

IOWA WESTERN

A Magazine for Alumni & Friends

OUTSTANDING ALUM

Rhea Eitmann, '00



in this issue

Summer 2017

2017 Outstanding Alum : Surgical Technician Program

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Fred Lisle
District I
- Larry Winum
District II
- Doug Goodman
*President
District III*
- Scott Robinson
District IV
- Brent Siegrist
District V
- Kathy Rieger
District VI
- Kirk Madsen
District VII
- Connie Hornbeck
*Vice President
IACCT Representative
ACCT Board Vice Chair
District VIII*
- Randy Pash
District IX

FOUNDATION BOARD

- Tom Whitson
President
- Randy Pash
Vice President
- Eddie Holtz
Treasurer
- Tina Mackland
Secretary
- Dr. Dan Kinney
Iowa Western President
- Molly Noon
*Vice President of
Institutional Advancement*
- AT-LARGE MEMBERS**
- John Allen
- Donna Barry
- Dr. Ward Chambers
- John Cool
- Dr. Don Fenster
- Kurt Henstorf
- Bob Laubenthal
- Ron Mahoney
- John Nelson
- Evelyn Rank
- Larry Winum



Welcome fellow Iowa Western alumni. Each year the story starts anew for incoming and returning students, and this year is no exception. As we kick off a new academic year on our beautiful campus, I reflect on the first time that I stepped on campus. It was August 1986 at new student orientation in Looft Hall with a bunch of faces that I had never seen before. I remember walking around campus and then standing in line in Clark Hall to register for classes and meet with financial aid. Even to this

day, I remember how overwhelming and exciting it was. I'm sure each of you has a story about your first time on campus and the impact that Iowa Western had on your life, even if for a brief moment.

Past and present always play a part on any campus, and this past year was big as we celebrated Iowa Western's 50th with the burial of a time capsule. The year was also big for our exceptional sports programs. We witnessed our first national individual championships in wrestling and women's golf, a regional championship for the women's track team and the women's basketball making it to the national tournament.

We have no plans to slow down this year either. We will celebrate homecoming with a 5K color fun run, a parade on the 100Block and more. We will also honor one of our own alum for their contributions to both Iowa Western and the surrounding community. This year I congratulate Rhea Eitmann, Class of 2000 as our Outstanding Alum. Rhea has been a great friend to both Iowa Western and the Council Bluffs Community. I encourage you to read more about Rhea later in this issue.

I'd also like to extend an invitation to join myself and other alumni for the September 9th homecoming tailgate and football game at the Lewis Central football field. What better way to touch base with old friends, learn what is new at Iowa Western and maybe share a few stories.

Even though we have moved on, I never forget where I started. I take pride in giving back and am pleased to share some of the many opportunities for alumni to volunteer on campus:

- Visit a class or program to share about your job/industry.
- Participate in a panel group to discuss your job/industry.
- Invite students to visit your job/business to take in some real-world experiences.
- Conduct evening tours at the college for new night class students.

It makes me proud to see all the changes that Iowa Western has undergone since I left, and it gives me a sense of pride that I am an alum of this fine institution. If you would be interested in coming back to campus to volunteer, send us an email at alum@iwcc.edu, or call us at 712-325-3282.

Go Big Blue!

Pam Beall-Hill '88'
Alumni Board President



CONTENTS

- 2 Letter from Alumni Association President Pam Beall-Hill, '88
- 4 Student Spotlight; Mark Dunn, CIT
- 6 Robert M. "Doc" Ross Tribute
- 7 Alumni Spotlight, Mindy Thornton, '16
- 9 Surgical Technician Program
- 12 Iowa Western Outstanding Alum, Rhea Eitmann, '00
- 16 Clarinda Center of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing
- 19 Homecoming 2017
- 20 Reiver Athletic Update
- 22 Class Notes and Alumni Opportunities

Iowa Western Alumni Magazine

Editor
Sarah Saar

Contributors
Jeremy Capo, Don Kohler, Machaela Morrissey, Molly Noon, Kara Schweiss, Mike Watkins

Iowa Western Alumni Magazine is a publication of the Iowa Western Community College Alumni Association.

Summer 2017

Student Spotlight: Mark Dunn

What happens when you turn a factory worker loose in a classroom full of computers and technology students? Mark Dunn hopes the ending result is a rewarding career in the growing field of Computer Information Technology. Dunn, who spent the last two years retooling his skill set at Iowa Western, is on track to graduate in December 2017 with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Network and Systems Administration.

After an unanticipated factory closing, Dunn lost his job as a forklift operator and was faced with the daunting task of starting over. A visit to Iowa Western left him curious about a possible career in computer information technology. He was apprehensive about his limited IT experience because the majority of his work history was in what he referred to as “blue collar, shovel-in-hand” jobs. “I did not see myself as the proto-typical IT student,” he said.

Iowa Western Professor John Magill encouraged Dunn to set aside his concerns and give the computer information technology a try, so Dunn jumped headlong into his new career field and never looked back.

Dunn said his peers have been a major influence on his progress in the classroom. Although the early classes were challenging and highlighted his lack of IT experience, Dunn said other CIT students were always willing to help. Before long he had caught up and remained on course toward his degree.

Dunn also counts working with his peers during the Cyber Defense Competition as one of his program highlights to date. The competition puts teams of students against industry experts in a hands-on experience that, according to Mark, pushes students “to the brink of what we have learned and beyond.” While his team placed second last year, Dunn is anxiously awaiting his opportunity to be part of a championship team in 2017.

