Celebrating our Scholarship
Professional Accomplishments of the
Central College Faculty
2014-15
Each spring, Central College recognizes faculty for leadership in teaching, professional development, and service.

The teaching we do is not isolated from our professional development or our service to community, nor is it done in isolation from one another. Therefore, we gather as a community to acknowledge the teaching, scholarship, creativity, and commitment of the faculty at Central College. Many colleagues also gathered at the 3rd Annual Chairs’ Conference last September, another way in which we develop and sustain our commitment to teaching and scholarship within the context of our professional relationships to one another and our shared work with the students we are privileged to teach daily.

At our Annual Faculty Recognition Dinner, we recognize faculty colleagues for their sustained and committed contributions to our community. This year we celebrate the collective 80 years of service of three valued faculty colleagues that will have retired by the end of the academic year. Arthur Johnson (English), Esther Streed (Education), and Joy Prothero (Education) have impacted thousands of students during their time at Central. In addition, Michael Harris (English) is recognized for teaching at Central College for 25 years. I invite you to read their reflections. We also celebrate faculty members who have been recognized by their colleagues for particular achievement and leadership in teaching, professional development, and/or service to our community. The awards presented are noted below.

- David Crichton Memorial Teaching Award
- Hutch Bearce Community-Building and Faculty Leadership Award
- Huffman Award for Outstanding Support of International Education
- Frank W. Moore Faculty Award
- Moore Family Faculty Award
- Marvin L. Hackert Faculty Development Fund for Science and Mathematics

This publication is printed in appreciation of the faculty, staff, and administrators who define Central College through their leadership and dedication to our students and community.

Mary E.M. Strey, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty
Central College
April 2015
2015 Faculty Award Recipients

2015 Recipient of the David Crichton Memorial Teaching Award

Linda Laine, Associate Professor of Communication Studies
This award recognizes outstanding teaching at Central College that perpetuates the type of instruction that challenges and shapes the intellectual development of students.

2015 Recipient of the Hutch Bearce Community-Building and Faculty Leadership Award

Jen Diers, Associate Professor of Education
This award recognizes members of the faculty for their efforts over a sustained period of time in the category of community building and either mentorship or leadership.

2015 Recipient of the Frank W. Moore Faculty Award

Wendy Weber, Professor of Mathematics
This award acknowledges faculty who have promoted student learning within the natural sciences division through teaching and/or service over time.

2015 Recipient of the Moore Family Faculty Award

Paulina Mena, Assistant Professor of Biology
This award recognizes and fosters joint faculty-student summer collaborations that promote a greater depth of student understanding within the Natural Science Division disciplines than would normally occur through regular coursework.

2015 Recipient of the Huffman Award for Outstanding Support of International Education

Members of the International Policy Committee:
Randall Renstrom, Assistant Professor of Psychology
Shawn Wick, Assistant Professor of Sociology
Michael Harris, Professor of English
Terry Kleven, Professor of Religion
Anne Petrie, Professor of Music
Amy Young, Assistant Professor of German
This award recognizes the extraordinary contributions made by Donald and Maxine Huffman to the Central College programs in International Education. International Education includes cross-cultural areas and foreign language courses, with particular emphasis on study abroad.

2015 Recipient of the Marvin L. Hackert Faculty Development Fund for Science and Mathematics

Russ Goodman, Associate Professor of Mathematics
This fund enhances the quality of the sciences at Central College through those activities which promote professional development and research.
Professional Accomplishments of the Central College Faculty 2014 - 15

Mark Babcock
M. Joan Kuyper Farver
Endowed Chair in Music and
Associate Professor of Music

Completed his term on the Executive
Committee of the American Guild
of Organists as councilor for
conventions this past summer.
Responsible for oversight of the
Boston AGO National Convention
in June 2014, which hosted nearly
2,000 people attending workshops, scholarly paper presentations and
concerts.

Guest conductor for the South Central
Iowa Conference Vocal Festival in
Eddyville, Iowa, October 6, 2014.
Performed the annual “Hoot and
Howl Halloween Organ
Extravaganza” at Westminster
Presbyterian Church in Des Moines,
October 25, 2014.
Performed the dedicatory recital for
the Reuter Pipe Organ at First United
Methodist Church in Boone, Iowa, November 2, 2014.

Guest conductor for the North Iowa
Cedar League Conference Vocal Festival in
Waterloo, Iowa, January 19, 2015.
Participated in the DoDDS-E Honors
Music Festival as guest choral
conductor, Oberwesel, Germany,
March 22-26, 2015. About 170
high school students, representing
21 DoDDS-E high schools around
Europe, converged on Oberwesel and
Wiesbaden for four days of rehearsal
and instruction. The annual event
culminated with a public performance
in the Friedrich von Thiersch Saal of
the Wiesbaden Kurhaus on March 26.

Currently serving on the Iowa Choral
Directors Association Board as the
Repertoire and Standards Music in
Worship Chair and is the Chair of the
Annual Summer Symposium, July 2015.

