction and research.

ESTATE GIFTS ADVANCE STUDENT ENDEAVORS

Central received three estate gifts from longtime friends of the college to support students and college initiatives. The gifts leave lasting legacies at the college:

+ A \$200,000 gift from **Marjorie Giles**, a former longtime Central staff member, funded the Marjorie Giles Endowed Scholarship, which was awarded for the first time during the 2020-21 academic year. Giles started at Central in 1972 as associate dean of students and served as dean of students from 1983-95. In addition, she served as the college's director of retention and development programs from 1995-98. An avid sports fan, Giles also helped start women's athletics championships in the Iowa Conference (now the American Rivers Conference).

+ **Fran De Jong '57**, a former chaplain at the college, left the college more than \$110,000 and helped fund scholarships for students. De Jong was one of the first women ordained in the Reformed Church in America and

later served as chaplain at Central from 1977-97. She earned a degree in physical education from Central and went on to earn a master's at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago.

+ **Mary Vanden Berge '67** left an estate gift of more than \$431,000. Vanden Berge majored in history at Central and went on to earn her master's in library sciences from what now is the State University of New York at Geneseo. She was a longtime resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she worked for 30 years for the City of Philadelphia Library as a general librarian and later a federal documents librarian.

Estate gifts can assist donors in fulfilling their philanthropic goals while also often creating an endowment or project that will leave a legacy into perpetuity. For more information about these gifts, see central.edu/news. For information on bequests or to chat about options to include Central in a will or estate plan, contact **Doyle Monsma '83** at 641-628-5181 or monsmad@central.edu.



▲ SERVICE DAY

Each year, students, faculty and staff participate in Service Day. This year's Service Day took place Oct. 6 with nearly half of campus participating in service project work both on and off campus.

PANDEMIC ATHLETICS:

CENTRAL NAVIGATES A NEW WAY TO PLAY

STORY BY: LARRY HAPPEL '81

Not surprisingly, Mackenzie Biggs '24 was on the golf course when she got the news.

Golf is Biggs' oxygen. As summer melted away there was a drip-by-drip flow of NCAA Division III conferences announcing postponements and cancellations of fall sports seasons due to COVID-19. Biggs began having second thoughts about her decision to enroll at Central, where it appeared her freshman season would surely meet a similar fate.

Between shots in a women's league match at her home course — Crestwicke Country Club in Bloomington, Illinois — Biggs' mother glanced at her phone and burst into a broad smile.

"Mackenzie, you're getting a season," she told her daughter.

"I was like, 'No way, I can't believe it,'" Biggs says. "We're actually going to get to play and I get to have my freshman year. I was just jumping for joy. I was so excited. I wanted to get off that golf course and find someone else to tell."

The simultaneous reaction was decidedly different across the state in Aurora, Illinois, where Dutch offensive lineman Joshua Mayhew '21 was at home with his family. Like Biggs, Mayhew was braced for crushing news when Football Coach Jeff McMartin '90 began a team Zoom meeting. But for Mayhew, it was what he feared. While Central proceeded with modified men's and women's golf, men's and women's tennis, triathlon and men's and women's cross country fall seasons, the Dutch football, volleyball and men's and women's soccer seasons were postponed until spring.

"My mom was sitting right there with me on the call and it wasn't a big heartbreak because I figured it was coming, but I was still pretty bummed out," Mayhew says.

And so it's been for Central athletics amid a global pandemic, a mixture of triumphs and setbacks but not the kind that can be proclaimed in bright lights on a scoreboard in this most surreal of fall seasons, the first without Dutch football games on campus since 1919.



Football practice at Central in a pandemic meant face masks and small-group workouts, like Assistant Coach Austin Mercer put his cornerbacks through.

COMPETITION PROTOCOLS

Even for those teams competing, the seasons were anything but normal. Remaining safely physically distant and isolated while conducting sports intended for close contact accompanied by large-group gatherings was more than just a logistical problem for college officials. As with so many issues surrounding the virus, there were far more questions than answers.

Expertise and advice came from all corners, most directly from the college's COVID-19 Athletics Protocol Task Force comprised of medical and health professionals. It helped assemble lengthy policies and procedures. An even heavier "Resocialization of Collegiate

Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition" manual came from the NCAA.

Meanwhile, Athletics Director Eric Van Kley, Senior Associate Athletics Director Alicia O'Brien and Head Athletic Trainer Frank Neu '91 met repeatedly. The questions came in blizzard fashion, each proposed solution seemingly yielding more questions and often the best answer was "I don't know."

Student-athletes' health and well-being were the overriding concerns throughout and the spring shutdown prompted student-athletes and coaches to ponder the fundamental question: "Why do we play?" It spawned a new passion for sport.



The 2020-21 season is unlike any of the 36 campaigns that preceded it for Central's NFCA Hall of Fame Coach **George Wares '76**, who watches a masked **Taryn Hintz '24** take a cut in a small-group fall practice.

"I think the players are appreciating every day we get decent weather and go out and practice," says Softball Coach **George Wares '76**.

Many tried to avoid thinking about a wide, wide world without sports.

"I can't imagine being at Central and not playing basketball," says women's forward **Payton Rogers '21**. "Basketball has taught me a lot of things, even beyond sports. It's made me mature a lot."

To Van Kley, it became clear the opportunity to compete was a key component in student-athletes' overall well-being.

"As we weighed the health risks of competing this fall, we also looked at the less obvious dangers of not playing," he says. "There's actually a lot of data out there on the importance of athletics in student-athletes' personal development and emotional health."

Thus, as Division III leagues nationwide began pulling the plug on fall seasons, Central's American Rivers Conference forged cautiously ahead. Only when the NCAA mandated frequent testing for high

contact-risk sports — not only unaffordable to most Division III schools but logistically vexing — did league schools opt in August to postpone four sports to the spring.

CERTAINTY IN SHORT SUPPLY

Hovering over the winter and spring seasons is the same uncertainty that shadows the world as it parries with its invisible foe. The league hopes to launch abbreviated winter seasons after Jan. 1. Round-robin spring conference schedules are taking shape for men's and women's soccer and volleyball, while a three-game football season is envisioned.

Some Central athletes already are looking beyond this year. Last July, in an attempt to add some certainty where little exists, the NCAA offered a blanket waiver to students in sports that play less than 50% of their maximum allowed contests, providing an extra year of eligibility. Among those taking an immediate hard look at that option are members of Central's football squad, which had lofty expectations coming off last year's Division III playoff run. Early talk last summer about a compromised fall season held little appeal.

"A couple of us were thinking that if we just get to play a conference schedule with no playoffs, I don't know if that's how I want to end here," Mayhew says. "So that's when I started to say, 'Who do I need to meet with? What things do I need to know before I start making these decisions on if I'm going to play next year?' It was kind of cloudy for a lot of people, but I think we have a majority of my senior class coming back."

"It's been a lot of work by a lot of people to get where we were last year and, kind of in a metaphorical sense, we want to roll the ball farther than that. And I want to be a part of it."

For varied reasons, others may not have that choice.

"A couple of (women's basketball) teammates and I were talking last week and it's sad to think we don't know if we're going to get that senior season," Rogers says. "Our last game last year, we lost that conference tournament game against Luther and I thought, 'Well, yes, that stinks, but I have one more season.' And now it's hard to think that if things don't get any better, that could have

been my last game. You get that worst-case scenario stuff in your head, but that's why we're just trying to build each other up and hope for the best."

PANDEMIC (SEISMIC) SHIFTS

Those who did finally get to compete savored the taste.

"It felt awesome," women's cross country standout **Mari Stein '22** said after the team's first race Sept. 12. "The whole team was just super excited to be here. There was a lot of adrenaline."

Those competing still had to navigate pandemic athletics, free of team huddles and reflexive high-fives, with safety protocols that were countless and sometimes awkward. Instead of the 10- or even 20-team meets cross country teams are accustomed to, they instead staged a series of triangulars with league foes, widely separated for what formerly were mass starts.

Golfers no longer engaged in side-by-side conversations walking down fairways. Rakes vanished from bunkers and cups on greens were offlimits to all but the golf ball.

"At Luther we had these little handles that allowed you to put your putter on the pin and it would pull the ball right out of the cup instead of you reaching down," Biggs says.

Overnight trips were curtailed and teams traveled in larger vehicles to allow masked athletes to more safely spread out.

The postponed-sport athletes, along with those from winter and spring teams, proceeded with workouts, but they were brief and tightly structured. In some high contact-risk sports, they were initially prohibited altogether. The college's new wrestling center, typically home to numerous offseason hand-to-hand struggles, was locked. Basketball was initially limited to outdoor courts. Later, hoops in P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium were lowered but only for shooting. Even one-on-one games were banned.

Massive team weight lifting sessions and side-by-side cardio workouts were prohibited in the Ron Schipper Fitness Center, which was limited to a small number of distanced, masked athletes, with each set of squats and lifts followed by a round of equipment disinfecting. Drinking fountains were out, hand sanitizing dispensers in. Strength and Conditioning Coach **Kyle Johnson '02** was encouraged by the response.

"Our student-athletes have been even better than expected as far as attitude and willingness to compromise while still doing



The need to remain physically distanced forced the Central volleyball team to send small segments of its squad to locations beyond P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium, even outdoors, where **Krissa Larson '22** got some early fall season practice.

things to feel like they're making progress in their development but staying safe," he says.

SILVER LINING PLAYBOOK

If one squints, a few benefits to the disrupted routines are visible.

"I think a lot of people are really doubling down on training and eating properly," Johnson says. "They have had more time on their hands to think about this and do these types of things. A lot of our kids are in the best shape of their life, just because they've really had the time to train more than they normally would."

Wares sees advantages.

"Smaller groups have allowed us to individualize things more and probably give more attention to details than we normally do," he says.

Extra time was devoted to skill development. Mayhew notes there's much to offensive line play beyond hitting the other guy.

"It's been kind of a blessing because a lot of freshmen come in thinking all they need to worry about is the physical game, but there's

so much more of the mental game and footwork in the offensive line that people don't realize," he says. "It's a real positive to have the offensive line coaches be able to kind of put a microscope on everyone and fix every detail before we even put on the pads. A lot of people are learning more, we're just learning differently than we have in the past."

Certainty remains in short supply. So as many must do in life, Central athletes are making the best of a historically bad situation.

"None of us knows the plan; we're just kind of playing the cards we're dealt," Mayhew says.

And the Dutch are still finding ways to enjoy the ride.

"The word for the team this season is opportunity," men's cross country runner **Caleb Silver '23** says. "Just be grateful for what we do have, the opportunity to race and to be together as a team." ■

For an up-to-date schedule of all sports, visit athletics.central.edu/calendar.



CENTRAL SCENE
PHOTO BY: PAUL JOY

A snowman sits outside Central Market on a winter day,
its face put together with leftover fruit from lunch.





THE HONORS Quest

Bridge, board games and bees – oh, my! These are just a few of the honors topics students could select for the Fall 2020 or Spring 2021 semesters. But what's honorable about courses that sound so ... fun?

THE HONORS QUEST: Earn the academic trifecta by achieving three goals.

THE GOALS: Exercise extreme creativity, foster intellectual engagement and develop unparalleled leadership – the trifecta of the academia realm.

HOW TO CONQUER THE HONORS QUEST: Complete a mind-opening honors course at Central College.

Honors courses at Central may not actually be structured like levels in a video game, but unique topics paired with a traditional interdisciplinary approach make learning fun! The lofty goals of an honors course, outlined above, balance excitement and depth for a truly mind-opening learning experience.