As Dunn continued to excel in the classroom, he also encountered a problem facing many students today: unexpected expenses. A commuter student who logged over a 100 miles roundtrip from Clarinda, Iowa to the main campus, Dunn had an automobile breakdown nearly derail his educational path.

A fellow student referred him to the Iowa Western Automotive Technology Program, where Instructor Andy



Dunn at work in the classroom with professor John Magill

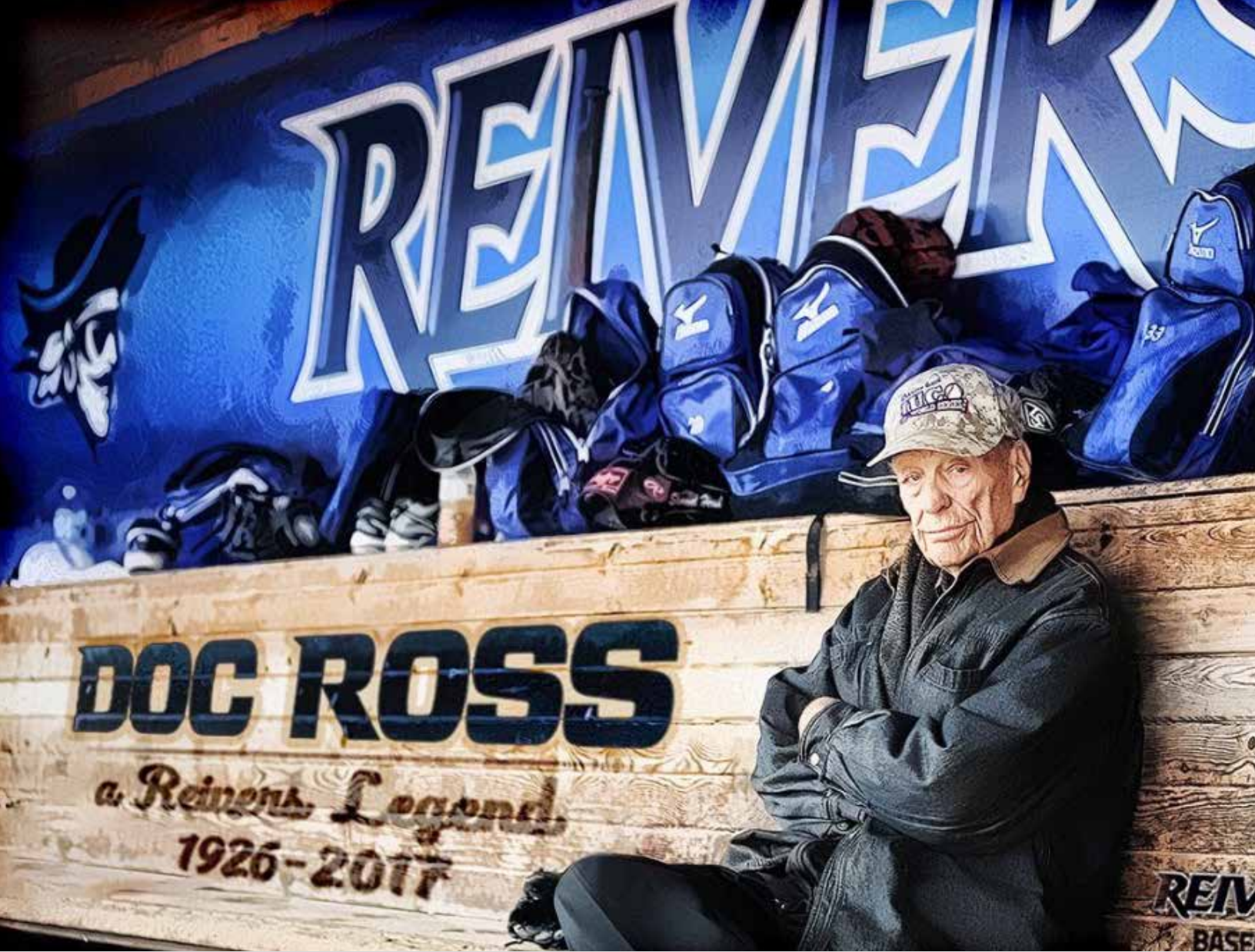
Estrada agreed to help with repairs at a significant discount. Even with the generosity of IWCC’s automotive staff, the expense was more than he could manage. An Iowa Western advisor suggested he seek information about the Emergency Assistance Fund. He was awarded the necessary funding to get him back on the road and into the classroom.

Dunn said he was grateful for the assistance. “It directly impacted my ability to attend class,” he said. “I had a whole network of people helping me get back to class.”

As Dunn nears graduation, he hopes his current internship leads to full-time work in a position that utilizes his education. He has enjoyed his time at Iowa Western, but looks forward to his future; a future without the stress of classes and coursework and that allows him to again focus full-time on being a father and husband, and providing for his family. [u](#)



“I had a whole network of people helping me get back to class.”
- Mark Dunn



Reiver Legend: Robert M. "Doc" Ross

Reiver nation lost one of its most beloved members on March 12, 2017 with the passing of Robert M. "Doc" Ross. Born in 1926, Doc served his country during the Korean conflict before coming to Iowa Western, where he was an instructor for 21 years, an avid supporter of the Reiver baseball team for 44 years and a member of the Board of Trustees for three years.

