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PRESIDENT REFLECTS ON LIFE  
IN PELLA AND AT CENTRAL.



# THAT'S CURIOUS

STORY BY: MARK PUTNAM, CENTRAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT

PHOTO BY: PAUL JOY



Central College President and Senior Leadership Team. *Left to right:* **Carol Williamson**, vice president for student development and dean of students, **Karen Tumlinson**, vice president for finance and administration/treasurer, **Mark Putnam**, president, **Mary E.M. Strey**, vice president for academic affairs/dean of faculty, **Chevy Freiburger**, vice president for enrollment management and dean of admission and **Sunny Gonzales Eighmy '99**, vice president for advancement.

Some years ago, I was enjoying a conversation with a colleague who devoted his career to writing. His professional journey included side trips into journalism and corporate communications. I asked him, “What do you love about writing?” He responded that while writing is always a chore, it is the best way he can channel his insatiable curiosity.

As I pondered his thoughts, it occurred to me that curiosity and writing are a good pairing. One explores and the other expresses. More importantly, these two activities are the fundamental components of learning. We are challenged by the unfamiliarity of new subject matter, awkward attempts at performing new skills and the discomfort of new experiences. One definition of learning might be: the exploring and expression of curiosity.

Complacency is the enemy of curiosity. When we accept the existing boundaries of thought, we retreat from the edges of self-discovery and awareness of all that surrounds us. Complacency is fed by risk

aversion. Inertia is high in this context as the pressures of time and the limits of resources reinforce a pattern of repetition. Sameness overtakes curiosity because it is simply easier to be swept up in the routines of thought and practice. We read the same things, talk to the same people and go to the same places.

Nurturing curiosity is a choice — one we must make every day through the course of life if we are to remain curious. It begins with challenging the underlying assumptions. We assume so much in our recurring experiences. Life is less complicated if we accept what has always been so — at least in our thinking. Foreclosure to new ideas is where learning stops. Rigid adherence to accepted norms in the absence of interrogation yields mundane thinking. It's a trap. Validating our ideas and testing our skills is a worthy endeavor. It is liberating to affirm our knowledge and capacities.

Learning that is born of curiosity often involves others. Community is the relational framework we can rely on to explore.

Communities of learning and practice are a rich source of discovery. Herein we share our ideas, hear about the ideas of others and try something new. While we can feel vulnerable as a novice dwelling in the presence of others, particularly those more experienced, a healthy community encourages our curiosity. At its best, community is a place we can feel socially safe as a learner.

Embracing our curiosity involves a willingness to wander. One thing naturally leads to another. Even the things that allude our continuing interest add value as all learning is connected by the broad patterns of human experience. Freeing our curiosity is never a waste of time. Everything belongs to our learning.

An ambition for lifelong learning embraces curiosity, engages in community and explores widely. This is what opens doors for a lifetime. ■

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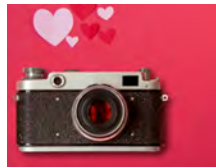
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Artwork By: **Melody VanderLeest**

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## "DUE TO DUBIT'S"

"Thank you for the article on Max and Judy Vander Pol. Dubit's was important to so many Central College students.

My wife and I met at Central in 1969 and married in 1971. Arriving back in Pella, we needed to find jobs to pay our \$80/month rent. Max and Judy hired us. Charlene waited tables on Friday nights, and I made pizzas and washed dishes in the kitchen.

On Saturday night, I drove the delivery van and, after getting off work from the movie theater, she would ride shotgun.

I always wanted to thank them once again. These were some of the best and most fun times of our lives. We've been married 51 years now and still try to find a way to make grinders that taste like Dubit's!"

— **Roger '72** and **Charlene Fiestor Heubach '72**  
Wilmington, North Carolina



## 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!

## 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 **Brittany Carlson Prokupek '16**, Civitas editor, at [carlsonb@central.edu](mailto:carlsonb@central.edu).





**Henry Van Leeuwen '50** pictured in his office.

### ▲ ALUMNUS HENRY VAN LEEUWEN GIFTS NEARLY \$225,000 TO CENTRAL

**Hendrik G. “Henry” Van Leeuwen '50** bequeathed \$224,787 to Central College to establish the Van Leeuwen Scholarship.

Van Leeuwen is remembered for many accomplishments. While at Central from 1946 to 1950, he was a member of the tennis team, campus ministries, choir, BEAKES and served as the editor of “The Central Ray” from 1949-1950.

In 1957, Van Leeuwen married **Marie Van Hal Van Leeuwen '55**, of Pella. They had three children, a daughter, Jacalyn, and two sons, Robert and Martin.

Following his Central graduation, he returned to his native California to earn his master’s degree in philosophy from the University of California – Berkeley. He returned to Central in 1954 to brush up on French and German languages, required for a Ph.D. He postponed furthering his doctorate education in 1954 to fill the vacancy in Central’s philosophy department. He led thought-provoking discussions, including the Koinonias where there was debate on the authority of the Old Testament. He continued his doctoral journey and graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa.

After earning his Ph.D., he accepted a sabbatical replacement position as Hanover College’s Holliday Chair of Philosophy and led students through philosophical debates for more than 38 years.

Marie passed in 2008 and Henry passed in February 2022.



The first day of classes brings smiles as the college granted Journey Scholarships to all new incoming students.

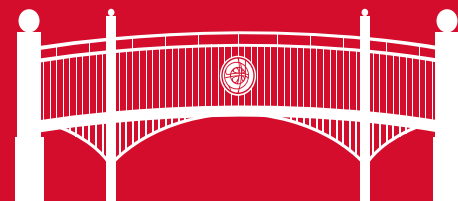
### ▲ JOURNEY SCHOLARSHIPS TO ALL NEW STUDENTS

Central College officially announced in October that all new incoming students — first-year and transfer — received a donor-funded Journey Scholarship. This is the first time in the college’s history that it committed a scholarship to all new incoming students, regardless of financial need.

Central’s generous donor base made it possible to offer all incoming students a Journey Scholarship. In 2021-22, the Central family generated \$1.6 million for Journey Scholarships.

“Our Central family of donors understands the importance of helping students attain a college degree,” says **Sunny Gonzales Eighmy '99**, vice president for advancement.

# AROUND THE POND



Central College welcomed 200 Iowa-based TRIO students to campus for a leadership conference.

### ▲ IOWA TRIO CONFERENCE AT CENTRAL COLLEGE

The Iowa TRIO Student Leadership Conference welcomed 200 high school and college students from across the state to Central College’s campus. The conference featured leadership skill-building activities centered around the theme of working to make our world a better place. Conference attendees were most likely the first in their families to pursue or attend college.

“Central has three TRIO programs — two pre-college services: Talent Search and Upward Bound and a collegiate program: Student Support Services. We sent 30 students from these programs,” says **Mollie Kingma '13**, Central’s TRIO talent search advisor and current Iowa TRIO president. “We have some outstanding pre-college students who are growing and achieving success in high school.”

To read full articles, go to Central’s news site at [central.edu/news](https://central.edu/news).



### ◀ MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

Two Class of 1960 Central College graduates have established an endowed scholarship in their names. The Harold Kolenbrander and Judy Grooters Scholarship is open to students with significant financial need and have both the desire and the capacity to be successful Central students. **Harold Kolenbrander '60, left**, and **Judy Gosselink Grooters '60, right**, decided to establish the endowment to support the next generation of Central students.

"It just seemed right," Kolenbrander says. "We have so many connections to Central and we both had children that graduated from there. We are very close to Central. We wanted to make this endowment to support students."



### ▲ CURTIS BAUER '92, POET, AT WRITERS READING SERIES

Central College welcomed **Curtis Bauer '92, above**, to the Fall 2022 Writers Reading Series. While on campus, Bauer read from his collection of works and visited classes. Bauer is the author of three poetry collections as well as a translator of poetry and prose from Spanish. The event was livestreamed and is available on the Central Dutch Network at [central.edu/bauer](https://central.edu/bauer).



### ◀ PROFESSOR PAPA KONSTANTINIDIS PUBLISHED

**Stavros Papakonstantinidis, left**, associate professor of communication studies at Central College, has co-authored a chapter in the newly released book, "Promotional Practices and Perspectives from Emerging Markets."

The chapter, titled "Entrepreneurship in Emerging Markets: An Empirical Study on Digital Natives in Kuwait," decodes the entrepreneurial mindset of the digital natives living in the Middle East, particularly in Kuwait. It addresses the question of what needs to be done in an emerging market and a wealthy state such as Kuwait to enhance entrepreneurship.

### NOEL COVER FOUNDATION AWARDS \$50,000 TO CENTRAL

Central College received a \$50,000 distribution from the Noel Cover Foundation of Cozad, Nebraska, to support scholarships for students. Central is one of four colleges to receive regular distributions from the foundation and the only Iowa institution represented. Since the foundation was established in 1972, Central has awarded \$1.386 million from the Noel Cover Foundation's distributions, creating 302 scholarships for 137 students.

"When looking back over the decades, so many Central students have been able to attend college and earn valued degrees because of the Noel Cover Foundation's distributions," says **Sunny Gonzales Eighmy '99**, vice president for advancement.



2022 Kid Captains, from left: Elsie Brenneman, Ava Roe, AJ Scheckel, Central College Director of Athletics, **Eric Van Kley**, Brandon Guiter, Henry Van Roekel and Ellery Wiersma.

### ▲ CENTRAL'S KID CAPTAINS

Central College welcomed six outstanding Pella area students from fourth to eighth grades for Kid Captain Day at the Central football game on Oct. 22.

"These students model the ideals that Central values and we are proud to recognize them for being respectful, caring and inspirational leaders in their classrooms," says **Eric Van Kley**, director of athletics and head men's wrestling coach.

Kid Captains were nominated by their peers using a rubric of characteristics such as having a positive attitude, making positive contributions, considering the needs and wants of others, showing respect and accepting and tolerating the views and beliefs of others — all of which makes them a great teammate.





### ▲ NISHIMOTO AWARDED RISE FELLOWSHIP

The National Association for Foreign Student Affairs awarded **Phoebe Nishimoto**, above, Central College's manager of international program logistics, a 2023-24 RISE Fellowship with the NAFSA Academy for International Education.

NAFSA awarded just 10 RISE fellowships from more than 170 applicants. The two-year fellowship program develops personal and professional capacities in the field of international education. Nishimoto will participate in the NAFSA Academy for International Education and receive personalized coaching from international educators as well as knowledge and skill-building resources and a network of professionals.



### ▲ CENTRAL EARNS THREE BEST OF CASE DIVISION VI AWARDS

Central received three Best of Class awards from the District VI Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

The District VI CASE Awards showcase best practices in alumni relations, fundraising, advancement services, special events and marketing and communications.

Central was recognized for awards in:

- + Best Magazine — Single topic/special edition: Inspiration, Civitas, alumni magazine, Spring 2021.
- + Best Publication — Student recruitment series or package: Central College viewbook suite.
- + Best Video — Fundraising and stewardship (short): Forever Dutch® Stewardship.

Central competes in Division VI with large state universities, who hire agencies to produce materials, as well as private colleges. This prestigious recognition is a testament to the challenging work by the admission, communications and advancement teams and dedication to Central's success.



### ◀ "H.M.S. PINAFORE" SET SAIL FROM CENTRAL

The department of Visual and Performing Arts presented Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore," a comic operetta in two acts. This was a fully staged production with a pit orchestra.

Central College has a long tradition of performing Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. This was particularly true during the tenure of the late **David Williams**, choral director from 1979 to 2006 and a Gilbert and Sullivan scholar who spearheaded performances of nearly the entire Gilbert and Sullivan repertory as a joint venture between the music and theatre departments.

