



# IOWA WESTERN

A Magazine for Alumni & Friends

*Soccer*  
**NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**  
in this issue

Greetings!

There is a lot taking place at Iowa Western, and you can help tell the story. Stop by campus or one of the centers, come to an event, or volunteer with the Alumni Association at one of the home football games. You'll be able to catch up with some longstanding friends and meet new friends, too!



I recently had the opportunity to walk on campus as the sun was setting. It was a beautiful evening and amazing to see continued growth taking place. The new Engineering Technology Center looks to be a remarkable building that is changing the campus landscape. The comment I hear from many alumni I have visited with and who have returned to campus is that they simply would never have imagined the physical growth of the main campus. If you haven't been on campus in a while, come take a tour.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014 — Homecoming at Iowa Western! There will be a number of festivities scheduled throughout the week.

There are many avenues to stay connected with the happenings at Iowa Western — whether you live outside the area and follow updates through news stories and social media, or you live in the area and are able to attend various events.

I invite you to enhance your connection with the Iowa Western Alumni Association. Reach us by becoming our friend on Facebook (Iowa Western Community College Alumni Association), follow us on Twitter ([twitter.com/IWCCAlum](https://twitter.com/IWCCAlum)), send us an email ([alum@iwcc.edu](mailto:alum@iwcc.edu)) or call 712.325.3269.

As I reflect on my time as a student at Iowa Western and the influence it has had on my life and my family's, I feel a loyalty and desire to give back to the college that has provided me with so much. I hope you feel the same way and thank you for your continued support and interest in Iowa Western.

Go Reivers!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John F. Cool".

John Cool, '81  
Alumni Board President



## Alumni Board

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## Iowa Western Alumni Magazine

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

Spring 2014





Dear alumni and friends,

Nationwide, higher education is seeing a renewed focus on student retention and completion, and ensuring that students graduate with work-ready skills. Innovative programs that collaborate with business and industry to meet workforce needs are critical, whether for newly created jobs or to replace positions being vacated by a surge of retirees. Colleges that are focused and moving forward with these efforts will be the ones to experience great success.

Iowa Western, which continues to invest in its students and their college experiences, is at the forefront of efforts to provide students with the education and skills that meet regional and global workforce demands. Looking ahead, we continue to push toward excellence with the construction of a new Engineering Technology Center. Additionally, innovative initiatives are spurring an infusion of new energy at the college.

In October 2013, Iowa Western received a four-year, \$2.5 million award from the Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program. Dedicated to our Computer Information Technology (CIT) program, these funds will enable us to enhance the CIT program, expand its capacity, and develop an environment that provides resources for CIT entrepreneurs as they build their businesses.

This spring the inaugural Robotics class will graduate and enter a high-demand career field. Our corporate partner for this program, Ellison Technologies, is excited to see these graduates begin their careers prepared to meet their workforce needs and the needs of their clients. This program is just one example of how Iowa Western's industry partnerships help ensure our students graduate with skills that meet industry needs — or are prepared to successfully transfer to continue their education.

In Iowa, there are nearly 300,000 adults who have not received their high school diploma. New initiatives implemented in Iowa Western's workforce training and adult basic education programs are gaining momentum, positioned to help citizens achieve their educational goals and gain skills necessary to enter the workforce. These efforts will provide opportunities for adult learners to obtain their high school equivalency diploma and pursue various programs through which they will earn work-ready knowledge and skills.

Throughout this issue you will find many exciting things taking place at Iowa Western. Our alumni, friends, students and faculty are leading the charge and experiencing success with their endeavors. We invite you to share in our excitement and pride. Please visit our campus and centers to see the changes and growth taking place.

Thank you for your support of Iowa Western,

Dr. Dan Kinney  
President

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# Turning Pro

by Anthony Flott



The man they call Mr. Basketball — or, sometimes, Ray-Ray, Sugar and Jesus Shuttlesworth — told Charlie Westbrook he remembered his face.

Back when they first met, Ray Allen was jacking treys for the Milwaukee Bucks on his way to becoming the NBA's career leader in 3-pointers. Westbrook was just a grade-schooler, the oldest of his single mother's six children growing up in a tough Milwaukee neighborhood.

Every year, mom would take Charlie to the Bradley Center to watch the Bucks' intra-squad scrimmage. Afterward, Charlie would meet Allen and get his autograph.

Westbrook would tell Allen the story when the two next met — playing together for the world champion Miami Heat.

Allen is still there, trying to help the Heat three-peat. Westbrook is not. But he is determined to get back, toiling away in the NBA Development League — the D-League — with the Austin Toros.

"I'm close," says the former Reiver. "I just have to keep chipping away."

## Cleaning Up

Charlie Westbrook had never heard of Iowa Western Community College before the summer of 2008. He was surprised by what he found.

"I had never seen a town so clean," he says. "It's a beautiful place."

And once he saw all the Reivers who went on to play Division I basketball — and graduate — he wanted to stay.

Nobody in Westbrook's family had ever graduated from college. His own matriculation took a while to get going. Because of poor grades at Milwaukee's Riverside University High School, Westbrook sat out from basketball after being recruited to play at Montana State. He righted his academic ship, but when the coaches who recruited him left, so did Westbrook.

A former coach got Westbrook to audition for Coach Jim Morris at Iowa Western. Morris liked what he saw from the über athletic, 6-foot-4, 196-pound Westbrook, who first jammed as an eighth-grader.