Robert "Doc" Ross began his lengthy and storied relationship with Iowa Western in 1967, serving in the classroom as a history instructor and touching the lives of countless young people. Bob became involved with the newly formed Iowa Western baseball program in 1973, beginning a decades-long dedication to the college and its student athletes on the baseball field.

"Doc" Ross Field was Bob's home away from home. The field of dreams for so many young athletes also was Bob's sanctuary during chilly Midwestern spring baseball games and hot summer afternoons. Bob sat in the dugout for every home game, offering encouragement and support to his second family; his Reivers.

Bob also witnessed three NJCAA national championships in Grand Junction, Colorado, riding the team bus and sharing in the tears of joy with coaches, parents and players.

Bob's support of his Reiver family went beyond the ball diamond. Players young and old can attest to the heartfelt conversations over breakfast, lunch and dinners with Robert "Doc" Ross. The stoic figure in the Reiver dugout will be greatly missed by the Reiver family. *uw*

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Mindy Thornton

By Kara Schweiss



When Mindy Thornton started classes at IWCC in 2014, 15 years had passed since she had last taken a college class. As a woman, she was definitely in the minority among her Computer Information Technology (CIT) classmates.

"As a nontraditional student, I was nervous about returning to school," she said. "But IWCC made it easy to pick up where I left off."

Thornton graduated in 2016 with a GPA close to 4.0 and concentrations in programming, networking, application and web development in her program, along with Spanish. Her outstanding performance as an intern led to an immediate full-time offer as a software developer for Proxibid, an Omaha company that provides internet bidding solutions for the auction industry.

"It is an opportunity that allows me to gain real-world experience while I develop my technical skills," she said. "Since September of 2016, I have been the team lead of our legacy system and have worked on several projects including developing new pages for our mobile website...I troubleshoot and develop solutions for our existing applications, while also working to code any new features the company is implementing."

work in the IT industry. Additionally, if it wasn't for the computer science staff's dedication to their students, I would not have had the opportunity to meet with members of the Proxibid software development team. Proxibid visited one of my computer science classes and answered questions we had about the industry," she said. "Mr. (Bill) Barrett encouraged me to look into an internship with them, and look at where that has led me!"

Thornton said she chose IWCC for several reasons, including cost. "With two children, one of which will be attending college next year, I needed to make sure I was able to manage the costs of my education and not take on mountains of debt," she explained.

Location was another important factor; Thornton lives in Avoca and was teaching martial arts in Council Bluffs while attending classes. Martial arts turned out to be good preparation for her nontraditional college experience, she noted, with its emphasis on perseverance, respect for people of all ages learning together, and installation of a thirst for knowledge.

"I needed a college that would be close to where I worked so as not to impact my work hours and not be too far away from where I lived," she said.

But most important was the practical curriculum that IWCC offered in the program Thornton wanted to pursue.

"IWCC offered programs related to the computer science industry and had connections to the Omaha/Council Bluffs area, which would help me earn an IT position in a good

"IWCC helped me develop the software development skills I needed to begin work in the IT industry."

- Mindy Thornton "

Her career has already proven to be rewarding, Thornton said.

"I am mentally challenged each day. For one, I love to solve and create solutions to puzzles. Each day I come to work, I am presented with a new puzzle to solve," she explained. "Secondly, I love to learn. I don't go a day—sometimes not even an hour—without learning something new, and it isn't because I have only been doing this for a year. The senior engineers here are constantly delving into 'new territory,' so I know I can look forward to always having the thrill of new puzzles to solve and new things to learn."

Thornton said she credits IWCC with providing the elemental training she needed to launch her already successful career, and that she also appreciates the guidance she received from her department instructors.

"IWCC helped me develop the software development skills I needed to begin

company after graduation,” she explained.

“Mindy was an excellent student at IWCC,” CIT Professor Bill Barrett said. “She met the challenges of raising a family as a dedicated mother and spouse while excelling in her coursework. Her compassion for others was also instrumental in providing leadership to those struggling with education and life issues. Mindy is a great student of the technology profession.”

Thornton said that, in addition to her positive experiences as a CIT student and the extracurricular activities she took part in, she also enjoyed participating in IWCC’s chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for community colleges.

“I was the southwest Iowa region vice president and the president of the IWCC local chapter. During my time in Phi Theta Kappa, I was able to travel to New Mexico, Washington, D.C., and Missouri. I met thousands of fellow community college students, which resulted in many friendships,” she said. “I was a member of the Iowa All-Academic Team, a Coca-Cola scholarship recipient, and I was awarded the opportunity to meet President Barack Obama when he visited Des Moines.”

A little over a year after graduation, Thornton said she wouldn’t change a thing about her IWCC experience.

“I wanted to thank the S.T.A.R.S. scholarship program and the IWCC Foundation for their financial support. Additionally, I would like to thank the following individuals for mentoring me during my time at IWCC: Brenda Moran, program director for S.T.A.R.S; my computer science instructors Connie Jones, William Barrett and John Magill; Jeanette

Milius, instructor and faculty advisor for Phi Theta Kappa; Elizabeth Duncan, instructor and faculty advisor for IWCC Craft Club; and Stacy Shockey, IWCC scholarship and alumni coordinator.”

As she settles into her career, Thornton and her husband Brian are raising two sons: Blake, an incoming high school senior, and Jade, who is entering his freshman year of high school.

“I am very active with my sons’ school activities, especially baseball during the summer,” she said. On the academic side of things, Thornton will have her own recent college experience to draw from when guiding her sons through their own higher education. Eventually, she expects to return to school, herself.

