

IWCC ALUM

A Magazine for IWCC Alumni & Friends



Fall 2011

CENTER FOR ADVANCED
NURSING AND ALLIED
HEALTH EDUCATION

IWCC Opens Nursing Center

The Center for Advanced Nursing and Allied Health Education opened its doors on February 21.

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Construction Technology Program
Colleen Geiger's Memorable Tenure
Reiver Athletic Highlights



Nursing Program

Iowa Western Community College's Center for Advanced Nursing and Allied Health Education, which opened in February 2011, is unlike any in the region or country and enables Iowa Western to educate more nurses and health care professionals to help address the nursing and health care profession shortage.

The center resembles an actual hospital setup and features: 27,850 square feet of new space added to Ashley Hall, four surgical tech classrooms, 10 simulator classrooms, one resource/media library, three debriefing rooms, one EMT training room, and one medical assisting lab.

Welcome Alumni & Friends

Greetings!

More than 23,000 Iowa Western Community College (IWCC) alumni span the world, and this past year we welcomed nearly 900 into this distinguished group. With the 2011-12 school year kicking off in a few weeks, our Alumni Association is excited to welcome a new group of students to our great institution, and one day to acknowledge them as alumni!

IWCC continues to have record enrollments, ongoing expansions and innovative renovations taking place. On behalf of the IWCC Alumni Association congratulations are extended to Iowa Western on the many great accomplishments achieved by our alma mater as well as the ongoing enrollment and facility growth.

The Alumni Association is in charge of concession operations for all home football games again this fall. If your schedule permits, we'd love to have you come and volunteer in the concession stand while cheering on the Reivers. Visit the IWCC website — www.iwcc.edu — for a schedule of the home games.

If you aren't already involved, I encourage you to join the IWCC Alumni Association. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact us at 712-325-3269 or alum@iwcc.edu, or friend us on Facebook. We'd love to hear from you and welcome you back to IWCC!



Best wishes,

Scott Belt, '77 and '82
Alumni Board President

Alumni Board

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IWCC Alum

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Community College Alumni Association



Dear alumni and friends,

Each fall, Iowa Western Community College (IWCC) welcomes thousands of new faces. For many, IWCC offers a new, fresh start; an adventure to accomplish lifelong dreams. Students choose Iowa Western to begin or expand their journey into higher education, a journey that provides them with new opportunities for themselves and their families. This fall, in addition to welcoming the new students, IWCC also is welcoming new programs and opening many new, renovated spaces.

To meet the demands of the expanding theater, art and music programs, additions are taking place at the Arts Center. In addition to nursing, surgery tech and medical assisting students learning in the premier Advanced Nursing and Allied Health Education Center, the college's dental assisting and dental hygiene departments also will start the year in expanded and renovated high-tech spaces. Additionally, the \$65.2 million in-kind grant from Siemens PLM Software enables IWCC to begin an innovative high-tech Design Technology program this fall. This program will be housed in the Cass County Center in Atlantic.

Our ever-expanding student population will access additional on-campus suites that open this fall. This housing addition brings IWCC's on-campus housing total to nearly 1,200 students — Iowa Western Community College is the fastest-growing town in southwest Iowa! And, with the addition of the wrestling program, IWCC also welcomes a new group of student-athletes.

With the college looking to boast record enrollments again this fall, we are excited about the new programs and spaces, but most of all to welcome a new group of students to our institution!

Thank you for all of your support,

Dan Kinney
Dr. Dan Kinney
President



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Derwin Kitchen goes high for two points in ACC action.

International Hopes

Former IWCC star Derwin Kitchen hopes to take his game overseas

By Anthony Flott

Derwin Kitchen is at an Orlando IHOP downing pancakes and talking hoops. A fitting setting, perhaps, for a man who wants to take his own hops international.

So far, Kitchen's skills have taken him on a journey as arduous as it was long — from his hometown in Jacksonville, Fla., to New York, to Iowa, back to Florida then up and down the East Coast as one of the country's elite college point guards. Now he's hoping his athleticism, shut-down defense and leadership abilities can take him overseas to Europe. Italy and Turkey seem to be the best bet.

