Celebrating our Scholarship
Professional Accomplishments of the
Central College Faculty
2015-16
Each spring, we gather as an academic community to recognize individual faculty for leadership in teaching, professional development, and service. This celebration enables us to affirm that the work that we do and our individual achievements are enriched by the community in which we find ourselves. Like our students, we are supported and nurtured by one another. Therefore, we gather together, as a community, to acknowledge the teaching, scholarship, creativity, and leadership of the Central College faculty.

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 100 years of service of four valued faculty colleagues that will have retired by the end of the academic year. Debela Birru (Economics/Accounting/Management), Walter Cannon (English), Richard McGrath (Communication Studies) and David Purnell (English) have impacted thousands of students during their time at Central. In addition, Chia Ning (History) 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.

- Dr. John Wesselink Award
- 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 2016
2016 Faculty Award Recipients

2016 Recipient of the Dr. John Wesselink Award

Cathy Haustein, Professor of Chemistry

This award recognizes faculty achievement in scholarship having direct impact on classroom teaching. Nominations for the award specifically identify the faculty member’s scholarly accomplishments in relation to advancements in courses, programs, majors and student participation in research.

2016 Recipient of the David Crichton Memorial Teaching Award

Jon Witt, Professor of Sociology

This award recognizes outstanding teaching at Central College that perpetuates the type of instruction which challenges and shapes the intellectual development of students.

2016 Recipient of the Hutch Bearce Community-Building and Faculty Leadership Award

Paulina Mena, Associate Professor of Biology

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.
2016 Recipient of the Huffman Award for Outstanding Support of International Education

Russ Benedict, Professor of Biology

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.

2016 Recipient of the Frank W. Moore Faculty Award

Ashley Garr, Assistant Professor of Chemistry

This award acknowledges faculty who have promoted student learning within the natural sciences division through teaching and/or service over time.

2016 Recipient of the Moore Family Faculty Award

Paulina Mena, Associate 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.

2016 Recipient of the Marvin L. Hackert Faculty Development Fund for Science and Mathematics

Jay Wackerly, Assistant Professor of Chemistry

This fund enhances the quality of the sciences at Central College through those activities which promote professional development and research.
C.D. Adamson  
Assistant Professor of Theatre  

Published review of *Alan Jay Lerner: A Lyricist’s Letters* by Dominic McHugh in Musical Theatre Studies. 2015, Volume 9, Number 1.

Mark Babcock  
M. Joan Kuyper Farver Endowed Chair in Music and Associate Professor of Music  
Organ recitalist, Westminster Presbyterian Church, March 2016.

Organ recitalist, Renovation of historic Aeoline-Skinner re-dedication, Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, Omaha, Nebraska, June 2015.

Symposium Chair and Presenter, Iowa Choral Directors Association, July 2015.

Conductor for Mozart’s *Requiem*, Southeast Iowa Conference Choir Festival, Ottumwa, Iowa, October 2015.

Organ Plus Concert, Sondheim Center for the Performing Arts, Fairfield, Iowa, October 2015.

Organ recitalist, First Presbyterian Church, Ottumwa, Iowa, October 2015.

Russ Benedict  
Professor of Biology  
Presented keynote address on bats of Iowa at Fossil and Prairie Conservation Foundation banquet in Charles City, Iowa, February 27, 2015.

Presented at Iowa Prairie Conference in Cedar Falls, July 17, 2015: *Impact of early mowing on prairie reconstruction in drought conditions, Impact of season of planting on prairie reconstruction in drought conditions and Winners and losers: plant establishment during prairie reconstruction in drought conditions.*

Received $30,000 grant from Blank Park Zoo’s Coins For Conservation fund to support Prairies for Agriculture project.

Presented on bats of Iowa at Monroe Church group, September 21, 2015.

Presented *The Lost Landscape: Prairies in Iowa* to Des Moines Founders Club Club, October 20, 2015.

Presented on bats of Iowa at Cedar Falls Audubon Society, November 10, 2015.

Awarded a contract with Iowa Department of Natural Resources to study the federally threatened northern long-eared bat in Iowa. Assisted by students, Benedict will determine the geographic distribution of this poorly known bat in northern Iowa and use radio telemetry to determine where it roosts.

Shelley Bradfield  
Assistant Professor of Communication Studies  
Published article with Sue Pagnac, Cyndi Boertje, Greg Teets and Beth McMahon: *An Embedded Model: First-Year Student Success in Writing and Research.* Praxis: A Writing Center Journal 12, 1 (2015).

Presented original research: *Producing and Contesting ‘Coloured’ TV in Postapartheid South Africa* at Fourth Annual Chairs’ Conference, Central College, September 2015.

Presented *Facilitating Student Research in Content-Driven Courses* with Linda Laine at Fourth Annual Chairs’ Conference, Central College, September 2015.

Invited to speak at Marista University Health Science School in Merida, Mexico: *Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Sexuality and Class in Media, Edutainment in South African Television, Telenovelas and Healthcare Messages.*

Anya Butt  
Associate Professor of Biology  
With Jen Diers, received Pella Community Foundation grant for $2,000 to facilitate a SibShops workshop on campus. SibShops supports training professionals to work with siblings of children with special needs.

Cheri Doane
Director of Community-Based Learning


Presented Holistic Partnerships: Sustainability, Learned Lessons and Future Directions with Keith Yanner at Upper Midwest Civic Engagement Summit, St. Peter, Minnesota.

Presented A Partnership Model for Service-Learning that is Based on Authentic, Holistic Community Dialogue with Linda Laine and Keith Yanner at Upper Midwest Civic Engagement Summit, St. Peter, Minnesota.

Dennis Doyle
Professor of Communication Studies


Leslie Duinink
Associate Professor of Exercise Science

Attended Mid-America Athletic Trainers’ Association in Omaha, March 19-20, 2015.