WILDLIFE CENTRAL

In the honors course *The Buzz Around Bees*, taught by **Paulina Mena**, associate professor of biology, students explore the diversity of bees, both native and introduced, in the wild and in apiculture. This strategy gives students an all-encompassing knowledge of the

"It is one thing to learn about bees in a classroom. It is a whole new experience to actually hear the buzz of the hive and see all the action within." – Jenna-Marie Hernandez '24

CONSIDER THE COURSE

Honors courses expose students to subjects and ideas they may not get to experience as part of their major.

"Honors seminars are offered each semester," says **Leslie Keuning Duinink '90**, registrar and class dean. "Though there are some standard courses offered for a few consecutive years, the majority of the classes change frequently."

Five honors courses were offered in Fall 2020, and four are open for Spring 2021 (see sidebar on Page 13).

pollinators, including the biology of bees; their ecology and conservation; culture for honey production and pollination of crops; and bees' role in society through history. But why are those topics important?

"Pollinators are responsible for one of every three bites of food we eat," Mena says. "Furthermore, they are responsible for the reproduction of many of our native plants."

Other species in an ecosystem largely depend on pollinators, making them a keystone group of species.



In the honors course *The Buzz Around Bees*, students explore the diversity of bees in the world. They also get the opportunity to extract honey into a pure liquid form.

"If they were removed, the ecosystem would change drastically," Mena says. "That's why we need to increase awareness and conservation efforts to have healthy bee populations."

HANDS-ON, HONEY

Mena's hands-on class gives students the opportunity to experience bee cultures more frequently than sitting through lectures.

"We had field trips to collect native bees; we visited the hive; we harvested honey, bottled and labeled the harvest," Mena says.

Harvesting honey was a small portion of activities Central students participated in, because the honeybee is one of many species focused on during the course. Though the honeybee is a great example to learn about bees in general, the class readings focused primarily on native bees.

"Native bees are much more important as pollinators and should be the focus of conservation efforts," Mena says. "The class also deals with the more than 20,000 native bees, 400 of which live in the state of Iowa."

BUZZWORTHY

The Buzz Around Bees covers issues bees are facing and practices to help conserve them, including everything from policy changes to small things everybody can do. During the course, students learn Central is a certified Bee Campus USA, which recognizes educational campuses that commit to a set of practices that support pollinators, including bees, butterflies, birds, bats and more. Students learn in the class that Central was the first college in Iowa to earn the designation in May 2018, and was the sole Iowa college to earn this distinction until earlier this year.

THE BOTTOM LINE

"These honors classes are so much fun," Mena says. "I wish I could take some of the ones that are offered!" ■

FALL 2020 HONORS COURSES

+ **Bridge: Game of Games** — Bridge is a card game focused on cooperation and communication and has been described as the ultimate in intellectual competition. This course, taught by Professor of Biology **Anya Butt**, gives students the opportunity to learn the game and understand the impact of bridge in modern societies.

+ **The Buzz Around Bees** — Taught by Associate Professor of Biology **Paulina Mena**. See Pages 12-13 for details.

+ **An Examination of Color** — In this course, Professor of Chemistry **James Shriver** educates students about the basic science behind color before delving into the history and sources of a variety of colors from across the palette.

+ **Hugo's Les Mis in U.S. Pop Culture** — The cultural legacy of *Les Misérables* — and how it has managed to fascinate popular cultural consciousness for so long — is the core of this course taught by Professor of French **Nicole Kaplan**.

+ **Sports Analytics: Soccer** — Students investigate the role data analysis plays in the athletics world, in this research-based class instructed by Professor of Mathematics **Russ Goodman** and Lecturer of Exercise Science **Katelin Valster**.

SPRING 2021 HONORS COURSES

+ **Board in Class: Survey/Board Game** — This course is an interdisciplinary seminar taught by Associate Professor of Chemistry **Jay Wackerly** in which technical, cultural and artistic aspects of modern board games will be presented and experienced.

+ **Love and Polygamy: Culture/Law/Media** — Using a case study approach under the direction of Associate Professor of Communication Studies **Shelley Bradfield**, students will explore how culture, law and health issues intersect through television shows from South Africa and the United States that center on the lives of polygamist families.

+ **Mars: Exploring the Possibilities** — From its very earliest discovery, Mars has intrigued humanity. In this course taught by Professor of Biology **Anya Butt**, students will explore what is known about the planet, what the realities of Martian exploration are and what it would take to colonize Mars.

+ **What's Opera, Doc?** — Students will be given the opportunity to appreciate and understand how classical music maintains an important place in our day-to-day lives by exploring how opera pervades pop culture with Lecturer of Music **Sean Stephenson**.

"I enjoyed getting to harvest the honey. It was crazy to see the different layers of the comb, and awesome to watch the wax fall down the comb as honey came into view. I had never seen pure honey with the fun, natural stuff still in it. This might have been one of the coolest experiences of my life!" — **Katelyn Fields '24**



IN ONE DOOR, OUT ANOTHER

STORY BY: ALEX WILSON

PHOTOS BY: PAUL JOY AND MELODY VANDERLEEST

Classes in the Chapel.

Wearing a face shield but not working with hazardous materials.

In one door, out another.

These are just a few of the “new normals” faculty, staff and students were met with when they returned to Central’s campus in August. With new health safety protocols in place, everyone set foot on campus with high hopes for the semester and a side of cautiousness on how to navigate college in the COVID-19 era in our community. To ensure safety, everything has looked different – from classrooms and the cafeteria to residence halls and social spaces.

President **Mark Putnam** continues to send out emails with protocol updates on an as-needed basis. Those protocols included everything from physical distancing and wearing a mask on campus to cleaning desks and work areas to restrictions in residence halls.

“We started by having strict rules for housing to limit the spread of COVID-19,” **Ashley Lupkes ’23** says.

The academic year is looking a little bit different, with classes in new spaces to allow for physical distancing and new protocols. Faculty have had to adjust teaching strategies, but many are more than willing to be able to teach in-person and be with students.

TEACHING PERSPECTIVES

With every new adventure comes challenges.

“My classes are big, so now I find myself teaching in the Chapel to maintain physical distance,” says **John Roslien**, associate professor of exercise science, who normally teaches at the Helen Jean Hislop Center. The Chapel is special to Roslien. He was married there 31 years ago.

“To facilitate a lab, I now have to coordinate with other faculty to rearrange their schedules in Hislop to find space for my class,” Roslien adds. “It can be a bit confusing for the students moving from building to building. Fortunately, I have colleagues willing to accommodate my class and students eager to be in lab. So far, we have successfully done CPR and an injury evaluation lab bouncing back and forth.”

“It’s been a challenge, for sure, but I’m so very glad to be back in my classroom,” says **Liz Golovatski**, assistant professor of physics. “Nothing can beat being able to see (half) my students’ faces and wave my arms around in front of a whiteboard!”



“It’s more fulfilling and it’s easier to work in-person on campus together than it is remotely, without question. Being together even with protocols is much better than being remote,” says **Keith Jones**, Central professor of psychology and Mark and Kay DeCook Endowed Chair in Character and Leadership Development.



“Classes are a little strange, but I am just glad they are in person. We have classes in places I never thought I would. For example, I have my Principles of Management class in Cox-Snow’s Recital Hall,” says **Ashley Lupkes ’23**.



JEN DIERS

TITLE: Associate Professor of Education

DEPARTMENT: Elementary and Secondary Education

“Our students are incredible. They are the reason we do what we do here at Central, and during this time of change and challenge, they have repeatedly shown us what the Central family is all about: flexibility, support, open minds, open arms. Despite the new protocols, it feels so great to be back on campus.”



JULIANNE TAYLOR

TITLE: Lecturer of Education

DEPARTMENT: Education

“Returning to campus and connecting with my students has been like finding water for the thirsty soul. I thrive on building relationships and getting the opportunity to reconnect with my students after being away from one another for so long.”



“We have our temperatures taken at the door, masks are worn at all times and we utilize every bit of Douwstra Auditorium for rehearsals,” **Cooper Vittetoe '21** says of choir rehearsals. “We even sing outside from time to time! Even though we’re distanced and wearing masks, our sound is just as good as it has ever been!”

STUDENTS HAPPY WITH RETURN

Students appreciated being able to be back to the place they called home.

“It felt like returning home after an extended vacation. The first few weeks of seeing people in person and getting to catch up were so refreshing and well worth the wait,” **Cooper Vittetoe '21** says.

“I’m happy to be on campus because a lot of other students elsewhere didn’t get that opportunity,” **Ally Focht '21** says. “I’m so happy I go to school at Central because my friends who go to larger schools are 100% virtual for their classes. I’m just thankful to be here and thankful we’re taking precautions needed to be here and stay. Because we are still getting much more of an experience than they are during this year.”

A majority of the Central family looked forward to the return to campus. For those

in football, volleyball and soccer, they got disappointing news — their seasons were postponed. (see story on Page 7)

“It was heartbreaking to hear we weren’t going to have a regular season. I just pray that I suit up for a game once my senior year,” says Focht, who plays volleyball.

Focht is doing her best to look at the pros of being a student-athlete and a college senior amid the coronavirus.

Just before Thanksgiving, students were presented the option of returning to campus or going to remote learning the remainder of the semester.

Because as we have learned about the people who are a part of Central’s community, we are resilient. We have a heart for others. And behind the masks, we are smiling widely. ■



Events such as the Major Exploration Fair moved outside to provide for physical distancing.



The first Scholar Days were held in November. Due to COVID-19, the college had to put attendance restrictions on the days and ensure safety by requiring masks. The current pandemic brought a strong dose of realism to the day as students discussed a past pandemic: cholera.



KATELIN VALSTER

TITLE: Lecturer of Exercise Science,
Student-Athlete Advisory Council
Advisor and Pre-Health and
Post-Graduate Fellowship Advisor

DEPARTMENT: Exercise Science and
Athletics

“We, as faculty, are excited to deliver content and students are engaged in the learning process. It’s certainly stretched my creative brain to connect students and material in diverse ways.”



ALLY FOCHT '21

HOMETOWN: Stanton, Iowa

MAJOR: Sociology

FUTURE PLANS: Attend Graduate School

“I think volleyball has affected me the most just because it’s almost like a part-time job. I don’t look at it like a job, because I enjoy it so much, but volleyball and academics are my life in college. I’m really happy we still have the academic part and a little bit of the volleyball part, but it’s weird because I feel like my job got cut in half. That was the hardest adjustment for me during the fall season.”

A top-down view of a white desk. In the upper right, a portion of a silver laptop is visible, showing keys like 'X', 'C', 'V', 'F', 'G', 'B'. To its left is a small green succulent in a white pot. Below the laptop, three black paper clips are scattered on the desk. A spiral-bound notebook with a white cover and a red section is open. The white cover has the year '2020' printed on it. The red section has the title 'THE DIARY OF A CLASS DEAN' in large white letters, followed by the author's name and title in smaller white letters.

2020

THE DIARY OF A CLASS DEAN

STORY BY: **BRIAN PETERSON**
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR CURRICULUM
AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT



At the beginning of a new academic year, Central College's class deans welcome an incoming class to the college and see it through to graduation. Part academic advisor, part life coach, part cheerleader and part mentor, class deans are faculty members who offer whatever it takes to help each student make the most of their Central experience. From new student orientation to Commencement, stellar advising is an important foundation of the student experience and core to the college's focus on integrated learning.

Brian Peterson, associate dean for curriculum and faculty development, has filled the class dean role many times. He records here a personal perspective of a sample year in the life of this unique role — including all the triumphs and tribulations.

[Author's note: All events and activities discussed here are real, although they did not all occur within the same year or along this chronology. Real names are changed and I have taken liberties with the timeline for narrative ease.]

Dear Diary,

Aug. 22

Spent my first day as class dean trying to get a better feel for the position. The office of class deans is envisioned as "... the interface of three critical elements necessary for student academic success: the academic advisor, the student and their academic plan and the curriculum and related academic policies" (copied from the job posting). I'm not sure what all of that is going to imply for me. What I do know is I'm supposed to be an advisor to

faculty advisors and a supplemental advisor for students. I appreciate I am able to supervise students in a single cohort — that way I have (relatively) the same developmental issues to worry about with each student.