Russ Benedict
Professor of Biology

Presented Impact of Common
Planting Techniques on Prairie
Reconstruction in Drought
Conditions and Winners and
Losers: Plant Survival During
Prairie Reconstruction in Drought
Conditions at the annual meeting
of the Iowa Academy of Science in Fort
Dodge, April 11, 2014.

Participated in BioBlitz at Whitecock
Conservancy near Coon Rapids, Iowa.
In a BioBlitz, scientists explore a park
to document as many organisms as
possible in a 36-hour period. Benedict
surveyed for bats with four Central
College students.

Attended the North American
Congress for Conservation Biology in

Conducted summer research with
four Central College students, funded by the Moore Family
Foundation, Arthur J. Bosch
Endowment for Student Research
and MAC Foundation Grant.

Benedict and students spent many
hours at the Prairies For Agriculture
plots, measuring plant survival, controlling invasive species,
observing insect, bird and mammal
use of the plots, and doing general
maintenance.

Presented to the Des Moines
Audubon Society on the bats of Iowa,
January 20, 2015.

Presented The Lost Landscape:
Prairies of Iowa at the Greater Des
Moines Botanical Garden, January
31, 2015.

Assisted Iowa Department of
Natural Resources and U.S. Fish
and Wildlife Service officials with
cave and mine surveys for white-
noise fungus in Iowa, February 2015.

Shelley Bradfield
Assistant Professor of
Communication Studies

Presented Trouble in the Magic
Kingdom: Observations and
Challenges of an LAS Capstone
with Ashley Scialoro at the Chairs’
Conference, Central College,
September 13, 2014.

Presented Student Assessment
using Blackboard with Paul Weihle
and Deb Bruvoort at the Chairs’
Conference, Central College,
September 13, 2014.

Three students from Bradfield’s
Technology and Human
Communication course received the
top undergraduate student paper
award in the Iowa Communication
Association Westphal Competition.
They presented Smartphones and
Their Effects on Family Cohesion at
the ICA convention in Des Moines,
September 21, 2014.

Presented Colour TV: Contesting
and Claiming Racial Identities
on Television in South Africa
to National Communication
Association, Chicago, November
2014.

Presented An Embedded Model:
First-Year Student Success in
Writing and Research with Sue
Pagnac, Cyndi Boertje, Greg Teets
and Beth McMahon, in Praxis: A

Reviewed conference submissions
for Visual Communication Division
of National Communication
Association, March 2015.

Delivered three guest lectures at
Marista University in Merida,
Mexico, March 2015: Televation
and Healthcare Messages,
Edutainment in South African
Television and Race, Ethnicity,
Gender, Sexuality and Class in the
Media.

Anya Butt
Associate Professor of Biology

Earned a Post-Graduate Certificate in
Global Health from the University
of Manchester, September 2014.

Invited to review grant proposal
by Maine Conservation Corps for
AmeriCorps funding.

Walter Cannon
Professor of English

Read from his chapbook The
Possible World for Poetry with
Wine and Cheese event for Central

Moderated panel session Iconic
Women and brought two students to
present to Midwest Undergraduate
Conference in the Humanities
(MUCH) at Simpson College,
November 8, 2014.

Presented Abused, Baffled, and
Crushed: Epistolarity Error in
Twelfth Night to Shakespeare
Association of America, Vancouver,
April 1-4, 2015.

Published poem Birth in Berrymann’s
Fate: Centenary Celebration in
Verse, Arlen House, 2014.

Published chapter Holistic
Partnerships: Sustainability,
Learned Lessons and Future
Directions with Cherri Doane in
Service-Learning and Civic
Engagement: A Sourcebook, edited by
O. Delano-Orarian et. al, Sage

Jennifer Diers
Associate Professor of
Education

Attended Autism and Asperger’s
Syndrome Conference featuring Dr.
Temple Grandin, Eustacia Cutler
and Dr. Jim Ball in Sioux City, Iowa,
October 3, 2014.

Attended 16th International
Conference on Autism, Intellectual
Disability and Developmental
Disabilities in Clearwater Beach,

Presented Project-Based Learning in
the Exploratory Classroom for a
day of professional development for
teachers in Sioux City Community

Joshua Doležal
Associate Professor of English

Presented from
Mountaintop
with Ashel Scolaro at the Chairs’
Conference, Central College,
September 13, 2014.

Attended National Athletic Trainers’
Meeting and Clinical Symposia in
Ellen Du Pre
Professor of Biology

Received a Statement of
Accomplishment with Distinction from
the University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill for completing the online
Epidemiology: The Basic Science of
Public Health, April 7, 2014.

Attended National Association for
Advisors in the Health Professions in
San Francisco, June 2014.

Served as conference chair of poster
session and judged posters at the
Western Regional Science Education annual conference.

Robert Franks
Kenneth J. Weller Distinguished
Professorship of the Liberal
Arts and Professor of Computer
Science

Reviewed papers for 2015 Association
for Computer Machinery Special
Interest Group in Computer Science
Education annual conference.

