

CENTRAL

CENTRAL COLLEGE

CIVITAS

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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EVERYTHING BELONGS TO LEARNING

STORY BY: MARK PUTNAM, CENTRAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT



I find it fascinating to talk with policy makers about two closely related topics: education and workforce.

For years now, federal and state officials have been fusing the two terms together to the point they are now inseparable as policy matters. The aim, of course, is clear. For society to maintain progress and benefit from economic expansion, we need trained workers to fill jobs closely aligned with industry demands.

We live in a society that is admittedly stagnating in population and under-employed, which is, indeed, cause for

concern. As one policy maker noted for me recently, “Our universities need to be graduating students who will fill these jobs.” For many policy makers, the societal domains of “education and workforce” can be more practically stated as “credentials and jobs.”

The counter narrative among many in the academy is that while education and workforce are clearly related, conflating the two tends to be overly reductionistic and assumes that something as complex as the holistic education of a human can be reduced to job training.

Educators fear that credentialing is now so dominant that we are cutting corners in concerning ways. Fast-paced course compilation that is slavish to efficiency is achieving one goal at the expense of the other. Consequently, we are drifting too far from our moral and intellectual moorings. The fraying of society is the manifestation of trading a broad-based education focused on effective citizenship for a narrowly defined program of job training.

There are important considerations in each of these archetypal narratives. While there are those who hold more extreme views, most I encounter find themselves somewhere in the middle.

My other conversation partners are students, along with their parents, and employers.

To be sure parents are eager for their children to find professional accomplishment and economic success, but they are also committed to seeing them live a life of personal fulfillment.

At the same time, employers are interested in the technical and professional potential in our graduates, but it is equally important to them that their employees be committed to:

- + Learning as a lifestyle.
- + Contributing to the success of others.
- + Embracing creativity in the face of complexity.

Parents and employers are persuasively articulate about the integration and alignment of education and workforce as they envision the service of an individual within a professional community of practice, as well as citizenship in the communities of family, neighborhood, faith and civil society.

Students understand this instinctually. They are committed to integrating their academic, professional and experiential learning by building on the foundation of their coursework with the essential elements of a broad-based educational design.

Students curate their experience with participation in student organizations, undergraduate research, international education, musical ensembles, athletics teams, service learning and internships, which combine to yield a rich experience that embraces the fullness of human development.

For them, everything belongs to learning. ■

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SUMMER 2022

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CELEBRATING HOO-RAH! DAY

AND A 53-MILE CHALLENGE

The sixth-annual Central College Hoo-Rah Day tallied 368 gifts in one day, April 12. In total, the college raised \$339,583 to help support student scholarships and programs.

Alumni, parents of alumni or students, faculty and staff members and students contributed to the success. Together, donors raised \$312,702 for the Journey Scholarship Fund. In addition, more than \$26,000 was raised for 60 campus programs and designations. Gifts came from 37 states and the District of Columbia. Central supporters come from around the world — including a gift that arrived from Japan.

In the days leading up to Hoo-Rah Day, 185 Central students, employees, alumni, family and friends participated in the college's second 53-Mile Challenge from March 1 to April 12. Participants logged more than 9,805 miles together. Go Dutch!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this Hoo-Rah Day so successful.



**368
GIFTS**

**\$339,583
RAISED**

**65,000+
SOCIAL MEDIA
IMPRESSIONS**

Scholarship CELEBRATION



The 20th annual Scholarship Celebration Dinner warmed hearts, honored the philanthropic spirit of the Central family and was all around good for the soul. Smiles — and even some tears — were seen throughout the evening in P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium. The event felt like the great big Central hug everyone had been missing the past two years.

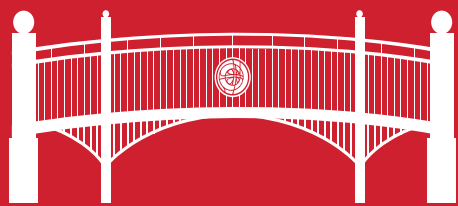
Pianist **Channing Rucks '22** provided a prelude to the evening's program, **Sharaden Boggs '23** offered the invocation, and the Chamber Singers

performed under the direction of **Mark Babcock '91**, professor of music and the M. Joan Farver Endowed Chair in Music.

Steven '01 and **Stefanie Bresnahan Perkins '02**, along with their eldest son, Jackson, shared their family's story and journey to establishing the Jackson Perkins Education Scholarship through a moving video. **Ed '70** and **Martha Friskey Van Hemert '72** spoke about their journeys to, at and after Central as well as why they support Central College.

Central College President **Mark Putnam** addressed all in attendance saying that giving at Central "is intensely personal." The Central family gives to support not just current, but future students, and even students that haven't been born yet," he adds. They give to ensure their future here and that all will have the same incredible student experience they had, no matter how many years have passed."

Watch the video premiered at the dinner: central.edu/perkins-scholarship. ■



AROUND THE POND



◀ CENTRAL HOSTS EVENT FEATURING NASA COMMANDER RAJA CHARI

The Central community experienced “Space Station Central” in February.

Raja Chari — husband of **Holly Schaffter Chari '99** — who was aboard the International Space Station, presented via livestream to the Central community. Chari is a National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronaut and the commander of the NASA SpaceX Crew-3 mission, which launched on Nov. 10, 2021.

The program also featured a short presentation from **Pavithra (Pavi) Premaratne**, assistant professor of physics and engineering. Premaratne is serving as a co-principal investigator for his alma mater, Iowa State University, on a research project developing a 3D printing process for a zero-gravity environment. This work has been submitted to and is being tested by NASA.

The recorded event can be watched at central.edu/space.



▲ TUMLINSON NAMED CENTRAL'S VPFA/TREASURER

President **Mark Putnam** appointed **Karen Tumlinson** as vice president for finance and administration and treasurer of the college this spring.

Since 2019, Tumlinson has served the University of North Texas as the division director of finance and operations, overseeing all finances and administrative functions for digital strategy and innovation.

Her expertise includes budgeting, compliance, hiring, payroll and strategic financial analysis, including forecasting and modeling. Tumlinson has professional experience outside of higher education and more than 20 years of experience in higher education related to human resources, risk management, technology, business systems, finance, accounting, analysis, facilities, the spirit shop, postal office, study abroad, conferences, dining and student life.

“Karen is a lifelong learner and hard

worker who is looking to intentionally reconnect with a private, residential liberal arts school and faith-based community,” Putnam says.

Prior to her time at the University of North Texas, Tumlinson took on a CFO project appointment in 2018-19 for audit work at St. John's Military School in Salina, Kansas. From 2016-18 she served as vice president – finance and operations/CFO at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina and as assistant vice president – finance and administration at the University of Arizona in Tucson and Sierra Vista from 2008-2016. She also had roles at the University of Kansas at Lawrence, Oklahoma State University at Stillwater and University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Tumlinson also has experience in consulting, property management and real estate development, broadcasting and teaching.

“Academic rigor within the liberal arts framework produces the best graduates who are ready to take on the complex challenges in a contemporary world,” Tumlinson says. “A major factor in why I wanted to join the Central team is the strong partnership between the college and the Pella community.”

Tumlinson earned an associate of applied science degree with honors while triple majoring in accounting, business administration and computer programming at Lincoln School of Commerce in Lincoln, Nebraska. She also has a B.A. in business from Doane University in Lincoln and an M.S. in business and advanced data

analytics from the University of North Texas. She has passed all CPA practice exams and completed additional master's level coursework in accounting, public administration, legal studies and contract law, and business and human resources.

Tumlinson and husband, James, have relocated from Marana, Arizona.

THE JOY OF GIVING - FAMILY STYLE

Seven siblings — all Central alumni — honored their parents by establishing a \$700,000 endowment in their names. The Allan and Grace Braskamp Family Endowment for Purpose, Meaning and Faith will support an environment, activities and programs for students, faculty and staff that enhance purpose, meaning and faith on Central's campus.

“We've found considerable joy and satisfaction by working together as a family to honor our parents this way. The contributions of our folks — the love and sacrifices, along with their pride in us kids — instilled a desire to never stop learning,” says **Larry Braskamp '63**, speaking on behalf of his siblings.

The concept of contributing to an endowment was important for the family. Over the next five years, the Braskamp siblings will fund an endowment to support activities and programs on campus that enhance purpose, meaning and faith, including faith-based retreats and workshops; convocations, lectures and conferences that focus on spiritual development; and purchasing supporting materials.

“We are thrilled and overjoyed by the



Mr. and Mrs. Central College: **Grace and Allan Braskamp.**

Braskamp family and their gift to Central in honor of their parents,” says **Michelle Wilkie**, director of development. “This gift will have a lasting benefit for our students. It reaches to the soul of Central’s ethos — that of empathy and compassion for others. The Central community is close-knit and this endowment from the Braskamp family is a quintessential illustration of the deep love for family and Central.”

“As part of a liberal arts education, students should have opportunities to think about what’s meaningful in their life. What is the role of faith in their life? We want students to have the opportunity to foster a sense of meaning and enhance their faith from a developmental focus,” Braskamp says.

“When I tell friends about our venture, they really cannot believe that seven kids from the same family graduated from one college! They often ask, ‘How did you decide on the focus and goals of the family endowment?’” he adds.

Over the past three years the siblings have held video conference calls every other week to retain their sibling bond and more recently to discuss the focus and goals of the family endowment.

“We seven kids are proud of our parents. In establishing this endowment, we want to honor and remember them. We feel it’s appropriate to extend their influence to the lives of future students at Central. And we hope that other families may find ways to remember their parents,” Braskamp says.

This honor began with Grace and Allan, who were charter members of the Emmanuel Reformed Church in Waupun, Wisconsin. They considered Central a wonderful place to send their children because of its affiliation with the Reformed Church in America.



The children of Grace and Allan Braskamp: (from left) **Linda Braskamp, Nancy Braskamp (Kienzle) Eckert, Larry Braskamp, Carolyn Braskamp Homan, Ken Braskamp, Janice Braskamp Welle and Marcia Braskamp Myers.**

Over a 24-year span, from 1958 to 1981, at least one of the Braskamp siblings was attending Central almost every year. Listed in order of graduation from Central with their current home state or country of residence, they include:

- + **Carolyn Braskamp Homan ’62**, Michigan
- + **Larry Braskamp ’63**, Iowa
- + **Ken Braskamp ’65**, Central trustee emeritus, California
- + **Janice Braskamp Welle ’68**, Wisconsin
- + **Marcia Braskamp Myers ’72**, North Carolina
- + **Nancy Braskamp (Kienzle) Eckert ’74**, Barcelona, Spain
- + **Linda Braskamp ’81**, Virginia

“They were so proud of us kids. They liked being called ‘Mr. and Mrs. Central College’ in their hometown of Waupun. They attended all graduations, and seldom missed coming to Central for Homecoming,” says **Jan Braskamp Welle ’68**, the fourth child of Grace and Allan Braskamp.

“When my sisters and brother think about the sacrifices our folks made for us, it can bring us close to tears. Mom centered her life around the seven of us and had so much joy in watching her kids develop. Mom had the right name — Grace — since she exemplified so well a life of grace,” Larry Braskamp says.

While Allan Braskamp was a dairy farmer and Grace worked at home, both had a greater purpose in life. Allan demonstrated his strong leadership skills through his involvement in community and church, serving on various boards and elected positions.

“Both ended their formal schooling at the eighth grade, yet both were intelligent and open to learning and accepting new ways of

living. Mom and Dad both fought for the less privileged,” Welle says.

Through Allan Braskamp’s involvement with the RCA, they knew pastors and ministers from different places and pulpit exchanges.

“As I look back on that time, the church was incredibly important because it went beyond the local school,” Braskamp says. “It was social, educational and a place to express our talents and leadership. We grew in ways that prepared us to come to Central.”

The Braskamp siblings agree that the church, their parents’ work ethic, love for those less fortunate and their mother’s yearning to “travel the world” (five of the seven have lived outside the United States) are common themes that transcend their specific life experiences and have kept them closely connected throughout their lives. The endowment is a way of honoring the immeasurable gift of family love their parents gave to them.

“Central students and alumni continue to thrive on the deep sense of community created on campus,” says **Mark Putnam**, Central’s 21st president. “This endowment will support students, staff and faculty in a meaningful way. The challenges and social distancing of the past few years have made most people reassess their lives and purpose. We are privileged to support the Central family with this generous gift.”

The Braskamp siblings, all living in different locations, share a common passion. “We hope other families will find establishing an endowment as a positive opportunity to contribute to Central and to honor their loved ones,” Braskamp says.

“Forming an endowment is something wonderful that’s lasting. It’ll always be a part of Central,” Welle says.



▲ FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH PUBLISHED IN CHEMISTRY JOURNAL

James Shriver, professor of chemistry, **Kaylie Kaller '22**, **Ally Kinsey '21**, **Katelyn Wang '21**, **Summer Sterrenberg '24**, **Madison Van Vors '24**, **Joshua Cheek '21** and **John Horner '21** have had their research on the synthesis indirubin, an isomer of indigo, published in *RSC Advances*, a peer-reviewed journal of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

The research paper, “A tunable synthesis of indigoids: targeting indirubin through temperature” documents the Shriver research group’s discovery that subtle variation in temperature can shift the preference from indigo to indirubin dramatically across a range of compounds, expanding on their previous discovery related to indirubins.

The research relied significantly on the new nuclear magnetic resonance machine in the Vermeer Science Center.

A grant by the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust and the Fred Maytag Family Foundation funded the purchase of the new 400 MHz NMR for Central in 2021. Funding for undergraduates was provided by The Moore Family Foundation, the Arthur J. Bosch Endowment for Student Research and the John Wesselink Memorial Faculty Development Fund.



▲ CENTRAL ART STUDENTS RESTORE KLOKKENSPEL FIGURES

Amelia Brown '25, **Fynn Wadsworth '25** and **Emily Wassink '25**, Central art students, along with assistance from art professors **Mathew Kelly**, **Brian Roberts '92** and **Susan Swanson**, worked together to restore the historic figures in Pella’s Klokkenspel.

Central’s team cleaned, repainted and restored four of the eight figures that are part of the historical gem in advance of Tulip Time 2022.

The Klokkenspel and the figures are about 40 years old. Every day at 11 a.m. and 3, 5 and 9 p.m., the figures dance to the music of a 147-bell carillon. Because the mannequins inhabit the Klokkenspel, access and upkeep has been difficult, leaving some of the figures with broken-off pieces and sun damage.

With care, new clothes and fresh paint, Brown, Wadsworth and Wassink returned four of the four-foot-tall figures to their original states. The plan is to restore the remaining four figurines for Tulip Time 2023.

◀ SCHLERMAN WILL ATTEND CHICAGO SEMESTER PROGRAM

Maggie Fisher Schlerman '02, associate professor of accounting, has been selected to participate in Chicago Semester’s Summer 2022 Scholar-In-Residence Program.

While participating in the Chicago program, Schlerman intends to redesign Central’s accounting curriculum, complete American Institute of Certified Public Accountants professional development programs and plan for future department trips to Chicago. She feels that the connections she will make in Chicago will give her invaluable industry insight.

Schlerman’s participation in the Scholar-In-Residence program is an opportunity in which she can continue to improve her expertise as a scholar and professor.



▲ CENTRAL COLLEGE STUDENTS, FACULTY COLLABORATE TO SAVE BIRDS ON CAMPUS

Central College is saving birds — one window sticker at a time.

Russ Benedict, professor of biology, and **Mathew Kelly**, associate professor of art, collaborated with students across the biology and art programs to create and design CollidEscape stickers on a window of Vermeer Science Center on Central’s campus. The window, which faces west, has caused many bird deaths for many years.

Birds are drawn to the windows because they reflect the sky and trees so well, and the birds cannot differentiate between what is real and what isn’t real until it’s too late.

Art students created unique designs for the window stickers, which were then voted on by Central students, faculty and staff.

Megan Rohr '22 created the winning design.

“The reality is, birds are declining, and they’re declining fast,” Benedict says. “This is only one factor, but it’s a fairly easy fix.”