“I have currently placed my pursuit of my bachelor’s degree on hold in order to focus on my career at Proxibid and getting ready for my oldest son to graduate high school and pursue his own college career,” she said.

Thornton said she’d offer the following advice to any college student: “First, get involved. Find something—anything, even just one thing outside of the classroom—to take part in. It is great to meet people outside of your normal social/classroom circle, and you never know where it might lead you. Who knows? You might be the next student to meet the President of the United States of America,” she said. “Second, listen to and speak with your instructors. You will be amazed at all of the hard work, effort and investment they put into you. They want you to succeed both in and out of school, as well as before and after graduation. Listen to what they have to say and take an active role in the conversation.”

Thornton’s husband, Brian with their sons, Blake and Jade.



(top) Thornton with her sons, Blake and Jade at graduation.
(bottom) Thornton with former President Barack Obama



Surgical Technology

By Mike Watkins

When Toni Steward teaches a student about the importance of choosing the right surgical instrument in a frantic emergency or operating room situation, she does it with first-hand experience.

As an Associate Professor with Iowa Western’s surgical technology program for more than a decade and a practicing tech since 1989, Steward takes great pride in making sure her students graduate the program with hours and hours of real-world experience and know what to do no matter the situation.

“Nothing can substitute for real-life learning and application,” Steward said. “That’s our goal in surgical tech as well as all of our health programs. That real-world learning is invaluable.”

Students get many hours of that not only on-the-job during clinical practice near the completion of their degrees, but also through classes in IWCC’s real-life simulation laboratory.

Completed in 2011, the site of the former campus cafeteria now houses working operating rooms, an ambulance bay (with the backend of a real ambulance) and machines that teach students the proper way to sterilize instruments – one of the many responsibilities of a surgical tech in a medical setting.

“The simulation lab is arranged and designed like a hospital with interview/intake rooms, a nursing station, operating rooms and a simulated apartment – all intended to give students a ‘real’ feeling for what goes on in a hospital,” said Steward, who joined the IWCC team in 2005.

A growing program in the Health and Sports Sciences division at Iowa Western, the surgical technology curriculum relies heavily on instruction in the simulation lab.

A Growing Need

The program is designed to prepare students to become skilled operating room technicians. Surgical technologists perform a variety of tasks in operating rooms before, during, and after an operation to assist the surgeon and other medical staff with surgery.

In this program, they practice under the supervision of a physician or surgical technologist, functioning as a member of the surgical team. Students learn sterile techniques, operative procedures, human anatomy and physiology and microbiology as applied to surgery.



Continued Page 10



“ Most programs *talk* about sterilization during classes, but at IWCC, we *practice* it.

-Toni Steward

”

Upon graduation, they are prepared to accept employment as a surgical technologist and eligible to take the national certification exam.

The program – which averages \$19 per hour for experienced and \$13.50 for entry-level practitioners after completion – is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

While graduates in Iowa and Nebraska don't need to be certified to practice, job opportunities will be best for those who are, as employment opportunities for surgical technologists have continued to increase exponentially and are expected to continue to grow indefinitely. IWCC boasts a 93 percent job placement rate among its graduates.

Because the students take classes almost exclusively with one another, they have ample time and opportunity to bond with one another – something very important in the surgical tech and medical fields.

“Building trust is very important in this field, and the close-knit classes create a close cohort group,” Steward said. “When it comes to being able to work together on simulated emergency situations, knowing they can depend upon their classmates is important to their learning success.”

One area where this close trust is vital is when the students role play different scenarios – physically moving one another as unconscious patients and practicing different techniques on one another, among others.

Halfway through the third semester – after having taken the usual general education classes mixed with more health and program-specific classes like human anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, interpersonal communication and psychology, among others – students start the clinical and laboratory phase of their training. Clinical is usually two days a week for the remainder of their program.

“That clinical work may be in a hospital setting or orthopedic clinic or even an outpatient clinic; the opportunities have really expanded,” said Health and Sports Sciences Dean Dr. Gina Schochenmaier.

Keeping it Real

Originally, the program began as a three-semester diploma but has expanded to a five-semester program with an associate of applied science (AAS) degree. One of the first classes students take – sterile processing instrumentation – qualifies them to handle the sterilization of the more than 300 different instruments required during surgery.

As part of the simulation lab, students learn to do this using the huge steam sterilizer and washer decontaminator machines onsite – the only ones in the state in a learning environment – where they clean and package the various instruments for surgical use.

“Very few programs have the mechanical options that we do – giving our students an advantage when they start their clinicals because they already know how to use the machines,” Steward said. “Most programs talk about sterilization during classes, but at IWCC, we practice it.”

In addition to the instrument sterilization room, the IWCC simulation lab also houses four fully functional, full-size operating



Steward in the Surgical Tech. Lab at Iowa Western.

rooms complete with all the equipment found in a true commercial operating room.

Life-like, fully functional and humanly responsive mechanical patients provide opportunities for students to learn surgical procedures without the stress of using human subjects. One even simulates a C-section birth delivery.

“These functioning rooms allow students to come in and make mistakes here, ask questions, etc., so when they get to the real thing, they are more than prepared,” Dr. Schochenmaier said. “It's made a huge difference in the student experience.”

Planning Ahead

Field trips to hospitals revealed the need to provide more than just classroom learning and real-world opportunities to practice that learning.

In a forward-thinking move, once IWCC leadership decided to build the new student center on campus, they agreed to convert the existing cafeteria and student space into a working lab. They asked for input and guidance from advisory boards and local hospital administrators throughout the process to get an accurate flow and function.