"He's a highlight reel with dunks," Morris says. "He can really jump."

Westbrook was third on the team in scoring his first year and second as a sophomore, helping the 2009-10 Reivers to a record of 22-8 and a spot in the regional tournament. At one point the team was ranked second in the nation. Westbrook received All-Region XI honorable mention honors.

"He had some huge games for us," Morris says. "He shot the ball very well and could do a little bit of everything. Charlie was a very hard worker and spent a lot of time working on his game. He's a very, very competitive kid."

In the classroom, too, it turns out. Westbrook earned his degree. Iowa Western, he says, "Instilled in

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# **GROWING IOWA WESTERN**

## *One Building at a Time*

by Mike Watkins

Dean Fajen has been more than a casual observer of Iowa Western Community College's building boom over the last 15 years. Fajen is a builder of dreams, a proud Iowa Western alumnus whose architectural handprint can be seen on many of the projects that dot the college's sprawling campus in Council Bluffs and at centers throughout Southwest Iowa.

"It's so rewarding to see the growth of the college and know that I played a role in that," says Fajen, an architect and design manager for HGM Associates of Council Bluffs who joined the company in 1987. "It has really transformed into a major college because it has had the physical land to expand and administration, especially Dr. Dan Kinney, that has had the vision to make it grow."

Fajen needed to dust off his hardhat this year as well, as he has taken ownership of several important campus projects. His latest masterpiece, the new \$16.5 million Engineering and Technology Center, is taking shape next door to the Student Center and Cyber Library. He also will be busy this summer overseeing a massive Iowa Western road project, while sharpening his pencil for future projects on the growing campus.

A native of Treynor, Iowa, Fajen graduated from Iowa Western in 1974 with his associates degree in engineering technology, and went on to earn his bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Nebraska. He later obtained his architectural license.

Fajen's architectural impact isn't just visible on the Council Bluffs campus, as he has played an integral role in directing projects in Atlantic, Harlan and Shenandoah, helping the college improve facilities in the region it serves.

Fajen designed and diligently watched over construction of the new \$7 million building in Harlan and a renovation project in Shenandoah, which included classroom space and an exterior upgrade. In Atlantic, the college converted an old grocery store into an active, thriving center that continues to see growth in attendance.

At the Council Bluffs campus, Fajen and HGM have helped move the campus forward over the last 25-plus years. In addition to his work on Clark Hall, he's played a role in the revamping of Looft Hall and some remodeling of the Hoover Building and Ashley and Fremont Halls. His company also designed plans to renovate the site of the former library on the lower level of Clark Hall into the Pirates Cove student lounge, which included extensive landscaping around Clark Hall. HGM also remodeled the Welcome Center inside Clark Hall, which helped to improve the layout and function of student admissions and financial aid offices.

Fajen says he knows each addition has not only changed the campus but improved his alma mater's reputation. He said he revels in knowing he's played a role in the growth of the school's reputation as one of the best community colleges in the region.

"I'm just amazed with and proud of how much the Council Bluffs campus has changed since I was a student," says Fajen. "Every time I'm out there, something is different and better, and that's improving the image and outside perception of the school."

"Iowa Western definitely isn't the same school as when I was a student. It has a true college atmosphere now, and it's visible simply by observing activity on campus. Students are engaged, and that wasn't the case when I was there. It was strictly a commuter college, but now, students stay on campus and are involved in activities and share a true sense of pride."

And with more room to grow — physically and educationally — Fajen says he knows that the sky's the limit for all of the towns and campuses that know Iowa Western as home.

"There is enough land for so many opportunities to do some wonderful things, especially on the Council Bluffs campus," Fajen says. "I've watched the school grow over time, and in the process, it's turned into a major college. It's been a privilege to be a part of what's happened in the past, and it will be a privilege to be a part of what's still to come."

"Iowa Western has really transformed into a major college because it has had the physical land to expand and administration, especially Dr. Dan Kinney, that has had the *vision to make it grow*."

Dean Fajen



At left: Dean Fajen in front of Clark Hall's Welcome Center; Above, from left: the Harlan Center building; the Pirates Cove outdoor seating area; Fajen in front of Clark Hall.

# Pet Whispering

by Mike Watkins

**D**r. Dan DeWitt's job as a veterinarian and chair of Iowa Western's Veterinary Tech program would be much easier if pets could talk.

While they may give signs through touch, more than likely the cause of their pain can only be ascertained from testing, exploring and listening.

That's where the educated veterinary tech becomes particularly important. They are the first line of information and prognosis, asking the owner about signs of what could be wrong, doing the preliminary examination and communicating findings with the veterinarian.

It's because of this that when selecting student candidates for the 9-year-old program, DeWitt looks for people with love and compassion for animals *and* the ability to communicate and relate to people.

"Our vet tech program continues to grow each year, and we're expecting 20-percent growth as demand continues to increase," says DeWitt, a graduate of the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine and a practicing veterinarian. "When the program started in 2005, the only campuses that offered it in the state of Iowa were Kirkwood (Cedar Rapids) and DMAAC (Des Moines). Iowa Western was the third."

"I compare the vet tech program to the dental hygienist program in that they both take care of the patients before the doctor — in our case the vet — sees them. One of the problems is that vet techs aren't required by the state, and some veterinarians, especially older ones, don't always see the need for them. We're

working on changing that."