"To recapture some of the magic and memory of this great tradition, I put together a production that involved students, faculty, alumni and community members," says **Sean Stephenson**, assistant professor of music and director of the opera. "Many of those involved have memories of previous Central productions or have family members who were involved with these in the past. Douwstra Auditorium has historically been the venue for opera performances. With the recent renovations, we are delighted to utilize this wonderful concert hall once again."

Even before Williams grew this fine tradition, the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta was a mainstay of the Central performance schedule. **Susan Kuyper '70**, a bassoonist in the pit orchestra, knows of a "H.M.S. Pinafore" performance that took place in 1935. It featured her father — **Hospers Kuyper '36** — as the villain, Dick Deadeye. It and many other productions by Gilbert and Sullivan have been performed since, though the most recent performance was in 1990.

**Logan Fehlhafer '24** played the role of Captain Corcoran. His mother, **Heidi Houzenga Fehlhafer '93**, was involved in another Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, "The Mikado," while she was a student at Central.



#### ◀ GREEN PREDICTS END OF IOWA'S BELLWETHER INFLUENCE

Professor of Political Science, **Andrew Green**, *left*, offered political predictions to “Bloomberg News,” prior to the mid-term elections. Published on Oct. 24, 2022, Green provided an opinion that Iowa may lose its swing-state status.

Green served as one of several sources in the article and was cited as an independent voter.

“If Republicans sweep the statewide offices along with the federal and state legislative races in 2022, Iowa’s status as a bellwether is probably over,” he said. “Iowa has always been known for having an independent streak.”

Green serves as a political resource across the state and nation.



#### ▲ WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The fourth annual Women’s Leadership Conference from Nov. 17-20 brought together 27 women to discuss women’s leadership, knowledge, skill building and values. The keynote speaker was **Kristina Stanger ’00**, *above*, attorney and shareholder with Iowa’s largest law firm as well as a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel. She inspired young women during her presentation, “The Skills You Need to Lead Following the 2022 Great Breakup.”

#### GIVING TUESDAY SUCCESS

The Central College family did it again, raising more than six-figures through Giving Tuesday donations on Nov. 29. Giving Tuesday, a special day of giving to nonprofits across the globe, generated \$126,437 for Central scholarships and programs.



#### ◀ DANIEL VOS PRESENTS AT BIBLICAL SOCIETY

**Daniel Vos**, *left*, lecturer of religious studies, presented an academic paper at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Denver, Colorado, in November.

The paper is entitled, “Praying as a Different Kind of Plaintiff in Psalm 39” and makes the case that Psalm 39 is an unusual kind of lament because it asks for divine distance instead of divine restoration.



#### ◀ NESBIT CO-AUTHORS BOOK CHAPTER

Central’s Assistant Professor of English, **Kate Nesbit**, *left*, co-authored a chapter in the newly released book, “Writing the Classroom: Pedagogical Documents as Rhetorical Genres.” It explores how faculty compose and use pedagogical documents to establish classroom expectations and teaching practices.

Nesbit’s chapter, titled “Toward the Learning to Teach Statement,” considers the pitfalls and problems with traditional statements of teaching philosophy.

#### FACULTY TALK ABOUT BATS AND BEES

Faculty members created two educational videos for area schools as part of PEERS, a career awareness program made available through WorkSMART Connector. Videos include “Bats” by **Russell Benedict**, professor of biology, and “Bees” by **Paulina Mena**, associate professor of biology, with production coordination provided by **Mary Stark**, John and Anna Poole Professor of Humanities and professor of English.

“The modules introduce students to future career paths while also learning science content. We talk about conservation of bees and bats,” Mena says. “The videos are formatted for teachers to use in the classroom. We also developed classroom activities for students in connection to the videos.”

To read full articles, go to Central’s news site at [central.edu/news](https://central.edu/news).





# FOR THE LOVE OF SPORTS

Central College students have a lot going on. **Thea Lunning '23**, left, is no stranger to involvement opportunities on campus, and it's her love for all she does that drives her.

STORY BY:  
**LARRY HAPPEL '81**

## BECAUSE IT'S FUN

**Thea Lunning '23** doesn't dig much deeper than that in answering the question she's routinely peppered with: Why?

Why, indeed, would a Central College student voluntarily immerse herself in the dirt-brown waters of Lake Red Rock for a 750-meter swim, followed by a muscle-screaming 20-kilometer bicycle ride and 5K run? It's a question Dutch triathletes get a lot.

Yet it prompts additional questions for Lunning because she tackles that endurance challenge as a side hustle to her career as an all-conference golfer for Central's own American Rivers Conference champion team, even though both squads compete primarily during the fall season.

## TWO IS BETTER THAN ONE

Central has a well-established tradition of two-sport athletes but taking on both in the same season unleashes all sorts of complications. Lunning somehow makes it work, even competing for both teams in a 72-hour span. She finished third in a Sept. 1 triathlon in Pella, then matched that finish at

the Norse-Kohawk Invitational women's golf tournament in Dike, Iowa, Sept. 3-4.

All while carrying a 4.0 grade point average as a biology major and spending 10 hours a week interning in a Pella optometrist's office as she prepares for optometry school.

Lunning isn't just filling a roster spot. She was Central's third finisher at the USA Triathlon Collegiate National Championships in Tempe, Arizona, placing 29th overall in one hour, 22:33 minutes. And as a golfer, she was a national tournament qualifier for North Iowa Area Community College before transferring to Central, where she's a two-time all-conference honoree. Lunning finished second at the conference women's golf championships Oct. 8-10, helping secure her second national meet berth of the year as the Dutch travel to Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida, for the NCAA Division III Championships May 9-12.

That's exciting stuff but it's the simple joy of sport that drives Lunning more than an all-consuming desire to be the best. Focusing on one sport, a decision American parents and overzealous youth sport coaches increasingly seem to think is best made in

conjunction with choosing morning or afternoon kindergarten, might allow her to scale greater individual heights, yet that would deprive her of pursuing all she loves.

"I obviously didn't do that," Lunning said. "I didn't go Division I and I'm not going to the Olympics. If those are the aspirations, then that's what needs to be done. But I enjoy the route I went. I think it's healthy to have a lot of options."

## OPTIONS ARE ENDLESS

Head Women's Golf Coach, **Tabitha Schumacher**, says options are integral to the Central experience.

"I think in Division I, where there are scholarships involved, it's easy to say, 'No, this is why you're here, this is kind of your job,'" she says. "Whereas at Central, this is an opportunity to compete at a really high level while ensuring that you're getting your degree and setting yourself up for the future. I want players to be involved in other things, whether that's triathlon or like (teammate) **Mackenzie Biggs '24**, who is a music education major and is in the College Community Orchestra."



## Blaine Hawkins '21 Honored

In a capstone to a historic career, one of the NCAA's loftiest honors went to former Central College football quarterback **Blaine Hawkins '21** as he was named a recipient of the 2023 Today's Top 10 Award.

Hawkins, the 2021 Gagliardi Trophy winner as the outstanding football player in Division III, was recognized at the Honors Celebration Jan. 11 during the NCAA Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Initiated in 1973, the award recognizes 10 former student-athletes from across all NCAA divisions for their successes on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The recipients completed their athletics eligibility during the 2021-22 academic year.

Hawkins is only the third student-athlete from an Iowa college or university to ever receive the award and the second in Central history. Central's **Emilie (Hanson) Brown '95**, a two-time NCAA Division III women's basketball player of the year and College Sports Communicators Academic All-American® of the Year, was honored with what was then the Today's Top VIII Award in 1996. Hawkins is the fourth Division III football player to ever win the award, and the first since 2009.

An economics and business management major, Hawkins graduated in 2021 with a 3.61 grade point average (4.0 scale). He now serves as an associate in public finance investment banking for Piper Sandler Companies in Denver, Colorado.



**Thea Lunning '23**, shown above at the American Rivers women's golf tournament in Ames, placed second, gaining all-conference distinction for the second time and helping Central to the team title.

Her pursuits fuel each other, Lunning acknowledges.

"I like that I'm allowed to explore other passions I have along with biology and my education," she says. "Sports and academics both interest me and I enjoy spending time on and getting to explore them both. When I'm in one, it's like a break from the other."

Schumacher and **Jennie Hedrick-Rozenberg '06**, head women's triathlon coach, recognize the trade-offs, yet don't pressure Lunning to choose.

"I talked to both of the coaches, and they talked to each other, so I wasn't too worried," Lunning shares. "Both (sports) are for fun, so I knew it would be OK. I mean, I want to take them seriously, be competitive and go as far as I can in both, but at the same time, it's for fun."

Lunning transferred to Central as a golfer but joined the triathlon squad after visiting with Schumacher, who was supportive.

"You're going to play better when you're in a good mental space and when you are able to be yourself," Schumacher said. "Allowing players to do those things helps a lot."

But she did have one request.

"Really the only thing, I told her was, 'OK, you're good, just don't fall,'" Schumacher said with a smile. "We need you."

## TAILORED TO THEA

The coaches tailor Lunning's practices to fit her schedule.

"Her weakest part last year was her bike, so we made sure we switched our schedule around to work with golf's off day," Hedrick-Rozenberg says. "They had Monday off, so we moved our long bike day to Mondays. We have an app they can look at for workouts and I would just schedule her runs on other days.

And then she was with us for two mornings each week that we'd swim."

Likewise, Schumacher isn't rigid about when Lunning works on her golf game.

"We all kind of show up to Ryerson Golf Practice Range at our own time," Lunning shares. "So, it's not like where you're all starting at 3 o'clock. Coach is going to be out there and whenever we show up, we work on whatever we need to work on that week and she's there to help."

## FOR A LIFETIME

Lunning views her sports as lifetime passions.

"I really like that about both of them," she says excitedly. "I like the idea of staying with them past college. I am competitive in nature, but I do really enjoy the sports that I do. I will golf when it's not competitive and I will do triathlon even when it's not in that kind of environment."

Fun, yes, but Lunning's coaches see the fire that quietly burns within her.

## COMPETING ONE STEP AT A TIME

"If you were to just hang out with Thea at a race, you wouldn't think that she was super competitive," Hedrick-Rozenberg said. "But seeing her drive through nationals, there is a huge competitive force in her. She worked hard, especially to stay with that pack on the bike, which she knows is not her strongest (event). For her to stay with that group to draft with them was something I hadn't seen from her before. Before, it was more, 'I do this because I can.' But I could really see that drive to be more competitive this year."

It all seems like a lot, yet Lunning shrugs. After all, she's only doing one thing at a time.

"I definitely have a (day) planner but, yeah, you just kind of wake up and do it," she laughs.





Central roared to its first conference golf crown since 2018 at the American Rivers tournament, winning by 42 shots. From left to right, tourney medalist **Lydia Grond '25**, **Thea Lunning '23**, **Madison Clark '23**, **Delaney Underwood '23** and **Mackenzie Biggs '24**.

It's a mindset she developed on the golf course.

"Golf is a very mental sport and I feel like I have improved my mental game," Lunning says. "Learning how to take one shot at a time takes time. My dad would always tell me that. It's easy to say that but it's hard to do."

Lunning's ability to erase memories of a misread putt as she strides to the next tee box translates to the multi-pronged triathlon as well.

"I take that one event at a time, too," she shares. "Right away, when they blow that horn to get in the water, I am in the water; all I'm thinking about is doing the best I can in that and when I get to biking, that's what I worry about. For sprint triathlons, you've got to keep the pace going the whole time so you have to go as fast as you can in each one. I don't save myself. When I get to the run, I hope that I can finish strong but I'm not going to slow down on my bike just so I can save my legs for the run."

## IRON SHARPENS IRON

Aspects of each sport can enhance performance in the other.

"Golf requires more stamina than people think," Lunning says, a point driven home to anyone who's lugged a golf bag up and down the unforgiving hills of Pella's Bos Landen Golf Course.

The mental strength golf requires can produce triathlon success.