Presented Identification and Management of Concussion for Iowa Chiropractic Society, co-presenter for eight-hour continuing education session in Des Moines, April 9, 2015.

James Dunne
Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Ellen DuPré
Professor of Biology
Attended Central Association of Advisors in the Health Professions in Kansas City, April 23-26, 2015.

Completed online course: The Challenges of Global Health in May 2015, instructor Dr. David Boyd, Associate Professor of the Practice of Global Health at Duke University.

Attended 7th Annual Global Health Fall Conference: Educating for Sustainable Global Health, October 14, 2015, at Drake University. Participated in panel: A Partnership Model for Service-Learning Based on Authentic, Holistic Community Dialogue with Cheri Doane, Valerie Grimsley and Grant Gustafson.

Chair and judge of poster session at 7th Annual Global Health Conference: Educating for Sustainable Global Health at Drake University, October 14, 2015.

Awarded funding from Margaret A. Cargill Foundation as part of sustainability summer workshop to support activities related to sustainability in Bio 210 Epidemiology.

Verónica García Montero
Resident Director, Granada

Presented webinar on Global Experiential Learning in Granada, February 13, 2015.

Attended APUNE annual conference in León, February 27, 2015, 4th Encuentro de Universidades Españolas y Americanas.


Andrew Green
Professor of Political Science

Presented The Lead Up to the Presidential Nominating Season: A Look from Five Months Out to Pella Rotary Club, August 25, 2015.

Published Are Republicans Redefining the Political Outsider? Des Moines Register, October 23, 2015, p. 23A.

Presented Presidential Nomination Contests: Examining the Iowa Caucuses to Institute of Management Accountants – Des Moines Chapter, November 17, 2015.


Presented Examining the Iowa Caucuses: Why is Iowa ’First in the Nation?’ to First Federated Study Group, Knoxville, Iowa, January 12, 2016.

Served on selection committee for Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics at Iowa State University, January 2016.

Published Scalia’s Death will have Major Political Implications, Pella Chronicle, February 18, 2016, p. 4. Also appeared in the Knoxville Journal-Express.

Presented Value vs. Viability: Factors Which Shape the Belief that it is Important to Elect a Woman President at 2016 Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Political Science Association in Las Vegas, March 24-27, 2016. Paper co-authored with Morgan Wilson ’16 and Keith Yanner.

Cathy Haustein
Professor of Chemistry
Published novel Natural Attraction, Penner Publishing (May 11, 2015).

With Hailey Benson ’16, presented Determination of L-dopa in Mucuna pruriens using HPLC: A Green Laboratory at the Iowa Academy of Science (Iowa City) and The Great Lakes Regional Meeting (Grand Rapids, Michigan).

Published short story in anthology The Female Complaint, Shade Mountain Press (2015).

Stephanie Henning
Registrar


Al Hibbard
Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science

Attended centennial meeting of MathFest, the summer meeting of the Mathematical Association of America, in Washington, D.C., August 5-8.

Participated as governor of the Iowa Section in the Board of Governor’s meeting for the day before MathFest.

Attended annual meeting of Iowa section of Mathematical Association of America, Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa, October 2-3, participating in general meetings and executive meeting.

Attended joint mathematics meeting in Seattle, January 4-10, 2016, including preliminary Board of Governors meeting.
Debela Birru

Retiring 2016
Associate Professor of Business Management

The world of business and finance has undergone significant changes during Debela Birru’s career. During his 37 years teaching fulltime at the college level (27 of those at Central) he’s witnessed the Black Monday stock market crash of 1987, the Asian financial crisis of ’97-’98 and the recent U.S. financial crisis of ’07-’09, and its after-effects, among other major events.

“Change, not stability, is the norm in global financial markets,” Birru says. Perhaps the same could be said of teaching, yet Birru’s presence on Central's campus has been something students could count on for many years.

The associate professor of business management earned an Associate of Arts degree at Grand View College and Bachelor of Science and Master of Business Administration degrees at Northwest Missouri State University. He began his teaching career at Northwest Missouri State, where he taught for two years. He then taught at Drake University for two years and at the University of Northern Iowa for six years before coming to Central in 1989. The personal connection and sense of community that the faculty exhibited and the focus on enriching the learning environment for students at Central appealed to Birru after 10 years at larger universities.

“At first, I thought Central was too small,” Birru says, “but then I met the economics, accounting and business management faculty and that’s when I saw how dedicated they were to their work. I saw that Central practiced a student-centered teaching approach, and I also observed that the faculty worked together for the common good. That really impressed me.”

During his time at Central, Birru is most proud of being selected as the recipient of the Outstanding Teaching Award three times (May 1996, 2007 and 2013). As a teacher, he finds satisfaction in maintaining “an unusual level of intensity and commitment to my responsibilities over a considerable period of time.” Throughout the years, students have noted that Birru’s courses are marked by high standards and academic rigor.

In addition to serving on major faculty committees, Birru served as economics, accounting and management department chair from 2000-05, 2009-12 and 2013-15. “During my tenure as department chair, I took pride in the fact that I always advocated high academic standards, instructional excellence and academic integrity,” he says.

Birru advocated for revisions to the business management and international management programs at Central when he arrived at the college. He says, “With significant encouragement from Carol Vruwink, then department chair of EAM, and assistance from others, we were able to create four new focus (concentration) areas in the business management area.” These areas are marketing, finance, business administration and international business.

“The addition of these concentration areas to our curriculum has made our programs more appealing to prospective students and employers,” Birru says. “The results of our efforts can be seen today in the positions our graduates hold in various businesses as well as not-for profit institutions in Iowa and all over the country.”

Having spent at least the last 57 years around academic circles (elementary school, high school and colleges/universities), Birru is ready for a change.