The project was one of 13 funded by the Moore Family Foundation for the 2021-22 academic year.



▲ MATHEMATICS AND KINESIOLOGY DEPARTMENTS BUILD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

“The Mathematics Enthusiast” published an article prepared by **Russ Goodman**, professor of mathematics and assistant women’s soccer coach, and **Katelin Valster**,

lecturer of kinesiology and S.A.A.C. advisor.

They designed an honors seminar course, Sports Analytics: Soccer, which gives Central students the opportunity to complete a course-based undergraduate research experience in sports analytics.

Publication of the article, A Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) in Soccer Analytics, adds to the body of knowledge for designing course-based undergraduate research experiences.

The Moore Family Foundation Faculty Development Program for Teaching funded the research.



▲ CENTRAL PROFESSOR AND ALUMNUS PUBLISHED IN COLLECTION ABOUT 2020 DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Are the Iowa Caucuses dead?

That's the question **Andrew Green**, professor of political science, and **Kurt Sernett '21** work to answer in a chapter of a book published digitally last year.

The book, "The 2020 Democratic Primary: Key Developments, Dynamics and Lessons for 2024," provides a multi-layered analysis of the Democratic Primary, including party rules, party politics, campaign strategies, ideological tensions and demographic considerations.

Chapter two by Green and Sernett, titled "Are the Iowa Caucuses Dead?," evaluates how the results of Iowa Caucuses have served presidential hopefuls and examines what happened before, during and after the 2020 Iowa Caucuses that led to technological challenges, miscommunication and stark criticisms of Iowa's process. The chapter concludes with a discussion on the effects the 2020 Iowa Caucuses might have on the 2024 presidential election and beyond.

"We believe that the key to whether or not Iowa retains its first-in-the-nation status is based upon the decision of one individual: President Joe Biden," the two political scientists share in the chapter.

Green and Sernett worked on the chapter while Sernett was still a student at Central. Sernett, from Kelley, Iowa, is now a graduate student at the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. The book, edited by Luke Perry, was published by the Utica College Center for Public Affairs and Election Research in partnership with Palgrave-MacMillan. It is available to purchase at several online sources, including Amazon.



▲ NSCA RECOGNIZES CENTRAL'S PERSONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Central's personal training program, part of the kinesiology major, has been approved by the National Strength and Conditioning Association's Education Recognition Program.

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

Central is only one of two colleges in Iowa to receive this recognition specifically for personal training. The recognition provides students access to grants, scholarships and internships, while also offering discounts on exams and conferences. Through the partnership with NSCA, Central students also have access to professional development and networking opportunities.

The recognition is valid for three years.



▲ SHUGER FOX RECOGNIZED FOR MENTORSHIP OF UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS

Sara Shuger Fox, associate professor of kinesiology, has received the 2021 Research Mentor Award from The Organization for Tropical Studies for her mentorship of underrepresented students through the National Science Foundation's Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates Program.

Shuger Fox trained students in Costa Rica in designing and conducting independent research; collecting and analyzing data; writing a research manuscript; and preparing an oral presentation delivered at the OTS REU Research Symposium.

"This unique program is designed to extend STEM opportunities to underrepresented minorities around the world," Shuger Fox says. "It's a big motivator for students who are interested in the sciences to learn and gather experiences in the field."

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.

A FIRE FOR FOOTBALL

On the Gridiron Overseas

STORY BY: LARRY HAPPEL '81



Jake Suggett '20 extended his football career in graduate school for the University of West England.

As he began pondering life after Central when 2020 dawned, the logical side of **Jake Suggett '20** conceded it was probably a good thing that his football career was over, having spent more than his share of time in the athletic training room.

Nonetheless, football at Central for Suggett was a ride to remember as the Dutch rallied to win a share of the American Rivers title in 2019, his senior season, when he served as a team co-captain. Central then staged the biggest rally in school history by coming from 24 points down in the second half to overtake the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in the NCAA Division III playoffs. But the Dutch were unceremoniously ousted the following week at Wheaton College (Illinois) 49-13.

Suggett completed his degree in engineering, yet his fire for football still flickered brightly. He spent the 2020-21 year completing coursework and volunteered as an assistant to Dutch offensive line coach **Eric Jones '87** during the pandemic-modified season. A future in coaching seemed like the next-best option to competing. As he spent part of his winter break searching for graduate assistant coaching positions, an ad popped up for Play Overseas, an organization that facilitates opportunities for pursuing graduate degrees in the United Kingdom while also playing American football.

Suggett's eyes froze on the ad. A new postgraduate possibility flashed onto his mental list of options as quickly as the ad had jumped onto his computer screen: He could play football.

"I thought football was done forever," he says. "And here I am now."

Where he is now is the University of West England in Bristol, a harbor town about an hour away from Cardiff, Wales.

PUT ME IN COACH

The coach in Bristol liked what he saw on Suggett's Central film and contacted him. The former Dutch offensive lineman is now pursuing a master's degree in engineering management while also playing football. Unlike in the U.S., there's no limit to the length of a collegiate playing career in the United Kingdom.

"As long as you're in school, you can play," says Suggett, who started the 12-month master's program in September 2021.

Suggett isn't even the first in his family to play football in Europe. He made his first trip there as a youth in 2010 to watch his stepmother, Melissa Gallegos, play in

Sweden for Team USA. The team won a gold medal in the International Federation of American Football Women's World Championship.

"I was pretty young, and it was before I really got into playing football," Suggett says. "Yeah, that was a blast going to Sweden, but I was young and don't think I really appreciated everything as much as I should have."

The talent level for British collegiate football sometimes exceeds the intensity. Because both graduate and undergraduate students compete, the players' ages often range from 18-30. Many of the British students are new to the sport and they play next to experienced, former American collegiate players. Suggett is among 17 American players on the UWE squad, which numbers less than 50 players, less than half of a typical Central squad. The UWE quarterback played at the University of New Hampshire, Suggett says, and a defensive back played at Iowa State University.

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO PLAY OVERSEAS

"It's kind of everywhere on the spectrum," Suggett says. "It's anywhere from players who have been playing the sport for three months to playing against a professional who has just come back to school."

The year-round training and practice obsession is chill compared to American standards.

"It's definitely not what I'm used to," Suggett says. "It's a little bit laid back. If I had to guess, it doesn't seem like they get in the weight room a lot. And a lot of time we only practice out here twice a week. I'm only practicing for four to five hours a week with a little bit of film here and there. They don't put as much time into it. The biggest difference is the football IQ level."

University teams are placed in two levels. UWE is among about 10 teams in the top tier, the Premiership, playing in the South Division. All home games are livestreamed on YouTube so family and friends in the U.S. can watch. Few of the game fields have seating, so around 200 fans engulf the benches and sidelines.

"It's a little different experience with having the fans on the field right next to you," Suggett says. "On fast-change turnovers, you have to run between people."

The schedule also differs from those in the U.S. Games start in November before taking a break in early December. Play resumes in late January, with the national title game in late March.

But it's football, and that's all that matters

to Suggett, who also appreciates the proximity to the rest of Europe and the opportunity to travel as COVID-19 restrictions ease.

"It's been a blast so far," Suggett says.

SAVORING THE MOMENT

The location for resuming his football career after two years was dramatically different — but so was Suggett's perspective as he returned to the field for his first British game.

"I was putting on that helmet and I think that is when it really first hit me," Suggett says. "I thought that was a feeling I was never going to get again. It makes you rethink everything. I definitely have great appreciation for the game. At Central, I really don't think I took every rep (practice repetition) as potentially my last. I don't think it hit me until that clock hit zero at Wheaton that, hey, you're done. I took it a little bit for granted. But now, every rep and every game I get to play is something extra that I wouldn't be having without this opportunity."

It's a feeling his American teammates at UWE are savoring as well.

"I'm out here with a lot of other people who really didn't know what we were getting ourselves into," Suggett says. "And we all had that moment when we thought football is done. I kind of just take the approach every single time to go out there and have some fun."

And now that he's there, he's not ready for the ride to end.

Since UWE used a last-minute score to capture the national championship in late March, a couple of European professional teams have contacted Suggett, offering housing and a small paycheck to play in a league in Germany, Finland, Spain, France or elsewhere.

"Right now, Germany's considered at the top with the German Football League," Suggett says. "It's starting to get a little bit bigger. And there's the European League of Football and they have teams from all over."

The professional season launched in April and Suggett's professors would have allowed him to complete his degree remotely, but he decided to decline the professional offers for now. He'll remain in the UK and continue working out, keeping the door open to playing professionally next summer.

TRAVEL AND ACADEMIC PLANS

Even if Suggett doesn't play professionally, a perspective-altering 2018 trip with the Central football team to Germany, Austria and Switzerland left him eager to return to the European mainland.



Jake Suggett '20 (left), with some University of West England classmates on an excursion to London, plans to travel to the European mainland in the year ahead as well.

“I want to go back to Germany,” he says. “That trip to Munich was eye-opening. There was something about it. I absolutely loved the city. And I want to get up to Sweden. There’s a whole bunch of countries I have on my watch list. I just have to sit down and figure out everything with flights and all that.”

Suggett is in Europe for more than sight-seeing and football. He values his academic work, which differs from what he experienced in the U.S.

“It’s hard to compare,” he says. “I’m doing papers and presentations rather than calculations and written exams.”

Cultural differences ramp up the degree of difficulty.

“Even though we speak the same language, there is a language barrier, I’ve learned,” he says. His unfamiliarity with the British business world creates barriers as well.

“We’re presented with these case studies about companies that are like our Walmart, and I raise my hand constantly, saying I’ve never heard of this,” he says.

It parallels the adjustment Suggett made in journeying from his Chula Vista, California, home at age 18 when he enrolled at Central.

“Going pretty far away from home in San Diego all the way to Central really helped me build a foundation to be OK from here,” he says. “Even though I know I’m a lot farther away from home than I was at Central, I still feel like I’ve been prepared because I couldn’t go home every weekend.

“And then obviously everyone at Central just welcomed me with open arms. That was huge. There are a lot of life lessons that I can take away from Central and from football and coaches. Central has definitely prepared me for taking on this life adventure.”

MAGIC

Even from six time zones away, Suggett took special satisfaction in Central’s undefeated season and NCAA playoff run in 2021 — and perhaps the completion of some unfinished business from his own playing career. His memorable 2019 season ended with a thud, with the trouncing at Wheaton.

Consequently, Suggett shared his younger Central teammates’ feelings of redemption when the Dutch staged an epic 30-28 walk-off second-round playoff win over Wheaton at Pella. He watched every stomach-churning snap from a dormitory in Great Britain.

“I was in my room screaming,” Suggett says. “My housemates were wondering what the heck was going on. I was jumping off the walls. I was going crazy, just watching that last drive. But I just knew there was a little bit of magic left on that field after we did it against Oshkosh (in 2019).”

Some of Suggett’s Central teammates are already launching careers and drawing salaries, but he wouldn’t trade his European adventure for a minute.

“I know a lot of the guys are doing what they love and I’m happy for them,” he says. “But getting to still play this sport that I love is definitely a dream. If the body didn’t get old, I wish I could play forever.”

ATHLETICS UPDATES

MEN’S AND WOMEN’S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD: Brock Lewis '22 earned all-America distinction in the NCAA Division III long jump. Sam Beatty '23 was honored in the high jump, and the distance medley relay team of Adam Sylvia '23, Carter Tryon '22, Noah Jorgenson '24 and Will DeHaan '22 also received the award. Other national qualifiers included high jumper Drake Lewis '23, heptathletes Brody Klein '24 and Lucas Heitz '23 and women’s weight thrower Abby Marr '23.

WRESTLING: Shandon Akeo '22 finished third at 125 pounds at the NCAA Division III Championships, helping the Dutch place 21st overall. He was among three national qualifiers for Central, which finished fourth in the league and posted a 12-4 record.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL: Guard Kelsea Hurley '23 and center Allison Van Gorp '25 were all-conference honorees as Central placed eighth in the league and finished 6-15.

MEN’S BASKETBALL: Central tied for seventh in the league overall with a 7-17 overall mark. Craig Douma resigned as head coach after 10 seasons and was replaced by Joe Steinkamp '03, who coached the women’s squad the past five years.

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

Cheery Traveler

Good morning! ¡Buenos días! Bonjour!
Bon dia! Guten morgen! Buongiorno!
John Lucas '92's (right) fluency in English, Spanish, French, Dutch, Catalan, German and Italian has helped him greet folks around the globe for the past 30 years.



STORY BY: **CYVANNAH VECCHIO** PHOTO BY: **PAUL JOY**

John Lucas '92 grew up in a landlocked state smack dab in the heart of the United States. His dreams of wandering the globe, sampling new cultures and learning the languages of the world meant choosing a college that would give him those opportunities was the first and most important step toward a globetrotting future.

TOTO, HE'S STILL IN KANSAS

Lucas started his journey in Shawnee, Kansas.

Where? A landlocked state smack dab in the heart of the United States. (Seriously, get out an atlas and look it up; Shawnee is just a few hours East of Lebanon, Kansas, the geographical center of the contiguous United States, truly making it the heart of the U.S.)

So, when Lucas was shopping for colleges — literally, by looking through catalogs requested via postcard — he was looking for both international study options and language programs to satisfy his curiosity of the world.

“Central had this wonderful combination of being a small liberal arts college that was far enough to feel like I was getting away, but also was close enough that I could drive there,” Lucas says. “And Central had amazing international opportunities.”

He visited five or six small liberal arts colleges across the Midwest before deciding Central was the perfect fit.

“I felt more comfortable on a smaller campus than I did at a larger university,” Lucas explains. “I thought Central was a warm, comfortable place to be, but had — and still has — an open window to the world.”

TOTO, HE'S NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE

When Lucas got to Central, his love of language exploded. Not only did he study Spanish and French, but he also ended up majoring in linguistics.

“I discovered that there's this whole world about how language works that's beyond simply learning Spanish, French and

English,” Lucas says.

Lucas took language courses in Spanish, French, Dutch and later learned German.

“I'm one of the few German speakers who sounds like I have a Dutch accent, which is very odd,” Lucas chuckles. “People will ask, ‘Why are you an American with a Dutch accent?’ Well, attending Central College is why!”

¡VIVA MÉXICO! (LONG LIVE MEXICO!)

Lucas capitalized on his Central advisor's advice to explore everything by taking courses like history, philosophy, religion and fine arts. He even took a class on Latin music.

“I remember that being fun,” Lucas reminisces. “My neighbors in Kansas were Cuban, so I learned Latin American Spanish.”

When he got the opportunity to study abroad in Mexico, he eased into the experience comfortably.

“One of the great things about Central is that I got to see all models of study abroad



John Lucas '92 poses with a road sign for Eastermar (Dutch: Oostermeer), a village in Tytsjerksteradiel municipality in the province Friesland of the Netherlands.

while I was here,” Lucas says. “I started in Mexico, and that was a wonderful opportunity to see what it was like to have a center-based program.”

Center-based programs allow students to have their own little community, which is often an easier segue into another culture; however, this style of program isn’t fully immersive in the native culture, which can create a barrier for students and the cultures they’re interacting with.

OP NAAR NEDERLAND! (OFF TO NETHERLANDS!)

Lucas’ second study abroad experience was in a field research program to the Netherlands, led by **Phil Webber**, professor emeritus of German and former professor of linguistics. The group traveled to North Holland, where locals speak a minority language called Frisian. The Central students were divided into smaller groups and tasked with learning the language — without using English.

“This was something that students almost never get as undergraduates; it was actual fieldwork,” Lucas explains. “Even if the

people we were talking to knew English, we had to speak to them only in Dutch or German and investigate the Frisian language using field methods.”

The field research program, which was a completely different experience than Lucas’ first center-based program trip, deepened his desire to develop his understanding of culture and language across the globe.

¡A ESPAÑA! (ON TO SPAIN!)

Lucas wanted to continue traveling. Earning a scholarship materialized into a destination ticket to yet another unique international experience.

