

FALL 2021

CENTRAL

CENTRAL COLLEGE

CIVITAS

ALUMNI MAGAZINE



11

MISS AMAZING

PILOT PROGRAM PAVES THE WAY FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

18

PIONEERS OF PROGRESS

INNOVATIVE CAREERS SHAPED BY THE CENTRAL EXPERIENCE

29

WE MOVE FORWARD

ANNUAL REPORT AND HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

FINDING ANOTHER GEAR

BY: MARK PUTNAM, CENTRAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT



Many years ago, I used the phrase “I’m stuck” to express my frustration with a tough homework assignment or some other problem I needed to solve.

Those two simple words seemed to be universally and immediately understood by teachers, parents and friends. They offered a verbal key that unlocked the door for help since the expression did not communicate any inability or unwillingness on my part. Rather, the phrase elicited an instinctual response from those with a desire to be helpful. They helped me see that if I was willing to change the way I was thinking or what I was doing I could discover a new way to succeed.

While I don’t say “I’m stuck” out loud these days, the expression does cross my mind at times. The personal and professional skills gained through a lifetime of problem solving automatically foster solution-thinking, creativity and innovation.

But such interventions typically begin

with the acknowledgment that I need to find another gear if I am to get where I need to go.

This past year has taught me a lot about getting unstuck and finding another gear. In the midst of a pandemic, there were no reliable maps to follow. No GPS to tell me where and when to turn. There was pressure to move fast, but my instincts often told me to drive slowly and carefully.

Anyone who has driven a vehicle with a standard transmission knows that if you are going to find another gear, you need to push in the clutch and maybe even apply the brake. We tend to avoid this because pausing or even stopping feels like we are not making progress.

However, shifting gears has certain benefits depending on the situation. Sometimes we need to shift up so that we can find more energy and go a bit faster to get beyond a situation. Other times we need to shift down so that we can climb a hill,

find more traction or navigate a turn in the road. We may find ourselves stuck behind a slow-moving vehicle we wish to pass or maybe we are just stuck in the mud.

Finding another gear is highly contextual and requires interpretation. We need to think about the kind of gear we need at a particular time.

As educators we seek to blend a broad-based education in the arts and sciences with professional and experiential learning. Our task is to provide as many potential gears for our students as possible. In the classroom, lab and studio — as well as in practice settings like internships, undergraduate research, service learning and international opportunities — students experience the vast array of life circumstances they will encounter along the way.

Much of this teaches them to be resilient, creative and innovative so whenever they need to, they can find another gear. ■

CENTRAL COLLEGE CIVITAS ALUMNI MAGAZINE

FALL 2021 | ISSUE 2

EDITOR & DIRECTOR OF
INTEGRATED MARKETING
COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

Denise Lamphier
lamphierd@central.edu

ASSISTANT EDITOR &
SENIOR DESIGN DIRECTOR

Melody VanderLeest
vanderleestm@central.edu

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Jordan Bohr '15
bohrj@central.edu

Emily Hawk
hawke@central.edu

Brittany Carlson Prokupek '16
carlsonb@central.edu

Cyvannah Vecchio
vecchioc@central.edu

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

MARKETING AND
PROJECT MANAGEMENT
Steffanie Bonnstetter
bonnstetters@central.edu

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

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

FALL 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ON THE COVER

Bella from Pella is breaking educational
barriers for future students.

Photo By: Paul Joy

FEATURES



11

BELLA FROM PELLA

Bella Van Gorp
changed the
college game



18

CATALYST OF SUCCESS

These Central alums
carved unique
career paths

2020-21
HONOR ROLL
OF GIVING

29

MOVING FORWARD

Annual report
demonstrates a
heart for others

PRESIDENT'S CORNER
AROUND THE POND
ATHLETICS
CENTRAL SCENE
ALUMNI NEWSNOTES
DONOR PROFILE
PARTING SHOT

2
4
8
16
40
46
47

ALUMNI@CENTRAL.EDU
CIVITAS.CENTRAL.EDU

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



Civitas is published by the Central communications office for alumni, parents and
friends of Central College. For information on the Civitas mission, visit civitas.central.edu.

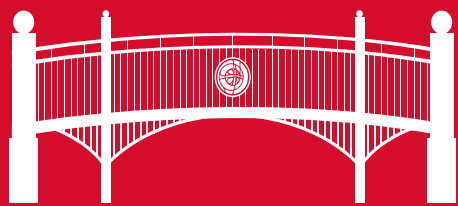
Civitas (USPS 096-840) is published quarterly by Central College, 812 University St., Pella, IA 50219-1999.
Periodicals postage paid at Pella, Iowa, and additional offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes (PS 3579) to Civitas, 812 University St., Pella, IA 50219-1999.
Address changes also may be sent to alumni@central.edu.

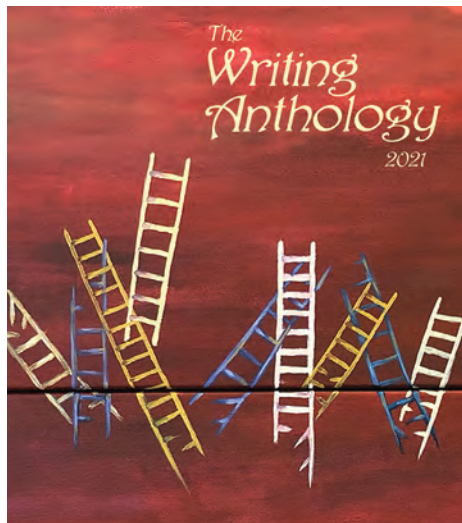


10% Post-Consumer Fiber

Production notes: Civitas is printed with a vegetable-based ink by Town Crier, Pella, Iowa.



AROUND THE POND



▲ CENTRAL PUBLISHES ANNUAL WRITING ANTHOLOGY

Central College's annual Writing Anthology, a collection of exceptional student work from across the liberal arts curriculum, has been released for the 2020-21 academic year. This marks the 41st year for the Writing Anthology, which has been continuously published at Central since 1981.

Gabi Anderson '22 and **Emma Carlson '23** served as editors this year. Anderson is from Bridgeton, Missouri; Carlson is from Fairfield, Iowa. **Valerie Billing**, assistant professor of English, and **Sarah Van Waardhuizen**, assistant professor of music, served as advisors.

Emma Chervek '21 from Altoona, Iowa, was named the recipient of the John Allen Award, given to a student whose piece the selection panel deems to have superior rhetorical competence, high levels of readability, originality and insight. Her essay is titled "Environmental Minimalism and Inspirational Wonder in Paradise Lost." The anthology also honored the life of **Renee Van Roekel**, who died April 2, 2020, with her poem "Breakaway." Van Roekel studied at Central for several years in pursuit of an English degree and was awarded a posthumous bachelor's degree from Central in 2021.

The Writing Anthology can be viewed online at central.edu/writing-anthology.

FACULTY RECEIVES \$71,000 TO BENEFIT TEACHING

The Moore Family Foundation Faculty Development Program for Teaching is providing grant funding for 13 faculty projects at Central College for the 2021-22 academic year. The funding total is more than \$71,000.

Funding supports projects, some of which are:

- + Exploring how small, rural districts understand, enact and react to policy change.
- + Establishing a living laboratory at Central.
- + Research in data analytics for the expansion of catapult technology.
- + Collaborative research with faculty and students on the generation of Indirubin.
- + A teaching development workshop for faculty.

The Moore Family Foundation has provided significant support to the college over the years. Since 2013, Central faculty have received \$564,059 in funding from the Moore Family Foundation Development Program for Teaching.

The foundation's goal is to provide Central faculty with the opportunity to strengthen engagement with students in the classroom and other education settings. The foundation funds faculty professional development in teaching, including:

- + New course development.
- + Sabbatical leave support that directly impacts classroom teaching.
- + Educational opportunities in the classroom and other learning environments through educational excursions, visitors and guest lecturers.
- + Equipment for teaching.
- + Workshop, seminar or training registration fee.
- + Payments to Central students for their work in collaborative research with faculty members.

The late **Frank Moore '49** and his wife, **Grace**, who was designated an honorary alumna of Central in 2001, have been long-term generous benefactors to the college. Frank was the director of the human

research area files at Yale University, where Grace was a foreign language translation editor. From 1979-88, Frank was a Central trustee. Together, the couple created two scholarships funded by their annuities, one endowed scholarship, two faculty awards and a chair in anthropology, in addition to ongoing gifts from the Moore Family Foundation.

CENTRAL DROPS STANDARDIZED TEST REQUIREMENT

In May 2021, Central announced it will no longer require ACT or SAT scores for first-year and transfer students applying for admission. Central had already waived standardized test scores for the 2020 and 2021 admission cycles due to the cancellation of many testing dates because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Central will evaluate each students' application for admission based on factors such as class rigor, academic record, extracurricular activities, talents and achievements and the unique experience and perspective a student could bring to the college.

The admission office will continue to consider test scores, if submitted, as an additional component to an applicant's profile. Test scores may also be helpful for course placement and in the selection process for some scholarships.

Chevy Freiburger, dean of enrollment management, was featured on Iowa Public Radio for the announcement. Read it here: central.edu/test-scores.



Madolyn Clark '22

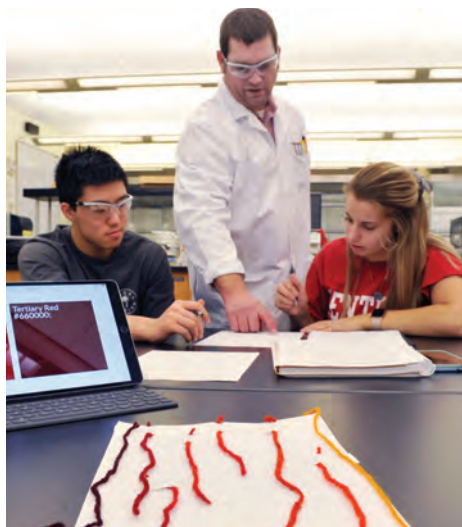
▲ STUDENT SENATE OFFICERS

The following students will serve as Student Senate executive officers for the 2021-22 academic year:

- + **Madolyn Clark '22** of Clarinda, Iowa, has been elected Student Senate president. She previously served as treasurer.
- + **DelTon Alexander '24** from Iowa City, Iowa, is the new senate leader.
- + **Jenna Hernandez '24** from Slater, Iowa, will serve as the senate's parliamentarian.
- + **Trey Melvin '23** of Lawrence, Kansas, takes the role of treasurer.
- + **Katie Wilson '23**, of Runnells, Iowa, will serve as secretary.

Central's Student Senate seeks to establish an effective and representative government for the students of the college. The senate implements policies that benefit all Central students and strives to encourage collaboration between faculty, administrative staff, student senators and students.

The senate is elected by its peers to help make the student connections to administration, faculty, staff and the college's Board of Trustees. The creation, recognition and financial support to student organizations is a regular part of the senate's work. To donate to Central student organizations, visit central.edu/give.



▲ JAY WACKERLY AWARDED GRANT FOR SUMMER RESEARCH

Jay Wackerly, associate professor of chemistry, was awarded the Organic Syntheses, Inc., Grant for summer research.

The grant includes \$8,000 in funding for 10 weeks of summer research in 2021 and an additional \$8,000 in summer 2022. **Amy Philavanh '22**, a biochemistry major from Ankeny, Iowa, helped Wackerly conduct research focused on the synthesis of a novel class of supramolecular macrocyclic host molecules termed "cambiarenes" this summer.

From the Latin *cambiare*, meaning "to change," these molecules can change from one form to another in the presence of a chemical or electronic stimulus. The first cambiarene was reported by the Wackerly lab last year in "Chemistry — A European Journal." These newly invented cambiarenes may be able to act as molecular transport vehicles. Applications of such phenomena could range from targeted drug delivery to carbon sequestration.

This ongoing research has been funded through multiple grants, including the Moore Family Foundation Development Grant, since 2013.



▲ CENTRAL PROFESSOR, ALUMNA HONORED AT COMMENCEMENT

Terence Kleven, professor of religion, and Shannan Mattiace '90 were honored at Central's Commencement ceremony Saturday, May 15.

Kleven was named to the Dr. Jacob and Gela Schnucker Sessler Chair in Philosophy and Religion. Established in 2002, the endowed position recognizes distinctive faculty accomplishments and contributions to Central and provides support for teaching, research and scholarship.

Kleven has taught at Central since 1996. He is a past recipient of international, national and regional awards, fellowships and grants, including those from the Lilly Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities and more than two dozen others. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching presented him with the Iowa Professor of the Year award in 2001. Kleven has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship twice.

Kleven's service and leadership to the college include his years of service as humanities division chair and department chair; faculty representative to the board of trustees; and service on many Central

councils, committees and task forces.

Mattiace, professor of political science and international studies at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania, was awarded the degree of honorary doctor of humane letters. She graduated with majors in political science and Spanish. At Allegheny, Mattiace teaches and has done extensive research on Latin American Native American peoples, social movements, criminal violence in Mexico and migration.

In 2019, she was a Fulbright Scholar in Santiago, Chile. In addition, she is a recent recipient of a Harry Guggenheim Foundation Award for research on ethnic violence. In 2019, she also received the Julian Ross Award for Excellence in Teaching at Allegheny.

NSCA RECOGNIZES CENTRAL'S STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING PROGRAM

Central's strength and conditioning program, part of the exercise science (kinesiology) major, was approved through the National Strength and Conditioning Association's Education Recognition Program.

In pursuing and achieving NSCA recognition through the ERP, Central's program has demonstrated that it is committed to quality and meets the requirements to prepare students for NSCA exams in becoming certified strength and conditioning specialists. This test is the gold standard in the field and enhances a student's credentials when seeking job opportunities.

Central is one of just four colleges and universities in Iowa to hold this distinction from NSCA. The others are Loras College, St. Ambrose University and University of Dubuque.

The recognition provides students access to grants, scholarships and internships, while also offering discounts on exams and conferences. Through the partnership with NSCA, Central students also have access to professional development and networking opportunities.

The NSCA is a nonprofit association dedicated to advancing the strength and conditioning and related sport science professions around the world. It exists to empower a community of professionals to maximize their impact through disseminating evidence-based knowledge and its practical application by offering industry-leading certifications, research

(continued on page 6)

journals, career development services, networking opportunities and continuing education.

The recognition is valid for three years.

CENTRAL FACULTY RECEIVE RECOGNITION

Five Central College faculty members received awards this spring for their outstanding leadership in teaching, service and scholarship:

+ **Joshua Dolezal**, professor of English, (B.A., King College; M.A., Ph.D., University of Nebraska-Lincoln) received the Dr. John Wesselink Award for scholarship with a direct impact on teaching.

+ **Kathy Korcheck**, professor of Spanish, (B.S., M.A., Kent State University; Ph.D., Washington University in St. Louis) received the David Crichton Memorial Teaching Award for excellence in teaching which challenges and shapes the intellectual development in students.

+ **Jon Witt**, professor of sociology, (B.A., Trinity College; M.A., Ph.D., Loyola University Chicago) received the Hutch Bearce Community-Building and Faculty Leadership Award for community building and mentorship or leadership.

+ **Allison Krogstad**, professor of Spanish, (B.A., North Central College; M.A., Ph.D., University of Minnesota) received the Huffman Award for Outstanding Support of International Education. This award recognizes the contributions made by Donald and Maxine Huffman to Central's programs in international education.

+ **Cathy Hinga Haustein '77**, professor of chemistry, (B.A., Central College; M.F.A., Ph.D., University of Iowa) received the Frank W. Moore Faculty Award for promoting student learning in the natural sciences.

Another faculty member was recognized for his 32 years of service to the college. **Dennis Doyle**, professor of communication studies, (B.A., University of Northern Iowa; M.S., University of North Texas; Ph.D., Southern Illinois University-Carbondale) retired at the end of the 2020-21 academic year.

Two additional faculty members were honored for 25 years of service: **Mary Jo Sodd**, professor of theatre, (B.A., University of St. Catherine; M.A., University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; Ph.D., University of Colorado Boulder) and **Terence Kleven**, professor of religion, (B.A., University of Calgary; M.A., Ph.D., McMaster University).



▲ CENTRAL MEN'S RUGBY TEAM WINS CHALLENGE CUP

The Central men's rugby team won the Challenge Cup at the 2021 Collegiate Rugby Championship tournament May 29-31.

The Dutch claimed the Challenge Cup by defeating Taylor University 24-10 in the Challenge Bowl division. Eleven students competed on the team.

The tournament was played in New Orleans, Louisiana, at Gold Mine on Airline stadium, home of Major League Rugby's NOLA Gold. The tournament featured 28 men's teams and 12 women's teams.

This is the team's first year in program history to compete at a national level. Central was one of 82 colleges represented at the tournament.

CENTRAL PARTNERS WITH UI FOR STUDENTS TO STUDY FINANCE AT TIPPIC COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Central and the University of Iowa have formed a new partnership that will streamline the process for Central students to be admitted to the Master of Science in Finance program in the university's Tippie College of Business.

The agreement will allow Central seniors to apply for admission to the Tippie graduate program provided they meet certain requirements for GPA and course completion. Qualified students will receive conditional admission to the master's program pending their graduation from Central. Up to five admission slots in the program will be reserved for Central students.

The partnership takes effect with students in Central's graduating Class of 2022.

CENTRAL ADDS TWO MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Central announced changes to its board of trustees, including the addition of two new members: **Amy Dietrich Eilers '88** and **Chad Huyser '97**.

Eilers is an executive women's health clinical account specialist at Merck & Co. in West Des Moines, Iowa, and has been with the company since 1995. She

was the guest speaker at Central's annual Scholarship Dinner in 2019. Her husband, **Mike Eilers '89**, and son, **Joe Eilers '18**, also are Central alumni.

Huyser is the regional director of Lely International in addition to his role as president of Lely North America in Pella, Iowa. He was named regional director of Lely International and president of Lely North America in September 2019. He leads all of Lely's North American efforts and serves as one of five Lely regional directors worldwide. Huyser has been with Lely for 14 years. He is married to **Valerie Roush Huyser '97**.



▲ PROFESSOR TERENCE KLEVEN AWARDED FULBRIGHT TO STUDY ABROAD

Terence Kleven, the Jacob and Gela Schnucker Sessler Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Central, has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program grant to conduct research in Arabic political philosophy at the University of Jordan in Amman, Jordan, from Sept. 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.

Kleven will continue his work to complete a critical Arabic edition and an English translation of several treatises of Alfarabi on scientific method.