The first part of my job — working with faculty — seems straightforward. The other class deans and I have a solid understanding of the college's curriculum, and the others would be on a list of people I'd consider to be good advisors. I think helping others to improve will work out well and might actually be fun!

I'm a little more anxious about how serving as a supplemental advisor for students will work, though. I certainly don't want to step on anyone's toes, and I have no intention of replacing another faculty member as a student's advisor. I think it might take a little time to find a clear separation in students' (and faculty members') minds between our role and theirs as advisors.

Sept. 5

We had our first Academic Alert meeting today. The other class deans, associate dean, registrar and I are meeting weekly to discuss students for whom an Academic Alert has been submitted. An alert is a heads-up from a faculty member that can take the form of a concern or a commendation. I didn't have any students in my cohort receive one this week, but one of the other class deans had students for whom a concern was submitted. It was helpful to work as a group to identify strategies to use when we check on and meet with students. I hope they understand they aren't in trouble when we contact them. It's out of an abundance of concern faculty members let us know what is happening to their students.

Sept. 10

Met with T, a student on academic probation, today. He described what a miserable time he had last year, earning a 1.7 GPA. Yikes! He also mentioned that over the summer he was diagnosed with Irlen Syndrome, which makes it very difficult for him

to distinguish black text on white paper. The doctor suggested he ask if his tests and assignments could be written on nonwhite paper. He and I walked over to Student Support Services to see if the accommodation can be made for him. The director thought it was an easy fix and suggested his exams be taken over in their office on colored paper so he didn't feel singled out. That sounded like a good idea to T.

Sept. 14

My worst fear realized: M, an education student, came into my office (at my request) and was visibly nervous. When I asked why, she indicated she thought she was in trouble! Apparently, after I received an Academic Concern about her in one of her classes and wanted to set up this meeting, she asked her faculty member if they knew why I wanted to see her. The faculty member indicated she contacted me as class dean because M wasn't doing well in her class. M took the news in a way I don't think was intended. I assured M I wasn't the assistant principal or a disciplinarian. I was only interested in helping her get the resources she needed to be successful in the class. I don't think I have ever seen someone relax quite so ... viscerally.

Oct. 5

Saw T again. He got a 90% on his exam the other day! I was so excited for him! This may be what gives us a chance to see how much he can really do!

Oct. 8

G came into my office today, unannounced, looking like she was ready to burst into tears. She said she wasn't sure quite where to go so thought she'd see if I could help. Her father suffered a heart attack the night before, and she wasn't going home. She was upset, but her parents didn't want her to come home until he had surgery. I walked her over to the counseling center so she could make an appointment. Thankfully, they could fit her in later the same day. G and I went back to my office to work on a plan for different

contingencies. I think (I hope) she felt better after talking through her options for being with her family.

Oct. 10

Got my first Academic Commendation today for a student. E was rocking her calculus class, and the instructor wanted others to know about it to make sure she remained challenged. She and I met later in the day, and I put her in touch with the director of the Honors and Emerging Scholars Program, as well as the tutoring coordinator to discuss being a possible tutor next year. She was pretty excited!

Oct. 17

Got my cohort's midterm grades — at least most of them. Faculty members aren't required to submit them, but there is a great deal of evidence that receiving midterm grades helps students focus their attention on improving during the last half of the term. Will send notes to all those students who are doing really well and will contact those who may be struggling. The class deans and I are determined not to let students fall through the cracks.

Oct. 25

Met with W today. He's struggling in most of his classes and is looking for help. In talking to him, it just

didn't seem that he was engaged in his classes. I wonder if he's really interested in what he's studying.

Nov. 1

G shared that her father's surgery was successful, but that he's still very sick. Doctors aren't sure of his prognosis, so she's staying in close contact with home. Thankfully, she's still seeing the counselor. This is a lot for any student to deal with. I made sure she knew she could stop in any time to talk.

Nov. 2

Saw B today. He needed to withdraw from a few classes in which he was earning a failing grade and wanted to know his options. We looked at his GPA without withdrawing from those courses compared to his GPA after withdrawing from them, any implications on housing and financial aid and ways he can offset this next spring. I think he wanted me to make the decision for him, but I made sure he understood my role was to lay out all the information for him and help him make the best decision. He decided to withdraw from those classes and try again in the spring when he wouldn't be quite as busy.

Nov. 16

Met with W again. Really seems disengaged. When I asked him what he wanted to do when he graduated, he mentioned working outside and

with his hands. He's always loved doing that. I'm still confused, though, since the major he's in will not allow him to do that. Hmm.

Dec. 20

Got final grades today: T went from a 1.7 GPA to a 2.9 for the semester! It's actually amazing that a little accommodation — changing paper color — can create such a difference for him. He'll be really excited.

Jan. 8

Got an email from T today. I was right; he was excited! He wants to keep meeting with me during the spring. He likes the accountability these meetings provide him. Am happy to oblige.

Jan. 12

Led with the other class deans a workshop for faculty members on advising for two different student demographics: students exploring multiple major options and honors-eligible students. I think it went well. We discussed ways to work with students who are uncertain about their major and those who need some additional challenge. We're going to work on putting together a series of short workshops on advising other demographics.

Feb. 9

The class deans finally finished language changes to the academic

MEET CENTRAL'S CURRENT CLASS DEANS



ERIC JONES '87

Class of 2024

TITLE: Director of Academic Resources

ON BEING A CLASS DEAN:

"It gives me the opportunity to blend the policies and procedures of the academic affairs office with the skillset needed to conceptualize a student's development. The job is all about celebrating the process of education."



ÓSCAR REYNAGA

Class of 2023

TITLE: Lecturer of Spanish

ON BEING A CLASS DEAN:

"I loved the opportunity to build relationships with our students and our campus community outside of the traditional classroom setting. It's been a wonderful and challenging experience that has afforded me the opportunity to learn and delve deeper into the role academic advising serves in the success of our students."

probation and suspension policy. We wanted to give students the opportunity to take summer classes (at Central, of course) as a way to improve their GPA and be removed from academic probation. They'll need to meet with us in the following term to ensure they don't slide backward, but I think this change will be beneficial for many students.

Feb. 15

Heard through the grapevine that G's father passed away. So sad. I sent her a note to let her know I was thinking about her.

March 22

What a beautiful day today was! Beautiful ... and a little strange. H came in and started complaining about how slowly glass supplies were coming into the glass-blowing studio. Her timetable for working on her final art portfolio was starting to crumble and she feared falling too far behind to finish. I went into class-dean-helper-mode and started to suggest she talk to her advisor or to the department chair. She interrupted me to say the department chair was her advisor and was well aware of the delays, he just couldn't do anything about it. She said she just stopped in to vent a little. We both laughed at that, sat down and she told me about the projects she was doing — and vented about the delivery delays.

April 3

Met with W again. It's been a while since I saw him last. He seemed really happy. When I asked what brought about the change, he indicated he realized over the last few months that he was in college and in the major he was in because it's what his parents wanted for him, not because he wanted it. He intends to withdraw at semester to re-enroll at a community college near his hometown to learn to do what he has always wanted to do. He said when he finally made this decision it was as if a huge load had been lifted. I don't want students to leave Central, so I asked if I had caused him to think about withdrawing. He said talking to me started him thinking about why he was doing something he really didn't enjoy. Our conversations helped him understand he needed to follow his own path, not that of anyone else. I was sorry to see him leave but glad he seemed genuinely at peace with what he was doing and what he wanted in the future.

May 3

G stopped in today to thank me for support this year. She said she'd been relying on a lot of support services to get through the year. She was pretty peaceful (or at least as much as she could be) at that point. I'm hopeful the summer will help with the grieving process and that I get to see her next year.

Talked to T for the last time this semester. He earned a 3.2 GPA this term! I am so proud of him (does that make me sound like a father?). I think kids like him are why we have accommodations. He wasn't showing us what he was capable of achieving until his playing field was leveled with colored paper.

May 14

Got the results from the associate dean's assessment of the work of the class deans today. The overwhelming (that was the word used) majority of faculty, staff and administrators support the work of the class deans and believe this student support structure provides significant value added. Although not every student has visited their class dean, those who have indicated they are glad they did. Those who haven't visited their class dean knew they could meet with the class deans if they (as students) needed additional support. What a great way to end the year!

Can't wait to see what next year brings! ■



MARK MILLS

Class of 2022

TITLE: Professor of Mathematics
ON BEING A CLASS DEAN:

"I felt like this was a good way to try to make a difference with students who need some support or mentorship to make it successfully through Central. It also has allowed me to get to know students in a different way than when they are a student in my course. Watching a student progress to being successful in their courses is rewarding."



LESLIE KEUNING DUININK '90

Class of 2021

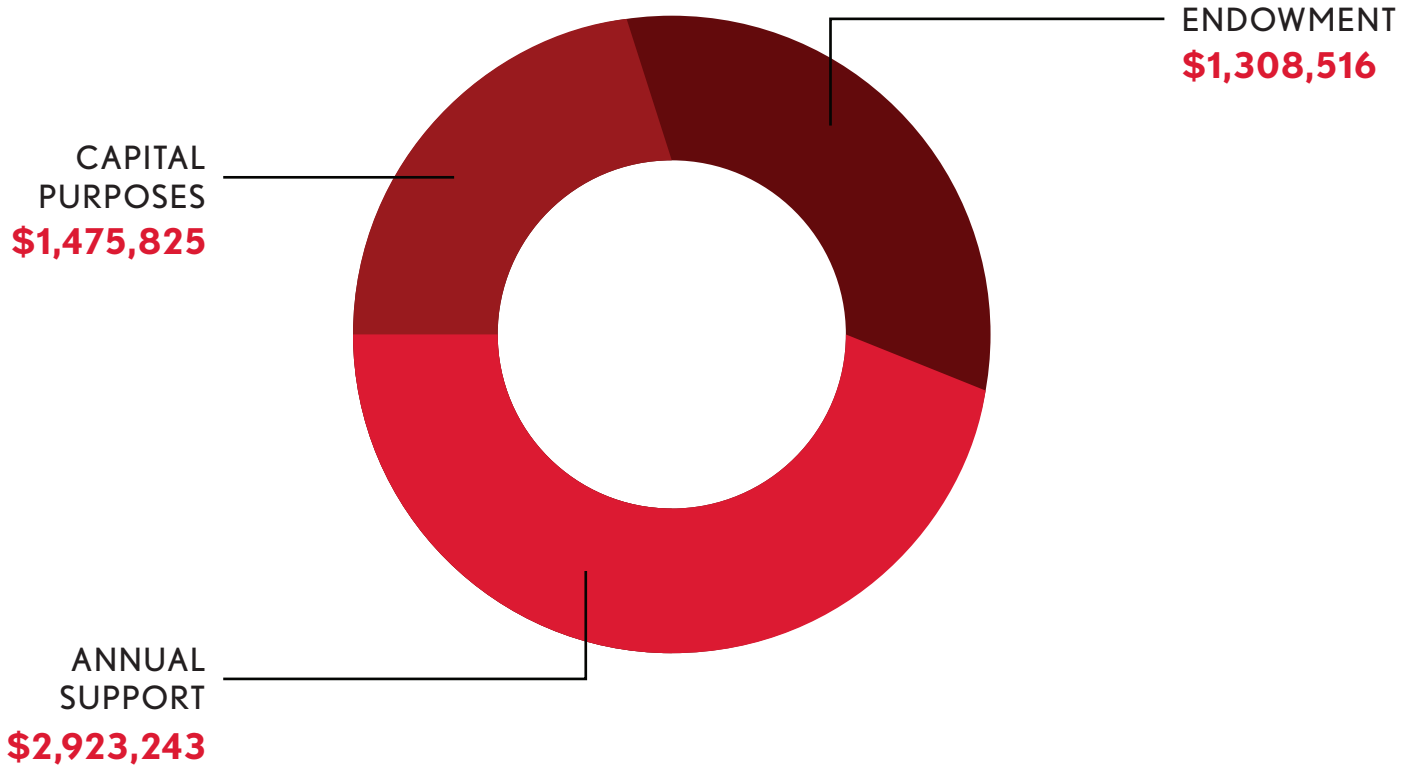
TITLE: Registrar and Associate
Professor of Exercise
Science and Athletic
Trainer

ON BEING A CLASS DEAN:

"I enjoy academic advising and thought being a class dean would be a way to do more as an advisor. It's rewarding seeing students succeed."