“I wanted to go more, and I was fortunate to get a rotary scholarship,” he says. “I went to Salamanca, Spain, and it was a full-immersion program, where I was taking classes at a university with local students.

“I had three completely different study abroad opportunities, which really informed my career as a professional in international education. They all have value, they all have their place and they all have their advantages and disadvantages. I wouldn’t have traded any of them for the world.”

FOR THE LOVE OF LEARNING

After Central, Lucas had options when it came to graduate school.

“I told some of my Central professors what I wanted to study in graduate school,” he says. “They had connections and helped me identify great opportunities.”

Despite several strong options backed by Central faculty connections, Lucas chose to study Spanish in graduate school at Penn State University in State College, Pennsylvania, an opportunity made available to him through his connection with **Donna Van Bodegraven**, former professor of Spanish at Central and a Penn State alumna.

“I was always looking for the way to answer, ‘How am I going to get back abroad?’” Lucas says. “I loved my study abroad experiences and I wanted to make that my career.”

He was already started in his graduate program when he realized it might take longer than he wanted to launch his career in study abroad.

“I was going to have to finish my Ph.D., get a faculty job and it might still be quite a long time before I could actually lead programs abroad,” Lucas realized.

It was then that a brochure for the School for International Training, located in Brattleboro, Vermont, fell into his lap.

“SIT is a unique college,” he explains. “It’s a graduate school that has master’s and professional degrees in international careers.”

Lucas took a break from his master’s in Spanish to secure a master’s degree in international education from the Vermont-based specialty school, which scored him an internship abroad through Portland State.

“My internship was to lead programs to Barcelona, so I had the great fortune of leading students,” he says. “I was in my 20s, and I did not know what I was doing — I was barely older than the students, obviously, but they trusted me at Portland State. It was unbelievable and life changing.”

Under the advisement of the dean at Portland State, Lucas returned to Penn State for a year to get his Ph.D. so he could continue to lead study abroad programs and teach. When it was time to transition into the next steps of his career, Lucas boasted a bachelor’s degree from Central, master’s degrees from Penn State and SIT and a Ph.D. from Penn State.

PASSION TURNED PROFESSION

Lucas’ time in Barcelona gave him the ability to lead a program in addition to setting up



John Lucas '92 (far back left) with other students in Friesland, a coastal province in northern Netherlands.

the study abroad center there, which allowed him to create new opportunities for students, teach and do research.

Since then, Lucas has taken on the role of president and CEO of ISEP Study Abroad, an independent, not-for-profit organization that partners with 365 universities in 60 countries around the world.

“We create a community of colleges and universities that exchange students,” Lucas explains. “We now have study abroad, exchange and internship programs, and we’re starting to do customized programs. We’ve experimented with virtual and hybrid exchange programs.

“It’s a living, learning organization that’s adapting to the international education we offer to the changing times and the changing student body.”

He also teaches at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., during the summer months, and is the chair of the board for the Forum on Education Abroad, an organization that sets national standards for education abroad in the United States.

RECONNECTING CENTRAL WITH THE WORLD

Lucas’ experience and expertise gave him the ability to partner with Central as it worked to

reinvalidate off-campus study at the college post-pandemic.

“As an alum, when you come back to campus, it’s always bittersweet,” he continues. “You wish you had the opportunity to try the cool, new experience or use a remodeled space when you were here. Majors come and go, and the study abroad programs are different than they were. It’s important to keep an open mind and remember, ‘I loved my experience.’ No one can ever take that away.”

Students also have changed. Their interests and needs have changed.

“Students are dramatically different than I was,” Lucas asserts. “They’ve grown up in a digital age and have been shaped by the pandemic — things I can’t even imagine.

“What’s exciting about ISEP partnering with Central is having an alum in leadership who understands the value and the richness of the programs we had before,” Lucas explains. “The core values are the same: deep, cultural immersion; opportunities for language study; the ability to meet people, make connections and form lasting friendships. That doesn’t change; the rest is the model.”

Also remaining are fundamental core values with a deep commitment to the liberal

arts education, connection with faculty and the opportunities to study, volunteer and do fieldwork.

“As the president of ISEP, I share the values that Central has; they’re deeply ingrained in me,” Lucas says. “We do study abroad differently. We’re doing it differently than when I was a student 30 years ago, and the next president of ISEP will probably reshape the entire organization in ways I can’t even fathom. There’ll be new programs and opportunities I haven’t thought of, and that’s exciting — it’s fantastic!


“I would encourage my fellow alums to embrace the concept of deep cultural immersion and language learning that Central has always had, and to trust that we are going to go on this journey of study abroad together with ISEP. As an alum, I’m really excited I can be part of the next generation of study abroad at Central.” ■

Learn more about John Lucas at
central.edu/john-lucas.

Remembering

*Central President
Emeritus*

Kenneth Weller



STORY BY: **LARRY HAPPEL '81**

Kenneth Weller is remembered for his magnanimous vision, his strong leadership and his immeasurable kindness. His dedication to Central College and its students – shared here in his own words as well as through the memories of others – had a transformational effect at the college and created an unforgettable and enduring legacy.

It's safe to say, Weller accomplished what he set out to do.



"I did not have a grand and glorious plan for what I wanted the college to do. In my inaugural speech, I just said I'm here to help these students become what they wanted to become."

— Kenneth Weller



President Emeritus **Ken Weller** is joined by his wife, Shirely, at the NCAA headquarters in Indianapolis in 2013.

The students' anger burned with the intensity of the Yucatecan sun.

In 1975, the headquarters for Central College's popular international study program in the Yucatán was moved from a convent in Mérida, Mexico, to a former governor's mansion the school rented. President **Ken Weller** journeyed from Pella, Iowa, a few weeks later for a quick site visit. Approximately 20 students were spending the fall trimester there and Weller gathered them together to hear how they liked their elegant new surroundings.

Weller knew what student unrest looked like. He had an up-close view in his first year as president in 1969, as Vietnam War protests raged.

But he was caught off guard as his eyes scanned the room and were met with looks of irritation and impatience. Almost immediately, the meeting on the warm, muggy evening in Mérida took an ugly turn.

"The students complained bitterly — bitterly! — about the fact that there were no seats on the toilets," recalls Professor Emeritus of English **John Miller**, who spent the

term providing instruction in Mérida that fall. "It's common in Mexico, even among the upper class like the governor, to just have porcelain on their toilets with no cover at all. But the students were not used to dealing with toilets in that way."

And they wanted to know what their college president was going to do about it. "So he got on the public bus," Miller says. "He took the bus to downtown Mérida, to the Sears store. He bought some toilet seats, carried them back on the bus and installed them in the house. Himself. He didn't say, 'John, go do that.' Or he didn't say to the students, 'I'll see if I can get that taken care of.' He took the bus.

"That's always been a memory for me. He really cared for students, and he really cared for faculty as well. And he just took things into his own hands and did it."

Weller died March 18, 2022, at age 96, prompting a cascading stream of affection and sympathy from throughout the Central family and far beyond.

Retired college presidents, like old soldiers, typically fade away. But Weller, while carefully

keeping his distance from any thorny issues his successors were dealing with, always remained as much a part of the fabric of Central as the A Capella Choir's benediction and Lemming Day, growing more beloved with each passing year.

There were no doubt missteps and frustrations during Weller's presidency but as alumni look back, they dim. They're outshined by images of the era's record-breaking enrollments and fundraising numbers. A near total makeover of the campus with a 20-year flurry of construction and renovation projects, requiring not a penny of debt. The growth of innovative international study programs. Unprecedented athletics triumphs and championships, undergirded by pioneering roles in charting Division III's course and providing competitive opportunities for women. The longest tenure of any Central president (1969-90), followed by an impactful 32-year post-presidency. Weller's calm, steady voice was influential not only on the pristine Central campus, but in the Reformed Church in America, the NCAA and within higher education nationally.

His achievements were too plentiful to enumerate, yet for so many, the memories they cherish in misty-eyed conversations after he passed had little to do with what he accomplished, but how he made them feel.



"YOU LISTENED AND YOU GAVE US A VOICE"

Weller's Mérida quest for toilet seats reflected more than his Dutch Calvinist belief in self-reliance. He possessed that rarest of gifts, not only the willingness to listen but an eagerness to do so. He spent much of his first year as Central's president, not implementing a five-point plan, but roaming the campus and visiting individual offices — just to listen.

And that's how he responded on a spring evening in that first year when a boisterous group of war protestors stormed to the front door of his on-campus home, chanting profane sentiments about the atrocities of Vietnam, while Weller's frightened young son, Matt, hid under his bed.

"I finally identified a few voices in the crowd," Weller said. "I approached them and said, 'I'll see you in my office at 10. We can talk about this intelligently.'"

And they did. Not long after that, Weller led a candlelight campus march from the student union to the Tulip Toren on the Pella town square.



President Emeritus **Ken Weller** leans his motorcycle against the fence while watching a softball game following his retirement.

“To give you an idea of how many people were there, the last person to leave the student union was still there when the first person reached the tulip tower, single file, carrying candles,” Weller said.

Trustee Emerita **Sue Spaans Brandl ’65** of Pella noticed an immediate change.

“Students respected him after that,” she says.

The characteristic empathy Weller displayed to those students, feeling helpless about a war they thought must be stopped and hungering to be heard, was felt, sometimes years later.

“I’ve been told by the leaders from that day, ‘You listened to us,’” Weller said. “You didn’t agree always but you listened, and you gave us a voice.”



IT WAS PROVIDENTIAL, PERHAPS

Looking back at his life’s path, Weller sensed that his course was directed and redirected by random circumstances.

“A whole lot of things came together — it was providential, perhaps, or just lucky — but I ended up with jobs that I never had an

expectation of being involved in,” he said.

Indeed, it’s perhaps unlikely that one of America’s top 100 college presidents, according to a 1987 ranking, was the son of a Dutch immigrant who never attended high school. His mother, Gertrude, didn’t graduate, either, but placed high demands on her only child to perform academically while he grew up in Holland, Michigan. Weller recalled that his school’s athletics eligibility standards were not nearly as restrictive as Gertrude’s. His chemistry teacher had to call to assure her that Weller was keeping up in class before she would allow him to take the field for a football game with nearby Grand Haven.

After returning from service in World War II, then graduating from Hope College in 1948 and marrying Shirely in 1950, he received a grant for doctoral study in economics and business at the University of Michigan. Intent on a business career, Weller had little interest when Hope president Irwin Lubbers, a former Central president, asked him to consider teaching there.

Lubbers sweetened the offer.

“He said, ‘If you guarantee me you’ll

teach a full load in business and economics, I’ll let you coach football,’” Weller shared.

“Bingo!” Weller said with a laugh.

Weller served as an assistant coach, famously including the years future Central football coaching icon **Ron Schipper** played quarterback for Hope.

But Weller discovered an even greater zest for the life of the mind, turning down the head football coaching position to remain a full-time faculty member. He was content in that role when Central trustee **Paul Farver** traveled to Holland, Michigan, to meet with Weller in 1969.

“He suggested what was to me a very foreign idea,” Weller said. But soon he and Shirely were packing a moving truck bound for Iowa to begin his presidency.

“In almost every one of these situations, becoming a faculty member and becoming a president, I felt somewhat inadequate,” Weller said. “I did not have a grand and glorious plan for what I wanted the college to do. In my inaugural speech, I just said I’m here to help these students become what they wanted to become.”



Former Central presidents **David Roe** (left) and President Emeritus **Ken Weller** (center) join current President **Mark Putnam** at the 2013 NCAA Division III softball championships in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.



1969

Trustee Emeritus **Harold Kolenbrander '60** of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, is familiar with the minefields that new college presidents must gingerly navigate.

A former chemistry professor who returned to Central to join Weller's staff in 1975, he eventually served as the college's provost, then was a widely admired president at what is now the University of Mount Union (Ohio). He said that 1969 was a treacherous time to launch a presidency.

"There were a goodly number of first-year presidents who started at that time who had one-year presidencies," he says.

Miller, now living in Louisville, Kentucky, said the times were uncertain and so was Weller's initial reception.

"I would say that Dr. Weller was thought of as being a promising president but the faculty didn't embrace him until somewhat later," he says. "That's pretty common. He came from a business background and that was of some concern to the faculty, so he had to prove himself, but he did pretty soon."



A CONSENSUS BUILDER

Always, the first step for Weller was hearing what others had to say.

"I really felt his calling was to nurture the next generation," Brandl says. "No one felt like he was going to come in and just shake up and change everything. It was, 'No, I'm going to listen, I'm going to ponder it and I'm going to try to guide and enrich the lives around me.' And that's exactly what he did."

Decisions were never impulsive.

"He was a huge consensus builder," says Rev. Steve Mathonnet-Vander Well, a pastor at Pella's Second Reformed Church where the Wellers worshiped. "He didn't lead by standing on a soapbox and saying, 'This is right.' It was, 'How can I find a way that most people are going to say this is a good decision?' And consensus builds trust. You didn't ever sort of wonder, where did that come from? It was always an idea that had been talked about to many people."

While the process was deliberate, he didn't dodge delicate issues. Board Chair Emeritus **Lanny Little '74** of Bonita Springs, Florida, was a student trustee at Central and later served on the board. He recalls Weller inviting Little and fellow student trustee **Ted Grubb '74** to his house to address a concern.

"It was a matter of trying to learn perspectives the students had through our eyes and our comments and then to open our eyes and our ears to perhaps a broader range of responses than what we maybe presumed would be there," Little says. "And

that was so much his leadership style. He just approached the issue and dealt with that in a very matter of fact and wise fashion, no matter how contentious the issue might be. That was always something that I appreciated about Ken."

Weller quickly dialed down the temperature if discussions threatened to get heated but conversations with him almost never did.

"Ken would get frustrated, to be sure, but I think he probably handled it by going to play racquetball and wind surfing," Kolenbrander says. "I had 11 wonderful years with Ken and I don't remember once him losing it. I started scouring my brain and I can't come up with an instance."

Ardie Pals Sutphen '64, of Pella, Iowa, served as Weller's administrative assistant for the final five years of his presidency. She can't even recall an angry phone call or letter that he received.

Students and faculty soon developed an unspoken trust in their president.

"When he put forth his ideas and then his decisions, you had a very, very high confidence that it was the right thing to do," says Trustee Emeritus **Ken Braskamp '65** of Los Angeles, California.

That trust was earned.

"Pure honesty," says retired Vice President for Development **Gary Timmer '55** of Pella. "He never faked anything."



"IT FELT SPECIAL"

What won over skeptical faculty members and students went beyond listening. Weller had a way of leaving visitors feeling like he saw the world through their eyes.

"I felt my success as a president, whatever it may have been, was largely determined by the fact that I felt like a faculty member who took on some additional administrative duties," Weller said. "I never thought of myself as an administrator."

Miller recalls leading a book discussion group at church. Weller was an eager and engaged student.

"I really appreciated that a lot, that he was interested in what I was interested in," Miller says. "He did things with faculty. He and I played racquetball at the gym once a week for years and years. He had faculty over to his home. Even in the very first years he would invite small groups to his house."

Eric Van Kley, director of athletics and head wrestling coach, smiles about the impression a visit with Weller created.

"He always left me feeling like wrestling was his favorite sport," he says. "But if you talk to **Jeff McMartin '90** or **George Wares '76**, they'd tell you, 'Oh, no, football was really his favorite sport' or 'softball was his real favorite.' He made you feel like you were one of the most important people in his life."

Conversations with any visitor were as comfortable as old jeans. A job title or social standing were insignificant.

"He came from a family background where they were very concerned about the individual no matter what their status, whether they were a laborer or an executive," Braskamp says. "They were all the same to him. And so he had a great passion for making sure everybody felt good about who they were."

That style resonated with Trustee Emeritus **Mike Orr '69** of Monona, Wisconsin.

"He was always interested in me as a person, not as a faculty member or a board member, but truly interested in me," he says.

The first campus job for Little as a first-year student from Phoenix, Arizona, was to help take care of the president's house. It morphed into a regular social engagement as well.