Alfarabi (d. A.D. 950) is a comprehensive thinker, a philosopher, jurist, scientist, mathematician, musician and Muslim theologian, who widely influenced both Eastern and Western thought. He nearly single-handedly revived the classical Greek

philosophic rationalism of Plato, Aristotle and Galen. Only in the past 50 years has more precise scholarship on Alfarabi's treatises shown the misunderstandings of Greek and Arabic philosophy perpetuated during the Enlightenment and in the more recent scientific accounts formulated by the schools of positivism, empiricism or postmodernism.

The consequence of these recent accounts of science has been the construction of a more limited and fragile science than is found in classical philosophic science. Alfarabi's work shows how classical Greek political philosophy provides an alternative to the crisis that exists in recent skeptical accounts of political thought, ethics and faith. His account of the relation between reason and faith is exemplary in its respect for and promulgation of both science and religious faith.

"The purpose of this research is to enrich our understanding of modern political philosophy through a study of classical Greek and Arabic political philosophy, especially in how it relates science to political thought and to theology today," Kleven says. "This project entails the recovery of the full range and integration of what today we call the liberal arts in order to foster an intellectual revival of our educational curricula."

Kleven has received more than two dozen international, national, and regional awards, fellowships and grants. This Fulbright grant is the second Kleven has received. His first Fulbright was tenured at Louis Pouzet Center for Classical and Medieval Studies at the Oriental Library of The University of St. Joseph, Beirut, Lebanon. He has also received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities for research in the American Research Center in Cairo.

The Fulbright program is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program and is supported by the people of the United States and partner countries around the world. Fulbright alumni include 60 Nobel Prize laureates, 88 Pulitzer Prize recipients and 39 who have served as a head of state or government. Since 1946, the program has provided more than 400,000 participants from over 160 countries the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas, and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

The year 2021 marks the 75th anniversary of the Fulbright program.

FOREVER DUTCH®

▲ FISCAL YEAR FUNDRAISING EFFORTS BREAK NEW RECORDS

Central enjoyed another record-breaking year in its fundraising efforts for the Journey Scholarship Fund and saw tremendous overall support for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. (See page 34.)

A total of \$7.67 million was raised this year, one of the highest totals in Central history.

The year began with a 48-Hour Challenge in support of the Journey Scholarship Fund, which raised \$185,000 for students. Overall, a record \$1.67 million was raised for the Journey Scholarship Fund, surpassing last year's total of \$1.38 million. At Central, 100% of gifts to the Journey Scholarship Fund directly support students.

Total scholarship giving exceeded \$3.65 million for annual and endowed scholarships. Endowed scholarships also directly support student education and leave a sustainable, long-term legacy of generosity.

In addition, Central finished fundraising for the \$18-million Forever Dutch® initiative in November 2020, the college's most ambitious capital campaign to date. The initiative garnered the most donors for a single project and one of the largest gifts in the college's history, which includes \$4.2 million from descendants of P.H. "Pete" Kuyper and their family foundations. The driving force behind the family gift was Kuyper's daughter, M. Joan Farver, a former

Pella Corporation chair and longtime Central trustee. Farver died in February 2017 at age 97. The new building entrance atrium was named in her honor.

"We are so grateful to our donors for helping us continue a tradition of giving at Central," says Sunny Gonzales Eighmy, vice president for advancement and a 1999 Central graduate. "We are incredibly fortunate to have donors — alumni, foundations and friends — who support our mission so that we may welcome students with open arms and provide experiences that will change their lives."

To learn more about supporting Central, visit central.edu/alumni/priority.

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 [Cyvannah Vecchio](mailto:Cyvannah.Vecchio@central.edu), Civitas assistant editor, at vecchioc@central.edu.

TURDLING

OLYMPIC DREAMS

CENTRAL GRADS COMPETE IN DECATHLON TRIALS

STORY BY: LARRY HAPPEL '81

Will Daniels '19 wasn't sure if coach **Jim Fuller's** intent was motivation or comedy.

To Daniels, then a sophomore, it seemed more like fantasy. He had just finished third in the 2018 NCAA Division III men's decathlon despite losing points after hitting a hurdle.

That's when Fuller, a Central College associate track and field coach and highly regarded multi-events guru, saw the potential for Daniels to eventually qualify for the U.S. national meet — or even the Olympic Trials.

It was a seed Fuller kept trying to plant in the ensuing months.

"I kind of laughed at him a little bit," Daniels says. "I thought he was just trying to be positive and encourage me as an athlete. I always just kind of took it as joking and brushed it aside."

Fuller remembers.

"He was kind of like, 'Are you nuts?,'" Fuller says.

Not only did Daniels land an invitation to join some of the world's greatest all-around athletes in the U.S. Olympic Trials June 19-20, 2021, in Eugene, Oregon, but when he walked onto the storied Heyward Field track, another Central grad, **Kurtis Brondyke '11**, was among the other 17 qualifiers joining him.

No joke.

Brondyke, formerly an assistant coach working with decathletes at Central Missouri State University, was making his second Trials appearance, having finished 11th in 2016.

"That was really cool," Daniels says. "I was really excited to see that he made it because he's a guy I've met at meets, competing



Will Daniels '19 joined some of the world's greatest decathlon athletes in the U.S. Olympic Trials in June. Daniels' best effort was in the javelin, where he finished eighth. He finished 14th overall.



Kurtis Brondyke '11, one of America's top decathletes, is a four-time Team USA qualifier in the decathlon. This summer he vied for a spot at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. He finished 15th overall.

against his athletes from Central Missouri. I've never actually competed with or against him but only talked to him when he was coaching, so that was a lot of fun."

Both posted two of the top-18 decathlon scores by an American athlete since Jan. 1, 2019, to reach the Trials, but neither had their best showings there. They each failed to score in one of the 10 events, an instant death knell for competitive scoring hopes.

CENTRAL SCENES AT THE TRIALS

Daniels' best effort was in the javelin where he finished eighth, along with a ninth-place finish in the high jump. He received no points in the 400-meter dash after being disqualified for a lane violation. Brondyke was fifth in the pole vault but came up empty in the high jump. Daniels finished 14th overall with 6,803 points, well shy of his career-best 7,864. Brondyke was 15th with 6,575. Garrett Scantling put up a meet-best 8,647 points to earn one of the three U.S. team spots for the Olympics in Tokyo.

While the results failed to meet expectations, the experience vastly exceeded them.

"It was kind of surreal at first," Daniels says. "Like when I was warming up for the 100, the first event. And just seeing all the other decathletes roll up to the track and to

see all these people that I've only really seen on YouTube videos. Guys I have been studying the last couple of years, studying their techniques and, all of a sudden, seeing them checking in at the same place I checked in."

It was equally surreal to Central fans, who flipped on NBC's Trials national telecast and saw the two familiar Dutch names when the lane assignments flashed on the screen.

Brondyke, a six-time all-America honoree at Central who captured the 2011 indoor pentathlon national crown, was likely making his farewell appearance as a track and field competitor on the national stage. After qualifying for Team USA four times, placing as high as fifth in 2017, and serving as U.S. captain in the 2017 Thorpe Cup as well as winning the Drake Relays decathlon, Brondyke said at age 32, his body is telling him it's time to coach full-time.

As it has to so many others, the pandemic dealt Brondyke a harsh blow. Not only were last summer's Olympic Trials postponed, but he tested positive for the COVID-19 virus last spring, derailing his preparations.

"Going into 2020 I felt really good about training," he says. "I was still in the realm for pushing for a (personal-best) score and maybe finally crashing that (8,000-point) barrier. But this year, obviously dealing with everything,

my goal was to pray that nobody passed (his qualifying score), and then I was able to make it to the meet just to have the experience to compete with my brothers one more time, the guys that I've competed with the last five to six years. You know, get to be able to see them one more time in that environment."

Those decathlon brethren hold Brondyke in high regard, Daniels says.

"Pretty much everyone in the field knew him before the competition started, and you could tell everyone really liked him and kind of looked up to him," he says.

That status was earned through years of competition.

"Being a small-school kid, initially I felt like I had to, not necessarily prove myself, but make myself respectable," Brondyke says. "But I think the way I carry myself through the events, the respect I have for the event and the respect I have for everybody else, I almost felt like they see me as like a weird guru. I know people, and I study the events and the decathlon in the U.S., so I feel like the guys I have competed with for a long time have that kind of respect for me the same way I have respect for them."

In July, Brondyke joined the coaching staff at Iowa State University, where he's an assistant coach responsible for sprints, hurdles, jumps and multi-events.



Jim Fuller, associate head men's and women's track coach (right), Kurtis Brondyke '11 (center) and Will Daniels '19 enjoyed the thrill of hearing the words "Central College" announced at events more than once during Olympic Trials this summer.

CENTRAL'S DECATHLON GOLD

For a Division III school to produce two of the nation's top decathletes is startling.

That the Division III school that did so is Central is not.

Central's status as a multi-events incubator was launched in the 1990s with coach **Kevin Sanger '93** and associate head coach **Guy Mosher**, a decathlon savant who worked with Brondyke at Central Missouri State.

Mosher coached decathlete Kip Janvrin in the 2000 Olympics in Australia and served as the U.S. decathlon team coach for an international meet in 1997. He coached at Central for 21 years and was followed by Fuller, whose son **Aaron Fuller '14** was a decathlete coached by Mosher. Fuller was a head coach for 24 years at Division II Northern State University in South Dakota. Both Mosher and Fuller were cited

as the USTFCCCA National Men's Assistant Coach of the Year while at Central. Under their guidance, Central men's and women's multi-event athletes have received all-America status 47 times while claiming 11 national championships.

Fuller, who got an up-close view of the Trials after he and former Central all-American heptathlete **Ryan Kruse '18** jumped in a car and drove to Oregon, said those who put limits on Division III athletes are typically proven wrong.

"The decathlon doesn't care whether you're Division I, II or III or anything else," he says. "What it cares about is how hard you work and if you work hard at whatever level, you can get there."

But it was a thrill.

"I thought, wow, I'm sitting here in the best track facility in the country and I'm hear-

ing the words 'Central College' more than once as they announced the events," Fuller says. "How cool is that?"

While he only coached Daniels, Fuller is an enthusiastic fan of Brondyke as well.

"They are both incredibly loyal to Central College," Fuller says. "Kurtis has been gone for 10 years, but he still follows our guys and cares about our guys. He is so positive about this place, even though he coaches someplace else."

Daniels was one of the youngest competitors in the field and is on an academic fast track as well. He graduated from Central in just three years while still posting a lofty 3.99 grade point average. After sweeping the Division III indoor pentathlon and outdoor decathlon NCAA crowns in 2019, he received the CoSIDA Academic All-America of the Year Award, the American Rivers Conference Duane Schroeder Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award and an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship. This past spring he competed for the University of Iowa while completing a master's degree in clinical exercise physiology.

Daniels hopes to enroll in medical school in 2022 after spending a year working in a hospital in cardiac rehabilitation. The demands of medical school will likely spell an end to his decathlon career. With some peak-performance years potentially still ahead, he's not sure he's prepared to walk away.

"I'm definitely kind of sitting on that decision a little bit, seeing how my body feels," he says. "I have to see how the work situation works out with my schedule, but I'm definitely considering continuing to train at Iowa. My coaches have said that was an open door. I could still train with the team. If that was the case, I could aim for the U.S. international meet and then the U.S. Outdoor Nationals for this upcoming year. I'm still kind of weighing my options there."

That he even has options to compete with the nation's elite is testimony to the vision Fuller first had a few years ago.

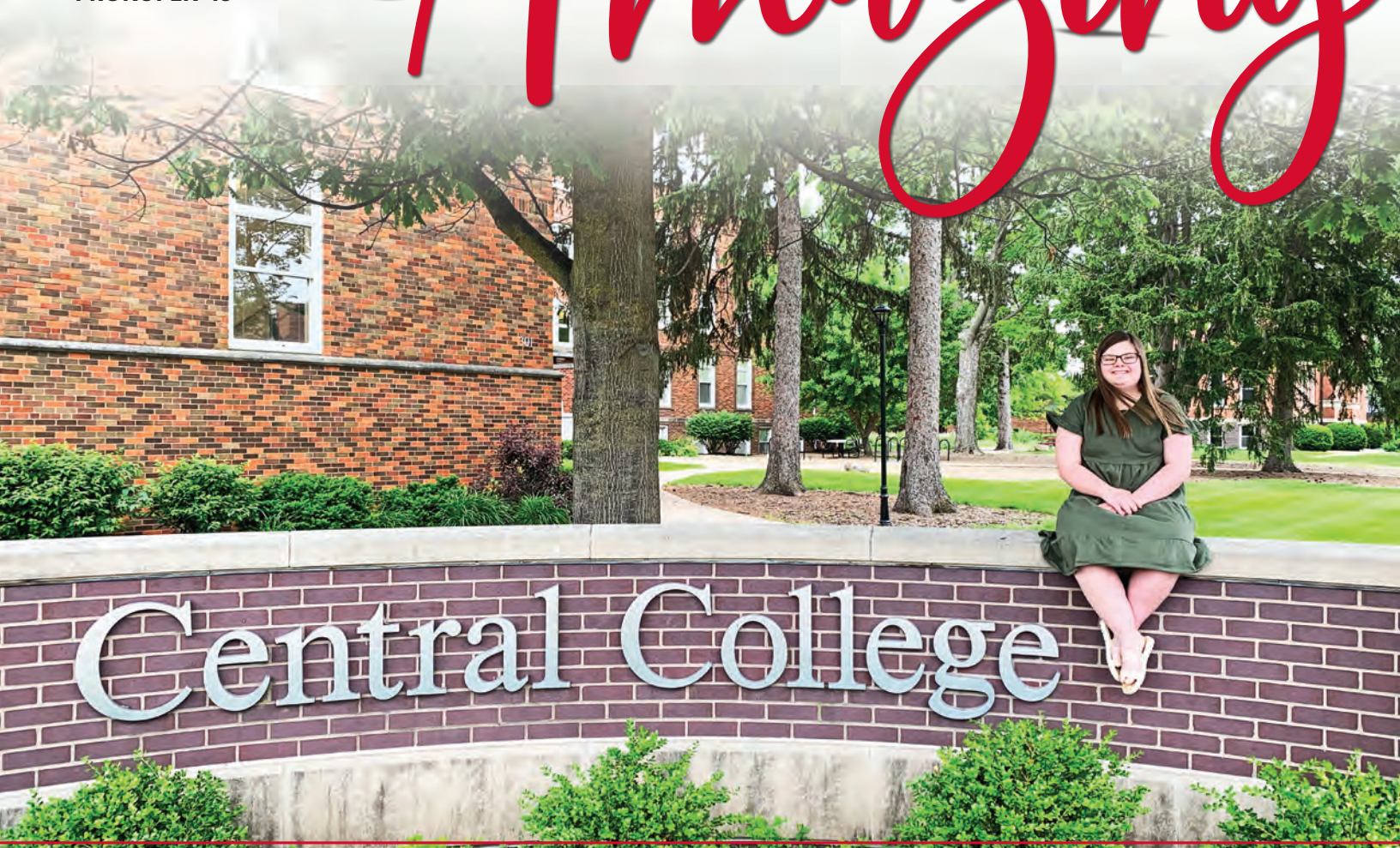
"Looking back, I guess Coach Fuller kind of had the last laugh," Daniels says. ■

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

Miss Amazing

Pilot program prepares Bella from Pella for the future.

STORY BY:
BRITTANY CARLSON
PROKUPEK '16



Bella Van Gorp has followed in her sister's footsteps all her life.

As she prepared to graduate from Pella High School in the spring of 2020, Bella knew she wanted to go to college just like her sister.

The difference is Bella was born with Down syndrome. And the reality is that fewer opportunities existed for her next step once she graduated.

Why would her post-high school plans be different from anything else?

"The way we've raised Bella is very similar to our other two kids who do not have special needs," says **Jennifer Vander Werf Van Gorp '95**, Bella's mother. "If one person was responsible for a chore, Bella was also responsible for that chore. If we were going somewhere, Bella, without exception, came too. She's never really been treated a lot differently than anybody else. When our older child graduated and went to college, in Bella's mind, that was just what you did. It never really occurred to her that it might not be an option for her."



Bella Van Gorp loves cheering on the Dutch and getting the crowd involved!

STARTING SOMETHING NEW

Bella's parents, Jennifer and **David '93**, began evaluating their options. They weren't keen on the idea of being five hours apart for her to attend one of the only post-high school programs in Iowa for adults with special needs. They wanted Bella close by, especially in the height of a pandemic.

That's when they began to look locally and launched conversations with the director of special education at Pella Community Schools.

Through the process, the Van Gorp family learned about a program through Des Moines Area Community College about 50 minutes away, but knew if Bella could be in town, that would be the best option. The family connected with **Carol Williamson**, vice president for student development at Central College, to discuss the possibility of Bella entering DMACC's STRIVE Academy while fulfilling the independent living and social components on Central's campus. Williamson and the college were supportive of piloting this innovative opportunity and considering the possibility of creating a Residential Experience and Achieve Developmental Independence program.

In the weeks before classes started, Williamson reached out with the good news

that the college had two students lined up to serve as Bella's mentors. With the help of The Respite Connection, an Iowa company that provides supported community living services to help people with special needs follow their dreams, these students were trained and ready to help Bella when school started.

Emily Atkinson '23 of Lacona, Iowa, and **Bella Baugh '23** of Pella, Iowa — yes, two Bellas from Pella! — were excellent guideposts for Bella in her first year. They ensured she was where she needed to be when she needed to be there. They also attended campus events together and helped Bella learn to do her own laundry. They became great friends while living on either side of Bella's room in Graham Hall.

Atkinson and Baugh had a tremendously positive impact on Bella's experience.

"These two young ladies were critical pieces to this puzzle," Jennifer says. "They stepped up and took on this assignment and, because of them, all of this was able to happen."

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF BELLA

Bella has a packed schedule during the week — gaining job experience, learning work-ready skills, spending time with her peers and cheering at athletics events for the Dutch.

On Mondays and Wednesdays, she gets

ready and waits for her transportation to go to school at the STRIVE Academy in Des Moines. After traveling back to Central, she goes to work at The Well, a local thrift store.

Tuesdays and Thursdays are a little different. Bella is up and at it by 4:45 a.m. for cheer practice, followed by the same school routine, but with work at Culver's after school. Fridays are the same, except Bella also helps in the education department at Central after school.

In the evenings, Bella spends her time catching up on homework and chores that she keeps track of on her whiteboard, grabbing dinner and hanging out with friends. She gets dinner with the cheer team every Tuesday and attends Bible study weekly as well.