"Lots of times you're out there by yourself, especially in the water," Hedrick-Rozenberg says. "You don't have anything to look at in the lake. It's dirty. There are just bodies around you. So, you're all in your own head. Just having that positive mindset that she gets

from golf is important."

Hedrick-Rozenberg also loves the stay-in-the-moment approach Lunning brings to her squad through her championship experiences.

"All of those high-level performances help, especially with the nerves and not letting it get to you," she shares. "We have to race, let's just go race. I love that mentality. We're going to try our best, we're going to race and whatever the outcome is, that's the outcome. We can have goals, but we're here to race. Don't overthink; just do it."

Central dominated the 54-hole conference golf tournament in Ames, Iowa, with a 42-shot cushion, placing four players in the top five. Lunning shot 76-80-79--235 to finish three shots behind teammate **Lydia Grond '25**. Lunning wasn't bothered by placing second.

"It wasn't my personal goal to get first," she says. "I wanted to help the team win. I've been to a lot of things individually in high school and NIACC so getting to experience that with the team was the main goal for me."

The NCAA golf tourney is part of Lunning's overstuffed spring agenda that includes preparing for graduation, optometry school and an early summer triathlon wedged in on top of her internship and academic work. Yet she sees room for more as she looks to play cello in the College Community Orchestra and, at random times, Lunning can even be seen sneaking up the concrete steps to the Cox-Snow Music Center, for a few stress-free minutes playing piano in one of the second-floor practice rooms.

No need to ask her why.

"It's kind of fun." ■

## ATHLETICS UPDATES

**MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY:** Central earned fourth place in the conference and seventh place at regionals. **Caleb Silver '23** was 25th at the NCAA Division III Championships in Lansing, Michigan, gaining All-America distinction, and **Noah Jorgenson '24** was also a national qualifier.

**WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY:** The Dutch earned third place in the conference and took fifth place at regionals. **Caroline McMartin '24** was 24th at the NCAA Division III Championships to become Central's first women's cross country All-American since 2004.

**FOOTBALL:** Central was 7-3 overall and 5-3 in the American Rivers Conference. Wide receiver **Jeff Herbers '23** was named to the College Sports Communicators Division III Academic All-America® Division III team for the second straight year.

**WOMEN'S GOLF:** Central captured its 11th conference championship. **Lydia Grond '24** was the league's player of the year, among four Dutch players in the top five. **Tabitha Schumacher**, head women's golf coach, was named the coach of the year. Central qualified for the NCAA Division III Championships May 9-12 at Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida.

**MEN'S SOCCER:** The Dutch were 3-11-2 overall and 2-5-1 in the American Rivers Conference. **Joe Brown '25**, who played both defender and forward, was an all-conference pick.

**WOMEN'S SOCCER:** Central was 9-6-3 overall, finishing with a record of 3-3-2 in the conference. Forward **Grace Coates '25** received all-conference and all-region honors.

**WOMEN'S TENNIS:** Central was 4-7 overall and 3-5 in the conference. **Jennifer Larson '25** received all-conference honorable mention at No. 1 singles and No. 2 doubles.

**TRIATHLON:** Central placed third at regionals and fourth place at the USA Triathlon Collegiate National Championships in Tempe, Arizona. **Lindsey Blommers '22** was 14th, gaining All-America honors, and first-year **Grace Benson '26** finished 17th.

**VOLLEYBALL:** Central finished 10-15 overall and 1-7 in the conference. Four players were named College Sports Communicators Academic All-District honorees.







# Love

## THROUGH THE DECADES

Just like the Central College experience, each Central love story is unique. Small class sizes can lead to all sorts of strong relationships — even marriage!

STORY BY:  
**BRITTANY CARLSON PROKUPEK '16**  
**AND CYVANNAH VECCHIO**





## *Second Chance at Love*

### The '60s

**Harold Kolenbrander** and **Judy Gosselink Grooters** were born the same year, growing up just 20 miles apart. They knew each other during their time at Central College and graduated with the Class of 1960. Kolenbrander and Grooters were both involved in music and even ran with the same group of friends.

Each married and had three kids, several of whom attended Central. The pair had

very successful professional lives and stayed involved with Central, later being asked to serve on the Board of Trustees (which also overlapped). Both faced immense loss with the passing of their spouses.

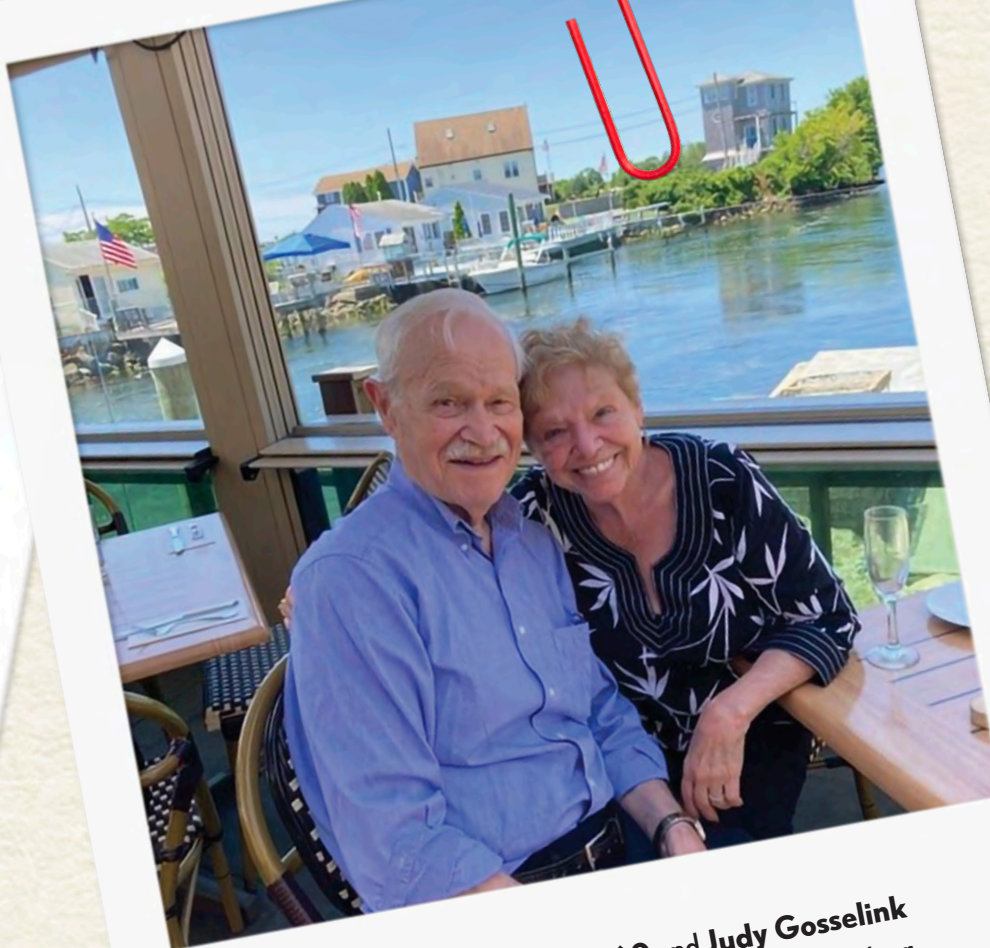
The parallels and similarities connecting these two are endless. They've always been tied to one another in various ways, but it was a college reunion that reconnected them. They both agreed to serve on the planning

committee with some classmates from Central and exchanged information to stay in contact.

Judy shares she "always sent Harold a Christmas card," and that his cards to her "must have gotten lost in the mail."

The summer of 2019, Harold dusted off her contact information and reached out. He let Judy know he'd be in the area to attend his granddaughter's college graduation





**Harold Kolenbrander '60 and Judy Gosselink Grooters '60** enjoying a beautiful day on the river.

ceremony and he'd love to see her on his way to Boston if she was in the area. She agreed and the two met for drinks that turned into a long dinner and even had breakfast together the next morning. As Kolenbrander drove away, he thought to himself, "I hope Judy and I can see a lot more of each other."

And as the saying goes, the rest is history — and neither had to worry about exchanging Christmas cards again.

The pair started making arrangements to see each other more often and see the world, but the COVID-19 pandemic had different plans. Their travels were put on hold, and not wanting to waste any time away from each other, they decided to quarantine together.

"You get to know someone rather quickly when you're holed up together," Grooters says.

They didn't know how long they'd have to quarantine but were glad to be in each other's presence. Not long into their new living arrangement, they knew they wanted

to make things permanent. And in 2021, the couple married at a church in Rhode Island.

The wedding was just family; after all, that's what it's all about. Everyone came to their house before the ceremony for coffee, Dutch letters and various sweets from Jaarsma Bakery — a touch of Pella, of course. A friend of theirs had written a special blessing for them that was read during the ceremony, the church's organist played the signature piece of their dear friend, **Davis Folkerts '60**, and each of their children spoke. After, the family gathered for a beautiful lunch at a nearby restaurant where the couple has since celebrated their wedding anniversary.

Married life is sweeter than a Dutch letter for this pair. Since the world has reopened, they've packed their bags and gone on several adventures — seeing friends from their time at Central, taking their rescheduled trips and planning new ones — to make up for the lost (COVID-19) time. Though, they wouldn't

consider it lost time; after all, quarantine is how they got to know each other all over again!

"It's truly serendipitous," Grooters says. "I wasn't married for nearly 40 years after my husband passed, and I certainly didn't expect to be again. Having this family and Harold blows me away when I think about it."

Harold shares a similar sentiment, "I'm delighted our paths crossed," he says. "I couldn't be happier with how everything worked out."

These two led lives of their own. They accomplished great things and when the time was right, Central led them back to one another. The pair had to grow up 20 miles apart to find their way to one another nearly 60 years after graduating from Central.

Next time you get invited to Homecoming or an alumni event, maybe reconsider before saying, "no." You never know, in addition to seeing classmates and friends, you could walk away with a new love.



# The '70s

**Barb Ebeling Thomas '70** first laid eyes on **Bill Thomas '70** outside of Central College's student union her first day on campus in Fall 1966. He was walking down the steps with his friends Keegan (**Jim Keegan '70**) and Kissinger (**David Kissinger '70**) as Barb ascended the stairs and they struck up a conversation.

"For some reason, we started talking. I didn't know his name, but found out he came from Des Moines, Iowa, and I told him I was from Chicago," she reminisces. "So, for the first half of our freshman year when we crossed paths, I called him 'Iowa' and he called me 'Chicago.'"

Fast forward to Spring 1967 when Barb often met Bill on the steps near the cafeteria in Graham Hall after dinner. The pair took long walks around campus, often stopping by the Old Central Bell or the football field. And with their walks, they stepped into the dating scene.

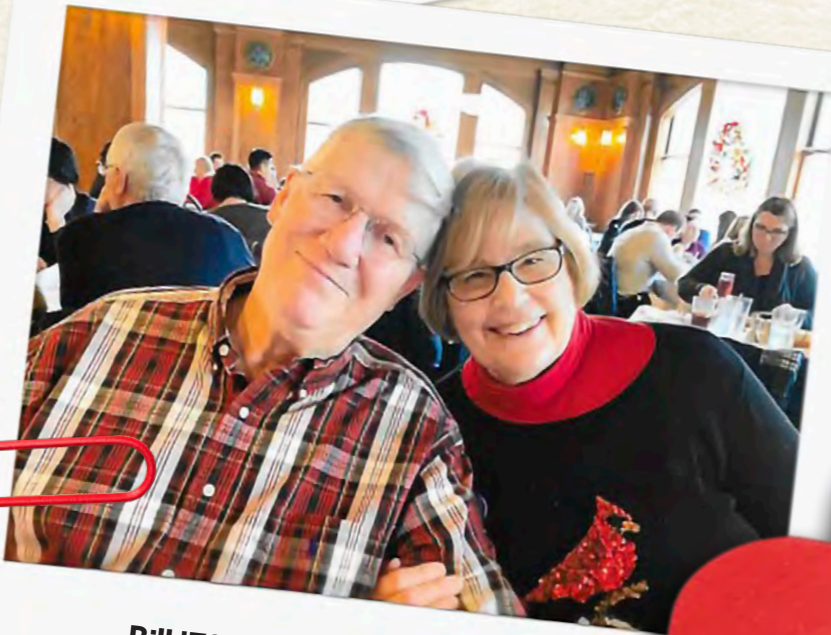
By Fall 1967, the couple was engaged. "He asked me to marry him on the 50-yard line of Central's football field and we married at the end of our junior year," Barb shares. The newlyweds lived in now-extinct married student housing during their senior year — a humble Quonset hut by the railroad tracks that formerly ran through campus.