While not unique in its classroom offerings (they are standard), DeWitt says Iowa Western's program emphasizes hands-on practice inside and outside the classroom as part of its practicum.

Upon earning an Associate of Applied Science degree, Iowa Western graduates work in many areas of the animal science industry, including large and small veterinary clinics, animal shelters, clinical laboratories, zoos, animal research facilities, and biomedical facilities.

DeWitt says through the program's history at Iowa Western, 99 percent of the students have been women, with just three men. During the first couple of years, there was a mixture of older and younger students. Over the past few years though, the majority of students are in the 18-19-year-old range, often fresh out of high school.

Classrooms in a new, state-of-the-art veterinary technology facility with instruction from personable, experienced teachers are two of the many attractive features of the program. Students learn valuable skills in surgical labs and participate in animal care and kennel duty every day.

Graduates are eligible to



“Our students are very *well prepared* when they graduate because of all the real-life, hands-on experience they get.”

Dr. DeWitt



take the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) and the Iowa Veterinary Technician Examination to become a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT). Iowa Western boasts an 80-percent pass rate on the national exam. The national average is around 60 percent.

But that doesn't mean the program isn't without its challenges. Although it helps to be an animal lover, it's not a requirement.

"We have a great program, but one area where we still want to improve upon is our attrition rate," says DeWitt, who grew up in

Griswold, Iowa, and became involved with caring for animals by working for a friend's veterinarian father after high school. "Classes fill each semester, but we lose a few the first semester when they realize the amount of commitment involved.

"We get a lot of 'fuzzy bunny' people who assume they just get to play with animals. But they soon realize there's a lot more to this profession, and it requires study habits and time management they're not prepared for. If they can make it past the anatomy and physiology class in the first semester, they are usually around to graduation."

DeWitt says the program is designed to place students into the workforce upon completion. And with employment opportunities expected to increase by 41 percent through 2016, there is a tremendous upside to applying to and becoming a member of Iowa Western's vet tech program.

In partnership with the local humane society, students get a good deal of practice assisting with spaying and neutering animals and are highly comfortable with all aspects of veterinary care by the time they finish. They also work on cadaver cats and do some pet dentistry.

"Our students are very well prepared when they graduate because of all the real-life, hands-on experience they get," DeWitt says. "Eighty to 85 percent of our practicum deals with small animals (cats, dogs, etc.), but students get to also work with large animals (cows, etc.) and also assist with roughly three surgeries a week.

"Students perform two internships — one between freshman and sophomore years and a second the last semester before they graduate. These aren't the highest-paying jobs around, but students who take it seriously and finish the program go on to have successful careers and help save a lot of animals."

“Our vet tech program continues to grow each year, and we’re expecting **20-percent growth** as demand continues to increase.”

Dr. DeWitt



Employment opportunities are expected to increase by 41 percent through 2016.



Left: Dr. Dan DeWitt, veterinary technician program chair;  
Right: students in the veterinary technician program



SilverStone  
GROUP



## Jeannie's *Dream* Come True

By Mike Watkins

**T**o SilverStone Group Chairman John P. Nelson, Jeannie Aldredge is nearly indispensable.

She has proven this from her first day on the job more than 25 years ago as his executive assistant. Right away, she took charge of Nelson's inbox and helped put his professional life into better order.

It's a role she continues today, and one she not only cherishes but also knows is vital for Nelson and the firm to continue to be successful and serve clients in an efficient, effective manner.

"Jeannie is a true asset to me and to our company," says Nelson, a Council Bluffs native and Iowa Western Foundation board member. "She's been a great member of our team for many years

and is one of the people I know I can depend upon and trust. She's like family."

Likewise, Aldredge says she has come to depend upon and trust Nelson and his family. Not only does her sister Jill work at the firm, but her father, Jim, worked for the organization for a short time following retirement from his full-time job to drive for and look after Howard H. "Red" Nelson before "Red" passed away in 2007.

During the two-plus decades she's been with the organization, much has changed in Aldredge's life. While she's seen her responsibilities and trust within the organization increase, she's also experienced heartache, watching both of her parents pass away. She's also become a stepmother and enjoys all that life in Council Bluffs and with SilverStone Group



has to offer.

"I can't imagine living anywhere else or working anywhere else than here," says Aldredge from the conference room of SilverStone Group's Council Bluffs location at the Omni Center. "This is my home. It's where I grew up, and it's where my friends and family are."

A graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School, Aldredge originally thought that was enough education for her to get a good job. She later realized the need for an education beyond high school and attended Iowa Western in the mid-1980s.

She graduated in 1988 with her Associate of Arts degree in General Studies, and almost immediately accepted the executive assistant position with Redland & Associates (SilverStone's predecessor), which started in 1945 as the Nelson Insurance Agency. SilverStone Group was formed in 2001-2002 when Redland & Associates, Mammel & Associates and SilverStone Consulting merged under one name.

The rest is Aldredge's history — intertwined with that of the company and people whom she says have given her so much over the years.

"I've been involved with a lot and been through a lot during the past 25 years," Aldredge says. "I watched both my mom (Jan) and dad pass away within nine months of one another in 2010, seen tremendous growth in the company through several acquisitions, new offices opened in Lincoln and Sioux Falls, and just enjoyed the entire experience. It's been a great fit for me from the start."