On the weekends, Bella puts aside some time to spend with her family at home, even if she has a football or basketball game to cheer for or an event to attend. But she's always ready to be back on campus come Sunday afternoon because she needs to get laundry done in time to attend The Calm with friends. The Van Gorp family is thrilled that her time is filled with meaningful events or activities and that she's so close by.

EXPERIENCING CAMPUS LIFE

Bella's favorite place on campus, other than Graham Hall or the Chapel for The Calm,



Bella Van Gorp has enjoyed all the traditions of the Central experience, most especially residential living and eating at Fred's.



Bella Van Gorp (center), shown here with her family, won the first runner up trophy at the Miss Amazing national summit in Summer 2021. Miss Amazing is a nonprofit organization that provides opportunities for girls and women with disabilities to build confidence and self-esteem.

is Fred's — hands down. The to-go dining option, located in Maytag Student Center, has her food of choice: the Philly cheesesteak sandwich. But Bella also is a big fan of the pasta and pretzel bars at Central Market, too. Aside from these occasional indulgences, she's learning to make healthy choices and make time for physical exercise on her own, a practice modeled by her peers.

Bella loves attending campus events. Highlights from her first year at Central include a Bob Ross painting night, cookie decorating, karaoke and more. It's these opportunities to create and connect that make Bella feel like a college student. This experience has surpassed her expectations and the college hopes to build on that this year (see Getting READI sidebar).

When asked about her favorite part of her time at Central, Bella admits her favorite part of being a student here is the food, but "mostly meeting new people and participating in activities on campus so that I have something to do rather than sit in my

room and watch Disney+."

Bella gets to live out her Disney princess dreams as Miss Amazing — Iowa Miss Amazing Teen Queen, to be exact. In 2020, Bella was crowned for the third time by the organization with a mission to celebrate girls and women with disabilities in the Iowa Miss Amazing pageant. She's won the crown once in each age bracket so far. In summer 2021, Bella got to participate in the rescheduled National Miss Amazing Summit in Nashville, Tennessee, where she was named first runner-up!

EVERY PARENT'S DREAM

Jen and Dave watched their hopes and dreams for Bella's first year in the pilot program — and realized her impact on campus — play out all at once in something as simple as leaving church one Sunday morning. Several college students called out to Bella, all calling her by name and vice-versa. The couple later asked their daughter on the car ride home where she'd met them or how she'd known all those

students. Bella responded, "Oh, you know, the cafeteria, The Calm," like it was no big deal.

Dave was especially touched by this moment.

"There are lots of students on campus, but there's only one Bella," Dave says. "And she has the beauty, or rather the skill, that once she knows your name, she'll never forget you. There's something beautiful in that uncluttered mind, to be able to call somebody by name at all times."

Jen experienced another instance like this when she grabbed dinner with Bella at Fred's after Bella cheered at a basketball game. Bella recognized some students. She went over and chatted with them then stopped at another table after.

"It's all that I'd hoped," Jen says. "She was just another student on campus. And her experience that night, just eating dinner, was that which was very typical and normal. It was a great feeling, just that she was just another kid on campus who was accepted and loved and valued. It just felt good."

The Van Gorp's knew Bella would do well and, being Central grads themselves, were sure she'd fit into the culture here. Seeing that truth firsthand solidified the validity of their decision to go through with this programming in the first place.

Bella has also touched the hearts of the Central cheer team and her cheerleading coach, Lexi Gbogbo. "Bella has been an amazing addition to our team and we're so glad to have her back this year," Gbogbo says. "Bella has learned all the cheer routines very quickly. She is dedicated to the team, always coming to practices and game days with a smile and great attitude. I can tell that cheer is her passion — her enthusiasm shines through on game days!"

GROWING UP

After spending two semesters living on campus, Dave and Jen noticed a real difference in Bella's level of maturity, improved time management and personal hygiene skills and the upkeep of her personal space when she returned home for the summer.

"She didn't know how to do laundry when she left home, but now she does. And she's really learning to utilize and embrace technology in great ways, too," Jen says. Additionally, Bella has learned to use the HIRTA bus as a means of local transportation.

Bella's cell phone has been a huge resource for time management — another life skill added to her repertoire, setting her up for

success down the road. Time management is a life skill college students must learn. Anytime Bella needs to wake up for the day or be somewhere by a specific time, she sets alarms as reminders for her to get ready, make sure she has everything she needs and gets out the door.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

This fall, Bella is at Central, working hard in her second and final year of the hybrid pilot program. One of the changes in her second year is her broadened network of mentors. Central and The Respite Connection worked in tandem to select five students to help Bella throughout the academic year. This is important for Bella, and a poignant role for these students. They serve not only as mentors and resources for Bella, but also are roommates turned friends. They're her primary contacts on campus aside from administration and staff. They need to have capacity to serve, a drive for organization and have the heart for Bella.

With five mentors, and COVID-19 restrictions reduced, the family looks forward to Bella more consistently being immersed in Central's environment and campus life.

"We've always been huge advocates for the importance of Bella needing to be around age-appropriate peers, because you can't lose sight of what the rest of the world looks like," Dave says. "We're blessed that she's high functioning and a very good communicator. So those two skills really allow us to kind of meet in the middle to help bridge that gap a little bit. Jen has always said the world that Bella is going to live in is not going to be consumed with other people with special needs."

The purpose behind the Residential Experience to Achieve Developmental Independence program, and the Van Gorp's efforts, is working to prepare Bella for the moments when she's alone and has to figure out what to do on her own — a skill all college students need to master. Like Bella, college students won't always be in the Central bubble. Things like research, internships and other real-life experiences aid in that development.

"We're trying to prepare her to live in the world as it is, you know, not the world as we wish," Jen says.

The Van Gorp's indicate others are watching how things are going for Bella, watching to learn.

"We've actually been approached and asked how other families can get the 'Bella Van Gorp Plan,'" Dave says.

The truth is, Bella has a team of folks who worked hard to make the READI program happen. And they continue to work together to ensure her success.

Central has worked in conjunction with The Respite Connection, Pella Community Schools, Heartland AEA, DMACC, Department of Human Services, the Van Gorp family and Bella's mentors. They meet and communicate regularly to coordinate all parts of her schedule, needs and transportation.

"There are a lot of people working to ensure the success for this program and for Bella. It's a lot of time and commitment for just one student," Jen says. "We are really hoping that Central will decide that this is something they want to implement, and benefit students who look more like Bella for years to come."

The READI program has the potential to serve Central Iowa in a rewarding, relieving way. "There are other programs available in different parts of the state, but within a 100-mile radius, there really isn't anything that looks like what has happened here. There's a lot of students who could benefit from this program," Jen says. The family hopes this is something Central can implement and expand.

She turns to her daughter.

"You just might look back and say, 'I started that.'"

Bella beams.

"Yeah, I did start it!" she exclaims.

Year one was full of hope, discovery, challenges, failure, success, lessons learned, friendship, fun and growth. Year two, which is already underway, has even greater potential for growth and development — for Bella and the READI program.

There is parallel after parallel in Bella's journey to that of a traditional Central student. It's why she feels so passionate about her time here.

"Go to Central!" Bella says emphatically. "There are a lot of fun activities that you should be a part of and that way you can get to know all the people here. It's fun to be a Central student."

Next time you're on campus, attending a football or basketball game or even stopping at the Pella Culver's, keep an eye out for Bella and be sure to say hello.

She won't forget you or your name. ■

GETTING READI

Central College has broken the mold through innovation in many ways over the course of its 168-year history. The latest innovative move is working toward an independent learning and living program for students with special needs.

The Residential Experience to Achieve Developmental Independence program will cater to individuals with disabilities graduating from high school and looking to have a college experience. Central is currently seeking funding to work with a consultant to determine if the college is — or can be — equipped to run a program of this magnitude and do it well long term — the Central way.

Still in the pilot stage, the dream and goal of the READI program is to combine the residential and social experience with the classroom component to better serve the individuals in the program and their families.

Carol Williamson, Central's vice president for student development, envisions a program built to support about 15 students and their cohort — mentors, roommates — able to live and learn here on Central's campus. This would likely require a director and/or teacher to lead the program and one other staff member. The program would also provide work experience opportunities for students studying education.

To make something like this possible, support — monetary and otherwise — is crucial. So, while the ball is rolling, this is just the beginning — or rather the prep work to begin the real work. Central sits in an area of the state that is underserved when it comes to resources and options for students with special needs.

Bella Van Gorp (see story) may be the innovator paving the way for a READI program at Central. Indeed, as the pilot develops, she could be the first of many individuals to benefit from this programming that mirrors the traditional student experience in many ways while opening doors for other underrepresented students.

"Our hope is to provide a learning and living environment for students to grow and prepare for independent life experiences," Williamson says. "Central is perfectly situated to become an option for students like Bella. We are thankful to her parents for the knowledge we are gaining through Bella living on campus. While she is exploring new ideas and experiences, we are learning right alongside her."

For more information on how to support the READI program, contact **Sunny Gonzales Eighmy '99**, vice president for advancement, by calling 641-628-5272 or emailing eighmys@central.edu.




ORGANIC
Ethiopia Yirgacheffe

WHOLE BEAN

THE ROASTERIE

AIR-ROASTED COFFEE


ORIGIN ETHIOPIA
REGION "MASHA" SIDAMO
ALTITUDE 1680-1875
VARIETY NATURAL PROCESSED HEIRLOOM
DARK CHOCOLATE
FLAVOUR AROMA,
NOTES CREAMY BODY
BLUEBERRY, HONEY
MANGO, BRIGHT JUICY
26⁵⁰ / LB 5⁸⁵ / 100 G





Central
College
— 1883 —
CENTRAL BLEND

WHOLE BEAN

THE
ROASTERIE
AIR-ROASTED COFFEE

KC  MO

NET WT. 5 lbs. (2268 g.)

CENTRAL SCENE

PHOTO BY: PAUL JOY

Coffee is king for college students. Luckily, Central College students get to enjoy organic, free trade coffee in the Global Cafe at Geisler.

Go Dutch

Content is King

Innovation

PIONEERS OF PROGRESS

Central College's liberal arts education has been the catalyst of success since 1853. These Central alums broke the mold by fashioning innovative careers from the college experience that shaped them.

STORY BY:
EMILY HAWK
BRITTANY CARLSON PROKUPEK '16
CYVANNAH VECCHIO

INNOVATION ISN'T BIRTHED FROM ABUNDANCE

In fact, innovation exists to fill a void where there is lack. Five Central College graduates share how their college experiences shaped their careers and molded them into innovative leaders and entrepreneurial pioneers. From researching a new soybean genome in an engineering lab to turning the Des Moines Metropolitan area into the "Silicon Valley of the Midwest," these alums are opening new, infinite doors of possibilities in their respective fields. **And it all started at Central.**

Team work!

Brain

THINK BIG!

DREAM BIG!

HAVE A NICE DAY

CONTENT

hoo-rah
hoo-rah
Central



TEJ DHAWAN '91

HOMETOWN: New Delhi, India

MAJORS: Mathematics and Computer Science

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES: The Pelican, The Ray, Student Senate, Students Concerned About The Environment and Alpha Zeta Mu

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ROLE: Strategic Initiatives Officer, Principal Financial Group, Des Moines, Iowa

Like Lego pieces, there are experiences and relationships that are critical building blocks to the foundation of everyone's life. For Tej Dhawan '91, Central College is the Lego that pieces everything together.

"There are so many foundational elements, much like Lego pieces, that make me who I am," Dhawan says. "And Central was the luck of the draw. Central is where it all began for me."

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

The foundation of a Central education helped propel Dhawan as a leader in a technology startup community in Des Moines, Iowa. The city has been coined the "Silicon Valley of the Midwest," and Dhawan's expertise, entrepreneurship, advocacy and dedication have played a role in this recognition.

But before the Silicon Prairie, Dhawan was a mathematics and computer science double major at Central. Originally from New Delhi, India, Dhawan chose Central as his new home after exchanging letters with Eric Sickler '83, who, at the time, was Central's vice president for admission.

"Central, above all, supported me financially to attend college," Dhawan says. "I'm friends with Eric to this day. And I still have his letters that brought me to Central."

And, believe it or not, Dhawan was drawn to Iowa's frigid temperatures.

"When you grow up next to the deserts of India, you're used to 100-plus degree temperatures in the summer," Dhawan says with a laugh. "So, the cold sounds pretty good."

At Central, Dhawan was an active member of Alpha Zeta Mu, Students Concerned About The Environment and was president of Student Senate. But his main passion was computers.

"I found the computers, the nascent Internet and fellow computer science students absolutely fascinating," Dhawan says. "I was always reading and learning about technology."

Robert Franks, professor of computer science, sparked Dhawan's specific interest in cryptology. Combined with courses in business administration, Dhawan was challenged heavily by his professors.

"It became a challenge and a proof point to say, 'Hey, I can do whatever I put my mind to,'" Dhawan says.

And he did just that. After graduation, Dhawan worked at Principal Financial Group in Des Moines, Iowa, as a systems consultant. He combined his interest in technology and business by buying and selling computer equipment on the side. In 1994, he resigned his full-time job and dove head-first into owning and operating his own business.

"The word 'startup' had not entered the vernacular quite yet," Dhawan says. "And it wouldn't for another decade or more."

THE INNOVATOR

Dhawan had to pivot quickly from selling computer hardware to writing computer software. At the time, computers were increasing in reach. Microsoft had pledged to have a computer in every home. Companies like Dell and Gateway were successfully enabling that dream.

The company, now Advanced Technologies Group of West Des Moines, shifted its focus on a tighter niche — computer software in the

"There are so many foundational elements, much like Lego pieces, that make me who I am. And Central was the luck of the draw. Central is where it all began for me."

— Tej Dhawan '91

prison industry. Collectively, Dhawan and his business partner hired 12-15 Central graduates over the years. Dhawan sold his equity in the business in 2010, and the company was bought by another industry heavyweight. Dhawan pivoted again.

In 2011, he and co-principal Christian Renaud launched StartupCity Des Moines, a volunteer-driven incubator to help entrepreneurs grow their budding tech companies in the Des Moines Metropolitan area. Together, they formed a startup "ecosystem," which did not exist in the Midwest before 2010. This created a startup community comprising of government, business and educational institutions.

"I realized there were a lot of people who were trying to start their own companies, a lot like I had in 1994," Dhawan says. "There really wasn't an ecosystem that could help people get started. The hardest thing is to get going. We did this with a service mindset."

And Dhawan knows diversity is key to a flourishing ecosystem. He has been an active advocate for immigration laws in the U.S., prompting conversations with state and national politicians at the White House. In 2020, he was named to the Business Record's Racial Equity Advisory Board for his advocacy.

"What we need is a diverse ecosystem of competing ideas to keep enriching the ecosystem," Dhawan says. "Men and women,

young and old, people from different geographies, they all think differently. They are shaped by forces that are divergent. Having all of those voices around a single table creates exponential growth."

In December 2010, President Barack Obama launched the Startup America Initiative to celebrate, inspire and accelerate high-growth entrepreneurship in the U.S. The initiative welcomed Dhawan, his co-principals and the Greater Des Moines Partnership to launch StartupIowa alongside Startup City, a statewide initiative aimed at providing visibility to Iowa entrepreneurs. Iowa was one of the first states to launch such initiatives alongside the White House.

"By resonating with the national message, by being volunteers and not trying to make money off of young startup companies, we received so much network attention from the media," Dhawan says. "It gave a ton of young companies the confidence to start moving forward. We never wanted a CEO for the Iowa startup community. We are continuously trying to build our community, not own it."

Over the years, Dhawan has formed multiple business startups, including:

- + Pikuzone, a parent-managed service that delivered a safe email platform for children.
- + Plains Angels, a network of angel investors from Central Iowa who invest in early-stage companies focused on product development in ag-tech, bio-tech, medical, pure tech and manufacturing companies.

- + Mango Seed Investments, a boutique seed fund based in Des Moines that invests in early-stage companies.

Dhawan currently works as a strategic initiatives officer at Principal Financial Group, where he began his professional journey in tech in 1992. He also has served on Central's board of trustees since 2001 and was named chair in 2018.

You could say he's pivoted in a full circle.

"There are some things you just can't control in your life," Dhawan says. "Some things just happen. And I've had many fortunate strokes of serendipity."

THE INSTIGATOR

If Dhawan had to give himself an official title, it would be "Instigator."

"I like to get things started," Dhawan says. "In many cases, I've invested in companies that I've helped instigate, and I continue to mentor them. On the other hand, I've also helped companies sell or shut down. I am an instigator."

As an instigator, his biggest piece of advice for any young entrepreneur is this: There are no good or bad ideas.

"Your ideas are never wrong," Dhawan says. "Nobody can tell you whether your idea is good or bad. It's all going to be in the execution of that idea. It's all within you, what's in your heart, not what anyone else says."

And it is essential to talk about those ideas.

"Unless you want to start a business that might lead toward intellectual property protection, keeping your idea a secret is not going to let that idea grow," Dhawan says. "You can have a package of seeds, but they aren't going to produce anything until they are sown into the ground."

And when you find success in whatever you do, it's important to never forget those who helped you along the way.

"Without Central, I wouldn't have my wife, **Karen Spencer Dhawan '91**. I wouldn't have my family. I wouldn't have a successful career," Dhawan says. "Had I not found employees who are themselves Central graduates, through my advisors, I wouldn't have my professional standing. These Lego pieces aren't green or blue or yellow. They're Central red."





RACHEL SPOONER '16

HOMETOWN: Altoona, Iowa

MAJOR: Biology

MINORS: Chemistry and Spanish

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES: Research Assistant, Honors Thesis and Resident Advisor

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ROLE: Postdoctoral fellow in neuroscience at Heinrich-Heine University in Düsseldorf, Germany

Rachel Spooner '16 is taking the world of neurological research and discovery by storm. The doctor of neuroscience is continuing her research path, which began at Central and carried through her Ph.D. program, to Düsseldorf, Germany.

A FOCUS ON RESEARCH

Spooner, a biology major with minors in chemistry and Spanish, was inspired by her grandfather: his life and his battle with Parkinson's disease.

"He was just the kind of person who would be in rehabilitation classes helping out like he was the instructor, not someone who needed to be there to work on things himself," Spooner says. "There he was, with the same disease as those around him, and he's thinking about the well-being of others ahead of himself. That was truly inspiring to me."

Spooner came to Central intending to study Parkinson's or go into a field involving

the disease. The original intention morphed into a desire to conduct research.

Spooner rolled up her sleeves knowing full well what her topic would be for undergraduate research projects, including her honors thesis.

In her time at Central, she was a research assistant and resident advisor; completed her own research and honors thesis; and stayed active on campus attending events and participating in campus activities. She fondly recalls the events and activities on campus as well as hands-on learning opportunities like beekeeping and prairie preservation. Even Spooner's favorite activities made her think outside the box or adjust routines through trial and error.

