

CENTRAL

CENTRAL COLLEGE

CIVITAS

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

A photograph of two women in a kitchen setting. They are both wearing black aprons with the Central College logo. The woman on the left is wearing glasses and has blonde hair. The woman on the right has brown hair. They are both smiling and holding large metal trays filled with cookies. The woman on the left is holding a tray of light-colored cookies, and the woman on the right is holding a tray of dark chocolate cookies. In the background, there are kitchen cabinets and a window.

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PEACE AND HOSPITALITY

STORY BY: MARK PUTNAM, CENTRAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT



It is said that if you want to know what people truly value, then just look at their calendars and accounts.

How we choose to spend our time and money is the most candid representation of what we value most. For some, time and money are devoted entirely to survival, for others, extravagance. Most of us fall somewhere in between. Yet whatever our lot, our desire for more time and more money seems insatiable. We tend toward complexity rooted in the notion that

“variety is the spice of life,” while our insides crave a simplicity that finds simple comfort in peace and hospitality.

To be at peace in the company of those we love is the most human of conditions and the one thing we desire most.

This tension was explored by the poet, William Cowper in his volume of six poems entitled, “The Task” (1785). In “Book II: The Timepiece,” Cowper uses the image of a person with wealth and position being fitted for a wardrobe of new clothes.

He writes:

*Variety's the very spice of life,
That gives it all its flavour. We have run
Through every change that fancy, at the loom
Exhausted, has had genius to supply,
And, studious of mutation still, discard
A real elegance, a little used,
For monstrous novelty and strange disguise.
We sacrifice to dress, till household joys
And comforts cease. Dress drains our cellar dry,
And keeps our larder lean; puts out our fires,
And introduces hunger, frost, and woe,
Where peace and hospitality might reign.*

The surviving idiom derived from his writing, “variety is the spice of life” has flipped the essential meaning Cowper intended. He sees vice in blindly pursuing variety as a means for satisfaction in life, when virtue is found in the simplest things that bring us the deepest pleasures.

One of our tasks as learners is to become people of discernment. This involves the integration of ideas, the interpretation of context, the recognition of patterns and the acceptance of limitation. There are many things we can know; many skills we can develop; many experiences we can pursue. The journey of education is about determining what is worth knowing, doing and experiencing as we craft a life. Simplicity is not a lack of ambition. It is an articulation of focus. It is a discipline of mind and heart we learn through reflection and seek to employ in the fullness of our lived experience.

A broad-based liberal arts education centers us on that which matters most. It forces us to encounter questions of meaning and purpose. From there a narrative emerges and evolves that serves as a guide for the unfolding years and changing seasons of life. In the end, Cowper teaches us that while the endless pursuit of variety may be spicy, the most nourishing and sustaining aspects of our lives are really quite simple.

May you dwell in peace and hospitality. ■

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SPRING 2022

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Jolene Brooks, bakery/café prep assistant (*left*);
Wendy LaHue, baker; and other Central Market staffers
whip up 2,000 cookies for every Fresh Cookie Tuesday.

Photo By: **Paul Joy**

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BUILDING ON EXCELLENCE

History and innovation
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THIS IS CENTRAL TO EVERYTHING

I really enjoyed the Winter 2022 Civitas magazine. It was very enlightening about what Central women alumnae have accomplished after graduating in their professional life. I agree with the statement that we all got a well-rounded education from Central that prepared us for the outside world. As a business/economics major, I ended up in the accounting field my whole career and enjoyed it.

As a former male cross country and track participant in the late 1960s and early 1970s, I never knew that the women's programs were so successful, and that Coach Schipper and Dr. Weller were a big part of their success story. As a graduate of 1972, I am more thankful for my Central years now than I was back then. A lot of good memories were made. Keep up the good work Central.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Plys '72

COLORADO FIRE SUPPORT

My wife, **Melissa Kell Overboe**, is a 1998 graduate of Central College. She is now an assistant principal at a K-8 school in Superior, Colorado. A month ago (December 2021) fires ravaged over 1,000 homes near where her school is located. She is helping to lead efforts at her school and surrounding schools to support the children and their families who are trying to overcome such unforeseen destruction and damage to their homes and neighborhoods. I am proud of all she is doing to help the fire victims.

Sincerely,

Jon Overboe

Karen Morkin-Van Dyke '94 is the winner of the Winter 2022 Civitas Central gear giveaway! Congrats, Karen!

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 **Denise Lamphier**, Civitas editor, at lamphierd@central.edu.



REFER A STUDENT!

You're the college's best ambassador. As a friend of the college, you're in a position to make a transformative difference in the lives of deserving students by connecting them with Central. We make it easy – just scan the QR code above and fill out the form online. You can refer up to two students at a time. And come back often – there's no limit to the number of students you can refer. We'll send you some Central gear as a thank you – first when you refer a student and a second time if a student you refer enrolls.

We welcome nominations of students at any point during high school. The earlier you refer them, the more consideration they can give to Central!



▲ JAY WACKERLY AWARDED NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANT

Jay Wackerly, associate professor of chemistry, was awarded a National Science Foundation Award of \$235,000 for academic research.

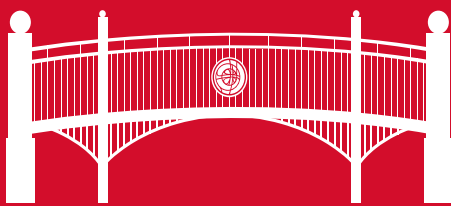
The National Science Foundation supports fundamental research and education in all non-medical fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, including computer science and the social sciences. This support advances knowledge to grow the U.S. economy and sustain global leadership.

With the help of Central students, Wackerly will conduct research focused on the synthesis and supramolecular properties of a novel class of supramolecular macrocyclic host molecules they have termed “cambiarenes.”

“It’s exciting to see our work funded in the same program as Nobel prize-winning scientists, and I am honored to have been awarded this grant,” Wackerly says. “We hope to continue to innovate the field of supramolecular chemistry by designing and creating new cambiarene structures that can be utilized for a wide variety of applications.”

This award will provide funding for Central students to perform summer research, attend and present at national conferences and for laboratory reagents and supplies.

Central students who currently conduct research on cambiarenes with Wackerly are **Amy Philavanh ’22, Madolyn Clark ’22, Bronwyn Metcalf ’22, Bradon Annegers ’23, Marcus DeVries ’23** and **Seth Olsen ’25**.



AROUND — THE — POND

This ongoing research has been funded through multiple grants since 2013, including an Organic Syntheses, Inc. Grant for Summer Research, American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund Undergraduate New Investigator Grant and multiple Moore Family Foundation Development Grants.

Wackerly has been with Central since 2011.



▲ PAULINA MENA NAMED FACULTY FELLOW FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Paulina Mena, associate professor of biology, has been appointed as faculty fellow for diversity and inclusion at Central.

Mena will work with faculty, along with **Brian Peterson**, associate dean of students, and **Mary Strej**, vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty, to support faculty development, curriculum and the classroom climate as it relates to diversity and inclusion for course development and pedagogy. Her appointment began August 2021.

Mena earned her Licenciatura en Biología from Universidad Católica de Valparaíso in Valparaíso, Chile, and her Ph.D. in biology from the University of Iowa. She has been a Central faculty member since 2009 and was promoted to associate professor of biology in 2015.



▲ LINDA LAINE APPOINTED FACULTY FELLOW FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY AND FACULTY-LED PROGRAMS

Linda Laine, Kenneth J. Weller Distinguished Professor of the Liberal Arts and professor of communication studies at Central, has been appointed as faculty fellow for interdisciplinary and faculty-led programs at the college.

Laine will work with faculty, along with **Brian Peterson**, associate dean of students, and **Mary Strej**, vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty, to support faculty development in interdisciplinary and off-campus programs, including familiar trips led by faculty to locations such as Costa Rica, Belize and Mérida. Her appointment began August 2021.

Laine earned her bachelor’s degree with honors in human communication from Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas. She completed her master’s degree and Ph.D. in communication at the University of South Florida. Laine has been a Central faculty member since 2004 and was promoted to professor of communication studies in 2018.



▲ LITTLE DUTCH ACADEMY

Central's education department has partnered with Pella Community Schools to create Central Little Dutch Academy, an early out program for third and fourth grade students focused on social emotional learning and STEM education.

The goal of the donor-funded program is to provide an opportunity for students to develop social and emotional learning skills through activities in science, technology, engineering and math in a fun, engaging way. Upper-level teacher education students at Central plan and implement all activities for students under the direction and supervision of **Jen Diers**, director of the education department, and other faculty in the department. Students in introductory education classes can serve as assistants in the program.

"This has been a dream of our program for some time. It's the perfect avenue for our future teachers to practice their skills while also fostering a love of science and bolstering social emotional skills in students. The importance of this is only heightened following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education," Diers says. "The Central Little Dutch Academy benefits Pella students, our upper-level students and provides a space for our introductory students to explore the field of education right here on Central's campus."

The program meets once per week in Roe Center, where the education department is housed. Materials and curriculum are pulled from the department's newly created Learning Lab, which represents an elementary school classroom.



▲ 2021 GEISLER PENQUITE SCHOLARS

Central's education program announced its 2021 Geisler Penquite Scholars in Fall 2021.

The Geisler Penquite Foundation honors and supports exceptional students in the college's teacher education program who exhibit potential for leadership and hold at least a 3.4 GPA, among other qualifications.

The Geisler Penquite Foundation was established by Harold and Mavis Geisler, Cecil Geisler Penquite and Loren Penquite in honor of their parents, John Edward Geisler and Gertrude Setzer Geisler. The foundation also gave a gift toward the library endowment, a space now named in their honor.

The 2021 Geisler Penquite Scholars are:

- + **Alexis Buls '23** of Kansas City, Missouri.
- + **Amanda Smith '23** of Moravia, Iowa.
- + **Dustin Haines '23** of Sigourney, Iowa.
- + **Jessica Carithers '23** of Mackinaw, Illinois.
- + **Kate Pachner '23** of Akron, Colorado.
- + **Misty Rivas '22** of Pella, Iowa.
- + **Samantha Kosman '23** of Indianola, Iowa.
- + **Victoria Joy '23** of Aledo, Illinois.
- + **Zoey Brockway '23** of Iowa Falls, Iowa.

Scholars receive approximately \$5,000 each year for their junior and senior years. In return, they represent the education program with prospective students, conduct research and/or help develop new education program initiatives.

CENTRAL RECEIVES \$50,000 GIFT FROM NOEL COVER FOUNDATION

Central received a \$50,000 gift from the Noel Cover Foundation of Cozad, Nebraska.

Central is one of four colleges that is supported by the foundation and the only Iowa institution represented. Since the early 1970s, Central has received \$1.336 million in support leading to 301 scholarships for 132 students.

Support from the foundation is used to provide scholarships to needy, deserving and promising young men from Iowa, Colorado, Wyoming or Nebraska who attend one of the following four colleges: Central College (Iowa), University of Denver (Colorado), St. Olaf College (Minnesota) and Hastings College (Nebraska). Recipients must study in fields related to science, scientific research, mechanical engineering and craftsmanship, medicine, medical research or social science.

Noel Cover was a farmer and rancher in the Cozad area. He and his wife, Nellie, believed in education, even though they had no children. The foundation was established after Noel's death to benefit students. Earnings from the foundation are derived from the annual revenue generated by approximately 1,000 acres of irrigated farmland near Cozad.



▲ CENTRAL'S 2021 WORLD FOOD PRIZE LECTURE

Aditi Mukherji, the first recipient of the Norman Borlaug Field Award by the World Food Prize Foundation, presented Central's annual World Food Prize Lecture in November 2021 via Zoom.

The World Food Prize is the foremost international award recognizing individuals who have increased the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world. Central has hosted the lecture for many years in conjunction with the World Food Prize Conference in Des Moines, Iowa.