“Life is too short to waste it doing the same thing the rest of one’s life,” he says. He plans to devote most of his retirement to “maintaining strong physical, emotional and spiritual health. I consider myself multi-talented and find joy in doing a lot of other things than teaching. I can build, farm, garden, fix, remodel and repair. I love reading, fishing, hiking, running, long walks and visiting new places, especially visiting the beautiful (absolutely breathtaking) national parks all over this beautiful country.”

Though his professional teaching days may be over, Birru says he will always continue to learn and that he “will always have a special place in my heart for Central College and its rich history.”
Mark Johnson
Ruth & Marvin Denekas Endowed Chair in Science and Humanities and Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science

Reviewed papers as member of Education Papers International Program Committee for Eurographics 2016, Lisbon, Portugal.

Keith Jones
Mark & Kay DeCook Endowed Chair in Character and Leadership Development and Professor of Psychology

Presented Assessing Sustainability Attitudes: A New Multidimensional Measure, Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education in Minneapolis, October 26, 2015.

Nicole Kaplan
Associate Professor of French


Participated in intensive summer pedagogy workshop in French Language and Culture organized by the Cultural Services at the French Embassy in the United States in Chicago, June 18-20, 2015. The 21-hour workshop titled Enrichir son sac à malices: Pistes pour mieux exploiter le jeu à l'ère actionnelle focused on the value and educational benefits of games in a foreign language classroom setting.

Presented Using Popular Culture to Teach Visual Literacy at Fourth Annual Chairs’ Conference at Central College, September 12, 2015.

Attended annual meeting of Iowa Chapter of American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) at IWLA 2015 Annual Conference in Des Moines, October 9, 2015.


Attended Moving from Crisis Management to Innovation: Reimagining the Role of World Languages in the 21st-Century Academy Conference, hosted by Department of World Language and Culture Studies at Simpson College, October 23-24, 2015.

Terence J. Kleven
Professor of Philosophy Religion


Published The Common Heritage of Classical Arabic Political Philosophy for both Islam and the West, ABC-CLIO/Greenwood Press, spring 2016.

Received Moore Family Foundation Grant for the Faculty Development Program for Teaching for the project Core Texts in Political Philosophy for the Classroom (April 1, 2015, – March 31, 2016). The grant makes scholarly presentations possible at the following conferences:

- Great Plains Undergraduate Theology Conference, Briar Cliff University, Sioux City, Iowa, March 27, 2015
- Annual Aristotelianism Conference, Marquette University, Milwaukee, June 24-26, 2015
- Colloquium for the International Society for Medieval Philosophy (SIEPM), Maynooth, Ireland, September 6-9, 2015
- Society of Biblical Literature/American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, November 19-21, 2015
- Student Religious Studies Conference in conjunction with Midwest Society of Biblical Studies Regional Conference at Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois, February 5-7, 2016
- Annual Central States Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, March 13-14, 2016

Received Huffman Award for Outstanding Support of International Education, 2015.

Received Central College Summer Grants for Student Research/Scholarship for 2015: First year Classical Greek and the translation of Book I of the Republic.

Received Central College Research and Development Grant for spring 2016.

Received Central College Faculty Research and Development Grant for presentation at Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 15-18, 2015.
Walter Cannon

Retiring 2016
Professor of English

Walter Cannon’s thoughtful perspectives and steady contributions to college initiatives and classroom teaching have been part of Central education for nearly four decades. In his final semester before retirement, Cannon hosted the American Shakespeare Center touring group through the Thomas J. and Charlene P. Gaard Endowed Residency in the Liberal Arts, a fitting conclusion to the relationship Cannon created for Central more than 20 years ago through his own love and knowledge of Shakespeare.

Cannon could be called the bard of Central College. During his time at Central he has introduced many students to a lifelong love of Shakespeare, as well as a wide range of other literature. “Shakespeare has been good to me,” Cannon says. “As a result of my work with him, I’ve had a rewarding career.”

Cannon’s work has been at the heart of the college, through campus-wide initiatives like Writing Across the Curriculum, service-learning and civic engagement, and international studies, to name a few.

Cannon came to Central in 1979 to direct the Writing Across the Curriculum program, which was, he says, “the impetus to make broader curricular changes, and the faculty saw the light to change teaching and pedagogy.”

That led to his next administrative role as London program director for three years in the mid-’80s. When he returned to campus, Cannon wrote a faculty development grant to further drive the Writing Across Curriculum effort. During summers, he was involved in the Iowa Writing Project, instructing K-12 teachers in “helping people feel like writers.” His own creative writing resulted in a poetry chapbook, “The Possible World,” published in 2013.

Cannon also started teaching the Non-Profit Writing course more than 20 years ago as part of a pilot project with the Council of Independent Colleges. Because of its popularity, the course is now taught every semester with steady enrollments. Cheri Doane ’98, director of Community-Based Learning, was one of Cannon’s first Non-Profit Writing students, and last year the pair co-authored a chapter for “Service-Learning and Civic Engagement: A Sourcebook,” which is intended for teachers, service-learning practitioners and professionals in the field.


Cannon’s wide-reaching efforts have been recognized with both campus awards and invited participation in national and international workshops and institutes. At Central, he has received the Outstanding Performance Award for Professional Development, Outstanding Performance Award for Teaching, and the Huffman Award for Outstanding Support of International Education.

Iowa Campus Compact recognized Cannon with the Excellence in Community Engagement Faculty Award for his commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. He was awarded research and development grants for work at the Shakespeare Centre and the Shakespeare Institute, Stratford-upon-Avon, England; the British Library and Folger Shakespeare Library; and Yeats Summer School in Ireland. He has been the recipient of four National Endowment for the Humanities funded seminars for college teachers at UC-Berkeley, James Madison University and The Folger Shakespeare Library.

Cannon says his career at Central has been “very rewarding. I especially feel good about where we are with service-learning and civic engagement, how it’s evolved, and how it’s involved so many people. I’ve been really lucky to see the fruits of workshops I did for faculty change the curriculum, mission and pedagogy into the new core. That was very, very satisfying.”
Peer-reviewer for Fulbright Faculty Grants for 2016-17, fifteen applications.