EXAMINING BRAIN FUNCTION

Hungry for more information and to contribute to the community of neuroscience, Spooner moved on from Central to the University of Nebraska Medical Center where she studied motor

dysfunction in people living with HIV.

Under the direction of Tony Wilson, director of the institute for human neuroscience at Boys Town National Research hospital and associate professor in UNMC's department of neurological sciences, Spooner worked in the neuroimaging lab using a magnetoencephalography device and MRI, which would then provide a clearer picture of how the patient's brain functioned during specific tasks.

Spooner's patients had virally suppressed HIV, which is not transmittable. However, the patients still exhibited some cognitive and motor deficits. She and her mentor took a closer look to see if these deficits were related to the aging process or to the virus itself by using MEG and comparing biological markers that are usual indicators for aging like mitochondrial dysfunction and oxidative stress. Spooner then evaluated how this relates to the brain and to HIV.

Her combination of neuroimaging and molecular biology techniques is unique to her lab and to the world of neuroscience.

"I don't feel I would have gotten that same interpersonal interaction or level of mentorship if I'd gone anywhere else."

— Rachel Spooner '16

Just five years removed from her Central education, she's been published 22 times (first author and co-author) and is waiting on review for another seven first-author publications.

UNDERSTANDING PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Spooner's hunger for knowledge still unfilled, she is now a postdoctoral fellow at the Heinrich-Heine University in Düsseldorf.

She's collecting and analyzing real-life data from patients with severe cases of Parkinson's who have been implanted with deep brain stimulation. Her research involves recording brain function as they perform a variety of specific cognitive and motor tasks. She's found herself diving into a lot more computer science and programming than she ever thought she'd encounter. Because of it and the technology utilized, she's able to see and localize where activity is (or isn't) occurring in the brain and how it's optimized by DBS to alleviate adverse symptoms in these patients.

Spooner has been able to apply much of what she learned during her Ph.D. program to her work in Düsseldorf. Through an interesting development, Rachel has seen firsthand that some of the same motor deficits observed in people living with HIV are also present in those with Parkinson's disease.

The finding is "an interesting parallel and just goes to show all we're not aware of until

we study something like this," she says.

Spooner is living her dream and blazing the trails of innovation along the way. She's nowhere near being done dreaming or doing, though. After her three years overseas have concluded, she hopes to continue as an MEG scientist and someday become the director of her own lab while teaching at a small school like Central. Throughout all her accomplishments — of which there are many — she recognizes their ties back to her time at Central.

THE PATH TO INNOVATION

"New people coming into the lab as research assistants are trying to get experience that matters when you're wanting to go to graduate school, and especially for a research-based Ph.D.," Spooner says. "That is one of the first things that they look at: if you have research experience, publications or some sort of tangible output. Central helped me stand out to grad programs because it was uncommon to have experience at that point in time presenting at professional conferences like the Midwest Psychological Association.

"The mentorship I received at Central was truly outstanding," she adds.

Ashley Scolaro, associate professor of psychology, was Spooner's primary mentor as a student.

"She was amazing. She really helped me get into the mindset of designing a research question that is your own," Spooner says.

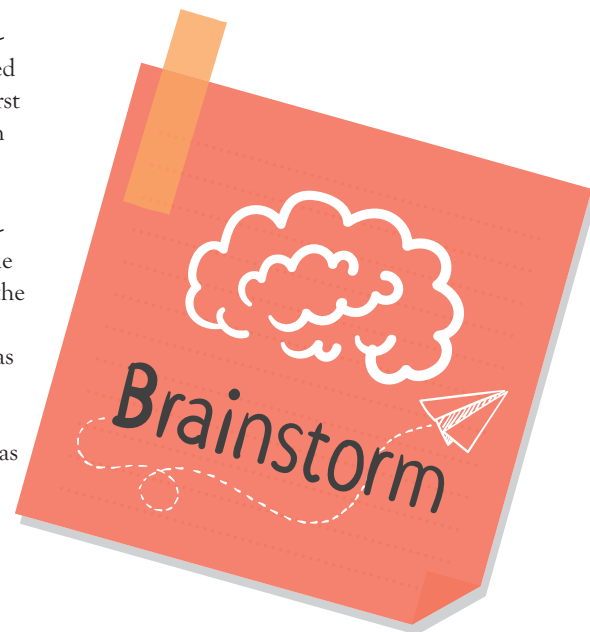
"The participant recruitment, data collection, statistical analysis, writing, even developing the question and reading the literature to begin with — are all things I learned at Central and do every single day now," Spooner says.

Spooner is convinced her early experience, in addition to personal connections and interactions with professors are unlikely options at most other institutions. She was particularly impacted by mentorship from **Paulina Mena**, associate professor of biology, and **Nicole Palenske Ladner**, associate professor of biology; and her academic advisor, **Russ Benedict**, professor of biology.

"That's what I felt so much (personal connection) with my professors like Ashley, my co-mentors for my thesis Paulina and Nicole and my advisor Russ. Having that support from mentors you can trust who provide great personal and professional advice? I don't feel I would have gotten that same interpersonal interaction or level of mentorship if I'd gone anywhere else."

What started as a research assistant position working with zebrafish in a Central lab as a student turned into an intense passion for research and making a difference that could one day help the world solve the debilitating riddle that is Parkinson's disease. Spooner loves that the day-to-day work of research is different all the time, and yet researchers are in control of what they want to do and study.

"It definitely started with my grandpa. Like him, I wanted to help. I'm a patient-oriented person even though I'm not a physician," Spooner says. "A positive patient outcome is my ultimate goal, so that's what I'm trying to tailor my career around — doing research that serves the betterment of the patient."





B.J. PILLING '09

HOMETOWN: Denison, Iowa

MAJOR: Exercise Science

MINOR: Business

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES: Baseball

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ROLE: CEO, GoFan, Atlanta, Georgia

B.J. Pilling '09 hails from small-town Denison, Iowa. When the time came to choose a college, he knew he was unready for the atmosphere of a larger university.

"I wasn't really a party guy — didn't drink in high school," Pilling says. "So, I didn't know how well I would fit in at a larger school."

Continuing in athletics was a priority for Pilling, so a Denison connection with **Al Dorenkamp '75**, then Central College's athletics director, sparked Pilling's interest. "I went to Al, met a couple of kids on the baseball team who had familiarity with Denison and I was attracted to sport performance and the intersection of sports and business," Pilling says. "Sports were such a key driver."

LOOKING UP

Pilling spent time playing baseball for the Dutch, and soaked in lessons from **Jake Anderson**, former strength and conditioning coordinator, as well as **Kyle**

Johnson '02, strength and conditioning coordinator fitness center director and lecturer in exercise science.

"Jake's leadership and overall approach to learning really inspired me," Pilling says. "I've looked up to him in a lot of ways, and he had a ton of influence in my life. Some of the ways I lead today reflect his influence and are ways that I continue to pursue growth."

Pilling grew into a leader his teammates also could look up to when he became team captain his senior year at Central.

"I was a better captain than I was a player," Pilling jokes. "I was trying to do the right things in the right way, and lead and motivate appropriately. To some extent, I guess my poor athletics performance probably helped make me a better leader."

Academically, Pilling decided to blaze his own trail by majoring in exercise science and minoring in business, and even managed to become Dorenkamp's sole advisee.

"I recognized where I wanted to go, and

what I wanted to do. I switched my advisor to Dorenkamp — I kind of forced it on him," Pilling chuckles. "Everyone wants to be an athletics director or general manager, but I had an entrepreneurial itch."

HUDDLE UP

When Pilling got the opportunity to join Huddle Tickets, based in Atlanta, Georgia, in 2012, he hustled to take it. Huddle provided free paper tickets to high schools across the country by partnering with brands like Dick's Sporting Goods, Subway and others.

"We worked with about 10,000 high schools and provided 150 million free tickets every year," Pilling explains.

As digital trends continued to skyrocket, Huddle Tickets made a transition to include a digital ticketing platform — GoFan — "with a heart to provide a complete digital ticketing solution for high schools and fans who want a cashless option to purchase tickets ahead of

"Recognize what makes you tick. Expose yourself to different environments to find what you're passionate about and you'll excel."

– B.J. Pilling '09

time," according to the GoFan website. The most exciting part of the new era for Pilling was the opportunity to captain the change.

"I was employee one, and for the first year, I was the only employee," Pilling says. "I had the opportunity to start a company within an existing ecosystem."

When Pilling was positioned as CEO to lead the transition with GoFan, he was floored by how the COVID-19 pandemic changed the scope of digital consumption.

"The pandemic made a very interesting pivot for the business. The high-contact business model [of Huddle] went away, while the digital side of it accelerated like crazy," Pilling explains. "We experienced 10 times growth this year across the board, which is similar to others who experienced consumer disruption."

LEVEL UP

GoFan expects to process well over \$250 million in ticket sales in the next year.

Pilling's biggest responsibility for the scaling software company is to govern oversight for schools and districts as well as acquire and retain employees in Atlanta's extremely competitive software and technology talent market.

"I love the fast growth phase," Pilling says. "No two days are alike. What's very exciting

right now is we've reached a stage in our company that we're able to go acquire really, really good talent."

Pilling's hiring focus is centered on bringing in employees he deems smarter than himself.

"In any leadership position, you need to focus on hiring those you'd be comfortable working for someday who are smarter than yourself with those roles," Pilling says. "We've been able to leverage our growth to attract and acquire super talented folks who can take the company to the next level."

MARRIED UP

Pilling not only grew his passion for athletics and shaped an innovative career from his time at Central, but he also met his wife **Alysa Tanis Pilling '08** here. Pilling counts meeting Alysa as the biggest takeaway from his Central experience ...

"I met my wife at Central, which is pretty cool," Pilling says.

... and a major reason his career took off.

"Alysa's father flies for Delta, so she lived in Georgia but went to Central because her grandparents live here," Pilling explains. "She graduated in '08 and I graduated in '09, and I essentially chased her down to Atlanta."

GOING UP

Pilling encourages those with an entrepreneurial spirit and can-do attitude to establish goals and scale growth.

"Be growth-oriented," Pilling recommends. "Recognize what makes you tick. Expose yourself to different environments to find what you're passionate about and you'll excel."

Pilling's biggest piece of advice to young professionals involves testing and trusting oneself.

"Get outside your comfort zone," Pilling advises. "Test yourself, put yourself out there. Also, trust in your abilities."





CHEYANNE SCHOLL '21 (RIGHT)

HOMETOWN: Ankeny, Iowa

MAJORS: Biology and Spanish

MINOR: Chemistry

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES: Out of the Darkness Walk, Color Guard Club, Rising Scholars Program, National Society of Leadership and Success

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ROLE: Research and Development Technician at Corteva Agriscience, Johnston, Iowa

Cheyanne Scholl '21 loves to do puzzles — but not ones out of a box.

A budding geneticist, Scholl knew she wanted to work in her field after taking an AP biology course as a sophomore in high school.

“When we began learning about genetics, we were doing all of this really cool stuff,” Scholl says. “It was like doing a puzzle and figuring out how everything works together. And I decided I wanted to solve these puzzles forever.”

STEM INNOVATION

As a research and development technician at Corteva Agriscience in Johnston, Iowa, Scholl works in a soybean genome lab conducting genome transformations.

“Other scientists and I insert different genes into soybean plants in order to get them to express traits that are desired, mainly traits that make them less susceptible to

things like herbicides and pesticides,” Scholl says. “We’re performing this research to help farmers and the agriculture industry.”


Scholl performs experiments each week by inserting different strains of bacteria into soybeans. She extracts embryonic axes of plants and infects them with specific bacterium. Then she grows them on several selective media to transform the genome, all while analyzing the data to find which methods are working and what needs to be changed.

Central’s collaborative one-on-one student-faculty research opportunities prepared Scholl for this innovative work. As an undergrad, she participated in ongoing Genetics Honors Research with **Paulina Mena**, associate professor of biology. Her research investigated a simplified process of DNA extraction, followed by DNA barcoding of native Iowan bees, to identify morphologically difficult species more accurately.

“Something as small as a single vein in a bees wing identifies it as a different species, which means they have completely different needs,” Scholl says. “It’s crazy to think about. We wanted to discover an easier way to identify them more accurately.”

Scholl presented her research at Central’s Undergraduate Research Symposium in 2019 and was awarded first place for best poster and presentation of research. Her research also was part of her senior thesis, which she successfully presented in December 2020.

“The role I’m currently in at Corteva requires a lot of teamwork, which I definitely experienced at Central,” Scholl says. “We had to collaborate on research in all of my classes and one-on-one research projects. And, of course, the knowledge I got from my classes, specifically microbiology and genetics. Everything I’m doing in the lab every single day focuses on those two domains.”



"I never would have found the opportunity to study in a graduate-level lab, in Spanish, anywhere else."

– Cheyanne Scholl '21

STUDYING THE UNDERSTUDIED

DNA barcoding of bees and the innovation of a new soybean genome are both impressive, but Scholl's true passion involves a piece of herself: population genetics of autoimmune diseases.

Scholl has lived with celiac disease all her life. As a student, she served as a dietary assistant to research new recipe ideas for students who have a variety of dietary needs.

"Autoimmune diseases are super interesting, and there's a lot we don't know about them," Scholl says. "They're so understudied. And I want to make sure they're being researched like they should be."

Scholl's interest in autoimmune diseases extends to Latin America. In 2020, she briefly studied abroad in Mexico before COVID-19 cut international travel short. However, she was able to finish the semester online, where she combined her Spanish and biology majors to conduct international research in Spanish with graduate students at Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán. With the help of Central's study abroad team, Mena and **Kathy Korcheck**, professor of Spanish, Scholl was one of the first students at Central to ever have this experience.

"I never would have found the opportunity to study in a graduate-level lab, in Spanish, anywhere else," Scholl says. "Study abroad,

the one-on-one research with professors and the small class sizes were so important to me and essential for my growth.

"Latin America has a rich culture and history, and I'm always wanting to learn more about it," Scholl says. "I know Spanish and have a host family there that I've visited, so combining Latin American studies and genetics in autoimmune diseases would be the perfect fit for me. Central helped me realize that."

She plans to apply to graduate school to conduct this research in the future. For now, she's working to transform crop genetics.

PIECING TOGETHER ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES



Today, women make up just 28% of the workforce in science, technology, engineering and math. But Scholl says that shouldn't stop anyone from pursuing their dreams.

"Don't be afraid to be bright and do what you want to do," she says. "Don't let anyone else tell you that you can't do something. If there's something you want to do, try it. If you have an idea, seek it. It could be really, really great. Chances are, there will be bigger opportunities if you speak up, and you'll get to do bigger and better things."

Scholl's blossoming career, nurtured by a Central education, is proof of that.

"If there was something I wanted to do that had never really been done before, I was never told 'no' by my professors. I was always encouraged," Scholl says. "Faculty always helped me directly or at least pointed me in the right direction. I felt like I could do anything and make a difference.

"When you are encouraged to use your voice, so many doors will open for you. And that's when everything comes together."



**THINK
BIG!**



JEREMY SIEFKEN '08 (CENTER)

HOMETOWN: Rockwell, Iowa

MAJOR: General Studies

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES: Student Orientation Staff Leader and Campus Activities Board

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ROLE: Senior Manager of Learning and Growth, Grubhub, Chicago, Illinois

Jeremy Siefken '08 was a self-proclaimed academic drifter. As such, he spent more than half of his college career pursuing a variety of majors — first pre-dental then secondary education — before finding the academic path that would inform his future career.

WHAT DREAM?

A young man from Rockwell, Iowa, Siefken wasn't passionate about his career path during his first years at Central.

"I was a good student and earned decent grades, but it wasn't until I studied abroad during my junior year when things clicked, and I really started to find my direction and what I wanted to do," Siefken says.

After studying in London, England, through Central's study abroad program, he took multiple business courses with **Jaclyn Rundle**, associate professor of business management, and began to find his niche in business. Siefken's only regret? Not discovering his passion sooner.

"I was so committed to one academic path that I was closed off to what else might have been available to me," Siefken says. "I think

it's important for first-year students to explore courses they're encouraged to take and take them with a really open mind."

A NEW DREAM

Central prides itself on the close relationships developed between faculty, staff and students. Siefken's mentors include Central legends **JoNes VanHecke**, former dean of students, and **Bonnie Dahlke**, former director of student involvement. Even as an involved student serving as an SOS leader and on the Campus Activities Board, Siefken didn't have higher education on his career radar.

"The two of them really took me under their wings and shepherded me," Siefken says. "They opened my eyes to this whole industry I hadn't considered, even though I was super engaged as a student."

It was those relationships that gave Siefken the leg up he needed in finding a job in higher ed without a master's degree or any previous experience. He accepted a position as a hall director for a college in Green Bay, Wisconsin. However, Siefken quickly realized residence life was not his niche.

"I knew pretty quickly that residence life wasn't a fit for me," he says. "But it was a really good stopgap, and it opened my eyes to other functions within higher ed."

DREAM TEAM

Siefken transitioned from Wisconsin to Illinois, where he pursued a master's degree from Loyola University Chicago. It was here he worked in academic advising and orientation.

"I really enjoyed that work," he says. "And after graduating, I found a job doing exactly that at Central and led student involvement and orientation."

Siefken led a dream team of orientation leaders, in partnership with his colleague **Laura Bade '09**, during his one-year tenure at Central before being wooed back to Chicago.

"In that year, someone from my Loyola network was working at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and reached out to me to run their leadership-focused orientation program," Siefken says. "I couldn't turn down the opportunity. So, I moved back to Chicago and led orientation for evening and

"A lot of the out-of-classroom learning experiences really changed me and contributed to my current success, and I attribute that fully to Central."

— Jeremy Siefken '08

weekend MBA students."

That decision would ultimately take Siefken down a completely different path than he could have anticipated. The position at Booth was eye opening for him. The caliber of student was unparalleled, and the brainpower, imagination and drive each person brought to the school deeply inspired him. While all of the students were in the program to grow or transition their careers, many were budding entrepreneurs preparing to create their own companies. Siefken began to explore questions like:

- + What does it look like to lead a team?
- + What does it look like to lead a function?
- + What does it look like to lead a company?

DREAM CATCHER

After 18 months of learning in this role, Siefken was hired onto Booth's leadership development team, where he started earning certifications and credentials, designing and facilitating leadership workshops, and coaching day-time corporate workers and executives turned night-time students. These conversations informed more research questions, including:

- + What are the critical needs for today's corporate leaders?
- + What themes are emerging from leaders' experiences?
- + What themes are consistent regardless of organization, function, industry or culture?