TOTAL GIVING

Total **\$5,707,584**



GIVING BY SOURCES

Total **\$5,707,584**



SCHOLARSHIPS

Total **927**

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS
274

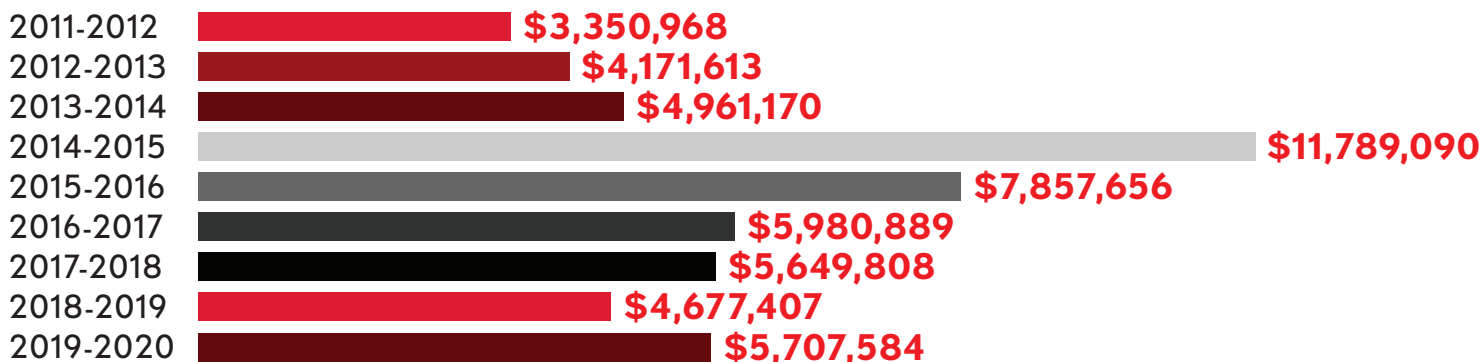
JOURNEY SCHOLARSHIPS
653

FISCAL YEAR OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Total

\$54,146,185

Since 2011

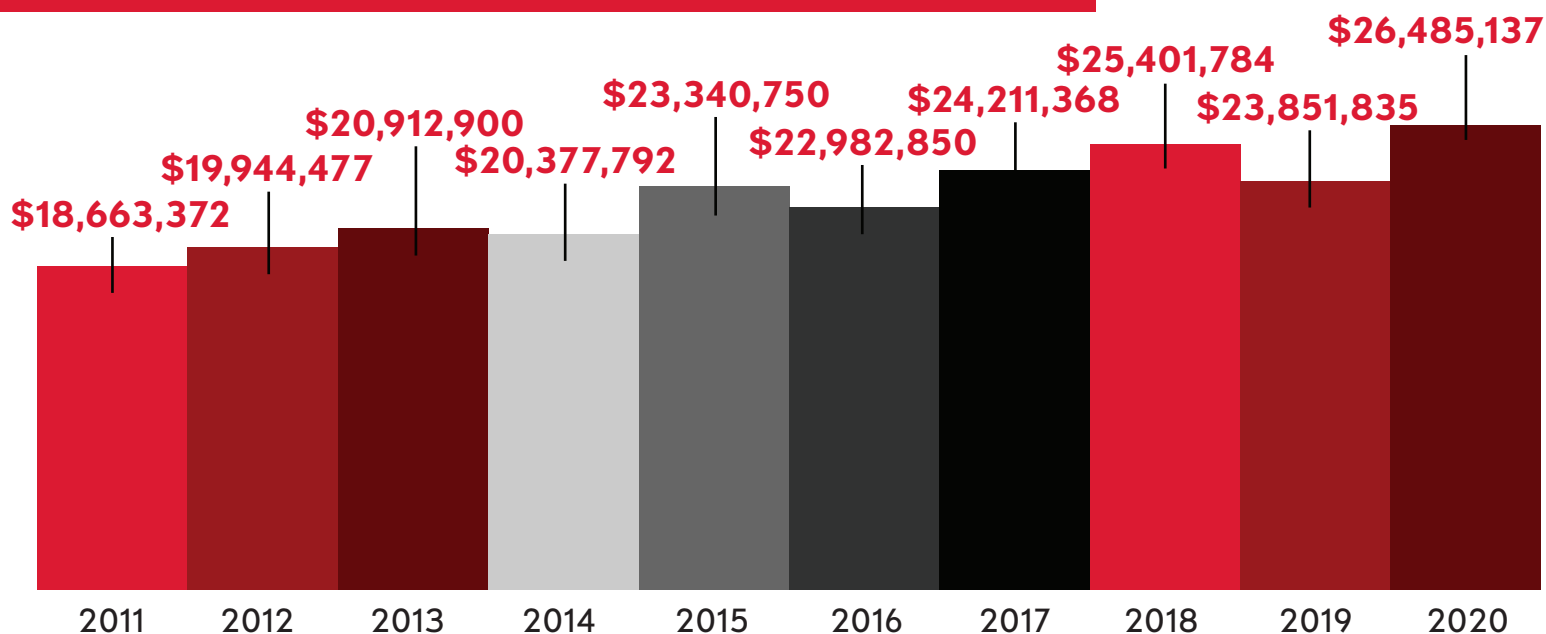


FINANCIAL AID BY YEAR

Total

\$226,172,265

Since 2011



SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

Total

\$2,437,533

ENDOWMENT
\$1,052,206

JOURNEY SCHOLARSHIP
\$1,385,327

GIVING BY CLASS YEARS

Total **\$2,617,097** For 2019-20

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|
| 1941 | 1951 | 1960 | 1969 | 1978 | 1987 | 1996 | 2005 | 2014 |
| \$77,025 | \$4,739 | \$77,848 | \$88,276 | \$19,280 | \$77,253 | \$10,750 | \$16,702 | \$775 |
| 1943 | 1952 | 1961 | 1970 | 1979 | 1988 | 1997 | 2006 | 2015 |
| \$300 | \$22,725 | \$214,850 | \$71,015 | \$34,995 | \$94,162 | \$5,187 | \$6,941 | \$1,385 |
| 1944 | 1953 | 1962 | 1971 | 1980 | 1989 | 1998 | 2007 | 2016 |
| \$100 | \$9,605 | \$16,450 | \$49,643 | \$68,798 | \$20,795 | \$15,988 | \$1,610 | \$3,999 |
| 1945 | 1954 | 1963 | 1972 | 1981 | 1990 | 1999 | 2008 | 2017 |
| \$40 | \$47,738 | \$48,100 | \$27,296 | \$14,316 | \$119,605 | \$9,573 | \$2,669 | \$360 |
| 1946 | 1955 | 1964 | 1973 | 1982 | 1991 | 2000 | 2009 | 2018 |
| \$1,600 | \$40,173 | \$246,375 | \$38,990 | \$66,467 | \$45,721 | \$4,267 | \$2,908 | \$2,504 |
| 1947 | 1956 | 1965 | 1974 | 1983 | 1992 | 2001 | 2010 | 2019 |
| \$1,200 | \$18,765 | \$57,830 | \$17,836 | \$40,872 | \$46,862 | \$18,292 | \$22,587 | \$850 |
| 1948 | 1957 | 1966 | 1975 | 1984 | 1993 | 2002 | 2011 | 2020 |
| \$45,367 | \$34,475 | \$30,075 | \$12,145 | \$20,525 | \$7,035 | \$7,403 | \$1,730 | \$6,818 |
| 1949 | 1958 | 1967 | 1976 | 1985 | 1994 | 2003 | 2012 | |
| \$2,060 | \$58,477 | \$11,895 | \$992 | \$45,475 | \$55,674 | \$11,929 | \$1,515 | |
| 1950 | 1959 | 1968 | 1977 | 1986 | 1995 | 2004 | 2013 | |
| \$109,900 | \$14,776 | \$56,718 | \$13,757 | \$75,525 | \$14,489 | \$19,514 | \$3,836 | |