Inducted as faculty advisor and member of Central College chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa (National Honor Society for Theology and Religious Studies).

Presented On the Relation of the Household to the Regime: An Evaluation of John Witte, Jr.’s Account of Marriage and Family in Western Political Philosophy on a panel on Family Law and the Regime at the Midwest Political Science Association Meeting in Chicago, April 15-18, 2015.


Presented Dialectic and Political Philosophy in Ibn Rushd’s the Book of the Unveiling of the Methods of Proofs of the Beliefs of the Religious Community, Annual Aristotle and Aristotelianism Conference, Marquette University, Milwaukee, June 24-26, 2015.

Presented Al-Ḥârîbî’s Syllogistic Dialectic in the Book of Analysis (Kitâb al-Taḥlîl) as an Art for the Evaluation of Certainty in Demonstrative Science and in Religion, Colloquium for the Société Internationale pour l’Étude de la Philosophie Médiévale (SIEPM), Maynooth University, Maynooth, Ireland, September 9-12, 2015.

Presented On the Relation of the Household to the Regime: An Evaluation of John Witte, Jr.’s Account of Marriage and Family in Western Political Philosophy, Central College Faculty Symposium, November 11, 2015.


Appointed as reviewer of essays for the Association of Core Texts and Classes 2015 Proceedings.

**Kathy Korcheck**

**Associate Professor of Spanish**

Presented, with Nicole Kaplan and Maria Snyder, Using Popular Culture to Teach Visual Literacy, at the 4th Annual Chairs’ Conference, Central College, September 11-12, 2015

Presented Precarious Dwellings: Housing as a Virtual Project in Recent Spanish Cultural Production, Midwest MLA in Columbus, Ohio, November 12-14, 2015. Chaired two panels, Spanish II: Peninsular Literature after 1700 at the conference.


Presented Precariedad, género y vivienda en el cine español reciente (Precarity, Gender and Housing in Recent Spanish Film) at the XVII CILH (Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica) in Mérida, Yucatán (Mexico), March 9-11, 2016.

**Allison Krogstad**

**Professor of Spanish**


Presented Multiliteracies in the Multicon textual World of Foreign Language Learning at Iowa World Language Association (IWLA) Conference, Des Moines, October 2015.

Presented Issues of Identity, Immigration, and Return in the Work of Maya Kaqchikel Poet Calixta Gabriel Xiquín at the Fourth Conference on Ethnicity, Race and Indigenous Peoples (ERIP) in Latin America and the Caribbean, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond.

Completed online Curso de Terminología Médica (Spanish Medical Terminology Course) through Des Moines University, October 2015.

**Linda Laine**

**Associate Professor of Communication Studies**

Richard McGrath

Retiring 2016
Associate Professor of Communication Studies

Rapid technological advances have transformed the field of communication studies during Richard McGrath’s tenure at Central. Throughout the more than 20-year span, the associate professor has observed the impact of those changes, taught with the new tools and techniques, and contributed to an emergent genre in environmental communication.

“Technology impacts people’s ability to think and process information. There are lots of advantages to technology, with more information available to more people,” McGrath observes. “But we have to make judgments. There is little time left for introspection.”

His own professional development and conference participation reflects changes in the field over time from “interpersonal communication” to “beyond email” to “public address in the electronic age” to “media and pop culture” to “communication and the environment.” He served twice as associate editor of the Iowa Journal of Communication.

His courses in communication theory, public speaking, persuasion, argumentation, rhetorical and narrative theory and criticism reflect his expertise in speech communication. But his development of courses in environmental communication and communicating spiritual ecology drew on his other passion—the environment.

“Environmental communication was an emerging area when I got involved with a pioneering national group and started developing the course,” McGrath says. “The sustainability effort on campus followed, with great applause to Jim Zaffiro. I’m especially thankful for the freedom I had to develop courses in environmental communication. I consider those my most significant contribution to the Central curriculum.

“The environment is the master issue. Everything else revolves around that. I’m happiest when I’m in the elements. It’s my main interest in life. When I’m not working, I’m hiking, kayaking, fly fishing. When I ‘graduate’ from here, that’s where I plan to be.”

McGrath’s environmental activism began in response to the 1979 Three Mile Island nuclear meltdown, considered the worst U.S. power plant disaster. His commitment continued with publications and presentations about environmental issues, and locally his development of a website for the Friends of Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, for which he was recognized with the Pride of Prairie Service Award.

Throughout, McGrath credits his department colleagues with making it possible to navigate the many changes and remain true to his passions and commitments.

“I was fortunate to have landed at Central College 22 years ago and am grateful for the privilege to have worked with my communication studies colleagues Dennis Doyle, Linda Laine and Shelley Bradfield. Our time together has exemplified the ideal of collaborative group synergy. It’s an organic thing. Our strengths complement each other,” McGrath says.

“Daily teaching duties would not have been possible without the expertise and responsiveness of the Information Technology Services staff, most notably Deb Bruxvoort and Deb Rooda. They helped me avert pedagogical disaster on numerous occasions and I’m much appreciative for that.

“I would also like to acknowledge the institutional stewardship of Dean Strey and President Putnam. They are the most competent, collegial and forward-looking senior leadership duo Central has had in my time here. The college is in good hands.”
Presented *Considering Gender in Organizational Communication Courses* at annual conference of the Iowa Communication Association, Decorah.

Presented *Holistic Partnership and Reversal of Privilege: Refugees Set the Campus Agenda* at the Upper Midwest Civic Engagement Summit, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn. (Doane, C., Laine, L., Yanner, K., 2015, June).

### Tom Linton
**Associate Professor of Mathematics**


### Mitchell Lutch
**Associate Professor of Music**

Produced and coordinated a rehearsal clinic for band director at Hoover High School in Des Moines, November 6-7, 2015.