A handful of themes surfaced, including critical skills leaders should develop, like curiosity, courage and the ability to manage ambiguity. The most interesting were the sentiments students shared about their leaders and why they were exploring leaving their organizations.

"When people leave an organization, they're not necessarily leaving the organization — they're leaving their boss," Siefken confides, cemented by testimonials from countless conversations he had with Booth students. "Their managers were either not empowering or inspiring them, or providing growth or stretch opportunities, so they were exploring new opportunities outside their companies. Talent retention is massively important, and critical to an organization's success."

This inspired a learning opportunity for Siefken to capitalize on in his role.

"I found a really neat intersection between teaching current and future leaders how to be better managers by developing their leadership effectiveness," Siefken says.

The challenges to inspire, coach, influence and create change span the leadership spectrum. That's why it was important to Siefken to scale his courses, making them valuable and relevant to every level of leadership.

"At Booth, I was having these great conversations about leadership effectiveness, and felt like I was making an impact, but all of these people would contribute to the conversation then leave my classroom to go back to their companies and apply new insights, and

I was missing the outcome of my input," Siefken says.

It was this realization that solidified his decision to move into the corporate space after six years at Booth and bring learning initiatives in house.

DINING DREAMS

Siefken found an opening at Grubhub, founded by a Booth alum.

"I connected with the recruiter, and I was ultimately offered the job. It was kind of like a full-circle moment," Siefken says.

Fast forward two years, and Siefken is the senior manager of learning and growth and is responsible for corporate training and organizational development at a leading national online food delivery company. In addition to leading a team of 15, Siefken also designs leadership programs for internal growth at Grubhub, which span from entry-level management progressing to mid-level management all the way to high-potential leadership programs for senior leaders preparing to move into executive roles at Grubhub.

DUTCH-INSPIRED DREAMS

The ability to think critically is one of the major benefits of Central's liberal arts education. This is especially true for Siefken in his fast-moving career with constantly changing demands.

"The ability to think critically, especially after taking classes in philosophy, business, political science, religion and STEM — classes I wouldn't necessarily have chosen to take outside of a liberal arts college — was a huge asset," Siefken says.

The opportunity to study abroad and complete service learning also stretched him to think beyond his rural Iowa roots. It was **Cheri Trout Doane '98**, director of civic engagement, who gave Siefken a life-changing service-learning experience.

"My first encounter with Cheri was during service learning when I was placed at a Des Moines high school," Siefken says. "I remember walking into the school, the bell ringing, and the hallways flooded with students — and the majority of the students were not white. That was the first time I remember being hyper-conscious of my race. It was a complete shift in my self-perception and the perception and worldview."

These experiences gave Siefken the ability to think outside of himself and opened him up to the differences in people.

"Had I not had those experiences, I may not have felt as comfortable or confident traveling to Booth's campuses overseas to teach leadership to people whose first language wasn't English and whose culture was different from mine," Siefken says. "A lot of the out-of-classroom learning experiences really changed me and contributed to my current success, and I attribute that fully to Central." ■



THE STATE OF THE COLLEGE

AN ANNUAL REPORT AND HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

BY: MARK PUTNAM, CENTRAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT

WE MOVE *FORWARD*



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

AN INHERENT HOPE AND A HEART FOR OTHERS

The past few years will be the years we remember forever.

They are the years the Central College academic experience looked different from any others in the college's history.

They are the years we physically distanced and wore masks.

They are the years the pandemic became a part of our DNA. And we changed, adapted and evolved as quickly as the COVID-19 virus did.

Across the country, the pandemic altered more class time for more students than almost any other event in U.S. history. The Class of 2020 and the Class of 2021 are among only four classes in Central's history to ever receive a portion of their Central education off-campus. The other two are the Classes of 2022 and 2023.

And yet, with this unforgettable shadow while we watch COVID-19 case counts rise and fall, we share an inherent hope for the future and a heart for others that will endure.

This hope can be seen in the daily actions of the Central community as this annual look back reveals. *We move forward.*



BUILT TO LAST

For several months in 2020, the campus was extremely quiet — except for the sounds of construction equipment whirring in a transformation of first Peace Mall and then P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium.

The physical changes are astonishing. I invite everyone to campus to see them. Both of these projects were made possible thanks to generous support from the Central family and will matter for generations to come. *We move forward.*



In an effort to promote physical distancing, many faculty and staff chose to teach or work outside when weather permitted, including **Eric Jones '87**, class dean, shown here teaching students how to juggle.

ACADEMIC RESILIENCE

Our focus is on providing the best educational experience for our students so they may open doors to the careers of their dreams and live lives of meaning and contribution.

Faculty members went to extraordinary lengths to ensure our students' educations continued through remote learning in the spring of 2020 and through frequent disruptions during the 2020-21 academic year. We adjusted learning needs to keep students in class in person as much as possible while also offering remote learning for those students who needed to be in isolation and quarantine.

Programmatically we made advances as well. The faculty collaborated to transform academic structures and practices to support our students. (See Parting Shot, page 47.) The faculty focused on the core curriculum, adjusted major offerings to reflect student interest, added data science as a new minor and is developing courses and opportunities for students focused on the academic theme for 2021-22, which is responsible citizenship. In addition, two new faculty fellow positions have been created: one for interdisciplinary programs and faculty-led international programs and another for diversity and inclusion in the classroom and curriculum.

Our academic resilience and efforts do not go unnoticed. The college's strength and conditioning program, part of the kinesiology major, has been approved by the National Strength and Conditioning Association's Education Recognition Program.

And several members of our community earned national accolades. Two students received the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship (**Katelyn Wang '21** and **Cameron Cowles '22**) and another (**Elizabeth Sheldon '21**) earned the prestigious Udall Scholarship. **Terry Kleven**, the Jacob and Gela Schnucker Sessler Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies, received his second award from the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program. He is currently researching Arabic political philosophy at the University of Jordan in Amman, Jordan.

We move forward.



WE ARE FOREVER DUTCH®

We also focused on the traditions of college life.

In the 2020-21 academic year, more than 200 students participated in our undergraduate research symposium in the spring. Ensemble concerts, final theatre productions, and student recitals were an additional form of creative inquiry and performances continued through a combination of in-person and virtual means. Twenty-two students from 11 different majors spent the summer on campus conducting research. More than 40 students participated in the Second Annual Career Kickstarter in January, which included in-person and virtual micro-internships.

Athletics completed its most challenging year ever successfully. Seasons were disrupted, delayed and altered. Some teams and student-athletes had their performances adversely affected by mid-season virus-related interruptions. The focus remained on the overall safety and well-being of our student-athletes, seeking to provide opportunities for competition while mitigating risks. The revised schedules resulted in the busiest spring season in Central's athletics history, often with few cheering fans in the stadium or courtside. At some point during March and April, 17 Dutch athletics teams held intercollegiate competition.

And we mustn't forget the tulips — an intrinsic sign of hope and a labor of love for our community. **Scott Van Weelden** is a grounds/utility team supervisor who has worked at Central for 25 years. This past year, like many before, he personally planted an estimated 14,000 tulip bulbs on Central's campus. *We move forward.*

**\$7.67
MILLION**

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS BREAK NEW RECORDS

The past two years have been significant fundraising years for the college, helping us raise millions of dollars for campus projects and student scholarships, ensuring that Central's legacy continues.

I've been at Central since 2010. In these 11 years, I frequently have been humbled by the passion our alumni and friends have for Central — and even more so this year when we witnessed the sixth best year of all time for giving to Central with \$7.67 million in gifts. This generosity creates a foundation of support that allows us to invest in our students and our programs. *We move forward.*



HAVING A HEART FOR OTHERS

We are living in an unprecedented time that calls on us to act with great resiliency, strength and empathy. All of these things are exactly what a Central education prepares its graduates for. And these values of a lifetime have never been more evident than this year on campus.

We see it as faculty, staff and students raise awareness about diversity, equity and inclusion. We see it with grace and patience as students needed accommodations for quarantine and ever evolving athletics schedules.

The real story and success of this past year is how the Central family stepped up to do the right things.

We refunded student room and board fees in 2020 after we sent students home. We established an emergency fund, Central Cares, to support students experiencing financial needs because of the pandemic. We wore masks, in and out of the classroom. We hosted three vaccination clinics for the campus and the Pella community and volunteered at a number of others. We conducted 2,706 COVID-19 tests during the second semester.

We followed (and continue to follow increasingly and sometimes conflicting) guidance from local, state, federal and NCAA guidelines to keep our campus safe.

And through it all, we've encouraged our community to have a heart for others. That was the easy part. Because the community does.

One personal example of our community's heart that has so resonated with me took place near the end of the 2021 spring semester on the baseball team's Senior Day. **Jake Wegner '21**, *above right*, is a talented and humble student-athlete who saw his playing career halted by two bouts of cancer. He also went six months without being able to walk. When he couldn't play, he became a student coach for Central to stay involved. On Senior Day, the baseball team had Wegner lead off Central's final regular-season game, the only at-bat of his college career. Wegner received a standing ovation — not only from his teammates and fans but also from the opposing Simpson College players lined in front of their dugout. *We move forward.*

THANK YOU

Central is fortunate. We enjoy a highly engaged board of trustees, incredible academic leadership and professors, generous and supportive alumni and friends, and an amazing staff who always goes the extra mile.

And all with a heart for others.

It's because of that heart I am confident we have what we need to face the twists and turns on the journey ahead.

We are all eager to know what that is, right? The uncertainty of the pandemic has required us to concentrate on when to lean forward to the future. While we might not know when this constant change and frequent back-and-forth and in-and-out of masks and quarantines will end, we do know some things.

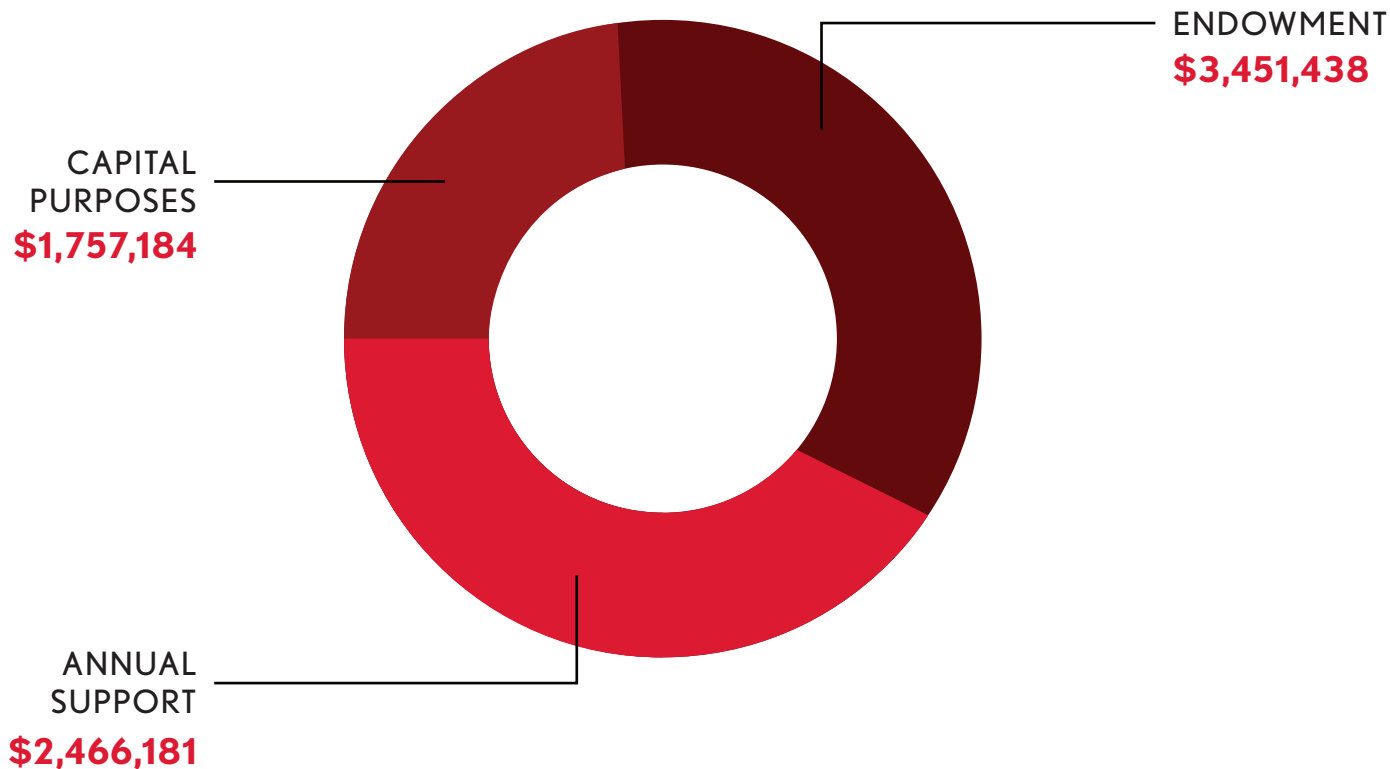
We live in a world of innovation and invention. We teach these things at Central. We find solace in our minds, our studies, our song, our community and our traditions. The stories shared in this magazine demonstrate the inherent hope that innovation can bring to the world in a future we can be proud of.

One thing I know for sure, the most powerful organizations are rooted in truth. Central's truth can be found in its innovative empathy. Great things happen when you have a heart for others.

And that happens every day at Central! *We move forward.* ■

TOTAL GIVING

Total **\$7,674,803**



GIVING BY SOURCES

Total **\$7,674,803**



SCHOLARSHIPS

Total **1,065**

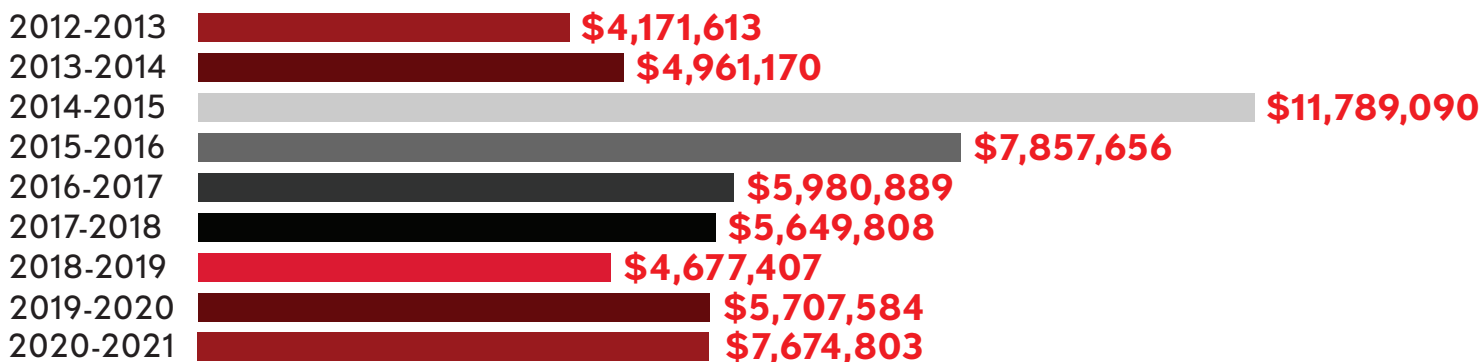
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS
281

JOURNEY SCHOLARSHIPS
784

*This information applies to the Central College year from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, and demonstrates the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Financial data is based on pre-audited financial statements.

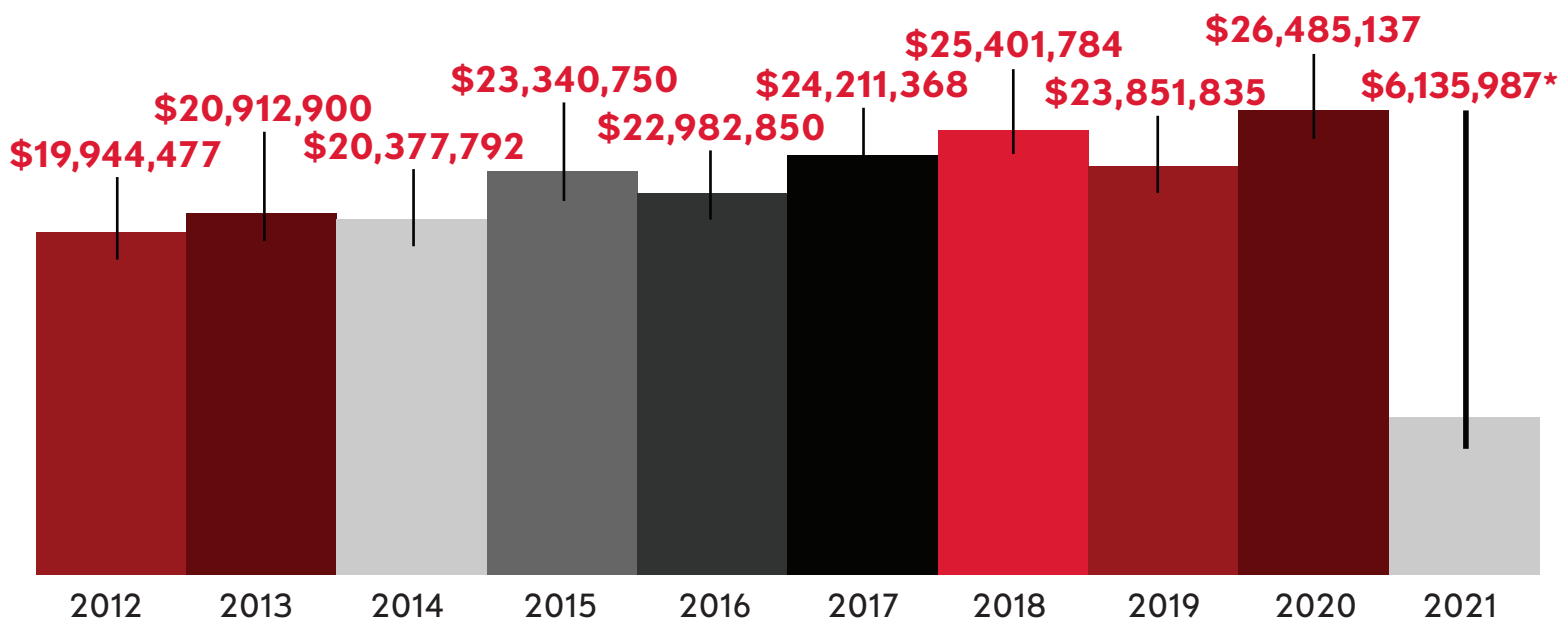
FISCAL YEAR OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Total **\$58,470,020** Since 2012



FINANCIAL AID BY YEAR

Total **\$213,644,880** Since 2012



SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

Total **\$4,642,049**

ENDOWMENT
\$2,977,068

JOURNEY SCHOLARSHIP
\$1,664,981

*Starting in 2020-2021, Central enacted a simpler tuition model that provides greater transparency by exchanging high levels of institutional financial aid for a lower overall tuition price. Scholarship awards are still available for eligible students.