"The World Food Prize Lecture is an opportunity for our students to hear from someone who lives out Central's mission to instill values of responsible citizenship," says **Brian Peterson**, senior associate dean of curriculum and faculty development. "Hearing from world-class researchers, scholars and activists helps students begin to see possible futures for themselves as truly lifelong learners and society changers."

Mukherji is a principal researcher at the International Water Management Institute, where she led the Water and Air Theme at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development in Nepal. Mukherji is a coordinating lead author of the Water Chapter in the Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and a member of Core Writing Team of the IPCC's AR6 Synthesis Report.



▲ CENTRAL FORMS BIPOC+ COALITION WITH DRAKE, GRAND VIEW, SIMPSON, WILLIAM PENN

Central has partnered with Drake University, Grand View University, Simpson College and William Penn University to form the BIPOC+ Coalition.

The coalition seeks to foster a sense of community, cultivate leadership and provide mutual support for Black, Indigenous and people of color. The coalition is a safe space for BIPOC students to discuss and reflect on their college journeys.

In 2018, Central examined its campus environment and analyzed how the college could strengthen its efforts in areas of diversity, equity and inclusion. An outcome of this work was the development of the "Building a Culture of Inclusion" initiative in an effort to create long-lasting change.

The coalition held its first meeting alongside the Latino Heritage Festival in Des Moines in September 2021. Activities were facilitated by BIPOC students from these respective institutions, including Central student **Deja Holloway '24**. Holloway, of O'Fallon, Illinois, led an activity that encouraged first-year students to reflect on their journeys throughout college and what they envision their journeys to be, based on their individual experiences.

"I am passionate about inclusivity, diversity and social justice work, so I wanted to make sure that as a Black student, my voice was being heard," Holloway says. "I want to help other minority students use their voices, to feel welcome and respected. I want them to know their opinions and experiences are valued here and not just being brushed off."

Holloway hopes the coalition will be a safe space for BIPOC students to gather and educate others.

"We want to encourage students to learn about our upbringing and what it's like to be a BIPOC student in Iowa. It's important to learn about others who are different than you," Holloway says. "I know it's hard to talk about tough subjects, but we are not looking for sympathy. We want empathy."

"The BIPOC Coalition is a natural component of Central's Building a Culture of Inclusion initiative. Our work is to make sure every student feels their presence and perspectives are valued," says **Carol Williamson**, vice president for student development. "The coalition supports our BIPOC students and provides an opportunity for lasting change within our organizations."

CENTRAL EDUCATION PROGRAM TO OFFER NEW STEM ENDORSEMENTS, PROJECT LEAD THE WAY TRAINING

Central's education program is now one of eight institutions in the state of Iowa to offer STEM endorsements for students majoring in elementary education and secondary education.

The endorsements will benefit Central students seeking jobs teaching K-8 mathematics, K-8 science and middle school math and science.

"The goal of our STEM endorsement is to help train educators with the breadth and depth of knowledge within and across science, technology, engineering and mathematics so they can teach in integrated STEM environments," says **Melissa McAninch**, associate professor of education. "This complements our integrated STEM curriculum, which helps Central students learn to teach in a project-based environment."

According to Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council, the demand for careers in STEM will increase 60% over the next 10 years.

Central also has become a pre-service partner with Project Lead the Way, which provides the ability for the education program to provide pre-service teachers with a PLTW teacher credential, resources and support for the PreK-5 Launch curriculum. PLTW curriculum offers transformative learning experiences for students by creating an engaging, hands-on classroom environment that empowers students to develop in-demand knowledge and skills they need to thrive.

Project Lead the Way Launch training complements science and technology courses offered at Central, including the new STEM endorsement. The education program is in the process of developing new courses for these STEM endorsements.

"Having these endorsement and training opportunities will make Central students more marketable," says **Amanda Clark**, assistant professor of education. "The state already has specific endorsement requirements in place, so this will take Central's education students to the next level."

The first round of Project Lead the Way Launch pre-service training took place in October 2021. STEM endorsement programming will begin in the 2022-23 academic year.



▲ MILLS GALLERY FEATURES AWARD-WINNING SONGWRITER AND VISITING ARTIST

Central's Mills Gallery in the Lubbers Center for the Visual Arts welcomed the works of two renowned artists last fall.

International award-winning songwriter Chad Elliott's exhibit, "Wilderman's Treetop Tales," is a collection of paintings from Elliott's book of the same name. The book is designed for ages 3-10 and contains both heartwarming and giggle-worthy poetry accompanied by Elliott's illustrations. He brings 10 of the lyrics from the book to life in the companion music album, also titled "Wilderman's Treetop Tales." Together, the exhibit, book and album create an interdisciplinary offering of art, music and writing which allows the whole family to embrace a wild imagination.

Elliott, who has been performing original songs for 20 years and is a winner of the Woody Guthrie Song contest, has penned more than 1,500 songs in his career and is lauded as "Iowa's renaissance man" by Culture Buzz Magazine. He has been featured on Iowa Public Radio's Java Blend, composed and performed music for several IPTV documentaries and shared the music stage with artists such as Eric Church, Brantley Gilbert, Tom Paxton and Counting Crows. He holds a degree in visual arts.

Delano Dunn's exhibit was titled "Delano Dunn: Dreams and Other Fables." Through painting, mixed media and collage, Dunn explores questions of racial identity and perception within various contexts, ranging from the personal to the political, and drawing from his experience growing up in South Central Los Angeles. His works employ archival images pulled from such sources as vintage Creole cookbooks, comic books, 1860s issues of Harper's Bazaar housed in the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and photojournalism of the Civil Rights era, among others.

Dunn was selected as the art program's Allison B. Allen Visiting Artist. The Allison B. Allen Visiting Artist series emphasizes expanding the diversity of artistic experiences and cultural outlooks for Central art students and the campus community. Designated artists and their exhibited works are funded entirely by the Allison B. Allen Visiting Artist Fund. Dunn will return during the Spring semester for a weeklong residency.

He has had solo exhibitions in New York City, Los Angeles and Buffalo, New York. Features and interviews include The New York Times, VICE Creators, Black Lives Matter, ArtNoir and Black Artist News. Dunn was the recipient of Sustainable Arts Foundation Grant; the College Art Association's Visual Arts Graduate Fellowship in 2016; the Delaware Contemporary's Curator's Choice Award; and the School of Visual Art's Edward Zutrau Memorial Award.

Dunn received his BFA in illustration from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, and his MFA in fine arts at the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

CENTRAL SURPASSES SCHOLARSHIP FUND GOAL ON GIVING TUESDAY

Central alumni and friends showed strong support for the college and its students on Giving Tuesday in November.

Central donors surpassed the \$45,000 goal to unlock matching funds for the Journey Scholarship Fund and raised more than \$98,000 designated for Journey scholarships. In total, the college raised nearly \$104,000 with 173 gifts from donors in support of scholarships and programs.

The Journey Scholarship Fund is 100% donor funded and helps open doors of opportunity by making a Central education affordable for students. Thanks to the generosity of donors, Central will award a \$1,000 Journey Scholarship to all first-year students in the 2022-23 academic year.



▲ JEREMY BURKE TO SERVE AS CENTRAL'S NEW PRE-HEALTH ADVISOR, CAREER SERVICES SPECIALIST

Central has hired **Jeremy Burke** as the college's pre-health advisor and career services specialist. He also will serve as class dean.

In this role, Burke will advise pre-health students and those pursuing post-graduate fellowships and awards in addition to working with Central's alumni office to facilitate connections between Central students, the Career and Professional Development team and alumni across the globe.

Burke received his B.A. in philosophy and a B.S. in environmental biology from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. He went on to earn a master's degree in

philosophy from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and an MFA in creative writing (poetry) from University of New Orleans.

Burke began advising pre-health students as a transfer advisor at St. Ambrose University.



▲ CENTRAL RECEIVES GIFT FROM ESTATE OF NEWTON RESIDENT HELEN DIEHL

Central received a gift of more than \$860,000 from the estate of Helen Diehl, a longtime friend of the college, to make a Central education possible.

Diehl was a lifelong resident of Newton, Iowa, and was president and co-owner of the Jasper County Abstract Company for more than 40 years. She retired in 1983.

Diehl's second husband, John N. Diehl, a Newton attorney, served on Central's Board of Trustees. He was instrumental in helping secure gifts to the college from several generous benefactors, including John and Gertrude Geisler, for whom the college's library is named. John died in 1984.

Helen Diehl also established in her will an endowed scholarship in memory of her late husband.

The John and Helen Diehl Endowed Scholarship provides scholarships to students to attend Central.

Helen Diehl was a member of Central's Heritage Roll of Honor and Cornerstone Society. She made her first gift to Central in 1979 and set up her estate gift with Central in 1990. Both Helen and John also were key players in Central's Heritage Day, an annual tradition that recognizes those who generously support the college.

Helen Diehl died Feb. 9, 2018, in Newton at age 96.



▲ CENTRAL NAMES KRISTIN LEWIS DIRECTOR OF PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

Kristin Lewis has been named director of pre-college programs at Central.

Lewis oversees Central's Talent Search, Upward Bound I and Upward Bound II. Each year, these TRIO programs provide tutoring, counseling, mentoring, financial guidance and access to college education to more than 1,000 participating students from area middle and high schools. All students in the program are income-eligible and/or are potential first-generation college students.

Lewis has nearly eight years of previous experience with the college's TRIO Talent Search program. She earned her undergraduate degree in elementary education from Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, and obtained an M.A. in education: curriculum and instruction from the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Lewis also holds an Iowa Teaching License.

Central's pre-college programs are federally funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Competitions for grant renewal happen every four to five years. Central's programs have been continuously funded since 1966.



▲ DEAN FURNESS '94 NAMED 2022 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Dean Furness '94 will speak at the college's Commencement ceremony at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 14, 2022, at Ron and Joyce Schipper Stadium.

After becoming paralyzed following an accident in 2011, Furness speaks to groups via large keynotes and small settings about grit, determination and what it takes to keep moving through daily challenges. His story was recognized as a "Top 20 of 2020" TED Talk, garnering more than 3.5 million views. A significant part of Furness' story details his adventures in wheelchair racing, leading him to compete in major marathons around the country, including the Chicago and Boston marathons.

"I haven't cured cancer, and I'm not a CEO of a billion-dollar company. I'm just living my life to the best of my abilities, and I want students to know that that's okay, too," Furness says. "It's the strong connections and meaningful relationships I developed while at Central that make me who I am. Without them, I would not have the success in my wheelchair that I do today."

Professionally, Furness is a data and analytics specialist at Wells Fargo, focused on data visualization and digital dashboard solutions to help executives with decision-making activities. He and his wife, Deonne, have three children: Taylar, **Raigen '20** and Angelina. Furness lives in Martensdale, Iowa, where he enjoys woodworking and cooking and is active in the community as an assistant coach for the high school girls basketball team.



◀ CENTRAL LICENSE PLATES

Central College license plates are available through the Iowa Department of Transportation!

To order the Central design from the Iowa DOT:
central.edu/plates.

To exchange an existing Central College plate: visit your local courthouse. The cost for the exchange is \$5.

Jean De Waard didn't even want to discuss it.

After a semester at Dordt College, **Don De Waard '82**, *left*, had lost interest in studying and returned to work on the family farm near Kanawha, Iowa. A few years later, the De Waards had two young children, were established on the farm and their future was seemingly set.

But in 1978 Don made a couple of visits to Pella to see his younger brother **Bob '82** at Central. Witnessing a come-from-behind Dutch football victory in the season finale sparked memories of playing the game he loved, and notions of a new life path began stirring in his mind. As he watched a Friday night game back at Kanawha High School, De Waard's vision started taking shape. Afterward, as his car's headlights pierced the darkness down the quiet country road home, he finally floated the idea to Jean: He thought he needed to go back to school because he wanted to coach.

Jean's response was quick and firm.

"I said, 'I don't think so and don't ever bring it up again,'" she says.

Jean's immediate thought was of caring for their two children.

"My mom and dad lived right across the section from us," she says. "And his mom and dad lived about five miles away. And we had just built a brand-new house on the family farm. And we had just had a baby.