"The competition is pretty good over there and they get paid just as well as some NBA players," Kitchen says.

A 2008 Iowa Western Community College graduate, Kitchen was hoping to be earning NBA dollars after a stellar three-year career at Florida State. He participated in a pre-draft camp in Las Vegas, banging away with other prospects. Later, he worked out for the New Jersey Nets.

But no teams called Kitchen's name in the two-round draft June 23. One week later came the NBA lockout, prohibiting contact between teams and players. That put Kitchen's future playing stateside in limbo. Thus he and agent T.J. Doyle's pursuit of a gig in Europe.

Travels, Travails, Triumphs

Kitchen always has had the talent to suggest that such worldly ambitions could be fulfilled. At Raines High School in Jacksonville, he averaged 20 points, nine rebounds and five steals as a senior and was runner-up for Florida's Mr. Basketball award. Rivals.com rated him the 68th best prospect in the country in 2005.

He committed to play for Florida, but in August that year came devastating (and well-documented) news — Kitchen was informed that he had failed the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) by a simple shot behind the arc — three points. Though Kitchen's grades at Raines were pass-worthy and he met the SAT minimum for entrance into Florida, he couldn't receive a high school diploma without passing the FCAT. No diploma, no Florida (the Gators would win two national titles without him).

Kitchen instead attended a college prep school in Port Charlotte, Fla., eventually passed the FCAT and signed to play for St. John's University. But just days before the 2006-07 season began he was ruled

academically ineligible.

Kitchen needed somewhere else to play.

St. John's player Avery Patterson, a former IWCC star, told him about the Reivers in Council Bluffs.

"I took a visit," Kitchen said, "and I loved it. Most junior colleges are in the middle of nowhere but it was the perfect situation because Omaha is right there so you had the city life. And I could get an education and play basketball."

Kitchen first cites the education he received when recounting his Reiver experience.

He said

IWCC Coach

Jim Morris

promised him a degree in less than two years.

"He stood by his word," Kitchen said.

"He made sure I was in the right classes and

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Clausen Gets a First-Hand Look at Iowa Western's Growth

By Don Kohler

From behind the wheel of his John Deere Gator, Greg Clausen can be found on any given day speeding across campus, hardhat and notebook in hand. Facilities manager at Iowa Western Community College, Clausen tracks an array of new construction and renovation projects — \$90 million worth of projects and counting — that have dominated the landscape for more than a decade.

In the summer 2011, the college had several major projects on the drawing board: the Arts Center renovation; the new Student Welcome Center; a remodeling project on the fifth floor of the Reiver Tower; a facility build-out at the Cass County Center in Atlantic; and the Google lab on the campus in Council Bluffs. All of those projects, along with the general maintenance issues throughout the system, have kept Clausen and his Gator in high gear.

"It is challenging at times, but there is no doubt that we have the best facilities around," he said. "The changes on this campus have been just amazing."

Clausen should know. The Underwood, Iowa, native has had a front row seat in more ways than one during the best and worst of times at Iowa Western. A former Iowa Western student, Clausen served on the college's board during some lean times and returned in the early '90s as maintenance director to help lead a construction boom that transformed the entire system.

Clausen graduated from Underwood High in 1971. Upon the urging of his father he enrolled at Iowa Western to study electronic technology, focusing on the industrial technology track. After receiving his degree, Clausen jumped at the chance to begin his career with the Bell System and signed as a janitor with the communications giant in 1973. He quickly was promoted to lineman repair with the company, where he worked installation and repair in rural Council Bluffs.

He got his first taste of maintenance when Western Electric, a new branch of the Bell system, announced plans to open a new materials management center in Underwood. Clausen directed the construction of the 11-acre center, beginning what proved to

be his final career track. He left the Bell system in 1987 to become building and grounds supervisor for the Underwood School District.

From 1975 to 1990, Clausen also found time to give back to his alma mater, serving on the board as a representative

of District XIII. Clausen admitted that he had an agenda when he ran for his first term. "Looking back, I have to say that I was a little disappointed in the electronics department at the time and wanted

to see some change," he said. "I worked hard to get teacher evaluations included in the review process, and we got that started. I just wanted to see some changes in the quality

education criteria."