GIVING BY CLASS YEARS

Total **\$2,805,625** For 2020-21

1941	1952	1961	1970	1979	1988	1997	2006	2015
\$26	\$5,800	\$343,370	\$86,875	\$30,315	\$37,109	\$4,260	\$1,520	\$800
1943	1953	1962	1971	1980	1989	1998	2007	2016
\$500	\$4,300	\$10,150	\$39,112	\$59,678	\$39,960	\$8,335	\$1,165	\$4,563
1945	1954	1963	1972	1981	1990	1999	2008	2017
\$80	\$14,980	\$12,075	\$28,605	\$21,460	\$482,717	\$12,765	\$4,802	\$150
1946	1955	1964	1973	1982	1991	2000	2009	2018
\$2,500	\$7,785	\$123,401	\$47,245	\$45,246	\$59,040	\$3,168	\$670	\$3,280
1947	1956	1965	1974	1983	1992	2001	2010	2019
\$1,200	\$32,690	\$124,875	\$22,006	\$37,577	\$26,145	\$16,741	\$1,875	\$1,450
1948	1957	1966	1975	1984	1993	2002	2011	2020
\$5,050	\$14,425	\$19,880	\$13,728	\$13,883	\$9,345	\$5,220	\$1,295	\$1,100
1949	1958	1967	1976	1985	1994	2003	2012	
\$97,744	\$40,707	\$11,617	\$2,050	\$25,245	\$51,210	\$11,623	\$1,220	
1950	1959	1968	1977	1986	1995	2004	2013	
\$55,650	\$24,862	\$32,601	\$10,700	\$86,875	\$13,312	\$3,220	\$1,524	
1951	1960	1969	1978	1987	1996	2005	2014	
\$6,284	\$13,010	\$251,479	\$18,050	\$126,071	\$11,595	\$11,164	\$1,520	

REVENUE

Total **\$43,053,134**

TUITION & FEES
\$13,656,691

ENDOWMENT
\$3,641,347

OTHER
\$12,192,176

AUXILIARY
\$11,426,367

CONTRIBUTIONS
\$2,136,553

EXPENSES

Total **\$44,365,829**

INSTRUCTION
\$16,255,521

STUDENT ACTIVITIES
\$4,612,287

ADMIN/GENERAL
\$4,753,177

ACADEMIC SUPPORT
\$2,232,528

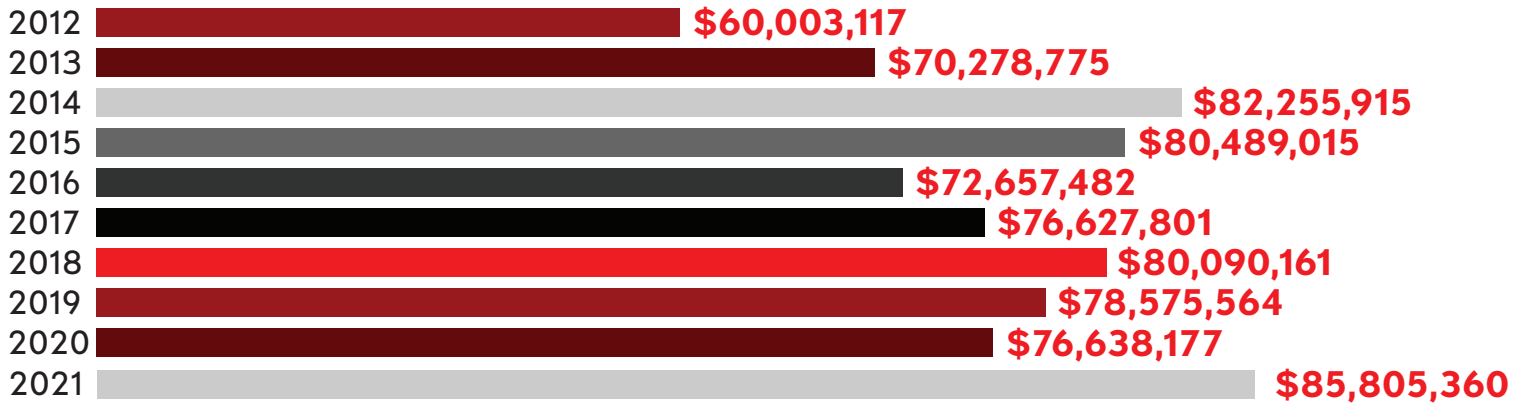
AUXILIARY
\$9,399,564

STUDENT SERVICES
\$4,162,870

INSTITUTIONAL
\$2,949,882

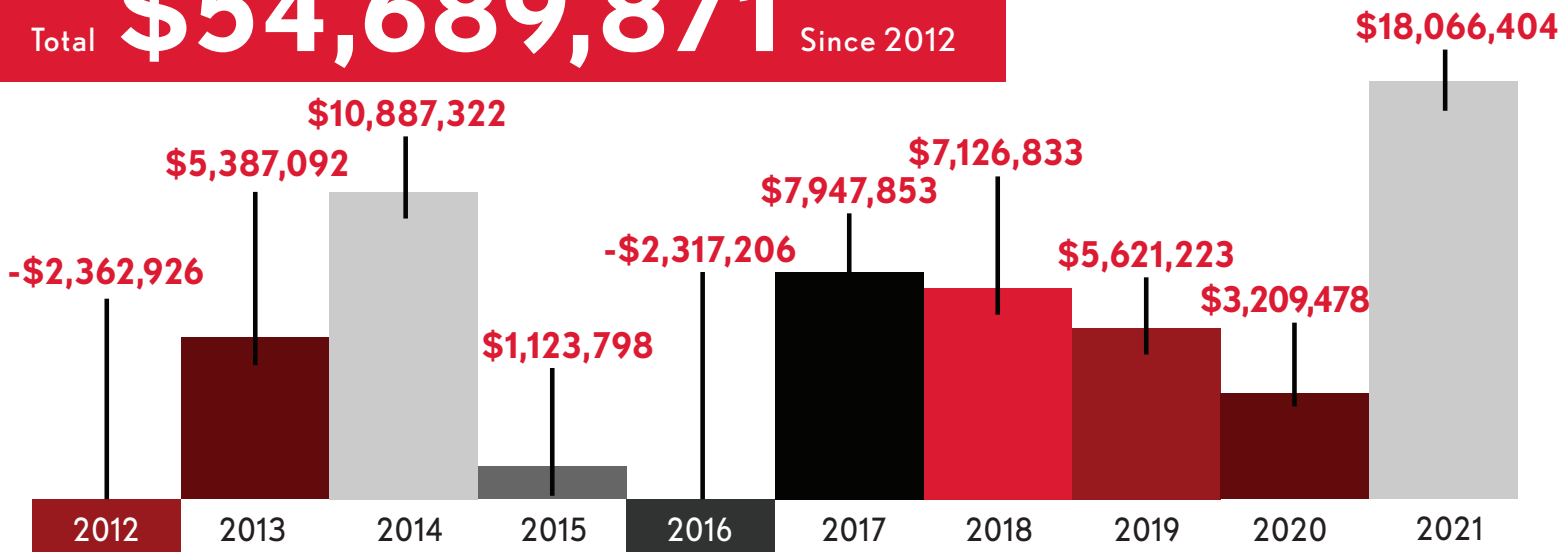
ENDOWMENT MARKET VALUE

Total **\$85,805,360** As of June 30, 2021



INVESTMENT INCOME

Total **\$54,689,871** Since 2012



ASSETS

Total **\$193,612,221**

PROPERTY/EQUIPMENT NET
\$87,612,046

RECEIVABLES
\$5,641,776

CASH
\$3,716,450

INVESTMENTS
\$88,918,417

OTHER
\$7,723,532

HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

Several individuals were inadvertently left off the 2019-20 honor roll when we published the Winter 2021 issue of Civitas. To make sure no one is missed, we are thanking those donors here. We are deeply thankful for your generosity *and* your patience!

SCHOLTE'S CIRCLE

\$10,000 or More

Lori Nakahara & Bill Rankin '69
Amy Britt & Clay Thompson '90
Joseph Timmins & Deanna Ver Steeg '94

PIETENPOL'S CIRCLE

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Andrea Joyce Kuslits & Harry Smith '73

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Joseph Frericks & Alicia Kuper '91
Rosemary O'Leary & Larry Schroeder '65
Becky Clayton & Art Schut '69
Philip & Elizabeth Scannell Trent '71

HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

This Honor Roll of Giving recognizes donors who made a gift to Central College between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021. We are extremely grateful to these generous donors.

SCHOLTE'S CIRCLE

\$10,000 or More

Anonymous
American Chemical Society
Bev & Bruce Anderson '70*
Sally Anderson '69*
Dave '86 & Kristi Jaarsma
Balk '88*
Dave & Mary Barnes*
George+ & Sharon Duven
Bergland '65
Herb Blom '61*
Curt '88 & Mary Holden
Blythe '90*
Darcy & Jeff Blythe '87*
Dody Int'veld Boat '05H*
Jim '65 & Sue Spaans Brandl '65*
Roger & Janice Brown*
Julie & Bob Bryant '89*
Rebecca & Pete Cartwright '82*
Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust*
Central Club
Noel Cover Foundation*
Joe & Sue Cunningham*
Caroline & Gordon De Jong '57
Jean & Don De Waard '82
Deere & Co.
Tej '91 & Karen Spencer
Dhawan '91*
Gary Dirksen '69*
Laurie & Steve Duncan '80

Mike '89 & Amy Dietrich
Eilers '88*
Mark '80 & Lori Kooiker
Ellingson '82*
Betsy Farver
John '87 & Julie Pothoven
Fisher '90*
Barb & Tom Gaard '61*
Terry '72 & Emily Neal
Garvin '72*
Geisler Penquite Foundation*
Marjorie Giles Estate
Alex '69 & Barb Septer Glann '69*
Chip Griffith '92*
Barry '04H+ & Michele Griswell*
Jay '09H & Betty Brands
Huising '49 Estate
Iowa College Foundation*
Jim & Deb Israel*
Jerry Jelsema '64
Debbie & Tom Koos '86*
Vernon '65+ & Betty Freeman
Kooy '65*
Peter H. and E. Lucille Gaass
Kuyper Foundation*
Mike Main '87*
Fred Maytag Family Foundation
Don & Judy McCubbin
McKee Family Foundation*

Tim Meyer '70*
Grace Moore '01H
Moore Family Foundation*
Jeff Oliver '79*
Mike '69 & Linda Millin Orr '68*
Pella Corporation
Pella High Athletic Booster
Club
Pella Rolscreen Foundation*
Paul Poppen '69*
Precision, Inc. – Pella, Iowa*
Mark & Tammy Putnam*
Lori Nakahara & Bill Rankin '69*
Emily & Larry Reynen '71
Ridgeway Petroleum*
Rick '70 & Sarah Drexler
Ryan '71*
Second Reformed Church –
Pella, Iowa*
John '62 & Betty Nagel
Sikkink '61*
Penny & Steve Sikkink '83*
Bob & Donna Davison
Smith '81*
Dave & Kathy Smith*
Andrea Joyce Kuslits & Harry
Smith '73*
Dave '61 & Ardie Pals
Sutphen '64*

Glenys Nederhoff Thies '58
Third Reformed Church –
Pella, Iowa*
Amy Britt & Clay Thompson '90*
Philip & Elizabeth Scannell
Trent '71*
USA Triathlon Foundation
Scott & Cindy Van Tasell*
James '10H & Eunice Vander Zyl
Van Tuyl '68
Jane Vander Kooi '66*
John '64 & Verna De Jong
Vander Kooi '66*
Joseph Timmins & Deanna
Ver Steeg '94*
Bob '56 & Arlys Van Zee
Verdoorn '56*
Vermeer Charitable Foundation,
Inc.
Don '61 & Diana Starr Vogel '63*
Lance & Judi Clauson Vogel '82*
Burt Voss '49
John '58 & Carol Dulmes
Vruwink '60*
Jack Walvoord '54
Weiler Foundation
Bill Wellner '50*
Linda & Dave Wesselink '64*
Mary Worstell '73*

PIETENPOL'S CIRCLE

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous
Jason & Carrie Andringa*
Janet & Jeff Boeyink '85
Michael '85 & Kelly Hadley
Bohning '86
Glenn '54+ & Shirley Van
Konynenburg Borgman '55*
Bill & Courtney Boschma
Ken Braskamp '65*
Larry '63 & Judi Kolenbrander
Braskamp '64+*
Catherine Breed
Steve & Wendy Capoferri
Community State Bank –
Ankeny, Iowa
Community State Bank –
Des Moines, Iowa
Thomas & Joan Vander Pol
Craig '56*
Kristin & John Cross '89*
Mike Dahlhauser '94*
Angela & Dan De Cook '95*
Mark '64+ & Kay Kuyper De
Cook '63*
Warren De Haan*
Jeff '87 & Kristin Sickler De
Vries '88*
Ebenezer Reformed Church –
Leighton, Iowa*

Joel & Shayla From*
Chris '98 & Melissa Vink
Gentry '01*
Graham Construction
Pam & John Grieco '71*
Jim Grimm '59*
Doug '61 & Nyla Rozeboom
Heerema '63*
Kelly & Tim Heerema '88*
Dixie & Will Hoekman '67*
Bill & Chris Epperly Ieuter '91*
Mark '05 & Tessa Prati Isaacson '07
Ralph '59 & Elaine Nagel
Jaarsma '58*
Tom & Terry Johnson*
Mike '86 & Dawn De Boer
Kleis '86*
Jackie & Pete Kuyper '76
Susan & Lanny Little '74*
Byron '73 & Cindy Grootveld
Loomans '73
Tomas Nonnenmacher &
Shannan Mattiace '90*
Joyce Bennett Mc Glothlen '59
Stephen Mc Williams '96
Darin '87 & Teresa Brown
Messerli '87*
MidWestOne Bank –
Pella, Iowa*

MidWestOne Bank Foundation
Greg Mihalovich '89*
David & Mary Ohaver
Moermond '79*
Charlie '70 & Deb Den Ouden
Morris '70*
Jim '64 & Alda Pippel
Muyskens '63*
National Collegiate Athletic
Association
Frank '91 & Stacey Profit Neu '92*
Organic Syntheses, Inc.
H. S. Ostlin Educational
Foundation*
Kenneth Oyen
Steve '01 & Stefanie Bresnahan
Perkins '02*
RDG Planning & Design
Reformed Church in America –
New York, New York*
River Rock Academy
Arlyn '62 & Claire Ehrmann
Rus '61*
Thad '80 & Teresa Andersen
Scharrow '81*
Bob '83 & Lynne Van Vark
Schueler '85*
Joel Shields '87*

Michael Merson & Kathy
Sikkema '84*
Alison & Aaron Smith '00
Brian Smith '99 & Erica
Swanson '99
Trinity Reformed Church –
Pella, Iowa*
Ulrich Ford-Lincoln – Pella, Iowa
US Bancorp Foundation*
US Bank – Pella, Iowa*
Phil '61 & Berta Van Ekeren '16H*
Verlan '61 & Norma De Bruin
Van Rheenen '61*
Mike '93 & Myndi Amdor Van
Voorst '95
Milly & Hank Vande Kieft '53*
Michele & Mark Vander Linden '78*
Lyle & Kathy Vander Meiden
Walter & Providencia Ver Steeg
Joan & Jeff Verhoef '80
Vermeer Corporation
Harry Vermeer Family Foundation*
Richard '72 & Susan Van
Steenis Vermeer '74
Carl '48 & Joan Ver Meer
Vogelaar '48 Estate
Geraldine Vander Pol Wagoner '54+
Kris Cox Ward '85*
Gary & Sandi Yates