"Any time I was there to work, if Ken was there, there was always time to sit down at the end and just get to know each other," Little says.

And he was visible. Most students in the '70s and '80s have memories of seeing Weller visiting with a student in front of Central Hall, climbing the steps of the wooden campus bridge, carrying his lunch tray to one of the round tables in Graham Dining Hall or riding his motorcycle to a softball game, necktie flapping in the breeze.

He could find time to roam campus because his workday routinely started at 4:30 a.m.

"No one ever worked harder as president," Timmer says. "I don't think they could have. No one else got up that early."

Former trustee **Emmit George '72** of Lisle, Illinois, was a basketball player at Central. He also served as student senate president as a junior and grew increasingly involved with the campus organization for African American students. The ensuing time-commitment crunch caused him to give up basketball his senior year. That meant surrendering the small scholarship he received in the days prior to NCAA Division III competition. Weller made it possible for him to retain his scholarship to complete his education.

George never forgot that. But even more he recalls being invited to Weller's home, getting to know his family and playing racquetball with him once a month — and always losing.

"I didn't realize the significance of the access that I had as a student with the college president until later," he says. "I certainly appreciated it. His door was always open."

That mirrored the experience of former softball catcher **Laura Bach Olson '93** of Mapleton, Minnesota.

"You knew you were important to him," she says. "I don't know how many people would think that if they were having a rough time or they needed something that you could walk into the president of the university's office and talk with them. We went to his house right away when we were freshmen and he knew who I was. It felt special."

It was a trait that was never diminished by age — the way his aching knees and hearing were. That touched Mathonnet-Vander Well, who says pastoral visits to senior care centers can be sobering as residents deal with quality-of-life issues.

"But when you left the Wellers you were always built up, stronger, more committed, felt affirmed and encouraged," he says. "Not that everything they said to you was just, 'It's wonderful,' but they gave you wisdom. They gave you honesty. They gave you energy."

OUR INHERITANCE AND LEGACY

The Central College presidency is an inheritance and each of us in turn works for our successors.

The task set before us is to steward the fullness of the resources, creative energies and ambitions of the campus community to advance our mission, uphold our values, honor our history, embrace our traditions and pursue fresh innovations. We know and understand each other's work set in the context of time given to us and the circumstances surrounding us. It is among the highest privileges each of us has enjoyed in our professional lives and profoundly meaningful as a personal journey. We see each other's work through a unique lens of understanding only granted to those who have carried the responsibility.

Together we celebrate the life and legacy of our dear friend and colleague, **Ken Weller**.

Ken's leadership of the college was marked by many enduring achievements that were informed by his predecessors and passed on to those of us who followed.

Notable among his many contributions is the broad institutional and national impact he had on the development of NCAA Division III philosophy, the original articulation of the "student-athlete" concept and the advancement of women's intercollegiate athletics.

Above all, he was faithful to the essence of the college and yet challenged our academic community to evolve with changing times. His patient and effective service over a 20-year period yielded fundamental organizational strength that continues to serve as a sturdy foundation.

Through his time, Ken navigated the college through years in which our national discourse was strained by political unrest, international conflict and economic pressure, which invariably impact the academy. Yet he modeled for us the calling we each have as educators to generate light and not heat.

Ken has been a dear friend to each of us. By quietly giving and receiving counsel through the years, he was an active member of our community of Central College presidents. We feel this loss immensely, but we know that his hand in our shared work will always be present with us.

Well done, friend.

Don Lubbers
David Roe
Mark Putnam



The infamous Weller peanut butter knife at Pella's Second Reformed Church is continued evidence of **Ken Weller's** caring commitment and fix-it leadership style.



DEEDS OVER CREEDS

Shortly after Mathonnet-Vander Well and his wife, Sophie, arrived as co-pastors in Pella, they had their first encounter with the Wellers.

"This young mothers' group is meeting and we're looking around and who's in the nursery taking care of the young mothers' kids but Ken and Shirely Weller," he says. "It's just not where you expect to stumble upon a college president. I mean, you expect a phone call that, 'I'd like to meet with you, can you be at my place.' Instead, where should Ken and Shirely be but holding slobbery babies in the nursery. And he was so very comfortable with it. In fact, he enjoyed tangible expressions of faith and commitment."

The Wellers were also an integral part of a church crew that prepared free lunches for children during the summer. Of course,

being the leader he was, Weller found ways to tweak the process.

"We still have the Weller peanut butter knife (in the church kitchen) because he was the peanut butter guy," Mathonnet-Vander Well says. "He thought the knives we had were not very efficient, so he went out and got a special knife to smear the peanut butter on."

As much as serving, Weller relished getting to draw closer to the other volunteers.

"Deeds over creeds was one of his favorite lines," Mathonnet-Vander Well says. "What builds community? Giving out lunches to children, that builds community rather than sitting here debating about Jesus' miracles."



TEAMMATES

Weller's partnership with his wife Shirely was essential to his presidency. Raised during hard times in the Depression, Shirely is plain-spoken and honest. She has an

ability to cut to the heart of an issue in an endearing manner.

"They were a great team," Miller says. "And the faculty loved Shirely. They had a very high regard for her."

With each promotion and honor Weller received, she ensured he retained his trademark humility.

"If that education balloon or athletics balloon flew off too high, it was Shirely who brought it back down," Brandl says. "She grounded him so much."



ADVENTURERS

Weller immersed himself in Central's international studies programs as deeply as the students, and glowed when hearing of the life-changing learning experiences they produced. He visited each of Central's study abroad sites and helped forge especially strong connections between Central and Trinity University in Carmarthen, Wales. He

had a special fondness for the Yucatán.

Lisa Rock '87 interacted with him at both sites, first as a student in Wales and later in Mexico after moving to Mérida with the late Associate Professor Emeritus of Psychology **Jim Schulze**.

"All of these cherished and meaningful experiences connect back to Ken, who gave his support to the other major forces involved in building Central's relationship with Yucatán, people like (former academic dean) **Jim Graham**, (faculty members) **Harriet Heusinkveld '39**, **Don Huffman**, **Larry Mills** and so many more," Rock says.

Travel with Weller didn't involve shopping excursions and snapshots of the ocean. Sailing, windsurfing and scuba diving topped his agenda, along with wandering far from the standard tourist destinations to explore local villages. Even more pleasurable for he and Shirely was the 2,500-mile drive they twice made to Mérida in their Ford Explorer.

He was regarded as fondly by the program staff members and others he encountered in Mérida as he was at Central.

"The Wellers and Jim Graham and so on, the Yucatecans considered them part of the family," Rock says. "They really valued that connection and I think it's because of how Ken was just so humble and human in his interactions. And that makes all the difference."



THE FATHER OF DIVISION III

Weller's outsized role in the development of the NCAA Division III and the integration of women's athletics within the organization are well-chronicled.

Dan Dutcher was with the NCAA for nearly 35 years and eventually served as vice president of Division III. Weller's kindness made an immediate impression.

"When he first met me, I was a young staff person," Dutcher says. "He didn't need to treat me special, but he was somebody that respected others."

In his early years, the more Dutcher learned about Division III, the more he saw Weller's name.

"What are its roots, legislatively, but, at least as important if not more, philosophically?" he asks. "All the roads went right to Ken. I call him the founding father of Division III."

Dutcher says Weller was influential within Division III but adds "his fingerprints are all over" the creation of the NCAA's overall structure as well.

Weller believed to his core that athletes who were diligent students became better athletes, and that students who were committed to developing as athletes became better students. He sought every opportunity to celebrate that.

When the Dutch were in Illinois for the 1988 softball championship, the team's seniors had to miss Commencement ceremonies on campus. Weller arrived at the team's hotel, in full academic regalia, to award the diplomas. He called it "bringing the mountain to Mohammed." He didn't want them to miss that experience and also relished the vivid illustration of combined athletics and academics achievement that the improvised ceremony represented.

Weller's enthusiasm for cocurricular activities extended beyond the gym floor. He sang in the College-Community Chorus and church choir while encouraging students to participate in music, theatre and art activities as well.

"I do not want my legacy to be as a jock president," he said. "I wanted to be an educator. To the extent that athletics can contribute to that, fine. But I want to be seen as the students' friend, not the athletes' friend."



THE CENTRAL MAGIC

Weller was convinced there was no place that does college the way Central does.

"I think there's no doubt he really was in love with Central and the people associated with it," Orr says.

Beyond its academic and cocurricular strengths, he sensed there was a certain kind of magic in the rural Iowa campus with the pond.

"I think what he meant by that is that Central had a sense of community that is pretty rare," Miller says. "And he talked about community all the time. It was one of his themes. And by that he meant that we care for one another and work together. He had this whole spiel in speech after speech about how there was a division of labor in the college but that we were all working for the same goal. He did that more than any other faculty person or administrator that I know. And I think that repetition of the importance of community and caring for one another really did make a difference."

It all served a single purpose, the learning process, which fascinated him. All other college activities were secondary to that mystical mind-bending moment shared by

student and professor when the student first comprehends a concept. He would marvel over it every spring when he spoke at Commencement.

As the new graduates fidgeted in their robes, Weller would remind the audience that every job on campus, from admission counselor to academic dean to dining services director, existed for that classroom interaction. Weller's hand would brush his face and he'd put a finger to his lips while pausing, as if pondering the thought for the first time. Then his finger gently pierced the still air of the steamy gymnasium as he proclaimed in a soft voice: "And that's what it's all about."



WE MADE IT THROUGH, ALL RIGHT

Still wearing a tie but sitting comfortably in his overstuffed chair at his downtown retirement residence above the Pella Molengracht, Weller's mind drifted back once again to that troubled first year as Central's president.

More than war protests were swirling as Weller prepared for a year-end trustees meeting. Under Weller's predecessor, **Don Lubbers**, bold changes were implemented as the college opened its doors to constituencies beyond the Reformed Church. Some moves were met with controversy and rigid resistance. Even the new campus pond was mocked as "Lubbers' Lagoon." Tensions remained on a divided board of trustees and conflicts simmered. The meeting would require more delicate footwork than Weller ever displayed as a football lineman back at Hope.

"I had to go to that meeting, and it was very stressful in terms of how to handle other people," Weller said.

Mercifully, the meeting ended. Weller wearily returned to Central Hall and slumped into his office chair.

"Finally, I called Shirely and I said, 'Well, it's over,'" Weller said.

Her response was immediate.

"Well, I didn't like the job much anyway," she said.

Weller chuckled loudly, both at the memory of her mistaken assumption and because of his love for Shirely and her direct manner that had kept him on track so often in their 71 years together.

Weller smiled.

"We made it through all right." ■



CENTRAL SCENE

PHOTO BY: DAN VANDER BEEK

The family of **Shandon Kahekakaiauola Akeo '22** (front center) of Honolulu, Hawaii, lei'd it on thick after Central College's Commencement ceremony Saturday, May 14. In Hawaii, leis traditionally are presented after graduations to express support, care and admiration for graduates. Central also is proud of its graduates! Best wishes and see you all lei-ter.

Pictured front (left to right): **Eric Santana '22**, **Shandon Kahekakaiauola Akeo '22** and **Chase Poston '22**.
Middle (left to right): **Dawson Husted '24**, **Carlos Posas '22**, **Matt Masatani '22**, **Cooper Stigsell '22**,
Rob Areyano '22 and **Jordan Bendorf '23**. Back: **Winton Neal '22**.



THE POWER OF THE OFF-CAMPUS

Experience

STORY BY: JEANETTE BUDDING



“Life changing.” “Nothing like I expected.” “So beautiful.” “So different from anything I’ve ever seen.”

These are common responses by Central College students who return from an off-campus experience — adventures that change perspectives and open doors and minds for a lifetime.

That door to new experiences closed abruptly in March 2020.

After a hiatus for the COVID-19 pandemic, it’s time for Central students to re-engage with the world again, says **Mary E.M. Strey**, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty.

In Summer 2022, students and faculty began traveling again through Central.

“A faculty priority has been and continues to be preparing Central students to be global citizens, equipped to compete in the global job market,” Strey says. “International education for Central students will continue to be academically focused.”

A NEW MODEL FOR CENTRAL

While the world paused for the pandemic, Central administrators and faculty took advantage of the time and assessed the path forward for off-campus experiences, including the larger academic umbrella of faculty-led opportunities and partner-led programs.

Faculty made it clear that education — no matter if in Pella or Paris — must uphold academic integrity, challenging curriculum and opportunities to engage in a meaningful way with the communities where students live while studying off-campus.

Enter a new model: one that offers both domestic and international experiences that provide opportunities for study, service, internships and other types of experiential learning in cost-effective ways. Add a mix of faculty-led programs, extracurricular activities and partner program opportunities for a high level of global learning and cultural competency.

After researching several international academic program providers, Central developed a partnership with ISEP Study Abroad. ISEP coordinates international education programs with more than 350 colleges and universities in 60 countries. Central is piloting four locations for Summer 2022 and 10 locations in Fall 2022.

ISEP also happens to be led by a Central graduate: **John Lucas ’92**.

“ISEP checks all the boxes on our academic, financial, operational and organizational safety expectations,” Strey adds.



The streets of Granada looking toward the Alhambra, in Granada, Andalusia, Spain.

Another priority has been to make sure that students have opportunities to explore in the language that they are studying — Spanish, French or German. And if they’re not majoring in languages, students gain an opportunity to learn the language of the country where they’re studying. Students who are studying in Ghana, for example, will have the opportunity to learn Akan (Twi).

“International education is taking a richer, deeper, immersive experience to Central students,” says Lucas, CEO of ISEP. As a Central graduate, Lucas has a personal commitment to ensuring success for Central students.

The previous Central model used a center-based international education program. Students lived in housing with Central staff and/or faculty, depending on the program. Academic courses were taught by Central faculty in some locations, or by the local university academics in the city of the program. Lucas explains that this

center-based model had advantages and disadvantages. Central has switched to the direct enrollment model for the immersion benefits to the student’s education as well as the college’s cost and logistics.

WHAT IS ISEP STUDY ABROAD?

ISEP uses a direct enrollment model to provide credit-bearing experiences, student support at host institutions, housing and in most cases, excursions and cultural experiences. Students directly enroll in the local university.

“One of the great benefits for using ISEP is that students directly enroll in the university and attend courses with domestic students within that country as well as other international students. It is full immersion,” Strey explains.

“It’s a truly authentic experience. We value community and relationship. Being in a class with students from all over the world builds community and relationships,” Strey says. “This type of immersion builds a



Guiding students through off-campus experiences are **Phoebe Nishimoto**, manager of international program logistics, and **Jess Klyn de Novelo '05**, associate dean for career development and civic engagement.

student's understanding of the culture and new perspectives that may be different than their own."

Lucas agrees.

"Things that we value in American education are student support and connections. Central does that really well," Lucas says. "Now colleges and universities abroad have that support intrinsically on campus for our Central students who attend those institutions."

For example, "ISEP coordinators are in place on every one of our sites, and they do similar work as a campus resident assistant. They're all members of the local university's faculty or staff. They have a covenant with our organization for support services,"

Lucas says.

In addition to offering a broad range of choices, the ISEP model is cost effective.

"The deeply immersive model is more affordable and sustainable. I love working in this model at ISEP. It allows us to offer more opportunities in more universities abroad," Lucas says.

Changes in the world place higher demands on college graduates. Employers place greater value on prospective employees who have competencies in critical thinking, communication, equity and inclusion, leadership and teamwork.

"I'm really excited to see that we have

opportunities for students to go to more parts of the world and I'm impressed with the diversity of programs. We have semester programs through ISEP that are brand new to students. We are now offering opportunities in Ghana and Chile, places where the college has not had relationships before," says **Jess Klyn de Novelo '05**, associate dean for career development and civic engagement.

Klyn de Novelo leads the career development and civic engagement team at Central, which is responsible for leading many of the high-impact practices at Central, including international education, internships, service learning and career and professional development for students.

"With the current focus on diversity, equity and inclusion, we're seeing both a strong interest in international education from our students as well as from the organizations that will be hiring them. There is really a need for students to learn how to collaborate with people that are different from them," Klyn de Novelo says.