REVENUE

Total **\$36,269,191**

TUITION & FEES
\$15,834,669

ENDOWMENT
\$ 4,174,667

OTHER
\$4,728,886

AUXILIARY
\$10,002,369

CONTRIBUTIONS
\$1,528,600

EXPENSES

Total **\$44,487,144**

INSTRUCTION
\$17,115,292

STUDENT ACTIVITIES
\$4,539,691

ADMIN/GENERAL
\$3,871,369

ACADEMIC SUPPORT
\$2,109,373

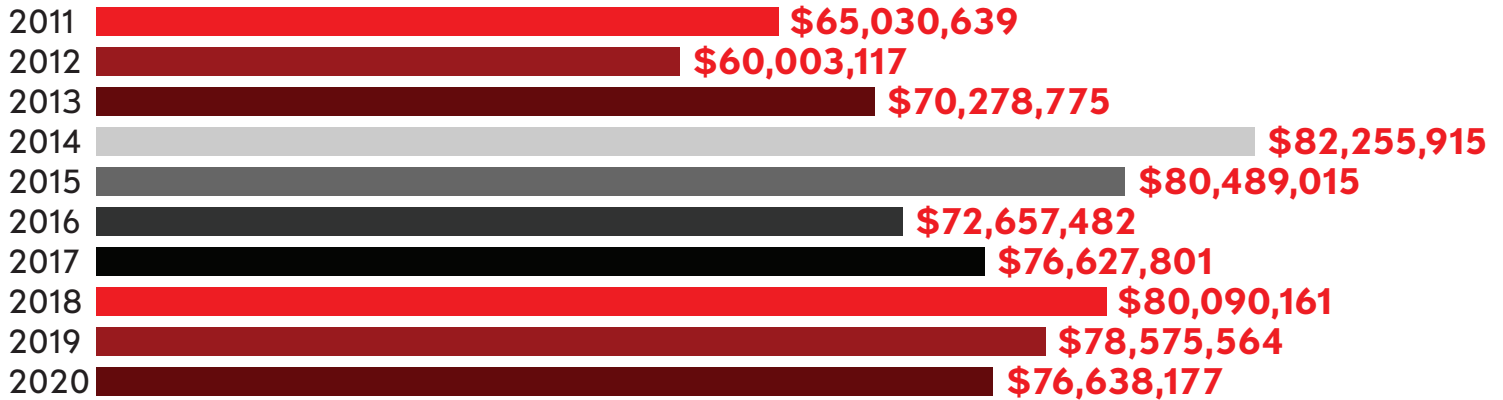
AUXILIARY
\$9,325,519

STUDENT SERVICES
\$4,398,465

INSTITUTIONAL
\$3,127,435

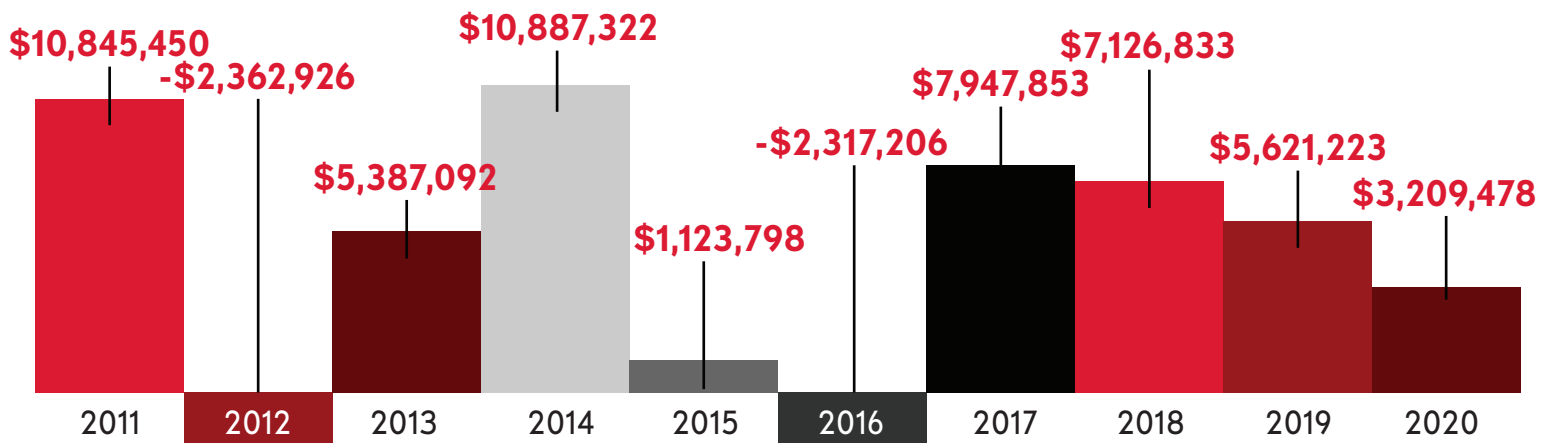
ENDOWMENT MARKET VALUE

Total **\$76,638,177** As of June 30, 2020



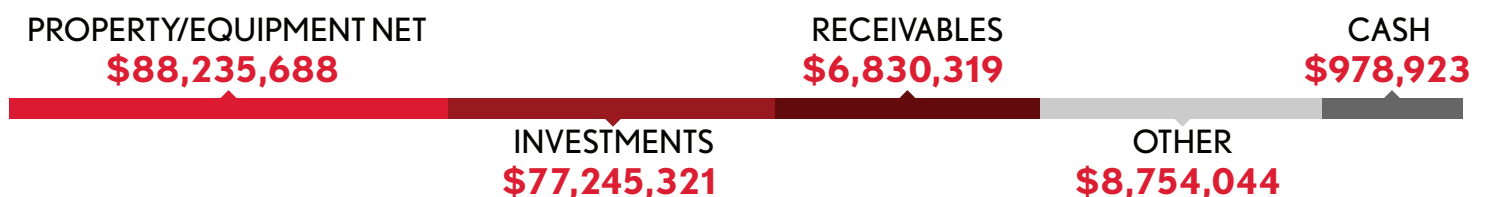
INVESTMENT INCOME

Total **\$47,468,917** Since 2011



ASSETS

Total **\$182,044,295**



HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

This Honor Roll of Giving recognizes donors who made a gift to Central College between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020. We are extremely grateful to these generous donors.

SCHOLTE'S CIRCLE

\$10,000 or More

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Anonymous*
Dave '86 & Kristi Jaarsma
Balk '88*
Guy '69 & Jane Sandell Blair '69
Herb Blom '61*
Curt '88 & Mary Holden
Blythe '90*
Darcy & Jeff Blythe '87*
Dody Int'veld Boat '05H*
Glenn '54+ & Shirley Van
Konynenburg Borgman '55*
Ken Braskamp '65*
Roger & Janice Brown
Rebecca & Pete Cartwright '82*
Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust*
Noel Cover Foundation*
Joe & Sue Cunningham*
JoAnn & Steve De Cook '65*
Jean & Don De Waard '82
Al De Wild '57*
Vern '71 & Diane Norman Den
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Helen Diehl Estate
Gary Dirksen '69*
Jim Ebberts '48+ & Marilyn
Rietveld-Ebberts '14H
Mark '80 & Lori Kooiker
Ellingson '82*
John '87 & Julie Pothoven
Fisher '90*

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Moore Family Foundation*
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Pella Rolscreen Foundation*

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Altoona, Iowa
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Mark & Tammy Putnam*
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Ryan '71*
Dorothy Schleich Estate
Second Reformed Church -
Pella, Iowa*
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Sutphen '64*
Third Reformed Church -
Pella, Iowa*
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Van Rheenen '61*
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Van Tuyl '68
Jane Vander Kooi '66*
John '64 & Verna De Jong
Vander Kooi '66*
Walter & Providencia Ver Steeg
Bob '56 & Arlys Van Zee
Verdoorn '56*

Bob '66 & Lois De Jong
Vermeer '69
Vermeer Charitable
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Vermeer Corporation
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Dan & Sherrie Vos
David & Carol Vos
Jack Walvoord '54
Michelle & Marvin Wanders '92
Ken & Shirely Weller*
Bill Wellner '50*
Linda & Dave Wesselink '64*
Mary Worstell '73*
Mary Du Bois Wright '41 Estate

PIETENPOL'S CIRCLE

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Bernadette Allen '78*
Jason & Carrie Andringa
Anonymous
Mark Babcock '91 & Tony
Braida '89*
Dave '83 & Denise Boll Baker '84
Boeing Company
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Fegley '80*
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Schueler '85*
Joel Shields '87
Kathy Sikkema '84 &
Michael Merson*
Laine & Beth Norman Sletta '86
Bob & Donna Davisson
Smith '81*
Suzi Mefford Sobaski '03
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Dianne & Arlo Stoltenberg '60*

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\$1,000 - \$4,999

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Darrell '59 & Sherma Blom
Brand '61*
Jim '65 & Sue Spaans Brandl '65*
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Patricia & Bob Cronin '85
Don Dahm '63*

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Mark '64 & Kay Kuyper De
Cook '63*
Ralph & LuAnn De Haan*
Julie & Mark De Jong '81*
Arlan De Kock '64*
Bob '61 & Doris Veldhorst
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| | | | |
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Despite efforts to ensure accuracy, errors may have occurred and we apologize in advance. Please call 800-447-0287, email alumni@central.edu or write the Advancement Office, Campus Box 5200, 812 University St., Pella, IA 50219-1999 with questions or to report corrections.

NEWSNOTES

THE '70s

Stephen Kolhagen '76 recently retired from Delta Airlines after 43 years.

Thomas Ondra '77 of Phoenix, Arizona, wrapped up 34 years in the local pastorate, retiring from First United Methodist Church in Sun City, Arizona. His 14 years marked the longest-tenured service in the church's 56-year history.

Stephanie Harvey Sarcone '79 is an attorney at Bradshaw, Fowler, Proctor & Fairgrave P.C. in Des Moines, Iowa.



▲ **Brad Depke '82** met with classmates **Dwane McFerrin '80** and **Sue Berkompas McFerrin '81** at Lake Wa Con-Da, Nebraska. They had a wonderful time catching up on 40 years. *Pictured left to right: Sue Berkompas McFerrin '81, Dwane McFerrin '80, Brad Depke '82 and Janet Depke.*



▲ The following people attended a Central College bike gathering in Cedar Falls: **Steve Vander Pol '79, Barb Murphy Vander Pol '80, Dave Dailey '81, Duane Willhite '79, Deb Cullinan Willhite '80, Pam Trisler Wilkin '81, Mary Piper Poulter '80, Kent Horstmann '82, Bryan Poulter '79, Sandi Brecht Lafferty '81, Dan Dvorak '83, Craig Wilkin '81 and Kent Dierks '81.** Also on the trip was **Rick Vander Pol '81.**

THE '80s

Daniel Klatt '81 is the transition alliance program coordinator at Charles City Community Schools in Charles City, Iowa. He has also coached boys freshman/junior varsity basketball in the district since 1997.

Sandi Brecht Lafferty '81 is the director of human services, vocations and day programming at To The Rescue in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Rick Burns '82 is the pastor at West Union United Methodist Church in West Union, Iowa.

THE '90s

Amy Frantz '90 is the director of sustained giving and advancement operations at Iowa Wesleyan University in Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Christine Devereux Rieken '92 is a teacher's associate at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Monticello, Iowa. Christine

and husband, Mark, live in Monticello with their two daughters.

Michele Ver Ploeg '92 has been named the director of the food policy and health institute at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Erin Demichelis Bailey '96 is an assistant vice president, industry relations at Hy-Vee in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Sarah Kuhn Henderson '96 started a new position as technology business services, enterprise eco solutions at Wells Fargo in Des Moines, Iowa.

Marnie Schweitzer Stein '96 was promoted to supervisor of operating permits and emissions inventory section at Iowa DNR Air Quality Bureau. Marnie and husband, **Todd Stein '92**, live in Des Moines, Iowa, with their son.



▲ Pictured left to right: **Angelica Garcia Jenson '90**, **Julie Oberbroeckling Skeeters '90**, **Kathleen Beck Schippers '90** and **Amy Frantz '90** had a Homecoming reunion when they visited campus Sept. 25-27.

Troy Vincent '96, CEO of Navigate Wellbeing Solutions in West Des Moines, Iowa, was named an Entrepreneur of the Year 2020 Heartland Award finalist. Troy and wife, Kayrin, live in West Des Moines with their daughter.

Colleen Rogers Messenger '99 is the director of gift planning at ChildServe in Johnston, Iowa. Colleen and husband, Brian, live in Des Moines, Iowa.

Principal Global Investors in Des Moines, Iowa.

Adam Hines '03 is a cadet, college for officer training at The Salvation Army in Chicago, Illinois. Adam and wife, Amanda, live in Chicago with their four children.

Jeff Jones '06 is a strength and conditioning coach at Fairfield Community Schools in Fairfield, Iowa.

Susan Mathews Greenwood '07 is an administrative secretary for the City of West Des Moines Public Library in West Des Moines, Iowa. Susan and husband, Daniel, live in Colfax, Iowa, with their son.

Ben Gander '08 is a senior vice president-treasury management sales leader at Dubuque Bank and Trust in Dubuque, Iowa. Ben and wife, **Kyli Hake Gander '07**, live in Dubuque with their four children.

Jeremy Siefken '08 is a senior manager, learning and growth at GrubHub in Chicago, Illinois.

BJ Pilling '09 is CEO of GoFan, a sports technology and marketing company based in Atlanta, Georgia.

THE '10s

Patrick Klopfenstein '10 and **Andrea Ytzen** of Des Moines, Iowa, were married Jan. 25, 2020.

Liz Urban '11 of Bloomington, Illinois, is an assistant vice president, health and wellness management at Captive Resources.

Jack Bruns '12 is a home mortgage consultant at Wells Fargo in Des Moines, Iowa.

Aimee Moberly Forgie '15 is a K3 Title 1 teacher at Sigourney Community School District in Sigourney, Iowa. Aimee and husband, **Jake Forgie '15**, live in Washington, Iowa. Jake is an environmental specialist for the State of Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

THE '00s

Kristina Oeth Stanger '00 is an attorney with Nyemaster Goode PC in Des Moines, Iowa, and a lieutenant colonel in the Iowa Army National Guard, where she has assumed command of the 109th Multifunctional Medical Battalion.

Jennifer Meek Farley '01 is a research manager at University of Nebraska Public Policy Center in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Ryan Fick '02 is a senior underwriter-direct lending at



▲ **Carrie Hill Romo '06** of Des Moines, Iowa, will serve as the Des Moines Public School District's first principal intern, a position created in response to feedback from staff during antiracist town hall meetings. The position of principal intern will give employees ready to become new principals the opportunity to serve in the role with enhanced support from the district.