In addition to her professional growth and opportunities at SilverStone over the years, Aldredge says one of the biggest perks of working for the organization is the relationship she has developed with the Nelson family.

While she says everyone at the firm is treated like family in many ways, Aldredge adds she has enjoyed a personal friendship with John, his wife, Anne, John's parents (now deceased) and the couple's three children, now grown with careers and families of their own.

Because of the Nelson's personal commitment to

philanthropy and giving back to the community, it's something encouraged throughout the company.

Aldredge volunteers as the director, secretary and treasurer for the mayor- and city council-appointed Council Bluffs Airport Authority (serving a second four-year term), and also has served as a member of Executive Women International since 1998.

"John sits on several boards, and he and the family are big supporters of many charities and community organizations and causes. That made me want to get involved with the community in some capacity myself," says Aldredge, who chaired the Thomas Jefferson 75-Year Reunion Committee in 1999, organizing an all-school reunion that brought more than 3,000 alumni to town to celebrate and reconnect.

And while she admits she doesn't make it to Iowa Western very often, each time she visits, she says she is amazed at how much the Council Bluffs campus has grown and developed since it was largely a commuter college when she was a student.

Nevertheless, when she reflects on her lengthy, loyal

“Jeannie is a *true asset* to me and to our company. She's been a great member of our team for many years and is one of the people I know I can depend upon and trust. **She's like family.**”

John Nelson  
SilverStone Group Chairman  
Iowa Western Foundation Board Member

commitment to and history with SilverStone Group and the Nelson family, she knows it was mostly possible because of the education she gained at Iowa Western.

"I got a great education at Iowa Western, and I'm so proud to see how it has changed and evolved over the years from the small community college to a thriving college and campus with wonderful new facilities and programs," Aldredge says.

"When I was a student, I didn't get involved. I just went to class and came home or went to work. But now, it's a true college environment for the students, and I'm very happy to say I went there." 📖



# Life's Race

by Anthony Flott



All Amanda O'Neal ever wanted to do was get behind the wheel of a car and race.

Life, though, kept hitting the brakes.

She was born into a racing family. Great-Grandfather Jim Lovejoy built his first racing car ("The Deuce") as a teenager, but his parents never allowed him to race. Grandfather Dennis Lovejoy has built racing cars since he was a teen and did race. The need-for-speed gene was passed to his son, Vic, then to Amanda.

She was 9 when her father first let her take the driver's seat. The two were on a dinner run, returning to their home in Meadow

Grove, Neb. They came to a gravel road. Vic stopped the family's red minivan and switched seats with his daughter.

Amanda was driving.

"I remember my dad told me to slow down because I was going too fast," she says.

A natural. Ahead, she could see trophies glimmering through the dirt-track dust kicked up on hot summer nights to come.

That was 1996. Her path since has been anything but smooth. Twice she was told she would die. Twice she survived.

Today, the Iowa Western graduate and employee is back to racing — and healthy.

She'll go as fast as she pleases, thank you.



## Making Christmas

Vic and Bobbi Lovejoy were told their daughter wouldn't live much past Christmas. It was the summer of 1999 — less than three years since Amanda had driven that red minivan — when she was diagnosed with dermatomyositis (DM), a connective tissue disease that mostly inflames the muscles and skin. Sort of a cross between muscular dystrophy and lupus, Amanda says. “A really weird disease.”

Symptoms began the previous year. Amanda grew fatigued. Her legs would give when climbing stairs. The family burned through a dozen doctors and countless hospital visits before someone could tell her what was wrong. Her specific form of DM was so rare, O'Neal says, that the National Institute of Health (NIH) flew her to Washington, D.C., a dozen or so times for tests and treatments.

“Nobody knows what causes it,” O'Neal says. “No one knows the cure.”

Amanda was taking 18 pills a day and the medical bills were mounting. A nurse took care of her each day while her parents were at work. Amanda wrote Santa asking to help her parents with money.

She made it to Christmas. And somehow — O'Neal says her parents believe medicine from the NIH was to credit — the disease began to retreat.

Soon, she had the strength to brush her hair again and dress herself. She could carry her own books at school. Each day, she'd try to do one more thing the disease had taken from her.

She started spending nights again in the garage as the family worked on their racecars.

“I was starting to feel like a normal kid again,” she says, “but everyone was worried I was going too fast.”

By 2002, her disease was officially declared in remission.

## Stops and starts

As she grew healthier, Amanda looked once more to the racetrack. When she was 13, Vic let his daughter drive his own late model car during a pre-race practice called “packing the track.” Drivers make numerous laps until the surface is hard and ready for speed.

“My dad says to this day his best experience with that is standing there watching his daughter drive away in his racecar and seeing all the other drivers and pit crews just staring at me.”

Two years later, Amanda competed in her first race. It came with a partner, Mike Kruse, in the cruiser division. Each car has two racers — one steering and braking, the other providing gas. They placed third in their heat, qualified for the A feature and placed sixth. They also survived a crash that left Amanda with a banged up ankle and on crutches the

Clockwise from top left: Amanda and her father at the IMCA Hobby Stock; husband Doug and stepdaughter Marleigh working on a motor; Great-grandfather's “Deuce” circa 1948; Amanda with her grandfather and father; five generations of Lovejoy's; Amanda prior to a race; Amanda, 15, at her first race; and Amanda and her father during the same race.



