

FALL 2022

CENTRAL

CENTRAL COLLEGE

CIVITAS

ALUMNI MAGAZINE



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THE WAY OF BILBO

STORY BY: MARK PUTNAM, CENTRAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT



J.R.R. Tolkien captured the emotional experience of setting out on an unexpected journey. Our “The Hobbit” hero, Bilbo Baggins, was not eager for the quest placed before him and seemed to resent and resist the thought of setting out beyond the sheltered walls of Bag End. Still, he possessed an unrelenting yearning to explore the unknown outside his limited experience and test the resolve within himself.

In the end, what sustained Bilbo through the most difficult days of his journey was a deeply held desire to be of service, to seek justice and to simply do the right thing. Each of us can see ourselves through the eyes of Bilbo as we are initially gripped by fear with a new opportunity and yet step forward in eager anticipation of something more — something bigger than the scope of our present interests.

When we set out for the college experience, we bear our own expectations

and are further burdened with the expectations of others. These are often conflicting thoughts that yield a plague of questions. As the journey unfolds, the assumptions we’ve relied on seem to be less sure in our thinking. New experiences give way to fresh thinking and the resulting self-discovery dislodges us from previous choices.

It also happens that life gets in the way. The decisions of others can affect our own. The consequences of a single choice can open or close access to opportunity; delay or advance our next steps; sharpen our focus or lead us to greater ambiguity.

We speak often of this journey at Central College. As a community of learners sharing a common space and a common experience, we are in many ways the same. The overall patterns are remarkably similar. The individual journeys, however, are each completely unique. The task of education is to balance these communal

aspects of learning with the individual needs and interests of each learner. It’s a messy process, but rich in experience.

What makes a difference in finding our way on this journey is being in the presence of others. While our situation is uniquely ours, we gain confidence from the example of others who have found their way forward. Hearing their stories and telling ours, sharing in the exchange of ideas and benefitting together from advice and counsel provides a sense of confidence knowing that the journey is ours, but it can never be pursued alone.

Bilbo made many mistakes along the way. If not for the steady guiding hand of the wizard, Gandalf, the companionship of the dwarves, and the intervention of a few strangers along the way, he would have never completed his journey.

The way of Bilbo is the only way to go. ■

CENTRAL COLLEGE CIVITAS ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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EDITOR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND MARKETING

Denise Lamphier
lamphierd@central.edu

ASSISTANT EDITOR &
SENIOR DESIGN DIRECTOR

Melody VanderLeest
vanderleestm@central.edu

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Jordan Bohr '15
bohrj@central.edu

Jeanette Budding
buddingj@central.edu

Erin Kamp
kampe@central.edu

Brittany Carlson Prokupek '16
carlsonb@central.edu

Cyvannah Vecchio
vecchioc@central.edu

PHOTOGRAPHER
Paul Joy
joyp@central.edu

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

SPORTS EDITOR
Larry Happel '81
happell@central.edu

MARKETING AND
PROJECT MANAGEMENT
Steffanie Bonnstetter
bonnstetters@central.edu

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

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Photo By: **Paul Joy**

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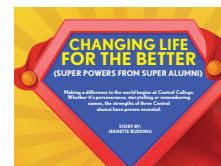
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ALUMNI@CENTRAL.EDU
CIVITAS.CENTRAL.EDU

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



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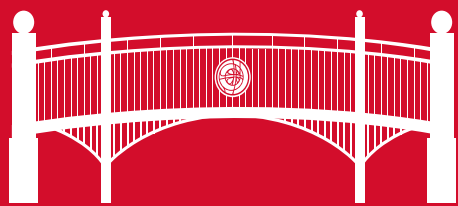
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AROUND THE POND



▲ DEAN FURNESS AND LORI WITT RECOGNIZED AT COMMENCEMENT

Central College bestowed special honors on **Dean Furness '94** and **Lori Witt**, associate professor of history — during its Commencement ceremony Saturday, May 14.

Furness received an Honorary Doctor of Public Service honoris causa. While a student, he participated in football and men's track and field, and he graduated with a degree in mathematics. Currently, Furness is a data and analytics specialist at Wells Fargo in Des Moines, Iowa.

Witt has been awarded the Kenneth J. Weller Distinguished Professorship of Liberal Arts. Named after Central's 18th president, who served from 1969-90, the three-year endowed professorship recognizes

a distinguished faculty member and provides support for teaching, research and scholarship.

To be named the Weller Distinguished Professor, a faculty member must be an acknowledged competent professional, have attained tenure and be recognized among students and professors as one of Central's outstanding teachers. They also must have an innovative approach to teaching that inspires in students an unusual level of intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. In addition, they must demonstrate excellence in performance and a sense of fulfillment in teaching courses that enroll students from several departments.



▲ ACADEMIC AFFAIRS PROMOTES LEADERS

Central's academic affairs office promoted three academic leaders.

Linda Laine, professor of communication studies and faculty fellow for interdisciplinary and faculty-led programs at Central, has been appointed interim associate academic dean for the college, effective July 1, 2022.

As a past recipient of the David Crichton Memorial Teaching Award and former Kenneth J. Weller Distinguished Professor of the Liberal Arts, Laine has been recognized for her teaching excellence. Laine has been a Central faculty member since 2004 and was promoted to professor of communication studies in 2018.



Leslie Keuning Duinink '90, registrar and associate professor of kinesiology, has been promoted to the role of senior registrar. Duinink has served as registrar since July 2018 with a focus on increasing transparency and decreasing redundancy of work for students and faculty. She will assume additional responsibilities in supervision of the class deans and working with faculty development and advising.

Duinink has been an instructor at Central since 1998. A tenured member of the faculty, she has taught athletic training, exercise science and liberal arts classes at the college, and has served as a class dean for the Classes of 2013, 2017 and 2021. In 2020, she was appointed to the Iowa Board of Chiropractic.



Sue Pagnac, director of writing, has been promoted to assistant dean for learning enrichment. In her new role, Pagnac will collaborate with colleagues to consider the future role of libraries in learning and teaching at a liberal arts, residential college. In addition, she will supervise the library staff and continue to direct the writing programs at Central.

Pagnac joined Central in 2013 and has served as Central's writing director, working with students, writing tutors and faculty to increase writing proficiency across the curriculum.



▲ MARION COUNTY BANK PLEDGES \$30K TO DOUWSTRA PHASE II RENOVATIONS

Marion County Bank stepped into the Douwstra Auditorium spotlight when it pledged \$30,000 to continue momentum for the phase II renovations.

Steve Kraayenbrink '81, Marion County Bank president and CEO, says, "Marion County Bank is proud to support Central College and Douwstra Auditorium. We believe in supporting communities we serve, and we're excited about this project that continues to enhance the arts in Pella. It also will fund scientific instrumentation needs and the Journey Scholarship Fund."

Phase II of the Douwstra Auditorium renovation will transform the local landmark into a regional concert hall. Plans include a new, handcrafted pipe organ by world-renowned organ builder Casavant Frères of Canada and back-of-the-house infrastructure improvements, including new air-handling and mechanical equipment. In the spirit of music, the gift is a crescendo toward the remaining \$3 million needed to finish phase II.

"Marion County Bank's generous gift brings excitement and energy to the campaign to restore this beautiful resource for the college and surrounding area," says **Sunny Gonzales Eighmy '99**, vice president for advancement. "We are thankful for this significant donation and the investment in this acoustical space that celebrates music and so much more."

To learn more about the project or to make a gift, please contact **Michelle Wilkie**, director of development, at 641-628-5281 and wilkiem@central.edu.



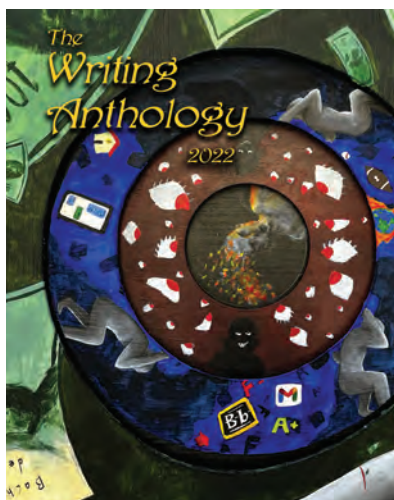
▲ IOWA CAMPUS COMPACT HONORS MENA AND MAYTAG FOUNDATION

Iowa Campus Compact awarded **Paulina Mena**, faculty fellow for diversity and inclusion at Central, the Presidents' Civic Engagement Leadership Award for 2022. This award recognizes a member of faculty who has significantly advanced their campus' distinctive civic mission by forming strong partnerships, supporting others' civic and community engagement and working to institutionalize a culture and practice of engagement.

Mena, an associate professor of biology, supports faculty development, curriculum and the classroom climate as it relates to diversity and inclusion for course development and pedagogy.

The Fred Maytag Family Foundation received the Iowa Campus Compact's Presidents' Community Partner Award for 2022. This award recognizes a community-based partner or organization that has enhanced the quality of life in the community in meaningful and measurable ways and has engaged in the development of sustained, reciprocal partnerships with the college or university, thus enriching educational, as well as community, outcomes.

The college's relationship with Fred, Fritz and Ken Maytag and The Fred Maytag Family Foundation has helped shape the student experience at Central for nearly a century. Their Fall 2021 donation of \$2.25 million will fund an annual full-tuition scholarship program for multiple students from Iowa pursuing a STEM-related field. It will also fund scientific instrumentation needs. The foundation has donated more than \$10 million to Central over the past three decades.



▲ ANNUAL WRITING ANTHOLOGY PUBLISHED

Central's annual Writing Anthology, a collection of exceptional student work from across the liberal arts curriculum, has been released for the 2021-22 academic year. This marks the 42nd year for the Writing Anthology, which has been continuously published at Central since 1981.



The Writing Anthology is available at central.edu/writing-anthology. It includes this year's 14 pieces of work, as well as links to past issues. This year, the editors introduced a new section featuring full-color panels of student art.

Gabi Anderson '22, **Emma Carlson '22** and **Mattie Francis '22** served as editors. Faculty members **Valerie Billing**, assistant professor of English, and **Anna Christensen**, assistant professor of philosophy, served as advisors.

Sarah Smith '25, Sumner, Iowa, received the John Allen Award honor. Smith's piece "To My Core" is a combination of both original poetry and analytical writing. The editors wrote: "Sarah's articulate command of language and free-verse poetry elicits raw, powerful reactions from her reading audience. Through this brilliant work, Sarah brutally but beautifully depicts grief, and she prompts us all to be more honest about the more vulnerable elements of our own personal bereavements."



Robert Franks

▲ FACULTY RECOGNIZED

Central recognized eight faculty members this spring for their outstanding leadership in teaching, service and scholarship:

Amy Young, associate professor of German and class dean, (B.A., Simpson College; M.A., Bowling Green State University; Ph.D., University of Nebraska-Lincoln) received the Dr. John Wesselink Award for scholarship with a direct impact on teaching.

Shelley-Jean Bradfield, associate professor of communication studies, (B.S., Helderberg College; M.A., Rand Afrikaans University; Ph.D., Indiana University-Bloomington) received the David Crichton Memorial Teaching Award for excellence in teaching that challenges and shapes the intellectual development in students.

Maggie Fisher Schlerman '02, associate professor of accounting, (B.A., Central College; M.Acc., Iowa State University) and **Crystal Argenta Bruntz '88**, lecturer of accounting, (B.A., Central College; M.B.A. Drake University) received the Hutch Bearce Community-Building and Faculty Leadership Award for community building and mentorship or leadership.

Kathy Korcheck, professor of Spanish, (B.S. and M.A., Kent State University; Ph.D., Washington University in St. Louis) received the Huffman Award for Outstanding Support of International Education. This award recognizes the contributions made by Donald and



Cathy Hinga Haustein '77

Maxine Huffman to Central's programs in international education.

Liz Golovatski, associate professor of physics, (B.S., St. Ambrose University; Ph.D., University of Iowa) received the Frank W. Moore Faculty Award for promoting student learning in the natural sciences.

Paulina Mena, associate professor of biology, (B.S., Universidad Católica de Valparaiso, Chile; Ph.D., University of Iowa) received the Moore Family Faculty Award. This award recognizes and fosters joint student-faculty summer collaborations that promote a greater depth of student understanding within the natural science division disciplines.

James Dunne, assistant professor of chemistry, (B.S., Grove City College; Ph.D., Iowa State University) received the Marvin L. Hackert Faculty Development Fund for Science and Mathematics for enhancing the quality of the sciences at Central through those activities that promote professional development and research.

In addition, **Dawn Stiemsma Reece '89**, associate professor of sociology, (B.A., Central College; M.S., Ph.D., Iowa State University) was recognized for her 25 years of teaching at Central.

Three faculty members retired in December and were recognized during the annual faculty awards program: **Robert Franks**, professor emeritus of computer science, (B.A., Northwest Missouri State University; M.S., Ph.D., Iowa State



Mary Jo Sodd

University); **Cathy Hinga Haustein '77**, professor emerita of chemistry, (B.A., Central College; M.F.A., Ph.D., University of Iowa); and **Mary Jo Sodd**, professor emerita of theatre, (B.A., University of Saint Catherine; M.A., University of Minnesota – Twin Cities; Ph.D., University of Colorado).



REFER A STUDENT!

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

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



◀ FREIBURGER PROMOTED TO VP FOR ENROLLMENT

Central promoted **Chevy Freiburger** to the role of vice president for enrollment management and dean of admission. Freiburger has been the dean of enrollment management for the past two years.

In his role, Freiburger will continue to oversee the admission and financial aid teams; participate on the senior leadership team and work directly with President **Mark Putnam** and the Central board of trustees. Freiburger also serves in leadership roles across the state and in the enrollment industry.

He was recently named the president-elect for the Iowa Association for College Admission Counseling Board and serves on the Current Trends and Future Issues committee for the National Association for College Admission Counseling.



▲ CHIA NING SELECTED FOR NEH SUMMER INSTITUTE

Chia Ning, professor of history, participated in the three-week National Endowment for the Humanities 2022 Summer Institute, “Worlds in Collision: Nahuatl and Spanish Pictorial Histories and Annuals in 16th-Century Mexico.”

Chia researched the tribute system in Chinese history – a China-centered relationship with outsiders through ritualized ceremony and gift exchange – by bringing together scholars from Chinese, Mongolian, Eurasian and Mesoamerican studies.

Chia was one of 26 college and university faculty from across the country participating in the institute. Scholars immersed themselves in source materials to give expression to the new existential realities created by the Spanish incursions into the Valley of Mexico in 1519-1521, the overthrow of the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan and the founding of Spanish colonial Mexico City.



◀ STUDENT SENATE OFFICERS ELECTED

The following students serve as Student Senate executive officers for the 2022-23 academic year:

Quinn Deahl '23, left, Cedar Rapids Iowa, is Student Senate president.

DelTon Alexander '24, Iowa City, Iowa, is the senate leader for a second year.

Jenna-Marie Hernandez '24, Slater, Iowa, is serving as the senate's parliamentarian.

Gunner Hutton '25, St. Charles, Iowa, is the treasurer.

Delia Hintz '25, Mesa, Arizona, is the secretary.

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

A CAPPELLA CHOIR TOURS ARGENTINA

Central's A Cappella Choir traveled to Argentina for a 10-day tour with seven concerts from May 15-25. The A Cappella Choir tour featured 44 students. The choir tours internationally every four years.

The choir performed at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Des Moines, Iowa, before departing for Argentina where they performed in Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Misiones and Bariloche.

WRITE US!

Civitas welcomes letters and emails from readers concerning the contents of the magazine or issues relating to Central College. Please include the author's name, city and state; anonymous communications will be discarded. Letters selected for publication may be edited for length, content, clarity and style.

Address letters to Civitas, Central Communications, Central College, 812 University St., Pella, Iowa 50219 or email **Cyvannah Vecchio**, at vecchioc@central.edu.



Individuals recognized during Central College's Student Development Awards program are, from left: **Keaton Rodgers '23**, **Quinn Deahl '23**, **Caleb Viers '22**, **Gannon Oberhauser '24**, **Gabby Petruzzello '24**, **Ashley Lupkes '23**, **Jaymi Gibbs '24**, **Lillie McKee '25** and **Brad DiLeo '22**.

▲ STUDENTS RECOGNIZED WITH AWARDS

Student Development released the 2022 student leadership awards. This year 56 nominations were received from students, staff and faculty.

The recipients of the 2022 Outstanding New Leader Award are **Zach Anderson '25**, Iowa City, Iowa, and **Gannon Oberhauser '24**, Parkersburg, Iowa. This award honors a first- or second-year student volunteer who shows leadership promise, while not necessarily holding a leadership position, through their exemplary contributions to a recognized student organization and have helped the organization grow their participation.

The 2022 Service Award goes to the campus group Students Against Sexual Assault. The recipient demonstrates a superior commitment to the greater community during the past academic year through active service.

The Annual Theme Award recognizes a student volunteer or recognized student organization who demonstrates outstanding leadership in promoting and implementing the college's annual theme. This year's theme was Responsible Citizenship, and the award recipient is **Muhumure Nzabakiza '23**, Des Moines, Iowa.

The recipients of the Unsung Hero Award are **Brad DiLeo '22** and **Ashley Lupkes '23**, both from Iowa City, Iowa. This award recognizes student volunteers or student paraprofessionals who have positively influenced a program or organization from behind the scenes through a positive attitude,

a willingness to help in whatever capacity necessary and a commitment to excellence in the completion of tasks and duties.

This year's Outstanding Event Award recipients are the Students Against Sexual Assault group's "What Were You Wearing?" exhibit and Common Ground's drag show. **Jaymi Gibbs '24**, Galva, Illinois, and **Lillie McKee '25**, Mingo, Iowa, represented the groups. The award recognizes a successfully planned, efficiently run, effectively advertised and well-attended event that enhanced the social, educational and/or cultural life at Central, which was sponsored by a recognized student organization or student-led volunteer group.

The Organizational Excellence Award honors a student organization for making positive contributions to and building community at Central, outstanding programming and/or strong organizational structure, leadership and action. This year, the recipient is United Minority Alliance. **Keaton Rodgers '23**, Peoria, Arizona, represented the group.

The Bridge Builder Award recognizes a student volunteer, recognized student organization or paraprofessional who has worked to establish connections across campus; hosted collaborative social or educational events, explored diverse cultures or education about issues that have challenged the campus. The recipient of the Bridge Builder Award is the MLK Student Planning Team.