I thought, 'Oh, no, we can't do that.'

But we did."

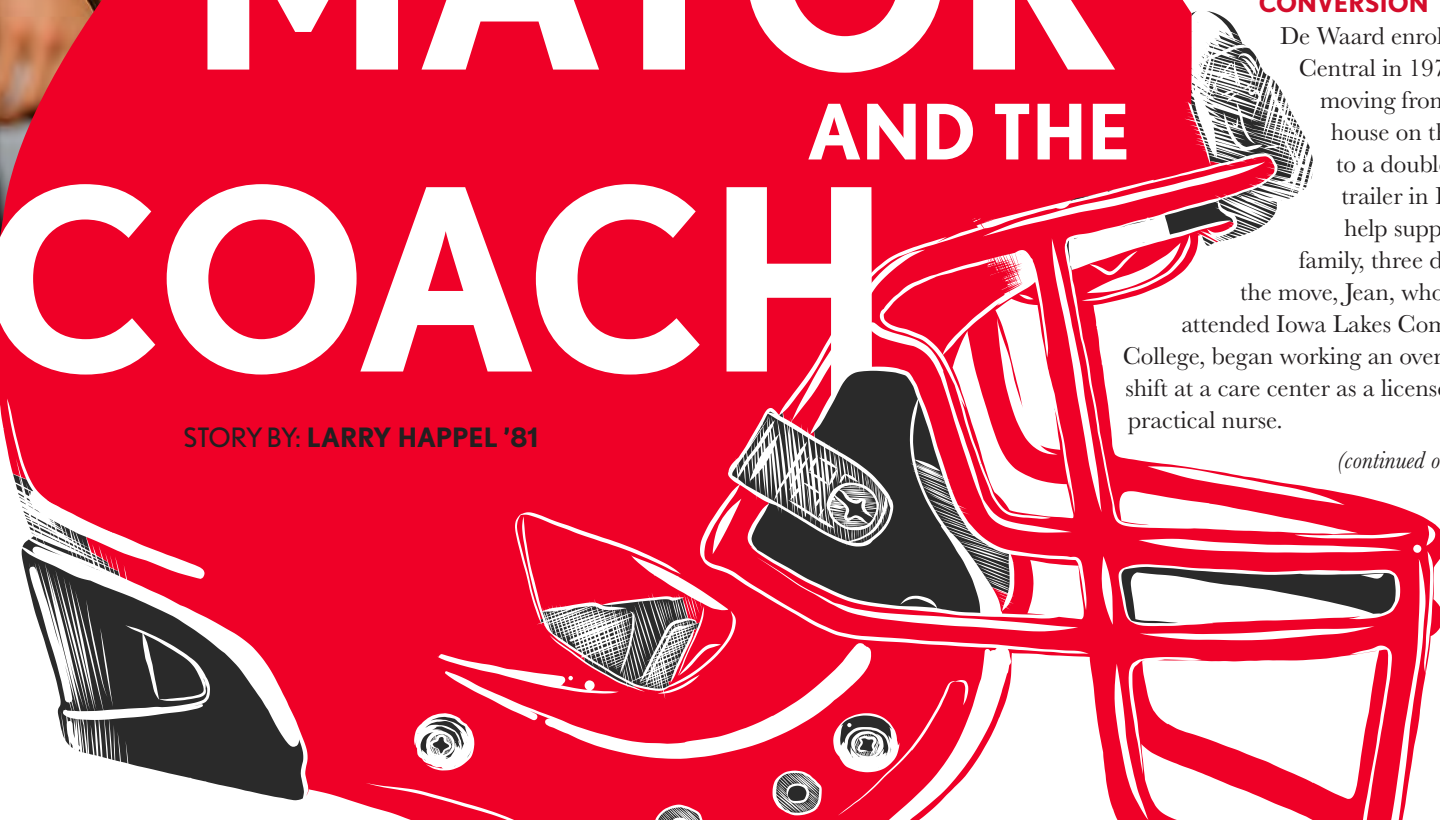
THE FOOTBALL CONVERSION

De Waard enrolled at Central in 1979, moving from the new house on the farm to a double-wide trailer in Pella. To help support the family, three days after the move, Jean, who had attended Iowa Lakes Community College, began working an overnight shift at a care center as a licensed practical nurse.

(continued on page 12)

THE MAYOR AND THE COACH

STORY BY: LARRY HAPPEL '81



She gradually began to embrace De Waard's dream, developing a shared passion for Central and Central football that spawned a multi-generation connection.

Jean was too busy taking care of her young family in 1978 to even ponder the idea of De Waard eventually coaching football at Central for 35 years. Telling her that her husband would someday serve as Pella's mayor likely would have met the same have-you-lost-your-mind stare he received for his idea about returning to college.

De Waard's Central football playing career was a short ride. He won a starting spot at center but the night before the 1980 season opener, Coach **Ron Schipper** delivered bad news. Because De Waard had started college in 1974, by 1980 he had exhausted his eligibility. Schipper's last-ditch appeal was unsuccessful. The NCAA rule was amended shortly thereafter, but De Waard's playing career was over.

Instead, Schipper welcomed him as a student coach and after graduating with an accounting degree, De Waard remained on the staff as linebackers coach. He took a hiatus when he and fellow certified public accountant Jeff Van Maanen started an accounting firm in 1983. He returned in 1984 because he missed coaching so much. He rearranged his office schedule and eventually became defensive coordinator. He remained on Central's coaching staff until 2015.

ON THE DEFENSE

It was a remarkable run, energetically prodding the defense as Central posted a 302-75 record in that span with 18 Iowa Conference titles and NCAA Division III playoff berths, 19 playoff victories and two NCAA title game appearances. In 2000, the American Football Coaches Association named De Waard the Division III Assistant Coach of the Year.

"He has a great football mind," says longtime Dutch assistant **Jeff Bollard '89**. "He could come up with a scheme against the opposing team without much effort, it seemed. I think the other thing is his ability to evaluate talent. After three or four practices, he was probably 90-95% sure what kind of a career a kid was going to have."

Despite his accounting background, De Waard doesn't dwell on the numbers. Others should. De Waard's defenses posted a remarkable 57 shutouts, with five in 1985 and 1994. That 1985 defense surrendered just 173.1 yards per game. De Waard's teams recorded 20 or more interceptions in 10



PHOTO BY: Andrew Schneider of KRLS Radio

Wide receiver **Hayden Vroom '22** (No. 12, left) and **Don De Waard '82** (right) simultaneously give the touchdown signal in the end zone as **Tanner Schminke '21** (No. 10) cradles the winning touchdown pass as time expired in Central's 30-28 NCAA Division III playoff win over Wheaton College (Ill.) Nov. 27.

seasons, including 29 in 1988. Four times the Dutch picked off six passes in a game. And Central posted eight safeties in 1992 and 1994.

Players appreciated both De Waard's knowledge and his passion.

"He's a super-intense coach, obviously, but the guy is a student of the game," says **Ron Saak '90**, an all-America linebacker for De Waard. "Defensively, he was a mastermind. He would put us all in an excellent position and be prepared for the opponent and what they're going to do against us."

De Waard was quick to give a voice to that intensity, and everyone on the field heard it. Bollard's press box headphones were on the other end of the line from De Waard and his ears were filled with unfiltered assessments of Central's play as well as the officiating. But De Waard never let frustrations hinder his focus.

"He knew how far he could go," Bollard says. "But he always kids me that I had to listen to him yell all those years."

HEART BEHIND THE HEAT

Players knew there was a caring heart behind the heat.

"That's why he could yell at them and then turn around and put his arm around

them, just like Skip (Schipper) did," Bollard says. He recalls the first time his son **Ben '07**, an Academic All-America defensive back, was on the receiving end of a De Waard outburst.

"I said, 'Well, Ben, you've arrived now because Coach De Waard wouldn't yell at you if he didn't think you were any good.'"

De Waard concedes he doesn't mask his feelings.

"I'm competitive and I love that part of it," he says. "But it was the relationships with the guys that was the real joy."

Central was a part-time job but a full-time commitment, not only for De Waard but also for his family. Jean has served as secretary-treasurer of the Central Club since 1988. Their son **Shawn '02** was an all-conference defensive lineman for the Dutch while daughters **Sherri '00**, **Amy '04** and **Angie '04** rarely missed a game.

"Our whole family got involved," Jean says. "We went to all the games and it was good family time. Don would go on the bus to games and we would travel either that night or the next day."

Their grandson, **Cole '25**, is now a Central freshman.



Former Dutch defensive lineman **Garrett Hill '09** chats with his former Central defensive coordinator **Don De Waard '82** as part of the football squad's Legacy Day activities Nov. 6.

"This place is very special to me, obviously," De Waard says. "I think kids get treated well here and I just think it sets them up for success later in life. I hear Cole talk about some of his professors, the things they say and how they help him. I just think that people at Central have kids' best interest in mind."

The Dutch players are more than jersey numbers to the De Waard family.

"I had lunch with Don not long ago and there are some lasting impressions on me, even from his family," Saak says. "I've seen his son recently, I've seen his daughter, and they remember way back when I was playing and I remember them as young kids. And Jean, what a special person. They've always treated us so much like family and even brought us into their home. Those relationships are extremely deep and still important to this day."

A WINNER ON AND OFF THE FIELD

There's so much more to De Waard than football, which is why he was never interested in chasing a full-time head coaching job. Beyond helping run an accounting firm, De Waard also owned a tire business for nine years and has quietly been a guiding force behind countless real estate

and business development projects, most notably the Molengracht plaza — a Dutch canal, hotel and business complex in downtown Pella.

Less widely known but even more impactful are the fiery football coach's quiet acts of charity and compassion, such as working one-on-one with elementary school children on reading skills or lending support to former players in need. He has frequently accompanied Jean on medical mission trips to Honduras and other Central American countries doing work for Partners Worldwide, a Christian organization that promotes business development as a means to end poverty.

He also helped promote football internationally, accompanying Schipper in coaching a team of Division III all-stars sponsored by the American Football Coaches Association each December at the Aztec Bowl in Mexico. De Waard remained involved when that game morphed into Tazon de Estrellas (Bowl of the Stars) without AFCA support, serving as U.S. head coach for the final six seasons.

De Waard's entrepreneurial work often required interacting with local governments and when the Pella Area Community and Economic Alliance was formed,

(continued on page 14)

ATHLETICS UPDATES

FOOTBALL: Central won a record 32nd conference championship and made its 22nd NCAA Division III playoff appearance, scoring home-field victories over two nationally ranked opponents before losing in the quarterfinals to No. 3 Wisconsin-Whitewater. Central was 10-0 in the regular season, 12-1 overall and led the nation in nine statistical categories while breaking 61 school records.

Quarterback **Blaine Hawkins '21** became the first Central player to win the Gagliardi Trophy as Division III's outstanding player, setting an all-divisions NCAA record with 63 touchdown passes in 13 games. **Jeff McMartin '90** became the first Central coach to win the American Football Coaches Association Coach of the Year Award.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS

COUNTRY: **Caleb Silver '23**, **Will De Haan '22** and **Caroline McMartin '24** were individual qualifiers for the NCAA Division III Championships on Nov. 20 in Louisville, Kentucky. The Dutch men were fifth in the American Rivers meet but rebounded to take sixth in the 30-team NCAA Midwest Regional. Central's women were third in the league and sixth in the regional.

VOLLEYBALL: Central was 15-13 overall and 4-4 in the conference, tying for fourth and reaching the league tournament for the first time since 2015. Outside hitter **Krissa Larson '22** was named to the all-conference team.

WOMEN'S GOLF: Central improved to second in the conference tournament as four players gained all-conference honors. **Mackenzie Biggs '24** and **Delaney Underwood '23** placed sixth and seventh, respectively.

WOMEN'S TENNIS: The Dutch climbed to second in the league at 6-2 and were 8-7 overall. **Ryun Ferrell** and his staff received conference coach of the year honors. **Alyssa Lewton '22** was an all-conference honoree in both singles and doubles. **Bronwyn Metcalf '22** and **Maddie Hartley '22** also were all-conference performers.