More than 56 years — 54 of those years married, "Iowa" and "Chicago" are still walking through life together. The Thomases have two children — Bill Thomas II and **Gini Thomas '93** — and seven grandchildren.

"Unfortunately, Bill has Alzheimer's now and has lost these memories, but I love to tell our grandchildren how we met," Barb says. "Central holds many fond memories for us ... and to think it all started on the steps of the old student union."



*Steps in the Wife Direction*



**Bill '70 and Barb Ebeling Thomas '70**  
have shared 56 years together.





# The '80s

**Lyle '81 and Deb Worden Ziskovsky '81**

both came to Central to further their education and continue their athletics careers running both track and cross country for the Dutch.

The pair met one of their very first days on campus in the fall of 1977 during cross country practice. "The men's and women's teams were a close-knit group, so everyone got to know each other very well, very quickly," Lyle says.

That's not to say it was love at first sight, though. Lyle and Deb were great friends who'd spend time together with the group going to movies at the Holland Theatre, grabbing ice cream at Dairy Queen, pizza from the Dutch Oven or just hanging out on campus.

Things changed in their junior year. The couple went on some dates and decided to make things official in January 1980. They still remember one of their very first solo dates: They had dinner at George's, saw two movies ("Foul Play" and "101 Dalmatians") and ended the night talking for hours on end in a Scholte Hall lounge.

Lyle proposed on graduation day in May 1981. "He gave me my ring just hours before the ceremony," Deb shares. "It truly was a special, memorable day." The couple married June 18, 1983.

Little did they know, their Central love story would lay the foundation for their children. The couple's three daughters, **April Ziskovsky '08, Jill Ziskovsky Halcomb '11 and Kelli Ziskovsky Holan '13**, all attended Central, subsequently marrying fellow Central grads!

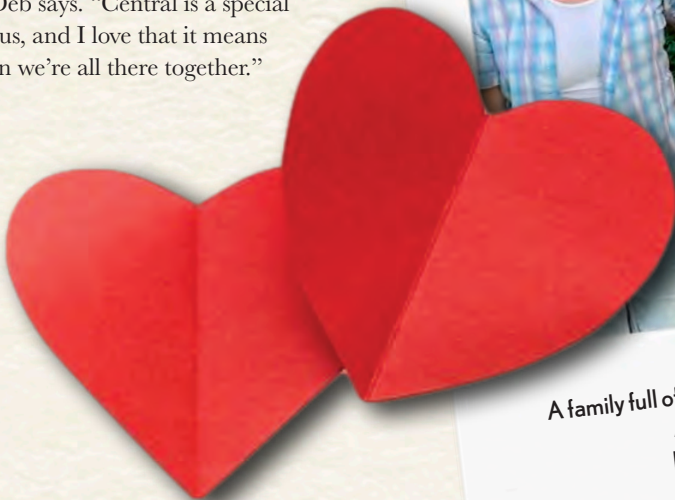
"Two generations of Central love stories — it's amazing," Deb says. "Central is a special place for all of us, and I love that it means something when we're all there together."



*A Love for All Generations*



A family full of Central sweethearts. Left to Right: Deb Worden Ziskovsky '81, April Ziskovsky '08, Jill Ziskovsky Halcomb '11, Kelli Ziskovsky Holan '13 and Lyle Ziskovsky '81.







## Seven Year Glitch

### The '90s

Excellent relationships with coaches, faculty and staff, involvement and athletics opportunities, academic programming and great experiences during Scholar Day drew **Jason '94** and **Emilie Hanson Brown '95** to Central College.

He saw her — well, her photo — for the very first time on campus in Maytag Student Center along with all the other photos of first-year students. “She’s beautiful, but she’s out of my league,” Brown thought to himself.

The two met the night of the first dance on campus that fall. Jason talked his friends into delivering a message to the group of girls Emilie was standing with. They declared they were the “ratio police” and they were there to “make sure the ratio of guys to girls is 1:1.”

Emilie picked Jason out from the back of the group and was immediately interested. Later, Jason and his friends went to Emilie’s room in Scholte and as soon as they knocked on the door, they ran away leaving a nervous

Jason to talk to her. He asked her to go on a walk — the first of many — and she agreed. Not long after, the pair began dating.

Unlike so many fairytales, it wasn’t happily ever after — yet. Acknowledging their age and places in their lives, they decided to break things off toward the end of the academic year. “We weren’t ready to love each other yet; at least not the way we wanted to or deserved,” Emilie shares.

They went on with their athletics careers and involvement opportunities on campus. They were always friendly when they saw one another — they had no reason not to be.

Seven years would pass before they saw their opportunity for a second chance. Throughout those years apart, they would bump into each other or hear the other’s name come up in conversation just frequently enough that they could never get each other out of their heads.

Emilie was in a serious relationship (with someone else) in grad school. As she drove cross-country returning home, she found herself thinking about her friends from graduate school and who she’d pair them up with. When she came to one friend, she thought, “Jason would be great for her ... No, wait. He’s great for me!”

Jason’s younger sister, **Maggie Brown VanderWilt '97**, was hanging out at the Hanson house with Emilie’s younger sister, **Martha Hanson Koopman '97**, when she returned. Martha was excited to talk with Emilie about her new beau, but Maggie noticed everyone except Emilie seemed to be excited about the relationship. Being a great sister, she informed Jason of the news (and lack of excitement).

A couple of years went by and Jason returned to Pella to watch his sister **Abbie Brown Sogard '00** play volleyball one weekend. When he turned in the stands, he was met with Emilie’s eyes.





The Brown family today. Left to right: Joe '25, Emilie Hanson Brown '95, Jack, Pearl and Jason Brown '94.

Jason was considering moving back to Pella from Overland Park, Kansas, to take over the InterVarsity program at Central. Emilie was in town working for Heritage Lace. He asked her to catch up and she gladly agreed. Not having anywhere else to go, the pair chatted in Maytag Student Center — where Jason first saw Emilie — for hours on end.

“We kind of knew that as soon as I got back to Pella, we’d begin dating,” Jason says. Not long after, he was back, working in campus ministries at Central.

“We were together about three months before we decided to get married. I proposed Dec. 15, 1999, and we were married April 1, 2000,” Jason says.

“We got married in Pella and had the reception in Graham Conference Center

on Central’s campus,” Emilie shares. “**Eric Sickler '83**, who was integral in my recruitment to Central, and his band, Ashanti, played our wedding reception, the college catered and the room was full of Central grads. During speeches, my younger sister, **Aanna Hanson Hoch '98**, says, ‘okay, show of hands, who always thought this was going to happen?’ The entire room raised their hands.”

“I think we always knew we were right for each other; we just didn’t have the timing right ... until we did,” Jason says.

“We continue to learn and grow in our understanding of the world, each other, ourselves and God,” Emilie reflects. “We are evolving as people, and as our experiences grow, we are hopefully becoming more

self-aware and more compassionate as individuals and as a couple. I appreciate that we welcome and encourage this process in one another. I want Jason to become his best self, and my experience in our marriage is that he wants the same for me.”

Time to grow personally and professionally, in their faith and in appreciation for one another (and perhaps a gentle push from all things Central) brought these two back together to create something stronger than they could have ever imagined at 18 and 19 years old: success in their professional lives; a strong relationship centered around love and Christ; and three beautiful children — **Joe**, a member of the Central College Class of 2025, Jack and Pearl.



# The '00s



*Des Moines Destiny*



Phil '07, Carson, Raegan and Lindee Russell Jeneary '08.

**Phil '07** and **Lindee Russell Jeneary '08** met while they were students at Central College but didn't know one another well.

Phil primarily took political science and history courses, had an active social life and spent a semester in Washington D.C. Meanwhile, Lindee focused on courses that supported her Spanish and international studies majors; was heavily involved in campus activities and leadership opportunities; and spent semesters in Mexico and Spain.

After graduation in 2007, Phil worked on political campaigns around Des Moines. When Lindee graduated the following year, her first post-college job was in Council Bluffs, Iowa. However, she frequently visited college friends in the Des Moines area.

At the time, Phil was roommates with **Matt Clawson '08**, who also was Lindee's friend. The living arrangement meant their social circles often intersected. Phil and Lindee, both single at the time, struck up a romance.

"We were inseparable," Lindee gushes. "After a year of dating long distance, I was able to transfer my job to the Des Moines area."

A year later, the couple traveled to Washington D.C., where Phil proposed on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. The couple married in October 2011; many of their guests were from Central.

**"Trent '07** and **Allison Fegley Johnson '08** were in our wedding party," Lindee shares. "They're now married!"

Phil and Lindee welcomed Raegan Kay into the world in 2015, followed by Carson Daniel in 2017. The family settled in Waukee, Iowa. Phil is the government relations director for the Iowa Medical Society, and Lindee serves as a deputy court unit executive for the United States Federal Judiciary.

"I'm so grateful for the life we've created. It's taken us on tremendous adventures," Lindee says. "We look back fondly at our Central years and enjoy visiting campus when we get the chance!"





# The '10s

**Edwin '17** and **Kailey Phillips Etienne '18** shared one sociology class, but their connection wasn't established in the classroom. In fact, they were nothing more than friends for most of their mutual time at Central.

So, what took them past the friend zone? A movie-style meet-cute when Kailey returned from studying in Yucatán, Mexico.

"I was with my roommate at the post office in Maytag Student Center one afternoon and Edwin came up. He said something funny to welcome me back," Kailey remembers. "Then a couple of weekends later, we met up, reconnected and realized we had more in common than we thought we did."

Much of their relationship was spent making trips back-and-forth between Florida and Iowa and on hours-long FaceTime calls to do life together long-distance. They became increasingly confident their relationship was part of God's plan for their lives.

"We knew it was not going to be temporary," Kailey says, "We were ready to settle down."

In what feels like the makings of a romantic comedy, Kailey flew down to Florida in 2017 for a nautical New Year's Eve to watch the ball drop in Fort Myers. As it got closer to midnight, the yacht emptied — something she neglected to notice.

"The fireworks went off at midnight, and he was down on one knee," Kailey smiles. "I couldn't believe it; I was over the moon!"

The couple has been happily married since 2019 and have two children, Everett and Emberly. Edwin is now a detective and part of the S.W.A.T. team in Charlotte County, Florida, and Kailey is a licensed funeral home director and certified celebrant in North Port, Florida.