The Diversity and Inclusion Award goes to **Quinn Deahl '23**, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, who is recognized for her commitment

to issues of diversity, inclusion and social justice through programming and campus initiatives.

The Senior Student Development Award is presented to a student who has made notable contributions within student development while at Central. This award recognizes sustained, outstanding leadership in integrated, co-curricular and/or extracurricular activities and involvement to improve an aspect of campus life for students. The recipient of this year's Senior Student Development Award is **Caleb Viers '22**, Lone Tree, Iowa.

During the awards program, **Anya Butt**, professor of biology, received recognition as Advisor of the Year recipient. Butt has taught at Central since 2002, taking over the environmental studies program and growing it into a dynamic, applied program. She holds a master's degree in physical geography from the University of Toronto and a doctorate in hydrology/hydrogeology from the University of Nevada. She has lived on four of the world's five continents. She encourages students with discussion using international examples and case studies and advocates for international and intercultural education.



▲ BONNSTETTER EARNS RED ROCK AREA TOP 10 UNDER 40 AWARD

The Marion County Development Commission presented the 2021 Red Rock Area Top 10 Under 40. **Steffanie Bonnstetter**, senior content strategist – marketing and project management at Central, was recognized as one of the 10 outstanding individuals under 40.

Central also won a Best of Red Rock Award for Best Caterer. Central has frequently won top honors in these categories in the past. The Best of Red Rock Awards honor businesses and organizations throughout the county in 55 categories, based on votes from area residents.



▲ **TERENCE KLEVEN PUBLISHES BOOK**

Terence Kleven, Dr. Jacob and Gela Schnucker Sessler Chair in Philosophy and Religion and professor of religious studies at Central, published a new book “Faith and Reason in the Reformations.”

The book is a collection of essays presented at a conference on the topic of faith and reason, held on the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The Protestant Reformation began on All Saints Day, Oct. 31, 1517, when Martin Luther posted 95 theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. The essays in this volume celebrate and evaluate this event in the history of the Church. The 2017 conference was organized by Kleven and by **Mark Thomas**, associate professor of philosophy.

“Participants came together for this conference to explore scientific reasoning and faith. Our purpose was to try to build bridges where we could, while being true to our own differences. In contrast to many ecumenical endeavors, our aim was not to ‘water-down’ distinctives, but to recognize and understand them. As a group, we were especially interested in the enduring consequences of understanding science today and the relation of science to Christian faith, especially as it pertains to education,” Kleven says.



▲ **KATHY KORCHECK PUBLISHED IN HISPANIC ISSUES ON LINE**

Hispanic Issues On Line published an essay authored by **Kathy Korcheck**, professor of Spanish, titled “Radical Exposures: The Photography of Eviction in Crisis-Era Spain.”

Korcheck’s essay focuses on the photography of eviction in the wake of the global financial crisis in Spain (2008-2015) and examines eviction as a social, economic, political and legal problem. She examines the work of photojournalists Samuel Aranda, Joan Alvado, Olmo Calvo and Andrés Kudacki, each of whom extensively documented the housing crisis in Spain from within and beyond the domestic space, in both the national and international press.

Korcheck argues that these images compel viewers to reconceptualize the complex relationship between home, belonging, security, surveillance, power and exclusion. She concludes that these images allow viewers to develop “strategies of resistance in how one looks, is seen or resists the gaze of others.”

Hispanic Issues On Line is a refereed, open-access scholarly electronic series devoted to the study of Hispanic and Lusophone cultures. The essay is part of volume 29, “Crisis Unleashed: Crime, Turmoil, and Protest in Hispanic Literature and Visual Culture.”



▲ **ÓSCAR REYNAGA SERVES ON DES MOINES LATINO FILM FESTIVAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Óscar Reynaga, senior lecturer of Spanish and dean of the Class of 2023, serves on the Des Moines Latino Film Festival technical committee. He was one of the four committee members who reviewed more than 500 film submissions and selected 22 that were screened during the festival.

The Latino Film Festival celebrates the rich cultural diversity in Iowa with food, art, music and performances, including films from Latin America and Spain as well as showcasing the work of local Latin filmmakers.

“I love films especially those that capture the beauty and complexity of Latinx culture. Plus, I thought this would be a wonderful learning opportunity to understand the behind-the-scenes process of organizing a film festival. I met such wonderful people who are leading the way in building a bright future for Iowa’s Latinx community,” Reynaga says.



◀ **CENTRAL RECEIVES SUMMER YOUTH INTERNSHIP GRANT FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Future Ready Iowa granted Central a \$9,099 Summer Youth Internship Program grant to invest in the future of Iowa’s workforce. Future Ready Iowa connects Iowans to the education and training required for good-paying jobs and careers to improve people’s lives.

The grant supports information technology specialist certification to prepare students for IT careers. The two-week summer intensive training leads to a six-week work-based learning experience with mentor support.

DECISIONS, DECISIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic forced Central College student-athletes to make decisions about their academic, athletics and career goals.

STORY BY: LARRY HAPPEL '81



After the 2020 Central football season was reduced to a two-game spring schedule, defensive lineman **Matt Glockel '21** and 14 of his classmates decided to return for a fifth season in 2021. It was a rewarding decision, Glockel says, as the Dutch won a record 32nd conference championship and made a 22nd NCAA Division III playoff appearance.

It was a decision that **Matt Glockel '21** never expected to make, yet one he's forever grateful he did.

When he arrived on campus for preseason football practice in 2017, remaining for a fifth year wasn't even on his radar. But, then again, neither was dealing with a global pandemic.

Hundreds of Dutch athletes were — and still are — faced with the same decision after the NCAA granted a blanket extra year of eligibility for all 2020-21-year athletes due to a blizzard of COVID-19-related scheduling postponements, cancellations and adjustments. Baseball, softball and men's and women's track and field athletes were previously granted an additional season of eligibility after their spring campaigns came to an abrupt halt March 12, 2020.

Glockel wasn't immediately concerned back then. Football season was still five months away. He and his teammates, coming off an American Rivers title share and NCAA Division III playoff berth, had even higher expectations for 2021, with a large and talent-rich senior class returning. Even after students were sent home at spring break and access to training facilities was cut off, Dutch players refused to give up on a fall season, finding creative ways to prepare, hoisting water jugs and flipping car tires.

But as the slow drip of cancellations intensified, the picture darkened. By early August, reality was setting in.

"We were holding on to hope as long as we possibly could," Glockel says.

Then Glockel received an email for a team Zoom meeting.

"You didn't have to say it in that email, but I think we all knew exactly what was happening," he says. "That was a hard email to get."

Conversations pivoted to a spring football season in 2021, but that unleashed a new flurry of questions including what health and safety protocols would be required, the number of games, spectator attendance, the inclusion of nonconference games and the possibility of conference championships and playoff competition. Athletes were reluctant to burn a year of eligibility for a compromised season.

But returning for a fifth season wasn't an easy alternative. For many, there were financial implications, major requirements and complications with the timing of course offerings, not to mention putting the brakes on launching a career or delaying graduate school.



Because the men's basketball season runs through the winter, **Caden Mauck '21** had to return for both the fall and spring semester of his fifth year to regain the season that was compromised by the global pandemic. Mauck became the 31st player in Central history to top the 1,000-point mark for his career.

Players turned to each other in attempting to sort it all out.

"I think one of the hardest parts of going through that whole process and deciding was — we had a couple of different Zoom calls, just as players-only — and we all kind of said, 'Hey, what's everybody want to do?'" Glockel says. "Hearing the guys that were thinking about playing and the guys who were sitting out really divided the team, almost into two halves. That was really hard because you'd been playing with these guys for four years and had worked your tail off to get to play with them. No matter what happened, that was really disheartening."

The anticipated 2020 season could never be replaced. But was a shortened spring campaign a suitable career capstone?

"Some of the guys said, 'Hey, if we can play six, seven or eight games, that's enough for me,'" Glockel says. "'I can play those games and then hang up the cleats and be happy with that.' And the other guys were saying, 'Well, if there're only six games and there's no title, what am I playing for? I'd rather come back in the fall when there's a higher chance of playing for a national championship.'"

The NCAA granted the extra year of eligibility that fall. Some students had reason to return anyway, such as a semester for student teaching, but for Division III schools that prohibit traditional forms of redshirting and don't have graduate programs, a fifth season was new ground.

Senior Associate Athletics Director and Associate Head Women's Softball Coach

Alicia O'Brien, the athletics compliance director, teamed with Senior Registrar **Leslie Keuning Duinink '90** to help athletes navigate a complicated path. The NCAA helped smooth the way, removing the requirement that graduates must enroll in graduate school to compete. Instead, students must take a six-credit load with coursework deemed "meaningful and educational," as determined by someone outside of the athletics department, a role handled by Duinink.

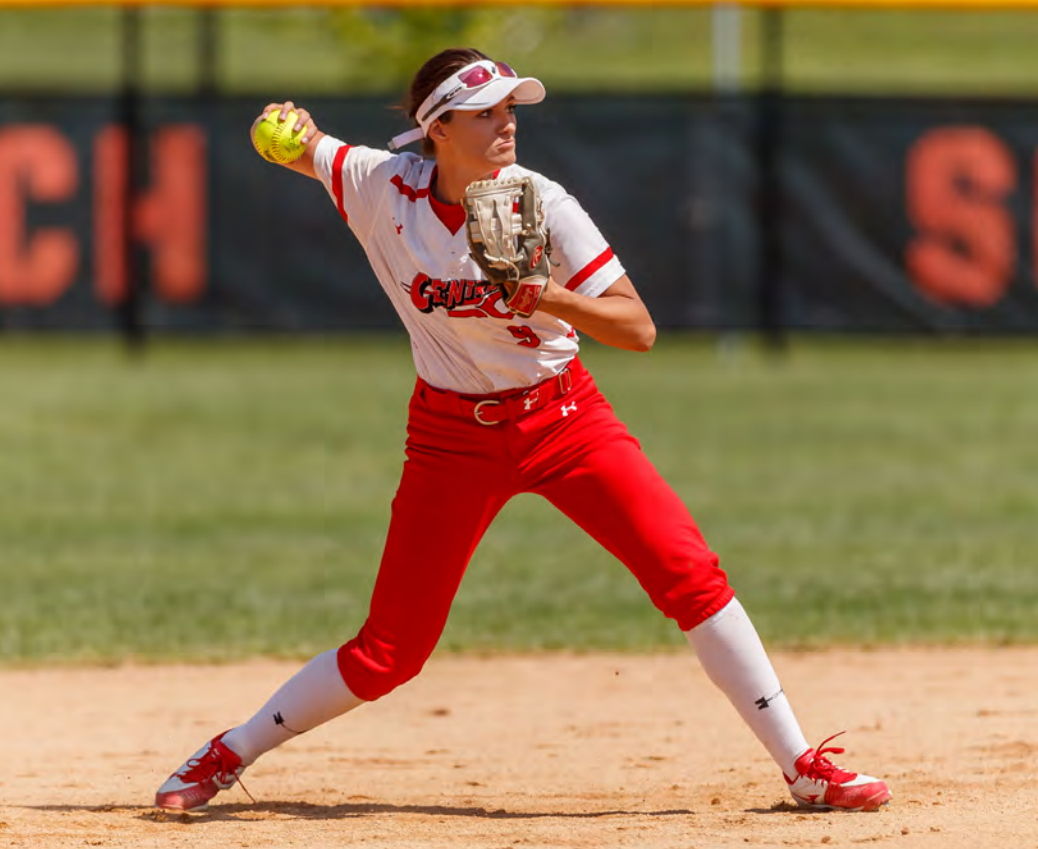
Athletes must weigh the academic benefit to returning but O'Brien says that needs to be their decision and notes that in the Division III philosophy former Central President **Ken Weller** authored, athletics competition is seen as a critical component of a student-athlete's education.

"Because of COVID-19, they feel like they were cheated out of that part of what they thought was going to be their four-year college experience," she says.

It's a more seamless process for fall-sport athletes. But those competing in the spring must decide whether to work off campus in the fall while winter-sport athletes have to enroll for both semesters in the fifth year, like men's basketball forward **Caden Mauck '21** did.

After a less-than-satisfying two-game spring season in 2021, Glockel and 14 of his classmates decided to return for a fifth football season.

"Even though we had somewhat of a spring season, the games didn't quite feel



All-conference shortstop Daria Parchert '21 lost a season to the global pandemic and part of another due to injury, but still savors her Central softball career and the American Rivers title she and her teammates celebrated in 2019 now that she has moved on to a position with Mid-American Energy in Des Moines.

right,” Glockel says. “I think that was part of what drove me to come back. I wanted a little bit of closure.”

Having so many classmates return made his decision easier.

“Yes, it did, I’m not going to lie,” Glockel says. “I had a lot of extremely good friends who decided to come back. COVID-19 messed up a lot more about college than just athletics, obviously. My true senior year not only did I miss out on a season of football, but for most of it we were kind of by ourselves. You didn’t get to really enjoy the dorm room, hanging out with your friends and all that other stuff. So, the opportunity to come back and hang out with 20 of my best friends for another six months was kind of hard for me to pass up.”

The 10-0 regular season that followed was among the most dominant in Central football history. The Dutch advanced to the NCAA Division III quarterfinals, finishing at 12-1 overall and shattering 62 school records.

“It’s hard to put into words,” Glockel says. “Winning the conference title like we did, walking off that field after we beat Buena Vista the way that we did (65-6 in the Nov. 13 regular-season finale) is something I’ll never forget.”

Yet Glockel’s return yielded more than a trophy.

“Yes, we can talk about how great that season was, but there were a lot of other things that made it worthwhile to me,” he says. “Just to get to spend quality time with that group of guys was worth quite a lot. I made some really good friends and memories that will last forever.”

A DIFFERENT DECISION

The memory of March 12, 2020, still stings for all-conference softball shortstop **Daria Parchert '21**. The Dutch were coming off a 2019 league title and had generated some national buzz with a 5-1 mark at the NFCA Division III Leadoff Classic in Arizona the previous weekend. Expectations were skyrocketing as the team prepared to leave on a spring-break trip to Florida in less than 48 hours, until Parchert glanced at her phone.

“I was getting ready to go into a class and I saw a tweet that NCAA spring championships were canceled,” Parchert says. “I remember crying, just bawling in the hallway.”

Parchert raced back to her room after class and then to a hastily called team meeting.

“First, they told us we weren’t playing non-conference games,” Parchert says. “And then our entire season was canceled.

It seemed like it all went down within 20-30 minutes. It was so shocking. I remember the feeling we had when we left Arizona that this is our year and then it was all gone within 24 hours. I can’t even explain the feeling.”

Softball returned with an abbreviated 2021 schedule. But that campaign was shut down for 10 days when Parchert tested positive for COVID-19. Shortly thereafter she was blindsided by a baserunner, suffering a concussion that diminished what was left of the shattered season.

Unlike Glockel, Parchert didn’t have a dugout-full of classmates also thinking about returning. Still, as she staggered through her senior season, there was a pull to return.

“When you’ve played this game since you were 4, the last thing you want to do with your very last season is either spend it home because you have COVID-19 or on the bench because you can’t even go out in the sun because your head hurts so bad,” she says. “As soon as I got a concussion, I wanted to just get better and play. I thought, ‘I don’t want to take this uniform off.’”

But then Parchert landed a job with Mid-American Energy in Des Moines, where she was recently promoted to operations specialist. As her post-Central ride was picking up speed, she was hesitant to jump off.

“I was already starting my life,” she says. “I think it would have been a whole different story if softball was in the fall, but I was moving fast with the company and making relationships. To have to put a stop to the life I started after college would have been really hard.”

She also felt a financial pinch and, after already completing her major, to spend more tuition dollars for coursework she didn’t really need wasn’t appealing, either.

Exhausted from months of indecision, Parchert was left with emotionally letting go of softball after losing most of two seasons of a promising career.

“I finally came to terms with my senior season,” she says. “It was out of my control. Hopefully, someday I’ll be able to coach and kind of hand my glove off to somebody else and they can take what I left there.”

The lessons she learned under NFCA Hall of Fame coach **George Wares '76**, head women’s softball coach, event management and lecturer in kinesiology, that have made his teams so successful, ironically left her more prepared to leave.

“Seeing the people who are coming into this Central program that I can still help, watching them grow, watching them have the time that we got to have and learning every-

thing I did through the program, that makes everything OK,” she says. “It is OK when you have to put your glove down and it does take a little bit to figure that out. There are times where I’ll sit here and miss it 110%, but everything you take away from that program helps you every single day. I don’t think I’d be where I am right now — be able to talk to the people I’m talking to, be OK with moving at a fast pace, just being thrown into situations where you have no clue but you need to figure it out right then and there — if I didn’t go through any of that for four years.”

Parchert often marvels how diving for grounders in the dirt supplemented the education she gained immersed in course lectures and textbooks.

“I never had confidence in myself and my decisions, or I would always freak out if I was just thrown into situations without a black-and-white answer,” Parchert says. “Coach Wares and I have had many talks about how it’s OK to have some gray area there. And I really am realizing that. You soon learn how much the program has shaped you.”

A NEW OPPORTUNITY

Thomas Spoehr '22 was left searching when a concussion ended his college basketball dreams early in his sophomore season. Prodded by Associate Head Men’s and Women’s Track Coach and Lecturer of Kinesiology **Jim Fuller**, Spoehr developed a new passion, competing in the weight events. Learning the intricacies of throwing techniques on the fly, he emerged as a conference place winner. But his Central career didn’t have the ending he had scripted: standing on the podium at the NCAA Division III Championships. Spoehr longed for another chance in a fifth season at Central, especially after getting a late start to his career. But as an honors student with a mathematics major, it didn’t make sense. It took **Allen Walz**, Central’s men’s and women’s track and field throwing coach, to convince him of that.

“We had a tough conversation because he wants to compete,” Walz says. “He doesn’t feel like he’s achieved what he wants to in track and field. So, he was talking about coming back again next year but he also had an opportunity to go to Minnesota State Mankato and start a master’s program there. My recommendation was to go to Minnesota State. I told him he’s got to have his goals beyond competition. I said if he could do both, get his master’s and compete, that would be the best thing for him. It wouldn’t be the best

thing for me as a coach or for our program but that it would be the best thing for him.”

A DECISION AHEAD

Decisions still loom for other Central athletes. After seeing her first softball season quickly end in 2020, then playing a modified schedule in 2021, the career of pitcher **Sydni Huisman '23** took another face-plant as the 2022 season launched. Minutes before the opener, while warming up, she suffered a major injury that left her with a long off-season of rehabilitation.