Under the partnership with ISEP, "the range, variety and number of locations for academic study has just exploded, so that every student can find something that meets their budget, comfort level and their academic needs. It's exciting," Lucas says.

PREPARING CITIZENS OF THE WORLD

Central's off-campus programming started primarily as an opportunity for language and cultural immersion. With support from ISEP, Central now offers experiences to most majors and prepares them to be citizens of the world.

"If you remember back 30 years ago, the language majors ruled the study abroad world. And now all majors have options. If you're an art, education or business major — whatever you want to study — you can find it abroad at a university that has the whole range of courses," Lucas says.

"Through ISEP, students have courses available that Central doesn't offer. It may complement their experience and give them an opportunity to study a topic that they never thought possible. Students with most any major will find value going abroad now by partnering with local universities. Plus, there are more courses available in English," Lucas adds.

Phoebe Nishimoto, manager of international program logistics at Central, is helping students navigate the new international education process.

"I meet with every student who applies to study internationally. I work in partnership with the student's academic advisor to determine the best programs for the individual student's interests and graduation



Amy Young, associate professor of German, and **Mark Thomas**, professor of philosophy, led Central students to Germany and Poland in 2018. It was a Memory and the Holocaust program. From left **Nicole Lyons '21**, **Ronica Drury '18**, **Mark Thomas**, **Kathleen Wierzchowski '21**, **Efrain Garcia '20**, **Kennedie Stroda '19**, **Kendra Schwery '18**, **Kyra Chavez '19**, **Elizabeth Morey '20**, **Cheyanna Jennings '20**, **Alexis Oldham '18**, **Lila Sebetka '21** and **Amy Young**. Seated in front is Holocaust survivor **Lidia Maksymowicz**.

criteria. Then I coordinate with the ISEP team to identify the best locations for that student's academic goals. It's a partnership with the student, advisor and ISEP," she says.

Nishimoto's role includes helping with pre-departure paperwork and re-integration after a semester abroad. With her guidance, students will know which courses they are enrolled in before they pay tuition fees and travel. And they will know how those courses fit into their Central graduation plan.

"We're excited to roll out this partnership for our students," Nishimoto says. "I appreciate what the administration has done and is doing to make international education accessible and to keep it accessible."

BRINGING TEXTBOOKS TO LIFE

Central's faculty-led programs take students to interesting and educational places throughout the U.S. and abroad. In 2022, this programming has resumed again, providing students with intercultural experiences through coursework in business, foreign languages, sciences and other disciplines — while also traveling to key destinations and learning around the world with Central faculty.

"We know from research that when you provide students an opportunity to engage in

learning outside of the classroom, and then you provide them an opportunity to reflect on that experience, that's really where the magic happens. They take the theories, topics, whatever it may be, that they're learning through classes here, and then apply that with faculty alongside their learning," Klyn de Novelo says.

For decades, Central's faculty-led courses and programs have ordered this ideal learning environment.

"Off-campus study, whether in the United States or internationally, allows students to get out of their comfort zone. Students demonstrate a willingness to engage with diverse cultures and diverse individuals from all over the world. Those are hallmarks of a liberal arts education. That's what Central values for our students," says **Linda Laine**, faculty fellow for interdisciplinary and faculty-led programs.

"We are invigorating and expanding our faculty-led off-campus experiences," says Laine, who also is professor of communication studies and interim associate academic dean. "In one type of faculty-led off-campus experience, travel is a component embedded in a course offered on campus. The other type is a standalone experience."

THE CENTRAL ADVANTAGE

Maggie Fisher Schlerman '02 is making plans for a summer 2023 Mérida experience. Previous programs had a huge impact on these students:

Luz Maria Perez Flores '18, a Spanish and business management major, participated in the four-week summer experience in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico. She completed two courses: accounting for social and environmental responsibility and government/non-profit accounting taught by Schlerman.

These courses helped Flores realize her passion. It was here she saw the need for financial literacy education.

"Someday, I'd like to start a nonprofit to serve the community. There is such a need for financial literacy. The experiences I had in Mérida with the local government and talking with business owners really focused my passion," she says.



Central's faculty-led programs include excursions to cultural and historical sites. **Laurynn Mize '21** enrolled in the the accounting course with **Maggie Fisher Schlerman '02** in Mérida.

Laurynn Mize '21, who majored in business management and accounting and minored in Spanish, says her off-campus experiences played a role in securing an internship and employment after graduation.

Mize also participated in a faculty-led summer program to Mérida.

"Employers see your resume and realize you've clearly done something out of your comfort zone. Having the language experience that you gained from studying in another country makes it more credible," she says.



While in Mexico with Óscar Reynaga's Spanish course, students visit Sian Kaan Biosphere Reserve in Tulum, in the Mexican state of Quintana Roo. Students on this excursion were (from left) Mia Condon '22, Aanna Roslien '20, Óscar Reynaga, Cheyanne Scholl '20 and Ansley Boyd '22.

In the standalone experience, off-campus experiences are not directly connected to an on-campus course. **Maggie Fisher Schlerman '02**, associate professor of accounting, teaches two accounting courses in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, as a standalone summer term option.

"I teach two classes for a total of six credit-hours. The classes we ran last time were Accounting for Social and Environmental Responsibility, and Government and Nonprofit Accounting," Schlerman says.

"Yucatán connects well to the courses because when we study social environmental responsibility, we talk about treating people and the planet sustainably," she adds. "And, we assume responsible entrepreneurs also earn a profit, since they continue in business. We can observe that in practice in Yucatán. There is a thriving informal economy there, which is a cash-transaction driven system.

We have some great businesses that we've observed in action. Students participate in the market and take that understanding back to the classroom.

"Yucatán also provides a wonderful contrasting context for the government accounting course. We discuss the services that a government says it provides its constituents and how that is reported back to citizens," Schlerman says.

Mérida has public stadiums, which are workout facilities that anybody can use. It's free to use because they are funded by the government. Students use these experiences to compare and contrast how governments provide services for citizens at home and abroad.

Many out-of-classroom experiences also are just plain fun. Students will escape the afternoon heat by swimming in an underground cave, called a cenote. On Sundays, on Paseo de Montejo, the government shuts

down the main road for an event called Biciruta. Everybody grabs rollerblades, bikes, skateboards and strollers and then rolls up and down the boulevard for hours.

Óscar Reynaga, senior lecturer of Spanish, is planning an add-on Spanish course, Language and Culture in Yucatán, for one credit. It will complement a three-credit on-campus course. Students and Reynaga will leave in early January 2023 for a two-week immersion course into Spanish language and culture.

"I really enjoy leading the students as they experience this culture, seeing it through their eyes. It's a distinct experience from what we can create in an immersive experience in the classroom. There's nothing that can compare to being in a Spanish-speaking country where the students are immersed 24/7 in the language. Even if it's a short stay, it really provides a richness of opportunity," Reynaga says.

"Because I've taught this course several times, I've now opened it up to all levels of Spanish students. I redesigned the course more for beginning intermediate and for advanced students that are considering Spanish as a minor or major. Students in the program put their language skills to use and I design activities based on their skill level and every conversation activity. In late fall, I'll work with students on pre-departure information, readings and vocabulary review," he says.

"We also work with different language assistants while in Mérida in fields like journalism, communication and archeology. Maite Lozano, an archeologist, gives historical context to the sites that we visit. There are archaeological areas of the Mayan civilization that we have a chance to visit. It's not the goal to be a generic touristy activity. Students gain a sense of perspective of the richness of the history and culture of this area," Reynaga says. "We also work to demystify misconceptions of Mexico. Mérida is a wonderful Mexican city. We give students real-life perspective with families and friends, work and play."

"Faculty-led courses really lend themselves well to nudging students who might be a little unsure or frightened to take that step to a full semester in another country," Reynaga says. "It opens the door to other experiences."

Central continues to create more interdisciplinary faculty-led programs. The potential is great for any major to participate in a two- to three-week faculty-led course.

"We strongly encourage students to participate in these courses," Schlerman



The Chicago Semester welcomed seven Central students in fall of 2021. From left **Jonathan Bossou '23**, **Sarah Lindeman '23**, **Ashley Lupkes '23**, **Gloria Montiel '23**, **Madison Farrington '23**, **Elizabeth Hurlbut '23** and **Leti (Letica) Francisco Pascual '23**.

says. “I like to say that you never regret the things that you did but you always regret the things that you had the opportunity to do and didn’t do. Study abroad is a perfect example of that.”

OFF-CAMPUS IN THE U.S.A.

Central continues to offer students a semester in Chicago or Washington, D.C., for internship-focused programs. These options returned in Fall 2021.

Central was one of the founding members of the Chicago Semester program. Central partners with Chicago Semester and The Washington Center to increase career-related opportunities to qualified juniors and seniors of any major. The semester-long classwork and internship, or student teaching in Chicago, equips students for integrated personal, professional and public lives through internships, academic seminars and access to networking in the third-largest city in America.

Sara Lindeman '23 of Grundy Center, Iowa, is a communication studies major

with a Spanish minor. She had wanted to participate in the Mérida semester, but COVID-19 changed her plans. She did the next best thing and chose the Chicago Semester program in Fall 2021.

“The whole Chicago semester opened my eyes. It helped me see new opportunities,” Lindeman says. “It seemed really scary at the beginning. I remember driving there with my parents. I couldn’t believe they were just dropping me off and leaving. Once you get the lay of the land, it’s awesome. You don’t want to leave at the end.”

“It exceeded all expectations! I worked at the Magnificent Mile Association, which supports and promotes the businesses along Michigan Avenue. It’s a nonprofit located on Michigan Avenue — that was super cool. I was a part of the Magnificent Mile Lights Festival parade. It’s like the third largest parade in the U.S. after the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade and the Rose Bowl.”

The Chicago program is set up like a regular work week. Students work at their internship four days. On Wednesdays, they take classes. Lindeman had three classes on

Wednesdays. One course was Arts in the City, which took students to different events in Chicago. She also took a professional seminar and a course on diversity and inclusion.

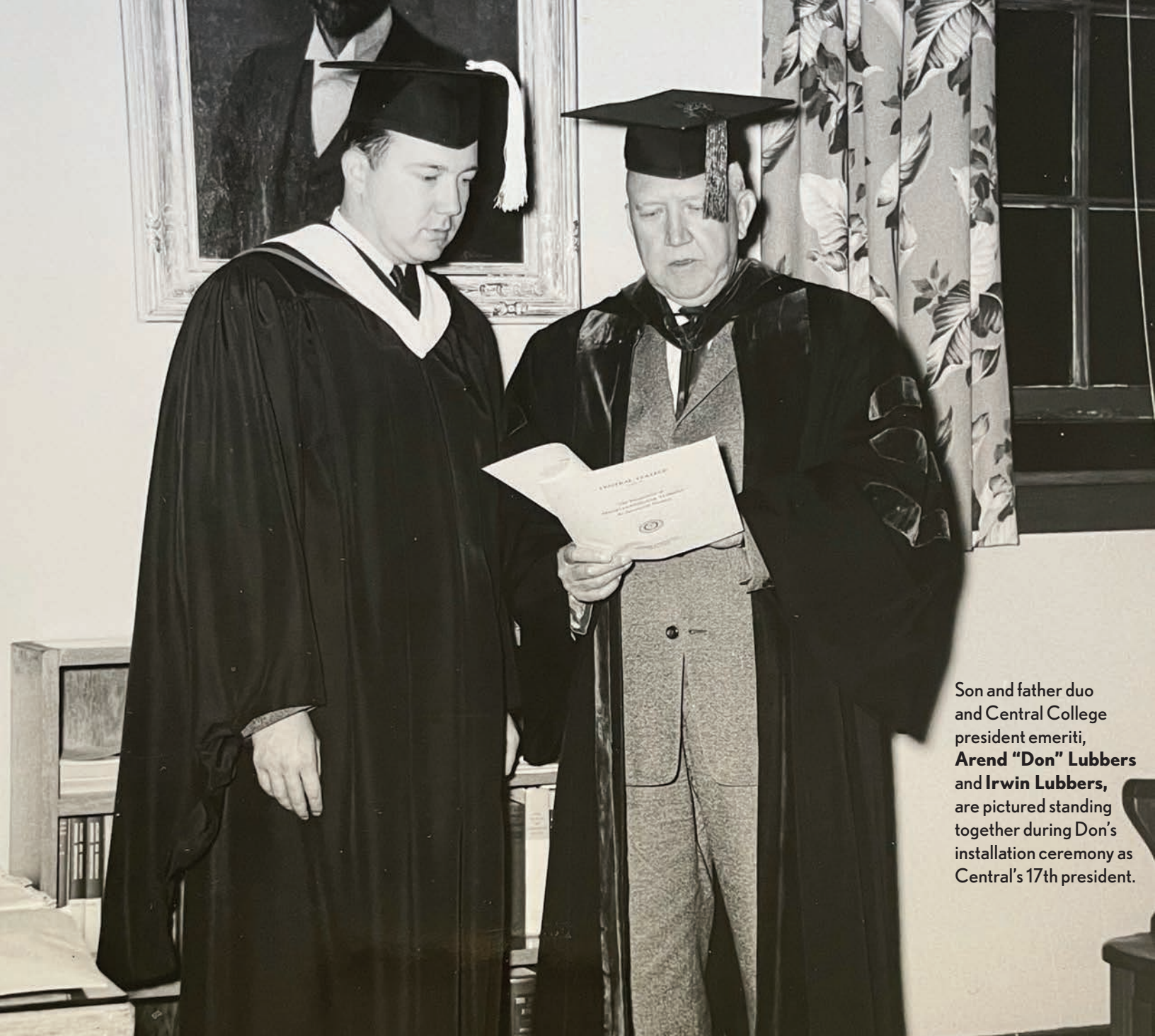
“The diversity class took trips to different neighborhoods throughout Chicago. It was really interesting to see the different neighborhoods and how they differ so much based on each culture,” Lindeman says.

“Chicago Semester helped me understand distinct aspects of the communications major. I didn’t think event planning was something I was really interested in, but I really enjoyed it. The association where I worked had a small staff, so I was able to do a little bit of everything. I was in marketing communications and event planning. It opened my eyes to different professional options,” Lindeman says.

Moving forward, Central will continue to offer wonderful experiences for students to engage with experiential learning opportunities. No matter if it’s across Pella, across Iowa, the United States or the globe, Central is making students engaged citizens of the world. ■

WHERE OPEN MINDS GET THEIR START

Additional information about Central’s off-campus experiences is available at central.edu/study-abroad.



Son and father duo and Central College president emeriti, **Arend "Don" Lubbers** and **Irwin Lubbers**, are pictured standing together during Don's installation ceremony as Central's 17th president.

LOOKING BACKWARD, GOING FARTHER

Arend "Don" Lubbers, former president of Central College, discusses how study abroad got its start.

STORY BY: **BRITTANY CARLSON PROKUPEK '16**



These students pictured in front of the famous Notre Dame cathedral were some of the very first to experience Central's program in Paris.

FAMILIARLY UNFAMILIAR

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed safety, travel and so many other things for all of us — likely forever.

In these unfamiliar times, Central has found itself in a familiar situation. One much like former Central College president **Don Lubbers** remembers facing in 1960: change.

A brand-new college president — not yet 30 years of age and the youngest in the country at that time — Lubbers stepped into his new role with great hopes and big plans. The son of **Irwin Lubbers**, Central's president from 1934-45, Don had the privilege of experiencing the institution behind the scenes during his youth.

He knew the history and strong foundation on which he'd build. And he was enthusiastic about growing the student population.

"There was no need to build a college. The quality of the professors and that of the college was already there," Lubbers says. "So there were great building blocks already

in place, we just needed a strategy."

In just two years under his leadership, enrollment doubled from approximately 300 students to about 600. Five years later, the student body reached a bustling 1,200.

This boom didn't happen out of the blue or overnight, of course. It was planned — and at its very core sat foreign languages and study abroad — and it helped the college go farther and to places all around the globe.