Elaina Loyd '15 is a French teacher and co-department chair of the world language department at Cedar Falls Community Schools in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and an adjunct French instructor at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa.

Blake Rozendaal '15 is a senior application developer at American Equity in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Nick Lutsch '15 was promoted to lead developer at CMMS Data Group in Chicago, Illinois.

THE '10s (continued)



▲ **Ashley Albaugh '12** and **Michael Lamos '12** of Des Moines, Iowa, were married in a small, family-only surprise wedding July 18, 2020. Ashley is an account executive at Blue Compass in West Des Moines, Iowa, and Michael is a merchandising analyst at Brownells, Inc., in Grinnell, Iowa.

Samantha Weber Sanford '15 is a special education educational assistant at Ames Community School District in Ames, Iowa.

Becca Wall '15 of Montgomery, Illinois, is a small animal rotating intern at VCA Aurora Animal Hospital in Aurora, Illinois.

Susan Elder '16 is a senior human resources assistant at Amazon Fulfillment Center in Bondurant, Iowa.

Elizabeth Carman Pavey '16 is a marketing director at Vero Chiropractic in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Kora Scotton '17 is a physical therapist at Kinetic Edge in Ames, Iowa.

Wesley Wheat '18 is a plumber at CLW Plumbing in Phoenix, Arizona.

2020: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

It's been less than a year since they graduated, but members of Central's Class of 2020 are already making their mark in the world.

Tara Abbott is a graduate student at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa.

Jon Alberts is a financial advisor for Edward Jones in Huntley, Illinois.

Jared Almandinger is an eighth grade science teacher for West Des Moines Community Schools in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Michael Anderson is an actuarial student at Sammons Financial Group in Des Moines, Iowa.

Magen Andrasko is a children's ministry administrator at Citrus Church in Winter Garden, Florida.

Elisa Askelsen is a graduate student at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa.

Chelsey Barrett is an accountant at UNFI in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Madison Borden is a loan specialist at Veterans United Home Loans in Lenexa, Kansas.

Alexis Brown married Brandon Sjullie on July 12, 2019. She works in business application technical support at Corteva Agriscience for the Palmer Group in Johnston, Iowa.

Kendall Brown teaches second grade at Albia Community School in Albia, Iowa.

Elizabeth Budiselich is continuing her education at Buena Vista University to become a secondary art teacher.

Olivia Buseman is a high school science teacher at BCLUW Community School District in Conrad, Iowa.

Mary Busker is a youth supervisor at Ponds Reformed Church in Oakland, New Jersey.

Brianna Carlson is an assistant manager at Cinemark in Altoona, Iowa.

Shelby Casner teaches third grade at Pella Community Schools in Pella, Iowa.

Brooke Caves is a kindergarten teacher at Southeast Polk Community School District in Pleasant Hill, Iowa.

Courtney Comstock is a staff accountant for Terex Cranes in Waverly, Iowa.

Nick Cooper is a chemist/product developer at Rohde Brothers, Inc., in Plymouth, Wisconsin.

Shayla Cox is an associate at The Well Resource Center in Pella, Iowa.

Sydney Cummings is a graduate student at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.

Maddie DeLeon is a graduate student in biomedical sciences at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

Nicole Del Re is a lab technician II at Wacker Chemical in Eddyville, Iowa.

Erin Dilger is a human resources assistant at Innovative Injection Technologies in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Hana Edgerton is a volunteer at Conservation Corps in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Mikaela Erickson is a staffing recruiter at Apex Systems in Omaha, Nebraska.

Christian Escobar is a police officer for the City of Ames in Ames, Iowa.

Kristin Fick is a graduate student at Aurora University in Aurora, Illinois.

Nathan Fitzgerald is an electrical engineer at Vermeer Corporation in Pella, Iowa.

Corbin Folsom is a project coordinator at PMAlliance, Inc., in Davenport, Iowa.

Raigen Furness is a graphic designer at Flynn Wright in Des Moines, Iowa.

Tori Fyfe is the AmeriCorps civic action plan coordinator for community-based learning at Central College in Pella, Iowa.

Stephanie Garcia Guerrero is a registered behavior technician at Behavioral Perspective, Inc., in Aurora, Illinois.

Phillip Garcia is a Chicago area sales person at Safe Science in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Ali Gremminger is working on a scuba diving boat and finishing training as a dive master in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Collin Groleau is a yard loader at Advanced Drainage Systems in Mendota, Illinois.

Emily Hauser is a CNA at Suncrest Hospice in Des Moines, Iowa.

Dylan Heetland is a software developer at Advanced Technologies Group in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Edmond Henning is a product specialist at Vermeer Corporation in Pella, Iowa.

Taylor Hepp is an assistant auditor for the State of Iowa in Des Moines, Iowa.

Amelia Howard is a graduate student at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Brady Johnson is a K-12 physical education teacher and assistant football coach at Coon Rapids-Bayard School in Coon Rapids, Iowa.

Jake Johnson is a graduate assistant athletic trainer at Peru State College in Peru, Nebraska, and is working on a master's degree at Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska.

Jackee Jones is a host/server at Tater Patch in Rolla, Missouri.

Liz Jones is a special education teacher at Des Moines Public Schools in Des Moines, Iowa.

Natalie Jones is a Title 1 Reading teacher at Fairfield

Community School District in Fairfield, Iowa.

Haley Jorgensen is an investment operations coordinator at Principal Financial Group in Des Moines, Iowa.

Kailey Klein is a pricer at Stuff, Etc., in Coralville, Iowa.

Evan Kratochvil is a paraprofessional at KIPP Austin Collegiate in Austin, Texas.

Brittney Latcham is a special education teacher for the Waukee School District in Waukee, Iowa.

Duncan Lee is a computer applications developer at Pella Corporation in Pella, Iowa.

Susanne Lupkes is a wellness professional at Bethany Village in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

Parker Majerus is a Spanish and English teacher at Hudson Community School District in Hudson, Iowa.

Reece Martin works in delivery for Amazon.com in Des Moines, Iowa.

Connor McAdoo is a warehouse assistant at Echo Electric Supply in Des Moines, Iowa.

Madi McDowell is a fourth grade teacher at Newton Community School District in Newton, Iowa.

Ashley Meldrum is in the physical therapy program at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, South Dakota.

Christa Miller is in a yearlong residency at Hidden Acres Christian Center in Dayton, Iowa.

Stacy Mohr is a marketing coordinator at Hopkins Roofing in Pella, Iowa.

Jaden Moody is in the management trainee program at Murphy-Hoffman Company in Des Moines, Iowa.

Becca Moore is a first grade teacher at Fairfield Community School District in Fairfield, Iowa.

Mason Muur is a teacher at Regents School of Charlottesville in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Emily O'Brien is a graduate assistant at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

Madelyn Overton is a cheer coach at Adel DeSoto Minburn High School in Adel, Iowa.

Lexie Patton is a claims adjuster at Grinnell Mutual in Grinnell, Iowa.

Anna Rathmeier Petty is a second grade teacher in the Des Moines Public Schools in Des Moines, Iowa.

Austin Pfiffner is working on a master's degree in data science and analytics at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan.

Elin Phipps is the director of volunteers at Special Olympics in Grimes, Iowa.

John Polk is an electrical engineer at Dexter Laundry in Fairfield, Iowa.

Chloe Pruhs is working toward a master's degree in social work at the University Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Daniel Radcliffe is an assistant wrestling coach at Central College in Pella, Iowa.



Students from the Class of 2020 look on as **Kellie Gorsche Markey '88** addresses them during her Commencement speech in September.

Andrew Ramsey is working on a paralegal certification at Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny, Iowa.

Claire Rettig is in the accelerated nursing program at Allen College in Waterloo, Iowa.

Kobe Rhodes works in the pro shop at Bent Tree Golf Club in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Sarah Steffensmeier Richardson offers English language learners support at Mad Rivers Schools in Riverside, Ohio.

Hunter Robinson is an insurance agent at Great American Senior Benefits in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Michelle Rus is a high school English teacher at Abundant Life Christian School in Madison, Wisconsin.

Cierra Rustad is a health care manager at Proteus, Inc., in Des Moines, Iowa.

Kate Safford is a tax consultant at Property Valuation Services in Kansas City, Kansas.

Caleb Schlatter is a systems analyst at Pella Corporation in Pella, Iowa.

Anna Shapiro is a graduate student at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Cody Smith is a sales advisor at Ridgeway Petroleum in Lansing, Illinois.

Lillian Smithson is working toward a master's degree in public health relations at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa.

Amanda Snyder is in the sales development program at Pella Corporation in Pella, Iowa.

Sarah Sponder is an eighth grade math teacher at Marshalltown Community School District in Marshalltown, Iowa.

Ryan Sprain is an actuarial technician at EMC Insurance Company in Des Moines, Iowa.

Sarah Stephan is a fourth grade teacher at Polo School District in Polo, Illinois.

William Struass is a motor transportation operator for the U.S. Army.

Macy Torgerson is a patient screener at Pella Regional Health Center in Pella, Iowa.

Awynne Trembly is a programming intern at ARC Group Worldwide in Longmont, Colorado.

Sarah Van Weelden is a sales clerk at Jaarsma Bakery in Pella, Iowa.

Grace Vaughn is a social work graduate student at the University of Texas in Austin.

Eric Visscher is an architectural engineer at Pella Corporation in Pella, Iowa.

Elliot Weidenaar is a graduate student at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan.

Anne Williamson is a graduate student at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

Emily Opsal Wilson is a utility analyst I for the State of Iowa in Des Moines, Iowa.

Tanner Zimmerman is a graduate student at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Elaina Loyd '15, a master's degree in teaching English as a second language from Morningside College, 2020.

Becca Wall '15, a doctor of veterinary medicine from Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, 2020.

NEW ARRIVALS

Taylor and **Mark Sanger '05**, a daughter, Lindyn Marie, Oct. 1, 2020.

Daniel and **Susan Mathews Greenwood '07**, a son, Dylan Daniel, Aug. 6, 2020.

Jason and **Bonnie Merkley Joyce '08**, a son, Jasper Elijah, Sept. 2, 2020.

Matt and **Chantelle Wilson Broome '10**, a son, Dawson Fritz Arthur, Jan. 20, 2020.

Brett and **Emma Nelson Finger '14**, a daughter, Emersyn Lynn, Sept. 17, 2020.

Jake '15 and **Aimee Moberly Forgie '15**, a daughter, Raegan Alice, Aug. 20, 2020.

IN MEMORIAM

Lois Christian Bane '46, Fort Collins, Colorado, July 16, 2020.

Dorothy Van Voorst Van Dort '46, Sanford, Michigan, Nov. 27, 2019.

Edith Maas Ballin '49, Northbrook, Illinois, May 12, 2020.

Edna Scholten Kuiken Frank '50, Oak Park, Illinois, Aug. 11, 2020.

Yvonne Quick Morgan '50, Omaha, Nebraska, Nov. 6, 2019.

Ruth Nibbelink Van Heukelom '50, Holland, Michigan, Nov. 20, 2018.

Marcile "Marcy" Van Zee Laning '53, Elmhurst, Illinois, May 31, 2020.

Ted Luther '53, Morrison, Illinois, Jan. 16, 2020.

Glenn Borgman '54, Pella, Iowa, Aug. 30, 2020.

Leland "Lee" Den Hartog '54, Centerville, Iowa, Feb. 8, 2020.

Sophie Gruys Hinshalwood '55, Otisville, New York, Sept. 8, 2018.

Larry Heintz '56, Rock Island, Illinois, Dec. 21, 2014.

Wilmer Ver Meer '56, Savage, Minnesota, Dec. 25, 2019.

Dale Battani '58, Sacramento, California, Sept. 3, 2020.