“For me, personally, I haven’t had a normal season,” she says.

Huisman has known for two years that she has the option of an extra season. This year’s injury makes using it even more appealing — especially after seeing others’ careers come to such an abrupt finish.

“I think for some of them, the reason they didn’t come back is they felt they hadn’t prepared for it,” Huisman says “It was never an option until it was an option. But I’ve known since freshman year. So, it’s always been in the back of my mind. It won’t be such a big change to my life path.”

She’s thought about her career and the cost of returning. But even more, she’s pondered the cost of leaving.

“The biggest factor for me is I have the rest of my life to work and do those things, but softball is my true passion, so to come back and play for one more year doesn’t seem like I’m putting my life on hold,” Huisman says. “I don’t think that in 20 years, I’ll regret that decision. I want to play for as long as I can and I kind of want my full four years of experience more than anything.”

Huisman intends to work in Pella prior to her fifth year, then return to school in January. She knows that just as this year took an unexpected turn with a serious injury, her fifth season could be derailed as well. It’s a chance she wants to take.

“I’m not going to regret it,” she says. “I don’t really see any downside other than you can argue there’s a downside financially, but that’s going to work out in the end.”

For others the sometimes-anguishing debate continues. But among the most grateful for the chance to return is Parchert, the one who turned it down.

“I think it was great that we had a choice,” she says. “I think it opened up your brain and made you really think and at least gave you an opportunity to say, ‘Hey, I’m not done,’ or ‘My chapter is over, it’s time to give my jersey to someone else.’” ■

ATHLETICS UPDATES

MEN’S TRACK AND FIELD: Sam Beatty '23 earned all-America honors, placing third in the NCAA Division III high jump. The Dutch had seven national meet qualifiers and finished fourth at the American Rivers Championships.

WOMEN’S TRACK AND FIELD: Caroline McMartin '24 was an NCAA national meet qualifier in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. The Dutch finished fifth at the conference meet.

BASEBALL: Central was 16-23 in Coach **Casey Klunder’s** first season. Outfielder **Colton DeRocher '23** and pitcher/first baseman **Declan O’Hare '23** were first-team all-conference picks.

MEN’S TENNIS: Central posted a 10-9 record and was 5-3 in conference play, good for fourth place. The Dutch were also fourth in the league tournament.

SOFTBALL: Central was 21-17 and tied for seventh in the conference. Outfielders **Emma Johnson '23** and **Frannie Burnett '24** were NFCA Division III All-Midwest Region selections.

MEN’S GOLF: Central finished second at the conference tournament. **Harold Dobernecker '24** placed seventh, gaining all-conference honors for the second time.

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

CENTRAL ADDS THREE TO ATHLETICS HALL OF HONOR

STORY BY: **LARRY HAPPEL '81**

Three spring sport standouts who embarked on successful postgraduate careers are the newest members of the Central College Athletics Hall of Honor.

NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship recipient and Iowa Conference baseball MVP **Adam Duerfeldt '06**, all-American women's track and field heptathlete and volleyball outside hitter **Lindsay Schultz Janke '04** and all-American softball catcher **Annie Van Wetzinger '01** were inducted as part of Central's Homecoming activities.

Established in 2002, Central's Hall of Honor recognizes exceptional performers in the athletics arena as a student-athlete, coach or administrator, who also have distinguished themselves in life after graduation through service and leadership. To be eligible for consideration, a nominee must have graduated or served as a Central coach/administrator at least 15 years earlier. This year's inductions raise the hall's membership level to 66.



▲ **LINDSAY SCHULTZ JANKE '04**

Janke was a multi-event, multi-sport star. She also was a three-time all-American heptathlete and made the national stage in volleyball.

After finishing eighth in the NCAA Division III heptathlon in 2002 and sixth in 2003, Janke climbed to second on the podium in 2004 with 4,835 points, standing

next to her twin sister, **Raegan Schultz Wagner '04**, who captured the title as Central finished 14th in the national team standings. Janke also was a national indoor meet qualifier in the long jump and an outdoor qualifier in the javelin.

Wagner was inducted into Central's Athletics Hall of Honor in 2019, making the sisters the third pair of siblings installed

in the hall. Others are **Rich '92** and **Mark Kacmarynski '96** and **Kevin '93** and **Rick Sanger '96**.

Originally from Barnum, Iowa, Janke took the 2004 Iowa Conference heptathlon crown with a then-record 4,813 points and was a 17-time conference place winner, placing five times in the 2004 outdoor championships and four times in the indoor meet. She also took league titles in the 2004 outdoor 100-meter hurdles and the 2003 indoor long jump. She was twice named the league's female athlete of the week and helped set school records in the javelin and the shuttle hurdle relay.

The 2004 team MVP and a team co-captain, Janke was a three-time academic all-conference honoree in both track and field and volleyball.

Janke was a member of Central's 2000 NCAA Division III champion volleyball squad and participated in the 2001 and 2003 NCAA tournaments as the Dutch won league championships in each of her four seasons.

Janke serves as a senior financing consultant for Principal Real Estate Investors, a division of Principal Global Investors, in Des Moines, where she has worked since graduation.

She participated in a variety of service and religious activities while at Central and is now a member of the college's EAM Advisory Council for economics, accounting and business management students. She remains active in women's ministry and other programs.



▲ ADAM DUERFELDT '06

A stellar baseball and academic career resulted in Duerfeldt's award as the 2006 College Sports Information Directors of American Academic All-American of the Year. He was a two-year Central co-captain and led the 2006 Dutch to a share of their first Iowa Conference championship in

31 years, posting a 26-14 overall mark. Duerfeldt ranked fifth in the NCAA Division III with a school-record .481 batting mark, scoring 48 runs, driving in 65 and hitting six home runs. He batted a school-record .384 for his career and set 15 school records overall including longest hitting streak (20 games).

An Urbandale, Iowa, native, Duerfeldt was named the conference MVP and was a two-time all-conference honoree. He was a 2006 first-team ABCA Division III All-Central Region pick and the 2006 National College Baseball Writers Association Division III Central Region Position Player of the Year. He was a three-time CoSIDA academic all-region pick and a two-time first-team CoSIDA Academic All-America selection. Duerfeldt also was named the Woody Hayes Division III Men's National Scholar-Athlete of the Year and the Duane Schroeder Iowa Conference Male Athlete of the Year.

Graduating from Central with a 3.88 grade point average and a chemistry major, he received the Madison and Lila Self Graduate Fellowship at the University of Kansas where he earned a Ph.D. in medicinal chemistry. He was a postdoctoral research associate at The Scripps Research Institute in California and served as an American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellow. He is currently an associate professor of medicinal chemistry at the University of Minnesota and co-founder of Excitant Therapeutics, a biopharmaceutical start-up dedicated to the development of non-invasive therapies for ophthalmic diseases.



▲ ANNIE VAN WETZINGER '01

Softball stardom led Van Wetzinger to a coaching career. A 2001 NFCA Division III first-team All-American pick after receiving second-team honors in 2000 and a four-time all-region honoree, Van Wetzinger was selected for the 2001 NFCA Division III Catcher of the Year Award.

She helped lead Central to four NCAA tournament berths and was a team co-

captain for the 2001 squad, which finished second in the national finals. The Dutch also won the 2000 conference crown and Van Wetzinger was a three-time all-league pick.

Central's 2001 LeRoy Timmer MVP Award winner, Van Wetzinger batted .381 in 51 games with 56 hits, 14 doubles, three homers and 32 RBIs. She sparkled even brighter behind the plate with 53 assists. She

hit .351 for her career with 184 hits, tying her for ninth place on Central's all-time list and played in 190 games, which ranks third. She had 40 doubles, two triples, 11 homers and 261 RBIs along with a .966 fielding percentage, recording 783 putouts and 159 assists.

Following graduation, Van Wetzinger served as a coach with her brother, Rusty, at Pleasant Valley High School in Bettendorf, Iowa, where they helped the team win a pair of conference titles and made the school's first state tourney appearance in 2005, placing third. They coached four players who later starred at Central.

Van Wetzinger has also coached at St. Ambrose University; Indiana State University (where she received a master's degree); Colorado School of Mines; and Upper Iowa University. She has been at Metropolitan State University of Denver since 2014.

Van Wetzinger has guided MSU Denver to three NCAA Division II tourney appearances and one conference title, with a 38-22 record this past season. She's posted a 296-161 record at MSU Denver and has a 449-317 overall mark. ■



A FORCE FOR GOOD

Cheri Trout Doane '98 has helped Central College students make a difference by fostering citizen involvement.

STORY BY: **EMILY HAWK**
PHOTOS BY: **PAUL JOY**

No one has loved their job more than **Cheri Trout Doane '98**.

Doane, recently retired director of community-based learning and civic engagement at Central College, has connected thousands of students and faculty to more than 100 community agencies and grassroots organizations across the state since 1999.

Throughout her career, she has fostered meaningful relationships to bridge the gap between higher education and the greater community through the college's Center for Community-Based Learning.

And for Doane, being an advocate for the college and its community partners for 23 years wasn't just a job. It was a calling.

Service and civic engagement are the core of a Central education. Doane has always understood the assignment — and it all started for her when she was a nontraditional student at Central.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

As a resident of Newton, Iowa, Doane has always been an engaged citizen. Before enrolling at Central, Doane was active in her community as a mom and wife of a small business owner. Her husband, Marty, owned Iowa Bike and Fitness in Newton and Pella before retiring.

"I was always an engaged citizen in my hometown. I was active with the PTA, the hospital board, children's issues and other organizations," Doane says. "But as my children got older, I wanted to do more."

Doane enrolled at Des Moines Area Community College and received her associates degree in business. In 1996, she transferred to Central as a nontraditional student.

"The faculty were really happy to have a nontraditional student in the classroom because I could offer a different kind of voice," she says. "I got to know my professors very well."

One such professor was **Walter Cannon**, professor emeritus of English. At the time, Cannon was teaching the class Service-Learning Writing — a class Doane almost didn't take.

"I look back and think of the 23 years of bliss I could have missed," she says.

John Miller, now professor emeritus of English, suggested Cannon's class to Doane.

"He said, 'I know how involved you are in your community, and I think you'd like Service-Learning Writing.' I was flattered that my professor thought I would have a



A student from Harding Middle School in Des Moines conducts an experiment during a visit to Central College.

lot to offer in that class, but I didn't think I'd have the time in my schedule," she says.

Doane decided to attend the first day of class to let Cannon know she was appreciative of his work with nonprofit partners with the intention of never returning.

The rest is history.

"I didn't care what it would take, I knew I had to take that class," she says.

ANSWERING A CALLING

In 1994, Cannon was instrumental in obtaining a grant from the Council of Independent Colleges for Central to develop a series of service-learning courses.

"We wanted to get students out into the community," Cannon says. "It was a way to connect students with the outside world and to help the various nonprofit organizations throughout the area continue the good work they were doing."

Service-Learning Writing, now called Writing for Nonprofit Organizations, teaches students to write brochures, press releases, grant proposals and more for a nonprofit organization or agency. As a student, Doane

wrote donor solicitations, designed brochures and completed other assignments for Newton Community Education Foundation.

"I fell in love with the idea of acknowledging that expertise can be gained in something other than the classroom setting," she says.

Doane became good friends with her professors — and her classmates. As a nontraditional student, she wasn't quite old enough to be the mother of her peers, but they certainly saw her as a motherly figure.

"They knew they could share information with me they couldn't share with their mothers," Doane says. "So, I became friends with a lot of my peers with whom I stay in touch with to this day."

Doane invited her peers to her home for study sessions and good food. Lasagna, chili and enchiladas were often on the menu. While fun was certainly had, studying and learning class material was always the main priority.

"My children, who were younger, saw firsthand how hard college students study," she says. "My experience as a nontraditional student is what caused me to fall in love with higher education."



Cheri Trout Doane '98 hugs Heather Burr Isaacson '97 from By Degrees Foundation during Harding Middle School's visit to Central College.

Doane was recruited as an intern in her last semester to help Central make connections with community partners.

"The burden of developing courses that got students engaged with the community was to find organizations that met the goals of our classes while also being helpful to those organizations," Cannon says. "We wanted to have a relationship with them without being a burden. Cheri really understood that dynamic."

"She was a very careful and helpful connector for us. I can't imagine how we would have developed all of this without somebody like Cheri who understood the dynamic from both sides so it was a win-win for everyone. She had the rare gift of understanding people at all levels and walks of life and was able to find ways to connect us so that we all became better."

FOSTERING RELATIONSHIPS

Doane's first office was in a closet big enough for a classroom-sized desk. Now, the Center for Community-Based Learning is housed within Global Experiential Learning in Geisler Library.

"In a way, the progression of offices tells the story of the college's recognition of how valuable community-based learning truly is,"

she says. "But I would've worked in a basement if I had to. I loved my job that much."

After interning for a semester, Doane became a part-time employee of the college. It was her job, and her mission, to develop relationships between the college and community partners to incorporate meaningful community service with course learning. She did this while also attending graduate school and doing her master's thesis on Central's international education programs and the cultural awareness impact of service learning.

Service and responsible citizenship have always been core ethos of the college. Doane understood this. And she knew how to help students live up to these principles.

"In the late '90s, Central recognized that it's not just a matter of saying 'Our students are learning to be good citizens.' It recognized that service learning could serve as a vehicle to advance our mission about preparing students to serve their communities and to develop intercultural competence and more," she says.

Doane's research showed that students who had the opportunity to learn outside of the classroom in a community setting were achieving academic outcomes at a higher

rate.

"What I began to understand early on is that if we let community well-being drive us, that those goals, those outcomes for students, would be attained," she says.

As Doane and the college continued to tweak the program, they began emphasizing community voice.

"We didn't look at community partners as just a placement site. We looked at them as co-educators," she says. "We recognize that there is expertise that resides outside of our institution, and that's what sets Central apart from other institutions. Our community-based learning program is shaped in ways that emphasize community participation."

Doane recognized that fostering relationships with community partners was key for the community-based learning program to be successful. Relationships cannot simply be transactional.

"We need to let community partners identify their own needs rather than the college telling them how they should do things," she says. "The latter is not how you create meaningful relationships."

Doane also recognized that faculty support was crucial for the program to grow and become sustainable.

"I knew that if I worked hard enough, the professors would see the results of this

impact on their students and that it would catch on," she says. "Our professors are willing to be vulnerable, to allow another expert in the community, to teach students things they simply cannot learn or truly comprehend in the classroom alone. As long as our faculty continue to support our work, it's always going to work."

"One of Cheri's greatest contributions to service learning and civic engagement at Central has been through faculty development. Generations of faculty have been supported to develop courses and learned how to design reflection assignments that truly enhance students' learning from their service experiences," says Peggy Fitch, professor emeritus of psychology and Title IX coordinator and equity officer.

LEADER, MENTOR, COLLEAGUE, FRIEND

Today, Central is a leading institution of community-based learning. The college has been named a national top five institution for community service and is one of the few institutions that has a designated community-based learning office and program.

Each year, 400 students participate in academic service-learning, and hundreds more get involved through other volunteer opportunities like Central Service Day. The college has partners in Pella, Newton, Knoxville, Ottumwa, Oskaloosa, Des Moines and other surrounding communities.

The college has been regularly recognized on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for distinguished community service in recognition of extraordinary volunteer efforts by the school and its students.

In 2015, Central achieved the prestigious community engagement designation from the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching. Central was one of six Iowa colleges and universities to receive the Community Engagement Classification.

"It's very difficult to truly express Cheri's impact on community-based learning and civic engagement at Central," says **Jessica Klyn de Novelo '05**, associate dean for career development and civic engagement. "Over the past 20-plus years, Central's community-based learning program has grown from a mere idea into a robust, holistic, nationally recognized and award-winning program benefiting thousands of students."

Katie Zellmer Sylvis '14 participated in service learning all four years at Central. Her experience volunteering for refugee programs through AmeriCorps changed the

trajectory of her career — and her life. Sylvis came to Central with the goal of working for a museum. Now, she's the AmeriCorps program director for Habitat for Humanity in Des Moines.

"Community-based learning is a great way for people to learn about different careers that are in the nonprofit sphere. You don't have to be a successful scientist or a businessperson or a broker. You can be successful at a nonprofit. This is a great way to learn how to better your community but also be successful yourself," Sylvis says. "Because I had that experience with Cheri, she continued to mentor me throughout my career, and she still does. I still turn to her whenever I have issues or I want to change jobs like, 'How do I handle it? What should I do?' She's always a great person."

Carmen Zeitler Lampe, former executive director of Children and Family Urban Movement in Des Moines, worked with Doane for 15 years. Together, they brainstormed and had impactful conversations with other organizations. Lampe always referred to Doane as the "guru of community-based learning and civic engagement."

"I just had a friend say the other day there are so many great ideas, but not enough energy. But Cheri seemed to really be able to come up with the energy, and there is a vitality and vibrancy about her as a person. It fueled her personality; who she is at her core fueled this work in a way that you really couldn't plan or prepare for," Lampe says. "It was just this great coming together of many gifts and many needs and trying to come out on the other side with everybody more whole and engaged and compassionate and smart."

Kate Nesbit, assistant professor of English, had never encountered a program like Central's. During her job interview, Doane persuaded Nesbit to teach at the college with her unmatched enthusiasm for the work she did in community-based learning.

"Cheri is just a presence. There are few people who can shift the energy in the room in such a positive way. When she's excited about something, which she often is, she makes you excited about it. I tend to be kind of cynical and a bit downtrodden about the state of affairs, and she is someone who really challenges me to step out of that because she's realistic," Nesbit says. "She encounters, in a really serious way, the challenges we face in our communities here in Iowa and in the nation at large. She does so in such a solution-oriented way that takes real hope and inspiration from the activists and partners who are doing the work in our communities.

"She's really challenged me to look at social justice in a different way. I will miss that. I will miss the way that she energizes me and my students to care about issues and to become involved in our communities," Nesbitt adds.

AN UNFORGETTABLE IMPACT

Like any professional who is truly passionate about their work, the thought of retirement can be difficult. Doane knew it was time to pass the baton on to someone else.

Many students, faculty, colleagues and community partners say superseding her won't be easy. Central President **Mark Putnam** knows Doane's work was so much more than organizing volunteer service.

"The measure of one's success is not what happens during their time, it's what happens after their time," he says. "Because if it can be built on, and it can be strengthened and grown, then the work is the worthiest work that was done here. Cheri will be succeeded in some form, but she'll never be replaced."