Mid-American Athletic Trainers’
Association Annual Meeting and
Clinical Symposia in Des Moines,
of Balance Training on Reduction of
Ankle Sprains in Athletes; Reba
Jongeling, Treatment Options for
Neuromyogenic Thoracic Outlet Syndrome (NTOs); Katelyn Paul,
Proven Shoulder Syndrome: Conservative
Treatment vs. Surgery; Julie Wunder,
The Benefits of Artistic Repair
for Patients Suffering a Rotator Cuff
Tear. Also served as moderator for
at Symposium in Des Moines, October 15, 2014.

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Katelin M. Gannon  
Lecturer of Exercise Science  
Participated in Iowa Campus Compact Engaged Scholar Faculty Fellows Program with five other faculty members from Iowa institutions to network, discuss and develop experiential learning projects for respective campuses and classrooms.  
Presented Service-Learning Course Design at Iowa Campus Compact Workshop, Mt. Mercy University, Cedar Rapids, February 24, 2015.

Russ Goodman  
Associate Professor of Mathematics  
Presented Counting Votes: The Paradoxical Math of Elections to Science Center of Iowa at Jasper Winery, January 13, 2015.

Catherine Haustein  
Professor of Chemistry  
Published short story Grâce to Cradle, Slink Chuck Press (Australia) and Shade Mountain Press anthology The Female Complaint.  


Mark Johnson  
Ruth & Marvin Denekas Endowed Chair in Science and Humanities and Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science  
Presented paper and panel submissions for 2015 ACM Special Interest Group in Computer Science Education conference.  
Reviewed papers with Education Papers International Program Committee for Eurographics 2015, to be held in Zurich.  
Attended University of Iowa Computing Conference in Iowa City, February 27-28, 2015.

Keith T. Jones  
Mark & Kay DeCook Endowed Chair in Character and Leadership Development and Professor of Psychology  
Presented Family Environment, Social Support and Suicide Knowledge: Predicting Suicide Ideation and Predicting Emerging Adults’ Compliance and Defiance: Parenting Style and Entitlement at Midwestern Psychological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, May 2-3, 2014.

Nicole Kaplan  
Associate Professor of French  
Participated in Tête-à-tête, Workshop for World Language Educators in Iowa, Theater and Carnaval in the World Language Classroom, at the University of Iowa, February 29, 2015.  
Attended annual meeting of Iowa Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) at the University of Iowa, February 28, 2015.

Mathew R. Kelly  
Associate Professor of Art  

Terence J. Kleven  
Professor of Philosophy and Religion  
Received a Central College Student Travel Fund for Student-Faculty Collaborative Scholarship grant that supported two Central students to present paper presentations on Old Testament Studies at the Student Religious Studies Conference, Bourbonnais, Illinois, February 7-9, 2014.

Received a Central College Student Travel Fund for Student-Faculty Collaborative Scholarship grant that supported two Central students to present paper presentations on Islamic Studies at the Upper Midwest American Academy of Regional Meeting, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, April 4-5, 2014.  
Attended National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute Grant for University and College Teachers: Medieval Political Philosophy: Jewish, Islamic and Christian at Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington, June 16 - July 12, 2014.

Presented Al-Fàràbî’s Account of Poetry as a Logical Art at the Chairs’ Conference, Central College, September 12-13, 2014.

Attended Engaging the Other, organized by the Paraodosis Center, Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Evangelical Christians in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, September 22-23, 2014.


Presented a public lecture on Christianity and Zonism for the Pella Chapter of the National Committee for Peace and Justice, October 14, 2014.


Kathy Korcheck  
Associate Professor of Spanish  
Moderated Armas y sus papel at Midwest Undergraduate Conference in the Humanities at Simpson College, attending with Walter Cannon and Central College students.  
Elizabeth Carman, a Spanish and communications studies major, presented Una flor inútil: Sor Juana y su rosa, a paper on a Baroque sonnet by Mexican poet Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, written in Korcheck’s SPAN 323 course spring 2014.


Published El Viento querrido padre: Stater Letters on War and Exile in Emma Riverola’s Cartas desde la ausencia en Letras Hispanas 10.1 (2014).

Appointed assistant editor for Rochester Studies in Medieval Political Thought: Islamic, Jewish and Christian.  

Allison Krogstad
Professor of Spanish
Published The cohesive and revitalizing nature of Maya dance, art, and oral history in journal Regions and Cohesion (Vol. 4, Issue 1, Spring 2014).
Presented La pintura poética de Calixto Gabriel Xiquín (The Poetic Painting of Calixto Gabriel Xiquín) at Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica in Antigua, Guatemala, March 4-6, 2015.

Linda Laine
Associate Professor of Communication Studies
Received Mission Award at Iowa Campus Compact Engaged Campus Awards Ceremony, Des Moines, June 2014, for recognition of the key role played in strengthening an institution’s mission of engagement and strategically furthering this mission.