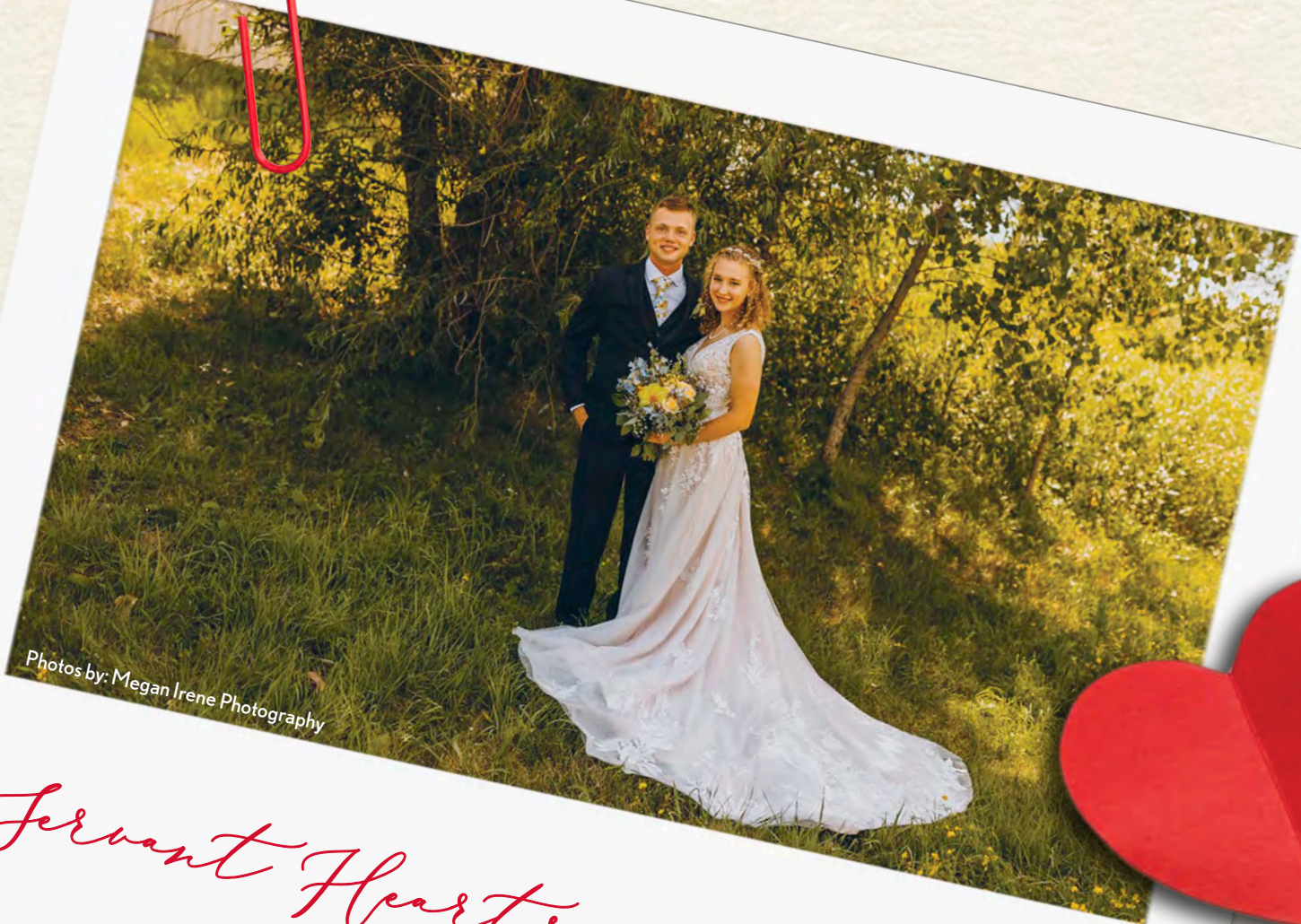
Hannah Brecht  
Photography

*Isn't It Romantic?*



**Edwin '17, Everett, Emberly and  
Kailey Phillips Etienne '18.**





Photos by: Megan Irene Photography

## Servant Hearts. Glass Flowers

# The '20s

**Caleb '23** and **Elise Visscher Kuiper '23** met on a mission trip over winter break in their sophomore year at Central College. Caleb was looking for community and a place to belong and found that in Campus Ministries.

New and open to exploring faith, he asked the group with him in Texas all sorts of questions. Among the answers, he found a new appreciation and understanding of faith and scripture as well as Elise.

"We kept getting paired up and unintentionally working in the same groups," Elise recalls.

"The whole group would go on hikes, and we'd reach a point where it was going to get more challenging. So, some would turn back, but Elise always continued. I loved her

adventurous spirit and thought, 'Well, I'm coming, too,'" Caleb says.

The team had mangoes with a meal one day and Elise was set on taking those seeds and trying to grow some back home. So she took them home and Caleb did, too. "I knew I didn't have anything to put it in or supplies to care for it, so I figured I could use that as a way to reach out when we were back at school," Caleb chuckles.

Caleb planted the seed, literally, and it worked!

The pair took time over spring break of their sophomore year to think and pray about their futures and summer plans (and whether they should start a relationship). They independently decided to both work for Lake View Summer Camp, operated by

**Joel Brummel**, chaplain at Central, and his wife, Diana — thus, officially beginning their relationship in the spring of 2021.

Working with kids every day can teach you a lot about a person and in Caleb and Elise's case, it only made them stronger. They owned their areas for growth as individuals and acknowledged one another's strengths. Exhausted, they left camp feeling even more confident in the relationship.

"I came back from camp and one of the first things I said was, 'mom, I'm going to marry this guy,'" Elise says. "A little bit of panic set in for my mom because it's the first thing out of my mouth after being away all summer and we'd only been dating about four months at that point."

The couple started their junior year with





**Caleb '23 and Elise Visscher Kuiper '23 made hand-blown glass flowers for their wedding guests.**

dreams and plans for their future. They began talking about what getting married would look like and mean for them. Knowing full well that their parents would need some information to get behind this, Caleb and Elise prepared a presentation with three different timelines for marriage, a plan for how they would make this happen, support themselves financially and any other questions they knew their parents would have.

With a little convincing, both sides recognized the thought and work behind what they prepared and the love between them and ultimately gave their blessings.

Caleb intended to propose after finals in the fall semester that year. The Christmas Candlelight concerts came, and so did all of

the family. After a small nudge from Elise's grandmother, **Dee Van Zee**, a retired, longtime employee of the college, asking if he had anything special planned that weekend, Caleb realized that everyone they loved was right there and he should propose that day.

He waited until after the concert and pulled Elise away before they met up with everyone at her grandparents' house. He took her to the boat ramp at Lake Red Rock where they'd danced together for the first time. Spoiler alert: She said, "Yes!"

They met up with friends and family right after and everyone cheered when they walked in the door. The couple went into wedding planning mode immediately.

One of the special details they wanted to

include in their day was a hand-blown glass flower for all their guests to take home. Elise had taken a glass-blowing course and Caleb ended up taking one, too. They got permission, paid for the materials and nearly every spare moment they had in Spring 2022 was spent creating these special wedding favors.

The pair married in Pella on July 23, 2022, before returning to Central for their senior year. "Our relationship, our marriage, it all just feels like it was ordained," Caleb says. "So many things lined up for us to get together and to be here."

They're growing together in their life and love and look forward to capping their Central experience walking at Commencement in May. ■









# **CENTRAL COLLEGE** Sweethearts

Central College alumni couples returned to their roots — some during Homecoming 2022, others by submitting their love stories and photos electronically.

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







Brandon '13 and Jessica Riebkes Clough '14



Brian '80 and Lori Humphrey Fegley '80



Bruce '13, Calvin and Keeley Orvis Behrens '14



Gary '87 and Jennifer Freel Fischer '86



Kent '05 and Laura Peter Patterson '05



Jeff '90 and Julie Hunt Hannemann '91



Keith '87 and Jil Westra Schneider '88



Kent '77 and Joyce Huibregtse Fry '78



Kyle '91 and Jil Bancroft Nelson '94



Lance '95 and Amy Van Vark Klein '96





Mark '80 and Lori Kooiker Ellingson '82



Lee '80 and Pamela Simmons Vande Voort '82



Mark '92 and Kristy Reid Smith '92



Marley '82 and Robin Kellog Wubbena '82



Robin '77 and Barbara Anderson Luken '80



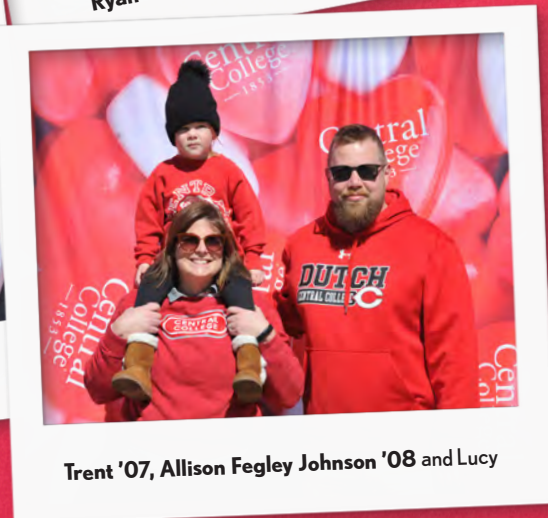
Ryan '12 and Melanie Louis Schmidt '12



Stephen '87 and Lisa Thurman Fyfe '87



Tayler Keitzer '12, Liam Keitzer-Petersen and Jake Petersen '13



Trent '07, Allison Fegley Johnson '08 and Lucy



Trevor '08 and Mindy Van Woerkom Jones '08





**Augie '75 and Janet Hulsizer Krueger '75**

**Augie '75 and Janet Hulsizer Krueger '75** met in September 1971 during orientation on Central's campus. They married in the summer of 1974 and graduated together in 1975. The couple has good memories of the time they spent at Central.



**Chris '80 and Margaret Locker Draffen '82**

**Chris '80 and Margaret Locker Draffen '82** married on campus in the new chapel on June 5, 1982, surrounded by friends and family — many of whom are Central grads!

"This photo kind of says it all," Margaret says. "We usually feel like a team, but enjoy the occasional competition!" The couple currently resides in Northville, New York, where Margaret has an in-home art studio and works as an administrative assistant for their church. Chris stays busy playing music and working part-time at the local hardware store.



**Dallas '61 and Ginny Weeks Wassink '61**

**Dallas '61 and Ginny Weeks Wassink '61** are pictured on their wedding day.

Ginny came to Pella from New Jersey and he from California. They didn't meet until her junior year since he was a transfer student. Because their last names both began with W and they were both sociology majors, they were seated next to each other for many of the same classes. Ginny asked Dallas to a "Sadie Hawkins Day" date and the rest is history. The couple was married for 55 years and sent all three of their children to Central before Dallas passed in 2016. Their granddaughter, **Emily Wassink '25**, is a sophomore at Central and the fourth generation to attend.





**David '13 and Megan Overton Bouska '13**

**David '13** and **Megan Overton Bouska '13** met during high school, and their college searches brought them to Central. They were both active on campus in their respective athletics teams, studied abroad, built great relationships and got to know each other better over their four years.

After a Homecoming win during the pair's final year at Central, Megan heard the crowd chant "will you marry him" while David made his way to her on the track with her fellow cheerleaders. She said, "yes" and the couple married in June 2014, later welcoming their daughter, Olivia, in May 2022.



**Jim '72 and Shelley Best Ellerston '76**

**Jim '72** and **Shelley Best Ellerston '76** met in Fort Dodge, Iowa, teaching music. Although their paths did not knowingly cross until after graduating from Central, they had many of the same professors, knew a lot of the same people and were both in several of the same performing groups at Central. It made for an instant bond as members of the music staff. They married in 1978 and visited Pella often. The Ellerstons moved back to Pella when their son, **Christopher '12**, convinced his retired parents to relocate in 2016. Jim plays in the College Community Orchestra, and the couple enjoys attending concerts and theatre productions at Central.



**Thom '83 and Joan Keck Wierenga '85**

When it became obvious that God was pointing **Joan Keck Wierenga '85** to Central, her dad said that she'd better not convert to the Reformed Church in America and marry some Dutchman. Within two weeks at Central, her church of choice was Second Reformed, and not long after, sparks were flying with a young Dutchman, **Thom Wierenga '83**.