The impact Doane had on service learning and civic engagement at Central is immeasurable.

"Even as we plan for the future, Central's engaged citizen curriculum model has Cheri's fingerprints all over it. Her impact is not about the program alone — as that will change and evolve over time — but the imprint of Cheri's work has manifested itself into our DNA," Putnam says. "In the most positive sense, we've mutated to a place where the notions of sustainability have converged with civic engagement and the discourse about social justice — and all of this is represented in Central's core curriculum."

Her position is a big seat to fill, but she knows the program is in good hands.

"I will miss it terribly, but I do not regret leaving the program in the hands of the people who are going to continue it," Doane says. "It will carry on without me with no hiccups."

"Nobody has ever had a job they love more than I do, unless maybe it's Oprah. The intersection of community and education, that overlap, was the sweet spot for me. I have loved my 23 years at Central College." ■

Erin Kamp, content specialist — editorial, and **Denise Lamphier**, executive director of communications and marketing, contributed to this story.

DREAMS HAVE NO DEADLINES

*After 15 years in the workforce, **Shawn Vande Kieft '21** learned it's never too late to follow your dreams.*

STORY BY: BRITTANY CARLSON PROKUPEK '16

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	4	5



ILLUSTRATION BY: MELODY VANDERLEEST
PHOTO BY: PAUL JOY

Faith, family and Fareway were top priorities for **Shawn Vande Kieft '21** until his youngest child was old enough to go to school. With faith and family still at the top of his priority list, Vande Kieft took the opportunity to go back to school himself after 15 years in the workforce and follow his dreams of becoming an engineer.

THE EARLY YEARS

Vande Kieft is a Marion County native, growing up in Oskaloosa, Iowa, and later moving to Pella. He started working for Fareway Stores, Inc., the Midwest-based grocery store chain, just before his senior year in high school. He connected with the manager of the store, who encouraged him to consider joining the management program when he graduated. Though Vande Kieft dreamt of becoming an aerospace engineer in high school, he tucked that dream away as he worked part time for another Fareway location while completing his associate degree.

Upon graduating, Vande Kieft transitioned into working full time for Fareway — even joining the management program — but soon learned it wasn't for him. Vande Kieft and his wife, Hillary, wanted to be closer to family, and the possibility of being moved across the state, or even to another state with little notice, was unsettling. He decided to walk away from the management track and work full time at the store in Pella.

A FAITHFUL NUDGE

Engineering and going back to school were always in the back of Vande Kieft's mind. For years he prayed about what to do, when to make the change and where to go. One day at work, he happened to see a Des Moines Register article on Engineers Week. It detailed everything one could ever want to know about what an engineer does, career paths, schools and more. Vande Kieft welcomed the sign and waited for their youngest son to begin school before going back for a four-year degree at Iowa State University.

CHANGE IS COMING

And so began the changes in the Vande Kieft household. Hillary went back to work after staying home to raise their five boys. Shawn was gone. A lot. Homework and studying became regular pastimes not just for the Vande Kieft boys, but their dad, too. Family time became even more precious than before.

"Dad didn't have much time for them, and that was hard," Shawn says.

"And I was re-entering the workforce after 12 years at home with our boys," Hillary

says. "Talk about turning the family dynamic on its head!"

Hillary worked in the Pella Community School District so she could be home with their boys in the evenings while Shawn was studying and doing homework. "Balancing work life, home life, family schedules and still trying to find time for the things I enjoy doing was a real struggle while Shawn was wrapped up with studying," she says. "There were times it seemed as though Shawn's college journey would never end."

Shawn recognized his wife's sacrifice. "My wife was doing a lot — more than I wanted her to," Shawn says. "But she stepped in to fill the gaps for our family when we needed it. I'll never forget that."

Still trying to help provide for his family, Vande Kieft would work at the grocery store in the mornings and on weekends as often as he could. When he was done working, he'd get on the road to get to class in Ames. Sometimes he'd stay overnight with his in-laws to cut down on driving, get more uninterrupted homework and study time or in case of inclement weather.

The family endured a semester of stress, yearning, learning, time apart and more. Relieved to learn about Central's new engineering program right in his backyard, Vande Kieft inquired. After talking with members of the admission and financial aid teams, praying and talking through things as a family, he made the decision to transfer — a choice that would not only benefit him, but the whole family.

GROWING PAINS

We all know the liberal arts experience includes a dash of just about everything: math, science, the humanities and more. It's the beauty of a liberal arts education!

"Honestly, I wasn't terribly excited about the additional required courses outside of my major and minor because I was already busy enough," Vande Kieft says. Once he

embraced these ... growing pains ... he became quite fond of them, "especially Spanish and my Islam course with **Terry Kleven**," who is the Dr. Jacob and Gela Schnucker Sessler Chair in Philosophy and Religion and professor of religious studies.

Vande Kieft also was grateful for the writing courses he completed. He feels he grew and honed that skill in ways he wouldn't have been able to if not for Central pushing him outside his comfort zone.

"The Career and Professional Development team were a great help to me, too," Vande Kieft mentions. "I never had a formal interview until I heard back about an internship opportunity. I didn't know there was a place on campus dedicated to helping students create résumés, practice answering and asking questions, etcetera until after my first go-round."

Spending time with **Jess Klyn de Novelo '05**, associate dean for career development and civic engagement, and team made a difference, too. "I was prepared, more confident — still nervous, but a lot less so — and my overall impression was much better when it came time to interview again," he says.

MAN ON CAMPUS

When you're a nontraditional student, there's bound to be a bit of an age gap and generational differences. "But there were times it seemed I almost fit in better with college kids than people my own age," he laughs.

As one can imagine, campus life looks a lot different for a married person with five kids in school. But Vande Kieft found time to engage with classmates, even joining the Ultimate Frisbee Club on campus.

"I made some good friends in my time at Central and connected with some really great people. I didn't fully know what to expect from my experience, but it was even better than I imagined. I thought I wasn't really going to get close to anyone because who's going to want to hang out with an old guy? But they truly accepted me."

So much so that at least one of Vande Kieft's classmates had no idea he was older than the rest of them. "It came up in a class one day and one of the guys in the room looked at me, completely shocked, and said, 'I thought you were 23!' I don't know if it was a compliment or feedback that I don't act my age," he chuckles.

"The Career and Professional Development team was a great help to me."

— Shawn Vande Kieft '21

PERSONABLE PROFS

His connections didn't end with students, though; he connected with faculty and staff in a different way than a traditional student would. "I knew **Mark Mills**, professor of mathematics, before coming to Central, and while students typically address professors by their last name, Mills told me to call him Mark because he didn't feel right being addressed as 'Dr. Mills' by someone with kids that were the same age as his own."



After the pomp and circumstance from Commencement ended, the Vande Kieft family celebrated Shawn's achievement together. Pictured at their home (left to right) front: Noah, Ephraim and Silas. Back: Gideon, Hillary, Shawn and Elijah.

"A good portion of my classes were with **Viktor Martisovits**, professor of physics, and Mills. As my advisor, Martisovits gave me advice on what classes to take and when. He was a great resource and they both became great mentors to me."

Vande Kieft adds, "I got to build great relationships with my professors here. I didn't feel like a burden stopping by my professors' offices to ask a question or get help during, or even outside of, office hours. I would even do my homework outside their offices sometimes. It was just nice that the professors here are willing to make time for you."

PRICELESS

It's no secret that scholarship dollars and grants can go unnoticed or underutilized. But scholarships for nontraditional students are harder to come by. Vande Kieft did some extensive searching before starting down this path and struggled to find legitimate options for which he qualified.

"The decision to bring a financial burden on my family like this was almost always with me," he shares. "We made this choice because of me and what I wanted to do. It weighed on me. The payoff is, of course, the experience and the degree, right? It was an investment, and that's paying off in other ways now. I've got a great job with a great company that takes care of me and my family. Plus, having a stable, typically 8-5, job has been such a reward. I don't have to think about if I'm working a Saturday or evening. I can just go do things with my wife and with my kids or go to their events."

Thanks to the generosity of the Central family and Central's excellent financial aid staff, Vande Kieft was able to minimize the financial burden.

"I was fortunate that Central had a nontraditional scholarship and other scholarships available to help bring down the cost," he acknowledges. "With that support, it was pretty comparable to a state school, especially when you considered what I was spending on gas with multiple trips to Ames and back each week. And the time I was able to have back with my family made it even more worth it. You just can't put a price on that."

THE NEXT GENERATION

While going to Central — just like Dad — isn't off the table for the Vande Kieft boys, more than anything, "my wish for my kids is that they won't think their dreams are too big or out of reach," he shares. "I want to be the person to encourage and push them to follow their dreams. I have wonderful people in my life, but nobody ever told me to just go for it when I was their age, and I want to be that for them."

"I also hope they see the importance of hard work and not waiting to explore their passions," he adds. "I don't regret the decisions I made, but I've wondered what life would have been like if I did pursue something like this right out of, or shortly after, high school."

THE NEXT CHAPTER

"I honestly thought about not going to graduation because it seemed like it was for kids who were graduating and their parents,"

Vande Kieft says. "I was worried I'd stand out or feel awkward. I decided to put those feelings aside and I'll admit, I'm glad I went. It was the bookend I didn't know I needed to start my next chapter. My wife, kids, parents and grandparents were there to see me walk across the stage. All of this was just as much for them as it was for me."

His new chapter started a block or two down from Central at Pella Corporation, where Vande Kieft has worked since shortly after that special day in May 2021. He followed his dream and now he's a product engineer in a great environment full of opportunity, learning experiences and autonomy. Vande Kieft is right where he belongs, exploring solutions for products and feeding his inner tinker.

"It was exciting for Shawn to receive a job at Pella Corp," Hillary says. "To have local companies see his value and hard work is quite an honor. More than a year since this journey ended, I'm starting to see the beauty of what we have accomplished. Shawn has settled into his work community well and I have the liberty of getting back to being a mom as my top priority. I am so thankful we are able to stay in the Pella community as we launch Shawn's new career."

Though his path to career fulfillment was difficult, Vande Kieft found beauty in the journey.

"The whole experience, while it was challenging in many ways, was a joy. I'm so glad I did this — that I challenged myself and saw this through. It was hard, but it's one of my greatest accomplishments, aside from my family." ■

Shawn Vande Kieft '21 sits outside Pella Corporation where he works as a product engineer.





CENTRAL SCENE

PHOTO BY: PAUL JOY

When **Jill Podhajsky '22** isn't creating mixed media pieces, she can be found typing away on her typewriter ... probably sending a letter to Tom Hanks (yes, *that* Tom Hanks) – her pen pal – who gifted her the typewriter shown here. This year, Podhajsky used her typewriter as inspiration for a mixed media project in an art class. This girl's typewriting skills are hot off the press!





CHANGING LIFE FOR THE BETTER

(SUPER POWERS FROM SUPER ALUMNI)

**Making a difference in the world begins at Central College.
Whether it's perseverance, storytelling or remembering
names, the strengths of three Central
alumni have proven essential.**

**STORY BY:
JEANETTE BUDDING**

**ILLUSTRATION BY: MELODY VANDERLEEST
PHOTOS BY: PAUL JOY AND DAN VANDER BEEK**



Polly Adam Brekke '91, helped change Central by making accommodations for individuals with disabilities. She now advocates for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing in Iowa's largest school district.

Each fall students arrive on campus with unique strengths and abilities. Like a high-functioning team, the diversity of perspectives and strengths create a better place to live and grow. Three Central College alumni share their experiences and ways they personally are changing the world.

UNHEARD OF ACCOMMODATIONS

Polly Adam Brekke '91 of Des Moines, Iowa, arrived at Central as a deaf student in 1987.

"I am thankful for Central taking me at a time when no other university understood their responsibility to provide accommodations for individuals with disabilities," Brekke says.

In high school, she had written to over 25 colleges explaining her deafness and asking for accommodations. Central was the only one who wrote back saying they would work with her to get the accommodations she needed.

"I met many wonderful people at Central. **Sandy Koon Scotton '91** helped me

learn that I had a right to know what other people were saying around me. I remember standing in line as a first-year student with Sandy, waiting for the cafeteria and everyone was talking. Sandy was behind me. She asked me if I could hear what they were saying I said no. I could hear talking but had no idea what was being said anywhere by anyone. She then started to tell me what people standing near us were talking about. I told her it was OK, and that I was used to not knowing and living without that info. She then said that wasn't right and if she could hear it, I should know what was being said, too. I have never forgotten that comment and her kindness," Brekke says.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Brekke had planned a career in law but after taking a few psych courses at Central, she became intrigued with the field of psychology.

"I graduated with a B.A. from Central in psychology but needed skills and training, so I went to Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., to earn my advanced

degrees in school psychology," Brekke says.

Gallaudet offers a specialist degree program in school psychology with a sub-specialization in deafness. Brekke proceeded to the University of Northern Iowa for a Doctor of Education degree in inclusive leadership.

While at Gallaudet University, she was surrounded by visually accessible communication via sign language and began to really understand the value of incidental information in social conversations.

"Since then, I have resolved never to let another deaf or hard-of-hearing person allow themselves to be deprived of spoken information by not having access to communication, and I work to always ensure there is communication access for the deaf and/or hard-of-hearing individual, especially of the visual type such as sign language," Brekke says.

PAST REFLECTIONS

Though Central's administration was wonderful to work with, and Brekke made many friends during her time at Central, she wishes she had advocated for having a sign language interpreter for her classes.

"I relied on speechreading and reading the textbooks for my primary information source for my classes. I made arrangements with the professors to be tested only over the contents of the books, instead of the spoken instructional information in class, as that was not a reliable source of information for me.

"Speechreading is a guessing game, at best, and there are many nuances, including mouth movements being small, obscured by mustaches, being of a different speaking nationality, saying unfamiliar names or words, being too far away or looking away or having their back to the class, which makes it difficult to guess what is being stated," Brekke says. "Not to mention that you can only speech-read one person at a time, so working with two or more people in group settings was not going to be an effective means of communication access at all. Today, a sign language interpreter can capture these spoken dialogues and the access would be effortless and equitable."

In working with Student Support Services, Brekke advocated for assistance in her dormitory. SSS assisted by ensuring her living accommodations had a fire alarm accessible via light and vibrating bed alarm, visual door knocker and TTY phone, which is text-based telecommunications for the deaf, in her room in one of Central's residence halls.

RELENTLESS PURSUIT

Since then, Brekke has advocated for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing in Iowa's largest school district.

"I worked as a school psychologist in Des Moines Public Schools, eventually becoming consultant, dean of students and now deaf education coordinator," Brekke says. "I also teach American Sign Language and Deaf Culture at Drake University in the evenings.

"I don't give up and I work relentlessly to solve something. I use every resource possible to problem-solve issues. Every challenge is an opportunity for growth and awareness, and I always endeavor to do the very best I can."

As America has broadened its acceptance of people with disabilities, Brekke encourages the Central family to support providing interpreting and captioning access for individuals who are deaf and/or hard of hearing in all settings: public, employment, recreation, voluntary and social.

"Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals have incredible perspectives, cultural knowledge and life experiences to share with others," Brekke says. "The only barrier is the ease of communication access with each other. Don't let that be a barrier. Learn ASL, write, get an interpreter, make an effort to be inclusive as best as you can, and you will be rewarded abundantly with their gratitude and gifts of life perspectives."

DEFINING ONESELF

For **Leo Bird '14**, his strength is storytelling with pictures drawn from his Central experience. You can catch Bird at open mics in Des Moines. On stage, this is what you might hear from Bird.

"I ought to introduce myself. I am a live storyteller who uses drawings as a visual aid. I tell true stories about fitting in, building talent, character and autism. I have autism."

Bird explains, "I started writing stories in 2013, discovered the open mic scene in Des Moines in 2018, incorporated drawings in 2019 and won second place three times in 2019 with sets about what patience is, what posts are appropriate for Facebook and playing with the kids who are alone."

In 2021, a self-portrait drawing was accepted for display at the Iowa State Fair. He also performed at the Clash of Comics at the Funny Bone. The Des Moines Public Library has displayed 17 of his drawings, and he received invitations to five invitation-only art shows. By April 2022, Bird was in the line-up when Comedy DSM presented "Stand-up Comedy Night for a Cause."

Bird has been invited to exhibit his art at the Octagon in Ames, Iowa, from May 22



Leo Bird '14 is defining his passion for storytelling with pictures drawn from his Central experiences. Pictured above is a drawing representing residents halls on campus.

to June 17, 2023. His art will be on display along with other artists who have autism.

"People have said that I am a clean comic and that my stories are uplifting. I'm not afraid to show my vulnerability," Bird says. "Audiences say that they like how my stories are positive or how it makes them feel like a better person."

COLLEGE LIFE

Bird majored in actuarial science and had a minor in physics at Central.

"I got into actuarial science because I was a year ahead in math, and I'm good at it," he says with a smile.

Bird learned that a lot of the challenges he faced in college were not unique to Central.

"I've talked to some people who went to a different school, and they faced the same thing that I did like the overwhelming dormitories. I just spent a lot of the time in

my own dorm room," Bird reflects. "Writing about my past has helped me realize the things I could have done differently in college. I think one of my regrets was that I wasn't more aggressive in pursuing relationships with like-minded people."

Pat Kitzman, former director of the career center at Central, asked Bird what his greatest weakness was.

"I said, 'Well, I have autism, but I have an idea for a story that could teach people about it.' She suggested that I talk to the special education classes where people are studying to work with students with disabilities. People really liked it," Bird says.

In an interview for an internship while in college, the interviewer suggested to Bird that he could be somebody who educates people about autism. He spoke to education students in a class lead by **Esther Streed**, professor emerita of education.

"I thought I could do that by telling a true story. I learned storytelling techniques through a writing short stories class taught by **Arthur Johnson** (professor emeritus of English, who taught at Central for 46 years). So, I worked on it. 'The Words He Cannot Say' is a graphic memoir I wrote about fitting in, building talent and character. I had **George Clark '91**, (former assistant director of counseling and adjunct instructor of sociology) preview my paper. It talks about times when I was alone, when I had a lot of friends, when I was successful and when I was not. I can write and talk about stuff that other people would not feel comfortable talking about," Bird says.

Bird continued to edit the memoir through a website called Critique Circle. One story called 'Fitting In' generated a lot of positive buzz on the website. "People could really relate to it — they knew what it felt like to fit in," Bird explains.