THE BUILDING BLOCKS

International and off-campus, domestic programming has long been a large part of Central's identity.

When Don Lubbers became the college's leader, faculty-led trips already were happening organically and served as the college's introduction to international programming. This led to a focus on and enhancement of foreign language programs in German, French and Spanish.

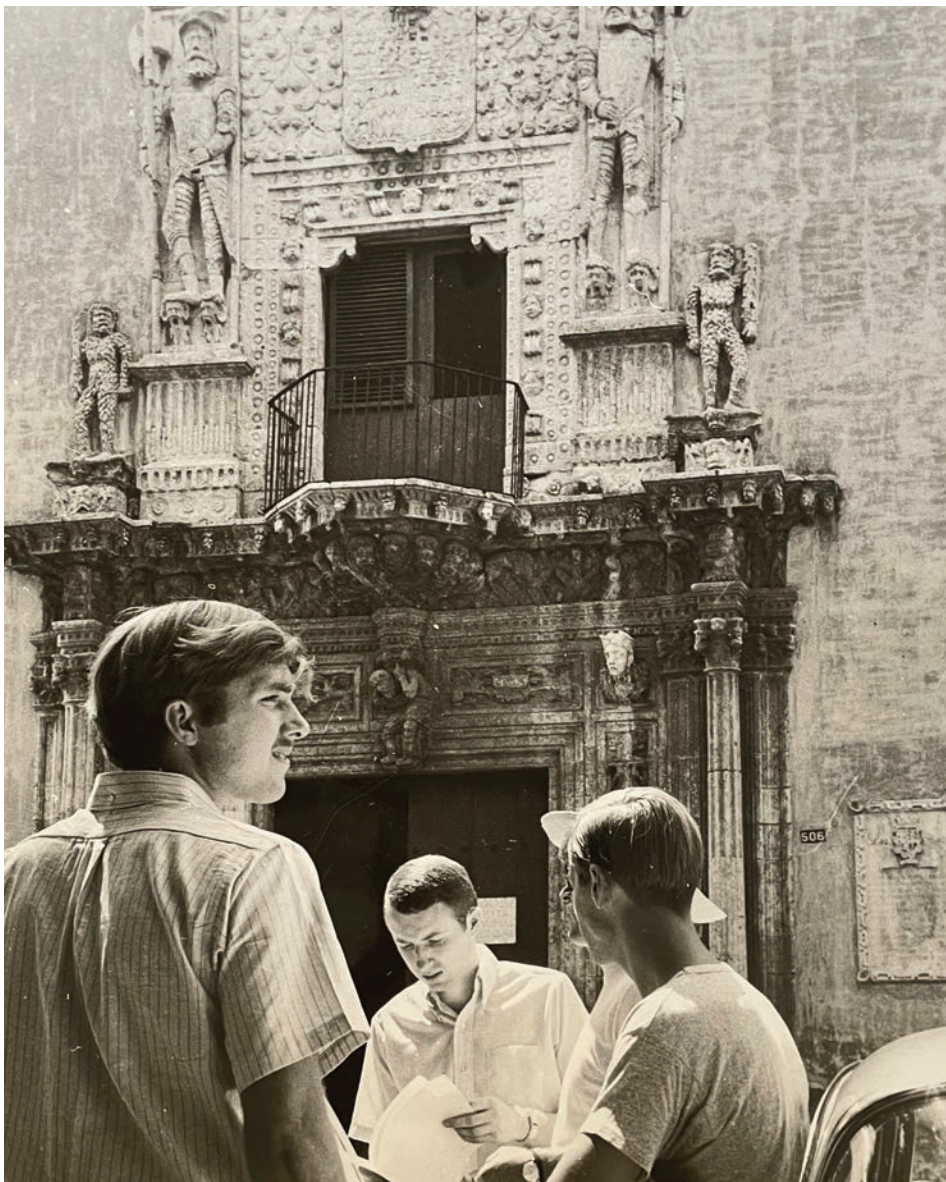
Lubbers, the administration and faculty took it one step further and brought

international students to Central to study, live in language houses and assist with foreign languages.

In a 2015 Civitas article, Lubbers said: "When we looked across the state of Iowa, no one was doing much in language training. **Bill Wing**, a professor of French my father hired, always wanted to have language houses. We had a French house and a Spanish house and a German house over the years."

The language program propelled Central to establish a study abroad program, Lubbers says, and not long after, a student body four times that of the population Lubbers started with followed.

It all (officially) began with France in 1965 when Central's first study abroad program was established with the Sorbonne University in Paris. Next in line was the German program built in Vienna, Austria. Then came programs in Spain and Mérida. The Yucatán program in Mexico was established in 1968, although the college and its professors were involved in Mérida earlier.



As with any off-campus experience, sight-seeing is a must. These students studied abroad through the Mérida, Yucatán, program.



Arlen Johnson studied abroad in Vienna, Austria, through Central's program in the 1970s, later working for Central and leading students in that same program.

Over time, Central grew to lead director-led programs at eight different international sites.

"We started the first major exchange program with the Sorbonne in Paris," Lubbers says. "We made that one of the major initiatives, and my goodness, that took off. We got students from other colleges to go on our summer programs, and we got students coming to Central to major in languages. It worked very well."

Arlen Johnson was one of those students.

Johnson, currently of Hanna City, Illinois, participated in Central's German program when he was a student at Bradley University in 1972, spending a semester in Germany and Austria.

"It was a fantastic experience," Johnson says, and ultimately led to a job with Central. He helped lead students participating in the German program from 1973 to 1981.

Johnson says the opportunity to study abroad and learn languages — he's studied Spanish, German and French — has opened many doors for him.

"Foreign languages are an advantage. To learn a foreign language opens so many doors for you and possibilities you would not imagine. Later in life I was in the Peace Corps in Belize and used German to speak with the Mennonites and Spanish to speak with some of the locals. Foreign language will never do anyone wrong. It has added so much spice to my life," he adds.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Lubbers didn't launch Central's study abroad program on his own.

He, and all of Central, benefited from leaders on campus and in international programming such as **Wing, Barbara Little Butler '58, Jim Graham, Charles and Marianne Haydon, George Ann Huck** and **Don and Maxine Huffman**.

At the 50th anniversary of celebration of the college's study abroad program in 2014, President **Mark Putnam** called these leaders "global giants" for their foundational work developing international experiences for Central.

Lubbers also had great support from the local and alumni communities when they began rolling out plans and programming announcements.

"It just made sense to folks," Lubbers says.

With leaders like Lubbers, Graham, Haydon, Wing and company, the Central family knew the college and its students were



Flying, especially an international flight, was uncommon and a great luxury. Pictured are members of the Vienna, Austria, program in its early days.

in good hands. These titans of international education paved the way for generations of Central students to find and challenge themselves, grow and learn about another country, culture and language.

"I don't know anyone who hasn't been permanently affected in all facets of their life if they've been abroad," Lubbers says.

Since 1965, Central has sent thousands of students to its director-led programs, including students from more than 400 different educational institutions.

As interest in study abroad grew, the market became more saturated. The '70s and '80s saw a rise in the number of colleges and universities playing a direct role in study abroad programming, according to editors William Hoffa and Stephen DePaul in the book "A History of U.S. Study Abroad: 1965-Present." By the year 2000, 65% of American campuses had study abroad programs. By 2006, the number had jumped to 91%.

THE TORCH BURNS ON

Fast forward to 2022, and Central's international education program continues to evolve to meet the needs of current students. In June, after more than a two-year break due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students and faculty began traveling internationally again. Instead of a

director-led model, the college now partners with ISEP Study Abroad, using a direct enrollment international education model. (See story on Page 26.)

This new model builds on the work of Lubbers, those who came before him, those who worked alongside him and those who have carried the torch since he left Central.

The college looks forward to many more years of off-campus study and life-changing experiences for its students in this new chapter.

"I was excited to hear that international study would be returning after a hiatus due to the pandemic," Lubbers says. "It's important to students and it's important to Central. It's my hope that the institution will continue to be a leader as new life opens up to all of us in our society and throughout the world."

PRESIDENTIAL ADVICE

Lubbers is passionate about the opportunities travel and international education can provide, especially to young people.

His advice for students unsure of completing some form of international programming?

"Give yourself the opportunity to have your mind, your intellect and your spirit grow as you come in contact with a culture and people that are different from

the environment in which you were born and raised," he says. "The act of going abroad is likely to change your life. I went abroad when I was 20, and it's probably because of that experience that I am the person I am, and why I was so committed to study abroad at the institutions I served." ■

Jill Huffman Russell '16, Central's executive assistant for the vice president for advancement, contributed to this story.

EXCLUSIVE: More Than a City in Mexico

Celebrate Central College's rich international education program with reflections from **Shannan Mattiace '90** about her experience in the Mérida program. The story is available online at civitas.central.edu/shannan-mattiace.



A Heartfelt Goodbye

Hearts swelled with pride (and a few eyes welled up with tears) as Central College seniors became Forever Dutch® when they received their diplomas and turned their tassels. Two graduates from the outstanding Class of 2022 share a piece of their Central journey.

STORY BY: HAILEY SWAN '23

Central College hosted proud families and friends Saturday, May 14, during the 2022 Commencement ceremony. Along with the announcement of each of the 216 graduates, the ceremony included a heartfelt and motivating speech delivered by Central alumnus **Dean Furness '94**. A motivational speaker and data and analytics specialist, Furness received an Honorary Doctor of Public Service honoris causa during the ceremony.

“Walking across the stage today with your diploma is something no one will ever be able to take away from you,” Furness reminded the new alumni. “You will always be able to count on everything you have earned here.”

Furness brought hope and confirmation to Central graduates, reminding them to keep moving forward as they achieve and accomplish more goals after graduation.

Two promising graduates, each of whom is excited for the future, share details about their time and success as Central students.

WORK OF HEART

Carlos Posas '22 (*left*) overcame obstacles early in life, which prepared his heart for a college experience that allowed him to pin a career path after a major reversal. He dreamed of wrestling at a college in Iowa — what he calls “the wrestling state” — since middle school, but he had a hard time imagining himself leaving his home in California.

However, two childhood open heart surgeries to repair leaky valves taught him an invaluable lesson: Wrestling could be taken away at any time. So, when Central recruited Posas to wrestle for the Dutch, his dreams of wrestling in Iowa once again got his blood pumping, and he prepared to take down the competition in the Midwest.

WRESTLING THE DREAM

Posas' love for wrestling only grew during his time at Central. The friendships forged with his teammates on the bold, red mats of Central's wrestling room have proven to be unbreakable bonds, which have served as constant reminders that choosing Central was the best choice for him.

“The best part of my wrestling experience at Central was definitely the team,” Posas says. “These guys are like my brothers.”

Support from his coaches propelled Posas into a successful wrestling career at Central — and inspired him to continue his wrestling career by investing in the next generation of wrestlers as a coach.



Carlos Posas '22 never once let fear take over during a wrestling match. This Californian wrestler dominated his duals while in the Midwest.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

As many college students experience, Posas wrestled with the many options he could choose for a major.

The unique nature of a liberal arts education allows students to explore many interest areas as they shape their futures around deep-seated dreams and newfound fascinations.

Posas started his first year at Central with a plan to pursue a career in business. The flexibility of Central's curriculum enabled Posas to find his niche in information systems, which ignited curiosity that fueled his research.

CODE OF THE NEXT GENERATION

Posas took to the tech world like a fish to water. His computer science classes at Central equipped him with fresh skills in geographic information system mapping, which is a system that creates, manages, analyzes and maps all types of data.

This skillset allowed him to integrate his research into a service-learning project in collaboration with Pi515, a company that challenges, inspires and teaches technology skills to students with potential, empowering them to achieve success, garner influence and gain stability in their families and communities, according to the Pi515 website.

Posas' work consisted of fostering computer skills in students and working on a

partnering project with Facebook. His heart for young students became apparent when he shared his experience in the classroom.

"Honestly, it's been an honor to help the youth," Posas says. "I have found that my passion is to help the youth to develop their skills and to help them become better people in the future."

Posas explored the field of technology and working with young students, an experience unique to Central's program, which also led Posas to pursue a career in IT at a school in his hometown. Post-graduation, Posas traveled back across the country to work in the IT department of the Madera Unified School District in Madera, California.

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Posas may have traded in his Central-red singlet for a Madera South-purple coach's polo, but he carries with him a heart full of passion for young students — a fondness he discovered during his time at Central. After years of takedowns on the collegiate mat and perfecting his technical skills, Posas' experiences at Central make him proud to say he will always be Forever Dutch®.

"Central was a good choice — a great choice," Posas says. "I love it here. No better experience."

Read about Carlos' early years at Central at central.edu/posas. ■



ABIGAIL LOWRY '22

HOMETOWN: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

MAJOR: Engineering

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES: A Cappella Choir, Poetry Club, Art Club, Beekeeping Club and Campus Ministries

Abigail Lowry '22 walked across the Commencement stage with more than a diploma. She graduated with accolades of being one of two females in the Class of 2022 to earn an engineering degree from Central — the first women to do so since the program's inception in 2015.

"The opportunity to be distinctive in engineering classrooms has given me a foundation of confidence and drive as I move forward toward the workforce," Lowry says.

From being a teaching assistant and mentor in the classroom to being taken under the wing of her female engineering advisor, **Liz Golovatski**, associate professor of physics, Lowry's Central journey equipped her with the tools and skills necessary for her pioneer journey as a female Central engineering graduate in the working world. After graduation, she joined the team at Vermeer in Pella as an electrical engineer.

Read about Lowry's decision to attend Central at central.edu/lowry.

NEWSNOTES



▲ The Central College Education Career Fair was attended by the following alumni, standing on the stairs left to right: **Josh Manning '03**, **Brandon Eighmy '01**, **Jil Bancroft Nelson '94**, **Cory Nikkel '12**, **Lisa Lewis Sharp '86**, **Sandy Koon Scotton '91** and **Angela Vander Velden Veenstra '97**.



▲ In December 2021, **Brett Dietrich '08**, **Stephen Fyfe '87**, **Rachelle Tipton '10** and **Eve Reinhold '11** participated in the Jingle for a Cure 5K in Newton, Iowa.

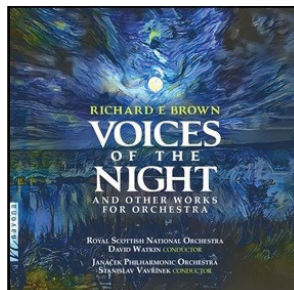
THE '50s

John Young '52 and his wife, Joy, celebrated their 25-year wedding anniversary on February 15, 2022. Married at 66 and 67 years old respectively, they live in Brookdale Shreveport, Louisiana, in an assisted living facility with a memory wing. John, now 91, still leads a 25-minute “Be-Fit” exercise program for the residents six days per week.

Joan Vander Pol Craig '56 shared memories from her time at Central and her family’s many alumni connections, including both her parents and her two siblings. She recalls studying medical technology after graduation with peers from larger schools. The medical equipment may have been far more modern than Central’s biology classrooms, but her classmates marveled how she had studied Plato and other diverse subjects.

Paul Tambrino '58 published his second and third books in December 2021: “Mariology, Past, Present, Future” and “Big Truths for Growing Minds,” a children’s short story trilogy on basic theological truths.

THE '60s



▲ **Richard Brown '69** retired from a career of teaching and writing music mostly for student musicians. His “Sonatina for Cello and Piano” will premiere next year at Carnegie Hall and his “Concerto for Clarinet and Chamber Orchestra” will premiere next year in the Czech Republic. You can visit [Rick’s website](#) to learn about several upcoming album releases and past recordings.



▲ **Chuck Kyte '70** was elected to the Iowa Football Coaches Hall of Fame. He coached football in Iowa for 34 years and six years in Arizona, going 166-91 in 28 seasons as a head coach. He and his wife Diane live in Sun City, Arizona.