# Life's Race

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next few days.

No matter — Amanda finally was a racecar driver.

She wouldn't see the track again for two years. Just a few days after her first race, Amanda was in a car accident while driving near Tilden, Neb., with two high school friends. The car sailed over a hill and rolled several times. Amanda was thrown from the car and found 118 feet away. She sustained brain injuries and was life-flighted to a hospital in Sioux City in critical condition.

"They told my parents I was not going to make it past the life-flight," she says.

She made it. O'Neal didn't break any bones but had much internal bruising and, most seriously, brain damage. She spent two weeks in the hospital then a longtime thereafter in therapy.

"I had to slowly be taught to talk again," she says. "How to do math again. How to do everything all over again."

She recovered, but says she began to feel the world was against her. "I made some bad decisions, did some wrong things," she says. "I kind of lost myself for a while."

Finally, she says — about the time she started her senior year at Elkhorn Valley High School in Tilden — "I got to be who I am again."

That meant racing. In 2004, O'Neal was driving again — this time by herself in the International Motor Contest Association (IMCA) Hobby Stock Mechanic's Race in Stuart, Neb. She spun out and started in the back but rallied, finishing third.

In the money.

"I still have that original check in a frame hanging on my wall," she says. A few weeks later she borrowed her dad's ride and won a Powder Puff race against women only.

O'Neal's family moved to Harlan, Iowa, in 2005. She missed racing that year while staying behind to attend Northeast Community College but rejoined them in 2006 and was back on the track, racing IMCA Hobby Stock at Independence Speedway in Independence, Iowa. That's the entry-level division of full-sized cars. It was the first track her dad raced on. Grandpa had raced there, too.

Later that year, she got her own late model



Left to right: Amanda and family at her Iowa Western graduation; the 2014 vehicle prior to the season awaiting a motor and Iowa Western logo.

and was ready to move up a division.

But, once again, racing was put on hold after Amanda became pregnant. Because of her disease, doctors feared for her health during pregnancy. They didn't think she'd go full-term. She did, giving birth to a healthy son, Deven Lovejoy. She married. She divorced. She sat out racing in 2007 and 2008, returned in 2009 and raced well, but blew her motor at the end of the season.

O'Neal started to think beyond the racetrack now. "I decided I needed to do something with my life, and I wanted to have a career for my son," she says.

## On Track

O'Neal started attending classes at Iowa Western's Harlan center. Iowa Western's online offerings helped her be a full-time mother and a full-time student. In 2012 she earned her degree in accounting. In 2013 she returned to Iowa Western as an accounts payable clerk (promoted recently to a full-time accounting cashier). She also married Doug O'Neal and gained a 5-year-old stepdaughter, Marleigh.

But the track kept beckoning. Ending a three-year absence, O'Neal returned to racing in 2013. She flourished, finishing 12th in late models in the season points standings at Shelby County Speedway in Harlan, Iowa.

Now she and Doug are making their own racing career within the Lovejoy brand. They have their own car, garage and tools. Together time means working on engines. They're rebuilding her car down to the frame. When it debuts in late April, it will be branded with her own sponsors, including Iowa Western.

She just turned 27. Life is good.

This summer, the three generations of Lovejoys plan to drive in the same race, likely at Stuart International Speedway in Stuart Iowa. She wants to beat her dad. She's passed him before, but never finished ahead of him. Win or lose, though, she'll finally be where she belongs — on the track.

"I love it," O'Neal says. "I'm smiling the whole time. Seriously, smiling the entire time I'm out there, I'm having so much fun."

She's got a lot to be happy about. 🏁



## Turning Pro

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me the work ethic to appreciate every opportunity you get on and off the court.”

More opportunity came at Westbrook’s next stop, South Dakota, which recently had transitioned to Division I basketball. There, Westbrook flourished. He started all 58 games for the Coyotes, averaging 16.2 points as a junior and 18.7 as a senior. He topped 1,000 career points and earned All-Summit Conference second-team honors in 2011-12.

### Turning Pro

He did well enough to start chatter about a possible NBA career. Westbrook, in fact, declared for the draft after his junior year at South Dakota, doing so without hiring an agent. He went undrafted but maintained his eligibility. The 60-player draft following his senior season also came and went without his name getting called.

Westbrook had 14 workouts for NBA teams that year, eventually signing with the Orlando Magic and playing for its summer league team. Later, he was invited to training camp with Portland, Los Angeles and Detroit. Instead, Westbrook headed overseas, signing with Tezenis Scaligera of LegaDue in Italy.

“I wanted to help my family out and there wasn’t a guarantee I would be on an NBA roster,” he says.

He played 32 games for Tezenis, averaging 16.2 points as the team’s leading scorer. He started picking up the language, too, before leaving in 2013.

“I loved it,” he says. “It definitely was tougher than I thought. Those guys taught me a lot. I learned that the game is played with a certain pace, and now I try to implement that into my game.”

Now he is in the D-League, the official minor league of the NBA. Composed of 17 teams from Maine to California, it’s a proven training ground. Of current NBA players, more than 30 percent have D-League experience.