WRITING FROM THE HEART

Bird started as a novelist, and he was trying to find ways to put himself out there.

"I joined a writers workshop when I moved to Des Moines at the Des Moines Public Library," Bird says. "One time they said there was an open mic for reading poetry. I did a Google search for open mics. I found an open mic at Vaudeville Mews (which is now closed). Most of the performers were rappers. The only comedian there told me about the open mic out at Lefty's. I convinced some coworkers to come and watch me perform. People were amazed by my public speaking skills. I think that my talent of singing 'Love Shack' by the B-52s in college prepared me for stand up."

The best writing arguably comes from an honest place where truth meets actionability.

"I really write more to support a cause," Bird says. "The stuff I talk about in my comedy is all true. I might start with a thought that someone said or an idea I want to explore. One example: I was searching for inspiration and Googled '4.0 students.' I got a list of articles saying that grades rarely measure social and emotional intelligence and teamwork, leadership and creativity skills. This led to a set. The set I'm going to do next time is about two people who helped me fit in in eighth grade."

INSPIRED BY ART

Bird has the original drawing that inspired him to use art in his stand-up storytelling.

"I just casually threw a drawing in there. That was the funniest part of the set. As a comedian, I just tried to make similar jokes that were funny. I decided to experiment by

making drawings for my other sets. It's gotten a lot of positive responses. What makes it so appealing is that most people don't expect a comedian or storyteller to bring a drawing pad on stage," Bird says.

Bird uses real-time reactions to his stories to inform his writing.

"I've learned from people reacting to my stories. Before I started writing, I used to think that everybody else had it easy fitting in. But now I know that's not the case," Bird says. "I know that many other people face the same challenges that I do."

"I'm learning that some of my fears are more common amongst neurotypical as well as people who don't have autism. They face some of the same challenges that I do. One fear that I do have is that if someone knew that I had autism, it might cause them to take me less seriously, especially if they saw me acting somewhat unusual," Bird says.

AUTISM IS NOT EQUAL TO IDENTITY

As a person with autism, Bird doesn't want it to become his only identifier.

"I don't want my autism to define who I am. There's a debate in the autism community about whether people should use people-first language or identity-first language. People-first language is when you say people with autism, and I prefer that view," he says. "It allows me to let autism be one part of who I am, and I can be more than just having autism."

"I have learned that some of the personality phrases I thought were related to having autism are not related to having autism, which is why my writing, 'The Words He Cannot Say,' is losing the autism theme. The identity-first language, saying autistic people, makes autism the defining characteristic of a person. Some people with autism prefer identity-first language because they feel like it's an integral part of who they are. And that people-first language leaves it behind."

He also has a few suggestions for students thinking about Central.

"Academic clubs are not for nerds; doing more homework is not for nerds," he says. "Be kind to everyone, have an open mind and don't be afraid to change your mind. Finally, colleges have a lot more to offer you than you might expect."

Bird emphasizes, "Part of one's happiness in college is their own responsibility. They need to take steps to improve their character and be self-aware."

LOVE TO HELP

Nancy Kroese, director of Student Support Services and disability service coordinator, worked with Bird during his four years at Central.

"When Leo began at Central, he was so shy and reserved. He would come in and talk with us about accommodations but was so shy he didn't look me in the face and looked at the wall. By the time he was a junior, he would come in and visit with us. We saw him really grow and mature while he was here. He just became so much more personable and willing to seek help, willing to seek us out and willing to make friends at that point. When I would ask him what he wanted to do, he always said 'I want to be a motivational speaker. I want to help other people who have difficulties,'" Kroese says. "Leo is doing what he always wanted to do. I'm not surprised."

Students demand greater inclusion, and they absolutely have the right. At institutions of higher education, students should expect free expression, access to engaging and mind-expanding classrooms and faculty, safe spaces and compassion and support from cohorts.

Chevy Freiburger, vice president for enrollment management and dean of admission, explains that Central admits students on specific criteria — academic performance, overall GPA, progression of coursework, strength of curriculum and meeting recommended coursework.

"We don't strengthen or lessen our criteria for admission based on accommodations. Central students are admitted based on their academic merits. We have confidence that an admitted student has the academic background to be successful," Freiburger says. "Students choose Central because it is challenging with a rigorous curriculum, but we are going to get students resources that will help them here, such as connecting them with Student Support Services and tutoring, which all students should take advantage of. It's also the community, the strong relationships, the individual care and the compassion, which make Central an excellent place for students with disabilities."

Kroese explains the role of student support services is to meet with student who would like accommodations who have a documented disability. This past year, the department served 100 students with documented disabilities and needed various levels of accommodations.

"I think that's central to the entire campus. I've worked with so many professors and they really do care about the students. They really do want to see the students be successful and help the students find their best selves. Central is a place for them to find what they really want to do in life, what their strengths are and how they want to go forth," Kroese says.



Brad DiLeo '22 broke Central's dance marathon record for fundraising. His smile and warm heart helped him secure more than \$8,600.

SHINING THE LIGHT

Brad DiLeo '22 has the superpower of positivity and loves to talk with people. Once he meets you on campus, he will remember your name.

"I'm unique because I think I can have an emotional connection with faculty, staff and students. I think I am that bright light shining around campus," DiLeo shares. "I would say my strength is to bring the energy and positivity to campus events. I know how to get people hyped up. I can tell when someone is not having a good day and how to make them have a better day. Plus, I can sense the vibe of what campus is feeling. I have a great memory and know everybody's name."

As a neurodiverse student, DiLeo has a warm personality that makes others feel welcomed. A legacy student through his

uncle, **Tom Riek '82**, DiLeo arrived at Central originally planning to be an elementary education major and to play tennis. His uncle thought Central would be a good fit for DiLeo. Though he checked out other colleges, the tipping point for DiLeo choosing Central was the community.

"I got to meet the tennis team on my tour and really felt welcomed," he says. "And the campus was beautiful."

After four years at Central, he truly had an influence on the campus community. During his senior year, DiLeo set a Central fundraising record for Dance Marathon. He raised \$8,682.60 exceeding his high goal of \$7,500. The annual Dance Marathon supports the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital in Iowa City.

"We will have a big void to fill next year after Brad graduates, both in personality,

passion and also in fundraising," says **Tammy Strawser**, faculty sponsor for Central's Dance Marathon.

PASSION FOR PEOPLE

DiLeo has a passion for events, so he shifted majors to communications. He worked in the offices of advancement, student development and student support services.

"Central has prepared me to think differently about the acceptance of others. Everybody is different and people think differently. They have their opinions, which may not be like mine. Central helped me learn to get things done and with organization — using a planner, making sure everything is ready and not being late — taking ownership," DiLeo says. "Everybody makes mistakes. It's OK if you make mistakes but learn from those mistakes."

DiLeo credits the SSS department with his success at Central, saying, "They go above and beyond. They like to help students and get them engaged with other students by hosting events within the program. They want student to be part of the community. I took their ICS classes and learned what my strengths were and what motivates me. My strengths were that I can talk to anyone, positivity, outgoing, kind, friendly and a few others. I didn't know I had those strengths!"

"We talked about growth, mindset and motivation. The SSS staff helped by telling me to keep on pushing even though I was struggling sometimes. They believed in me, and so did my parents. With their support, I was able to keep motivated, and even though I had to take some hard classes, they were willing to help find a tutor who helped me with these classes to succeed. It's a small campus and I know everybody by name — faculty, staff, students and coaches. I talked to everybody and I'm just a joyful person."

In spring 2022, DiLeo received the Unsung Hero Award, given through the student development office. After graduation in May 2022, DiLeo says, "Central is a great place to go to college because the people are welcoming. I'm glad that I came to Central and got to make an impact through Dance Marathon and through all the campus activities and student involvement. Central has a special place in my heart because of Tulip Time, all the traditions and all the things that I've done here." ■



STATE OF **THE COLLEGE**

AN ANNUAL REPORT AND HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

BY: MARK PUTNAM, CENTRAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT

FOREVER DUTCH

Dear Members of the Central College Community,

Central College has evolved over the past year. To meet the needs of our students and communities in more strategic and specific ways, the college introduced several new and reimagined majors and reopened the door to the world via off-campus experiences. In addition, the college and its community have celebrated many exciting wins, one-of-a-kind experiences, new leadership, beautiful community partnerships and outstanding fundraising accomplishments. Relive the phenomenal achievements from 2021-22:

NEW MAJORS AND REIMAGINED EXPERIENCES

The show starts at Central — and musical theatre majors are the stars of the show! Musical theatre, a new major offering, exposes students to artistic development through a broad and comprehensive curriculum, including courses in acting, dance, directing, history, literature, music, theatre management, stagecraft, design and technical production. No matter students' career paths, when the curtain goes up, they must be ready. A musical theatre degree at Central — one of several new major installations — ensures proper preparation! Several other Central majors also have been reimagined, including art, history, business management, computer science, kinesiology, and religious studies to best prepare Central students for the future.

A WINNING CULTURE

Winning may not be everything, but we believe winning is indicative of a competitive spirit embedded within a healthy and thriving campus culture.



Central's student-athletes are nearly unstoppable. Check out the legacy of Dutch success at central.edu/athletics.

Dutch Triumphs

Last fall, Central's record-setting football team captured nine NCAA Division III football statistical titles. Central topped Division III in:

+ Total offense. + Passing offense. + Scoring offense. + First downs.

Individually, Gagliardi-winning quarterback **Blaine Hawkins '21** led the nation in touchdown passes with an all-divisions NCAA record of 63, in total points responsible for and points responsible for per game. Receiver **Tanner Schminke '21** was the champion in receiving yards and touchdown receptions.

Athletics wasn't the only arena folks in the Central community experienced wins. In addition, students, faculty and staff have earned numerous noteworthy awards.

Student Leadership Awards

Central students are known for their leadership prowess in addition to their academic, cocurricular and extracurricular accomplishments.

When the student development office released the 2022 student leadership awards, it was no surprise to see 56 nominations from students, faculty and staff for nine award categories.

External Faculty Awards

Terence Kleven, Dr. Jacob and Gela Schnucker Sessler Chair in Philosophy and Religion and professor of religious studies, received an extension of the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award to conduct research in Arabic political philosophy at the University of Jordan in Amman, Jordan. This is his second Fulbright award.

Paulina Mena, associate professor of biology and faculty fellow for diversity and inclusion, earned the Presidents' Civic Engagement Leadership Award for 2022 from Iowa Campus Compact. This award recognizes a member of faculty, administration or staff or a group that has significantly advanced their campus' distinctive civic mission by forming strong

partnerships, supporting others' civic and community engagement and working to institutionalize a culture and practice of engagement.

Sara Shuger Fox, associate professor of kinesiology, 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.

External Staff Awards

Central frequently wins top honors in the catering category of the Best of Red Rock Area Awards. These awards honor businesses and organizations throughout Marion County in 55 categories based on votes from area residents.

This year, Central took home the title of Best of Red Rock Award for Best Caterer. In addition, **Steffanie Bonnstetter**, senior

content strategist – marketing and project management at Central, was recognized as one of the 10 outstanding individuals under 40.

The college also received silver recognition in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education's annual Circle of Excellence awards. The national higher education group recognized Central for its work on student recruitment publications. The award application included data showing that national undergraduate enrollment sank by 3.2 percent for the fall 2021 semester, according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center as reported by Higher Ed Dive. However, Central experienced no dip in enrollment and, in fact, enjoyed a modest increase despite national trends and a global pandemic.

Congratulations, one and all, for these fantastic successes — and the many more unlisted accolades and accomplishments our campus community celebrated in the past year.



CENTRAL IS OUT OF THIS WORLD

Central presented "Space Station Central" Feb. 24, which gave those in attendance — and those tuning in online via Central Dutch Network — the unique opportunity to hear from Raja Chari, husband of **Holly Schaffter Chari '99**.

At the time, Raja was aboard the International Space Station as a National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronaut and was the commander of the NASA SpaceX Crew-3 mission, which launched Nov. 10, 2021.

The once-in-a-lifetime event allowed attendees to see an astronaut in space in real time, which included insightful information, amusing anecdotes and even anti-gravity humor.



David '93, Bella and Jennifer Vander Werf Van Gorp '95 helped pilot a program to pave the way for the future success at Central College.

BELLA FROM PELLA

Bella Van Gorp stole the hearts of Iowa just after Valentine's Day during an interview with KCCI reporter and anchor Eric Hanson. Bella, with the support of her parents **David '93** and **Jennifer Vander Werf Van Gorp '95** and **Carol Williamson**, vice president for student development and dean of students, helped pilot a residential experience and developmental independence achievement program (Central READY). Thanks to Bella's hard work and eagerness to become independent, this innovative program was wildly successful ... and is in the early stages of becoming a more permanent installation on campus.



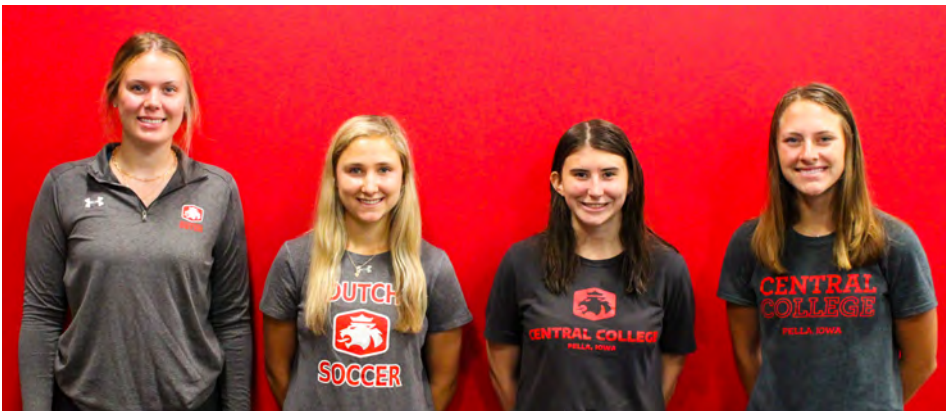
EMBRACING NEW LEADERSHIP IN FINANCE

Please join the college in extending a warm welcome to **Karen Tumlinson**, Central's new vice president for finance and administration and treasurer. She joined the Central family in May.

Since 2019, she served the University of North Texas, overseeing all finances and administrative functions for digital strategy and innovation, which was responsible for academic information technology, online programs, digital growth and enterprise programs for the institution.

Karen's expertise includes budgeting, compliance, hiring, payroll and strategic financial analysis, including forecasting and modeling. She 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 service, study abroad, conferences, dining, student life and more.

SCHOLARLY PURSUITS



Central College Bosch Undergraduate Research Fellows, left to right: **Summer Sterrenberg '24**, **Rachel Daniels '23**, **Gabriella Petruzzello '24** and **Layken Bytnar '24**. Not pictured: **Brandon Annegers '23**, **Alora Nowlin '23**.

Arthur J. Bosch Endowment

The Arthur J. Bosch Endowment provided six Central students the opportunity to undertake summer research projects as Bosch Undergraduate Summer Research Fellows:

- + **Brandon Annegers '23** applied to conduct research with Russ Benedict, professor of biology.
- + **Layken Bytnar '24** conducted research with Paulina Mena, associate professor of biology.
- + **Rachel Daniels '23** worked with Sara Shuger Fox, associate professor of kinesiology.
- + **Alora Nowlin '23** did research with Cynthia Mahmood, professor of anthropology.
- + **Gabriella Petruzzello '24** conducted research with Randy Renstrom, associate professor of psychology.
- + **Summer Sterrenberg '24** did research with James Shriver, professor of chemistry.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Central Little Dutch Academy

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

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

BIPOC+ Coalition

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

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

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS BREAK RECORDS ... AGAIN

Generosity runs deep in the Central community. The proof is in the giving: For the third year running, the college exceeded the previous year's total giving — this year up 2.4% from the previous year. The impact on Central students will be direct and powerful.

So much has happened in the past year. There is much to celebrate and even more to look forward to in the 2022-23 academic year. As we reflect on the past year and look forward to the next, I can't help but be overwhelmed. We get to enjoy a community in which success is prevalent and support is inevitable.

Each person in our community has a unique role that is integral to our collective prosperity to teach, mentor and guide. It is the Central way. We are committed to magnifying our unrivaled network of support for our students.

Thank you for who **you** are and the place you hold in our Dutch family. Grateful is an understatement.

— **Mark Putnam**, Central College President



Fulbright Scholarship

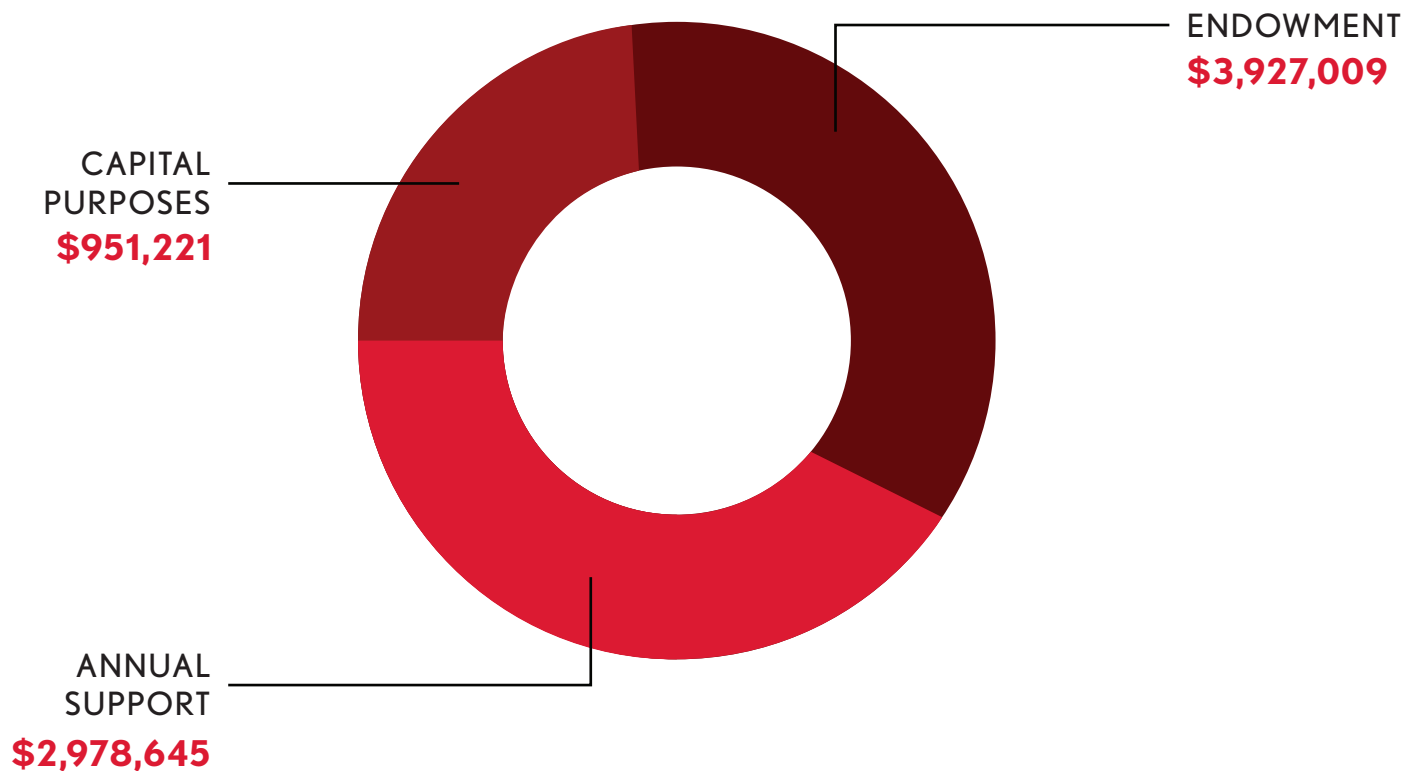
Olivia Svoboda '22 earned the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to study in Spain next year. She received an English teaching grant and will teach elementary students in the Canary Islands. Svoboda earned an elementary education degree from Central with a minor in Spanish.