Attended Iowa All-State Conference in Ames, November 19, 2015.

Attended (with three Central students playing in ensemble) Iowa Collegiate Honor Band Festival in Nevada, Iowa, November 20-21, 2015.

Attended Mid-West Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, December 17-19, 2015.

Clinician with the Grinnell High School Band, March 3, 2016.

### Cynthia Mahmood
**Frank Moore Chair of Anthropology and Professor of Anthropology**

Installed as Frank Moore Chair in Anthropology, March 10, 2015.

### Samuel Mate-Kodjo
**Associate Professor of Spanish**


### Melissa McAninch
**Assistant Professor of Education**

Presented *Assessment to Inform Instruction* at the Iowa Council of Teachers of Mathematics in West Des Moines, September 21, 2015.

Presented *Questioning Strategies for STEM Classrooms* at the Iowa STEM Pre-Service Teacher Conference, November 7, 2015.

### Beth McMahon
**Director of Geisler Library and Associate Professor of Library Science**

Presented, together with Susan Pagnac and Abhijit Rao (Iowa State University), (R)evolution through Collaborations: Interdisciplinary Connections of Writing Centers to Increase Student Engagement at the International Writing Centers Association annual conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 8-10, 2015.

Elected vice president/president-elect of the Iowa Association of College and Research Libraries (ILACR)

### Paulina Mena
**Associate Professor of Biology**

Attended and served as vice chair for the Organismal Biology section of the Iowa Academy of Science at University of Iowa, Iowa City, April 2015.

Attended the 12th Annual Teaching Professor Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, May 2015.

Attended the Annual Conference of the National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science in Buffalo, New York, September 2015.

Presented *Getting in Touch with the Pachamama: An Interdisciplinary course with emphasis on Global Sustainability and Study Abroad* by Paulina Mena and Oscar Reynaga at AASHE annual conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 2015.

### Taylor Newton
**Assistant Professor of Psychology**

Attended and presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association Convention, Toronto, August 2015. Presented Newton, T. (session organizer), *Parsing religion’s causality: Unique insights from novel methods* at the meeting’s symposium; presented
Chia Ning

Celebrating 25 years
Professor of History

Chia Ning’s early childhood experiences during China’s Cultural Revolution and her arrival in the U.S. with $50 and dream of a Ph.D. could not have foretold the history professor’s 25 years of dedicated service to Central students, Iowa’s cultural outreach, and global, liberal arts education.

As Chia Ning completed her first master’s degree at Illinois State University, she fell in love with the Midwest. So when she saw the open position at Central in East Asian history upon completion of her Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins in 1991, she knew she had to apply.

“Central was a different type of institution than what I had attended at major universities, so I wanted to experience the small liberal arts college.

“It was the first of many firsts for me. I was the first tenured faculty member from Asia who has been promoted to full professor. There had been no offering in Asian history previously, so I immediately felt responsible to make it strong, with high expectations for myself and others,” she recalls.

Beginning with her first semester on campus, Chia Ning has taught seven courses each year; courses in History of Modern China, History of Modern Japan, Early East Asian Civilization, Modern East Asian Civilization, East Asian Cultures, Chinese language on beginning and intermediate levels, and later Introduction to International Studies, seminars in Modern China and Japan in Comparison, Qing China and Tsarist Russia and an honor’s enrichment seminar, History and Identity: The Chinese and Japanese American Experience.

She is currently developing two courses focused on sustainability—Sustainability and International Studies and Sustainability in U.S.-China Relations—topics, she says, she’s deeply interested in.

“Ten years ago, I noticed sustainability rising in my field so I began to include a sustainability component in all of my courses. It’s very important with climate change. No single country can influence the changes. You have to be global. All students need this component,” she says.

Chia Ning also finds public service rewarding and views her volunteer experiences as another way to bring issues into the classroom.

“Larger society is very inviting to me. I wasn’t interested in involvement at first but gradually it helped me to feel less isolated and know more about general society. Communities are very enlightening,” she says.

And she has reciprocated by enlightening Iowans and others about East Asian immigration and cultural issues as a member of the Commission on the Status of Iowans of Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage, the State of Iowa Human Rights Board, The Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board and Commission on Continuing Legal Education. In 2008 her efforts were recognized by Gov. Chet Culver with the Governor’s Volunteer Award.

In service to her profession, Chia Ning is a frequent invited scholar, keynote speaker, and panelist, as well as a well-regarded scholar invited to review publications of others. Her own scholarship is frequently cited by others.

Service on campus committees has been another hallmark of her time at Central. “I was the first international faculty member to serve on the personnel committee for about a decade, some colleagues informed me,” she says. She has also served on committees in cultural affairs, study abroad, institutional review board and technology.

“I want to express my gratitude to the many good people who supported me during this quarter-century and believed in global education at Central. I couldn’t be happier, not just for me but for my Chinese heritage and for the hundreds of Central graduates who are making their way in the world.”
Newton, T. & McIntosh, D., *Contextually priming religion with websites*; and presented Newton, T. (session organizer), *Teach ’em what they don’t want to know* at the meeting’s symposium.

Chia Ning  
**Professor of History**

Through a national selection, Chia Ning was among 14 participants (12 faculty members and two Ph. D. students) of the 2015 NEH Summer Seminar *The United States and China* at Calvin College, July 12-31, 2015.

Attended the conference 1st International Conference of Asian History and Asian Studies, Athens Institute for Education and Research, June 29-July 2, 2015, and presented *The Qing Lifanyuan and the Solon People of the 17th-18th Centuries*. The paper was accepted for publication in Athens Journal of History, Athens Journal of History, vol. 1, issue 4, October 2015, pp. 253–266.


Served as the scholarship evaluator for a faculty member’s promotion from associate professor to full professor for the history department of Washington and Lee University.