The final product is the finest learning lab in the region that serves 24 students in two classes per program.

“We are teaching the number of students that the job market can currently hold, but if the need increases, we have the capacity to teach more students in the simulation lab,” Steward said. “Because of the specialization of medicine and increase in outpatient clinics, the need has grown and continues to grow.”

Steward added that part of the surgical tech's job is to anticipate the needs of the surgeon – thinking one or two steps ahead. And the more practical ex-

perience they can get at IWCC and in clinical experience makes students that much stronger and more marketable.

“Surgical techs need to be self-motivated, organized, have good manual dexterity and a strong work ethic; those are things we can't necessarily teach our students, but we can motivate them through practice and teaching,” she said.

“Operating rooms can be pretty intense, so they also need to be able to handle pressure in high-stress situations, act and think quickly and be ready for just about anything. That's where we come in. We make sure they're as ready as they can be no matter the circumstances.”

While the practical side of the surgical tech field is of the utmost importance, the softer, emotional side of being part of life and death procedures is also addressed at IWCC.

Continuing Evolution

Classes spend between 2 and 3 weeks discussing death and dying and the psychological and social connections about how they will feel when they lose their first patient.

“We don't want their first experience with death to be three years after graduation,” Steward said. “We address the subject in class, talk about it and use community resources to best prepare students for the inevitable. It's a much deeper level of learning.”

And what does the future hold for surgical technology? Just as most healthcare professions are expecting, an increase in technology in operating rooms will make their jobs more complex.

Dr. Schochenmaier said Iowa Western is always prepping for what's to come.

“Just as we've done through classes and the simulation lab setting, we take into account varying learning styles and we always will as technology continues to evolve,” she said. “Technology is already making procedures less invasive and recovery times quicker, so surgical techs, like everyone in medicine, need to be up on the latest innovations.”

Steward agrees and knows there will continue to be a need for surgical technologists in healthcare.

“We expect more robotics in operating rooms, and despite that, surgical techs will always have a role in setting up and closing up during surgeries,” she said. “Somebody's still got to put it all together.”



OUTSTANDING ALUM

Rhea Eitmann: A Hop'n Reiver

2017

By Mike Watkins



Rhea Eitmann has beer on the brain. Not literally, of course. A mother of two and an upstanding, active member of the Treynor community – her hometown – Eitmann’s relationship to the hoppy beverage is mostly work-related, although she does have a deep affinity for it. “It’s a hazard – or perk – of the job, however you want to look at it,” said Eitmann, whose maiden name is Wiig.

She just happens to be the Marketing Manager for Council Bluffs’ Doll Distributing. During her 18 years (the last 11 in her current role), she’s been involved with promoting Anheuser Busch products as well as Corona and smaller craft beers distributed by Doll to licensed retailers – including running the company’s social media and consumer social responsibility program.

In her role, she’s responsible for buying billboards, creating and administering promotions with partner organizations and businesses, buying radio ads, overseeing sponsorships, etc.

She’s also a 2000 graduate of Iowa Western Community College’s electronic publishing and printing program – and this year’s Outstanding Alum.

Her opportunities with Doll began as an intern while she was an IWCC student – and she never left.

All these years later, she can’t imagine being anywhere else.

“I love that my work allows me to be creative but also work with charitable organizations and sponsor different events,” said Eitmann, who added her bachelor’s degree in marketing from Bellevue University’s accelerated program in 2006. “We work with Jennie Edmundson Hospital, the Celebrate Council Bluffs Clean Sweep and several other events. One of my favorites is Blooms and Brews, where we combine flower arranging through Bloom Works with beer tasting.

“We also sponsor Family Talk and provide materials where parents can start conversations with their kids about drinking. I love that we can make a positive difference in people’s lives in many ways.”

A Treynor High School graduate, Eitmann said she knew she wasn’t ready for or interested in a large four-year college or university as an 18-year-old.

With the support of her family, she looked into Iowa Western and quickly discovered it was a good fit because she could try it out without making a big commitment.

Having had an interest in graphic design but unsure what she wanted to major in or pursue for a career, she took a few classes in electronic publishing and knew quickly that she had made the right decision.

“I was able to live at home and drive to and from school, and the transition to a smaller college that wasn’t much bigger in class size to what I had in high school was relatively easy and comfortable,” she said. “I took general classes – English, math, etc. – but most of my classes were in electronic publishing and printing, so we had our own little family. It was a great setup for me.”

Because of the inclusive nature of her classes and program, Eitmann said she felt engaged and the school had a true campus feel despite her not living in the dorms or apartments (the suites weren’t built yet) or being involved with many clubs or activities.

“I always took classes with the same people, so I very rarely walked into a new classroom where I didn’t know someone, and that was

Continued Page 14



reassuring for me at the time,” she said. “I loved my years at Iowa Western. I felt truly prepared for my internship and everything that came after that.”

Now approaching 20 years since her first day at Doll, Eitmann said she goes to work each day among family. When she had her children – Lila, 9, and Kale, 7 – she was welcomed back from maternity leave by everyone with open arms and warm wishes.

Through the years, Eitmann said she also has enjoyed observing (and impacting through promotion and public education) the evolution of different beer brands that start off targeted for one group but eventually find a different audience.

For instance, Michelob Ultra was originally marketed with an older audience in mind, but because it’s low-carbs and low-calories, it ultimately found a younger, more active demographic.