Journey Scholarships

Central enjoyed incredible fundraising support for student scholarships this year. In fact, every new student admitted for the 2022-23 academic year received a Journey Scholarship, thanks to the college's generous donors.

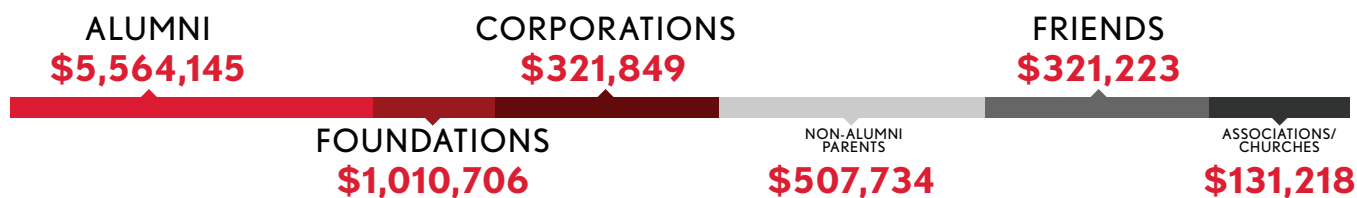
TOTAL GIVING

Total **\$7,856,875**



GIVING BY SOURCES

Total **\$7,856,875**



SCHOLARSHIPS

Total **1,283**

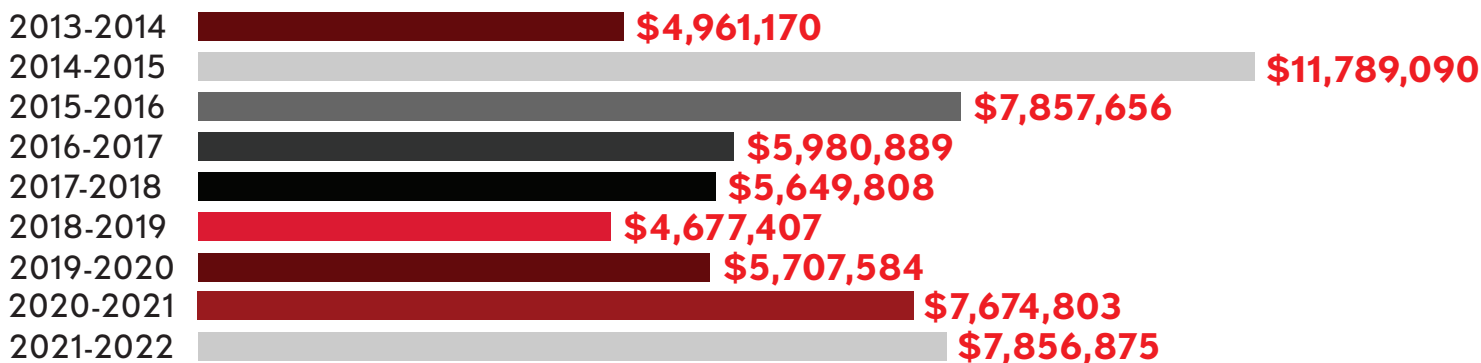
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS
305

JOURNEY SCHOLARSHIPS
978

*This information applies to the Central College year from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. Financial data is based on pre-audited financial statements.

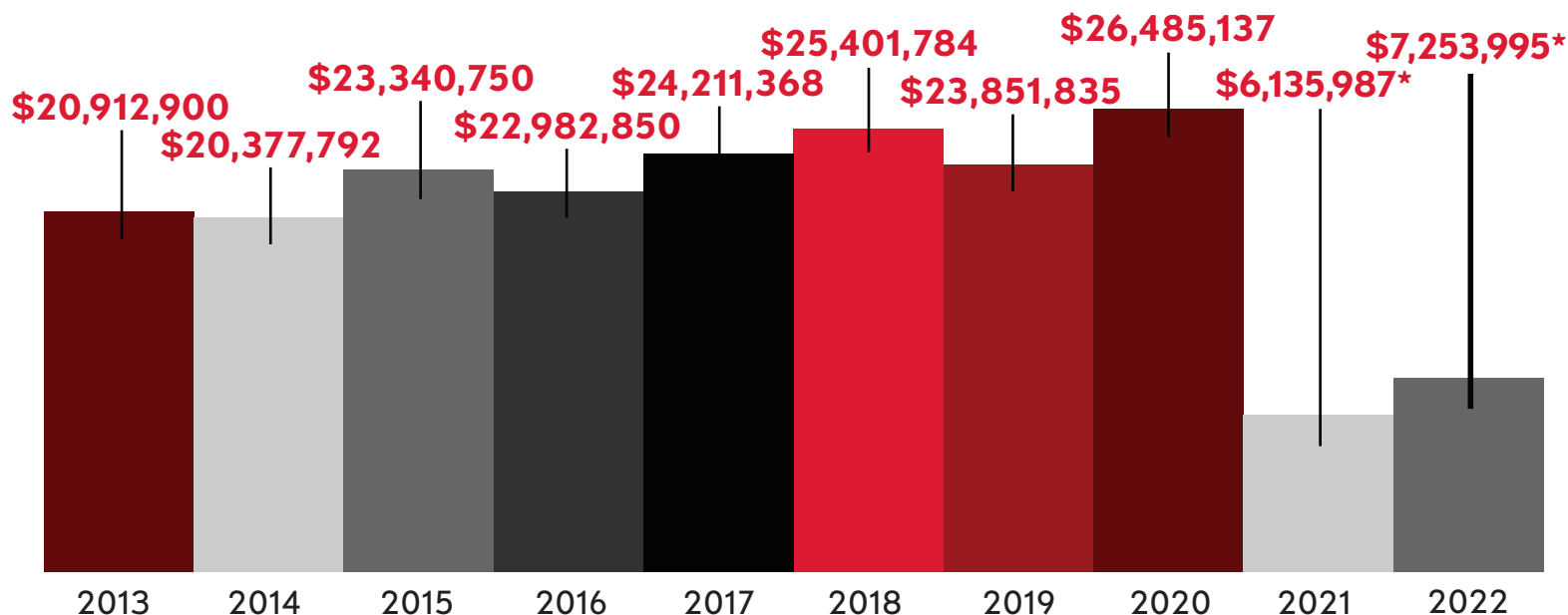
FISCAL YEAR OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Total **\$62,155,282** Since 2013



FINANCIAL AID BY YEAR

Total **\$200,954,398** Since 2013



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

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

Total **\$4,950,923**

ENDOWMENT
\$3,318,017

JOURNEY SCHOLARSHIP
\$1,632,906

GIVING BY CLASS YEARS

Total **\$5,564,145** For 2021-22

1941	1952	1961	1970	1979	1988	1997	2006	2015
\$1,965,500	\$30,543	\$175,027	\$79,700	\$33,520	\$232,521	\$6,960	\$5,578	\$640
1943	1953	1962	1971	1980	1989	1998	2007	2016
\$50	\$47,182	\$180,350	\$64,324	\$82,553	\$20,335	\$11,370	\$6,675	\$31,012
1945	1954	1963	1972	1981	1990	1999	2008	2017
\$1,110	\$36,700	\$123,375	\$38,029	\$16,245	\$377,616	\$10,670	\$2,835	\$262
1946	1955	1964	1973	1982	1991	2000	2009	2018
\$1,300	\$21,600	\$239,355	\$76,581	\$39,468	\$47,518	\$5,875	\$1,360	\$847
1947	1956	1965	1974	1983	1992	2001	2010	2019
\$1,200	\$33,716	\$170,936	\$50,056	\$16,369	\$31,390	\$104,721	\$16,354	\$1,975
1948	1957	1966	1975	1984	1993	2002	2011	2020
\$50	\$6,735	\$36,293	\$10,836	\$19,652	\$8,700	\$31,829	\$1,935	\$887
1949	1958	1967	1976	1985	1994	2003	2012	2021
\$33,000	\$36,531	\$13,428	\$2,980	\$60,062	\$45,413	\$6,439	\$1,345	\$1,030
1950	1959	1968	1977	1986	1995	2004	2013	2022
\$251,487	\$35,451	\$31,004	\$14,995	\$48,280	\$12,579	\$8,999	\$4,147	\$4,941
1951	1960	1969	1978	1987	1996	2005	2014	
\$62,431	\$20,245	\$184,700	\$23,588	\$70,453	\$19,038	\$12,884	\$475	

REVENUE

Total **\$38,861,062**

TUITION & FEES
\$13,435,883

ENDOWMENT
\$5,981,031

OTHER
\$5,081,165

AUXILIARY
\$13,021,667

CONTRIBUTIONS
\$1,341,316

EXPENSES

Total **\$43,766,728**

INSTRUCTION
\$15,267,544

STUDENT ACTIVITIES
\$5,140,477

ADMIN/GENERAL
\$3,377,687

ACADEMIC SUPPORT
\$1,893,486

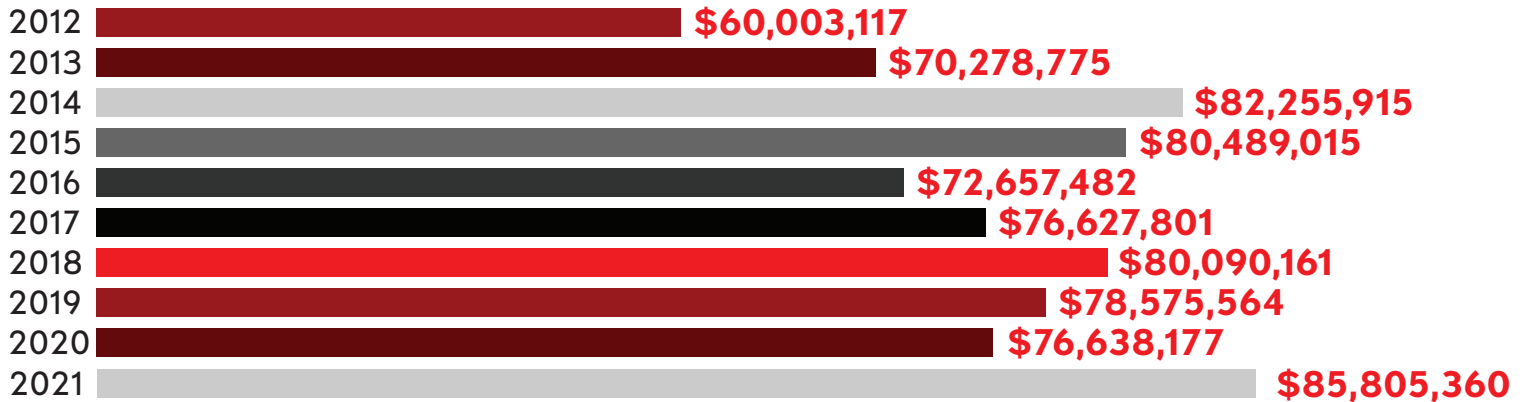
AUXILIARY
\$10,796,934

STUDENT SERVICES
\$4,128,105

INSTITUTIONAL
\$3,162,495

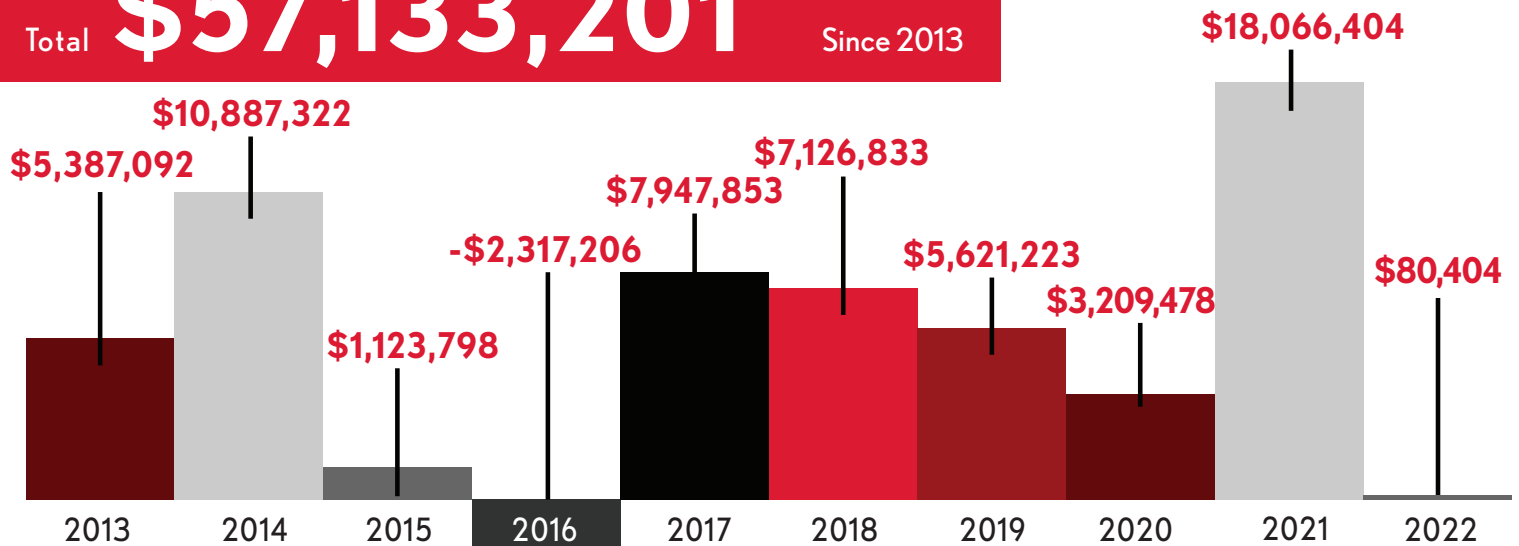
ENDOWMENT MARKET VALUE

Total **\$84,630,195** As of June 30, 2022



INVESTMENT INCOME

Total **\$57,133,201** Since 2013



ASSETS

Total **\$187,718,919**



HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

This Honor Roll of Giving recognizes donors who made a gift to Central College between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022. We are extremely grateful to these generous donors.

SCHOLTE'S CIRCLE

\$10,000 or More

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Dave & Kristi Balk Family Foundation — Dave '86 & Kristi Jaarsma Balk '88*	Alex '69 & Barb Septer Glann '69*	Charlie '70 & Deb Den Ouden Morris '70*	Third Church - Pella, Iowa*
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Shirley Van Konynenburg Borgman '55*	Iowa College Foundation*	Pella Corporation	Dianne Gluen Van Gorp '61*
Diane Daybird & Bob Bosch '79	Mark '05 & Tessa Prati Isaacson '07	Pella High Athletic Booster Club	Henry Van Leeuwen '50 Estate
Jim '65 & Sue Spaans Brandl '65*	Jim & Deb Israel*	Pella Rolscreen Foundation*	Verlan '61 & Norma De Bruin Van Rheeunen '61*
Ken Braskamp '65*	Ralph '59 & Elaine Nagel Jaarsma '58*	PepsiCo Foundation	Scott & Cindy Van Tasell*
Larry Braskamp '63*	Kent Jager '80	Steve '01 & Stefanie Bresnahan Perkins '02*	Jim '10H & Eunice Vander Zyl Van Tuyl '68*
Roger & Janice Brown*	Jim & Ginger Jurries Family Foundation — Jim Jurries	Lloyd '53 & Agnes Ferwerda Peterman '51 Estate	Bob '56 & Arlys Van Zee Verdoorn '56*
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John Deere Foundation	Mike Main '87*	Emily & Larry Reynen '71*	Burt Voss '49
Tej '91 & Karen Spencer Dhawan '91*	Marion County Bank — Pella, Iowa*	Ridgeway Petroleum*	Jack Walvoord '54*
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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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John '84 & Lanette Porter Celoni '86	Bill & Chris Epperly Ieuter '91*	Arlyn '62 & Claire Ehrmann Rus '61*	Lyle & Kathy Vander Meiden
Mike Dahlhauser '94*	Susan & Lanny Little '74*	Cindy & Don Schmitt '69	Sam '86 & Jill Van Zee Vande Weerd '91
Angela & Dan De Cook '95*	Byron '73 & Cindy Grootveld Loomans '73	Bob '83 & Lynne Van Vark Schueler '85*	Mike '93 & Myndi Amdor Van Voorst '95
Kay Kuyper De Cook '63*	Stephen Mc Williams '96	Second Reformed Church — Pella, Iowa*	Joan & Jeff Verhoef '80
Warren De Haan*	Greg Mihalovich '89*	Joel Shields '87*	Bob '66+ & Lois De Jong Vermeer '69
Adam & Melissa Farver	Frank '91 & Stacey Profit Neu '92*	Michael Merson & Kathy Sikkema '84*	Richard '72 & Susan Van Steenis Vermeer '74
Brian '80 & Lori Humphrey Fegley '80*	Marsha & Russ Nieland '87	Penny & Steve Sikkink '83*	Harry Vermeer Family Foundation*
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Pam & John Grieco '71*			
Jim Grimm '59*			