THE '70s

Klaire Miller Jameson '73 retired as chaplain after 15 years working with Personal Touch Hospice. Ordained in the Reformed Church in 1978, she’s been engaged in pastoral

ministries, and hospital and hospice chaplaincies. She lives in Yorktown, Virginia, with her family including husband, Bill, son, daughter-in-law and grandson.

THE '80s

Tom Hemenway '81 and **Melinda Harris '82** got married on October 30, 2021. Tom works at OneMain Financial as a programmer. Melinda is a media aide with the Evansville Vanderburg Schools. The couple is at home in Evansville, Indiana.

James Hill '82 received a liver transplant on July 24, 2021, and returned to work in less than three months. He is now the controller for Alternative Design in Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

Todd Porter '83 started a new position as CEO/CPO at DeMeta.

Stefanie Vruwink Reiser '85 is founder and principal at Align Development, LLC. She created The Nicholson Project, a paid artist residency and neighborhood garden in Southeast DC's Fairlawn Community. Their mission is to support, provide opportunities, engage with and amplify artists and creatives from local artist community. Stefanie lives in Virginia with her husband, **Bert Reiser '85**, and their two children.

John Steddom '85 is principal at Madison Elementary School in Pella, Iowa.

David Conrads '87 works for the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa, as the WILD Wildlife Instruction and Leadership Development Director.

Gayle Kelley Hendricks '87 retired to Jonesborough, Tennessee, with her husband, Kevin, after working at the



▲ **Masaharu Kishi '84** retired from IBM Japan at the end of January 2021 after 35 years, most recently as Senior IT Specialist. He lives with his wife and cat in Meguro, Tokyo.

Area Substance Abuse Council in Cedar Rapids for 21 years, most recently as the clinical director.

Paul Langel '87 started a new position as director of sales at Francis Energy, LLC. He is living in the Tulsa, Oklahoma, area.

Kelly Braasch Puster '87 is a general surgeon in Prescott, Arizona. She received her medical degree from the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine and has been in practice for more than 20 years.

Craig Trotter '87 is a purchasing agent for the Iowa Department of Administrative Services.

Maria Catarino Vaughn '87 retired from a 35-year career in international development with CH2M Hill and Jacobs Engineering.

Shari Heiss '88 is a paralegal at Emile Banks & Associates, LLC, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. She and her husband, Ian

Hupert, are at home in Milwaukee.

Mike Dursky '89 is the success coordinator in the Oskaloosa Community Schools.

Jennifer Eggers '89 is in a new position as attorney at TrueNorth – Profits to Truckers.

THE '90s

Michelle Schrandt Clements '90 is the senior vice president of operations at Liberty Bankers Insurance Group in Dallas, Texas.

Kelly Sterk '90 is president of Sterk Insights, providing market research for manufacturers and agencies.

Debbie Robus Sunderman '90 works at The Well Resource Center in Pella, Iowa.

Donna Decker Hefner '91 works at Amazon in the Chicago, Illinois, area as an inventory control and quality assurance auditor.

Troy Gould '92 returned to Tulip Time to perform his play about Vincent Van Gogh.

Stephen Lazarus '92 is the director of Cardus NextGen programs.

Rich Schulte '92 is the superintendent of Montezuma Community School District.

Cindy Cox Close '93 was promoted to assistant vice president, stock plan services at Principal Financial Group in Des Moines, Iowa.

Howard Feitel, Jr., '94 was promoted to team lead smart money financial coach with BALANCE/Consumer Credit Counseling Service of San Francisco, California, where he has been employed for the last 25 years.

Peng Her '94 is founder and CEO of the Hmong Institute in Madison, Wisconsin.

Claudia Gómez Cruz Rivera '94 is associate director of diversity, equity and inclusion in the Tippie College of Business at the University of Iowa.

Rob Lindley '95 presents "Yours, Stephen Sondheim" on Aug. 7, 2022, at Ravinia Festival in Highlands Park, Illinois. The show, which Rob conceived of and directs, is an original semi-staged tribute to the late composer and lyricist.

Bridget Roll Penick '95 is an attorney at Fredrickson & Byron, in Des Moines, Iowa, and was inducted as a fellow of the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers.

NEWSNOTES

THE '90s (continued)



▲ **Mark Sabala '95** writes the Hermitage High School cross country team claimed its fourth state championship and seventh state trophy in 17 years of the program. Mark was named Southwest Missouri Class 1 Boys Coach of the Year for the sixth time and Class 1 Boys Coach of the Year for the third time by the Missouri Track and Cross Country Coaches Association.

Lisa Zhorne West '95 works at Beeline and Blue in Des Moines, Iowa, as a graphic design prepress specialist.

Sarah Kuhn Henderson '96 joined Kyocera Document Solutions America in September 2021 as a national accounts manager. She is responsible for eight upper-Midwest states supporting educational, government and nonprofit accounts. She also volunteers as the commissioner of the Des Moines High School Hockey League for the 2022 season.

Stephen Mc Williams '96 is the executive director of finance and planning at George Mason University.

Randy Patten '96 was promoted to AVP, interim co-chief financial officer, principal

financial officer and principal accounting officer at United Fire Group Insurance in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Bill Smock '96 works at 3M as an industrial customer sales specialist and lives in Aledo, Illinois.

Mark Wall '96 joined the Greene County Medical Center in Jefferson, Iowa, in February 2022 as chief financial officer.

Tami Brown Daniels '97 is an instructional designer at Medpro Group. She and husband, **Preston Daniels '91**, live in Altoona, Iowa.

Eric Birkenholtz '98 is a lead intelligent automation solution consultant at Wells Fargo.

Justin Quaas '99 is the head of global corporate trust technology at U.S. Bank in Northfield, Minnesota.

Wendy Walton Schuh '99 is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Sciences at Minnesota State University at Mankato.

Eva Creydt Schulte '99 is the executive director of the Whatcom Community College Foundation in Bellingham, Washington.

Mike Spencer '99 was promoted to sales director at Carrier Access.

THE '00s

Jed Eichhorn '00 is owner of Eichhorn Recreation in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and the author of a line of books on introductory sports for children.

Jason Anderson '01 is a field tech in the Pella Community School District.

Scott Koerselman '01 was inducted into the Pleasantville Community Hall of Fame Class of 2022.

Nick Turner '01 retired from the United States Marine Corps as a lieutenant colonel. He began work at CymStar as an event controller in the Des Moines, Iowa, area.

Tony Brownlee '02 is president of Kingland Systems Corporation, recognized as 2021 Business of the Year by the chamber of commerce in Clear Lake, Iowa.

Will Owens '02 and **Jessica Criswell Owens '02** lived overseas as missionaries in Montenegro and now work training teens and youth leaders around the world for the nonprofit organization TeenStreet International. Will focuses on training adults while Jess leads a team of international writers working on events, social media and digital content.

Matthew DenHartog '03 is an account executive at Vonnage, in the Des Moines, Iowa, area.

Monte "Rusty" Johnson '03 works in music therapy for Ellipsis in Des Moines, Iowa.

Nathan Scott '03 is an associate project engineer at Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City, Missouri.

Terri Shafranek Smith '03 was the Southeast Region winner of the Iowa STEM Teach Award announced by the Governor's STEM Advisory Council. She teaches at the Central Dewitt Middle School in Dewitt, Iowa.

Dawna Patzel Heil '04 is a licensed mental health counselor at Center Associates in Marshalltown, Iowa.

Megan Kruse Luckett '04 is director, supplier food safety at Walmart, Inc. She and her husband, Curtis, live in Berkeley, California, with their two children.

THE '00s (continued)



▲ **Matthew Petersen '02** lives in Grimes, Iowa, with his wife and four children. Besides keeping up with all the kids' activities, they enjoy traveling and giving back to their community.



▲ **Lisa Hitsman Mount '05** is the recipient of the employee of the year award presented at the Boone County Chamber of Commerce annual meeting. Lisa works at Nerem & Associates Real Estate. Presenters of the award were **Laura Bade '09** and **Mike Hammond '08**.



▲ **Kimberly Campbell Snyder '02** is a clinical psychologist at the Phoenix Veteran Affairs Healthcare System in Phoenix, Arizona. Kimberly and husband, Preston, are at home in Litchfield, Arizona, with their three children.

DeAnne King Negley '04 began counseling at the New Life Counseling in Ankeny and West Des Moines office as a clinical mental health counselor. She and her husband, **David Negley '04**, are at home in Winterset, Iowa, with their four children.

Morgan Vander Werf DeRaad '05 accepted a new role at Central College and now serves as development specialist in the Office of Advancement.

Justin Brueck '06 was promoted to vice president of innovation and research at NorthShore University Health System.

James Hekel '06 is an associate counsel at the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

Kate Baumert Sutterfield '06 is an administrative assistant at the University of Illinois Foundation, in Urbana, Illinois.

Rachel Wallace '06 is an administrative assistant at Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Benjamin Christian '07 is working at Strategic Initiative at Herzog.

Lisa Schwalenberg Johnson '07 is a paramedic for the City of West Des Moines, Iowa, where husband, David, also serves as a police officer.

Hilary Springman '07 works at Duluth Trading Company as an art director and lives in Pecatonica, Illinois.

Moksheda Thapa '07 is a contracts administrator at George Mason University.

Joel Van Heukelom '07 is a pharmacy supervisor for Sanford Health in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Jonathan Alaniz '08 is the area manager – market delivery operations at The Home Depot in Des Moines, Iowa.

Kristin Clague '08 is a utilities communications specialist with the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Trevor Jones '08 and **Mindy Van Woerkom '08** were married January 29, 2022. Mindy began working at the World Food Prize Foundation as a senior executive assistant to the president in June 2021.

Mandy Van Woerkom Klyn '08 opened a business called M. Klyn Floral in Pella, Iowa.

Mary Swanson Pedersen '08 is a family nurse practitioner at Greene County Family Medical Clinic in Jefferson, Iowa.

Jeremy Siefken '08 was promoted to director, learning and talent management at Grubhub, and lives in the Chicago area.

Jered Wells '08 earned a Ph.D. and is now a medical physicist at Landauer in Durham, North Carolina.

THE '10s

CORRECTION: Brett Glendening '14 and Tiesha Long were married on July 30, 2021. The couple is at home in Terre Haute, Indiana. The Spring issue of Civitas listed Brett's name incorrectly. We apologize for the error.

Colyn Burbank '10 is a social worker at Clive Behavioral Health. He and a co-worker were recognized as guiders of the Adolescent Intensive Outpatient Program.

Tyrone Callender '10 works at Indeed.com as a senior account executive, mid-market out of the Tempe, Arizona office.

THE '10s continued

Jessica Steward

McQuerrey '10 is director of programs at ABI Foundation.

Kyle Michel '10 is the city administrator for the City of Ashland, Missouri, where he and wife, Anna, live.

Mitch Monarchino '10 is an officer with the Pella Police Department.

Bryan Moore '10 is president at Availa Bank in Carroll, Iowa. Bryan, wife **Ashley Ranniger Moore '11**, and their three children will soon be moving to the Carroll area. Ashley is an attorney for Kutak Rock in Omaha, Nebraska.

Krista Reeves '10 is an underwriter for PennyMac in Englewood, Colorado.

Joel Mudd '11 is a law clerk at Kirkland & Ellis in the Chicago, Illinois, area.

Morgan Caves Von Ahsen '11 is the senior vice president of corporate communications at CAIS in New York, New York.

Amber Voss Farina '11 serves as executive administrative assistant of operations at Generac Power Systems, Inc., and lives in Greenfield, Wisconsin.

Lee Schroeder '11 has returned to Vermeer Corporation as a sales manager.

Ashley Holcombe Walter '11 works for Compass Memorial Healthcare as an outreach athletic trainer for HLV High School. She and her husband, Andy, live in Victor, Iowa.

Ashley Gritters Allers '12 started a new position as chief financial officer at Van Diest Medical Center in Webster City, Iowa.

Alli Swigart Den Hartog '12 started a new position as practice management liaison at Cambridge Investment Research, Inc. Ali also earned the title of a Registered Corporate Coaching Designation, Continuous Improvement Yellow Belt Certification and Series 7 and Series 66 financial professional licenses.

Charles Friday '12 is head strength and conditioning coach at Kentucky Christian University in Grayson, Kentucky.

Brent Goodenow '12 works at Casey's Store Support Center as a senior treasury analyst. Brent and **Teresa Beiermann Goodenow '11** live in Ankeny, Iowa.

Michael Kruse '12 is playing a recurring character named "Rory" on the television soap opera, "General Hospital."

Whitney Halder Wagner '12 began a new role at Central College and now serves as associate director of Upward Bound.

Nathan Wolff '12 started work at Vermeer in Pella, Iowa, as a sales training and development specialist.

Megan Overton Bouska '13 joined Central College's advancement team as advancement experience coordinator. Her husband, **David Bouska '13**, teaches Spanish at Pella High School.

Logan Danko '13 works for Kiewit as an ACC general superintendent.

Ben Fry '13 is an athletic trainer for the State of Iowa.

Justine Jackovich Hines '13 joined the University of Iowa College of Engineering as an assistant director of academic support.

Austin Krause '13 is the director of sports medicine and athletic performance at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Kelci Eakins '14 is a school counselor at Wapello Jr. and Sr. High Schools for grades 6-12.

Jacob Edleman '14 is working in the Des Moines area at JLL as a senior facility manager. His wife, **Emily Benson Edleman '15**, is a kindergarten and first-grade teacher at the Iowa Connections Academy in Des Moines. Jacob and Emily are at home in Des Moines with their twin girls.

Libby Elmitt '14 is a third-grade teacher in the Johnston Community School District.

Lexi Cessna Farmer '14 accepted a new position as a physician assistant and lactation counselor at an OB/GYN office in Bloomington, Illinois.

Emily Hutchison '14 is enrolled at Drake University working toward a Master of Arts in teaching, emphasizing secondary education with endorsements in English, theatre and speech.

Jason Karstens '14 started a new position as neurologic residency director at A.T. Still University of Health Sciences.

Maria Chickering McMahan '14 is an engineer 1, product information at Pella Corporation in Pella, Iowa.

Jordan Bohr '15 was promoted to content strategist for digital communications at Central College.

Grady Carson '15 is the marketing coordinator at LDJ Manufacturing, Inc., in Pella, Iowa.

Nile Eckermann '15 is joining an orthodontic practice in West Des Moines, Iowa, this summer called Smile Orthodontics.

Hillary Hotz Greteman '15 and husband Nathan were married on June 12, 2021. Hillary works for Farmers Insurance as an agent recruiter and the couple is at home in the Omaha, Nebraska area.

Kari Sandage '15 is a naturalist for the Woodbury County Conservation Board in the Sioux City, Iowa, area.

Samantha Weber Sanford '15 is a patient access representative for Conifer Health Solutions in Des Moines, Iowa.

Grant Wiseman '15 is a supervisor and care coordinator for Landmark Health, in Dallas, Texas.

Rick Williamson '15 is creative director at Two Tone Creative in Urbandale, Iowa.

Cael Halfman '16 and **Annie De Vries '18** were wed November 5, 2021.

Seth Marburger '16 and **Morgan Koenigs Marburger '17** both work in the Pella Community School District. Morgan is a K-3 math interventionist and Seth is a special education teacher. Additionally, Seth serves as defensive line coach for Central College football, and Morgan assists with the Little Dutch Academy.

Brett Rozeboom '16 and **Michaela Schwenke '16** were married in June 2017. Brett is a resident in internal medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Michaela is a first-grade teacher in the Gardner Edgerton School District. Brett and Michaela live in Merriam, Kansas.

Hunter Thorpe '16 is an assistant county attorney practicing in Boone County, Iowa. He married Brianna Statler in May 2019.

Mary Kahanic Harvey '17 is a strategy formulation specialist at EMC Insurance Companies based in Des Moines, Iowa.

Logan Moeller '17 works at the University of Iowa, in Iowa City, Iowa, as an internal auditor.

Joshua Brunk '18 is an occupational therapist in Elizabethton, Tennessee.

Jordan Fox '18 is an associate attorney at Kintzinger Law Firm in Dubuque, Iowa.