“I love talking about beer with people,” she said. “One of the favorite parts of my job is going out to do samplings so people can taste different beers and come out of their comfort zones. We all have favorites, but samplings are a great way to try new tastes and flavors.”

“Without fail, I always run into hopheads who are into craft beers, and that turns into a good conversation that I absolutely love.”

In addition to work and her kids’ many activities, Eitmann, who actually lives between Council Bluffs and Treynor, is involved with multiple community organizations.

She carves time out of her busy schedule to serve on the Junior Treynor Women’s organization, where she was honored with the Outstanding Member Award this past May. She is a past president of the organization – which is active in the Treynor School District, where her children attend – and served as treasurer this year.

Through the organization, Eitmann was involved with several events throughout the year, including the community Easter Egg Hunt, Community Christmas, Night of the Arts and Scholarship Fundraiser. She also makes time to coach her daughter’s volleyball team among many other activities and responsibilities.

“I’m definitely the type of person who wants to stay busy because I do much better when I am,” she said. “If I ever lost my phone, I wouldn’t know where I’m supposed to be because my calendar is stored there.”

“Plus, I can link it to my husband’s calendar, so we both know where each is or needs to be. I just love being connected to and being able to do something for my community.”

With Doll sponsoring some of the events advertised on Iowa Western’s radio station, 89.7 The River, and also helping with IWCC’s golf tourney to support athletic scholarships, Eitmann said she has found opportunity to do some things professionally for her alma mater.



“I loved my years at Iowa Western. I felt truly prepared for my internship and everything that came after that.”
- Rhea Eitmann

With her new title as 2017 Outstanding Alum, she knows she will have many opportunities to represent the school at parades and other activities.

An avid photographer, Eitmann said she is planning to return to Iowa Western once again in the near future as a student to learn more about her burgeoning hobby and potentially take it into more of a professional opportunity.

She hopes this is all just the beginning of a renewed relationship with an organization she said she knows positively impacted her life and helped put her on her future career path.

“It’s such a huge honor to be named Alum of the Year, mostly because it was so unexpected,” said Eitmann, who has continued to offer internships at Doll to IWCC students over the years. “I knew of the award because Matt (Johnson) received it two years ago, and we

work together on different projects.”

“I loved going to school at Iowa Western, and I truly hope this is the door that gets me more involved with IWCC because I have so many great memories of my time there. It’s a great school that gives so many opportunities to so many students who, like myself, may not know what they want to do. They help shape their ideas and help them find their own paths.”

(left to right) Eitmann with the YMCA volleyball team that she coached; Eitmann with her daughter, Lila.





From left: Ribbon cutting in March. Jay Edwards (HR Manager, Mahle), Fred Lisle (President of Lisle Corporation), Dr. Dan Kinney (President of Iowa Western), Darin Miller (Vice President of America Automotive NSK, Corp.)

The Center of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing: Mechanical Technology

By Kara Schweiss

The Center of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing (CEAM Building) at Iowa Western's Clarinda center represents numerous opportunities: the repurposing of an underutilized facility, the revival of a mechanical technology program at Iowa Western, and a unique business/community college collaboration that will support the needs of area manufacturers and the workforce for southwest Iowa.

"The partnership not only resurrects the curriculum and makes great changes to that, but it also gives us a great space," said Kristin Smith, the director of the Page and Fremont County centers. "We have greater capacity to grow and more area for the technology that's needed to train the modern workforce. Facility-wise, it's definitely invigorated the center. We remodeled an old gymnasium that had very little use. We made it into something that is going to benefit not only the college, but southwest Iowa."

Southwest Iowa has already taken notice, Fred Lisle said. "We had a ribbon-cutting (in March) and there were a hundred people there. It wasn't just Clarinda, it was people from the surrounding area," he said. "That created a lot of interest, and I think another thing it did is get the people in Clarinda and the surrounding area to see that Iowa Western is not just investing in the main campus but also promoting their satellite centers."

Lisle, who represents District I on IWCC's board of trustees, is also president of Lisle Corporation in Clarinda, one of four CEAM business partners from the manufacturing sector. The four businesses—which also include NSK and NSK-AKS in Clarinda and Mahle Industries in Atlantic—not only have made a five-year commitment to enroll incumbent employees into the CEAM

program, but also were instrumental in collaborating with IWCC to develop the program from the ground up.

"We wanted to make sure we had a steady flow of participants for the first five years," IWCC Vice President of Economic & Workforce Development Mark Stanley said. "There isn't an easy model for it. We appreciate in general the fact that these companies have taken a proactive approach to their workforce issue. They've become part of the solution. They came forward and they didn't just say, 'We have a problem. Can you fix it for us?'"

"When we talked to Dan Kinney (IWCC president) and explained the need, he listened to us and came up with the program," Lisle said.

"Our president is a very entrepreneurial type of guy; he's a big part of it and has supported it from the top with our board as well," Stanley said.

Financial support is also provided by the state's Workforce Training and Economic Development Fund, Stanley added, a fund which has become an important source of financing for community colleges' new program innovation and development. "The legislature had the foresight to see that workforce is a critical issue," he explained.

Lisle Corporation and other manufacturing firms have been losing skilled employees to retirement in recent years, Lisle said, and these employees are not easily replaced due to multiple factors including fewer people entering the labor market with farm-honed mechanical skills.

"Kids that come out of high school today don't have that mechanical background," Lisle said.

At the same time, the need for skilled workers in the manufacturing sector is growing.