Westbrook came tantalizingly close to being among them. In September 2013 he signed with the Miami Heat and was among 20 players vying for a spot on the 15-player roster. That meant playing with King LeBron, Dwayne Wade, Chris Bosh and his childhood hero Allen. Westbrook suited up for eight games and played in four, averaging 5.7 minutes and 2.5 points.

But his stay lasted just three weeks before the Heat released him. Westbrook stayed with the program, though, signing with the Heat’s D-League team, the Sioux Falls Skyforce, in December. He played 10 games for Sioux Falls before being traded to the Austin Toros, San Antonio’s affiliate, in January.

It’s a tougher go then in Europe. Everyone is after the same thing he is — a spot in the NBA.

“There are a lot of good players,” he says. “Sometimes you don’t play as much as you want.”

Too often, he says, D-League players just try to score every time they touch the ball. Westbrook says NBA teams have enough of those guys. “It’s really not about that,” he says. “They have LeBron James to score.”

To get to the NBA, he says, guys need to “play defense, play hard and bring energy to the game. That’s how you get on an NBA roster.”

Says Morris, “It’s such a fine line with those guys, as far as who makes it and who doesn’t. There are not a lot of guys who make it, but Charlie certainly has the athletic ability and tools to be able to do it.”

If that happens, Westbrook would be the first former Iowa Western player to make the NBA.

Chances are, Mr. Basketball will remember more than just his face if they meet again. 🏀

**Iowa Western** *instilled in me the work ethic to appreciate every opportunity you get on and off the court.*

Charlie Westbrook



From top: Westbrook driving; Westbrook guarding Miami Heat’s Dwyane Wade; Westbrook dunking during an Iowa Western basketball game.





# NATIONAL CHAMPION

TWO IS BETTER THAN ONE AT NATIONAL SOCCER TOURNAMENTS







Iowa Western soccer athletes used their feet in 2013 to accomplish a feat rarely seen on the National Junior College Athletic Association grand stage. The Reiver men and women stormed the states of Texas and Florida and brought home national championships for the first time in Reiver soccer history. It was only the second time in NJCAA history that both men and women soccer teams from the same school won championships in the same season (Tyler Junior College in Texas did so in 2010).



For coaches Brad Silvey and Jordan Carver, former Reiver teammates (2004) and close friends, the titles earned on the same day validated the hard work and dedication from both squads, not only during the championship tournament but throughout the season.

“It was a thrill and honor to represent Iowa Western in achieving such a monumental event,” says Silvey, who completed his fifth season as head coach. “As a coaching staff, we knew we had something special within this group of athletes. It was amazing to see them live up to their potential.”

Carver also lauded the determination of his men. “The team lived every day as champions and was fully committed to success,” the fifth-year head coach says.

### Women Roll To A Title

The Reiver women opened tournament play in Melbourne, Fla., with shutout victories over Lake County Community College (Ill.) 5-0 and Monroe College (N.Y.) 1-0 to reach the semifinals. After battling Laramie County Community College (Wyo.) to a scoreless tie in regulation, the Reivers advanced to the championship by winning a 4-3 penalty kick showdown.

In the title tilt, Iowa Western jumped to a 2-0 first-half lead on Navarro College (Texas) on goals by Celia Jimenez and Brianne Richards. Iowa Western gave up its first goal early in the second half, but Nicole Gowans scored in spectacular fashion off the crossbar for a 3-1 cushion and the Reivers held on for victory. Kasandra Anderson and Paige Flores were named to the all-tournament team, while Jimenez earned Most Valuable Forward honors and Kelsey East was named Most Valuable Goalkeeper.

Silvey was named Coach of the Tournament. “I am filled with gratitude toward so many individuals in support of my personal and our team endeavors,” he said. “This

achievement belongs to everyone that has ever been involved with our program.”

“I am *filled with gratitude* toward so many individuals in support of my personal and our team endeavors. **This achievement belongs to everyone** that has ever been involved with our program.”

Brad Silvey



# National Champions


Continued From Previous Page



## Men Win It In Overtime Thriller

The Iowa Western men defeated the 2012 defending champions and host Tyler Junior College (Texas) to earn their first NJCAA title. The Reivers won 3-1 on penalty kicks to claim the title and finished 25-0, the second-most wins and consecutive wins in NJCAA history. For Carver, knocking off Hall of Fame coaches Tim Rooney (Lewis and Clark Community College), Mike Pantalione (Yavapai College) and Steve Clements (Tyler Junior College) also was gratifying. Carver was named Coach of the Tournament for his efforts.

"The championship wasn't a perfect game, but the season was perfect," he said. "We are grateful for the support of our families, friends, Iowa Western fans, faculty, staff and administration. And of the great support of our boosters."

With Will Lukowski in goal, the Reivers registered three straight shutouts to reach the title game, beating Ranger College (Texas) 2-0, Lewis and Clark Community College (Ill.) 7-0 and Yavapai College (Ariz.) 1-0. Fazlo Alihodzic was named MVP of the tournament, with Kaique Fernandes and Elias Hatungimana earning all-tournament team honors. 

“We are *grateful for the support* of our families, friends, Iowa Western fans, faculty, staff and administration. And of the *great support of our boosters.*”

Jordan Carver

From top: Silvey and his daughter Chamae celebrate at a recognition event at Iowa Western; Silvey and Carver congratulate one another on outstanding seasons; Dell Loy Hansen, owner of Real Salt Lake, speaks at the May 9 celebration and ring ceremony on Iowa Western's campus; and from left to right: Carver, Suzanne Mahoney, ring donor, Hansen, Ron Mahoney, ring donor, and Silvey at May 9 event.