Revamping academic programs was not the only issue facing trustees at that time, Clausen said, adding that the board was happy just to be able to add asphalt to parking lots as a major project. "It



"The college has been a vital part of our community and a big part of my life."



Greg Clausen stands with his trusty Gator and hardhat near the Arts Center construction zone.

was the worse time financially for the college,” he recalled. “We really had no money to do anything. We were borrowing on a line of credit just to pay the bills. The cash flow was not good. It would have been a pleasure to sit on the board now. If I could trade a few of those bad years with one today, I would have done it.”

Although the times were tough, Clausen said it was an honor to serve on the board and it prepared him in some ways for his return to Iowa Western. In summer 1998 he received a call from Dick Schonberg, the maintenance manager at Iowa Western.

“I had worked closely with the college with some equipment sharing programs

and knew Dick Schonberg pretty well,” Clausen said. “He called and told me he was retiring and wanted me to apply for the job. I guess the rest is history.”

Clausen said he accepted the IWCC job, and when he stepped onto campus there were construction projects already under way: Lewis Hall and the Kanesville Arena. “I had two full-blown projects going the day I moved in,” he said. “I was pretty green at the time, but when you get into the magnitude of those types of building projects, you get going pretty fast.”

Construction has been fast and furious ever since, boosted in part by key support from the community, which has embraced Iowa Western’s

growth by voting yes on two bond issue campaigns. From Harlan to Atlantic, Shenandoah to Clarinda, and back on the main campus in Council Bluffs, the Iowa Western system has taken on the look and feel of a four-year university system, Clausen said. He said leadership has been key to that success, particularly from Dr. Dan Kinney, IWCC’s president since 1994.

“The leadership and foresight for this campus by Dr. Kinney and the

Continued On Page 8

board has been amazing,” Clausen said. He also credited Tom Johnson, vice president of finance and operations, with his oversight during the construction boom. “The support from Tom has been huge from a construction standpoint. He has a good understanding of buildings and projects, and that helps when we are managing so many different jobs at once.”

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Clausen said he is proud of his tenure at the college, not just as an employee but as an alum and a trustee. His “Reiver Fever” has trickled over to his family, too. His wife, Arla, is director of vocal music at the college and has raised the profile of that program throughout Southwest Iowa and the metro area. Their daughter Loree graduated from Iowa Western and earned her bachelor’s degree from Creighton. She now is a radiologist at Jennie Edmundson Hospital’s cancer unit. Son Keith attended Iowa Western and now has a successful career as a software tech and scale

integrator for C & A Scales. Keith, a state champion grappler at Underwood High, now is leading a fund-raising drive for

the college’s new wrestling program.

When Greg and Arla are not on campus, they are thrilled to spend time with their three grandchildren: Ellie, Nick and Delanie. Greg also is active in his community, where he has served on the

volunteer fire department since 1976, including a 12-year stint as chief. He also has served as mayor and on the city council and planning board.

“I love this area,” he said. “The college has been a vital part of our community, and a big part of my life.”



Clausen looks over Arts Center blueprints with Jim Romano of Leuder Construction.

The Changing Landscape of Iowa Western’s Campus

By Don Kohler



Students enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the cyber library.

If you haven’t visited Iowa Western’s main campus in Council Bluffs lately, you might want to come prepared with a map. The campus has undergone major changes over the last five years, thanks in part to new construction projects that have changed the landscape of Iowa Western.

For example: the old cafeteria now is located in the new student center; the old student center is home to the new administration offices; the old cafeteria has been transformed into the new Center for Advanced Nursing and Allied Health Education; the old library has served as the temporary home to accounting and admissions staff, but that changes in September when the new Student Welcome Center opens in Clark Hall.

Sound confusing? If so, then it is time to schedule a visit to campus and see all that is new at your alma mater.



Nursing students enjoy the new state-of-the-art simulation labs.



The new Reiver Suites edition added 144 rooms to IWCC housing.



The expanded cafeteria is a popular spot for students.