MEN'S SOCCER: A young Central squad was seventh in the league at 2-5-1, finishing 4-10-1 overall.

WOMEN'S SOCCER: Central was sixth in the conference at 3-5 while finishing 9-8-1 overall. The Dutch received the U.S. Soccer Coaches Team Ethics and Sportsmanship Award for the sixth consecutive year.

TRIATHLON: Central was sixth in a small field at its first USA Triathlon National College Championships meet Nov. 13, in Tempe, Arizona. **Lindsay Blommers '23** became the program's first all-America honoree.

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



Gagliardi Trophy-winning Central quarterback **Blaine Hawkins '21** shares some final words with the AFCA Division III Coach of the Year **Jeff McMartin '90** before taking the field for Central's NCAA Division III football playoff game with Wheaton College (Ill.) Nov. 27.

he volunteered to serve on an economic development committee. Like a defensive coordinator dialing up a safety blitz, De Waard moved boldly to spur housing development efforts.

"I started going to these meetings and all everybody was talking about was our need for housing in this community," De Waard says. "There was a housing study done that said Pella was going to need 966 housing units by 2025. Well, I sat in on these meetings and people talked and nobody did anything. So I started making some phone calls and obviously had some relationships built up through some of my other development work. Pretty soon we had plenty of private investors that were ready, willing and able to help address this need.

"In the meantime, I guess people that are on that committee appreciated that I got something going so they said, 'You need to run for mayor,'" De Waard says. "I think I told them no at least a dozen times but finally in 2019, I said, 'OK, I'll give it a shot.'"

The criticism the position inevitably attracts doesn't concern him.

"Well, for 35 years every Saturday somebody was mad at me, so I'm very used to that," he says with a laugh. "I was well-prepared to have people not like a decision I made.

"I'll take the heat for bad decisions. So many decisions you make, whether it's in coaching or as mayor, at the time you make it, there's no guarantee that it's exactly the right thing to do. Hindsight always makes it easier. But you've got to take risks and make those calls."

He makes more good calls than bad, according to Karen Eischen, PACE executive director.

"I have never seen a mayor that has more passion and a more optimistic outlook for a community than he does," Eischen says. "It's just awesome to work with him. He's always willing to find a way to make things work. It's pretty easy to just say no, but he usually thinks about it and, if it's right, and it can work, he usually finds a way to do it. He really takes time to listen to people and find out what they're feeling and thinking and dreaming about."

ON THE GOAL LINE

Unforeseen obstacles routinely arise, ranging from the global pandemic to controversy over library books. Nevertheless, many major initiatives are surging ahead, including Pella Fiber, a city-wide fiber-optic network, as well as a proposed indoor sports complex and, of course, a flurry of housing construction.

"In order to do a project where you're trying to get (housing) volume rapidly,

because the demand is there, you need builders that can handle that," De Waard says. "We've gotten two Des Moines builders to come in and they're building lots of houses in a hurry. And the word is out there. We're getting a lot of inquiries about more development. So we'll be a little over halfway to that 966."

It helps to have eager partners.

"Pella is a pretty good place to be mayor because we can accomplish a lot of things that a lot of communities can't, just because of the support we get here," De Waard says.

He's open to remaining in the job as long as it leaves fall Saturdays free. He serves as an analyst for KRLLS radio football road game broadcasts. But home games find him firmly planted in his favorite spot on the planet, on the Central sideline, positioned near the goal line.

His Forever Dutch® status endures.

"When I gave up coaching, I said I wasn't leaving the program, but changing my role," he says. "I'm just a fan. But fortunately, **Jeff (McMartin '90)** allows me to come down on the sideline. In my life, there's nothing quite like being on the sideline during a football game. I look forward to Saturdays now almost as much as I did when I was coaching."

On the sideline, but as always, in the middle of the action. ■

Fresh

C KIE TUESDAY

STORY BY:
BRITTANY CARLSON PROKUPEK '16

PHOTOS BY:
PAUL JOY

The Central College tradition that brings sweet aromas
and smiles to campus on a weekly basis.



Partners in all things baked at Central Market, **Jolene Brooks**, bakery/café prep assistant (left), and **Wendy LaHue**, baker (right), prepare and serve up all the incredible treats students enjoy daily.

For more than 15 years, Central Market has been serving up fresh cookies and smiles at lunch every Tuesday. Central students, visitors and members of campus are met with the ever-welcoming aroma of the day's cookies and reminded of their fondest cookie memories upon entering the building.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Each Tuesday morning, just before 11 a.m., cookie dough gets loaded on baking sheets — two dozen pucks of cookie dough per sheet. The first round of cookies goes into the oven 15 minutes before lunch starts, so they come out piping hot — so fresh that chocolate chips are still melting, and the cookie falls apart in your hands — and just in time for students to arrive.

Wendy LaHue, baker, and **Jolene Brooks**, bakery/café prep assistant, “rinse and repeat” continuously for two hours (with additional pans going out after two hours to ensure any stragglers still get cookies). Each Tuesday, approximately 55 sheets of cookies are baked to meet the demand of hungry students.

COOKIE IS KING

The king of Tuesdays? The chocolate chip cookie. Other cookies have tried (and failed) to sway the hearts of Central students, but they always come back to that warm, gooey, chocolatey goodness.

To keep up with the demand, the keepers of the cookies had to move to premade dough over the years and establish a five-cookie limit for students. LaHue joked that she hoped the limit would shed an innocent light on the bakers for any cases of “freshmen 15.”

MORE THAN MEETS THE MOUTH

Knowing you're going to be faced with baking about 2,000 cookies in one day could make it hard to want to get out of bed in the morning, but LaHue? She looks forward to it.

“It's how I connect with our students and make them feel loved,” she says. “They come in excited and their eyes light up when they see the cookies.”

How could one not love that?

“It makes me feel like one of their moms on campus,” she adds.

Fresh Cookie Tuesday is more than a tradition to LaHue and the baking crew.

Baking these cookies is their way of bringing a sense of warmth, familiarity and possibly even a “hug” to students while they're away from home.

“It sounds silly, but I think it helps the students feel more at home,” LaHue says. “It's truly a taste of home away from home.”

THEY'VE GOT THE POWER

When words fail, cookies speak. These dessert discs are incredibly versatile — just think of all the reasons and ways we use cookies to communicate! You show friends and family you care by making and/or sending cookies for various occasions, or just because. Cookies are used to make a house feel and smell like a home for potential real estate clients. The list and love go on and on.

SHARING THE LOVE

Speaking of sharing the love, keep reading to get the famous Central College caramel bar recipe.

Psych! We can't give away all of our secrets, but we can give you a recipe to try at home. Enjoy LaHue's famous peanut butter cup bars!



Central students and alumni agree:
Fresh Cookie Tuesday is one of the most beloved campus traditions.



Is your mouth watering yet?
Pictured are some of our students' favorite cookies!

RECIPE

— from the Central College Kitchen —

TITLE: **Peanut Butter Cup Bars** SERVES: **12 bars**

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup melted butter
- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 2 cups confectioners sugar
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1½ cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 4 tablespoons peanut butter

If you're really craving caramel bars, you can always order them — or any of Central's baked goods — for parties and gatherings by calling 641-628-5788 or emailing catering@central.edu. ■

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1

In a medium bowl, mix together the butter or margarine, graham cracker crumbs, confectioners sugar, and 1 cup peanut butter until well blended. Press evenly into the bottom of an ungreased 9x13 inch pan.

STEP 2

In a metal bowl over simmering water, or in a microwave-safe bowl in the microwave, melt the chocolate chips with the 4 tablespoons peanut butter, stirring occasionally until smooth. Spread over the prepared crust. Refrigerate for at least one hour before cutting into squares.





CENTRAL SCENE

PHOTO BY: ANDREW GORMAN '19

Up above with a drone, the view of the new Peace Mall is just perfect.

KAPOWERFUL

GRAPHIC NOVELS IN THE CLASSROOM

Spanish Professor Kathy Korcheck cultivates a fresh
and creative way of learning.

STORY BY:
EMILY HAWK

PHOTOS BY:
PAUL JOY

Batman. Superman. Spiderman. Wonder Woman. These iconic superheroes were birthed from the world of comic books, which tell stories and express ideas through a combination of text and images in a sequence of panels, often colorful, bright and engaging.

And there's more to comics than just superheroes — a whole world of comics and graphic novels exists that explores an array of genres, topics, cultures and themes.

Kathy Korcheck, professor of Spanish, adds a new dimension to student learning by using single-panel comics and graphic novels to teach Central students the Spanish language — and culture.

¿Pero cómo? (But how?)

"Comics are a vehicle for fostering reading comprehension, developing visual literacy, engaging in intercultural dialogue and encouraging student creativity," Korcheck says.

VRROOOM: VISUAL VOCABULARY

Learning a new language can be challenging so it's helpful that pictures often speak louder than words.

Korcheck recognizes the power of connecting images with vocabulary —

especially when learning a new language.

"In my lower-level Spanish courses, I often start my students with single-panel comics that have one image and one word," Korcheck explains. "The students have to describe what's in the panel, and a lot of times, they might not have the words yet, so then they'll need to look them up. In the process of learning how to describe the picture, they're developing their vocabulary."

In this way, vocabulary development is enhanced with visual clues, strengthening students' understanding and comprehension of the text.

However, this method is not limited to the written word. Korcheck encourages her students to symbolically explore the text and imagery and ask themselves, "What does it mean?" Students aren't just learning a second language — they're discussing complicated and controversial topics, some of which include aging and Alzheimer's disease, family/intergenerational relationships, gentrification, homelessness, immigration and terrorism and trauma, among others.

Korcheck then challenges her students to think a little deeper.

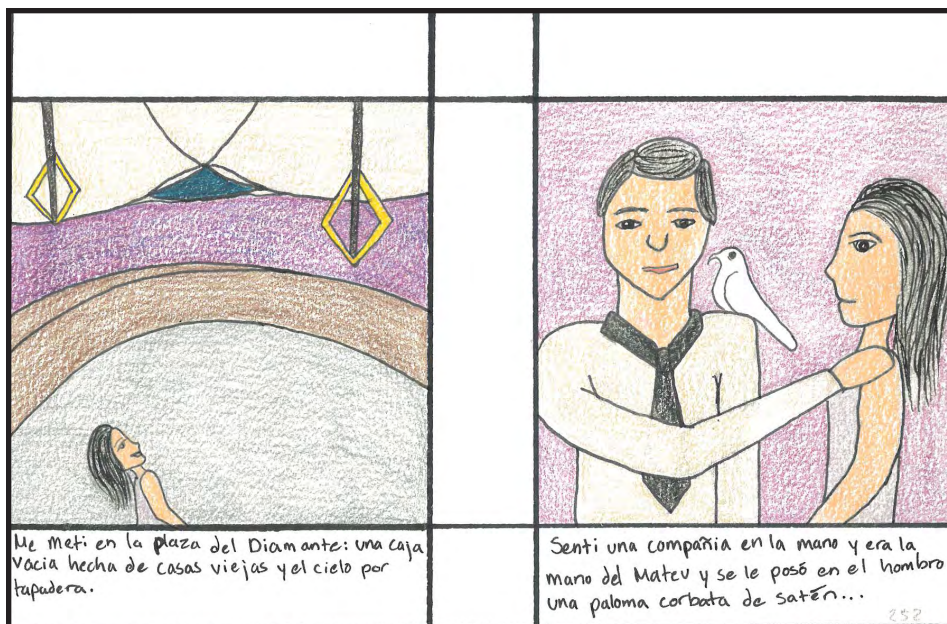
"Discussing the artist's role and perspective also is a plus," Korcheck says. "Why is the artist depicting this scene in a particular way? How does the artist accomplish this? What might be their motivation in doing so? What is at stake?"