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Anonymous	Katherine Francis	Patrick '04 & Jess Schultz	Betty Liming Stanley '52*
Victor & Lori Lynch Agusta '90	Lynn Freeburger '69*	McElyea '05*	Linda Stark
Bernadette Allen '78*	John Fisher & Jann Freed '77*	Jeff '90 & Laurie Rieken	Diane Staubus '71*
Mary Anderson '78	Tara & Justin From '06*	McMartin '90*	Wayne Stienstra '73
Charity & Bob Andeweg '84	Garden & Associates, LTD	Hisako & Chris McMorran '95*	Nancy Williams Stover '73*
Charles '63 & Jean Van	Mike '75 & Rita Heemsbergen	Sean '00 & Casey Quinn	Charlie & Mary E.M. Strey*
Zomeran Argo '63*	Gardner '80*	McMurray '01*	Stan '81 & Carma Horstmann
Cyndi Atkins*	Rich '62 & Mary Roorda	Tsega & Ammanuel Mehreteab '70*	Sturtz '84*
Tim '71 & Sally McGilvra Baar '71*	Glendening '62*	Meredith Drive Reformed	Anna Swanson '03*
Ed & Mary Jane Banfield*	Julie Boomsma Glessner '86	Church – Des Moines, Iowa*	Delmar & Julia De Penning
Russ & Mary Benedict*	Mike & Annajean De Graaf	Eric '08 & Anna Abney Miller '09*	Thoele '66*
Jacqueline & Brett Benton '85	Goins '70*	Marty & Debbie Putney Miller '91*	Ann Thompson
Jacque & Jamie Bermel '86*	Scott Gonzales '71*	Wayne & Pamela Miller	Mark & Kathy Cashen
Peggy Bliss*	Terri Humphrey Gotta '74	Astrida & Bill Molenaar '84	Thompson '87*
Barbara & Tom Boat '61*	Graphic Edge – Carroll, Iowa	Doyle Monsma '83*	Maurine & Gary Timmer '55*
Jim '77 & Ina Van Haften	Dave '87 & Cathy Snyders	Corina & Eldon Mulder '80	Brad & Deb Hopp Uitermarkt '92*
Boeke '77*	Gray '88*	Ron Mulder & Sandy Cady	Mike '96 & Carrie McNeese
Virgil Boertje*	Sheila Grebert '94*	Mulder*	Valster '96
Jeff '89 & Betty Balder	Greenleifton Reformed Church –	New Hope Reformed Church –	Linda & Clarence Van Dellen '66
Bollard '84	Preston, Minnesota*	Powell, Ohio*	Izzy & Phil Van Den Berg '64*
Darrell '59 & Sherma Blom	Michael Grimm*	Lisa & Bill Northup '83*	Paul '83 & Nancy Thies Van
Brand '61*	Christian '08 & Ashley Lang	Jeff '93 & Karlon Vande Berg	Farowe '86
Willa Schaver Brown '64*	Grindberg '08*	Olson '93*	Dianne Gluen Van Gorp '61*
Don Bruggink '51*	Grove Reformed Church –	Wayne Holubetz & Julia	Robert Van Hal '58 Estate
Jeff Burnison '93	North Bergen, New Jersey	Muyskens Ostendorf '84*	Henry Van Leeuwen '50
John Bylsma '59*	Bretina & Marv Hackert '66*	Larry '06H & Cathy Pacha '06H*	Fred Van Swol '55
Jim & Junella Cadwell*	Jan Jolink Hamm '68	Jo Vande Voort Palmquist '51	Lori Van Zee '83*
Rod & Emily Camp	Mark & Barbara Hanawalt	Karla & Larry Pals '69*	Paul & Dee Van Zee*
Central Reformed Church –	Dorice Hankemeier '01*	Sandy & Al Paris '77*	Joey & Dick Van Zomeran '60*
Sioux Center, Iowa*	Lori & David Hanken '93	Pella Community Foundation*	Jim '60 & Kathy Redeker Vande
Mary & Gene Chapman '61*	Jason '10 & Tayler Wessels	Pella Cooperative Electric	Berg '60*
Julie Walvoord Cohen '77	Hassman '13	Association	Joe '99 & Kerry Maynard Vande
Dennis Cooper	Jim Henderson '67	Larry & Karin Peterson*	Kieft '99*
Mark & Judi Cooper	Kay & John Hesselink '67	Barb Pettitt '72*	Carol & Phil Vander Wilt '63*
Patricia & Bob Cronin '85	Diane & Rick Hickman '73	Stan & Gayle Poortinga*	Dale '69 & Eileen Miller Vander
Phyllis & Jim Danks '64*	Lisa & Mike Hicks '83	Principal Financial Group	Wilt '70*
Ariel Hayes & Ryan Danks*	Tom Ho '64*	Company	Jackie & Bob Vanderlinden '55*
Ralph & LuAnn De Haan*	Tim Hoekstra '95*	Principal Financial Group	Richard Vandermyde '51*
Julie & Mark De Jong '81*	Kevin & Lynne Holleman*	Foundation, Inc.*	Peter & Kim Soo Hoo Vann '74*
Arlan De Kock '64*	Sara & Eric Holm '99*	Norman Ratering*	Trent '90 & Kris Brandt
Tom De Vries '73*	Les '75 & Rebecca Francis	Joyce Willemsen Renskers '53	Vaughn '90*
Al De Wild '57*	Hook '73*	Wendy & Nick Richtsmeier '01*	Tim & Verna Ver Meer*
Kevin Den Adel '91*	Kent '82 & Mary Fitzgerald	Lloyd & Sharon Roberts*	Ginny Carpenter Ver Ploeg '46*
Verlan '62 & Karen Westerveld	Horstmann '85	Aaron '97 & Andrea Westra	Liz & Micah Vermeer '05*
Den Adel '62*	Bill & Deborah Buck	Roerdink '97*	Larry '71 & Claire Denniston
Vern '71 & Diane Norman Den	Houghton '84*	Erv '60 & Andrea Boat	Versteegh '73
Herder '70*	Don '56 & Ruth Howard	Roorda '60*	Jack Montgomery & Kelly
Janet & Brad Depke '82*	Howard '56*	Michael & Juli Pohlmann	Vielmo '99*
Steve & Michele Sadler Dikkers '91	Bob & Katie Vander Linden	Roseburrough '91*	Kayrin & Troy Vincent '96
Ron Duncan & Susan Bauer	Hughes '04*	Rosenman's, Inc.*	Claude-Marie & Ken Vos '57
Winter Duncan '75*	Lisa Waugh Hulscher '85*	Richard '91 & Maxine Van	Darlene Van Zomeran
Orville Dunkin '53*	Chad '97 & Valerie Roush	Wingarden Rozendaal '77	Wallinga '56*
Nathan '99 & Sunny Gonzales	Huyser '97	Karen Ruhl	Marje De Wit Warner '58*
Eighmy '99*	Orleath Vogelaar Ingle '47*	Joe Russo '73*	Kimberly Watts '88*
Joe Eilers '18	Brenda & Eric Jones '87*	Donna & Richard Salch '61*	Matt '05 & Erika Hartung
Gary & Karen Eischen	Paul '79 & Vicki Newendorp	Caroline & Eric Sanderson '90	Weih '06*
Jim '72 & Shelley Best Ellerston '76	Jones '78*	Danielle & Rick Sanger '96*	Ken & Shirely Weller*
Ellwood Associates, Inc.	Carolyn & James Joy '85*	Craig & Shari Schledewitz*	Floyd & Carol Gluen
Catherine Elwell '19H*	Bill & Dottie Heideman	Rosemary O'Leary & Larry	Wesselink '68*
Enterprise Holdings Foundation	Julian '54*	Schroeder '65*	Anne Petrie & Bill White
Edgar & Joyce Van Roekel	Elaine & Fred Jung '68*	Stan '70 & Diane Van Weelden	Nelson '16 & Madi Gause
Epperly '60*	Martin Klemm '75*	Schuring '72	Wiese '16*
Linda Spaans Esten '67	Marlyn Klimstra '50*	Bill & Mary Dougherty	Gussie Nordstrum Williams '58*
Hiram Evans '75*	Mark Koskamp '80*	Schwartz '70*	Gene & Carol Williamson*
Reid '01 & Liz McElvogue	Bob & Nancy Kroese*	Sandi Ecker Shaefer '69	Zion Reformed Church –
Evans '02*	Joseph Frericks & Alicia Kuper '91*	Eric Sickler '83*	Sheffield, Iowa
Jared '05 & Kandace Hudson	Leighton State Bank –	Vicki & Dick Siefers '77*	Bob & Charlene Zylstra
Faidley '05*	Pella, Iowa*	Earl Simmelink Estate	
Brian '80 & Lori Humphrey	Susan Liu*	Doran '58 & Bonnie Kuyper	
Fegley '80*	Martha & Ken Loats '58*	Simmons '58*	
Fellowship Reformed Church –	Don '70 & Jan Dykstra Logan '69*	Maria & Jeff Sinley '70*	
Holland, Michigan	Paul '90 & Jeanie Backes	Shirley Smiddy	
Ryan '02 & Amber Van Wyk	Lovell '91*	Dave '66 & Lois De Haan	
Fick '02	Don & Nancy Lubbers*	Smith '68*	
Glenn & Rhonna Kooiker	Cliff '75 & Connie Aalbers	Elfi & Dwight Smith '53*	
Fiihr '72*	Marlow '76*	Kent '65 & Becky Kettler	
Justin '02 & Amanda Hansen	Steve & Sophie Mathonnet-	Sneller '65*	
Fletcher '00*	Vanderwell*	St Thomas Reformed Church –	
Eunice & Davis Folkerts '60*	Ross '80 & Greta De Cook	Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands*	
Bob '69 & Charlotte Poppen	McCarty '81*		
Foreman '69			

* Central supporters for five
or more consecutive years
+ Deceased
H Honorary alum

For a complete Honor
Roll of Giving listing all Central
College donors:
central.edu/honor-roll.
To give to Central College:
central.edu/give.

NEWSNOTES

THE '50s

Leonard Kalkwarf '50 published his eighth book, "What Ever Happened to the Boy with the Blue Racer?" in addition to a religious drama for Maundy Thursday, a book on the United States presidential libraries, a book of daily devotions and a series of first-person letters of people confronted by the crucifixion. His recent book is a biography of his family. He continues to be active in the ministry, serving as pastoral associate of the Village Church in Springfield, Virginia, where he serves most Sundays as the liturgist and often preaches.

Rev. Gordon Damsteegt '59 and wife, Elaine, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 17, 2021. Their family commemorated this milestone by asking people from various times in their lives to shower them with cards and well-wishes. Before retiring the second time, Rev. Damsteegt served many congregations, first with the Reformed Church in America and then with the Methodist Church. The couple resides in Jamestown, New York.

THE '60s

Lesley Diehl '65 published her eighth book in the Eve Appel Series, "Murder in the Family." You can see all her publications on www.lesleyadiehl.com. Lesley resides in Upstate New York and rural Florida.

THE '70s

Karen Stewart '76 resides in Henderson, Nevada, and is an assistant research librarian at Desert Research Institute in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Jann Freed '77 was selected to be a speaker for the 2021 TedxDesMoines event. Her talk was entitled, "Embrace Death: Find Meaning in Life."



▲ A group of friends from the '70s and '80s gathered in Des Moines in June 2021.

Seated: Art Alt and Diane Alt. **Standing, left to right:** Brad Depke '82, Mike Thrasher, **Gabriel Espinosa '79**, Gabriela Espinosa, **Kevin Malloy '82**, **Alan Van Zee '79**, John Hoggins, **Jackie Haus Hoggins '82**, **Jerry Waller '77**, **Becky Waller**, **Deedee Dykstra '79**, **David Dykstra '80**, **Barb Skoog Ramos '84** and **Rich Ramos '84**.

Congratulations to Harriet Wolbrink '71 from Ann Arbor, Michigan, for winning the Central "C" string art featured in the previous issue of the alumni magazine.

THE '80s

For information about **Eric Sackett '87** see the '90s. For information about **Brad Depke '82**, **Kevin Malloy '82**, **Jackie Haus Hoggins '82**, **David Dykstra '80**, **Barb Skoog Ramos '84** and **Rich Ramos '84** see the '70s.

Norma Dowell '80 of Ankeny, Iowa, retired from Iowa State University on June 30, 2021, after working there for more than 30 years. In her most recent role, she worked with the IT team in the library providing support for website content management and statistics analysis. She is looking forward to spending more time in her woodshop, working on genealogy and traveling with friends.

Tera Helmon '88 retired after serving 33 years in K-12 public education in Colorado. Tera was the assistant superintendent of learning services for Littleton Public Schools from 2018-21. Tera and husband, James Zazenski, live in Littleton, Colorado.

Jan York Matheus '88 is a human resources consultant at North Memorial Health in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

THE '90s

Phil Diment '90 was promoted to senior vice president of corporate communications at KBS, an institutional real estate investment advisor, headquartered in Newport Beach, California, where he has served for 24 years. Phil and wife, Gloria, have two daughters and are very involved in their church.

Julie Schanke Lyford '90 received a Purple Dragonfly Book Award, second place, for the children's book she and her father, Professor Emeritus of Theatre **Robert Schanke**, wrote titled "Katy Has Two Grampas."

Curtis Bauer '92 is a professor of creative writing and comparative literature at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. In November 2021, his translation of the novel "Home Reading Service" by Fabio Morábito will be published by Other Press. Curtis and wife, Idoia Elola, live in Lubbock.

John Briggs '85 is a line check captain with United Airlines. He trains and flies the 737 throughout North America, Central America and the Caribbean. John and wife, Stacy, live in West Des Moines, Iowa.

David Bequeaith '86 is the president of M1 Bank in Clayton, Missouri.

Michelle Weiss Olson '86 is the controller for Colorado Plains Medical Center in Fort Morgan, Colorado.

Bill Strauss '86 retired from AT&T and is now director of business development at Tresl.

THE '90s (continued)

Jason Dykehouse '92 recently published his debut novel, "A Reduction of Men." The fantasy adventure with a third-person objective narrator is available in eBook and paperback at amazon.com and in hardcover at barnesandnoble.com.

Krista Posegate Sackett '94 is a reading support teacher at Johnston Community School District in Johnston, Iowa. Krista and husband, **Eric Sackett '87**, live in Johnston with their two children. Eric is a school counselor at Urbandale Community Schools in Urbandale, Iowa.

Kristy Ellerman Runge '95 is the director of workday organizational change management at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Kristy and husband, **Shawn Runge '95**, reside in St. Louis and will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in October. They are the parents of four children.

Jennifer Wierzchowski Brown '97 is the economic development coordinator for the city of Waukee, Iowa.

Elizabeth Perry Dickson '99 is a school counselor/departments head at Millard South High School in Omaha, Nebraska. Liz and husband, **Drew**, live in Omaha with their two children.

Sarah Gibson '99 is an executive assistant at Pella Corporation in Pella, Iowa. Sarah and husband, **David Beukelman**, were married February 14, 2021.



▲ This group met for golf on June 8, 2021, at Echo Valley Country Club in Des Moines, Iowa.

Left to right: William Conger '93, Brad Wuhs '97, Darin Fisher '97, former Coach Bob Bruns, Jason Brown '94 and Ben Stein '99.



▲ In July, **Amy Vander Werf Terpstra '96**, **Brooke Bouma Kohlsdorf '96** and **Gretchen Van Zee Lowe '96** met for a reunion lunch. They visited Scholte Hall and stood outside the residence hall rooms where they met as first-year students 29 years ago. They enjoyed walking the campus while sharing stories and wonderful memories of their days together at Central.

Marc Pennington '99 is a financial advisor at Northwestern Life Insurance Company in Washington, Iowa.

Aaron Rothrock '01 is a logistics specialist at Infomax Office Systems in Des Moines, Iowa. Aaron and wife, **Andrea**, live in Ankeny, Iowa, with their two children.

Crystal Schrader '01 is the ReStore donations coordinator at Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity in Des Moines, Iowa. Crystal resides in Des Moines and recently completed her term as the county chair for the Warren County Democrats.

Angela Vander Werf Kruse '03 is the housing affordability grant and donations program manager at Wells Fargo in Des Moines, Iowa.

Alison Cupples Johnson '00 is a lead project manager at Marsh and McLennan Agency-Southwest in Dallas, Texas.

Jeff Casey '01 is the vice president, regional account manager at Commerce Bank, and head football coach at Treynor High School, in Treynor, Iowa. Jeff and wife, **Amy Yochum**, live in Treynor with their four children.

Abbey Tolander Maxwell '03 is the director of neuro trauma ICU at MercyOne Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa. Abbey and husband, **Chad Maxwell '03**, live in Baxter, Iowa, with their two children. Chad works in sales for Denco Highway Construction in Mingo, Iowa.

Marcia Ellsworth Elliott '04 is a senior cybersecurity specialist at Liberty Mutual Insurance in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. She received her open FAIR certification in November 2020. Marcia and husband, **David**, live in Kensington, New Hampshire, with their three children.

Jacob Oyen '04 is a senior digital experience manager-digital lean at Vermeer Corporation in Pella, Iowa.

Lisa Kelderhouse Carroll '05 is a first-grade teacher at Big Hollow School District #38 in Ingleside, Illinois. Lisa and husband, **Bill**, live in Grayslake, Illinois, with their son.

Kody Wohlers '05 is the Loess Hills land stewardship director for Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.

Stephanie Van Ommeren Bosgraaf '06 is the registrar at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. Stephanie and husband, **Matt**, live in Hospers, Iowa, with their two children.

Stacy McDonald '06 owns The Photician, a photography business, in Adel, Iowa.

THE '00s

NEWSNOTES

THE '00s (continued)

Josh Porter '06 is the high school activities director at Fort Dodge Community School in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Josh and wife, Sandy, are the parents of three children.

Michelle Bahl Raymer '06 is the new board president of the Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement.

Brett Doud '07 is a sixth-grade teacher and head high school football coach for Oskaloosa Community School District in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Kelli Collins Phillips '07 has been named interim principal of the Pickwick Early Childhood Center of Ottumwa Schools in Ottumwa, Iowa.

Sasha Djordjevic Fuerstenberg '08 is a strategic communications specialist on the North American public and industry relations team for John Deere in Olathe, Kansas. Sasha and husband, **Kyle Fuerstenberg '08**, live in Shawnee, Kansas, with their three children. Kyle is a commercial portfolio manager, vice president at Wells Fargo.

Trevor Jones '08 is a global market insights and business development manager at Pivot Bio.

Lindsay Kelderhouse Lazzaro '08 is a laboratory manager at BASF in Freeport, Texas. Lindsay and husband, Dan, live in Angleton, Texas, with their son.

Jenn Laughlin '08 is an account executive at Fleetio in Monmouth, Oregon.

Laura Bade '09 is the communications and events director at Boone County Chamber in Boone, Iowa.

Dan Krull '09 is a fourth grade teacher at Interstate-35 School District in Truro, Iowa. Dan and wife, Julie, live in Indianola, Iowa, with their twin boys. Dan started "The Dan Krull" podcast earlier this year. It is about West Hancock sports with a focus on storied traditions, successes, history and memories. The focus is on the guests, the Bob and Linda Sanger Legacy Fund, West Hancock School/sports history and Britt, Iowa.

THE '10s

Liza Calisesi Maidens '10 is the director of choral activities at the University of Illinois Chicago, Illinois. Liza and husband, **Joel Maidens '10** reside in Chicago.

Alissa Olson '10 is a data analyst for ALLO communications in Lincoln, Nebraska, where she resides.

Kurtis Brondyke '11 competed at the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials, placing 15th in the decathlon. Kurtis is an assistant coach responsible for sprints, hurdles, jumps and multi-events for Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

Joseph Shoemaker '11 is the vice president of sales at Guaranteed Rate in Chicago, Illinois.

Eric Bridges '12 had two projects nominated for an Iowa Motion Picture Award: "Hark, What Light" and "O'Spite."

Reid Imerman '12 lives in Merrimac, Wisconsin, and is a dentist at Dental Associates of Baraboo in Baraboo, Wisconsin.

Mike Kruse '12 was a guest star on "Grey's Anatomy," playing Felix Pelgado, in April 2021.

Allison Drees McPherren '12 is a high school science teacher at Southeast Polk School District in Pleasant Hill, Iowa, where she was recently recognized as a master teacher. Allison and husband, **Ryan McPherren '14**, live in Altoona, Iowa. Ryan is a conservation technician for the Polk and Warren County Conservation Boards.

Cory Nikkel '12 is the high school principal at Des Moines Christian Schools in Urbandale, Iowa. Cory and wife, Courtney, live in Johnston, Iowa, with their daughter.

Will Overland '12 is a district manager at ADP in Dallas, Texas. Will and wife, Chelsea, live in Denton, Texas, with their daughter.

Melanie Lewis Schmidt '12 completed her certification for volunteer administration in April 2021.

Jackie Boat Wilson '12 is an experiential learning specialist at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.

Ben Fry '13 in the activities director at Fort Madison High School in Fort Madison, Iowa. Ben and wife, Morgan, live in New London, Iowa, with their daughter.