Susan Pagnac  
**Director of Writing**

Presented *Creating our CREW: Collaborating with Librarians* at the Iowa Writing Center Conference at Iowa State University in Ames, March 27, 2015.

Presented *(R)evolution through Collaborations: Interdisciplinary Connections of Writing Centers to Increase Student Engagement* (co-presented with Elizabeth McMahon) at the International Writing Center Association Conference, October 10, 2015.

Nicole Palenske  
**Associate Professor of Biology**

Elected to serve as Chair of the Environmental Science and Health Section of the Iowa Academy of Science for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Selected to serve on the Committee on Committees and Elections for the Iowa Academy of Sciences from 2015-2018.

Brian Peterson  
**Professor of Economics**


Attended Institute on Sophomore Success, National Resource Center at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C., April 19-21, 2016.

Anne Petrie  
**Professor of Music**

Served as music director for *Fiddler on the Roof*, presented by Union Street Players, Pella’s community theatre organization, July 24-August 2, 2015.


Attended and served as an adjudicator at the National Association of Teachers of Singing Central Region conference and student auditions at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois, November 13-14, 2015. One of Anne’s students, senior Melissa Asklof, participated in the auditions.

Keith Ratzlaff  
**Professor of English**

Presented a poetry reading and directed a writing workshop at the Meacham Writers’ Conference at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, October 29-31, 2015.

Featured poet at the biennial Mennonite Arts Weekend in Cincinnati, February 5-6.

Randall Renstrom  
**Assistant Professor of Psychology**

Presented posters with Central students at the Midwestern Psychological Association conference, April 30, 2015. Posters included *Caused-related marketing and personal motivation: Implications for consumer perceptions* with co-author Gina LeGrotte-McCoy; *A couple’s world? The effect of social pressure on fear of being single* with co-author Bridget Miller; *The effects of proctor gender on physical endurance in men* with co-authors Mitchell Stearns and Makenzie Vander Molen; and *Relationship between voting location and political perceptions* with co-author Dillon Thornbury.
David Purnell  
Retired in 2015  
Associate Professor of English

Internationalism has been at the heart and soul of David Purnell’s entire teaching and learning career—from his undergraduate days as a Mandarin Chinese language major to his post-retirement role. Even as Purnell officially retires from Central, he will return to China, a country he holds dear, in his new role as Kean University’s associate dean of humanities and social sciences, with responsibility for its program in Wenzhou, China.

Purnell’s early career involved teaching at the Beijing Second Foreign Language Institute and at Muskingum College in Ohio, where he established the English Transitions Program for international students. This role prepared him for his hiring at Central in 2002, as director of international student services, with the charge to “reinvigorate international student recruitment and rebuild the international student population,” duties now handled by the Office of Admission. He recruited students in China, Japan and Hong Kong during breaks and summers and co-founded the International Student Organizations.

As Central’s international student population changed over time, Purnell identified the need for the English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) program to instead serve more domestic students in a variety of majors but primarily those seeking certification as K-12 education majors.

He helped to rebuild and rewrite the ESL curriculum for the education department’s reaccreditation, specifically to train education majors to effectively teach English to refugees in public schools, an increasingly necessary skill for educators.

“I’m proud of having strengthened ESL certification and having made contributions to Chinese students and to the China program at that time,” Purnell says.

In 2007, when Central’s program in Hangzhou, China, needed an interim director, Purnell answered the two-year call, applying his previous experience as faculty liaison to the summer ESL internship program at Zhejiang University. His on-site responsibilities in Hangzhou included day-to-day operations, student orientation and counseling, hiring English instructors, coordinating student outings, and coordinating program development and recruitment with staff from the study abroad office at Central.

For these varied and timely contributions, Purnell was awarded the Huffman Award for Outstanding Support of International Education and later, he was the recipient of a Moore Foundation faculty development grant for intensive Chinese language training at the Chinese Language Institute in Guilin, China.

He also taught beginning and intermediate Chinese on- and off-campus throughout his time at Central, in addition to his tenure-track position in English and linguistics, in which he advised ESL internships, observed student teachers, and taught such courses as The Immigrant Experience, Sociolinguistics, History of the English Language, American Language and Civilizations. His language expertise was often sought for Iowa businesses needing translators for international visitors.

“I am perhaps most proud of having enriched the majors in which I taught, to broaden the interdisciplinarity of those majors. I also helped to reshape the linguistics major to include more anthropology and psychology courses and to eventually enter the relatively new field of neurolinguistics,” Purnell says. “Our graduates have been successful in graduate programs in each of these disciplines and in teaching ESL.”

**Óscar Reynaga**
**Lecturer of Spanish**

Reviewed scholarship applications during summer 2015 for Latinos Unidos of Iowa, a nonprofit organization serving Hispanic and Latino communities in central Iowa.

Attended the Tenth Annual Governor’s Conference on LGBTQ Youth in Des Moines, April 3, 2015.

Attended, with Central students, the Chicago Latino Film Festival in Chicago, April 17-19, 2016.


Received Moore Family Foundation Faculty Research and Development Grant to attend a Spanish teaching workshop in Granada, Spain, July 2015.

Presented a poster session *Spanish Language and Culture: Teaching Methods and the Art of Teaching* at the Fourth Annual Chairs’ Conference at Central College, September 11, 2015.

Presented a poster with Paulina Mena, associate professor of biology, *Getting in Touch with the Pachamama: An Interdisciplinary course with emphasis on Global Sustainability and Study Abroad* at the 2015 AASHE Annual Conference, Transforming Sustainability Education in Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 25-28, 2015.

**Brian Roberts**
**Associate Professor of Art**

Steel sculpture, mask, selected to the regionally juried 2015 Biennial Juried Exhibition at the Dubuque Museum of Art in Dubuque, Iowa. Exhibition dates were March through June.