Korcheck assigned students the graphic novel "Arrugas," meaning "wrinkles," by Paco Roca, where Roca explores ageism and Alzheimer's disease. The graphic novel was particularly engaging to **Olivia Svoboda '21**, an elementary education major and Spanish minor from Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

"Roca sparked open discussion in class about the taboo topic of Alzheimer's disease and care for the elderly — a topic that is not simple to engage with. Still, the messages conveyed by Roca would not have resonated so strongly with me if there were gaps in my understanding of the story or the vocabulary," Svoboda explains. "These gaps were prevented when Roca chose to express his ideas in the format of a graphic novel. The visuals used in these graphic novels supported my language development, while simultaneously challenging me to think critically about the universal messages that were being communicated."



Kathy Korcheck, professor of Spanish, discusses the benefits of learning with comics and graphic novels with **Rebekah Cashen '23** and **Martin Vineyard '23**.



Sarahi Ledesma-Ruiz '21, an art and Spanish major from Round Lake, Illinois, drew her own depiction of the climactic scene of “La plaza del Diamante” by Mercè Rodoreda in the course Modern Spanish Literature.

BOOM: BEYOND LANGUAGE

Along with learning a new language, Korcheck wants students to explore the variety of cultures and representations that exist of Spanish, Latin American and Latinx people in the world through graphic novels.

For example, “Gazpacho Agridulce,” or “Sweet and Sour Gazpacho” by Quan Zhou, explores Zhou’s experience growing up in southern Spain as the daughter of Chinese immigrant parents. She explores her hybrid identity to critique Spanish and Chinese stereotypes of one another and themselves.

“Her story is about coming from a family and growing up in an environment where she never feels completely Chinese, and she never feels completely Spanish,” Korcheck says. “You don’t normally think about the Chinese community in southern Spain speaking Spanish, right? Or the kinds of challenges they encounter in their interactions with their own family or other Chinese people who may judge them. These are examples of things I want my students to learn and think about.”

“Zhou’s combination of concise text and visual representations in ‘Gazpacho Agridulce’ criticizes existing cultural assumptions and challenges each reader to avoid cultural ignorance by educating themselves about cultures that are not their own,” Svoboda adds. “This is a message that is difficult to digest, but it is one that still follows me.”

WHA?!: ENRICHING INSTRUCTION

Students aren’t just reading and interpreting

comics and graphic novels in Korcheck’s classes. In upper-level Spanish courses, students are challenged to draw and write their own comic panels based on their interpretations of literary texts. They present their work as their final project at the end of the semester.

“This type of project is really uncommon in a literary class for Spanish majors,” Korcheck says. “Most of our work focuses on written final projects, and I continue to include these kinds of assignments. But I think having the opportunity to do something that feels so radically different allows students to access a part of their creative selves they didn’t even know existed.”

Korcheck says students can oftentimes feel detached by reading traditional literature, especially a generation of students who have and continue to grow up in a visual culture. A multimodal approach to learning engages their brains in familiar ways.

“Incorporating art helps students further understand what they’re looking at. Students are all looking at the same scenes in a graphic novel, but everyone’s interpretation is different,” Korcheck says. “Drawing makes it tangible. It helps them visualize what they’re reading and think about how it relates to their own lives and experiences.”

BAZINGA: CULTIVATING CREATIVITY

Korcheck isn’t trying to “pass as an art teacher.” Rather, she’s adding a whole new dimension to student learning.

“Lynda Barry, an art professor and cartoonist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has an interesting concept that everyone can draw, and anyone can teach themselves how to draw. When we become adults, we lose the capacity to just draw as we do as kids when we aren’t self-conscious,” Korcheck says.

Hillary Chute, literary scholar and comic and graphic novel expert, says “Drawing is a way of thinking.” This concept resonates with Korcheck.

“When my students are drawing, I want them to think and ask themselves ‘Why would I represent this scene in this particular way?’” Korcheck says. “I want them to convey these messages and their own interpretations in their own creative way.”

And Korcheck wants her students to know they don’t have to be an artist to create a comic.

“There’s a part of me that feels strongly about the idea that you can’t truly understand the comics and graphic novels you’re studying unless you try to feel what it means to draw something and put your ideas into images,” Korcheck says. “I’m challenging my students to think about what they’ve read but express it in their own creative way.”

BOOM: THE BIG PICTURE

Now that both Korcheck and her students have seen the educational (and creative) benefits of teaching and learning with comics and graphic novels, Korcheck is in the process of developing a new, advanced Spanish course to bind everything together.

The course will focus solely on comics and graphic novels in the Hispanophone, or Spanish-speaking world.

“I want to focus both on the plot and content of graphic novels but also dive deeper into how the artist conveys their story by combining visual images with text,” Korcheck says. “And I want my students to then be able to spend more time to create their own comic throughout the semester as a large, final project.”

Students won’t find superhuman strength, x-ray vision or telepathy in the comics and graphic novels Korcheck teaches — but they will learn what it truly means to be human.

“Comics and graphic novels are inherently interdisciplinary,” Korcheck says. “You’re learning about different histories, culture, politics, literature — the list goes on. The opportunities to learn and grow in the world of comics and graphic novels are endless.”

And that’s something to be taken seriously. ■

MINIT TO BE

Central College Director of Dining Services
Iwan Williams sets up shop at the cook-to-order
station when kneaded. (See what we did there?)

Question: What do you get when you add a pinch of adventure to a dash of destiny?
Answer: A buffet of life experiences zested by Central College! (Things are about to get corny.)

STORY BY:
CYVANNAH VECCHIO

PHOTOS BY:
DUSTIN DAWSON AND PAUL JOY



Eating vegetables doesn't have to be boring! Central Market offers a medley of fresh veggies at the salad bar and an assortment of cooked veggies at various food stations.

If life can change in the blink of an eye, it's safe to assume a lot can happen in 23 years. So, it came as no surprise when **Iwan Williams**, director of dining services at Central College, took on an air of astonishment while recollecting the journey to his current seat at the table.

COMING TO AMERICA

Williams first made his way to America — and Central — in January 1999 when the college had a connection with the University of Wales Trinity Saint David in Carmarthen, United Kingdom. He was studying theatre, music and media, and was given the option of completing media-related work experience in Wales or taking courses at Central for a semester during his second year at Trinity.

It was a no brainer for Williams, and he took his first-ever flight out of the U.K. when he and eight of his classmates boarded a plane at Heathrow Airport in London, England, bound for John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens, New York.

"I had no idea what Iowa was," Williams

admits. "At that time, the internet was there, but you would never think about Googling something to find out about it. So, I came here totally blind."

Mercifully, arriving to a snowy January in Iowa didn't put a damper on Williams' Central experience.

"We had a blast. I lived with the Thetas in Poling Townhouse — that was an experience," he chuckles. "I remember going through my first tornado warning, and when I was here, I met my wife."

Once Williams departed from the states in May 1999, he and now-wife, **Jessica TerLouw Williams '99** took turns traveling between the U.K. and the U.S. before they married in 2001. However, their back-and-forth relationship didn't end after marrying.

"We had to file paperwork, and 9/11 happened a couple of months after we got married, which slowed the process down," Williams explains. "Our first 10 months of marriage, I was over there, and she was over here."

When the dust settled, Williams moved to the states — on the Friday night of Tulip Time in 2002, no less. From there, he began working in a restaurant.

"I did theatre, music and media in college. Obviously, that's why I got into the food industry," he jokes. "I joke a lot about doing theatre and then going into the restaurant world, but food is everywhere. Wherever you go in your life, there's going to be food."

"If you need a stopgap job for a couple of months, there are going to be restaurants, cafeterias and those kinds of places; that's what happened for me."

This wasn't Williams' first trip to the buffet. In fact, it was familiar territory for him.

"I'd been working at a restaurant in Wales when I was growing up," he says. "And I needed a job when I got here. So, I thought, 'I'll just do food for a while.'"

Williams worked for a restaurant in Pella before the couple moved to Des Moines, and he transitioned into food service at MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center. He stayed there until Jessica got a teaching position in Pella about five years later.



Central Market features staples like pizza and waffle stations — daily bread, if you will.

HOW MANY IN A YEAR?!

CENTRAL MARKET

- + 140,000 eggs
- + 266,000 transactions
- + 30,000 chicken breasts
- + 6,004 pizzas
- + 14,000 burgers
- + 13,000 caramel bars
- + 68,000 cookies for Fresh Cookie Tuesday
- + 270,000 takeout containers during COVID-19

FRED'S

- + 11,000 chicken strip combos
- + 7,000 Smucker's Uncrustables

GLOBAL CAFÉ AT GEISLER

- + 19,000 breakfast combos

CENTRAL MARKET FAN FAVORITES

"The food here is homey. Everything is always so fresh and good! I like the tacos; those are the best. The mini tacos I got — SO good."

— **Jacob Harris '25**
Chicago, Illinois

"My favorite food here at Central is the onion rings."

— **Anna Bonnett '25**
Pella, Iowa

"My favorites are Fresh Cookie Tuesday and the fried pickles."

— **Cally Gibbs '25**
Sully, Iowa



It's all about balance ... balancing a plate of hot, crunchy onion rings in one hand and a crisp, fresh salad in the other!



INTERNATIONAL CUISINE

Williams had a relationship with the Greek owners of Kaldera Restaurant & Lounge — which has since been sold and turned into a Mexican restaurant — and worked there during the inaugural year of service until a position opened at Central.

“The hours are better than restaurant hours,” Williams explains of his decision to work at Central. “My first year I was a night cook, then I applied for a job to manage Grand Central Station, which is where Fred’s is now.”

He was hired as the manager of Grand Central Station in the summer of 2010, which he successfully managed for three years prior to being asked to apply for a position with more responsibility.

“I was asked to apply for an assistant director of catering position, because **Tony Bethards ’72**, the director of catering at that time, had been here for a long time and he was in his last few years before retirement. He wanted somebody to try and learn with him before he left,” Williams recalls.

Bethards spent the next two years mentoring Williams, who focused on maximizing the impact of Bethards’ expertise before taking over as the director of catering.

“It was a huge learning experience before entering the director of catering role,” Williams says. “I was able to do the catering for two years, so I knew a lot about the operation coming into the director position in 2017.”

A NEW PEAR-A

The best leaders impart a growth mindset as a legacy. Naturally, Williams’ approach to leadership over the past five years as director of dining services reflects the progress-focused leadership that came before him. He monitors other restaurants and businesses in the food service industry to stay abreast of best practices. One thing he noticed while browsing menus was the inclusion of kids menus.

“I thought, ‘I wonder if we could do something with that,’” Williams muses.

And he cooked up the idea of creating a kids buffet at Central Market. Macaroni and cheese, chicken nuggets, mini corn dogs, smiley face fries and cut fruit — all the comforting foods of childhood served up on a nostalgic platter.

It wasn’t a flip decision. And Williams hoped it wouldn’t be a flop.

“The first day we put that on the menu, I was nervous,” Williams confides. “I had only been in this position for a semester

before that, and this was the first menu I had influence on. I wondered, ‘How are these college kids going to feel about me putting a kids buffet on the menu?’”

He didn’t have to wait long to find out. Williams had an email from a student waiting in his inbox the same evening the menu debuted with the subject line “Kids Buffet.”

“It said something along the lines of, ‘I just want to congratulate you on the best meal I’ve had; it took me back to my childhood!’” Williams says. The kid’s buffet has held the title of most popular menu selection since its introduction.

TOP CHEF

Though Williams now occupies the corner office in Central Market — complete with a former Grand Central Station sign as wall décor memorabilia — he doesn’t desire to sit behind a desk all day every day. Instead, Williams finds himself in the center of the action multiple days a week.

“When I got the job, one of my main things was I did not want to be the focal point of this unit,” Williams explains. “I’ll run it, I’ll manage it, but I don’t want to be stuck in the office. I do the cook-to-order stuff on the grill. I’m usually out there at least three times a week.”