Alexander Hale '18 works at Indian Hills Community College in Centerville, Iowa, as an assistant athletic trainer.

Maddison Hennessey '18 is an author for Automotive Service and Tire Alliance in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Skylar McCombs '18 is a business intelligence analyst at Berkley Agribusiness (a Berkley Company).

Katie Berkley Johnson '19 and Dallas Johnson were married on December 5, 2021. Katie works as a physician assistant at Atlanta Gastroenterology in Griffin, Georgia, where the couple resides.

THE '20s

Adrienne Bergman '20 is the communications director for Polk County Health Services in Des Moines, Iowa.

Blaine Hawkins '21 received the Gagliardi Award as the outstanding player in Division III football in 2021. Blaine is now employed by Piper Sandler in Denver, Colorado.

John Dillon '21 is a campus recruiting specialist at Deloitte in Des Moines, Iowa.

Skyler McKay '21 joined Central College's advancement team as prospect management and research coordinator.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Devin Embray '91 earned a doctorate in educational leadership at the University of the Cumberland in March 2022.

DeAnne King Negley '04 earned a Master of Arts degree in the field of clinical mental health counseling at 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.

Charles Friday '12 earned a Master of Education degree in kinesiology from the Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas.

Nile Eckermann '15 graduated in 2020 from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry.

Hunter Thorpe '16 earned a Juris Doctor at Drake University in 2019.

Kaitlin Grace '20 earned a bachelor's degree in nursing science from Allen College.

NEW ARRIVALS

Mitch Lowe and **Christina Weber '99**, daughter Lillian Rae Weber, Feb. 24, 2022.

Troy and **Ann Van Hemert Allen '00**, son Harrison Matthew, July 17, 2021.

Preston and **Kimberly Campbell Snyder '02**, son Kole William, March 11, 2021.

Jesse and **Carissa Rice Eret '03**, sons Ezra Timothy and Asher Kenneth, June 10, 2021.

Joe and **Amanda Scott Drey '10**, daughter Skylar, Oct. 1, 2021.

Nate '10 and **Lindsay Zylstra Nees '11**, son Beckham Michael, Jan. 7, 2022.

Ryan and **Amber Voss Farina '11**, son Parker Ryan, Sept. 2, 2021.

Josh '12 and **Melissa Dunlap Atwell '11**, daughter Margot Kay, Dec. 13, 2021.

Brandon and **Sarah Glendening Henman '12**, daughter Karlee Lovella, April 2, 2022.

Tom and **Lexi Cessna Farmer '14**, son Elliot Thomas, July 2, 2021.

Joe '14 and **Julia Mohr Flaherty '15**, daughter Maggie Louise, Oct. 25, 2021.

Mitchel and **Amanda Higgins Giesking '14**, daughter Henlee Jacquelyn, Jan. 19, 2022.

Tiesha and **Brett Glendening '14**, son Bryant Kota, Dec. 29, 2021.

Preston and **Grace Hirl Sereg '15**, daughter Audra Jane, Jan. 31, 2022.

Seth '16 and **Morgan Koenigs Marburger '17**, son Miles Daniel, March 29, 2022.

Brett '16 and **Michaela Schwenke Rozeboom '16**, daughter Everly Grace, Jan. 5, 2022.

Brianna and **Hunter Thorpe '16**, son Knox Thomas, Sept. 17, 2020.

IN MEMORIAM

CORRECTION: Jim

Danks '64 died Nov. 14, 2021. The Spring issue of Civitas erroneously listed the year. We regret the error and any inconvenience this may have caused the Danks family.

Mary "Maxine" Gillam Morgan '48, Rockville, Maryland, Nov. 21, 2021.

Marlyn Klimstra '50, Pella, Iowa, Jan. 21, 2022.

Hendrik "Henry" Van Leeuwen '50, Hanover, Indiana, Feb. 17, 2022.

Agnes Ferwerda Peterman '51, West Bloomfield, Michigan, Jan. 2, 2022.

Willard "Will" Prather '51, Knoxville, Iowa, March 3, 2022.

Bernice Van Steenis Grandia '52, Edwardsville, Illinois, Sept. 12, 2021.

Olive Hancock Huisman '52, Cornwall, Pennsylvania, Sept. 5, 2021.

Cornie Keunen '52, Orange City, Iowa, March 30, 2022.

Carol Ebert Vander Ploeg '52, Pella, Iowa, Feb. 8, 2022.

Rhoda Symens Bender '53, Marshalltown, Iowa, March 28, 2022.

Peggy Leu Shriver '53, West Branch, Iowa, Dec. 21, 2021.

Charles Ausherman '54, Canal Fulton, Ohio, Nov. 10, 2021.

Ruth Pruis Boender '54, Sheldon, Iowa, March 11, 2022.

Dale Jansen '54, Pella, Iowa, March 6, 2022.

Virginia "Jean" Baker Carlson '55, Roseville, Minnesota, Oct. 31, 2021.

Marilyn Miller Martens '55, Pelham, Alabama, Nov. 11, 2021.

Marlene Sels McGrew '55, Waverly, Iowa, Jan. 18, 2022.

Rosemary Schultz Behrens '56, San Mateo, California, March 8, 2022.

James "Jim" Rozendaal '56, Independence, Iowa, Jan. 24, 2022.

Arnold "Arnie" Punt '57, Sioux Center, Iowa, Oct. 31, 2021.

Ardene Sandbulte Ver Hoef '58, Sioux Center, Iowa, Oct. 9, 2021.

Arthur "Art" Downey '60, Windsor, Colorado, March 4, 2022.

Betty Sterenberg Herlein '61, Holland, Michigan, Dec. 16, 2021.

Russell "Russ" Lundy '61, Urbandale, Iowa, March 21, 2022.

Sandra "Sandy" Kersbergen Sankey '63, Tucson, Arizona, Oct. 14, 2021.

Leland "Shorty" Fye '64, Farmington, Iowa, Nov. 9, 2021.

Barbara Ehlers Larson '65, Madison, Wisconsin, Nov. 13, 2021.

Marcia Hopp Engelkes '66, East Lansing, Michigan, Jan. 31, 2022.

Raymond "Ray" Lomax '68, Oak Ridge, New Jersey, Nov. 22, 2021.

Linda Bolling Tamminga '68, Everson, Washington, March 10, 2022.

Gary Van Hulzen '68, Lynden, Washington, Feb. 14, 2022.

Henricus "Henri" Koldyk '69, Springfield, Vermont, Nov. 8, 2021.

Judith "Judy" Grandia Marvel '69, Tucson, Arizona, March 26, 2022.

Nancy Stoddard Oliver '69, Schoharie, New York, Sept. 29, 2021.

Robert "Bob" Fink '71, West Bend, Wisconsin, March 23, 2022.

Sandra "Sandy" Vandenberg '73, Des Moines, Iowa, Sept. 30, 2021.

Kean "Peachy" Richard '83, Sanborn, Michigan, Feb. 6, 2022.

Tilly Van Egmond '83, Sandy, Utah, Nov. 30, 2021.

Janine Dekker '86, Sarnia, Ontario, Canada, Aug. 7, 2021.

Terry Wiebenga '86, Normal, Illinois, Feb. 9, 2022.

Thomas "Tom" Schipper '87, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 6, 2022.

Tiao Saykham "Kham" Sayasane Calo '93, Des Moines, Iowa, April 2, 2022.

SHARE YOUR NEWS

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

IN MEMORIAM



BARBARA LITTLE BUTLER '58

Barbara "Barb" Little Butler '58, a longtime former Central College staff member and active in both the Central and Pella communities, died March 12, 2022, in Pella, Iowa.

A job opportunity for Barb's husband, **Don Butler**, the late professor emeritus of economics at Central, brought the couple and their young children to Pella in 1953. Barb studied English at Central, graduating in 1958. She later earned a master's degree from Michigan State University in 1971.

Barb taught sixth grade for a few years and joined Central in 1960 in the alumni office, served in the education department from 1969-70 and became director of international studies in 1971 until her retirement in 1988.

She remained an active alumna in her retirement through the Central RED Society, attending alumni and college-sponsored events, serving as a volunteer for the college and through her generosity as a donor.

IN MEMORIAM



JOHN ARLO DE JONG '53

John De Jong '53 passed away April 21, 2022, at the age of 90. He was professor emeritus of history of Central College. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, **Joline De Boer De Jong '55**, assistant professor emerita of art, and their three children **Jocelyn De Jong '79**, **Jay De Jong '85** and **Jana De Jong '86** and her husband, W. John Green.

He attended Central and earned a degree in history. It was at Central that he met the love of his life, Joline D. De Boer. They had their first date in Chicago on an A Capella choir trip. He graduated in 1953 and immediately served in the Army until 1955. He and Joline were married soon after on June 18, 1955, in Albert Lea, Minnesota.

John completed graduate studies in history at the University of Iowa in 1959 and accepted a teaching position at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. In 1968, he, Joline and family returned to Central, where he taught in the history program, and she accepted a part-time position in the art program. He enjoyed a lengthy career at Central until his retirement in 1993.

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INVESTING IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION



Dave '64 and Linda Wesselink pose in front of a canal near the Rembrandt House Museum in Amsterdam on a 2018 trip to the Netherlands.

A Central College graduate and his family have helped relaunch the college and its students across the globe with a gift that is making off-campus experiences possible again.

“Study abroad and off-campus experiences have been changing over time, even before the pandemic,” says **Michelle Wilkie**, director of development. “When the pandemic hit, it really allowed us to pause as an institution and think about a model or program that’s going to work best for longevity while also meeting the demands and the changes of our students.”

Central is working to raise \$1.5 million to support off-campus study efforts.

David Wesselink '64 and his wife, Linda, have made an initial leadership gift of \$500,000 to support the new off-campus experience model (described throughout this issue) — supporting both operational and programmatic needs.

“Central continues to work to create an environment where students are able to become engaged global citizens. This new model and generous support are allowing us to do just that,” Wilkie says.

The Wesselinks’ gift comes with the goal of giving students the opportunity to experience education abroad — and strengthens Central’s ongoing commitment to international education access.

“We are pleased that our donation can help make life-changing, off-campus experiences available to Central students again after COVID-19 forced a hiatus. Central has long been a leader in providing such experiences, and we hope that others will join us in supporting this important and worthwhile endeavor,” says David Wesselink, a Storm Lake, Iowa, native who now splits his time between Northbrook, Illinois, and Holland, Michigan.

After graduating from Central with a major in economics, Wesselink served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Turkey for two years. He spent an additional year in the country teaching at Karabük Koleji. He has since enjoyed extensive world travels for business, and he and Linda have enjoyed personal international travel as well.

“My experience as a young adult in Turkey has impacted me for my entire life,” Wesselink says. “I am so pleased the donation from Linda and me will support Central’s mission and allow others to immerse themselves in world experiences.”

Before retiring in 2005, Wesselink was the chair and CEO of Metris Companies, a consumer financial services company. He served on Central’s board of directors from 1991-2013 and is chair emeritus.

“International education is such a powerful transformational experience. We’ve always believed things that happen outside of the classroom are a huge part of how Central students learn and grow,” says **Sunny Gonzales Eighmy '99**, vice president for advancement. “The world has never been more connected. Off-campus experiences have been a core part of the Central experience for decades. This wonderful gift from Dave and Linda supports Central’s longtime efforts to open doors to new experiences and perspectives. We are so grateful for their generosity and for the fact that doors and borders are opening again worldwide.

“I think this is a really exciting time in our history,” Eighmy adds. “And there’s so much momentum in this program. There’s a real opportunity to align donor support behind our strategic priorities. Off-campus experiences are something that we feel are especially important as an institution, and we can’t do it without support.” ■

Central continues to accept gifts of all sizes to help support off-campus experiences. To make a donation, contact Michelle Wilkie, director of development, at wilkiem@central.edu or Sunny Gonzales Eighmy '99, vice president for advancement, at eighmys@central.edu.

THE STORY OF THE RED TELEPHONE BOX ON CAMPUS

STORY BY: HAILEY SWAN '24 PHOTO BY: PAUL JOY



Hailey Swan '24 with the college's British phone booth.

The city of Pella is known to have a touch of Holland.

But what about a touch of London? Or, maybe, um, is it Scotland?

"FIRE!! A blaze of color gleaming like a fire engine has been added to campus," wrote **Aija Straumanis '93** in *The Central College Ray* in September 1991. "It's the new red phone booth at the east end of Peace Mall. The eight-footer reaches out and touches everyone's attention."

More than 30 years later, the rosy-red British iconic structure continues to be at the heart of Central's campus and serves as an ongoing statement about the college's international interests.

The phone booth's aesthetic architecture can be found in the background of college promotional videos and professional

pictures. And it's often used as a prop for family and student pictures.

Upon its arrival, Central students expressed mixed feelings about the telephone kiosk. While some saw it as a symbol of opportunity others saw it as a vandalism opportunity waiting to happen.

What do students and faculty think of the structure now in the year 2022?

Kayla Schneider '24, a former student admission ambassador, sees the red telephone booth as something that brings vibrant personality to Central's campus.

"Central has been around for a long time and so has the telephone booth," Schneider says. "Not a lot of other campuses have something like this, so it brings unique character to Central's campus."

When visiting campus, visitors and prospective students get a chance to hear about the telephone booth's rich history and how it found its way to Central's campus.

"The phone booth is something I point out on tours," says **Sam Staley '23**, student admission ambassador. "I share details about our off-campus study experiences and how someone gave the phone booth as a gift to represent London, an off-campus destination for many Central students. I frequently get comments from parents and prospective students on how pretty it is and how much it stands out. I think it represents how unique Central is."

The college's insurance company in the 1990s gave the telephone booth to Central to commemorate students' academic adventures all around the world.

Originally built in the 1930s in Edinburgh, Scotland, the red box was restored by the Heritage Trading Co. in England before finding its forever home in Pella, Iowa.

One current student would like to see the telephone booth be known as more than a representation of international education. "If there was some way to use it and make phone calls with it, that would be fun and unique," **DelTon Alexander '24** says. His thoughts resemble those of students of the 1990s, many of whom wished at the time it had been a working pay phone.

Whether you enjoy the telephone box for its currant-red beauty or for being a symbol of immersive cultural experiences across the pond (get what I did there?), the 1,400-pound object is more than a relic in these days of super smart, tiny handheld phones that weigh less than half a pound.

For me?

Every morning on my walk to the Global Café, I find myself soaking in the beauty of the bright red telephone booth as the sun shines a glistening spotlight on it.

One thing is for sure: Whether dazzling scenery for campus visitors or a beacon of hope for those with a travel bug, the red telephone booth from London (or Scotland? You decide.) will always be one of Central's most beloved landmarks. ■



This spring Central College hosted a special visit day for alumni and their high school students who are considering a future here. The day was filled with scavenger hunts, tours, personal visits and Central gear.

Alumni and their families participating included (left to right):

Row 1 (front): Grayce Venema, **Jamie Hiscocks Cash '99**, Adeline Whisner, **Stephanie Bearden Whisner '05**, Elyse Shaw, Eryn Lenhart, Maya Lenhart and Taegan Frazier.

Row 2: **Micah Hershberger Venema '94**, Holland Hunter, Brody Cash, Grant Fletcher, **Amanda Hansen Fletcher '00**, Ruby Hoch, **Kristine Hanson '07H**, Briela Mendez, **Garry Lenhart '95**, **Melody Van Zee Miller '80**, **Sarah Westergard De la Cuba '98**, Nicholas De la Cuba, **Tori Wilkerson Frazier '98** and Shari Shaw.

Row 3: Lauryn Venema, **Angela Hoskins Hunter '96**, **Justin Fletcher '02**, **Denny Hanson '07H**, Corbin Kleis, **Heather Sandholm Kleis '97** and Luis De la Cuba.

Next year's Legacy Visit Day will be held April 28, 2023. Do you have a high school student in your home you want to be sure gets invited? Send details to **Susie Hakeman**, associate director of admission operations, at hakemans@central.edu. We are Forever Dutch®!