Steel sculptures, origin and granary, selected to the nationally juried Galex 49 at the Galesburg Civic Art Center in Galesburg, Illinois. Exhibition dates were March to April.

Steel sculpture, distributor, selected to the juried Biennial Quad-State Exhibit at the Quincy Art Center in Quincy, Illinois. Exhibition dates were July through September.

One of forty new Iowa Artists added to the permanent collection of the Brunnier Art Museum at Iowa State University on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the University Museums. Ceramic sculpture, safeguard, exhibited in 40/40 at the Brunnier Art Museum during the fall 2015 semester.

**John Roslien**
**Associate Professor of Exercise Science**

Served as Event Coordinator for Luther College Global Football tour to Norway. Group included 50 players, 10 staff and 20 family members, June 2015.

Attended the Annual National Athletic Trainer’s Association Annual Meeting & Symposium in St. Louis. Served as a moderator for a session on advanced techniques in joint mobilization, June 2015.

Participated in meetings as a member of the NATA International Committee. Served as a member of the Awards sub-committee, June 2015/January 2016.

Facilitated a program on Central’s campus for local providers of high school football medical coverage related to emergency procedures, August 2015.

Served as event coordinator, director of player personnel and daily operations for the 18th annual Tazon de Estrellas in Tijuana, Mexico. Group included 40 players and 20 staff. Four players, four athletic training students and two other staff from Central were part of the travel party. Also Visited Monterrey Technical University - Tijuana and Mexicali campuses as pre-event coordinator. Met with a variety of community leaders, administrative staff and athletic department members, December 2015.

Attended the NCAA American Football Coaches Association annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Participated in the NCAA Division III coaches meeting, participated in the NCAA Division III meetings and attended sessions, and represented Global Football in the exhibit hall, January 2016.

Selected to serve in a new CEUE-Portfolio initiative through the National Athletic Training Association.

**Maggie Schlerman**
**Assistant Professor of Accounting**

Attended Equipping Strategic Professors: Introduction to Futures and Derivatives in Chicago, June 8-10, 2015.


Jessica Schuring  
**Assistant Professor of Economics**

Applied for and accepted to the very competitive CeMENT Mentoring Workshop for Faculty in Non-Doctoral Programs in New Orleans, November 19-20, 2015.


Mark Simmons  
**Resident Director, London**

Attended the Forum on Study Abroad in New Orleans and presented *Evaluating Digital Narratives*, April 1, 2015.

Ashley Scolaro  
**Assistant Professor of Psychology**


Kristin Siewert  
**Lecturer of Biology**

Involved in a collaborative research project with Iowa State University and the Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium in an effort to reverse the decline of the monarch butterfly (Danaus plexippus) population.

Presented the poster, *Comparison of Monarch Larvae (Danaus plexippus) Feeding and Growth Rates on Two Species of Milkweed (Asclepias incarnata, Asclepias syriaca).*

Jay Wackerly  
**Assistant Professor of Chemistry**

Presented *Synthesis and Applications of Oxaquinonacyclophane Macrocycles* at the Joint 41st Great Lakes and 46th Central Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 28, 2015.

Organized a full day (17 speakers) symposium titled *Organic Chemistry Research at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions* at the Joint 41st Great Lakes and 46th Central Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society.
Organized a panel discussion (five panelists) titled *Graduate Student Reality Check* at the Joint 41st Great Lakes and 46th Central Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society.

Received the Division of Chemical Education Travel Award to attend the 2016 Biennial Conference on Chemical Education to be held at the University of Northern Colorado, July 31 – August 4, 2016.

**Wendy Weber**
**Professor of Mathematics**


Attended and presented, with Maryann Huey (Drake University) and Janet Hansen (Mason City High School), *Making Sense of Probability Rules* at the Iowa Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Conference in West Des Moines, September 21.

Published *Odd or Even? The Addition and Complement Principles of Probability* (with Carrie Even and Susannah Weaver [undergraduate]). Statistics Education Web (STEW), November 2015.

**Jon Witt**
**Professor of Sociology**

Published SOC 2016 (McGraw-Hill), the seventh edition of an introduction to a sociology textbook.

Published *Sociologia* (McGraw-Hill & Penso), an Italian edition of an introduction to a sociology textbook.

Published *包罗万象的社会学* (McGraw-Hill/Posts & Telecom Press), a Chinese edition of an introduction to a sociology textbook.

**Paul Weihe**
**Associate Professor of Biology**

Published *Tables: Data for Tree Community Comparison Using Sample Plots*, a peer-reviewed article in the Ecological Society of America's EcoEdDL journal.

Sabbatical 2015-2016

Gabriel Espinosa

Gabriel spent time composing, arranging and fundraising for new material for his next production to be recorded in New York City in 2016. Additionally he participated in concerts both domestically and abroad, including the 2015 Riviera Maya Jazz Festival in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, and three shows in New York City.

Cathy Haustein

Cathy focused on development of a new, sustainable laboratory manual for the Analytical Chemistry course with the intent to publish the lab manual and to turn the data collected during testing of some experiments into a research paper.

Mathew Kelly

Mat pursued the development of a cohesive body of work titled The Anatomy of Potential for exhibition as early as spring 2016. Mat wants to use the non-representational imagery found in his drawings to experiment with narrative and non-narrative structures in video format to assist those students who wish to include video projections with their senior thesis exhibits.

Alexey Pronin

Alexey worked on adapting the General Physics lab manual to better accommodate the mathematics and notation used in the Introductory Physics courses.

A secondary goal, time permitting, is to begin work on a manuscript for the Introductory Physics course that would be more tailored to the course and the students than other textbooks.

Dawn Reece

Dawn spent time testing a theory of stress and coping in a population of new mothers following the traumatic birth/critical illness of a newborn. By testing this theory in an unusual population with an underutilized method (qualitative analysis), Dawn hopes to advance the field of family stress theory by contributing her insights to the broader academic community through a series of conference papers, including a reflective essay about her own experiences.