The cook-to-order menu has built-in variety from student favorites like brisket quesadillas and Burger Bar to the college’s attempt at joining the pop culture “chicken war” by offering a flock of chicken options like the grilled chicken, breaded chicken and spicy breaded chicken bars. Central Market staff also regularly serves crowd-pleasers like cook-to-order Mongolian on Fridays and the always-popular chicken tender wraps.

Feeding the campus community — which is the equivalent of a small city — three square meals a day is no small feat. And the menu options require both variety and flexibility to accommodate for student preferences and needs as well as consistency for ordering and preparation purposes.

“We have a four-week cycle of a menu, and we run that for a whole semester,” Williams says. “We review the menus before the beginning of each semester to take off menu items that didn’t work and put some new ideas on there.

“We’re always looking for feedback. It’s the students’ place — they eat here every day of the week, multiple times per day. We want to know what they want.”

YOU WANT IT, IWAN’S GOT IT

Central Market has stand-out food service for a collegiate institution. In years past, students with special dietary concerns like needing gluten-free or dairy-free options would reach out to **Jenna Youngblut**, assistant director of dining services, to go through menus and determine options moving forward. And they still can ... but not many are.

“We have noticed over the years, the usage has declined,” Williams says. “The number of students with dietary needs isn’t going down; it’s going up. We are just doing a better job of having more options available to cover dietary needs.”

There was always a vegan/vegetarian station in Central Market, but about three years ago, a gluten-free station was implemented.

“The gluten-free station stemmed from a student request for a gluten-free station to give gluten-free students more options,” Williams says.

Now Central Market also has a cooler with yogurt, snacks, ingredients to make sandwiches and more to better fit students’ needs. And if students are still anxious about dietary restrictions; getting too much or too little food; or other general concerns, Youngblut is always available for consultation.

THE MAIN COURSES

Central Market is the college’s primary dining facility. But it isn’t the only dining facility on campus, and it’s not Williams’ only management responsibility.

Central also has Fred’s — formerly Grand Central Station — and the Global Café at Geisler Library, a traditional coffee shop with coffee, tea and fountain drinks as well as baked goods, fresh fruit, salads and sandwiches.

“Fred’s has fast food and grab-and-go items,” Williams shares. “Fred’s is open when Central Market is closed, and when Fred’s closes, the market opens back up.”

In addition to other on-campus food service locations, Central also offers on- and off-campus catering. Big campus events are catered onsite by Williams’ team. They also cater to many companies in the Pella community.

“We do a lot of catering for Vermeer, Pella Corp., Precision Pulley and Idler,” Williams says. “We’re lucky we have a lot of big companies here in town; it definitely keeps us busy.”



Payton Kizer '25 (left) and Anna Bonnett '25 (right) share a meal and a laugh with friends.

Central women's golf; **Lowell Olivier-Shaw**, conference coordinator; and Central's catering staff teamed up to provide supplies for the inaugural Kerstmarkt, Pella's Dutch Christmas Market, in December 2021.

"They did all the legwork for the event, and we provided the batter for the oliebollen (Dutch doughnuts) and hot chocolate," Williams shares. "We also provide all the batter for the Kiwanis poffertjes stand, which is busiest during Tulip Time. Last year, we did about 500 gallons — and you get a lot of poffertjes out of a gallon!"

Williams also supplies Central Dutch concessions stands, with the main job being the football concessions stand. Though athletics teams manage the concessions staffing needs, Williams and his team still process and fill supply request orders.

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS

Central Market is a self-operated facility, unlike most other collegiate institutions.

"There are so many organizations run by consulting groups," Williams says. "Being self-operated gives us the ability to listen, operate on a smaller scale and adjust."

Waste reduction and sustainability also play a role in the self-operational equation.

"If we have something left over from catering, like prime rib for example, we've made the choice to shave it up for prime rib sandwiches in the market."

But that doesn't mean quality goes down the drain.

"I'm going to push whatever I can on my budgets to give the best," Williams explains. "Vendors show us things they won't show other places because the price point is higher. I'm willing to spend the budget on that and cut back on other things. The little things make a difference."

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO FEED A VILLAGE

Williams and the dining services team aren't under any illusions that all 1,120 Central students love every menu. That doesn't mean they won't try to make it happen.

"We try our best to find that balance," Williams says. "We are going to give students the best options we can that our budget will allow."

Williams is grateful for the strong team he oversees and is hopeful he'll find more employees and students who want to work in dining services.

"I'm very fortunate. We have great people who take ownership and share goals," he says. "Again, I don't want to be the focal point of dining services; I want it to be about our team — we couldn't do this without all of them. I want to lead the department with compassion and empathy — putting people and their families first." ■



CENTRAL'S

INNOVATION

AND ANTIQUITY
CHRONICLED

STORY BY: JEANETTE BUDDING

PHOTOS BY: PAUL JOY

Central
College

— 1853 —

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT



Craig Roose, director of facilities maintenance, co-leads the Central grounds and facilities team as it maintains the beautiful campus.



Gerald Pleima could share many stories and antics of students from his more than 35 years of service at Central.

Central College buildings all have a story to tell.

Windows being blown out during a Styx concert in Douwstra Auditorium in 1975. Tales of nervous prospective students in the admission offices of Central Hall over the past 165 years. Love stories culminating in marriages in the Chapel. Martin Luther King Jr.'s visit to campus and presentation in the gymnasium on March 22, 1967, just over a year before his assassination.

Oh, if only the walls could talk.

But maybe they do.

Central's new facilities management building holds its own remarkable story of history and innovation. A tour of the space shows it's a treasure trove of repurposed, recycled and preserved history. The newest building on campus houses facilities management's staff offices and work spaces to keep the campus looking impressive and operating smoothly 24/7.

REPURPOSED

Key focuses during the facilities management building construction, which was completed

in the summer of 2020, were functionality, cost saving, reducing waste and environmental sustainability. It started with renovating and expanding the former ground's equipment warehouse and transforming it into a modern office, stores center and workspace.

"It was designed by facilities staff for the facilities staff, and it functions very well for us. Our staff is very grateful for this building," says **Craig Roose**, director of facilities maintenance.

Gerald Pleima, grounds/utility team supervisor and the department's most senior employee, joined the team in 1986.

"With the new facilities center, we are organized and supplies are centrally located. We're together in the morning to discuss projects and plans. We begin the daily sweep of campus from one location. It's much easier to communicate. For example, instead of multiple locations and having to call people in different buildings, we can step into the shop or a work area and ask the staff questions," he says.

Funding for the building, located behind Ron and Joyce Schipper Stadium, came from

the sale of the Webster school, where facilities management had been housed for about 10 years. A private business approached the college about purchasing the Webster school property for housing development. This began a series of moves for the facilities team, first to Hoffman while the building was constructed and renovated, and then to the new permanent location, all under the direction of **Tom Johnson**, vice president for finance and treasurer. He supported the repurpose, recycle and resourceful approach to the construction.

"I've been involved in some significant construction and capital projects during my career. I really enjoy the opportunity to figure out best design, building placement and user-focused elements in classrooms, labs and offices for construction projects," Johnson says.

"We repurposed items as much as possible in the construction of the facilities management building," Roose says. "Many items were removed or salvaged from other demolition and construction projects on campus and saved for reuse in our building."



Janine Fontana, director of purchasing and facility services, is a walking history book of buildings and co-leads the grounds and facilities team.

The old Grand Central Station sign hung in the Maytag Student Center for decades before the current Fred's Café was created.

I added up the total cost of the items saved and reused. The estimated cost savings for the college was \$90,915."

For example, throughout the facility, repurposed lockers removed from P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium during the last renovation now serve as lockers for the staff as well as storage spaces for tools, gloves and supplies.

Janine Fontana, director of purchasing and facility services, explains the history of many recycled items. The lobby welcomes visitors with its rich, dark cherry wood cabinetry and marble counter top.

"The cabinetry was removed from the college president's home in 2010. We have been storing it since then, so the facilities management staff repurposed it. The beautiful cabinetry and counter tops work so well as the welcome lobby. The lights were shipped in the wrong size for the Scholte Hall remodel in 2008. They were too nice and too expensive to get rid of, so we have been storing them and finally repurposed them here. The paneling was created from excess shipping pallets," Fontana says.

Across the lobby hangs a piece of art that reminds the staff of their creativity and resourcefulness. It's a Chevrolet truck tailgate, painted in Central red, from a retired service vehicle.

"This was a late 1980s truck that was converted to electric in the early 2000s by facilities management staff. The fleet mechanic and one of our technicians of that time did most of the work to convert it to electric. They were ahead of the curve for EVs," Fontana says.

PRESERVED

Alumni will recognize art elements adorning the halls of the facilities management building. The original Grand Central Station sign, which hung over the student café in the Maytag Student Center for years, now resides in the facilities space. The building also houses the original Central College Bookstore sign and a Central's Convenience Store After Hours sign.

"Office furniture was repurposed from offices in the Webster School, the previous facilities management location, as well as

other locations on campus. With careful planning, the offices look modern and are comfortable. LED lighting was removed during other renovations and saved for this building. The staff kitchen has white cabinets repurposed from the A.N. Kuyper Athletics Complex renovation," Fontana says.

Heavy work tables in the woodworking shop came from an old science building renovation and from the original carpentry shop located in what is now the Graham Annex.

"In the shops, all the light fixtures were removed and reinstalled here, saving those from going into a landfill. The same is true for a supply of carpet squares and storage cabinets. Most supplies in the offices and work areas were not purchased specifically for this building. It's stuff that we've moved, sometimes two or three times," Roose says.

EFFICIENT

Another unique and essential component of this new space is a 15-foot-long map of the underground steam pipe system with



Long before electric vehicles were the trend, Central fleet staff converted a Chevrolet truck to electric power. The tailgate from that early 1980s truck is a tribute to Central's creative staff.



The Central carpentry shop holds the resources for the talented staff to restore and preserve woodwork in buildings more than 100 years old.



A fleet of more than 40 vehicles, including diesel buses, requires constant maintenance to always be ready to take a team to competition or a field trip to the prairie.

water mains, boilers and outlets. When keeping nearly 1,200 students warm and classrooms operational during Iowa winters, the facilities staff need to know how and where to get fast access when heating issues arise.

The fleet repair bays are spacious enough to accommodate larger equipment. Prior to the construction of this building, the big bus and some other sizeable equipment had to be worked on outside.

"This was a real challenge for us when we needed to do sensitive repairs on the big equipment and had to do the work outside in the weather," Roose says. "The new, heated bays allow us to maintain the college's 42 vehicles and other equipment in better work spaces and greater comfort."

RESOURCEFUL

Roose explains how the team used their own expertise to save money.

"During the construction of the building, we acted as our own general contractor, hiring local sub-contractors as needed. Balancing that responsibility with other maintenance work on campus lengthened the timeframe of the construction, but ultimately allowed us to do more with allotted funds. A large portion of the interior finish work in the building was done inhouse with our staff, as time allowed," Roose says.

"We have people who are experienced or trained in almost any kind of maintenance. We can do anything from grounds tree care, lawn care and snow removal to buildings, building exteriors roofs, windows to interior rehab, electrical plumbing and HVAC. Back in the fleet shop, we have expertise in gas vehicles, diesel vehicles, larger trucks, smaller cars, as well as smaller mowers and tractors. We have the staff to cover most repairs no matter what the problem is," he adds.

"Our staff have great pride in their space. They built a work bench from strips of wood that they glued together, gave it a burnished look with a torch, added the college logo, and then coated with polyurethane for a durable finish. It's absolutely beautiful," Roose says. "It was almost too pretty to use." (See page 29.)

A walk on the Central campus tells the tale of a beautiful area with preserved, historic buildings as well as modern, environmentally sustainable buildings.

That doesn't just happen.

It takes a team of creative and resourceful staff.

Now, they have a unique building of their own.



A well-stocked hardware store inside the facilities management building ensures the crew can take care of our little “city” day or night.

OPERATING A SMALL CITY

From the building, the staff oversees the safety and daily operations of the equivalent of a small city.