NURSING CENTER

Iowa Western ushered in a new era in nursing education in February 2011 with the dedication of the new Center for Advanced Nursing and Allied Health Education. The nursing center project, which totaled \$5 million in construction and equipment costs, offers students state-of-the-art simulator labs and other amenities to enrich their healthcare education, said Dr. Dan Kinney, president of Iowa Western. “The new nursing facility is going to enable the college to greatly increase the number of nursing graduates at Iowa Western,” Dr. Kinney said.

The new center features: 27,850 square feet of renovations; 4,180 of new space added to Ashley Hall; four surgery tech classrooms; 10 simulator classrooms; a resource/media library; three debriefing rooms; an expanded EMT Training Room; and a Medical Assisting lab.

The nursing center also has become a popular training spot for local hospitals and clinicians who are expanding their knowledge in the simulator labs.

REIVER SUITES

Another phase of the Reiver Suites complex opened in August 2011, making room for 144 more students to enjoy the complete college experience. With the addition to the village, more than 1,200 students now call Iowa Western home.

STUDENT WELCOME CENTER

Clark Hall, once home to a maze of cubicles, went through a major facelift in summer 2011 to accommodate a new “one-stop shop” for students beginning their college careers. The \$3.4 million Student Welcome Center will house the entire student services staff, including testing, financial aid, recruitment offices and more. In addition, the college’s accounting staff will be located next door to make for an easy transition for students and parents alike.

STUDENT CENTER

Iowa Western’s new student center opened in June 2010, and the 71,050-square-foot, two-story facility has quickly become a favorite spot for the college’s growing student population. The new student center is home to a cyber library and cafe, an expanded bookstore and spacious culinary arts lab. Total cost of the project was \$12.6 million, with another \$1.8 million going toward equipment and furnishings.

Construction Technology Program: Building Relationships for Success

By Mike Watkins

Gina Primmer loves coming to her 9th Avenue Habitat for Humanity office each morning knowing she's working in a volunteer-built structure.

That building, named in honor of her father John Malloy, one of the Council Bluffs chapter's founders and its first executive director, was constructed largely by the hands of Iowa Western students majoring in the college's Construction Technology program.

This partnership, which began 13 years ago, along with a similar one with the local Community Housing Investment Corporation (CHIC), have become the practical basis for in-the-field, hands-on learning for students involved in the fast-growing program.

"Habitat relies on volunteer labor to build all of our homes, and we always tout that no experience is necessary to help us provide simple, decent housing to hard-working families in need," said Primmer, executive director.

"But the truth is, the skilled, energetic hands of the Iowa Western students and the experienced guidance of their instructors is crucial to our ability to get a lot done in a short amount of time. It truly increases our capacity to serve."

The two-year program, which features diploma (two semesters, one summer) and associates degree (four semesters, one summer) options as well as a certificate program in sustainable construction (two semesters) – is designed to place students in the workforce upon completion.

Hands-On Learning

The intensive curriculum and on-the-job work experience train the students to be proficient in all phases of residential and commercial instruction. Because the program provides the opportunity to learn and apply all elements of the industry but emphasizes



Construction Technology students practice all phases of the trade.

carpentry and the related areas of electricity, blueprint reading and math, graduates are especially prepared for jobs in these areas.

Students who complete the two-year program often earn starting wages in the \$16.70 hourly range, with an experienced graduate making upwards of \$18 per hour. Specific jobs range from being an installer and finisher in a variety of aspects of residential construction, including drywall, roofing and siding, to being a commercial installer and finisher of roofing, walls, doors and windows. Other jobs include being an equipment operator, estimator and welder.

Joe Kuemper, executive director of CHIC, sees the budding relationship with IWCC as an opportunity to build – literally and figuratively – for the future.

The partnership with CHIC begins this year with the August class, and the students in the Construction Technology program will build two new homes on a vacant lot in a neighborhood of modestly priced homes. The sales of these homes generate some residual income, which is used



for student scholarships and future curriculum enhancements.