The pair met Joan's first year, Thom's third year, in the music building not long after his return from a semester in Wales. The two kept bumping into each other, later purposely looking for reasons to see each other on campus.

These Central sweethearts wed the summer of 1986, with Central's **Davis Folkerts '60**, emeritus professor of music, at the organ at First Methodist Church in Des Moines, Iowa. Fast forward to 2022, and the couple got to celebrate Homecoming 2022 in Pella! ■







# CENTRAL SCENE

PHOTO BY: PAUL JOY

Countless love stories and journeys in faith have blossomed  
in and around the Chapel on Central's campus.





# HEART WORK

Central College faculty share details about their courses that teach interpersonal strategies to better cultivate connections.

STORY BY: ERIN KAMP  
PHOTO BY: PAUL JOY



**Tammy Strawser**, lecturer of education, meets with a student in her office.

Learning to connect with others doesn't depend on a career path. Interpersonal skills are essential in any profession, and Central College professors infuse their courses with applicable strategies. Three disciplines in particular — education, communication studies and psychology — are exploring relationship building during the 2022-23 academic year.

## COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS

Central's education program produces exceptional teachers because of professors who practice what they preach. Children With Exceptionalities is a foundational course required for admission to the education program. This course provides a deeper understanding of how different students may consume material in the classroom, and it prepares students to work with anyone, regardless of ability, need or background.

"We're establishing a community of learners," **Tammy Strawser**, lecturer of

education, says. "If you're going into teaching, nobody can work in isolation and sustain that. It's important for students to build a network to learn and grow together."

The course is designed to bring students from awareness to advocacy. It builds empathy by providing knowledge to look beyond personal experiences to better understand how to support students with different needs.

"What I want my students to take away from the course is how to connect with others," **Taylor Welden**, lecturer of education, says. "You can find similarities between yourself and anyone."

"We are more similar than we are different," **Jennifer Diers**, director of the education program, adds. "I really carry that idea throughout the entire course."

Primarily taken by first-year education students, Children With Exceptionalities creates a foundation that students can build on. The professors utilize storytelling to share their experiences teaching students

with exceptionalities while creating a space for students to tell their own stories.

"As an intro class, it sets students up to be effective teachers who meet the needs of all learners. Advocacy is key to becoming an effective teacher and person," Diers says.

"I'm very proud of the work we do in this department with relationship building," Strawser adds. "We all have great ideas, and we build off that. Because of that, we build good teachers here."

## NO "I" IN TEAM

There's no better way to learn about teams than being part of one. With **Mary Donato**, lecturer of communication studies, working in a team goes beyond a surface-level experience. Group and Team Communication examines how people work together in teams through informal roles individuals play — often without realizing it.

"The cool thing about Group and Team Communication is the majority of the course will be done in groups and teams," Donato





**Shelby Messerschmitt-Coen '15**, assistant professor of psychology, works with students during *Principles of Counseling*.

says. “Not only are we learning about the material, but we’re also enacting it. It’s a 16-week experience of being in a group or team. Almost every class will have some type of activity that’s interactive.”

Students spend the semester in a five-person group, and they collaborate on everything from class activities to homework and exams. The activities in this class bring a deeper understanding of natural relationships.

One activity in particular pushes students to perform informal roles within their team, regardless of how they would naturally act in

a similar situation.

“We’ll have a task the whole class must complete, and they have to act out their assigned role. Sometimes someone gets a role opposite of who they are and they’re just itching to do something the whole time,” Donato says. “It’s a fun way to highlight what the roles really look like.”

Students can apply the knowledge from this class to all areas of their life. Currently a communication studies elective, the course provides insight into how to be a better teammate, friend, citizen and person.

“We’re taking a very practical and

applicable approach to these types of skills that are essential to any workplace,” Donato says. “Everyone needs to communicate and do so effectively.”

## FULL CIRCLE

**Shelby Messerschmitt-Coen '15**, assistant professor of psychology, had her first experience with the *Principles of Counseling* course as a student at Central. Now, as the professor, she’s able to share her passion with students like her.

“As a student, this class was my jumping-off point,” Messerschmitt-Coen says. “It’s a wonderful experience to be back here teaching students what helped me have the trajectory to where I’m at now.”

The upper-level psychology course teaches students interpersonal skills that can be used in helping professions like counseling.

“Not all students in the class want to be counselors, but a lot of them are earnestly invested in relationships and they’re interested in developing interpersonal skills. My training and experience help facilitate their development in that area,” Messerschmitt-Coen says.

The course provides an opportunity to reflect upon oneself to better support others. More than anything, the class challenges bias and assumptions of identity. The work comes down to understanding that the values of a counselor may not align with the values of a client, but that can’t hinder the process.

“I don’t want an assumption to cloud my judgment of you and your goals because you might have very different goals. We all have assumptions and I’m not trying to make students feel bad about who they are and their values. I need them to be aware of how those values might intersect and interact with other people,” she says.

Messerschmitt-Coen acknowledges the challenges for students to look within themselves so they can more easily move past ingrained assumptions.

“They know how to do the hard work. This class challenges them to do the heart work,” she says.

## FOR THE LOVE OF OTHERS

Each of these three courses explores new approaches to help students connect with others. No matter the discipline, Central graduates are certain to understand themselves and their relationships differently. With a little heart work and an open mind, relationships of all kinds can grow when on a path of lifelong learning. ■



# The Life and Stories of AREND D. LUBBERS

STORY BY: CYVANNAH VECCHIO



Former Central College Presidents **Arend D. “Don” Lubbers**, **Ken Weller** and **Irwin Lubbers** share a moment outside Central Hall.

**Arend (Don) Lubbers**, former Central College president, moved to Pella, Iowa, in 1934. He was three years old. His father, **Irwin Lubbers**, accepted the presidency of Central at that time and moved his young family from Wisconsin to live in the President’s residence at the college. Lubbers recalls growing up feeling uninhibited; he was able to play all over the house, roam town and explore campus to his heart’s content.

“Living in that house had a big impact on me, as did the campus,” he says. “I ran freely and was a student’s pet.”

The town itself also was a major influence in Lubbers’ formative years. With a population of less than 4,000, Lubbers felt he could go anywhere as a child.

“We rode our bicycles through the whole town,” he reminisces. “So, the boundaries of my childhood were not binding in any way. They were not large, but they were big enough to give me a sense of freedom. At

the same time, its boundaries were protective. All was well in the world.”

Lubbers grew up interested in life on Central’s campus, so when the opportunity to return to Central in 1959 as the vice president for development arose, he accepted.

“I think they remembered my father 15 years earlier. He was a great president for Central. He brought in excellent faculty, raised money and saved the college,” he muses. “So, they knew the family. They knew me as a kid. They probably thought, ‘Well, the old man did it, maybe the kid can, too.’”

Not long after he started at Central, the role of president was vacated. Though there were several worthy candidates, Lubbers included, no one accepted the position.

“I was told the faculty signed a petition asking the board to make me president,” he recalls.

So, at 29 years old, Lubbers accepted the role of Central College president,

becoming the youngest collegiate president in the nation, which was “great publicity for the college.”

During Lubbers’ nearly nine years as president of Central, he helped increase enrollment exponentially; raised money for academic and capital necessities; and implemented a remarkable addition to beautify campus.

“I always believe that next to a satisfied student body, a beautiful campus is the best way to attract new students,” Lubbers says.

His decision to add what was formerly fondly referred to as “Lubbers’ Lagoon” made quite the stir around town but is now the lovely focal point for campus and the community.

Learn more of Lubbers’ stories — and read his personal insights throughout his life — in “The Journey” by Arend D. Lubbers. ■



# NEWSNOTES

## THE '60s

**Davis Eidahl '63** teaches and coaches cross country, track and basketball at Pekin Community School District. He has coached and taught for 60 years, 59 of which have been in the same school and classroom in Pekin, Iowa.

## THE '70s

**Michael O'Donnell '70** retired in May 2022 after 22 years as a faculty member in the journalism department at the University of St. Thomas. He was named associate professor emeritus and resides in Northfield, Minnesota.

**Mary Worstell '73** and three other women raised \$40,000 and traveled to Poland to aid refugees from Ukraine. Mary serves as a trustee for Central College and lives in Washington, D.C.

**Deborah Huizenga Nier '75** retired after 30 years working in the public sector as city manager/administrator and eight years with Northwestern Medicine. She resides in Davis Junction, Illinois.

**Maxanne Dearolf Rearich '76** retired after working more than 40 years for various federal government agencies. Maxanne resides in Washington, D.C.

**Jann Freed '77**, professor emerita of business management and the former Mark and Kay De Cook Endowed Chair in Leadership and Character Development at Central, launched a book titled

"Breadcrumb Legacy: How Great Leaders Live a Life Worth Remembering." Freed resides in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Bernadette Allen '78** retired as a U.S. ambassador. She was nominated in November 2022 for induction into the American Academy of Diplomacy (AAD), an independent, nonprofit association of former senior U.S. ambassadors and high-level government officials with the primary mission to strengthen American diplomacy. Bernadette lives in Fort Washington, Maryland.

## THE '80s

**Rita Heemsbergen Gardner '80** retired from Des Moines Performing Arts in October 2022. Rita is enjoying retirement with her husband, **Mike '75**, in West Des Moines, Iowa.

**Peggy Johnson Van Den Berg '83** retired from Central College after working for the institution for more than 30 years.

**Lynette Reinhard Jacques '85** retired after 12 years working for the Rockford Chamber of Commerce as vice president of member investments in Rockford, Illinois.

**Jennifer Donelon Lefevre '85** is a literature teacher at the Diocese of Palm Beach. She was awarded a scholarship by the English-Speaking Union of Palm Beach to attend a summer program in English literature at Oxford University in the United



▲ Eight members of the Sigma Phi Omega Sorority met for a September reunion in Santa Fe, New Mexico. They enjoyed catching up with each other and made new memories in the beautiful high desert over local cuisine and trips to art galleries.

Left to right: **Kathy Reilly Snyder '83**, **Sue Van Duyn Ramirez '83**, **Barbara Watson '83**, **Ann Eastburn Koopal '83**, **Lynnae Ricard Derry '85**, **Jeannine Viner Sarmiento '85**, **Lynda Twohill Rogers '82** and **Jill Crawford Steinsultz '85**.

Kingdom in July 2022. Jennifer lives in Boca Raton, Florida.

**Judy Neubauer Lyon '85** retired from teaching at Maquoketa Community School District. She and her husband, Mark, opened Maquoketa Brewing in January 2021, located in Maquoketa, Iowa.

## THE '90s

**Michael Debije '91** was promoted to associate professor in chemistry at the Eindhoven University of Technology in Eindhoven, Netherlands.

**Von Hays '93** was named executive vice president and chief legal officer for Comerica Incorporated, in Dallas, Texas.

**Rebekah Johnson '95** received tenure at LaGuardia Community College in New York, New York. She resides in Ossining, New York.

**Jennifer Griffis Fleener '97** is the economic and family support services director at Sieda Community Action in Ottumwa, Iowa. She resides in Oskaloosa with her husband and their blended family of seven.



▲ **Greg Greiner '92** has developed a human rights litigation practice. His essay espousing the social benefits of the civil protest was published in 2021 by the Des Moines Register. Greiner lives in Des Moines, Iowa.



## THE '90s (continued)



▲ The Pakkebie family gathering was full of holiday and Central spirit. *First Row: Dawn DeYoung Pakkebie '90, Bailea Pakkebie '18, Libby Bonestroo, Lisa Pakkebie and Monica Pakkebie Bonestroo '92. Second Row: Curt Pakkebie '95, David Pakkebie '92, Reid Pakkebie '25, Cade Pakkebie, Andrew Bonestroo '91 and Matthew Pakkebie.*



▲ **Amy Cornelder Gordiejew '97** was invited to the 8th World Congress Against the Death Penalty in November 2022 in Berlin, Germany, where she spoke to an audience of European diplomats and global activists. She accepted the Innovation in Activism and Culture award on behalf of Keith LaMar, a wrongfully convicted death row prisoner in Ohio, alongside Catalan pianist/composer Albert Marqués. Amy lives in Boardman, Ohio.