Men's tournament photographs submitted by Tyler Athletics.  
Women's tournament photographs submitted by Michael R. Brown.





# Fall Review

## REIVER ATHLETICS

**R**eiver athletics continued to excel in the fall of 2013. With a combined record of 99-8-2, the fall athletic teams had the most successful record in the history of Reiver Athletics. With more than 600 student-athletes, the programs add a great deal to Iowa Western's college experience and provides great educational opportunities for student-athletes.

For just the second time in NJCAA history, one school brought home the championship trophies for both men's and women's soccer (pages 16-18). Coach Brad Silvey (women's soccer) and Coach Jordan Carver (men's soccer) led the charge to win Iowa Western's fifth and sixth team national championship titles.

### Cross Country

The Reiver cross country team had a successful 2013 as the men finished eighth and the women finished ninth at the National Half Marathon Championships. Both teams finished 16th in the NJCAA cross country rankings. Several team members finished with top individual times.


### Cheer Team

In addition to cheering on the Reivers, the cheer team represented Iowa Western in championship fashion, placing second at the UCA National Collegiate Cheer Competition. In addition, the Reivers placed fourth in the World University Large Coed Finals.

### Volleyball

The Reiver volleyball team continued its successful tradition with an impressive season, finishing 44-5 and seventh at the NJCAA Championships in Casper, Wyom. Led by first-year head coach Alicia Williams, the team made its eighth straight trip to the national tournament.

### Football

Coach Scott Strohmeier and the Reiver football team finished second in the country with an impressive 11-1 record. The Reivers defeated Butler (Kansas) 6-0 in the Graphic Edge Bowl at the UNI Dome in Cedar Falls. This was the second consecutive year that Iowa Western defeated the Grizzlies at the UNI Dome, after Iowa Western won the 2012 NJCAA National Championship Game 27-7 over Butler. Once again, many of the Reiver football players were recruited by various Division I schools, giving those student-athletes an opportunity to continue their football careers. 





# Class Notes

**1991**

**Alan Kirchert** is an electrician at Kirchert Electric in Essex, Iowa.

**2001**

**David Stephens** is an instructor at Clarinda Correctional Facility in Clarinda, Iowa. He and his wife recently welcomed their son Levi Howard (born Feb. 19) to their family.

**2002**

**Donna O'Brien** is a stay-at-home mom. Donna and husband, Tim, welcomed Lochlan to their family Jan. 7. Big brother Dakota and big sister Saoirse were excited to meet their new sibling.

**2004**

**Debra (Underwood) Hendricks** is the administrative manager of food service at Iowa Western Community College.

**Jamie (Lansdown) Pelzer** is a senior financial analyst at XO Group Inc. in Omaha, Neb.

**2005**

**Brandon Haug** is an account manager at PayPal in Omaha, and assistant men's soccer coach for the Reivers. Brandon married his wife, Samantha, in August.

**2007**

**Joan Swinford** is a licensed veterinary technician at the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha.

**2008**

**Jamie (O'Neil) Steckelberg** is a registered nurse at Montgomery County Medical Hospital in Red Oak, Iowa.

**2009**

**Bailey McQueen** is a service manager at Wells Fargo Bank in Omaha.

**2010**

**Taylor (Brockman) and Tyler Johnson (2011)** married in July 2013. Taylor is a work experience trainer for Goodwill Industries and Tyler is working for iRetire Financial.

**Lisa Palmquist** is a licensed veterinary technician for Plattsmouth Animal Hospital in Plattsmouth, Neb. Lisa and her fiancé, Ryan Sundermann, are planning an April 24 wedding.

**Renae Church** is a licensed veterinary technician for Best Care Pet Hospital.

**2011**

**Jessica Fox** is finishing her bachelor's degree at Iowa State University. She recently completed an internship at Walt Disney World in Florida.

**Megan Heese** is a licensed veterinary technician for Valley View Veterinary Clinic in Council Bluffs.

**Brandon Morehouse** is in charge of VIP Services at the Horseshoe Casino in Council Bluffs. He oversees hotel room and restaurant reservations, concert tickets, and meal compensations for VIP. Brandon also hires and trains staff, as well as coordinates events, food and alcohol, menu and budgets for the hotel lounges. The casino and hotel is currently working on a remodel.

**2012**

**Whitney Johnson** is a residence life coordinator at Iowa Western.

**2013**

**Cody Cable** is an information systems technician at Myrtue Medical Center.

**Karen Gonzalez** is a residence life coordinator at Iowa Western.

**Abbie (Heldenbrand) Doran** was married on August 24 to Matt Doran.

**Derek Scott** is attending Bellevue University in Bellevue, Neb.

**Peggy Slater** is working as a practicum adult counselor at NOVA Therapeutic Community Inc. Peggy married Bill Slater in 2009. She enjoys driving their 2005 Corvette and ghost hunting.

**Michelle Davidson** is attending Iowa State University and is a pet care associate at PetSmart.

**Anne Slater** is a licensed veterinary technician for Nebraska Animal Med Center in Lincoln, Neb.

**Tara Klimek** is a licensed veterinary technician for Best Care Hospital and also a wildlife biologist for Texas Mountain Ranch.