The first project the IWCC students will work on in conjunction with CHIC is the former site of Dolphin swimming pool in the Wenwood neighborhood. When membership interest dipped, the facilities fell into disrepair and closed. CHIC acquired the site through the city Blight removal program and prepared it for INFIL homes.

“Collaborating gives us an opportunity to do what we each do best, and both parties benefit from the relationship,” said Kuemper, who has been with CHIC since 2003. “Iowa Western’s students struggle to acquire building sites, but by partnering with CHIC and the City of Council Bluffs, they now have a reliable source of building sites, two annually, plus they are relieved from the burden of handling sales.”

IWCC’s program is so well-received and highly regarded that David Hazlewood, the program’s chair and one of two instructors, has had to turn students away for this upcoming year, even though the construction industry was one of the hardest-hit by the Great Recession — and continues to recover. Despite having only 45 available seats, 65 students have applied for the program. They will be held over until classes begin next year.

Having directed the program for the past three years, Hazlewood, a former Marine and construction foreman from Lampasas, Texas, has been instrumental in not only helping the program stand out against other two-year and four-year degree programs but also has developed its curriculum and opportunities in the private and public building sectors.

Impacting the Lives of Others

The key, Hazlewood said, is the opportunity the program gives first-

and second-year students to learn in the classroom as well as on the job while contributing to the city through community service projects.

Over the last 10 years, students in the program have completed more than 100,000 hours of community service projects and more than 40,000 college projects service hours. In the summer, students work paid internships, and in many cases, are hired by the company once they complete the program.

On-campus projects have included building a batting/pitching cage and dugouts for the baseball and softball teams, as well as several parking lots and sidewalks. Future plans include building a FEMA bunker for those students living in the new apartments.

And even though it hasn’t yet replaced hammers and saws, state-of-the-art technology — laptop computers, digital cameras and scanners — as provided in the classroom and on the job sites make IWCC Construction Technology students highly prepared to make an impact.

“What the students learn in the



classroom, particularly the science and math components, have proven to be very beneficial, but few things can substitute for actually being a part of the work process,” said Hazlewood,

who joined the IWCC faculty 10 years ago. “They get the opportunity to build residential homes from start to finish, and that is invaluable in many ways beyond just learning the basics.

It’s a real-life lab, and our involvement with Habitat and CHIC is a positive way to improve the community that we live in.”

Hazlewood’s vision and direction for the program — along with fellow instructor and IWCC alum John Reddish — have not gone unnoticed. The publics that the IWCC Construction Technology program serve benefit in multiple ways to positively impact the lives of fellow citizens and their families.

The program’s reputation also pays off for student graduates, as more than 90 percent gain job placement in the industry.

“David’s leadership is superb,” Primmer said. “He is demanding of the students but has a knack for helping them see how perfecting their skills and knowledge will benefit them as professionals. We hope to continue

to grow our partnership with Iowa Western and explore exciting possibilities in green and sustainable building beyond what we’re already doing now.

“It has been an incredible joy to watch the program grow over the years. The jobsites are just teeming with students every day. The students gain such

relevant experience that they enter the workforce head and shoulders above their co-workers who don’t choose to get a formal education in construction technology.”

Geiger Concludes Memorable Tenure as Iowa Western Trustee

By Don Kohler

Colleen Geiger has made the 40-minute drive up Interstate 29 from her farm in Thurman, Iowa, to Council Bluffs too many times to count. As the longest-tenured trustee on the Iowa Western board, Geiger has attended her share of activities on the Council Bluffs campus and at the college's other center locations. From meetings and graduations to athletic events



Dr. Dan Kinney, IWCC President, poses with Colleen Geiger prior to her final commencement ceremony as a trustee.

and arts center performances, her calendar has been colored Reiver blue for two decades.

But Geiger's "to do" list became a bit more manageable in May when she said goodbye to her board colleagues, signing off after two decades of service to the college. With a small plaque in hand and plenty of well-wishes, Geiger

walked out of her last board meeting and headed down I 29 to begin focusing her time on the family farm and her six grandchildren.