Tom Linton
Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science
Attended Mathematical Association of America MathFest 2014 in Portland, Oregon, August 7, 2014.

Mitchell Lutch
Associate Professor of Music
Attended Iowa Bandmasters Association Conference in Des Moines, May 9-10, 2014.
Served as guest conductor at Northern Plains Music Festival for High School Honor Band, Dickinson State University, Dickinson, North Dakota, November 7-8, 2014.
Attended Mid-West Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, December 18-20, 2014.
Served as guest conductor at Little Hawk Eye Conference Honor Band, Pella, February 9, 2015.

Cynthia Mahmood
Frank Moore Chair of Anthropology and Professor of Anthropology
Received Reinhold Neibuhr Award for Social Justice, University of Notre Dame, May 23, 2014.
Presented A Passion for Truth lecture at installation as Frank Moore Chair in Anthropology, March 2015.

Melissa McAninch
Instructor of Education
Completed dissertation, A Qualitative Study of Secondary Mathematics Teachers’ Questioning, Responses, and Perceived Influences, to fulfill requirements for Ph.D. in mathematics education.

Beth McMahon
Director of Geisler Library
Published An Embedded Model: First-Year Student Success in Writing and Research with Sue Pagne, Cyndi Boertje, Greg Teets ’13 and Shelley Bradfield, in Praxis: A Writing Center Journal 12:1 (2014).
Admitted to the 2014-15 cohort of Association of College & Research Libraries’ New College Library Directors’ Mentor Program.
Awarded an Association of College & Research Libraries Mid-Career Librarian Scholarship to attend the upcoming ACRL 2015 conference in Portland, Oregon.

Paulina Mená
Assistant Professor of Biology
Organized workshop Incorporating Active Learning in the Classroom with Brian Peterson and Robert Franks at Central College, June 9-10, 2014.

Mark Mills
Professor of Mathematics
Passed actuarial Exam FM (Financial Mathematics), June 20, 2014.
Attended Iowa Section of the Mathematical Association of America meeting at Clarke University, Dubuque, October 24-25, 2014.

Taylor Newton
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Michael Harris
Celebrating 25 Years
Professor of English
A trip to Nepal changed everything for Michael Harris. During graduate school, Harris, now professor of English at Central, faced a dissertation he didn’t really want to write. He didn’t have a topic, and he says, “I was kind of burned out.” He wondered if he would ever finish his Ph.D. Originally from North Carolina, Harris and his family moved to Louisiana when he was six. He attended Tulane University for his undergraduate degree, where he knew he wanted to major in English as a freshman.
When choosing a major, Harris says he “thought back to my high school career.” He had always enjoyed English more than other subjects. After college, Harris pursued his master’s and Ph.D. at Indiana University at Bloomington. He taught freshman composition and literature classes and enjoyed teaching, though at the time, he still wasn’t sure how he wanted to shape his career. And his dissertation loomed.
“I did not have a topic,” he says.
Harris had always been interested in the Peace Corps and had in fact applied and been accepted after college, but he chose grad school instead. Now, he revisited the idea. He was accepted to Nepal, “a country I thought sounded really interesting,” Harris says, and he served as a TEFL teacher from 1979-1981.
He spent the next three years of his life in the Himalayas. As it turned out, he spent a lot of time reading novels, “the kind of stuff you read when you’re an English major,” he says, and his love of English was rejuvenated. When the three years were up, he returned to Indiana and picked up right where he left off. Only this time, he had a topic.
A field in literature called post-colonialism was gaining prominence. The Peace Corps provided Harris a firsthand look into the lives of people in Nepal and India, and the region fascinated him. “I could have written about that forever. That’s how I ended up finishing a dissertation,” he says. That dissertation, “Outsiders & Insiders: Perspectives of Third World Culture in British and Post-Colonial Fiction,” was eventually published and named a 1994 Choice Outstanding Academic Book.
While at Indiana University, Harris also met his wife, Kimberly Koza, associate professor of English at Central. The couple lived and worked in a few different cities before arriving in Iowa, via a one-year position for Harris at Grinnell College in 1989. Then a job opened up at Central. Harris says his time in Pella “is the longest I’ve ever lived in one place.”
During a 25-year career at Central, Harris has enjoyed the opportunity to try new things and continue learning. “As I’ve developed new interests I’ve been able to teach classes in those areas,” he says. For instance, an interest in the Buddhist religion spurred him to create a capstone course on the subject. He was aided by six months spent in northern India and Nepal in 2012-13 on a Fulbright Senior Research grant, where he studied Buddhism. “There’s something about India that really draws me,” he says.
He also taught at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania as a Senior Fulbright Lecturer in 1998-99.
A number of courses at Central have sprung from Harris’ passion for post-colonial literature. Mary Stark, professor of English, has been a colleague of Harris for more than 20 years, and she says he helped the English department expand its offerings to include American Ethnic Literature, Irish Literature, African/Caribbean Literature and the Literature of India and the Pacific. “Students appreciate the cultural contexts and seeing life from different perspectives,” she says.
Recently, Harris has embarked on a new challenge that is taking him to another part of the world: New York City. He is teaching as part of Central’s social justice internship program, which began in summer 2014. Harris, Koza and students spent a month in the city. “The students that came with us were amazing. It was a lot of fun to spend time with them and hear about their internships,” Harris says.
Being able to identify with his students at Central is part of what makes teaching enjoyable for Harris. “When I see a Central student, I can easily imagine how I felt my first year of college,” he says. He remembers the uncertainty, but also the feelings of possibility. “And interacting with students keeps life fresh and exciting. He says, “You learn so much from them.”
Arthur Johnson