John Jowers '59, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, March 3, 2017.

William "Bill" Krueger '59, Baxter, Iowa, Nov. 25, 2018.

Duane Krueger '63, Lone Tree, Iowa, Aug. 22, 2020.

Ann Kilian Muller '63, Portland, Maine, June 22, 2020.

Norris Dalton '64, Fayetteville, Arkansas, Jan. 11, 2020.

Joanna Reisner Alexander '65, Ames, Iowa, Nov. 24, 2016.

Raymond Klyn '65, Pella, Iowa, Sept. 20, 2020.

Dan Roelofs '65, Lawrence, Kansas, Nov. 10, 2019.

Janice Rosenberg Sikkink '65, Louisville, Kentucky, June 5, 2020.

Dan Fenimore '67, Mitchellville, Iowa, July 3, 2019.

James Borgman '68, Chandler, Arizona, June 22, 2017.

John Gram '68, Gainesville, Georgia, Aug. 25, 2019.

Mark Heinen '68, Detroit, Michigan, May 2, 2019.

Susan Wiedman Douglas '69, Brownsville, Minnesota, March 15, 2018.

Phyllis Zeilenga Peterson '69, Ankeny, Iowa, Feb. 4, 2020.

Kenneth Kramer '70, Fulton, Illinois, April 15, 2019.

Dennis Frusciano '71, Chicago, Illinois, Dec. 11, 2019.

Robert "Bob" Koenen '71, Fort Myers, Florida, May 19, 2019.

Paul Mohr '71, West Branch, Iowa, May 2, 2018.

Barbara Cooper Hinkle '72, Lilburn, Georgia, Dec. 28, 2019.

Laurence "Larry" Murray '73, Hinsdale, Massachusetts, June 19, 2020.

Cindy Toopes '74, Ottumwa, Iowa, Oct. 25, 2017.

Debora Fredrickson Sullivan '75, Brandon, Minnesota, Nov. 1, 2018.

Donna Ross Teeter '75, Bonaparte, Iowa, June 1, 2019.

Pamela Thomas '76, Bronx, New York, Aug. 23, 2020.

Debra Wenzel McCloud '78, Perry, Iowa, Sept. 16, 2020.

Dale "Bo" Wiersema '78, Glen, Minnesota, Sept. 27, 2020.

Melinda Mutti '88, Pella, Iowa, Sept. 3, 2020.

Reina Romero Montez '02, Pueblo, Colorado, Sept. 9, 2020.

WRITE US!

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

VICTORY!

CENTRAL COMPLETES FUNDRAISING FOR

FOREVER

DUTCH[®]

INITIATIVE

STORY BY: LARRY HAPPEL '81

As he routinely navigated his way through Central College's H.S. Kuyper Fieldhouse hallway, carefully stepping through the gauntlet of athletes' legs and heating pads blanketing the floor outside of the athletic training room, Athletics Director **Eric Van Kley** had a recurring notion.

"I thought, 'I can't be the only one who thinks this is a bad idea,'" he says with a wince, recalling his early days on the job in 2012. "We weren't doing a very good job of serving our student-athletes."

Central's 20-sport athletics program had outgrown its space. When P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium opened in 1969, the college offered eight varsity sports for 202 athletes, all males. Some 50 years later, the Dutch had more than 700 athletes, little additional locker room space and an aging infrastructure with numerous code violations.

Van Kley was right. He was not the only one who sensed the urgency for an athletics facilities facelift that could help the college better provide today's students the kind of experience so many graduates treasure. President **Mark Putnam**, forward-thinking trustees **Pete Cartwright '82**, **Vern Den Herder '71**, **Harry Smith '73** and

Tom Koos '86 and many others saw the need was real and the time was now.

"More than half of our students compete in sports, and I just knew upgrading these athletics facilities was important if we want to keep the great coaches we have and if we want to continue to attract the kind of young people who want to play and learn," Smith says.

RECRUITMENT MAGIC

The multi-million Forever Dutch[®] initiative to expand and renovate the A.N. Kuyper Athletics Complex is among the largest capital projects in the college's history and the most ambitious for Central athletics. While future facility needs remain, particularly for additional practice and competition space, the project addresses many of the department's most pressing concerns.

Now, with funding secured and approval received to begin the third phase of construction remaking the building's second floor, it's cause for commemoration and celebration of the success of Forever Dutch.

"It's amazing," Van Kley says. "There's a whole new energy to this place. You can see it in our student-athletes and coaches and you

can tell even visitors sense it."

Count volleyball coach **Jeanne Czipri** among the energized. Before she began telling prospective students about Central, the college first had to recruit her and convince her this was the place to build her volleyball dreams. Previously an NCAA Division III tournament coach at Dominican University (Illinois), the Chicago-area native was a bit reluctant when she pointed her car west for an interview. And with each Interstate 80 cornfield she passed, she became more convinced she belonged back in the city. Then she arrived on campus. The construction excited her. The people sold her.

"To see a college doing this kind of construction was really impressive to me," she says. "That says a lot about the school."

But there was more.

"I absolutely fell in love with it here at Central. The people here are just special. They genuinely care about each other. I now have recruits tell me they feel the authenticity of the community and the atmosphere. The people here want Central to be a special part of their lives," she says.

A longtime leader in women's athletics, Central provided another affirmation of the



In the first phase of the \$18 million Forever Dutch® initiative in 2017, P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium was expanded and received an exterior facelift.



The M. Joan Farver Atrium provides a welcoming entrance to P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium and recognizes the legacy of the Kuyper family, which provided a record \$4.2 million lead gift.

Dutch women with the expansive new locker room that opens this year.

“Our players are absolutely loving it,” Czipri says after a sneak peek. “It just shows the commitment of our alumni and supporters that athletics is such a critical part of the student-athlete’s experience here and that athletics and academics both can have such an impact on how they develop in their four years here.”

Women’s basketball forward **Payton Rogers ’21** is eager to have her team move in.

“It’ll be nice to have our own space that we can just call our little hangout,” she says.

The vibe Czipri felt from the construction has a similar impact on prospective students, Football Coach **Jeff McMartin ’90** says.

“We talk about always getting better as an athlete, about always trying to improve,” he says. “Guys are getting stronger and faster

every year. And I think athletes who visit, they understand that about the culture here. And they want to see that same thing in our campus and in our athletics facilities, that they’re always getting better, that they’re always improving.”

Linebacker **Drew Smith ’21** says the enhancements helped attract him to Central.

“The new locker room is one of the reasons I was so intrigued by Central when I was getting recruited here,” he says. “It’s a really nice addition. It’s been so nice for meetings and for just hanging out with teammates before or after practice.”

FOREVER DUTCH LOYALTY

Officially launched in early 2016, the Forever Dutch fundraising and building plan was formulated in 2013.

Initially, some outdoor projects in the A.N.

Kuyper Athletics Complex were completed and key college supporters were quietly briefed. A steering committee was assembled, guided by tri-chairs Cartwright of Urbandale, Iowa; **Dennis Hanson ’07H** of Norwalk, Iowa; and **Molly Parrott ’02** of Ames, Iowa.

The pivot point came shortly after the launch. As has happened at so many critical junctures in the college’s history, the family of Pella Corporation founder P.H. “Pete” Kuyper stepped forward. Kuyper’s descendants and their family foundations teamed for a record \$4.2 million lead gift for the complex that bears the family name.

The driving force behind the family gift was **M. Joan Farver**, daughter of P.H. Kuyper, a former Pella Corporation chair and long-time Central trustee. Farver died in February 2017 at age 97. The new building entrance atrium was named in her honor. Family members shared that in her final days, she asked to be driven by the entrance as it neared completion and smiled approvingly when she peered through the car window, seeing the atrium’s walls bursting with a bright Central red.

Four years after the announcement, the gift’s impact remains staggering and Farver’s memory is cherished.

“For more than a century, the history of Central College and the Kuyper family are tightly intertwined,” Putnam says. “The family’s impact is felt in all areas of campus life and always with the overriding concern of how to best improve the lives of the students who come here. But there’s always been a special affinity within the family for the stewardship of this building. Joan keenly felt that. She saw it as a reflection of the family’s heritage and carried a sense of responsibility for maintaining that. It is fitting that her name is now a part of the building as well.”

Adding fuel for the initiative’s stretch run was a powerful gift from **Curt ’88** and **Mary Holden Blythe ’90**, as well as impactful contributions from several others.

THANKS TO THE REAL MVPs

Central College has surpassed its fundraising goal to renovate and expand the college’s athletics facilities. With all funding secured, the college is on course to complete approximately \$18 million in expansion and renovations by April 2021.

“We are so grateful to the 2,712 alumni and friends of the college who have given thoughtfully and generously to help us finish this project for our students and coaches. It saw the most donors for any one project in the college’s history,” says **Sunny Gonzales Eighmy ’99**, vice president for advancement. “Time and time again members of the Central family have demonstrated steadfast support for the college and our students. We send our deepest thanks for their confidence in Central and trust in our mission. Through their generosity, we are able to elevate the student-athlete experience here now and well into the future.”

IMPROVEMENTS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOREVER DUTCH CAMPAIGN

The \$18 million Forever Dutch® initiative launched with a \$12 million building expansion in 2017. The second \$3 million phase to the lower level, which includes a new women's varsity locker room and a transformed athletic training room was complete in Fall 2020. Construction is currently occurring on the \$3 million third phase of the building's upper level and is scheduled to be completed in April of this year.

COMPLETED

- + New PPI videoboard at Ron and Joyce Schipper Stadium
- + Stadium seating, new dugouts at baseball field
- + Stadium seating at softball field
- + Hillside stadium seating at soccer field
- + New Heritage Plaza entrance at Schipper Stadium, improved spectator accessibility, vehicle access
- + New P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium entrance, M. Joan Kuyper Farver Atrium
- + New infrastructure including high-efficiency heating/cooling systems allowing for air conditioning in gymnasium
- + New wrestling center
- + Pacha Family Lobby with new concession area, Athletics Hall of Honor
- + The Sheila Holzworth Women's Varsity Locker Room, men's varsity locker rooms, expanded locker space, team meeting rooms
- + Renovated athletic training room
- + Renovated and expanded equipment room
- + Golf, baseball, softball hitting center

IN PROGRESS

- + New Schipper Fitness Center flooring with recessed lifting stations, additional equipment
- + New visitors' reception area
- + New coaches' offices, conference room
- + New team meeting spaces, recruitment spaces
- + Renovated visitors' locker room

CENTRAL CLUB GIFT BENEFITS FITNESS CENTER

One of Central's most faithful partners came up big once again through a major gift to the Forever Dutch® initiative to renovate and expand P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium.

The Central Club, among the nation's oldest small-college booster organizations, in Fall 2020 committed \$150,000 to the next phase of the project. The gift is designated for new custom flooring and equipment for the Ron Schipper Fitness Center. The surface will be more forgiving, eliminating the raised 4-inch platforms that engulf a large section of the facility.

The 7,200-square foot facility opened in 1999, named in honor of College Football Hall of Fame Coach Ron Schipper, who guided the Dutch from 1961-96.



The new wrestling center in P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium is nearly triple the size of the previous team practice room, accommodating a roster that has grown to 40-50 wrestlers.

GAME-CHANGING FACILITIES

The improvements are game changers. The new wrestling center is more than double the size and able to handle Central's squad of 40-50 wrestlers once a post-virus world commences. The men's and women's locker rooms are equally expansive and can better support the explosion in Central roster sizes. The spacious Pacha Family Lounge and Chip Griffith '92 Student Lounge allow for post-event team gatherings and recruiting functions.

Enhancements also were created through efficiencies.