"It's not just mechanical anymore. It's increasingly digital and computerized and automated, so it's the higher technology end of a manufacturing company, and these jobs lead to the ability to make these modern plants work...One of the things we've seen over time is the demand for these types of jobs increase as companies invest more in newer and more modern and more advanced equipment. At the same time we've seen a reduction in the labor force of people with these kinds of skills," Stanley said. "This started happening maybe 15-20 years ago and it's now to point where the supply and demand is an acute situation."

"What (CEAM) really does is improve our future workforce," Lisle said. "That's why I got onboard—not just for Lisle

“What (CEAM) really does is improve our future workforce”
- Fred Lisle

Corporation, but also for all the others.”

"I don't know what impact the program will ultimately have, but it prepares the community and the region to seize upon whatever opportunities might be available out there," Stanley said.

The CEAM program is noncredit, which means curriculum was developed with the needs of manufacturing employers in mind, and with their direct guidance, Smith said. "The businesses in the area said, 'This is what we need students to know. This is what we need the workforce to learn.' We're not asking businesses to conform with what we're doing, we're asking them what they need. We're meeting the needs of the businesses in our area and our community partners."

The program is also student-centered.

"These classes meet in the evening; they have the needs of the working individual in mind," Smith said, adding that the initial cohort of participants just finished the first year, but not before transferring to the spacious new CEAM facility. "Top-notch instructors, top-notch students—this first year has been a great group to work with, and I can only see that being more of the same. And a lot of it has to do with the sponsoring businesses, their collaboration, and making sure the curriculum meets their needs. I'm excited for what this is going to do for the Clarinda Center, Iowa Western and southwest Iowa."

Some of the program elements include CAD (computer-aided design) and fundamental machining and milling. After the first year of the two-year program, students enter either an electro-mechanical path or a tool-and-die path. Participants include individuals on a leadership track within a company as well as specialists, Lisle said. "It's more than just machinists; it's management as well. Because you can't manage someone when you can't understand what they do."

"CEAM is set up to extend beyond the four business partners," Stanley said, meaning future enrollees will include people looking for a career transition, manufacturing sector employees wishing to expand their skill set, students looking for a different educational path, and even new high





“Top-notch *instructors*, top-notch *students* – this first year has been a *great* group.”
 - Kristen Smith

school graduates who eventually want to find employment in the area.

“It’s an exceptional opportunity for them because they can work side by side with employees of businesses and the instructors are from these businesses. If they do well in class, they’re going to be remembered,” Smith said. “Residents of southwest Iowa will have an opportunity they didn’t have in the past. It brings students to the center; because of the program we’re able to offer more evening programs. It gets students here and more students interested in being here,” Smith said. “I think that kind of activity is going to be contagious.”



From top: Festivities from the 2016 Homecoming, 5K Color Fun Run/Walk, parade on the 100Block, tailgate at Lewis Central and football game.

Our Team, Our Town A Reiver's Life For Me

5K Color Fun Run X
 & Kids 1K

X Parade
 on the
 100Block

Iowa Western Homecoming

**Saturday
 September 9
 2017**

Tailgate X
 at Lewis Central
 Parking lot

X Football game
 at Lewis Central Stadium

REIVERS

Reiver Athletics

By Jeremy Capo

365 days...
52 Weeks...
12 months...
1 year...

No matter how you describe it, this has been the time of my life. Reiver Athletics is moving forward despite the many hurdles and obstacles we faced throughout the year. We wouldn't want it any other way. We wouldn't want it to be easy. We want to be challenged, because in the face of the greatest challenges, we find out who we really are and, we are able to learn more about ourselves and our teammates.

Our goals were achieved, which as we all know, is fulfilling on many fronts. We won some, and we lost some. When we won, we did it with class. We did it the Iowa Western way. When we lost, we tipped our caps to our opponents and vowed to get them the next time.

There are many success stories to talk about and highlight. All of our fall team sports captured their respective ICCAC and Region XI Championships! Men's & Women's Soccer both earned their way to the National Tournament, and Volleyball took us all the way to the Championship game, finishing as a proud NJCAA runner up. Men's & Women's Cross Country raced in challenging conditions at the Cross Country Nationals and the Half Marathon, and both brought back Top 10 finishes to represent IWCC well.

To continue the success of the fall, the winter and spring sports all qualified for postseason play. Women's Basketball captured their region and district championships and punched their ticket

to the NJCAA National Tournament. Men's Basketball had a phenomenal season before falling short in the region championship game. Wrestling finished sixth at the NJCAA National tournament with the highlight being sophomore standout Preston Lauterbach pinning his way to the NJCAA National Championship at 184 pounds, a first for the team!



Women's Outdoor Track & Field captured the Region XI championship for the second time in school history. The outdoor championships saw the women's team place 7th and the men finish 11th, bringing home a total of 44 All-Americans (22 NJCAA, 22 USATF) between the two programs. Baseball and Women's Golf each captured the Region XI championships, while Softball finished second in the region, and Men's Golf each finished third in the district. Sena Ersoy capped a brilliant career by winning the Reivers' first ever NJCAA Women's Golf individual title, firing a 74 in the final round for the win.

Impressive stuff, huh? All of those accomplishments are certainly noteworthy, but we place an even greater priority on academics.

In the classroom, we finished the spring 2017 semester with a 2.708 GPA. While I am pleased with this, our coaches will tell you that we're not satisfied. We made an improvement from the 2.67 GPA in the fall 2016, and that is a great step in the right direction.