"I have seen other board members at other colleges hang on 30 and 40 years, and I did not want to do that," she said during an interview at her Thurman home. "I think there is always a good time to get off, and 20 years was enough. Every year the grandkids call about vacations and visits, and I would need to check the calendar first. It was time. I have seen a lot of things accomplished over the last 20 years."

She not only witnessed the transformation of Iowa Western, Geiger played a key role in making the tough decisions to ensure the college's growth, which has included more than \$90 million in system-wide construction over the last 10 years. "This was a tough decision, because there has been nothing volunteer-wise that I have been involved with that I have enjoyed more than my time at Iowa Western."

Geiger arrived at Iowa Western in the early '90s, passing

the initial board interview process conducted by Lowell Lines of Clarinda, a retired banker, and Gregg Forristall of Macedonia, who currently serves in the Iowa House of Representatives. "It was a very informal process, and I knew little about the college at that time," she recalled. "I do know this: the college did not have the reputation that it does now."

Geiger, who taught in the Farragut School System for three years after earning a degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said she was encouraged by her husband, Bob, to take the Iowa Western board position. "I remember him saying that I would love it because I love education. He was right."

While Geiger enjoyed the many challenges of board service, she said it was not always smooth sailing during the early years. One of her first duties as a trustee was to conduct interviews for a new president after the retirement of Carl Heinrich, the college's second president. The search committee made several trips throughout the Midwest on a small commuter plane, and one venture ended with some tense moments for crew and passengers alike. "We flew through a pretty strong storm. It was bumpy enough to knock the luggage out from the top," she said. "It was the roughest ride I had ever been on in a small plane. I remember we were all writing notes down to say who we wanted for our next president, just in case."

"People always talk about the arts center, the student center and other projects, but I am most proud of our people, and the leadership of Dan Kinney."

Fortunately, the committee was able to convene after landing safely in Clarinda and the group continued its discussion about the next leader of Iowa

Western. Eventually, the consensus pick was an up-and-coming administrator in Coffeyville, Kansas, named Dr. Dan Kinney. Since his arrival, Kinney has helped lead a revitalization of the entire Iowa Western system, championing building projects in Council Bluffs, Harlan, Atlantic, Clarinda and Shenandoah. The college's surging enrollment and status throughout the state prompted Iowa Senate



Colleen Geiger plans to spend more time with her grandchildren at her home in Thurman, Iowa.

Majority Leader Mike Gronstal to call Iowa Western “the premier community college in Iowa” during a speech on the Senate floor.

“It has been amazing to see the changes in our college over the years,” Geiger said. “People always talk about the arts center, the student center and other projects, but I am most proud of our people, and the leadership of Dan Kinney. I am proud of the faculty, the staff, and the cabinet for the amount of time they put in and for going above and beyond to make Iowa Western what it is today.”

Geiger said the college has demonstrated resiliency during tough economic times, initiating new programs (veterinary tech, wind technology), expanding others (nursing, dental hygiene) and resurrecting those deemed important to community members (aviation). She also recalled the very

public fight over saving the college’s radio station from public sale.

“You often forget how passionate people are about their community college,” she said, reflecting on the day that 1,200 people packed the Kanesville Arena to protest the possible sale of 89.7 The River. “I had never seen so many people in the gym.” The River survived the takeover attempt and today is one of the top five radio stations in the entire Omaha metro market, according to Arbitron ratings.

Geiger said those challenges and tough decision-making should not deter the person that fills her shoes on the IWCC board. She said the key to being a successful trustee is to stay involved in all aspects of the college. “It is important to do more than just go to meetings,” she said. “It is invaluable for our students that they see you at events and that board members are

involved.”

Geiger practiced what she is now preaching, having started the first-ever Page/Fremont County Golf Scholarship Scramble, which celebrated its 10th year in 2011. She and her husband also were one of the first Founder’s Club members for Reiver football.

With all of the accomplishments of her tenure behind, Geiger said she is looking forward to her new role as just a Reiver booster. Her work with Geiger LLC will keep her busy, as will the trips with the grandchildren, but she still plans to make the familiar trek to Iowa Western.

“I hope that I have given as much as I have received from my tenure on the board. It was a very rewarding experience that resulted in lifelong friendships. Iowa Western was more like a family than a business.”