During the academic year and much of the summer, people are living on campus 24/7. As you can imagine, this means running water, garbage removal, heating, cooling, lights and transportation must be available always. With nearly 1,200 students and 350 staff and faculty, Central employs a team of 50-60 individuals to keep campus humming all day and night.

In the 18,145-square-foot facilities management complex, you will find a tech shop with everything for plumbing, electrical and HVAC needs. The walls are covered with every kind of power strip and specialty power strip needed to run the college.

The new facility has a large receiving dock and expansive storage area, which makes the staff’s work much more efficient. Sustaining a small community means having supplies for most every situation. To protect productivity and improve efficiency, **Sandy Schippers** coordinates the Central Stores inventory. And what an inventory!

The stock room shelves flow with trays holding everything needed to run a small city. Bar codes on each tray help monitor inventory and usage.

Most people don’t think about the number of fire extinguishers on campus. Or that Central Stores has more than 75 different-

sized air filters for the various buildings.

“We keep everything from ant traps to custodial supplies, white board markers, electrical items, plumbing items, trash cans — anything needed on campus. The stock room gives us a little buffer, especially lately as deliveries have longer lead times and it’s harder to get some supplies quickly,” Fontana says. “We try to be careful so we’re not stocking too much. But some of our items needed for critical repairs, like getting furnaces running, we keep enough inventory on hand to get through emergencies.”

LIKE A FAMILY

The facilities management team considers the souls they take care of like family. Pleima, with the grounds team, is involved in almost everything on campus.

“From furniture moves, grounds maintenance, event set-up and tear-down, supply deliveries, snow removal and even cleaning bikes out of the pond, we are involved with the students, staff and faculty all the time,” he says, adding that the best part of being a member of the Central community is the people.

“We see people on campus, and they remember you on a first-name-basis in church, on the street or in a grocery store. I’ve had student workers who now work full time at Central, so I’ve watched them progress in life. It’s like a family,” he says. ■



TOM JOHNSON RETIRES FROM CENTRAL COLLEGE

Tom Johnson, vice president for finance and administration/treasurer, is set to retire in April 2022.

Throughout his seven-year career at Central College, Johnson has collaborated on multiple strategic initiatives, including a new tuition pricing strategy and the \$18-million Forever Dutch® expansion and renovation. Other notable projects include renovations to Douwstra Auditorium, Peace Mall gardens and Veterans marker and the new maintenance facility at Collegiate Drive. In total, Johnson completed \$27 million in projects at Central.

Overall, Johnson has directed nearly \$200 million in capital projects over his 29-year career. He had 22 years under his belt in the same role at Iowa Western Community College, bringing a depth and breadth of experience with him to Central.

While Johnson says he truly enjoyed leading and working through capital projects, the highlight of his career is hearing the success stories of students.

“Capital projects are where I’ve really gotten a lot of satisfaction out of my career,” Johnson says. “But, most of all, nothing beats hearing success stories about our graduates. To know that I have worked in an industry that helps somebody get a good education, to go out into the world and be successful, that’s what I enjoy most.”

In addition, Johnson successfully re-financed the college’s long-term debt, lowering a 30-year fixed interest rate from 5% to 2.375%.

“Tom has been an accomplished leader and outstanding colleague. Our campus community has been extraordinarily well-served by his steady hand, affable spirit and wise counsel,” says President **Mark Putnam**. “We have been strengthened by his efforts, and he leaves a legacy of achievement we will all value for many years.

NEWSNOTES

THE '50s

Ruth Jolly Knapman '53 qualified for the 2022 National Senior Games by winning the 85-89 division of the Women's 5K road race at the Alaska International Senior Games. An avid competitor, Ruth also placed first in her age group for horseshoes and miniature golf at the annual statewide competition. She lives in Fairbanks, Alaska, and walks an average of 5 miles per day.

THE '70s

Larry Vos '70 retired from the Wichita Public Library as a reference librarian after working for 47 years.

Park Woodle '76 sold his business in 2000 and briefly retired to Ames, Iowa, before coming out of retirement to join the Ames City Assessor's Office. He was also recently named Rotary District 6000 assistant district governor, giving him responsibilities with five clubs in Iowa.



▲ **Ray Pothoven '70** of Pella, Iowa, was recognized at the 2021 Iowa Bankers Association convention for a milestone achievement of 50 years in banking.

THE '80s

Steven Turpin '82 retired from Indiana Public Radio at the end of 2021 after serving as classical music director and program host for 33 years. He lives in Muncie, Indiana, with his wife, Elizabeth.

John Miceli '89 retired in January 2021 after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. He would love to hear from or get together with friends from Central. Prior to retiring, he was a senior data engineer for 16 years with Berkley Technology Services.

THE '90s

Lori Schaefer Rempe '90 accepted a new position as assistant vice president, treasury at EquiTrust Life Insurance Company in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Claudia Gómez-Cruz Rivera '94 serves as the associate director for diversity, equity and inclusion for the Tippie College of Business at the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

Sarah Kuhn Henderson '96 joined Kyocera Document Solutions America in September as the national accounts manager for the Midwest and was named one of the Top 100 MPS Influencers by Tigerpaw Software for 2021. She also serves on the board of directors for Managed Print Services Association and as volunteer commissioner of the Des Moines High School Hockey League.

Lynette Nieuwenhuyse Stortz '99 is a kindergarten prep teacher in the Havre

Public Schools in Havre, Montana. She and husband, Darren, live in Havre with their two sons.

THE '00s

Gretchen Lange Hoeffling '00 is a K-12 talented and gifted teacher in the East Sac County Community School District.

Matt Dunsbergen '01 is the new superintendent of the Lynnville-Sully Community School District.

Justin Fletcher '02 joined Clearwater Analytics, working remotely as an implementation specialist.

Blake Ingledue '03 received the Distinguished Leadership Award in 2020 from the University of Arizona Health Sciences Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. The award was in recognition of his efforts to get both Tucson area Banner Health hospitals on the Healthcare Equality Index for



▲ **Carmen Steele '91** joined United Way of the Midlands, in Omaha, Nebraska, as senior manager of communications.

LGBTQ+ healthcare through the Human Rights Campaign.

DeAnne King Negley '04 entered private practice as a clinical mental health counselor with New Life Counseling in Ankeny and West Des Moines, Iowa, after recently earning an advanced degree and national certification. She and husband, **David Negley '04**, live in Winterset, Iowa.

Megan Kruse Luckett '04 is director of supplier food safety for Walmart in Berkeley, California, where she lives with husband, Curtis, and their two children.

Justin Brueck '06 was promoted to vice president, innovation and research at NorthShore University HealthSystem.

Curt Hunt '06 is a diagnostic imaging field service engineer with Philips Healthcare.

Brian Klett '06 was promoted to quality assurance manager at Kemin Industries in Des Moines, Iowa.

Staci Stanton '07 works as the programming and outreach manager for the Urbandale Public Library in Iowa.

James Baier '08 is currently serving as educational chief resident in the Yale Psychiatric Residency Training Program and will graduate in 2022. He also serves on the board of Physicians for Social Responsibility, which advocates for nuclear disarmament and mitigation/adaptation to climate change as a public health issue.

THE '00s (continued)

Joshua Noonan '08

was promoted to general manager, delivered sales at C.H. Robinson, making him responsible for the North American supply chain of the second largest publicly traded produce company in the U.S.

Sarah Vandenberg Van Zee '09

is a program specialist at the National Center for State Courts. She has been in the research division since August 2021.

THE '10s

Jeff Redenius '12 is owner of Redenius Chiropractic and Lake City 24 Hour Fitness. He and wife, Jenny, live in Lake City, Iowa, with their three children.

Justine Jackovich Hines '13

began a new job as assistant director of academic support at the University of Iowa, College of Engineering in Iowa City, Iowa.

Kelly Spavin '13

got married on Sept. 4, 2021, to Becky Silvermintz. Kelly is an events and donor relations coordinator for the University of Kansas Libraries, in Lawrenceville, Kansas.

Jamie Soderstrum

Terwilliger '13 teaches fourth-grade in the Guthrie Center Community School District.

Nathan Van Zante '15

was recognized last year as a STEM Teacher of the Year for his work in developing a comprehensive plastics manufacturing technology program as part of his eighth-grade science

curriculum at Lewis Central Middle School in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Riley Burkart '16 started work as a test conductor for the Europa Clipper space probe at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Keely Lanaghan '16 works for Seattle Humane Society and received a Shelter Behavior Affiliate certificate from the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants.

Samuel Moore '16 is a property accountant with Corn Belt Power Cooperative in Humboldt, Iowa. **Kristina DeGroot Moore '16** is a K-12 librarian in the Clarion-Goldfield-Dows School District.

Nicole Ewoldt Matter '17 recently celebrated one year of being in business at Family Matters Chiropractic in Ankeny, Iowa. Nicole received a doctorate in chiropractic program from Palmer College in 2020. Husband, **Zach Matter '17**, is a surety account executive with Zip Bonds in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Betsy Van Haaften '17 is a physician assistant with Skin Iowa in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Kendra Miller '18 teaches English at English College in Radom, Poland.

THE '20s

Brandon Rosas '20 is a public relations and communications coordinator at Musco Sports Lighting in Oskaloosa, Iowa. He is also a regular contributor to Art of the West magazine and had a feature article published in the Sept./Oct. issue of Fine Art Connoisseur magazine.

Ben Uitermarkt '20

recently began working as an environmental, health and safety coordinator at Winnebago Industries in Forest City, Iowa.

Finn Jordan '21 recently joined Health Solutions in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as a project coordinator designing health and wellness programs for large companies.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Michelle Wehrman-Flores '99 earned a Master of Arts in English from Ohio University in August 2021.

DeAnne King Negley '04 earned a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Liberty University in December 2021.

Mary Swanson Pedersen '08 earned a Master of Science in Nursing from Clarkson College in Omaha, Nebraska, in August 2021.

Whitney Pavlat '14 earned a Master of Science in athletic training from Western Michigan University in 2021.

Zach Russell '16 earned a Master of Arts in teaching special education from Morningside University in May 2021.

Gretchen Kistenmacher Harris '17 graduated with honors from the Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry in July 2021.

Renee Herbers '18 earned a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in May 2021.

NEW ARRIVALS

Jason and **Megan Mitchell Payne '04**, daughter Margaret Ann Kennedy, Aug. 31, 2021.

Taylor and **Mark Sanger '05**, daughter Lennyn Lee, Dec. 5, 2021.

Sara and **Kyle Dykstra '06**, daughter Greta, May 6, 2020.

Kelsey and **David Cain '09**, daughter Olivia Mae, Nov. 8, 2021.

Nick '13 and **Kathy Manternach Hafner '14**, son Oliver Francis, Sept. 24, 2021.

Zach and **Michelle Stewart Rubin '13**, son River Stewart, Dec. 15, 2021.

Jordan and **Jamie Soderstrum Terwilliger '13**, daughter Reagan Lyn, Aug. 9, 2021.

Michael and **Isabelle Hicks Alexander '15**, son Samuel Knox, Nov. 28, 2021.

Jacob '14 and **Emily Benson Edleman '15**, daughters Porter Mae and Ember Rayne, Nov. 10, 2021.

Mark '16 and **Morgan Merritt Dykstra '18**, son Dirk Lee, Oct. 30, 2021.

Cody '17 and **Devin McCain Walter '19**, daughter Freya Belle, Sept. 4, 2021.

NEWSNOTES

IN MEMORIAM

Gertrude “Trudy” Vander Wal Glaman ’47, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Dec. 6, 2021.

Robert “Bob” Kirby ’49, Ukiah, California, Jan. 5, 2022.

Cora Thomassen ’50, Pella, Iowa, Dec. 23, 2021.

Roger Peterson ’53, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Jan. 5, 2022.

Duane Heeren ’54, Ankeny, Iowa, Jan. 9, 2022.

La Vern “Vern” Boelkens ’57, Elgin, Illinois, Oct. 2, 2021.

Carlton “Dan” Foote ’57, Champaign, Illinois, Oct. 10, 2021.