Retired in 2014
Associate Professor of English

Arthur Johnson is putting away his red pen. For the past 46 years at Central, the associate professor of English has corrected the prose of undergraduates, urging them to focus on what he sees as the virtues of writing: simplicity, economy, color and freshness.

Johnson started working at Central in 1968 after a six-year stint teaching at Iowa State University, where he completed his undergraduate work. Johnson also earned a master’s degree from the University of Wisconsin, which he describes as "an enormous factory lacking only the smoke. It was a strange thing to come to Central and have absolute strangers say hello to me."

During his time at Central, Johnson taught a variety of classes including British Novel, Shakespeare, Short Story Writing and Comedy, a class of his own design. “I’ve always liked comedy better than tragedy,” he says, “being an absurd fellow by nature.”

Yet Johnson did not originally intend to study English. He spent four years as a student of architecture and designed houses for relatives before deciding the client/architect relationship wasn’t one he cared to pursue. “What they wanted, I didn’t want,” he says. So Johnson decided to major in history, but when the history adviser didn’t show up for the appointed meeting, he walked downstairs and became an English major instead.

As an English professor, Johnson specialized in teaching students how to write. He is known for the care he took editing papers, meeting face-to-face with students to go through their writing line by line. Johnson says the tutorial method encouraged students to consider more than a grade at the top of a paper. “I always try to give students their money’s worth, whether they want it or not,” he says.

While some students may have shrunken from having a magnifying glass turned on their work, many blossomed from the experience. “He scared some people to death and he made some people want to be better writers,” says Chad Ray, professor of philosophy. “I know him as a colleague with a heart of gold.” Ray says Johnson is “hugely generous,” helping students in need with tuition and encouraging faculty to set up a fund for students.

Johnson says students have not changed much during his time at Central, saying they are always mixtures of excellent and weaker students. As for himself, Johnson found teaching to be a constant learning experience. “You learn from the experience. “He scared some people to death and he made some people want to be better writers,” says Chad Ray, professor of philosophy. “I know him as a colleague with a heart of gold.” Ray says Johnson is “hugely generous,” helping students in need with tuition and encouraging faculty to set up a fund for students.

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Former students — or anyone in need of a refresher course on writing — can consult his book on the subject, “Why Nobody Can’t Write Good,” where Johnson lays out the finer points of writing (“Pomposity is not profundity.”), along with amusing examples from past classes and academia. Johnson has also written two novels, the latest set in Jane Austen’s England but focused on the lives of the lower classes.

When not turning deft phrases, Johnson plays chess, reads and pursues hobbies, such as coin collecting and art. In Central’s Jordan Hall, home to the English department, he hung 115 framed prints of paintings he considers important to the history of art. He hopes students may acquire an appreciation of them “just from the friction of walking by.”

Ray says Johnson “loves to turn a good phrase. He loves the English language. He is fearless.”

Johnson is not one to effuse about his accomplishments. “We all write our names in water,” he says. But Johnson’s name is also written in ink — in the red that decorated students’ papers for 46 years and in the improved prose they learned to create. In the interest of economy, we’ll leave it at that.
Joy Prothero  
Associate Professor of Education

At first, Joy Prothero’s career choice surprised her. Coming from a family with 16 teachers, she wasn’t interested in teaching. “I was steeped in teacher behaviors and expectations,” she says. “But I realized after my first year in college that of course I wanted to be a teacher!”

Prothero has now taught for 41 years. She surprised herself again after 11 years teaching elementary school, when she was invited to teach at William Penn College. Prothero, a graduate of William Penn, was completing a master’s degree from Drake University but not looking for a new position. “I said no, I’m happy in the classroom,” Prothero says. But when the dean persuaded her to consider it, Prothero decided to take the new opportunity.

At William Penn, Prothero spent nine years strengthening an education program that won several national awards. She secured National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accreditation for that program, and she started a literacy project in Des Moines that sparked national interest. She has an Ed.D. from Drake and was associate professor of education at Grandview University and curriculum director for Pella Community Schools before coming to Central in 1998. “I’m always amazed at how careers take twists and turns,” she says.