A Friend Indeed

Terri Kruse raises funds first by raising friends

By Anthony Flott

As executive director of the Shenandoah Healthcare Foundation, raising money is among Terri Kruse's primary goals.

Yet it's clear that friend-raising comes before fundraising. "We're a small community and I would like to remain friends with everyone," Kruse said. "I often think that we won't meet our goals without earning the respect of friends, and we can respect the community and firms by delivering quality healthcare for all."

Sometimes, though, the 2005 Iowa Western Community College graduate must go to those friends again and again — and again — asking for funds in support of the Shenandoah Medical Center.

"Sometimes it's hard to ask people to give to a project because we've asked the same people for money for every project," Kruse said. "There's only a certain number of people that have the resources to give over and over."

And yet, she said, "almost all of these people do."

"The people in southwest Iowa are so community-minded that when we put out a need, we've always received it. When we have a project, people give what they can and it just seems to come to fruition."

Of course, folks with deep pockets don't give just because they're asked. But when it's Kruse doing the asking, friends give the funds, said longtime friend Linda Lloyd, SHF board president.

"Terri is very outgoing and friendly to everyone," Lloyd said. "Terri is well-organized, remembers people and remembers to thank volunteers and donors. Her relationship with people has resulted in donations."

Real money that makes a real difference, like life-saving medical equipment, scholarships and a much-needed, state-of-the-art child care facility.

Kruse is more likely to praise her friends and even her alma mater for her success than she is to give herself a pat on the back. But her achievements took lots of sweat equity, a bit of uprooting, and the steady nurturing of a professional career.

Roots planted, transplanted

Kruse is a native southwest Iowan, though that's said with a bit of a caveat. She was born in Clarinda but lived there just two months before her family moved to Ames, where she was raised. Her father, Chuck Irwin, was a longtime Iowa Electric Light and Power man; her mother, Shirley, raised Terri and her brother Tony than went to work as a therapist assistant in Ames' Mary Greeley Medical Center.

Kruse was always making it back to the state's bottom left corner, though — she and Tony enjoyed summer stays on a grandparents' farm in Bedford, Iowa. Her parents were area natives and eventually resettled there after retiring (Chuck Irwin still owns a farm there).

Kruse eventually would return to southwest Iowa, too, but it took her a while to get there.

After graduating from Ames High School she

enrolled at Iowa State University as a mechanical engineering major (then one of the few women in such classes). She went to school “on and off” but in 1974 opened a custom art framing store, Wall to Wall, after seeing something similar in Kansas City. She sold it three years later and accepted a better offer — marriage to Bill Kruse. The couple, introduced by Terri’s brother Tony have two children, Tiffany (now 30) and Tyler (27).

While Bill was growing a career with Earl May Seed & Nursery, Terri landed her first post in the healthcare field as a business officer for McFarland Medical Clinic. Her duties included public relations, scheduling and data entry, skills that would serve her well later.

In August 1994 Kruse finally returned to southwest Iowa for good, moving there after Bill earned a promotion and new position with Earl May. Today he’s a district manager for the company overseeing territory that stretches from Grand Island, Neb., to Iowa City.

The move was a welcome one. “I was looking forward to some of the small town advantages, and the smaller schools for my kids was one of them,” Kruse said. “Shenandoah schools proved to be very, very nice for both of my kids.”

Both of her children took Iowa Western credit classes while in high school. Tyler and his mother even were in the same psychology class (mom got the better grade, she notes). Tyler later graduated from the University of South Dakota and Tiffany from the University of Iowa.

Planting a career

Once returned to her native soil, Kruse got right to work, as an administrative assistant for the Shenandoah Chamber of Commerce. Two years later, in 1996, she became an account executive for the May Broadcasting Company. In 2000 she landed her cur-

rent post. She writes grants, gives public and personal presentations, deals with the media, coordinates fundraising and events, and more.

She most enjoys the annual Shenandoah Healthcare Foundation Golf Benefit and the Children’s Health Fair. She was involved with the golf tournament even before becoming SHF executive director, while serving on the foundation’s board. She’s directed the last 11 outings, which raises from \$35,000 to \$40,000 each year.