Wendy Weber

Wendy continued her work Enhancing the Teaching and Learning of Statistics and Probability with colleague Dr. Maryann Huey (Drake University), funded by a Mathematics and Science Partnership grant. Their project provides professional development opportunities in statistics and probability to secondary teachers in the Great Prairie AEA. Wendy developed statistics and probability lesson plans for use in the secondary math curriculum. These lesson plans will be submitted for publication in the American Statistical Association’s Statistics Education Web peer-reviewed, online journal.
Central College Endowed Chairs’ Conference 2015

Keynote: Walter Cannon
Boats Against the Current: Humanist Activity for an Anti-Humanist Age, or What’s a Hammock For?

Faculty Panel: Nicole Kaplan, Kathy Korcheck, Maria Snyder
Using Popular Culture to Teach Visual Literacy

Presenters:

Shelley Bradfield
Producing and Contesting “Coloured” TV in Postapartheid South Africa

Anya Butt
GIS across the Curriculum: Lessons from ESRI’s Teachers Teaching Teachers Workshop

Brian Campbell, Josh Doležal, Mary Stark, Paul Weihe, Jim Zaffiro
Strategies for Faculty to Use the College Organic Garden in Teaching and Research

Leslie Duinink, Russ Goodman, Paulina Mena
Research-Supported Pedagogical Strategies to Improve Student Learning: What We Learned at The Teaching Professor Conference

Katelin Gannon
The Reciprocal Benefits of Service-Learning: An Educational Model in Exercise Science that Provides Effective Community Engagement

Russ Goodman
Experiences Teaching an Honors Seminar in Sports Analytics

Val Grimsley, Randy Renstrom and Shawn Wick
Reflections on a New Short-term Study Abroad Model
Central College Endowed Chairs’ Conference 2015

**Linda Laine and Shelley Bradfield**
Facilitating Student Research in Content-Driven Courses

**Cynthia Mahmood**
Anthropology and Political Asylum

**Melissa McAninch**
Questions to Ask that Promote Enriched Classroom Discussion

**Taylor Newton and Ashley Scolaro**
Online Undergraduate Research with Qualtrics and MTurk

**Chia Ning**
The Qing Lifanyuan and the Solon People of the 17th-18th Centuries

**Brian Peterson**
Sequencing the Economics Principles Courses

**Diane Phoenix-Neal and Cynthia Krenzel**
Blues, by John Rutter, from Three American Miniatures Jeu (Game), by Darius Milhaud

**Chad Ray**
A Chastened Platonist

**Dawn Reece**
Utilizing Kuhlthau’s Information Search Process Model to Inform Student Projects

**Óscar Reynaga**
Spanish Language and Culture: Teaching Methods and the Art of Teaching

**Susan Swanson**
Reacting to the Past: Using Role-Playing Scenarios in the Classroom
Russell Benedict was awarded funding to publish his paper in the Journal of Mammalogy.

Sarah Bergman was awarded funding to attend the AIS Education Association conference to develop and improve curricular outcomes for the Accounting Information Systems course.

Gabriel Espinosa was awarded funding to support production costs for his fourth solo CD.

Russ Goodman was awarded funding to attend and present at MATHFEST, a conference put on by the Mathematical Association of America.

Allen Hibbard was awarded funding to support participation in the final meeting of his term as a member of the Board of Governors for The Mathematical Association of American in Seattle, Washington.

Terry Kleven was awarded funding to attend the Upper Midwest American Academy of Religion Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota and the 22nd Annual Conference of the Association of Core Texts and Courses in Atlanta, Georgia.

Terry Kleven was awarded funding to attend a workshop in Córdoba, Spain for the “Aquinas and the Arabs” International Working Group during the summer.

Kathy Korcheck was awarded funding to attend the XVII International Conference on Hispanic Literature in Merida, Mexico.

Mitchell Lutch was awarded funding to support hosting a continuing education workshop for instrumental music teachers and education majors.

Paulina Mena was awarded funding to attend The Bee Course: A Workshop for Conservation Biologists, Pollination Ecologists and Other Biologists in Portal, Arizona.

Paulina Mena & Oscar Reynaga were awarded funding to attend and present work at the annual Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education conference in Minneapolis.

Mark Thomas was awarded funding to support research in Freiburg Germany at the University of Freiburg on F.W.J. Schelling.

Amy Young was awarded funding to travel to Vienna for her sabbatical project: the creation of an open-access and inclusive set of teaching materials for use in teaching Beginning German.
Moore Family Foundation Faculty Development Program for Teaching Grant Awards 2016

Russ Benedict – Prairies For Agriculture Project, Year Five: The Values of Prairie–Pollinator Abundance and Carbon Sequestration

Anya Butt and Ellie Du Pré – Incorporating Innovative Applications of Spatial Thinking Across the Curriculum

Ellie Du Pré and Nicole Palenske – Case Studies Conference: Integration into the Classroom

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

Cathy Haustein – Participation in the Iowa Summer Writing Festival

Terry Kleven – Core Texts in Political Philosophy for the Classroom-Year II

Kathy Korcheck and Maria Snyder – Midwest Undergraduate Conference in Humanities (MUCH)

Linda Laine and Shawn Wick – Enhancing Teaching Effectiveness at Central College

Cynthia Mahmood – Collaborative Ethnographic Field Research in Scotland

Paulina Mena – Sabbatical Leave Collaborations that will Enhance Teaching and Learning in Biology

Chia Ning – The Alive Teaching Resource of the U.S.-China Collaboration in Global Sustainability

Oscar Reynaga – The Way of St. James: The Pilgrimage of Santiago de Compostela as a Teaching Guide for the Spanish Language Classroom

Shawn Wick – Examining the Social Determinants of Maternal Mortality: A Cross-National Study

Amy Young – Grenzenlos: Online, Open Access German Text