**Jennifer Herrema Purcell '97** is senior vice president, director of development and chief impact officer for the Greater Arizona Chapter of the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Patrick Roland '97** was promoted to clinical team lead at the Scottsdale Providence Recovery Center in Scottsdale, Arizona.



▲ A group from the Class of 1999 reunited in July 2022 in Clear Lake, Iowa. *Left to right: Jessica Burroughs Burger '99, Beth Hatch '99, Amanda Heiting Christiansen '99, Amy Houston Miller '99, Holly Hartsock Mateer '99, Jill Egan Birkenholtz '99, Ellen Friis Ehle '99, Melissa Kos Tullis '99 and Carrie Tibben Bauer '99.*

### Kristie Zirbel Halander '98

was promoted to regional manager for the east coast at Education, Travel and Culture, working with high school foreign exchanges and their host families. She lives in northern Virginia with her husband and two children. Over the years, they have added 11 exchange students from eight different countries to their family.

**Aanna Hanson Hoch '98** is a client executive for MakuSafe in West Des Moines, Iowa. She lives in Norwalk, Iowa, with her family.

**Korine Wills Marshall '98** is a marketing manager at FM: Systems in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Lisa Vander Wilt Shileny '98** is president of Hills Bank, in Hills, Iowa.

**Lynette Nieuwenhuyse Stortz '99** is a first-grade teacher at Havre Public Schools where she lives in Havre, Montana.

**Joe Vande Kieft '99** is Central College's chief information officer.

## THE '00s

**Shivonne Calvert Nunnikhoven '02** started a new position at Pentair as an international accounts specialist. She resides in Pella, Iowa.

**Lindsa Bair Snyder '02** is a vice president for Bridgemark Insurance Group where she lives in Pella, Iowa.

**Clint Larson '04** is the vice president of business development at RXO and resides in Oakville, Iowa.

**Susan Lensch '04** is a marketing communications manager in Chicago, Illinois, for TMS.

**Matthew Brewer '05** is an associate clinical manager for clinical athletic trainers at the Children's Hospital in Denver, Colorado.

**Nancy Redenius Bruscher '05** started a business capturing memories and personal histories 16 years ago. Her podcast is called "Ordinary People Extraordinary Things."



## THE '00s (continued)



▲ **Casey Huston '01** and **Nick Turner '01**, former roommates and Central Dutch football players, ran into each other while picking up their retiree military IDs.

**Morgan Vander Werf DeRaad '05** was promoted to annual giving manager at Central College.

**Sarah Stockton Massey '05** is a gynecologist at West Des Moines OBGYN Associates, P.C. in West Des Moines, Iowa.

**Phil Jeneary '07** works for the Iowa Medical Society as the director of government relations.

**Jeff Adamczyk '09** and **Elizabeth Jones '07** married Sept. 11, 2022. The couple lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Jared Fritz-McCarty '09** was promoted to assistant vice president of advancement at Roosevelt University, in Chicago, Illinois.

**Lauren Malone '10** is an assistant professor of communication at the University of Tampa in Tampa, Florida.

**Brian Hempling '11** is the finance director for Christ Presbyterian Academy in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Lee Schroeder '11** was promoted to product support manager for the infrastructure group at Vermeer Corporation in Pella, Iowa.

**Ryan Bontrager '12** is an executive manager at Freeman Foods. Ryan lives with his wife, Haley, and their four children in Wellman, Iowa.

**Michelle Van Zante De Bruin '12** is the chaplain at Pella Regional Health Center and is an author of inspirational historical fiction.

**Christopher Ellerston '12** is a middle school choir teacher at Oskaloosa Middle School, in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

**Michael Kruse '12** works for Paramount Studios in California and joined the cast of "Chicago PD."

**Tyler Wentworth '12** is a strategy director for Movers+Shakers. Tyler resides in San Diego, California.

**Zach Jensen '13** is Central College assistant men's soccer coach.

**Jordan Wisecup '13** is a chapter service specialist at Safari Club International. Jordan resides in Truro, Iowa.

**Katlyn Alves '14** is a learning and development director for City Year San Antonio in Texas.

**Michael Kacmarynski '14** was promoted to information security analyst at PPI in Pella, Iowa.

**Alison Neevel '14** teaches second grade at Zeeland Public Schools. She resides in Holland, Michigan.

**Lyssa Bailey Rasmussen '14** started working for SHAZAM as a project manager. Lyssa and her family bought their first house in Ankeny, Iowa.

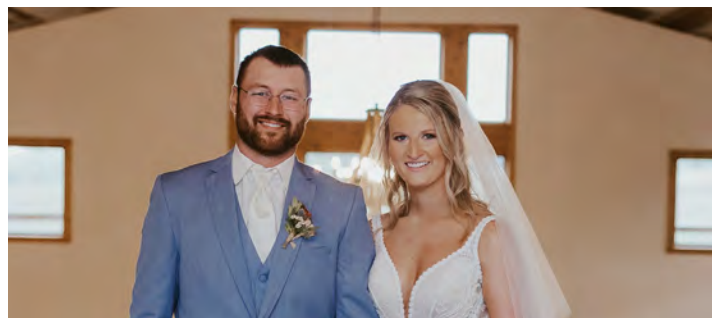
**Brittany Carlson Prokupek '16** was promoted to content strategist - editorial at Central College.

**Mark Schroeder '16** and **Ashley Sojka '19** married Aug. 1, 2020.

**Jacob Wassenaar '16** is an associate attorney at Finley Law Firm, P.C. located in Des Moines, Iowa.



▲ **Mattie and Paden Kleinhesselink '14** married October 8, 2022. The couple lives in Columbia, Missouri.



▲ **Jared '18** and **Madison Krumm Keenan '19**, got engaged in 2021 when Jared proposed in front of their new home. After nine years together, the couple married on Sept. 10, 2022, in Norwalk, Iowa. Jared works for the City of Indianola as a wastewater plant operator and Madison is a nurse at MercyOne.

## THE '10s

**Rachel Jordan Lindstrom '10** works for the U.S. Census Bureau as a survey statistician and resides in McDonald, Pennsylvania.



## THE '10s (continued)



▲ **Jordan Toomey '20, Will DeHaan '22, Daniel Sunvold '20, Kyle Pape '19, Nate Sanders '21 and Jon Specht '18** completed the Des Moines Marathon in their Central College alumni jerseys.

**Trevor Ruiz '18** and Alexis Dinsmore married Dec. 17, 2022.

**Trevor Argo '19** works for Carta as a financial reporting analyst and lives in Denver, Colorado.

**Katie Berkley Johnson '19** is a physician assistant at Atlanta Gastroenterology. Katie resides in Griffin, Georgia.

**Kyle Pape '19** is working as a physical therapist at MercyOne in downtown Des Moines, Iowa.

**Emma Skahill '19** and Mitchell Klocke married Oct. 15, 2022. The couple resides in Knoxville, Iowa.

**Dylan '19 and Delanie Donovan Tuttle '19**, married Oct. 29, 2022, where they reside in Pella, Iowa. The couple danced to a **Sam Moss '18** original song, "The Start of You & Me."

## THE '20s

**Jared '20 and Courtney Kruthoff Almandinger '21** married Dec. 3, 2022. The couple lives in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Evan '20 and Grace Vaughn Kratochvil '20** married Dec. 31, 2022.

**Josh '22 and Olivia Boender Kuiper '21**, married Dec. 17, 2022. The couple resides in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

**Hayden Vroom '22** is a science and math teacher at Pella Community Middle School, in Pella, Iowa.

**Samuel Zook '22** is an assistant wrestling coach for Central College.

**Nash Christian '23** works for Central College as a sports information videographer.



▲ **Katie Palmer Reuman '22 and Austin Reuman** married Nov. 12, 2022, in West Chester, Iowa.  
*First Row: Alex Willhite '21, Amy Adrian Green '04, Megan Rohr Pregon '22, Jill Piittmann Pooch '94, Katie Palmer Reuman '22, Jordan Van Maanen '22 and Becky Yoder Palmer '87.*  
*Second Row: Savannah Allen '21, Macy Burgess '21, Matt Glockel '21, Maci Gambell '22, Jenna Clark McBride '22, Griffen McBride '21, Averi Kron '22 and Chelsea Roose Smith '21.*



## ADVANCED DEGREES

**Lisa Jeremiah Keosababian '98** graduated from George Fox University in May 2021 with a Master of Arts and a certificate in spiritual direction from the same institution in May 2022.

**Justin Tiarks '06** graduated from Concordia University with a doctorate in educational leadership in December 2022. Justin resides in St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Drew Readell '13** received a Master of Arts in international relations with a concentration in national security in August 2022 from Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont. His research was published in Sigma Iota Rho's Journal of International Relations, which explores the application of punctuated equilibrium theory to U.S. diplomacy in Asia.

**Paden Kleinhesselink '14** graduated from Temple University in August 2022 with a Doctor of Athletic Training.

**Alison Neevel '14** graduated from Davenport University with a Master of Education in urban education leadership.

**Kyle Pape '19** graduated from Clarke University in May 2022 with a doctorate degree in physical therapy.

## NEW ARRIVALS

Katelin and **Tim Valster '99**, daughter Raegan Michelle, Dec. 30, 2022.

Jim and **Niki Hively Aldrich '10**, daughters Grace Edrie and Harper Nicole, Dec. 6, 2022.

Natalie and **Justin Madsen '10**, daughter Maria Marlene, Oct. 17, 2022.

Elizabeth and **Brian Hempling '11**, son Harrison, Nov. 8, 2021.

**Jonathan '11** and **Rachel Jordan Lindstrom '10**, son Soren, Dec. 22, 2021.

**Ryan '12** and **Haley Slaubaugh Bontrager '13**, daughter Dawsyn Haley, July 26, 2022.

**Jack '12** and **Allison Baker Bruns '12**, son Ethan, Aug. 30, 2021.

Kyle and **Danielle Dickinson Thaden '12**, son Everett, Sept. 7, 2022.

Chris and **Cara Soukup Kearney '13**, daughter Quinn Kathryn, Oct. 22, 2022.

**Jake Petersen '13** and **Taylor Keitzer '12**, son Liam Bryan, June 16, 2021.

**Tyler '13** and **Collette Kotz Schippers '13**, son Beckett Tyler, Dec. 13, 2022.

**Zachary '13** and **Emily Hart Wagoner '14**, son Silas LeRoy, Aug. 4, 2021.

Eden and **Trevor Koolmees '14**, son Sawyer James, Nov. 26, 2022.

Nyle and **Kelsey Schippers Kleine '14**, son Ryker Lee, Aug. 26, 2022.

**Chad '14** and **Lisa Langenberg Tiemeyer '14**, son Cooper Jeffrey, Sept. 29, 2022.

**Jordan '14** and **Anne Dillon Youngman '14**, daughter Julianne Karen, Oct. 23, 2022.

**Grady '15** and **Jessica Ryals Carson '16**, son Knox Edward, Jan. 5, 2023.

Jesse and **Sydney Gray Slinkman '15**, son Elian David, July 2, 2022.

**Jo dee Wickings Stewart '15**, son Charles, Nov. 5, 2022.

Briana Robar and **Matthew Strej '21**, daughter Caya Jo, Nov. 14, 2022.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Vera Huisman Likens '45**, Sedona, Arizona, October 2022.