The athletic training room was gutted and is more functional, without adding any square footage, and the addition of treatment stations in the new locker rooms reduces overcrowding. Likewise, the weight room in the Ron Schipper Fitness Center features recessed lifting platforms, providing more useable floor space. A former racquetball court was split into two levels, creating much needed storage for the equipment room downstairs and assistant coaches' work stations on the upper level. The former wrestling room was converted into a golf/baseball/softball hitting center, which was made possible by Dave '61 and Ardie Pals Sutphen '64.

Student-athletes in each of Central's 20 sports are taking advantage of the new spaces. Forever Dutch also is providing an emotional boost, as well as an ongoing challenge for the future.

"We need to continue to be on the forefront when it comes to facilities and how we train," McMartin says. "This speaks to both of those areas. Not only will it help us train better, but it also is going to reinforce the fact that we are going to continue to improve in every aspect of what we do."

It's a clear Dutch victory. A chapter of athletics fundraising is successfully completed. And the renovation and expansion work have prompted a transformation at Central, not just in facilities but in a spirit that transcends athletics. The phrase Forever Dutch, initially seen as a fundraising tagline, has morphed into a mindset, a way to articulate the deep-seeded passion and loyalty Central students and alumni feel for all things red and white.

"It's just being a part of the family that we've created and continually grown," Smith says. "It's a big family we grow close to over the four years and hopefully will stay close to after we leave Central." ■

DONOR PROFILE

IT'S ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIPS

Central is a family affair for **Curt '88** and **Mary Holden Blythe '90** of Williamsburg, Iowa.

"Central has impacted everybody in our immediate family and beyond," Curt Blythe says. Curt's brothers include **Jeff '86** and **Matt '93**. Three of the couple's sons, **Trenton '08**, **Holden '12** and **Corbin '17**, graduated from Central.

"It's about the relationships," Curt Blythe adds. "When you're a 17- or 18-year-old kid and you go to a place like Central, you really don't know what to expect. But a lot of that becomes clear down the road as you mature and gain perspective on how much the people there have impacted your life. And for Mary and me, that's truly the case. There are so many great people that make Central what it is."

Curt and Mary Blythe made a major donation to the college's Forever Dutch® initiative. The project includes construction of a spacious women's varsity locker room with a team meeting room, a reconfigured athletic training room that provides more treatment space and an expanded athletics equipment room.

"This is a transformative gift and we are profoundly grateful," says Central President **Mark Putnam**. "The Blythe family's multigenerational contributions to Central extend far beyond financial support. In evolving roles as Central students, athletes, alumni and parents, they have made a substantive difference in the life of this institution."

"Their remarkable generosity is exceeded only by their passion for providing for others. They are fervently committed to ensuring that future students benefit from the Central experience as richly and broadly as they have."

Beyond helping students, the Blythes sought to recognize those who served Central years ago as well as those who do so now.

"We're in a blessed position to be able to do this and it's just a reflection on how we feel about the people we've known in the past and those currently on campus," Curt



An expansive new women's locker room provided much-needed space and was constructed in the second phase and opened this fall, matching the men's locker room that was added in 2017. Central's women's athletics program didn't exist when P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium was constructed in 1969.

Blythe says. "We just felt like it was the right thing to do."

The Blythes' generosity is game-changing, says **Eric Van Kley**, athletics director and wrestling coach.

"Their gift and the gifts of thousands of others will help provide life-impacting opportunities for Central student-athletes for years to come," he says. "But even more, I appreciate that I can always count on Curt and Mary for support and guidance. They have no interest in personal recognition but have an understanding of the impact they can make and a desire that their support will motivate others."

While downplaying their own contributions, the Blythes encouraged other alumni and college friends to take the extra steps needed to help Central reach the fundraising goal. Curt Blythe said he is eager to see work swiftly ensue, which will bring new life to the building's second floor with team meeting space, a new welcome center, recruitment space, offices and visitor locker room.

As parents, Curt and Mary Blythe observed the same kind of lasting relationships they developed at Central impacting the lives of the college's students today.

"I think it's a rock-solid environment that you trust," Curt Blythe says. "I'm sure my parents felt the same when Jeff and I went off to Central in the mid-'80s. You know you

trust the people who are there. That was no different then as it is now, both academically and athletically. There are certainly peaks and valleys just like in any other part of life, but I think what endures is the trust you have in Central and the integrity of its leaders.

"I just really appreciate the culture and the environment that the leadership has tried to create at Central and has enhanced throughout the years."

While Curt values the education and experience Central provided, perhaps even more he cherishes the friendships generated here. He cited past and present faculty members and coaches, including his football coach, AFCA Hall of Famer **Ron Schipper**, as well as staff members like retired Vice President for Advancement **Dave Sutphen '61** and his wife **Ardie Pals Sutphen '64**, who remain in close contact. And teammates became lifelong friends.

"Probably the best memories are the relationships I had with guys I competed with, in my case, both wrestling and football," he says.

Enabling others to develop those same life-defining connections is ultimately what fuels the Blythes' stewardship.

"I think Central is doing a lot of really good things," Curt says. "And our family wants to see Central continue to be successful long into the future." ■

FROM MOMENT to Movement

STORY BY: MARIN HARRINGTON '21 AND YANA ROUSE '21

Spring 2020 was a time of deep concerns.

The COVID-19 pandemic raged across the United States, exposing layers of social inequities our country had yet to confront. Citizens, with face masks and passion in tow, marched in protest of police brutality toward Black Americans and other people of color. Death had seeped, it seemed, into every corner of life.

Despite the distance between us (between Arizona and Nebraska), we found comfort in our hours-long phone calls with one another. The calls were a space to share our grief and fear about a world we felt too small to change for the better.

We wondered how the current state of the country would affect the college when we returned in August. Countless universities had released statements affirming that, yes, Black lives do matter. Many also addressed their own shortcomings in confronting racism on their campuses and provided action steps to improve their anti-racism work. The calls for justice were so numerous that silence echoed loudest of all.

Central College remained silent.

Or so we thought they would, until June 3, when an email from President **Mark Putnam** appeared in our inboxes. Its subject read: "We Must Do More." Addressed to the entire campus community, he decried the deaths of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd. He urged us all to do our part in standing up against racist violence, referencing the college's Welcome Statement. The gesture was appreciated, and the intentions were no doubt well-meaning, but we were disappointed the email said nothing about how the college, and its most powerful leaders, would do more.

Not confident we would have the courage to actually send it, we drafted a reply to President Putnam. We expressed our frustration with his statement's passivity. We included links to petitions, organizations to donate and educational resources about systemic racism, asking him to share them with the Central community at large. Fueled

by the adrenaline of hitting that powerful "send" button, we shared our response on social media, encouraging other students to email it to him as well.

The following day, President Putnam reached out to Yana, who had been elected student body president for the 2020-21 academic year. The two arranged a meeting,



Yana Rouse '21, left, and Marin Harrington '21, right, are helping lead an effort to build a culture of inclusion at Central.

and she discussed her concerns as a student of color at Central. She stressed her desire to spark conversations between students, faculty and staff that would lead to a genuine change in making campus culture more accepting of diversity. The college needed to confront the prejudice and discrimination that occurred within it, whether it be racism, sexism or homophobia. We wanted to mobilize the community to act, but had no idea where to start — or if we were even allowed to start at all.

We were put in contact with **Kristi Leonard '97**, assistant dean of students, who leads Central's recently formed Building a Culture of Inclusion initiative. At the time, it consisted only of Central employees. Their work had been postponed due to the pandemic, but when the project resumed they wanted to involve students. We were offered the opportunity to share our goals and perspective with the employee members and lead student recruitment for the initiative.

After weeks of advertising — from social media posts to speaking directly to full classes of students — we held our first informational meeting. Nineteen students signed up, far exceeding our expectations. Due to high interest, we scheduled a second meeting and 10 more students joined. Students were assigned to one of the initiative's five working groups: recruiting and hiring, Pella community, communication, professional development and academics and curriculum. Each group consists of students, faculty and staff who collaborate to educate, program and recommend policy centered around inclusivity and celebrating cultural diversity.

Fewer than 30 students might not seem like a lot. But these students are driven and dedicated to making Central a place where everyone sees the beauty in our diversity. Perhaps most important, these students have the empathy to take on other students' struggles as their own. We could not be more grateful for their willingness to join us in this work — because to accomplish real transformation, it will take slow, difficult work.

When we graduate in May, we know the work we've begun will be nowhere close to complete. The pursuit of justice is never complete; once justice is found, we must preserve it. If the young foundations of this project are the legacy we leave behind, that is enough for us. We have faith that others will make sure it grows. ■

BUILDING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION INITIATIVE

In Spring 2018, Central started reviewing the college environment and looking at how it could strengthen its efforts in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion. An outcome of this work was the development of an initiative to focus on building a culture of inclusion. Faculty, staff and students leading this initiative are:

FACULTY AND STAFF

Obinna Agomo, Assistant Men's Basketball Coach
Cyndi Boertje, Tutoring Coordinator
Joel Brummel, Chaplain
Jeanette Budding, Prospect Management and Research Coordinator
Ellie Burns, Director of Pre-College Programs
Brian Campbell, Director of Sustainability Education and Partnerships
Jessica Klyn de Novelo '05, Assistant Dean for Career Development and Civic Engagement
Ellen De Pre, Professor of Biology
Cheri Doane '98, Director of Civic Engagement
Peggy Fitch, Title IX Coordinator and Equity Officer
Sara Shuger Fox, Associate Professor of Exercise Science
Tori Fyfe '20, Americorps Civic Action Coordinator
Elizabeth Golovatski, Assistant Professor of Physics
Jenae Jenison '11, Director of External Engagement
Kate Kanne Smith, Assistant Professor of Theatre
Matthew Kaye, Assistant Dean of International Education
Denise Lamphier, Director of Integrated Marketing Communications and Media
Kristi Leonard '97, Assistant Dean of Students
Nathan Manchester '18, Admission Representative
Jamel McKnight '19, Admission Representative
Paulina Mena, Associate Professor of Biology
Katherine Nesbit, Assistant Professor of English
Donna Newendorp, Associate Director of Financial Aid

Alicia O'Brien, Senior Associate Athletics Director and Associate Head Women's Softball Coach
Drew Readell '13, Assistant Director of Admission
Matthew Schirm, Head Baseball Coach and Lecturer of Exercise Science
Charles Strey, Dean of Students
Michelle Wilkie, Director of Development
Carol Williamson, Vice President for Student Development
Sean Wiseman, Assistant Dean of Students
Amy Young, Associate Professor of German

STUDENTS

Yuan Bank '22
James Boatright '21
Sharaden Boggs '23
Natalie Brader '22
Xavier Bryant '21
Josh Cheek '21
Sami Craig '21
Quinn Deahl '23
Matthew Dickinson '21
Lizzie Edens '21
Bridgette Edwards '21
Marin Harrington '21
KC Huffman '21
Hailey Hunter '24
William Isiminger '21
Kaitlyn Isom '24
Maggie Langenfeld '21
Nicole Lyons '21
Laurynn Mize '21
Dani Neu '21
Gabby Petruzello '24
Cynthia Rangel '21
Yana Rouse '21
Cheyenne Scholl '21
Allison Stuenkel '22
Destiny Swallom '21
Jacob Wegner '21
Abigail Woolfolk '22

This group is focusing on educating the campus community about inequities of all types and why these inequities persist. The group also is working to determine and prioritize recommendations around the college's diversity and inclusion efforts. This work is important to the college's endeavors to create equitable systems and policies, as well as a welcoming community ensuring all are lifted up for the collective success of the Central family.

CELEBRATE HOO-RAH DAY

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 13!

Spread your #CentralSpirit loud and proud with Central's school song!
Share your school song videos with us on social media for #HoorahDay!

HOO-RAH HOO-RAH

SHOW THE WORLD WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE FOREVER DUTCH®