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Charity & Bob Andeweg '84	Dody Int'veld Boat '05H*	Don Bruggink '51*	Mary & Gene Chapman '61*
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		John Bylsma '59*	

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 Jeff '87 & Kristin Sickler De Vries '88*
 Tom De Vries '73*
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 Adel '62*
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 Reid '01 & Liz McElvogue Evans '02*
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 Doug '61 & Nyla Rozeboom Heerema '63*
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 Bill & Deborah Buck Houghton '84*
 Don '56 & Ruth Howard Howard '56*

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 Orleath Vogelaar Ingle '47*
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 Carolyn & James Joy '85*
 Bill & Dottie Heideman Julian '54*
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 Mike '86 & Dawn De Boer Kleis '86*
 Martin Klemm '75*
 Peter & Marge Kobylinski
 Kirk '83 & Terri Vander Werff
 Kolenbrander '81
 Frank Bickel & Kerri Kolenbrander-
 Bickel '86
 Mark Koskamp '80*
 Bob & Nancy Kroese*
 Joseph Frericks & Alicia Kuper '91*
 Carl & Lisa Larson
 Leighton State Bank of Pella*
 Karen Lensink Ruhl
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 Barb Pettitt '72*
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 Stan & Gayle Poortinga*
 Alvin Poppen '54
 T J '06 & Michelle Bahl Raymer '06
 Eric & Amy Recker
 Mark & Linda Recker
 Joyce Willemsen Renskers '53*
 Lloyd & Sharon Roberts*
 Aaron '97 & Andrea Westra Roerdink '97*
 Jack Kelly & Buck Rogers '70
 Erv '60 & Andrea Boat Roorda '60*

Michael & Juli Pohlmann
 Roseburrough '91*
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 Derek & Jill Huffman Russell '16
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 Joe Russo '73*
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 Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands*
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 Thad '80 & Teresa Andersen Scarrow '81*
 Ruth Scharnweber
 Craig & Shari Schledewitz*
 Angela Schmidt '97
 Rosemary O'Leary & Larry Schroeder '65*
 Bill & Mary Dougherty Schwartz '70*
 Sandi Ecker Shafer '69
 Eric Sickler '83*
 Vicki & Dick Siefers '77*
 Brian & Amy Murray Sigurdson '93
 Maria & Jeff Sinley '70*
 Bob '63 & Nancy Wilson Slykhuis '63*
 Shirley Smiddy
 Alison & Aaron Smith '00
 Elfi & Dwight Smith '53*
 Kent '65 & Becky Kettler Sneller '65*
 Doug & Pam Sagraves Soltsis '80*
 Linda Spaans Esten '67*
 Linda Stark
 Scott & Diane Stewart
 Shalie Stiens
 Dianne & Arlo Stoltenberg '60
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 Dave Kravitz & Anna Swanson '03*
 Trent Swartwoudt '21
 Glenys Nederhoff Thies '58
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 Nancy Vander Meulen Toffer '60
 Trinity Reformed Church — Pella, Iowa*
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 Vruwink '88
 Cara Vander Wilt '00
 Carol & Phil Vander Wilt '63*
 Dale '69 & Eileen Miller Vander Wilt '70*
 Paul '83 & Nancy Thies Van Farowe '86
 Ed '70 & Martha Friskey Van Hemert '72*
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 Fred Van Swol '55
 Lori Van Zee '83*
 Joey & Dick Van Zomeren '60*
 Trent '90 & Kris Brandt Vaughn '90*
 Garrett Veldman '13
 Jenna Veldman '13
 Liz & Micah Vermeer '05*
 Tim & Verna Ver Meer*
 Ginny Carpenter Ver Ploeg '46*
 Larry '71 & Claire Denniston
 Versteegh '73
 Jack Montgomery & Kelly Vielmo '99*
 Kayrin & Troy Vincent '96
 Kimberly Watts '88*
 Spencer '98 & Sinikka Wainionpaa
 Waugh '96*
 Matt '05 & Erika Hartung Weih '06*

Ken+ & Shirely Weller*
 Nancy & Brian Wesselink '69
 Nelson '16 & Madi Gause Wiese '16*
 Bob '64 & Joan Vande Vusse Williams '64*
 Gussie Nordstrum Williams '58*
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Despite efforts to ensure accuracy, errors may have
 occurred and we apologize in advance. Please call
 641-628-5154, email alumni@central.edu or write
 the Advancement Office, Campus Box 5200,
 812 University St., Pella, IA 50219-1999 with
 questions or to report corrections.

NEWSNOTES

THE '50s

Kenneth Vos '52, emeritus professor of philosophy at Northern Vermont University, celebrated his 91st birthday delivering a sermon entitled “Finding The Good” at a local church. He recently led a Great Books group discussion of Delia Owens’ “Where The Crawdads Sing” and an exploration of Marcus Aurelius’ “Meditations” in his philosophy club. He and his wife, Francie, live in an 1830 cape on 25 acres in northern Vermont, where they produced 12 gallons of maple syrup last spring on their hobby-sized evaporator.

THE '60s

Tim Seller '69 teaches sixth-grade math at Oakbrook Middle School in Summerville, South Carolina.

THE '70s

Judy Muyskens '70 retired from Hiram College in Hiram, Ohio, where she served as vice president of academic affairs and dean of the college.

Paul Baker '74 retired as the outreach coordinator from Court Appointed Special Advocates of Middlesex County, New Jersey, concluding 35 years working in child welfare.

Claudia Valovcin Baker '77 retired from CopperPoint Insurance Companies after 24 years of service.

Larry Hook '77 is a superintendent at Forest Hills School District in Ohio.

Jon '77 and Jeanne Aggen Vander Pluym '77 celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on June 18, 2022.

Jeff Hendred '79 is a co-principal at Liberty Elementary School in Ottumwa, Iowa.

THE '80s

Terry Reilly '82 retired as a publisher from Iowa Farmer Today.

Brenda Strong '82 was honored as an outstanding staff member at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. She is a coordinator of certification testing and program accountability.

Sharee Wilson Hoegerl '83 celebrated 25 years at ImpactLife Blood Center (previously Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center) in Davenport, Iowa. A highlight of this career was being honored as the Donor Recruiter of the Year by the Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals.

Deanne De Vries '84 is an international best-selling author. She also has been busy hosting refugees from Ukraine — both overnight and during the day — finding them places to live and helping them learn English and/or Dutch.

Bryant Hancock '84 has retired from his job teaching high school social studies in the Pella Community School District.

Andrea Busker Van Wyk '84 has retired from the Pella Community School District as a middle school art teacher.

Cathy Van Den Berg Veenstra '84 has retired from her role as an elementary resource teacher with the Pella Community School District.

Mary Van Zee Bogaard '85 has retired as business manager from the Pella Community School District.

Bobi Hershey Langel '85 is Benchmark's administration team leader in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Eric Jones '87 recently joined Central's advancement office as a major gifts officer where he'll continue building relationships for the college after previous roles as an instructor, class dean and administrator. He will continue coaching Dutch football.

Julia Otten Knier '87 was recently appointed chair of the Oak Park Farmers Market Commission in Oak Park, Illinois.

Steve Scherf '87 was promoted to vice president of underwriting at Grinnell Mutual.

Beth Frohs Weiland '87 is a fraud specialist at DuTrac Community Credit Union in Dubuque, Iowa.

Jo Beth Castleberry Cup '88 works at Adler University in the Chicago, Illinois, area as a special assistant to the president.



▲ A group of 18 alumni of the Spring 1982 Wales Study Abroad program reunited 40 years later at the Illinois lake house of **Brad Depke '82**. There was an abundance of hugs, laughter and memories shared and the next reunion is planned for May 2024 in Charleston, South Carolina. They are looking for a few lost classmates. If you are a member, or have information to share, contact **Kim Dykstra '83** at krdykstra61@gmail.com or Jay Kelly at jay.kelly61@gmail.com to reconnect.

Left to right: Hal 'Red' Brown, Ariel Dallam Taxdal, Mary Llewelyn Curry, Jay Kelly, **Rhonda McGuire Dyer '82**; (lower row) Mary Shaw, Dawne Hess Barnes, **Brad Depke '82**; (upper row) Paige Brandis Down, **Kim Dykstra '83**, Hugh Walton, Patsy Weldon Fox and **Steve Gulick '83**.

Laurie Coram Foss '88 married Todd Foss in 2018.

George Marshall '88 is a technical customer success manager at Harness.

Karen Vander Hart Ryals '88 has retired from the Pella Community School District as a high school psychology and special education teacher.

THE '90s

Steve Rheinschmidt '90 works in customer engagement and strategic accounts at Pathify in Johnston, Iowa.

Kelly Sterk '90 started a new position at Produkt + Markt Marketing Research as senior research consultant - U.S. for animal health and nutrition.

Michael Debije '91 was promoted to associate professor in chemistry, Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven, the Netherlands, and recently published his 140th peer-reviewed scientific article.

Laura Waddingham Delbrugge '91 was named dean of the college of arts and letters at Old Dominion University, in Norfolk, Virginia.

Kevin Den Adel '91 is the Iowa Society of CPA's chair for 2022-23.

Chris Gross '91 is a staff accountant for Westberg Eischens in Willmar, Minnesota.

Jeff Wooten '91 retired after 30 years in education, including his most recent role as principal at Raymond S. Kellis High School in Peoria, Arizona.

Cathy Beatty Molloy '92 founded Cathy Molloy Christian Counseling, providing counseling services in the Santa Clarita, California, area.

Melanie Fuglsang Schmidt '93 is a business execution consultant at Wells Fargo.

Michael Frohling '94, assistant professor of light and sound at Western Kentucky University, was featured in the university's magazine, the Talisman.

Karlyn Buseman Terlouw '94 has retired from the Pella Community School District and her role as an elementary reading plus teacher.

Chris McMorran '95, is an associate professor of Japanese studies at the National University of Singapore. In May 2022, he published a book titled "Ryokan: Mobilizing Hospitality in Rural Japan."

Heather Ames Connolly '96 is a senior manager of learning and development at the U.S. Soccer Federation in Chicago, Illinois.

Kara Kohler Hoogensen '96 is promoting early childhood success as a member of the United Way of Central Iowa's "Women United" initiative.

John Howard '96 is the superintendent of Union Community Schools in LaPorte City, Iowa.

Chris Koepplin '96 is the chief executive officer at Ellipsis, a nonprofit established in 2021 with the merger of Youth Homes of Mid-America and Youth Emergency Services and Shelter. They offer resources

and programs to meet the needs of Iowa's youth and families.

Rick Sanger '96 is a senior director of technology at InMotion Care in Des Moines, Iowa.

Patrick Roland '97 is an eye movement desensitization and reprocessing therapist at Scottsdale Providence Recovery Center in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Brian Rowe '97 is a senior compensation specialist at Encova Insurance.

Eric Birkenholtz '98 is an internal business consultant with F&G in Des Moines, Iowa.

Cheri Trout Doane '98 retired from Central College in May 2022 after 23 years of incredible service to the college's civic engagement team.

Amy Jerred Conrad '99 was promoted to associate professor with tenure in the Stead Family Department of Pediatrics at the University of Iowa, in Iowa City, Iowa. Her research evaluates brain development in children with various medical diagnoses using neuroimaging and neuropsychological assessment.

Cory Gilday '99 married Alicia Cohen. The couple lives in Vancouver, Washington, with their two children.

Ryan Rumery '99 started a new position as sound editor at Platform.

THE '00s

Jenness Parker '00 is a litigation law partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in their Wilmington,

Delaware, office. In her spare time, she is a mezzo-soprano and performs in musicals, for naturalization events and in private productions.

Kari Roozeboom Flaherty '01 is a senior human resources manager at Ajinomoto Health & Nutrition North America, Inc. in Eddyville, Iowa.

Scott Honken '01 is chief commercial officer for Calibrate in the Greater Chicago Area.

Lori Petersen '01 is the vice president of human resources at Thermo Fisher Scientific in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Allison Schafer King '02 was promoted to senior vice president, strategic advisory services at Insurance Technologies in the Des Moines area.

Amy Stanwood '02 works at Bullhorn, Inc., a staffing software company headquartered in the Des Moines area. She was recently promoted to manager of the North America project management office.

Missy Voight Starr '02 is a real estate agent at Ankeny Real Estate Group and serves as director of client care.

Jeremy Huss '03 is an operations manager for Accent Musical Instruments in Iowa City, Iowa.

Jody Rindels Smith '03 is a senior marketing manager for Collins Aerospace in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Joe Steinkamp '03 accepted a new role at Central College serving as head men's basketball coach.

NEWSNOTES

THE '00s (continued)

Anna Swanson '03 is a founding partner of Marketview Educational Partners in Richmond, Virginia.

Benjamin Schwinke '04 is founder and clinical director of Maryland Integrative Counseling Associates, where he serves as a licensed clinical professional counselor.

Tyler Baethke '05 teaches computer science in the Pleasantville Community School District in Pleasantville, Iowa.

Steve Havemann '05 published his first book, "The Excellent Persuader," co-authored posthumously with his grandfather, Joe D. Batten. He serves as executive director of St. Vincent De Paul and was honored as one of the Des Moines Business Record's 2022 Forty Under 40 Class.

Kelli Debeer Stravers '05 is a senior product owner for Sammons Financial in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Matt Harre '06 is the partnership marketing manager at Concerto Card Company in Lees Summit, Missouri, area.

Nick Lind '06 is a resident physician at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa.

Heather Chase Selby '06 works for TrueNorth Companies in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as a transportation service team manager.



▲ **Becca Skalsky '09** shared her talents at Chalk the Walk, Iowa's largest Madonnari (AKA street artists) festival in May 2022 in Mount Vernon, Iowa.

Whitney Taylor Baethke '08 is an economic development coordinator for the City of Des Moines.

Eric Harris '08 was promoted to regional service manager at Terracon.

Jenn Laughlin '08 is a solutions sales manager for Ford Pro.

Ricardo Ramirez Jr. '08 works for Testudo Logistics as an exercise physiologist.

Jordan Juhl Williams Rose '08 is the director of public relations for ChildServe. She earned a spot in the Des Moines Business Record's 2022 Forty Under 40 Class through her work with the media in crisis management cases, lawsuits, facility closings, Senate hearings and other legal proceedings.

Danielle Jacobson Burmeister '09 is the vice president of marketing communications at Homesteaders Life Company in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Bryanne Hensley Lang '09 was promoted to the resource development manager for Mosaic in Central Iowa.

Alison Mason '09 is the director of volunteer services and ticket to work at North Iowa Area Community College in Mason City, Iowa.

Erin Kiefer '09 married Tim Miller on August 7, 2021.

Molly Pim '09 is the chief of staff for advancement operations at Loyola University Chicago in Chicago, Illinois.

THE '10s

Elizabeth Arentsen '10 works for Vista Outdoor Inc. as a sales operations specialist and sales coordinator of bell mass helmets and accessories.

Emily Miller Mendez '10 is a director of development for Proteus, Inc. in Des Moines, Iowa.

Melanie Hopkins Albers '12 is a 6-12 grade school counselor at Van Meter Community School District in Iowa. She married Craig Albers on June 18, 2022.

Jacob Eeling '12 has a new position as an instructional services specialist with the Department of Health and Human Physiology at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa.



▲ **Drew '06 and Jenae Jenison Sikkink '11** married on July 2, 2022. In lieu of gifts, guests were invited to make a gift to organizations that the couple are passionate about, including the Central College football program. Read more on their love story in "Not Canceled" in the spring 2021 issue of Civitas.

First Row (L-R): Jeff McMartin '90, Laurie Rieken McMartin '90, Mike Huitink '96, Sandy De Braber Huitink '95, Jenna Daale Huitink '06, Dan Huitink '04, Sarah Lindeman '23, Jan Sikkink Lindeman '94, Lynn Sikkink Lynn '92, Jeff Jenison '87, Jenae Jenison Sikkink '11, Drew Sikkink '06, Kim Huitink Hegedus '86, Jill Huffman Russell '16, Allyson Mann '16, Betty Nagel Sikkink '61, John Sikkink '62, Eric Jones '87, Elaine Nagel Jaarsma '58, Lisa Jaarsma Zylstra '91 and Brian Zylstra '92.

Second Row: Jon Huitink '00, Bob Blanchard '06, Adam Gregg '06, Cari Rehder Gregg '07, Katie Bieret Johnson '06, Ashley Watts Aust '06, Steve Sikkink '83, Whitney Visser Westpahl '08, Betty Balder Bollard '84, Jeff Bollard '89, Kristi Jaarsma Balk '88, Dave Balk '86, Don De Waard '82 and Arlyn Sikkink '74.

Third Row: Ryan Johnson '06, Matt Lindeman '95, Travis Lynn '91, Tim Valster '99, Bruce Sikkink '86, Jay Sikkink '10, Greg McCulla '78, Scott Westphal '06, Ryan Boone '06, Erika Anthony Boone '06, Ben Uitermarkt '20, Liz McElvogue Evans '02, Reid Evans '01, Seth Marburger '16 and Morgan Koenigs Margburger '17.

Photographer: **Sarah Kramer Roozeboom '12**



▲ **Jordan Bohr '15** married Allie Fowler on May 21, 2022. Standing, *left to right:* Ryan Murray '14, Wes McLaren '15, Shelby Saville McLaren '14, Jordan Bohr '15, Brittany Carlson Prokupek '16, Josh Prokupek '18, Robert Britton '11, Jacob Anderson '16, Ben Condon '13, Nicholas Wilkening '13, Jordan Foreman '13 and Jeff Ewing '14. Crouched, *left to right:* Anna Boelman '12, Allie Bohr, Alexis Nicholson '15 and Loney Baugher '14.

THE '10s (continued)

Megan Strait Eeling '12 is a physician assistant in the urology department at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa.

Jordan Geertsma Hedrick '13 is working at Vermeer Corporation as a communications project manager in Pella, Iowa.

Darin Schultz '13 is the head girls basketball coach at Bemidji High School in Bemidji, Minnesota.

Alexis Andrews '14 is a customer success manager at Energy Simply in Des Moines, Iowa.

JJ '14 and **Samantha Quick Kotz '14** live in Castle Rock, Colorado. JJ teaches sixth grade in the Cherry Creek School District. Samantha is a physical therapist at No Limits LLC in Castle Rock.

Austin O'Brien '14 participated in the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa, in a 10K team competition, as part of the RunaBlaze Iowa Team. They won first place!