**Ella Rensink Smith '47**, Denver, Colorado, Dec. 3, 2020.

**Roderick DeYoung '51**, Randolph, New Jersey, Sept. 15, 2022.

**Janice Van Alstyne '54**, Albany, New York, Nov. 20, 2022.

**Dorothy Wagenaar Evers '55**, San Francisco, California, March 21, 2021.

**Robert Laning '55**, Elmhurst, Illinois, May 29, 2022.

**Shari Philson Sickbert '55**, Springfield, Missouri, Sept. 14, 2022.

**Daryl Tammen '56**, Grand Haven, Minnesota, Nov. 24, 2022.

**Robert Verdoorn '56**, Pella, Iowa, Nov. 29, 2022.

**Doris Sparrow Blom '57**, Silverdale, Washington, Oct. 18, 2022.

**Jeannine Kosilla Goodale '58**, Clifton Park, New York, Sept. 25, 2022.

**Harvin Meyer '58**, Wellsburg, Iowa, Nov. 22, 2022.

**Shirley Groendyke Moore '59**, Fredericksburg, Texas, Dec. 1, 2022.

**Frank Vandermyde '59**, Morrison, Illinois, Oct. 21, 2022.

**Marilyn Kolenbrander Vander Kooi '62**, Orange City, Iowa, Sept. 30, 2022.

**Paul Aykens '63**, Orange City, Iowa, Oct. 20, 2022.

**Carol Vander Wagen Sharpe '66**, Muskegon, Michigan, July 24, 2022.

**David Kendrick '71**, Las Cruces, New Mexico, Oct. 11, 2022.

**Nancy Voerman Stewart '71**, Meriden, Connecticut, Nov. 1, 2022.

Some alumni and friends inquire about making a memorial gift. If you would like to do so, please call 641-628-5281 and ask for **Michelle Wilkie**, director of development.

## 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](http://civitas.central.edu/newsnotes).



## IN MEMORIAM (continued)

**Daniel Mondeel '72**, Albert Lea, Minnesota, Sept. 27, 2022.

**Mark Miller '75**, Orlando, Florida, Oct. 1, 2022.

**Barry White '81**, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, Sept. 3, 2022.

**Dallas Larson '82**, Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 9, 2022.

**Phil Wachowski '82**, Homewood, Illinois, Nov. 23, 2022.

**Marcia Ramsdell Smith '87**, Dubuque, Iowa, Dec. 28, 2022.

**Troy Hibbs '94**, Marshalltown, Iowa, Dec. 17, 2022.

## IN MEMORIAM



### TONY BETHARDS '72

Longtime Central College employee **Tony Bethards '72**, passed away Dec. 14, 2022.

Bethards attended Central for a few years in the early 1970s. While studying at Central, he worked at Lil' Duffer Restaurant, where he eventually became the manager and owner. Lil' Duffer, located ½ block off the square in Pella on Washington Street, was known for its burgers and shakes.

Bethards joined Central's dining services staff in 1986. In 1997, he was promoted to director of catering and food service, where he provided the day-to-day vision of the college's catering and food service operation. He served the college in that role until his retirement in 2015.

Bethards is survived by his three children and their families: Jill Bethards Poindexter, Scott Bethards and **Cari Bethards '99**.

Central  
College®  
— 1853 —

SAVE THE DATE  
**COMMENCEMENT**  
**MAY 13, 2023**

[central.edu/commencement](https://central.edu/commencement)

**Unable to attend in person?**

You will be able watch the ceremony live on Central Dutch Network!





# Deepest APPRECIATION

STORY BY: JEANETTE BUDDING

PHOTO BY: PAUL JOY



**Sally Anderson '69** established scholarships in honor of the women who influenced her Central experience.

"I think we should honor the people who influenced our careers or our lives," says **Sally Anderson '69**, of St. Paul, Minnesota. Anderson created two endowed scholarships in honor of Central College faculty who were dear to her heart.

She created the Dr. Harriet Heusinkveld Memorial Scholarship in 2017, open to any student in good academic standing with first preference given to students who are interested in an off-campus experience for at least one semester.

**Harriet Heusinkveld '39** served as a professor of geography from 1951 to 1985. She proposed and launched the idea for the Mérida, Yucatan, Mexico, off-campus program.

Later, Anderson established the Alice Lammers Scholarship to honor the librarian's 32 years of dedication to the students at Central. **Alice Lammers** inspired Anderson to pursue her dreams. This scholarship has only one condition: It is designated for a student with financial

need.

"I felt that Miss Lammers didn't get enough credit for all the help she gave people all those years in the library," Anderson says. "I wanted to start a scholarship in her name and hope other alumni from our era will also contribute to it."

Lammers was a fun woman and influenced a lot of students. She helped host and organize events on campus, according to Anderson.

"I worked as a librarian at Central. That was my work study position and, for a couple of years, Miss Lammers was my boss," Anderson shares. "I had all this experience in library science because I worked in my hometown library. When I was 13 I spent so much of my time in the library that they hired me at 50 cents an hour. That was good money back then!"

## GIVING WAS EASY

"I heard that it would take me over five years to complete the first endowment for Harriet Heusinkveld; it didn't take five years," Anderson says. "When I got that one fully funded to the endowed level, I was having so much fun that I called the Central development team and said, 'I want to do another one for Alice Lammers.'"

Anderson acknowledges that not everyone is in the same situation as her. She worked her entire life at one company and retired early from US West, which started as Northwestern Bell.

The company was eliminating the management level that included Anderson's position. She accepted the buyout offer as a lump sum during one of the transitions. Fortunately, she admits that she wasn't scared about retiring at 50.

"I'd saved throughout my career, and I had a financial planner who invested the lump sum and my 401K and rolled it into a self-directed IRA," Anderson says.

Her financial planner advised her to donate the funds to charities — Anderson chose Central and her church. If the funds transfer directly to a charity, it doesn't register as income to the holder and it is not tax deductible. For Anderson, this was a win-win.

*(continued on pg. 42)*



"I've covered the minimum \$50,000. I hope others will think about the influences of these women and choose to contribute to these endowments as a memorial to their service. It helps the college and honors these women."

Anderson wanted to acknowledge these two women for their dedication to Central and their positive influence on her experience.

## A WONDERFUL CENTRAL EXPERIENCE

Anderson arrived at Central in the fall of 1967 from Clear Lake, Iowa. She attended the Northern Iowa Area Community College for two years, took a year off and transferred to Central. She graduated with a degree in sociology and education, but she didn't end up teaching. Upon returning to her hometown after graduation, she accepted a job at the local telephone company.

Graduates of the late 1960s may remember Anderson as a sportswriter for *The Ray*. "I loved sports; I grew up watching my dad and brother, and they were really good. I liked writing and had been an editor for the Northern Iowa Area Community College yearbook. I started at *The Ray* because they didn't have anyone else," Anderson laughs. "Those were such fun times."

Anderson enjoys reminiscing about her college days when Central hosted many students from different countries and her summer playing ping pong with international students. She was in the first group of students to spend a semester in Mérida, in Fall 1968.

As a sociology major, she spent eight weeks in Des Moines, Iowa, living in low-income areas and working in neighborhood centers. Her professors also took her class to Woodward Center. She admits those were eye-opening experiences and helped create the open-minded person that she is.

Anderson's gusto for adventure has continued throughout her life. Now, she's honoring the women of Central who helped shape her success.

To learn more about how to honor those who have influenced your own life or Central experience, visit:

[central.edu/endowment](http://central.edu/endowment).

**For more information on setting up an endowment of your own, please contact Michelle Wilkie at 641-628-5281 or [wilkiem@central.edu](mailto:wilkiem@central.edu).**



## HARRIET HEUSINKVELD '39

From Hull, Iowa, **Harriet Heusinkveld '39** attended junior college in Orange City for two years before transferring to Central, where she graduated with a degree in English. An opportunity allowed Heusinkveld to join the faculty at Central in 1944 as the instructor of typing and shorthand and the house advisor at Aschenbrenner Cottage.

She worked with Central's administration and was able to earn a Master of Art from the University of Iowa while teaching at Central.

In 1951, Heusinkveld began teaching geography and resumed serving as treasurer of the college, later earning her doctorate in geography.

Heusinkveld created a scholarship to support students planning to study abroad.

Heusinkveld died in 2008, at the age of 92.



## ALICE LAMMERS

**Alice Lammers**, the late professor emerita of library science and librarian at Central, received her Bachelor of Arts from Hope College, her Bachelor of Liberal Studies from the University of Wisconsin and Master of Library Sciences degree from the University of Michigan. In 1942, she came to Central as head librarian and held this position until 1974 when she semi-retired. Lammers maintained her affiliation with Central and became the college archivist in 1976 and held this position until her passing.

She was an active member of the Central College Auxiliary, a member of the Ladies Social and Literary Club, P.E.O. Chapter BU and a resident guide at Scholte House in Pella. In 1945 she was elected treasurer of the Iowa State Library Association and in 1970, she was listed in "Who's Who of American Women."

Lammers passed in 1992, at the age of 84.

Both women are included in the Iowa archives of Plaza of Heroines created at Iowa State University. Visit [central.edu/plaza-heroines](http://central.edu/plaza-heroines) for more information. ■



# HOME: DEFINED

STORY AND PHOTO BY: MAKAYE SMITH HAMILTON '15



**Lucas '16 and Makaye Smith Hamilton '15** redefining “home” with their children Theodore and Eloise.

Back in 2012, I was a newly declared English major in my second year at Central College. The novelty of college life had yet to wear off, but I was quite confident and comfortable in my role as “college student.” I loved almost everything about my life at the time.

Like many of my peers, I was busy. Classes and various music ensembles — A Cappella Choir, Chamber Singers and Combos (now ALMA) — filled my schedule. Any free time I had was dedicated to sleep and homework. So, I did what any stretched-thin college student would do: I

unashamedly enrolled in a couple of classes I thought wouldn't require much work from me.

One of those classes was Personal Essay with **Keith Ratzlaff**, emeritus professor of English. After all, I was an English major! Writing essays about myself? Easy. I still laugh at my naiveté.

Perhaps the class was easy for other students. For me, it was one of the hardest courses I ever completed — and that's counting British Literature at 8 o'clock in the morning.

At first, the class seemed simple and easygoing. We sat in a circle, as English students are wont to do. We talked, we laughed, we got to know each other. The syllabus wasn't filled with the dense reading assignments or complex literature analyses of my other classes. No, those things I expected. Those were familiar. Personal Essay was difficult for a surprising reason: the depth it required of me.

You see, Ratzlaff wasn't satisfied with surface-level essays, nor should he have been. He encouraged us to think critically and with great self-awareness. We were asked to hold up a mirror, so to speak, and write about what we saw. In other words, not what I signed up for.

One such assignment was defining “home.” I thought the answer was obvious and submitted drafts centered on memories of my childhood, the house I lived in with my parents and sisters, even how my home grew to encompass Central. To my dismay, each draft came back with comments to try again, look harder, go deeper — even when I thought I had.

Eventually, after much hair pulling, I submitted my final draft. The essay defined “home” as more than a place, but rather a sense of peace and a form of contentedness. It explained that, perhaps, home can be several places and people all at once. It can follow you through any house you inhabit, friends you meet and family you love.

Memories of this essay have followed me as I graduated, married and moved away. My husband, **Lucas Hamilton '16**, and I have rebuilt and redefined “home” many times over the years. Now, our home has grown to cover not just Central, but also Iowa, Ohio and Indiana. It includes people we've known for decades and those we've just met. It involves family trips to the library, endless episodes of “Paw Patrol” and too many loads of laundry.

These homes are never easy to leave. But I know, thanks to a class I thought would be simple and a professor who made me look more closely at that mirror, I can, in fact, take them with me wherever I go. ■





## DIAMOND TEA

These Central College students attended the Diamond Tea in December 1955 celebrating their engagements.