Patsy Schreiner Sadler ’58, Pella, Iowa, Oct. 12, 2021.

Frances Halferty Schultz ’59, Newton, Iowa, Dec. 3, 2021.

Don Te Ronde ’63, Centennial, Colorado, Nov. 26, 2021.

Dennis “Denny” Brand ’65, Pella, Iowa, Dec. 12, 2021.

Roger Willemsen ’66, Moscow, Idaho, Dec. 28, 2021.

Kathy Hoagland Brizendine ’70, Chillicothe, Ohio, Aug. 13, 2021.

Randy Smith ’72, Denver, Colorado, Oct. 12, 2021.

Sue Reynolds Richardson ’74, Ottumwa, Iowa, May 9, 2021.

Mike Bartlett ’77, Solon, Iowa, Nov. 8, 2021.

Bruce Van Hal ’78, Lansing, Michigan, Dec. 10, 2021.

Scott Sheldon ’83, Walcott, Iowa, Oct. 13, 2021.

Tina Couch De Young ’86, Pella, Iowa, Oct. 28, 2021.

Cassandra Bock Ryan ’87, Oskaloosa, Iowa, Oct. 18, 2021.

Daniel “Skip” Schippers ’91, Stanwood, Iowa, Jan. 9, 2022.

Cherié Foland ’93, Osceola, Iowa, Dec. 23, 2021.

Michelle Johnson Langmaid ’95, Newton, Iowa, Oct. 14, 2021.

Elizabeth “Liz” Wallace ’04, Spokane, Washington, Oct. 12, 2021.

Brian Zinkel ’08, Island Lake, Illinois, Dec. 24, 2021.

IN MEMORIAM



MARLYN GRANT KLIMSTRA ’50

Marlyn Klimstra ’50, Trustee Emeritus at Central College, died Jan. 21, 2022, in Pella, Iowa. He was 95.

Born in Fulton, Illinois, Klimstra lived a full life of service. He defended our country in the U.S. Army in the Philippines from 1944-1946. After Klimstra was discharged from the military in December 1946, he enrolled in classes at Central. He graduated in 1950 with a degree in business management and accounting. He was involved in the band and orchestra, played trombone, and sang in the A Cappella choir. The day after graduation, he married his lifelong partner, Thelma Van Roekel. They had been married 68 years at the time of Thelma’s passing in 2018. Together they raised two children, **Stephen Klimstra ’73** and **Rev. Susan Klimstra ’86**.

After graduation, Klimstra worked with his father-in-law in a farm implement business in Pella. In 1954 he began a long and successful career with Pella Corporation. He retired in 1988.

A love for Central was evident in Klimstra’s life by his many years of service and volunteerism. He served as a Central trustee from 1973 until 1999. He also served as president of the Pella Alumni Chapter and chaired the development committee and the advisory board for capital campaigns. He was a member of the steering committee for Central Parents Association, Heritage Roll of Honor, 1985 Club, Cornerstone Society and Central Club.

IN MEMORIAM



JIM DANKS ’64

After more than 60 years of commitment and service to Central College, **Jim Danks ’64** died Nov. 14, 2020, in Pella.

A standout offensive lineman as a student, Danks returned to the college in 1966, serving as assistant football coach and associate professor of physical education until 1974. He also was men’s golf coach (1968-74) and the school’s first wrestling coach (1969-73).

He held a senior sales management role at Pella Corporation from 1974-2002, then returned to Central as director of development until 2005. His first wife, **Maureen Croaks Danks**, was a professor of biology at Central before dying unexpectedly in 1981. He remarried in 1986 and he and his wife, Phyllis, raised children Ryan and Elizabeth.

Danks was a generous Central supporter. He received Central’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 1993, was named to the Heritage Roll of Honor in 1995, the 1853 Club in 1996 and the Cornerstone Society in 1997. He was honored with the first-ever Spirit of Central Award and recognized with his family in the fall of 2021.

THE GIFT OF MONTHLY GIVING



Justine Jackovich Hines '13 decided to pursue a career in higher education thanks to her experience as a resident assistant at Central. Hines was one of 11 RAs for Gaass 3rd Center. Pictured in the front row from left to right are **Jordan Stevens '16**, **Randie Dixon Gist '16**, **Hines**, **Allyson Mann '16** and **Angie Allgood '16**. Pictured in the back row from left to right are **Clarissa LaPlante Ruiz '16**, **Trisha Smith '16**, **Katie Todd '16**, **Chelsea Brandt '15**, **Ashley Cliff '16** and **Anna Bowser '16**.

As a first-generation college graduate, **Justine Jackovich Hines '13** knows firsthand the value of giving.

"When I first decided to attend Central, I realized the cost might challenge our finances," Hines says. "The cost of Central at the time was much different than the public universities my parents and I were looking at."

But as soon as Hines first stepped foot on campus, she knew she belonged at

Central. A native of Eldridge, Iowa, Hines was interested in health sciences. She immediately fell in love with the Vermeer Science Center. Faculty were warm and inviting. She could study abroad. And she knew she wouldn't just be a number.

"I felt like I would be known. That the campus community would fully care for me. That I would have opportunities to get involved in a lot of different ways," Hines says.

And she was right. Hines was involved in Campus Ministries; supported fellow students as a resident assistant, which paved a career path in higher education; played the saxophone in Symphonic Wind Ensemble, where she participated in concert tours across the country; tutored students as a language lab assistant; and studied abroad in Spain. All while earning a degree in biology with minors in chemistry and Spanish.

IT ALL ADDS UP

Monthly donors help students access a Central education. Take a look at how you could make an impact:

MONTHLY GIFT	ANNUAL IMPACT	5-YEAR IMPACT
\$10	\$120	\$600
\$12.50	\$150	\$750
\$15	\$180	\$900
\$20	\$240	\$1,200
\$25	\$300	\$1,500
\$30	\$360	\$1,800
\$40	\$480	\$2,400
\$50	\$600	\$3,000
\$75	\$900	\$4,500
\$85	\$1,020*	\$5,100
\$100	\$1,200*	\$6,000

**Supports one new Journey Scholarship in full and earns the donor an invitation to the annual Scholarship Dinner event.*

Because of Central’s generous donors, the opportunities were endless for Hines.

“The scholarships I received are what made Central a possibility. And without the support of donors, those scholarships wouldn’t have been available,” Hines says. “I am very grateful for the scholarships I received, because I know Central was the right fit for me and gave me such a wonderful college experience. Central was my home away from home.”

Hines wants other students to have the same opportunities at Central — so she became a monthly donor. Her monthly gifts support student experiences and scholarships, including the Journey Scholarship Fund.

“Post-graduation, I told myself I was going to be a steward of my own money and decide what has value for me,” Hines says. “I decided I was not only going to invest in myself but in other people, so I was excited to start donating as soon as I graduated. I haven’t been able to give in a way that other large donors can, but I know my monthly giving has a large impact over time.”

As assistant director of academic support in the University of Iowa’s College of Engineering, Hines knows the impact giving not only has on students, but on the health of an institution.

“I get to help students navigate their college journey every day, and my experience as a first-generation student at Central has allowed me to serve students better,” Hines says. “Working in higher education has made me realize just how important giving is. Without strong support, institutions like Central wouldn’t exist. And it’s why I still continue to give nine years later.”

Hines wants young alumni to know they too can make a big impact by giving monthly.

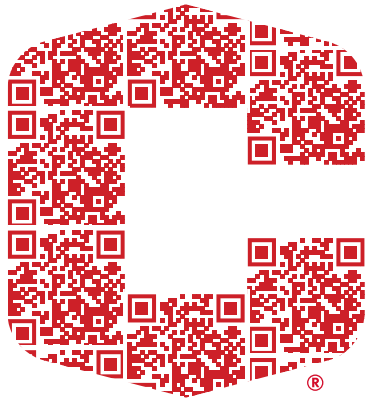
“Start with what you have. I’m not a large donor, but I give what I can, whether that’s \$10 or \$20 a month,” Hines says. “That’s a day or two a month of skipping a trip to the coffee shop. Even if it’s a small amount, it feels like I’m using my own funds and what I’ve been given in a meaningful way. Find the joy in being able to share what you have.”

“Monthly donations are a great way to make a bigger impact all year long, one gift at a time,” adds **Corey Falter**, director of annual giving and alumni engagement. “Loyal support from alumni like Justine helps even more students experience all that Central has to offer.”

While Hines values the education and experiences Central provided, she cherishes the memories and lifelong relationships. And

you can’t put a price tag on either.

“The Central community was and continues to be very special to me,” Hines says. “I met lifelong friends there, and I knew faculty and staff truly cared about me along the way. I had a strong support system in everything that I did. Now, I get to be that for other people as an alum by being a monthly donor. It feels good.” ■



Scan the QR code above — and don’t forget to check the recurring gift box to make a monthly gift. You also may call **Corey Falter**, director of annual giving and alumni engagement, at 641-628-7604.

TEACHING TREASURES

STORY BY: IAN MOSCHENROSS, PROFESSOR OF MUSIC AND CENTRAL MUSIC ACADEMY INSTRUCTOR



Ian Moschenross with the college's Flemish harpsicord.

Back in the fall of 2017, when I began my job as a new Central College music faculty member, I was delighted to discover the music department housed some marvelous treasures. With its spectacular Fazioli concert grand piano and the beautiful Chapel organ, the college is a treasure trove for lovers of keyboard music.

But it was two different instruments at Central that particularly intrigued me. Alongside the Chapel organ sits a two-manual Flemish harpsichord. In Cox-Snow Music Center is a fortepiano, the 18th-century precursor to the modern piano. These two gems are exquisite, hand-crafted replicas of 18th-century keyboard instruments. The college acquired both instruments in the 1990s, and I was sad to

learn that they had been sitting unused and in a state of disrepair.

Luckily, I was able to consult with one of my distinguished predecessors, **Carol Lei Breckenridge**, professor emerita of music, who was responsible for selecting these instruments for the college. In addition to giving me a crash course in early keyboard tuning, Carol Lei advised me to look up Edward Kottick in Iowa City, who agreed to repair the instruments. Ed enjoys an international reputation as a historian of early keyboards and as an instrument builder and technician. By the fall of 2019, both instruments were back at Central and in good working order.

So, of what use are these (replica) relics of the Old World to a 21st-century college student, anyway?

Well, as it turns out, a fairly significant chunk of the piano teaching repertoire originates in 18th-century Europe. That means many of the composers we study today wrote keyboard music that was intended *not* for the piano, but for the harpsichord or fortepiano — including harpsichord masters such as Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frideric Handel and Domenico Scarlatti, as well as fortepiano maestros such as Joseph Haydn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Ludwig van Beethoven.

Whenever my piano students are studying music from that era, I always give them an opportunity to experiment with these beautiful instruments. One of the first things students notice when trying out the harpsichord or fortepiano for the first time is how very quiet the sound is. It is a striking reminder of the sound world of a pre-industrial culture in which hearing music of any kind was a special and fleeting experience. Students often are enamored of the unabashed intimacy that such quietness requires — you cannot make extraneous noise, or you completely overshadow the instruments!

Students are fascinated by the differences in tone when compared with a modern piano and are sometimes curious about the inner workings and mechanics of the instruments. We often disassemble portions of the instrument for a “behind the scenes” look at the craftsmanship that makes it all possible.

Playing these instruments opens a window for students into the original sounds the composers heard when writing their music. And when introducing the basic concepts of technique needed to play these instruments effectively, students often come away with a fresh idea in their minds about the stylistic elements of this music, resulting in more convincing and enjoyable renditions for player and listener alike.

These instruments bring Central students into direct contact with the creative past through the high-impact learning environment of private music lessons, and lead them to create richer, more contextualized artistic statements for the present. ■

Guarded within the old red wall's embrace,
Marshaled like solders in gay company,
The tulips stand arrayed. Here infantry
Wheels out into sunlight. What bold grace
Sets off their tunics, white with crimson lace!

— from A Tulip Garden,
a poem by Amy Lowell, 1914