Kristin Look '13 resides in Dubuque, Iowa, where she is a data analyst at Sedgwick CMS.

Megan Cain Newton '13 is a nurse practitioner at UnityPoint in Des Moines, Iowa. Megan and husband, Derek, live in Van Meter, Iowa, with their two children.



▲ TYLER WENTWORTH '13

HOMETOWN: Davenport, Iowa

MAJOR: Business management with an emphasis in marketing

MINOR: Visual communications

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES: EAM Club and Phonathon

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ROLE: Director of social media for Manscaped, San Diego, California.

Wentworth put his liberal arts education to the test while competing on an episode of Wheel of Fortune, which aired Summer 2021.

Hilary Beaird '14 recently completed a seven-week course at firefighter training school in Champaign, Illinois. She is now a full-time firefighter for the Burlington Fire Department in Burlington, Iowa.

Leo Bird '14 is a mail handler assistant for the United States Postal Office in Des Moines, Iowa. In his free time, Leo does stand-up comedy using drawings as a visual aid.

Carlos Hernandez '14 lives in Pella, Iowa, and is a supply chain coordinator at Airgas in Pella.

Alex Breiholz '15 is a worker's compensation defense paralegal at Willson Jones Carter & Baxley in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Blaine Forsythe '15 was named the head high school girls basketball coach at Pella Community School District in Pella, Iowa.

Bryanna Pierce '15 lives in Abilene, Texas, and is an assistant athletic trainer/clinical preceptor at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene.

Mikaela Dunkin '16 was named a recipient of the Renate W. Chasman Award by Brookhaven Women in Science.

Susan Elder '16 is a communication specialist at Amazon in Bondurant, Iowa.

Nichole Malott '16 resides in Inman, South Carolina, and is a special education resource teacher at Carlisle Fosters Grove Elementary in Chesnee, South Carolina.

Matt Schissel '16 is the head baseball coach at Quincy University in Quincy, Illinois.

Rachel Spooner '16 is a post-doctoral fellow at Heinrich-Heine University in Düsseldorf, Germany. She is working on a project that evaluates how neural oscillations change prior to, during and after deep brain stimulation surgery in Parkinson's patients.

Amanda Kuhn Witteman '16 is a program coordinator at Watts of Love in Downers Grove, Illinois.

Gabi Wilson Doughan '17 is a post-doctoral research associate with the Swine Medicine Education Center at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine in Ames, Iowa. Gabi and husband, **Cody Doughan '14**, live in Ames. Cody is a bakery manager at Hy-Vee in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Lydia Krzyzak '17 is a chiropractor at Iowa Family Chiropractic in Des Moines, Iowa.

Betsy Van Haaften '17 is a physician assistant in dermatology and cosmetics at Skin Iowa, PC, in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Preston Adams '18 lives in Omaha, Nebraska, and is an assistant general manager at Menards in Bellevue, Nebraska.

Jeremy Caracci '18 is an AP psychology teacher and at-risk coordinator at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa. Jeremy and wife, Abby, live in Urbandale, Iowa.

Melissa Charlton Carpenter '18 is a compliance analyst at Principal Financial Group in Des Moines, Iowa.

Holly McKinney '18 is a full-time professional research assistant serving as a technical assistance coordinator for the monitoring contracts issued by the Indian Health Service Tribal Injury Prevention Cooperative Agreement Program at the Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, located at the University of Colorado.

Josh Prokupek '18 is an analytics specialist at Pella Corporation in Pella, Iowa.

Libbie Randall '18 is a news reporter at KCRG-TV9 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Daniel Weir '18 is the fitness director at Grand Living in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Will Daniels '19 competed in the Olympic Trials for the decathlon June 18-19, 2021.

Macin Harvey '19 is a research assistant in the public health department at the University of Kansas Medical Center-Wichita in Wichita, Kansas.

Joshua Phillips '19 is an associate business analyst II at Pella Corporation in Pella, Iowa.

Lane Rumelhart '19 is the head wrestling coach at Adair-Casey/Guthrie Center School in Guthrie Center, Iowa.



▲ **Cole Silver '18** and Taylor Claus were married June 19, 2021. Front row, left to right: **Jahleel Vester '18**, Jenna Vester, Jenna Willett '21, Trevor Ruiz '18, Scott Wilson '18, Emily Opsal Wilson '20, Krista Frazell Silver '93, Jake Challen '18, Regan Nelson '18, Elyse Lubbers '18, Keegan Flaherty '18, Cole Silver '18, Ellie Stoakes Dilks '18, Jordan Challen '19, Jeremy Vester '19, MaKayla Wagner '22 and Eugene Ubben '90. Second row, left to right: Kevin Stittsworth '95, Caleb Silver '23, Doug Frazell '99, Luke Den Adel '18, Jacob Logan '18, Dirk Lindaman '13, CJ Cliff '18, Drew Lindaman '16 and Lynn Silver '92.

NEWSNOTES

THE '20s

Ryan Strauss '20 completed his first year of service in the Army reserves in June 2021 and currently has the rank of specialist, attached to the 445th transportation company out of Waterloo, Iowa. He is now a conductor trainee for Canadian Pacific Railway and will be based in Davenport, Iowa, upon completion of training.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Robyn Loeffler Kraus '96, master of business administration, Colorado State University, Global Campus, Aurora, Colorado, 2019.

Lisa Kelderhouse Carroll '05, master of education, Benedictine University, Lisle, Illinois, 2018.

Liza Calisesi Maidens '10, doctor of musical arts, Michigan State University, Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 2021.

Ashley Gritters Allers '12, master of business administration, Upper Iowa University, Fayette, Iowa, March 2021.

Kristin Look '13, master of business administration, Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa, Summer 2020.

Adam Clark '15, master of geographic information systems, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, May 2021.

Jordan Wachter '15, doctor of physical therapy, Des Moines University, Des Moines, Iowa, May 2021.

Rachel Spooner '16, doctor of philosophy, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska, May 2021.

Gabi Wilson Doughan '17, doctor of veterinary medicine, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, May 2021.

Lydia Krzyzak '17, doctor of chiropractic, Logan University, Chesterfield, Missouri, December 2020.

Jeremy Caracci '18, master of arts, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado, December 2020.

Jenna Jensen '18, master of arts, Middlesex University, London, England, December 2020.

NEW ARRIVALS

Nic and Abby Gonzales Larson '02, daughter Lillian Lea, March 29, 2021.

Adam and Angela Vander Werf Kruse '03, son Dawson Douglas, Feb. 20, 2021.

Jerrold and Katy Lein Long '04, son Jayden Reginald, Feb. 15, 2021.

Dan and Lindsay Kelderhouse Lazzaro '08, son Beckett Paul, Nov. 22, 2020.

Adam and Laurel Sargent Olson '10, son Tate Robert, May 27, 2021.

Matt '11 and Jill Sorensen Gronewold '11, son Duncan Matthew, May 8, 2021.

JJ and Sara Stephenson Rissi '11, son Hunter Red, March 21, 2021.

Jake '11 and Maggie Paris Viggers '10, son Brant Alden, April 25, 2021.

Lara and TJ Duff '12, daughter Natalie Nicole, March 22, 2021.

Landon and Stephanie Brammer Medvec '12, son Tucker Jennings, Nov. 18, 2020.

Chelsea and Will Overlander '12, daughter Gracelynn Fox, March 21, 2020.

Drew and Amy Holcomb Hughes '13, daughter Mirabelle Kay, Feb. 6, 2021.

Taylor '15 and Tayler Kisley Jansen '14, daughter Lillian Ruth, March 18, 2021.

Yaw '15 and Megan Flynn Sapon-Amoah '15, son Oscar Coleman, April 1, 2021.

IN MEMORIAM

Elaine Dykstra Boogerd '50, Belmond, Iowa, March 1, 2021.

Donald Burns '50, Los Alamos, New Mexico, May 24, 2021.

Wayne Greving '51, Pella, Iowa, May 30, 2021.

Gene Klimstra '52, Fulton, Illinois, June 8, 2021.

Carol Voskuil Ter Louw '56, Pella, Iowa, May 31, 2021.

Dorothy Wagner Van Wyk '57, Monroe, Iowa, May 11, 2021.

Gary Blodgett '59, Clear Lake, Iowa, May 19, 2021.

Benny Woolley '61, Independence, Iowa, May 8, 2021.

Judith "Judi" Kolenbrander Braskamp '64, Chicago, Illinois, April 25, 2021.

Marjorie Te Selle Ostic '67, Janesville, Wisconsin, June 13, 2021.

Lynn Einink '68, Clymer, New York, June 5, 2021.

Pieter Jager '68, Roanoke, Virginia, June 5, 2021.

Keith Ostic '68, Janesville, Wisconsin, April 20, 2021.

Gary Dirksen '69, Pella, Iowa, April 27, 2021.

Patricia "Pat" Meinert '69, Grundy Center, Iowa, May 21, 2021.

Nancy Spickerman Baylor '71, Ottawa, Kansas, May 8, 2021.

David Dudley '75, Oxford, Ohio, April 30, 2021.

David Schellenberg '78, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 3, 2021.

Shellie Klein Hawkins '83, Pella, Iowa, May 22, 2021.

Dan Danes '95, Norwalk, Iowa, June 12, 2021.

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Talk to us! Did you get a graduate degree? A promotion or a new job? Get married or have a baby? We want to hear from our alumni. Share your updates and your news will be included in the Newsnotes section of Civitas and online. It's easy! Just fill out the form at civitas.central.edu/newsnotes.

IN MEMORIAM



JOHN MARK DE COOK '64

John Mark De Cook '64, left, Trustee Emeritus at Central College, died Aug. 13, 2021, in Pella, Iowa. He was 80.

Born and raised on a farm in Mahaska County, Iowa, Mark earned his bachelor's degree in economics at Central College. While at Central, he was captain and an All-Conference football player for the Dutch. He was awarded the Heerema-Schilder MVP Award in 1963 for his talent and dedication on the football field. Mark and his childhood sweetheart, **Kay Kuyper De Cook '63**, right, were married while they were students at Central on Aug. 30, 1961.

After graduation, Mark worked for American Seating Co. in Cleveland, Ohio, from 1964-68. He returned to Pella to work for Pella Corporation as regional sales manager, where he later became eastern divisional sales manager. In 1983, he started his own business, Heritage Lace, with his lifelong friend and business partner, **Bruce Heerema '63**. He served as its president and co-CEO until his retirement in 2006.

Mark served on Central's Board of Trustees from 1991-2008 and was named Trustee Emeritus. In 1993, Mark and his wife Kay were awarded the Mr. and Mrs. Alumni Award at Central. The Mark and Kay De Cook Endowed Scholarship and the Mark and Kay De Cook Chair in Character and Leadership Development were funded by their generous support to Central.

Mark also supported the Pella community by serving through various boards and community organizations throughout his lifetime, including the Marion County Bank Board of Directors, Vermeer Corporation Board of Directors, Pella Opera House Board of Directors, Pella Chamber of Commerce and Heritage Lace Foundation. He also co-chaired fundraising efforts for The Cottages and Comfort House and was a member of Third Church in Pella.

Mark is survived by his wife Kay and their children and families: daughter Lisa (De Cook) and husband Sam Van Maanen; son **Dan De Cook '95** and wife Angela; son Michael De Cook; Sarah, Jay and Aidan Morales (with a baby on the way); Aaron and Jamie Van Maanen; Ryan Van Maanen; Joshua De Cook; Wyatt De Cook; sister Dorothy "Dot" DeVries; sisters-in-law **Ruth De Cook '53**, **Peggy Pierson '56** and **Bonnie (Doran) Simmons '58**; and many nieces, nephews and a lifetime of friends.

SUPPORTING SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK



Since he was a young boy, **Paul Poppen '69** knew he was going to attend Central College. "Attending Central has always been a family tradition," Poppen says. "Both of my parents and my grandparents attended Central. I didn't even really think about other schools, even when they offered me scholarships. Growing up in small towns throughout my childhood, Central felt bigger than what I was accustomed to but also felt like home."

Poppen's grandfather, **John S. Ter Louw**, Class of 1916, served on Central's board of trustees and received a Doctor of Divinity degree from the college. In 1979, Poppen and his siblings established the John S. Ter Louw Scholarship in his honor, which is awarded to an upperclassman whose academic record reflects the high level of intellectual curiosity exhibited by Ter Louw.

Forty years later, Poppen is establishing a scholarship of his own at Central: The Poppen Diversity Scholarship. A generous gift of \$500,000 will support the scholarship, which will be awarded to students of diverse backgrounds who are underrepresented in higher education.

Poppen's gift also will support the Poppen

Fund for Social Justice Programs, a new endowment that will fund areas of social justice, including legal, health, financial and environmental. The program will support research, scholarship, education and remedial activities at Central while encouraging student involvement in issues of social justice. This includes collaborative research with faculty and students in social justice; development of workshops for faculty; new courses; and visitors and guest lecturers.

"There have been a lot of conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion on Central's campus, especially in the last few years," Poppen says. "I want to help organize those important conversations. I want to help Central make an effort to recruit more ethnic and racial minority students. That may be an ambitious goal, but I think it would be beneficial for Central students to learn perspectives and experiences of people who are different than them."

Originally a math major, Poppen changed his course of study to psychology after a life-changing trip abroad as a second-year student. Central invited him to be one

of the first students to sail aboard a ship as part of the University of the Seven Seas, an early study abroad program for students with "an unbound curiosity and dedication" for learning. The ship sailed to 20 different countries over the course of a semester. What Poppen witnessed changed the course of his life.

"South America and Africa were a huge surprise," Poppen says. "In the 1960s, media and television offered a sense of what life was like in other countries. But I was still shocked at what I saw. There were huge discrepancies in the lives of people and the beautiful architecture that often surrounded them. There were wonderful hospitals in Africa, but on the other hand, people were living in shacks and barely surviving. That was when I really started thinking about the conditions in which other people live and how it affects their health and well-being."

Poppen deepened his studies in social psychology and interpersonal relations at Cornell University, where he received his Ph.D. in 1973. His work then led him to George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where he has taught psychology since 1979. He is the Thelma Hunt Professor of Psychology and served as chair of the department of psychology for 12 years.

His research in the past decade has focused on gender, culture and health, especially HIV/AIDS in Latinx and immigrant communities. He is on the executive committee of the George Washington University HIV/AIDS Institute and is a consulting editor to two journals: AIDS Education and Prevention and Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology.

With nearly 50 years of expertise in social psychology, Poppen wants to magnify the important conversations that are happening around social justice in the United States.

"Even though we aspire to have liberty and justice for all in this country, it's not necessarily equal," Poppen says. "Some people have advantages and others have disadvantages. Some of the facts we've known for a long time about social equity haven't been brought into a framework where people can really think about and discuss them to try to figure out what we can do to make things better."

"And I want to encourage the Central community to listen, to learn and to do what they can. That's why I'm giving back." ■

INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS: RELEVANT PROGRAMS FOR TODAY'S WORLD

STORY BY: JON WITT
PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY

The past two years have been quite a ride. During that time, I served as the chair of Central College's Faculty Steering Committee, and we've dealt with many complex issues — not the least of which was navigating through a global pandemic.

I confess that it has sometimes seemed overwhelming. We've had to make difficult decisions while juggling many balls. Through all the challenges, however, the light at the end of the tunnel for me has been the hopeful vision provided by the curriculum renewal work the faculty began in 2019.

Central's curriculum has always been, and will always be, evolving. Over time, existing classes get reinvigorated with the addition of new texts and assignments. Professors regularly create new courses while old ones fall by the wayside. As professors retire, new professors arrive with different ideas, skills and visions. And every now and then, the faculty takes a more intentional look at the curriculum as a whole with an eye toward renewal.

This is one of those times.

The faculty launched our curriculum renewal conversations in response to Central's current "Strategic Plan for Student Success." As part of this process, we have passed a number of milestones including:

- + Developing guiding principles for Central's curriculum.
- + Evaluating the effectiveness of Central's current core.
- + Envisioning core renewal aligned with the guiding principles.
- + Producing innovative models of a new Central College Core.

This fall, the faculty plans to vote to adopt our new core. In addition, we continue to work on desired student learning outcomes and experiences for study abroad when it returns in Fall 2022 and to pursue pathways for additional curricular initiatives.

Why do this work now?

There are a host of reasons. All private liberal arts colleges today face significant challenges. Central must be proactive about addressing them.

One challenge, known in higher education circles as the "demographic cliff," is that significant declines in the number of high school graduates pursuing a college education will occur starting in 2026 because birth rates plunged during and after 2008's Great Recession and they have not recovered. This effect varies by region, with the Midwest and Northeast particularly hard hit. According to economist Nathan Grawe, Iowa should anticipate a drop of at least 15% in available students.

Another challenge comes in the form of enhanced competition between colleges and universities, which will only escalate when the supply of available students decreases. Nationally, fewer than 2% of all undergraduate students opt to attend liberal arts colleges. In addition, we hear increasing calls for free college tuition initiatives. And families have become increasingly cost-conscious, demanding quantitative return-on-investment figures for graduates.

Finally, few colleges have an overabundance of resources, so we must be good stewards of those we have. Too often, in an effort to attract more students, institutions have added programs but found it difficult to cut already established programs, opting instead to continue to carry those costs even when some programs may no longer be sustainable.

Over the past year, Central faculty have engaged in many conversations about academic program sustainability. We have taken a hard look at national and local trends, analyzed enrollments and budgets, debated how best to prioritize various principles and more. In doing so, we sought to balance what we hope and dream for against what's possible. In the end, some very difficult decisions about programs had to be made. And we continue to be committed to our responsibility of being good stewards of Central's academic programs.

Though we must be responsive to such challenges, our pursuit of curriculum renewal more importantly arises out of Central's ongoing collective commitment to always do

right by our students. We want to ensure that the education we provide, both today and tomorrow, is rooted firmly in the liberal arts, provides a coherent and distinctive narrative, and equips students with the competencies necessary to succeed in whatever pathways they pursue after graduation, whether in the workforce, graduate school, or some other direction.

Central has always looked for innovative ways to provide its students with what they want and need. Since 1853, we have offered a broad range of degrees (B.A., B.S., B.M., B.Ph., M.A. and even Ph.D.).

During the Great Depression, Central created the Central College Student Industries furniture and toy production factory to support our students (central.edu/factory). During World War II, the college created the School of Aeronautics to train pilots (central.edu/pilots).

Today, and into the future, Central and its faculty remain committed to curricular innovation so that we can continue opening doors for Central students to go out and do great things. ■





Central students were excited to be back on campus for their first day of classes Wednesday, Aug. 25.