Jordan Roseburrrough '14 is a secretary for the bureau of communications and information services, Iowa Department of Education.

Anne Dillion Youngman '14 is a marketing manager at CRST International in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Her husband, **Jordan Youngman '14**, is an activity director at Stirlingshire of Coralville in Coralville, Iowa.

Elaina Loyd '15 works for Tri County Head Start as a French translator in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Iowa, area.

Michael Mackin '15 is a marketing operations manager for ITA Group in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Dillon Mugge '15 is a marketing manager at Gridiron Insurance Underwriters in the Fort Lauderdale, Florida, area.

Stephanie Griffith Roush '15 is the greenhouse manager at Grinnell College in Iowa.

Jacob Anderson '16 is a customer service representative for Homesteaders Life Insurance in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Noah Busker '16 is a sales associate for Money Masters in New York City.

Michaela Geertsema Hogan '16 married Tyler Hogan on July 6, 2019.

Briante Bagg Nyang '16 married Akim Nyang on August 8, 2019.

Sydney Embray '17 is a planner at Lamp Rynearson in Omaha, Nebraska.

Cassidy Gornick Clement '17 married Zach Clement on April 17, 2021, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Mackenzie Sutton '17 is a social worker with the Iowa Department of Human Services.

Tess Hanson '18 works at Krell Institute in Ames, Iowa, as a communications coordinator.

Cheyenne Kinsella Norem '18 is director of continuing medical education at Unity Point in Des Moines. Her husband, **Patrick Norem '18**, is a strength and conditioning coach at North Polk Community School District.

Jackie Sunderman Ashbacher '18 married Austin Ashbacher on June 12, 2021.

Ciera De Santis '19 is a relationship manager at Team Select Home Care in Aurora, Colorado.

Marissa Wright '19 married Nathan Post on June 25, 2022. Marissa teaches second grade for West Central Community Schools in Iowa.

THE '20s

Daniel '20 and **McKenna Fiebelkorn Coovert '20** married on June 6, 2022.

Anne Williamson Dillon '20 was promoted to audit and assurance senior assistant at Deloitte in Des Moines, Iowa.

Daniel '20 and **Hana Edgerton Nussbaum '20** married on May 29, 2021, in Adair, Iowa.

Austin Pfiffner '20 is an inbound asset specialist at Service Express in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Austin lives in Allendale, Michigan.

Lucas Phillips '20 and **Hannah Reussner '19** married on July 9, 2022.

Lillian Smithson '20 works for the CDC Foundation in Des Moines as a communications coordinator.

Chloe Pruhs Taylor '20 married Matthew Taylor on June 6, 2022.

Tayte Barense '21 works for Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, as a content marketing specialist.

Marin Harrington '21 is a graduate assistant at Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia.

Taylor Golt '21 is an administrative coordinator at the Massachusetts General Hospital in the Greater Boston area.

Grace Forde '21 is a travel and events coordinator at FlexPrint in Chicago, Illinois.

Spencer '21 and **Vicky Riewer Elbert '22** married on June 24, 2022.

Laurynn Mize '21 was promoted to a national accounts sales specialist for Pella Corporation.

Brooke Schott Bailey '22 married Jared Bailey on July 10, 2022.

Jake Anderson '22 married Sydney Gillispie on May 29, 2022.

Madolyn Clark Johnson '22 married Alexander Johnson on June 4, 2022.

THE '20s (continued)



▲ **Jack '21** and **Bronwyn Metcalf Gunnink '22** married on May 28, 2022.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Jeffery Hendred '79 earned a Ph.D. in education from Drake University in May 2022.

Brenda Strong '82 earned a Master of Science at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas.

Jamie Montoya-De Smidt '96 earned a Master of Arts in educational leadership from the University of Colorado in

Colorado Springs, Colorado, and was one of two students named Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year.

Jennifer Hardman '01 received a master's degree in education from Grand Canyon University in the fall of 2019.

Nick Lind '06 earned a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine in May 2022.

Joseph Jefferson '07 earned a doctorate in clinical psychology degree from the University of St. Thomas (Minnesota) in May 2022.

Jake Wassenaar '16 earned a law degree from the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona.

Jamie Heren '17 earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy.

Patrick Norem '18 earned a Master of Science in sports rehabilitation and performance from Logan University in 2021.

Lillian Smithson '20 earned a Master of Public Health in Health Management and Policy from the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa.

Chloe Pruhs Taylor '20 earned a Master of Social Work degree in 2022 from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa.



▲ **Sydney Rants '21** and **Courtney Kruthoff '21** are excited to be inducted into Pi Theta Epsilon, an occupational therapy honor society at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa.



▲ All four decathletes at the NCAA Div. III National Outdoor Track and Field Championship had BOTH of their parents there to watch. *Left to Right:* Eric Heitz, **Lucas Heitz '23**, Ann Heitz, Shawna Klein, **Brody Klein '24**, Christopher Klein, Jon Swails, **Jaxon Thompson '24**, Courtney Sanderson, Lisa Pakkebiel, **Reid Pakkebiel '25** and **Curtiss Pakkebiel '95**.

NEW ARRIVALS

Valerie and **Jake Keegan '01**, son Jotham Wallace, Sept. 4, 2021.

Dennis and **Renee Sedlacek Lee '05**, daughters Sophia Katherine, Aug. 3, 2020, and Grace Marie, Dec. 3, 2021.

Matt and **Erin Tower Swenka '05**, son Emmett Robert, Nov. 22, 2021.

Nick '06 and **Miriam Clemmons Lind '07**, daughter Ingrid Marie, May 7, 2021.

Brian '08 and **Bree Castle Zinkel '08**, son Elijah River, Oct. 20, 2021.

Brian and **Danielle Jacobson Burmeister '09**, son Henry Bryn, April 8, 2022.

Adam '10 and **Kristin Scherff Henry '11**, son Wyatt Robert, May 29, 2022.

Blake and **Andrea Heisterkamp Kruger '10**, daughter Haley Jo, Oct. 17, 2021.

Derek '10 and **Melissa Mount McLaughlin '10**, son Bauer Roy, April 12, 2022.

Cody and **LaDonna Haning Van Walbeek '10**, sons Finn Adair and Jude Malik, April 12, 2022.

Zach and **Kimmy Van Zee Marsh '12**, twins Waylon Lane and Kinzley Jo, May 20, 2021.

Brandon '12 and **Whitney Halder Wagner '12**, daughter Maren Kate, June 2, 2022.

Beau Williams '12 and **Christine Lundgren-Williams '12**, daughter Amelia Jean, March 20, 2022.

David '13 and **Megan Overton Bouska '13**, daughter Olivia Louise, May 16, 2022.

Ben '13 and **Morgan Remick Fry '13**, son Samuel Diller, July 13, 2021.

Collin '13 and **Emily Arrendell Robinson '16**, son Ellis, July 12, 2021.

Andrew and **Joanna Peters Tuttle '13**, daughter Emma Joann, Dec. 23, 2021.

Michael and **Samantha Boyd McDonald '14**, son Mayson Randall, Nov. 3, 2021.

Ian and **Nicole Lantz Willard '14**, son Simon Cooper, Feb. 8, 2022.

Sidney and **Mike Mackin '15**, son William Joseph, Dec. 26, 2020.

Tyler and **Michaela Geertsema Hogan '16**, son Niall Dean, March 21, 2022.

Brianna and **Hunter Thorpe '16**, son Kuyper James, June 7, 2022.

Riley '17 and **Emma Drees Gray '17**, daughter Adalee Alan, June 13, 2022.

Carson '18 and **Hope Heitman Remick '19**, daughter Charlotte Rose, Sept. 17, 2021.

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Crane Bump '47, Monroe, Iowa, April 22, 2022.

Ruth Bruhn Sauter '47, Lisbon, Iowa, April 3, 2022.

Dora Boomstra '48, South Holland, Illinois, March 7, 2022.

Jean McLean DenHartog '48, Mason City, Iowa, March 24, 2022.

Mary Furda Thompson '48, Paoli, Pennsylvania, May 21, 2020.

Marian Morrow Carns '49, Clive, Iowa, June 23, 2022.

John William "Bill" Lankelma '49, Plano, Texas, Jan. 28, 2022.

Audrey Terrill Mac Lellan '50, Brampton, Canada, Feb. 13, 2022.

Ruth Ludwigsen Phillips '50, Fresno, California, April 7, 2022.

Eugene "Gene" Heideman '51, Holland, Michigan, May 15, 2022.

August Stassen '51, Holland, Michigan, 2016.

Betty Fern Palmer '52, Canyon Country, California, Nov. 29, 2020.

John De Jong '53, Pella, Iowa, April 21, 2022.

Barbara "Barb" Rathmell Koskamp '53, Pella, Iowa, June 15, 2022.

Milton Scholten '53, Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 2015.

Rosemary Schultz Behrens '56, Redwood City, California, March 8, 2022.

Allen Vander Well '57, Edmonton, Canada, April 18, 2019.

Marjorie Hook Koopman '58, Holland, Michigan, April 25, 2022.

Jackie "Jack" Schoop '58, West Des Moines, Iowa, June 24, 2022.

Joan Tellman Johnson '60, Holland, Michigan, June 6, 2020.

Betty Lourens Johnson '63, Plano, Texas, Oct. 06, 2020.

David Risseeuw '63, Millsboro, Delaware, April 30, 2022.

Larry Moldermaker '64, Mesa, Arizona, Sept. 1, 2021.

Elizabeth Kurtz Elliott '65, Leesburg, Florida, Nov. 19, 2013.

Andrew Brummel '66, Williamsburg, Iowa, Feb. 28, 2022.

Lorna Lemmenes Kitchak '70, Green Valley, Arizona, May 2, 2022.

Sally McGilvra Baar '71, Pella, Iowa, June 27, 2022.

Cynthia "Cynde" Pierce '74, Washington, District of Columbia, March 10, 2022.

Timothy "Tim" Sadler '79, Pella, Iowa, April 21, 2022.

IN MEMORIAM



ROBERT VERMEER '66

Robert "Bob" Vermeer '66, Central College trustee emeritus, died Aug. 17, 2022, after a battle with cancer. At Central, Bob studied economics and was a member of the A Cappella Choir and Young Republicans club. Vermeer met his wife, **Lois De Jong Vermeer '69**, at Central.

After graduating, Vermeer stayed highly involved with the institution and went on to do great things for Central, Vermeer Corporation and countless programs, committees and entities around – and far beyond – his hometown of Pella, Iowa.

Bob served the college as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1988 until his retirement from the board in 2016 when he was awarded emeritus status. He's served on advisory boards for the college, been involved with and a supporter of Central Club and attended many athletics, alumni, donor and other campus events over the years.

Bob and Lois have been loyal donors to the college supporting many capital campaigns, Campus Ministries, student programming and scholarships, even establishing three scholarships in their names: the Robert L. and Lois Endowed Scholarship, the Bob and Lois Vermeer Endowed Scholarship in Music and the Bob and Lois Vermeer Endowed Scholarship in Engineering. In honor of their generosity and lifetime giving, the Vermeers are longtime members of the Cornerstone Society.

In addition to their personal contributions to the college, the Vermeer Charitable Foundation and R & L Family Foundation have been involved in college campaigns and student experiences over the course of many years.

IN MEMORIAM



REV. RICHARD "DICK" WHITAKER

Richard "Dick" Ernest Whitaker passed away on Aug. 4, 2022, at the age of 87.

Whitaker joined the Central College faculty in 1967 as assistant professor of bible and religion.

He was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in 1935. He married Anita Sherman and the couple had four children, Rich Whitaker, **Sheri Whitaker Krumm '86**, Lori Whitaker Thomas and the late Meri Whitaker.

Upon moving to Pella, he and Anita purchased the Boardwalk House, formerly located at 300 Broadway Street in Pella, Iowa. Whitaker sold the home to Central in 1989.

At Central, Whitaker served as chair of the bible and religion department. He participated in two archaeological digs in the Middle East and served on the Senior Honors Committee. Whitaker also led a summer term studying in Israel, Jordan and Syria. He monitored a panel discussion on campus in the 1970s focused on the Arab-Israeli dispute in the Middle East. Whitaker was passionate about supporting the refugees of Southeast Asia and Thailand.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, Whitaker became a national authority on computerized biblical research. In 1968 he led early development of a concordance using a computer after he analyzed the texts. Harvard University Press published his work, "A Concordance of Ugaritic Mythological and Epic Literature." In 1971 he played a major role in creating a computer program to substantially increase the effectiveness of biblical and related ancient literature research.

Whitaker remained on Central's faculty until 1981 when he retired as professor of religion.

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.

SHAPING A NEW PATH FORWARD

The L.A. Garrison Scholarship for the Nontraditional Learner recognizes the potential in Central students.

STORY BY: JEANETTE BUDDING PHOTO BY: PAUL JOY



Madilynn Peitzman '25, 2021-22 recipient of The L.A. Garrison Scholarship for the Nontraditional Learner.

The heart of Central College has focused on supporting students. **Lemuel Addison Garrison**, 10th president of Central (1900-1909) and an 1896 graduate of the college, understood and instilled that social responsibility into students as well as his children and grandchildren. The L.A. Garrison Scholarship for the Nontraditional Learner represents five family members who all share the L.A.G. initials and a belief in supporting nontraditional and nontypical learners.

Lars Garrison, grandson of the late Central president, initiated the scholarship in 1981 reflecting upon his father Lemuel Alonzo's and his own learning struggles.

"We had learning challenges, but someone recognized the potential and good in us," he says. "Others have lifted us up to be useful in society."

The L.A. Garrison Scholarship for the Nontraditional Learner can serve as a lift to students who have not taken a traditional path to Central after high school. The heart of the scholarship is to help students who may have personal or life obstacles to overcome

while demonstrating potential for college success.

Madilynn Peitzman '25, an art education major from Altoona, Iowa, and recipient of the L.A. Garrison Scholarship for the Nontraditional Learner in 2021-22, says the opportunity to study at Central brings so many opportunities.

"I had a four-year career in the beauty industry as a nail artist. It wasn't as fulfilling as I wanted it to be," Peitzman says. "Now, I'm going into elementary art education to pursue a different way to live my passion and help people."

She enjoys the open-mindedness of elementary-aged children. "I really like hanging out with the elementary kids because they haven't been told how to think yet. They're so open, curious and imaginative. I really like that," she says.

As a former nail artist, Peitzman might notice other women's nails, but she laughingly admits, "I'm incognito now. I have clay nails! No one will know I was a nail artist to the elite of Des Moines a year ago. My hands are messy."

"I did a clay project in a 3D problem-solving art class with **Brian Roberts '92** (professor of art). The 3D problem-solving class involves using a material, like clay, to solve an issue and reimagine creativity. I finished a cookie jar, inspired by architecture. It's not a replica of an A-frame home, more it is an inspiration of the traditional framework you may see with large, vaulted windows in a great room and the many triangles you can find in that type of architecture," she chuckles.

Life is busy for the Altoona resident, who drives 45 minutes to college. She works 25 hours a week as a UPS dispatch for the evening routes in addition to completing the full-time, first-year curriculum at Central that included 25 hours of education observation during the Spring 2022 semester.

"Without the scholarship, I wouldn't have the opportunity to go to Central. I think I'll get a better education here," Peitzman says. "I love the small class sizes, genuine people and the energy that our professors put into students."

"I really felt like I'd made the right decision just a few weeks into my classes. I don't live on campus and was in the Maytag Student Center the first weekend trying to get a meal plan. I must have looked lost or confused. **Matt Diehl '87** (Student Support Services program coordinator) approached me and asked what I was looking for. He introduced himself and let me know about student services and all the things they offered."

"When I was in high school, from 2012-2015, mental health diagnoses were not taken as seriously as they are now. I thought, 'Wow, other people have things and it isn't something to be ashamed about,' Peitzman says. "I talked to him about my ADHD, among other things that make me an SSS member, like being a first-generation student. And it made me feel so included right away."

Student Support Services helped Peitzman feel cared for that first year.

"SSS really made a huge impact, helping get my books or school supplies I needed," Peitzman adds. "The staff helped me get textbooks on my iPad so I can have them read aloud to me. It is night and day on comprehension, and SSS was there for everything I needed. I am so thankful for looking confused and the help of Matt Diehl." ■

CIVIC DUTY

STORY BY: TRENT SWARTWOUDT '22

PHOTO BY: PAUL JOY



Trent Swartwoudt '22 considers giving back to Central College part of his civic duty.

One of the greatest aspects about giving is the ability to make an impact in the world around you. It can be a tangible impact such as building a community gathering space outside Geisler Library or swings around Central College's iconic pond. The impact also can be intangible, such as lifting the financial burden of a high-quality education from an incoming student's shoulders. I elected to donate \$1,000 to the Journey Scholarship Fund for a Central student. Let me tell you why.

Central has intentionally built a community around civic duty and engagement. I remember my freshman Liberal Arts Seminar class with **Keith Yanner**, professor of political science, where we dove into this prospect for a semester. The idea of community-centric civic duty and engagement was furthered by studies in environmental sustainability, global perspectives and economic development.

What stood out to me most from these courses was the idea of a multiplier, which is giving \$1 philanthropically creates well over \$1 in value, multiplying your impact.

I received the P.H. Kuyper Scholarship from Pella Corporation, which empowered me to attend Central and to become the best version of myself. The generous full-tuition financial support also opened my eyes to the direct impact philanthropy can have.

I still remember exactly how I felt when I received the phone call stating that I would not have to pay for a quality education. I figured if I could ever share that feeling with someone else, I absolutely should. It was because of the generosity of Central's donor network that I was able to attend Central, learn about what civic engagement meant and experience it firsthand. Because of their donation, I can write this piece as a Central graduate, and equally as important, a donor.

Central inspired civic dutifulness in

me — in thought as well as action. Since receiving my scholarship and attending Central, I enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard and served on a year-long deployment to Qatar. I trained to be an emergency medical technician and will continue training to become a paramedic and firefighter. I served as a member of the 2022 senior class gift committee and raised funds for projects around Central's campus. These, too, are the continued impact of the generosity of Central's donor network, and an intangible multiplier of their financial donation.

I give to continue the impact of the incredible gift I received from Pella Corp., to promote accessibility of higher education, to lift the financial burden from a student's shoulders, to empower the next generation of problem solvers and to be an involved citizen. What will your reasons be? ■



After an emotional end to a promising basketball career, **Thomas Spoehr '22** found a new athletics life competing in the weight events in Dutch track and field.