One of Prothero’s strongest contributions to Central is her involvement in education outside the college. She leads Area Education Agencies (AEA) at the local and state levels, serving as governing board president and director for Pella’s district. These connections bring advantages for Central students, such as early access to AEA online resources. Central Teacher Academy also connects students to AEA opportunities, which Prothero says helps Central’s future teachers receive the best research-based training available.

Prothero’s broad involvement has also helped her prepare students for changes and challenges in Iowa and throughout the U.S. “That’s important for them, because our graduates go everywhere,” she says. Even within short distances, Prothero says educational settings vary tremendously. “There’s a lot of variation in cultures and languages and learning styles — all of those things that impact how effective teachers are,” she says, “so students need to be exposed to as much of that as possible.” Prothero says graduates face more diverse issues than ever before. “Schools are a reflection of society, and so many things have changed,” she says. “I think it’s become more complicated.”

Mary Stark, professor of English, says Prothero’s knowledge and experience have been invaluable to Central. “She is passionate about education and highly involved in professional groups because she wants to help her students excel in their classrooms,” Stark says. “I really admire her commitment and care for our students.”

On campus, Prothero has also contributed to many influential projects. Through intense discussions, she says she discovered the strong friendships that make Central unique from anywhere she has taught. When faculty members dissect important initiatives and share their thoughts, Prothero says they really get to know each other and form a bond of trust. Stark says she will always remember Prothero’s willingness to help, good cheer and creative problem solving. “I think Joy embodies her name,” Stark says. “She is a delightful person!”

Joy Prothero says she’s also enjoyed building relationships forged on campus, Prothero says, often visiting or writing to her after they graduate. She says it’s rewarding to know education classes are continually proved relevant to graduates’ careers and lives. Prothero’s passion for teaching will also continue beyond Central. She plans to continue participating in other settings she loves, making national presentations and guiding AEA initiatives throughout the state.
Mary Jo Sodd
Professor of Theatre
Attended Contemporary Arts Marketing and Intersection of Arts and Economy sessions by Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs at Iowa Arts Summit in Des Moines, June 2014.

Mary Stark
John and Anna Poole Endowed Chair in the Humanities and Professor of English
Published three articles with Stephen Johnson, instructor of natural science: Our Magical Mystery Tour in Jefferson County Park, Iowa (Summer 2014, Vol 15 #3), and Hooded Ladies’ Tresses (Fall 2014, Vol 15 #4) for Blazing Star: North American Native American Plant Society; Forest Tent Caterpillar Consumption by Wood and Mink Frogs at Lake Gogoka, Minnesota, in Bulletin: Chicago Herpetological Society 49 (7), 2014.

David Timmer
Professor of Religion
Published Pilgrim Journey in Perspectives: a Journal of Reformed Church in America. The Commission meets twice a year to study and prepare reports for the RCA General Synod on theological and moral issues in the life of the church. Served as Corresponding Delegate of the Commission to the General Synod of 2014.

Christopher Vieselman
Clinical Instructor of Exercise Science

Susan Wight Swanson
Assistant Professor of Art

Sara Shugger Fox
Assistant Professor of Exercise Science
Three Honors Enrichment Projects Fall 2014.
Attended Cardiovascular Today and Iowa Heart Center Fall Conference in West Des Moines, February 1 and November 15, 2014.

Miss every piece of teaching at Central. “I love what I do,” Streed says. “I totally enjoy my students, and I enjoy teaching. I’m going really delightful for me.”

She takes the people she serves and the work she does very seriously, but she doesn’t take herself too seriously,” he says. “She’s sort things out with,” Jones says. “For me, she is a good big sister.” It doesn’t hurt that Streed also knows how to laugh at herself.

“With Stephen Johnson, consultant for Tiny Boks: Unearth the Secrets of the Green Kingdom, an app about plants.

Josh Coon
Chair in the Humanities and Professor of English
Published an important article by the late Lewis Smedes published in Perspectives in 1999.

Completed six-year term on Commission on Theology of the Reformed Church in America. The Commission meets twice a year to study and prepare reports for the RCA General Synod on theological and moral issues in the life of the church. Served as Corresponding Delegate of the Commission to the General Synod of 2014.

Published an important article by the late Lewis Smedes published in Perspectives in 1999.

Attended the United States Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT) Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, March 2015.

Ashley Sclaro
Assistant Professor of Psychology
Presented To Drink or Not to Drink: College Students’ Motivations to Consume Alcohol with Hillary Stitsman at Midwestern Psychological Association conference in Chicago, May 2014.

Published The ERP Correlates of Target Checking are Dependent upon the Defining Features of the Prospective Memory Cues, International Journal of Psychophysiology, July 2014 (volume 93, pages 298-304).

Presented The Impact of Dementia on the Benefits of Reminiscence with Emily Saville and The Effect of Handedness on Cognitive Control with Alex Savitl at Object Perception Attention and Memory conference in Long Beach, California, November 20, 2014.

Presented The Impact of Rumination on Strategic Monitoring in Prospective Memory at Psychonomics conference in Long Beach, California, November 21, 2014.