Individually, the spring 2017 semester saw 186 student ath-

letes finish with 3.0 GPA or above. A total of 36 of those were a perfect 4.0. For the academic year, there were 232 student athletes with a 3.0 GPA or above. We had seven teams finish with a team GPA above 3.0. Leading the way was Softball with a 3.6 followed by Women's Basketball (3.5), Women's Soccer (3.5), Baseball (3.3), Volleyball (3.2), Women's Golf (3.2), Men's Soccer (3.1), and Women's Cross Country (3.0).

The most important thing we do is help our student athletes be successful in the classroom and earn their diplomas.

I am incredibly proud of the efforts by all of our student athletes. So many of them have made such a significant impact on our culture, our programs, our coaches, and myself. While the greatest part of what we do is supporting them and cheering for them, the hardest part is when they leave for their next great journey.

Our continued success and dominance of the region and district is a testament to the high character, high quality student athletes that our coaches work tirelessly to recruit to Iowa Western. I can assure you that nobody puts more pressure on themselves to continue to be successful athletically and academically than the coaches themselves. I have no doubt in my mind that the 2017-2018 academic year will be just as, if not more, successful.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Leandro Avila, a freshman men's soccer standout, scored a goal representing his native Panama, to beat the US in the 2017 CONCACAF U-20 match.

Zoe Hicks, a freshman utility player on the softball team, was selected by team Canada to represent them on the junior women's national softball team competing at the World Championships in July.

Daniel Tillo, a sophomore left handed pitcher on the baseball team was chosen in the 3rd round as the 90th selection of the 2017 MLB draft by the Kansas City Royals. This is the highest draft pick ever for Reivers Baseball.

Marc Rardin won his 700th baseball game at Iowa Western in April.



From top: Preston Lauterbach winning the NJCAA National Championship; Delia Ania drives in to score for the Reiver Women's Basketball team; Sena Ersoy during the NJCAA Women's Golf Championship, winning the Reiver's first ever individual title; Women's Outdoor Track & Field capturing the Region XI Championship for the second time in school history.

CLASS NOTES

1971

Sandy Kanger of Council Bluffs recently retired from Quality Refrigerated Services in Omaha where she was the Human Resource Manager and Payroll Manager.

2005

Danielle Sigler is living in New York City as a self-employed artist and emerging, gustatory artist in the Spanish Wine market. She has spent the last year backpacking in Europe and around the United States, fulfilling a life-long goal.

2016

Makaila Dockweiler plans to return for her pre-med degree.

Lisa Roush after graduating with high honors, Lisa is now a project manager at Mutual of Omaha.

William Seth Horton is a cost accountant at Jack Links. He plans to continue his education and obtain his bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Jacqueline Wright is a farmer who is continuing her agriculture education at Bellevue University.

Alissa Schovanec is continuing her education and playing volleyball at Bradley University.

Todd O. Plageman is a Sustainable Energy Tech.

Ramadasa Jivathma is a site counselor with Concerned Inc.

Rebecca Rohlf is a registered nurse with Jennie Edmundson Hospital.

Jeri Chapa and spouse, Saul have two children; Alexandria and Saul II.

Darializ Alfonso Ramos is a Human Resource Generalist.

ALUMNI BOARD

Pam Beall-Hill (President), '88
Community Volunteer

Diane Osbahr (Vice President), '90
Iowa Western Community College

Joyce Bartels (Secretary/Treasurer), '86
First National Bank of Omaha

Sarah Saar (Alumni Director), '02
Iowa Western Community College

Scott Belt, '77 & '82
Heartland Properties

Kolay Carver, '07
Iowa Western Community College

John Cool, '81
Iowa School for the Deaf

Dan Feller, '84
Owner, Varsity Freight

Brandon Green, '07
Iowa Western Community College

Brandon Juon, '00
Owner, Glory Days

Shawna Klindt, '01
Omaha Insurance Services

Katie Pattee, '03
Pottawattamie County

ALUMNI EVENTS

The Iowa Western alumni office hosts a variety of events aimed at reconnecting alumni with the college.

If you are interested in planning an alumni event, contact the alumni office at 712-325-3282. It is always great to have alumni back on campus!

To be included in future reunion mailings, send your updated information to alum@iwcc.edu. Visit us at iwcc.edu or [facebook.com/IWCCAlumniandFriends](https://www.facebook.com/IWCCAlumniandFriends).



< Back

Rocky the Reiver

Details

2:31 p.m.

What are you doing?

At IWCC, just got to visit with students who are taking the same program that I did.

Really? Sounds fun. How did it go?

Great! I got to talk with them about my career. A few are going to come visit my company. This could lead to some great internship opportunities!

I'd be intersted in visiting my old program. Do you know who I can contact?

Yes! Just email alum@iwcc.edu or call 712-325-3282.

Thank you very much!

You're welcome :-) IWCC loves to have alumni back on campus. Lots of opportunities to reconnect!

Alumni opportunities include:

Visit a class • Participate in a panel group • Invite students to visit your business • Conduct evening tours for new night class students • and More!

Contact alum@iwcc.edu OR call 712-325-3282 today!

Return Service Requested

IOWA WESTERN

A Magazine for Alumni & Friends

We are
going
digital!

The next issue of the Alumni & Friends Magazine will be all digital.

Visit the Friends & Alumni homepage at:
iwcc.edu/foundation

Click the [Digital Communication Sign-up](#) and give us your email so you don't miss out.

You can also check it out on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

The
Summer
2018
issue will be
back in full
print!