## Reivers in the Community



In Oct. 2013, the Reiver baseball team ventured off campus to help Iowa Western supporters Don and Wendy Fenster harvest their popcorn crop. For some of the players, it was their first time on a farm. Each year, the Fensters provide Iowa Western with an ample supply of popcorn to use for student activities and in concession stands. With the help from the baseball team, the popcorn harvest, which typically takes Fenster several weeks, was completed in an afternoon.

Thanks to Don and Wendy for providing Iowa Western student-athletes with this great opportunity and unique team-building activity.





## In the Spotlight



Dave Petratis, '78, Iowa Western's 2012 Outstanding Alumnus, had the honor of ringing The Opening Bell™ at the New York Times Stock Exchange. Petratis, CEO, president, and chairman of Allegion PLC, was joined on the podium by his executive leadership team along with company representatives from management and employees. This rare opportunity celebrated one week as a standalone public company following Allegion's pivotal spinoff from Ingersoll Rand. From his early years at Iowa Western as a student-athlete on the basketball team, to leading a global provider in mechanical and electrical security products and solutions, Petratis remains a proud Iowa Western alum. Go Reivers!

A replay of The Opening Bell Ceremony, which took place on Dec. 9, 2013, can be viewed at the NYSE website at <https://nyse.nyx.com/the-bell>.

From top: the new mascot for the Reivers; students participate in intramural volleyball at the suites; the football team claims this season's conference championship; and construction continues on the new engineer building scheduled for completion in Fall 2015.



The Iowa Western Alumni office enjoys hosting events that reconnect alumni to the college. It is a great opportunity to highlight our growth and progress while reuniting with old friends.

Since the last issue of the magazine, alumni have gathered for men's soccer and veterinary technology alumni events. The Alumni association hosted a homecoming tailgate at Lewis Central High School prior to the Reiver football game and an evening reception for 2013 Outstanding Alumnus Scott Belt.

We currently are planning alumni events for soccer, aviation and homecoming. Mark your calendars for this year's homecoming tailgate Sept. 20.

The Iowa Western Alumni office is looking forward to future gatherings with alumni and encourages everyone to stop by our Council Bluffs campus and any of the satellite centers. If you are interested in planning an alumni event, would like additional information, or want to receive future event mailings, please contact 712-325-3269 or email [alum@iwcc.edu](mailto:alum@iwcc.edu). You can also visit [www.iwcc.edu](http://www.iwcc.edu) or like us on Facebook — IWCCAlumniandFriends.



## Scheduled Events

- Soccer Alumni Event, Utah - June 7
- Aviation Alumni Open House - July 19
- Soccer Alumni Event, Council Bluffs - Aug. 30
- Homecoming - Sept. 20
- Agricultural Alumni - Feb. 27, 2015

At top: (from left) Scott Belt, daughter Erin, daughter Kara, wife Ann, father Robert and son Chad (not pictured: son Justin); Belt poses with Alumni Board President John Cool (left) and Iowa Western President Dr. Dan Kinney during the Outstanding Alumni reception Oct. 19; student alumni award recipients and Iowa Western Alumni Board members; and the Veterinary Technology alumni event.





Hello, alumni and friends!

Reiver pride — it's seen and felt in so many places! For some it's the first time stepping on campus and for others it's getting together with fellow alumni and reminiscing about their "good ol' days" at Iowa Western. The faculty and staff at Iowa Western experience "Reiver pride" on a daily basis. It's this pride that moves so many of them to provide financial support to today's Iowa Western students.



Each year, Iowa Western conducts an annual employee campaign giving our faculty and staff an opportunity to provide financial support to our students. The support is tremendous and makes a significant difference to students. The funds support the same students that employees see walking the halls, sitting in classrooms and eating in the dining hall. The needs are real; the impact is incredible.

As one student recently shared, it was such support that enabled her to continue her schooling. Taking classes full time with three young children can be stressful. Then, within a period of a few weeks, her family was struck with multiple illnesses and other challenges. She was at a crossroads. She wanted to continue her education but wondered if she should drop out to address her family's needs. She revealed that it was the scholarship support she received through Iowa Western donors and the student emergency fund that allowed her "to see the light at the end of the tunnel" and continue with her classes. This student is dedicated, focused and full of Reiver pride! And, because of the financial and educational support she received, she will graduate this May and will one day achieve her dream to become an elementary education teacher.

If you would like more information on how to share your Reiver pride and support our students, contact me at 712.325.3306 or [rcoughlin@iwwc.edu](mailto:rcoughlin@iwwc.edu). Thank you for the support that you offer to Iowa Western students. It's great to be a Reiver!

Gratefully,

*Renee P. Coughlin*

Renee Coughlin  
Vice President of Institutional Advancement

## 2014 Quick Numbers!

1,291

Students who can live on campus following the final phase of suites housing (Aug. 2013).

5,003

Packages received by students that provided a much-appreciated touch (and sometimes taste) of home!

42,583

Individuals who checked in for student housing facility visits.

45,000 & 35,000

Breaded and grilled chicken breasts consumed by students.

37,900

Individuals enrolled in Continuing Education classes in FY13.

12,000

Students who attended 362 programs hosted by Residence Life staff in the residence halls.

Return Service Requested

## Follow us on Facebook! Iowa Western Alumni Association