With Stephen Johnson, consultant for Tiny Boks: Unearth the Secrets of the Green Kingdom, an app about plants.

Elected to two-year treasurer post as treasurer for Iowa Council for Exceptional Children, March 2014.

Accompanied eight teacher education candidates from Central College to attend the United States Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT) Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, March 20, 2014.

To Central, Streed says her joy has been seeing that dream realized among students and colleagues. Her students know “different equals different” comes first among the “Dr. Estherisms” they collect during Streed’s courses.

Streed’s other career highlights include participating in an international think tank at Oxford University, visiting nearly all of Central’s study abroad sites and going to national conferences for the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) with her students.

“Presented at three conferences, which is an unbelievable honor,” Streed says. “The percentage of applicants who get to present is very, very small — and for undergrad programs, even more so.”

Keith Jones, professor of psychology, says Streed is a great teacher because she is genuine and committed to doing what benefits students. Streed sets high standards, but Jones says she doesn’t get hung up on being the best. “She just focuses on doing what is good,” Jones says, “and along the way, she has been one of the best.”

Streed also proves her practical wisdom among Central faculty, Jones says. When they both served as department chairs, Jones says Streed could bring perspective to group discussions in a single sentence, clarifying their purpose. “She’s a good one to sort things out with,” Jones says. “For me, she is a good big sister.” It doesn’t hurt that Streed also knows how to laugh at herself.

She takes the people she serves and the work she does very seriously, but she doesn’t take herself too seriously,” he says. “She’s a good egg.”

During the past 17 years, Streed’s favorite change at Central has been the addition of the Roe Center. “This is an awesome building,” she says. “I feel really, really privileged to be department chair at the time that we were making the transition from our cramped little quarters in the library to this amazing facility.”

Plus, Streed says she loves seeing many plaques every time she walks in. “Every one of those plaques represents people who really appreciate what we do in education,” she says. “That’s just really delightful for me.”

When she retires, Streed says she will find new ways to be involved in statewide programs and service. “For me, retirement does not mean not working,” she says. While Streed doesn’t mind abandoning her commute from Des Moines, she says she will miss every piece of teaching at Central. “I love what I do,” Streed says. “I totally enjoy my students, and I enjoy teaching. I’m going to miss it — I really am.”
Jay Wackerly  
Assistant Professor of Chemistry


Presented Synthesis and Applications of Oxaquinonacyclophanes and Stepwise Approach to Writing Lab Reports in the Organic Chemistry Course Sequence at 248th American Chemical Society National Meeting & Exposition in San Francisco, August 10-14, 2014. Three student poster presentations were given at the same conference as well: Synthesis of Oxaquinonacyclophanes from Dichlorophenoxazine by Andrew Johnson, Progress toward the Synthesis of Carcerands from Chloromethoxanil by Carlin Michalek and Synthesis of Oxaquinonacyclophanes from Bromobenzoquinones by Benjamin Palmer.

Wendy Weber  
Professor of Mathematics

Co-principle investigator with Maryann Huey of Drake University of three-year $600,000 Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) grant project, Statistics and Probability, Content and Pedagogy, for Teaching Secondary Students. The grant provides professional development activities for teachers from districts in need of assistance to successfully implement the Iowa Core and improve teacher and student understanding of statistics and probability.


Attended M4 (Midwest Meeting of Mathematical Minds) Conference with guest speaker Jo Boaler, Stanford University, in Ankeny, March 6, 2015.

Published Bubbles: Where Geometry & Science Intersect in the Iowa Council of Teachers of Mathematics annual journal.

Published Curve Stitching - Geometric String Art - Optical Illusion with Deidra Baker and Teresa Finken in the Iowa Council of Teachers of Mathematics annual journal.

Paul Weihe  
Associate Professor of Biology

Presented Student Assessment Using Blackboard at the Chairs’ Conference, Central College, September 13, 2014.

Four groups of students presented posters: Sustainable Agriculture Using Hybrid Hazelnuts: Strategies for Ebola Containment; Public Education & Pseudoscience in Anti-Vaccination Campaign; A Proposal to Establish Safe Levels of Dioxin Contamination, 6th Annual Global Health Fall Conference: Climate, Nutrition and Health, Des Moines, October 15, 2014

Shawn Wick  
Assistant Professor of Sociology


Jeffrey Bass  
Professor of Political Science

Named 2013 Iowa Local Food Champion, Iowa Food Systems Council and Eat Greater Des Moines, November 2014.

Published In Service of Two Masters: A Political History of Radio in Pre-Independence Botswana, Critical Arts: South-North Cultural and Media Studies (Durban, South Africa), Volume 28, Issue 6, 2014, pages 958-976, special issue: Media and Empire in the 20th Century.

Dennis Doyle  
Professor of Mathematics


Elected President of Iowa Sociological Association, Decorah, April 2014.

Kathy Korcheck  
Professor of Political Science

Named 2013 Iowa Local Food Champion, Iowa Food Systems Council and Eat Greater Des Moines, November 2014.

Published In Service of Two Masters: A Political History of Radio in Pre-Independence Botswana, Critical Arts: South-North Cultural and Media Studies (Durban, South Africa), Volume 28, Issue 6, 2014, pages 958-976, special issue: Media and Empire in the 20th Century.

Tom Linton  
Associate Professor of Biology

Tom developed two components for statistics instruction: immediate-feedback questions for introductory statistics and research-based projects for MATH 215 Applied Statistics.

Treva Reimer  
Assistant Professor of Art Education

Treva studied installation arts and fiber arts to develop proficiency in weaving. The outcome includes two installation projects and a revised course in mask-making.

Jaclyn Rundle  
Assistant Professor of Sociology

Jaclyn continued her research into the global social enterprise movement by comparing the operations and certification methods of two social enterprise organizations in two countries.
Dawn Reece was awarded funding for travel to the Lilly Conference on Evidence-Based Learning. February 19 – 22, 2015, in Newport Beach, Calif. Her talk was entitled Utilizing Kuhlthau’s Information Search Process Model to Inform and Intervene in Student Projects.

Allison Krogstad was awarded funding for travel to the XV Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispanica March 4-6, 2015, in Antigua, Guatemala. She presented a paper entitled La pintura poética de Calixta Gabriel Xiquin (The Poetic Painting of Calixta Gabriel Xiquin).

Terry Kleven was awarded funding for travel to the Midwest Political Science Association meeting April 16 – 18, 2015, in Chicago, Ill.

Katelin Gannon was awarded funding for travel to an international conference on “Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement.”

Randy Renstrom and Shawn Wick were awarded funding for travel to the Yucatan peninsula to make preparations for a faculty-led study abroad course entitled Perspectives on Culture and Society: Exploring the Yucatan.

Maggie Schlerman was awarded funding for an exploratory trip to the Yucatan and Central’s Merida program to continue the development of a program that will enhance the education of Central students within the context of a “pathway to CPA.”

Josh Dolezal received funding for transportation to the Marion County Farm Crawl for two classes October 5, 2014.

Shelley Bradfield received funding for two students’ travel expenses to the Iowa Communication Association convention in Ankeny on September 19, 2014, to present their paper, Smartphones and Their Effects on Family Cohesion.

Taylor Newton received funds for student research using Amazon’s Mechanical Turk community for up to 150 participants for a student pursuing an independent research study as a follow-up to her project in Advanced Research in Psychology.

Al Hibbard received funding for student travel to the MAA Iowa Section meeting in Dubuque on October 24-25, 2014.

Walter Cannon and Kathy Korcheck received funding for student travel and registration to attend and present at the Midwest Undergraduate Conference in the Humanities (MUCH) at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa on November 8, 2014.

Esther Streed received funding for student travel costs to attend the Council for Exceptional Children Conference in San Diego, Calif., on April 8-12, 2015.

Shawn Wick received funding for registration and an awards luncheon for 18 students in Sociology 485 Senior Seminar class to attend the Iowa Sociological Association annual meeting in Pella, Iowa May 1, 2015.
Student Conference Travel Funding

Leslie Duinink was awarded funds for student travel to attend the Mid-American Athletic Trainers’ Association Annual Meeting and Symposia in Omaha, Neb., March 19-21, 2015.

Psychology Department was awarded funds for student travel to attend the Midwestern Psychological Association Annual Meeting April 30 – May 2, 2015, in Chicago, Ill.

Jay Wackerly was awarded funds for student travel to attend the Joint Great Lakes/Central Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (ACS) May 27 – 30, 2015, in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Josh Dolezal was awarded funds for student travel to co-present at the Examined Life Conference: Writing and the Art of Medicine April 16-18, 2015, in Iowa City, IA.

Principal Financial Faculty Development Award

Maggie Schlerman and Sara Dobbin received this award to attend the Accounting Information Systems Educator Association Conference in Colorado Springs, Colo., June 24 – 28, 2015.

Moore Family Foundation Grant Awards

Melissa McAninch & Wendy Weber – Back to School...in Budapest

Writing Council – Designing, Assigning, and Evaluating Writing

Russ Goodman – Discovering Sports Analytics: Enhancing an Honors Seminar with Travel to the Carolinas Sports Analytics Meeting

Leslie Duinink, Russ Goodman & Paulina Mena – Teaching Professor Conference: from Atlanta to Pella

Oscar Reynaga – Spanish Language and Culture: Teaching Methods and the Art of Teaching

Paulina Mena – Case Studies as a Teaching Tool Conference

Dawn Reece & Shawn Wick – From Death to Life: A Model of Restorative Justice

Glenn Barnett & Paulina Mena – A New Thermo Cycler for Biology and Biochemistry Students

Anya Butt – Teaching Teachers: Teaching GIS in Innovative Ways Across the Curriculum

Terry Kleven – Core Texts in Political Philosophy for the Classroom

Jay Wackerly – Synthesis of Quinone-Based Supramolecular Structures