“We’ve bought baby warmers, we’ve bought beds, ultrasound equipment, surgical tables and given money to a new mammography machine, new CAT scan equipment,” she said.

Kruse started the health fair in August 2009 (this year’s fair is Aug. 20). There children up to 18 can receive free lead and glucose testing, dental hygiene, eye exams, information on nutrition and body mass index, and more. Information on Hawk-I insurance is available and free bike helmets provided. About 350 children and 150 parents have attended each year.

Kruse’s achievements also include the 2007 opening of the Turnbull Childcare Center. Prior to that there had been a child care facility for 30 years in the basement of a Presbyterian church. But after raising \$2.8 million (including a \$1 million gift from Bud and Mary Turnbull), a state-of-the-art facility was built for 200 children. It currently holds about 180.

More recently, the Shenandoah Healthcare Foundation received a \$250,000 grant to help purchase, among other things, ambulance equipment.

Kruse is quick to praise Iowa Western for its role in such success.

“Without my writing skills, which were developed at Iowa Western, I don’t know that the grant would have been developed,” Kruse said.

Kruse began attending classes at Iowa Western part-time in 1998 (“very

part-time,” she emphasizes), attending classes on the Clarinda and Shenandoah campuses. Such convenience, she said, “made it so I could still be a mom and work part time and go to school part time.”

“Once I took one class I was thrilled and I totally enjoyed it and continued to sign up for additional classes,” she said. “Professors were knowledgeable and wanted everyone to learn and tried to pass on as much information as they could. I was surprised at ... how I was totally accepted as a non-traditional student. I thought I would be a fish out of water and I soon realized there were many other nontraditional students. And the traditional students were good to me, too.”

Kruse specifically praises business Professor Donna Scarlet, who taught her in Clarinda and who, she said, “basically individualized a program for me and allowed me to reach my goal of an associate’s degree.”

She earned that in 2005, in business administration. “My Iowa Western degree is a precious gift and I’ll cherish it forever,” she said.

Kruse plans to return to Iowa State to pursue a bachelor’s degree — and notes that she’s already paid the \$40 registration fee.

Clearly, she is not one with idle hands. She is active in the community — as rotary president and as an officer for Shenandoah’s Home and Garden Club, the Historical Society and the Book Club. She also initiated and is president of the Shenandoah Parent Teacher Organization and serves Phi Theta Kappa, the Shenandoah Housing Authority and the Shenandoah Community Food Pantry.

“She helps with many events in the community that are not related to her job,” Lloyd said. “She gives more than 100 percent.”

Sounds like the kind of friend southwest Iowa could use.

The Arts Center at Iowa Western Offers Discounts to Alumni

The Arts Center is now offering alumni discounts on tickets to all 2011-2012 season performances. Contact the box office at 712.388.7140.

National 2011-2012
Performance Season

THE PASSING ZONE
Friday, Sept. 16 / 8:00 p.m.
Comedy, juggling & dangerous stunts.
Finalists on "America's Got Talent."

THE FOUR BITCHIN' BABES
Saturday, Oct. 1 / 8:00 p.m.
The multi-talented Babes are back to perform their popular musical revue Diva Nation...where all songs are sung with pride, attitude and terrific accessories!

THE MOOD
Nov. 6 / 7:00 p.m.
A show honoring a special time in history. Music, singing, and the sensational String of Big Band Orchestra.

Away in the Basement
A Church Basement Ladies Christmas
Friday, Nov. 11 / 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 12 / 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.
The hugely popular Church Basement Ladies are back to serve up an all new holiday comedy!

Richard Marx
Friday, Jan. 27 / 8:00 p.m.
Grammy Award winning artist and songwriter...over 30 million albums sold and writer of 13 No. 1 songs.

the water coolers
Saturday, Feb. 18 / 8:00 p.m.
Laugh-out-loud funny, this show is filled with music & comedy about the things we share around the water coolers of America every day.
"One of the hottest tickets in town!" (E! Entertainment TV)

Danú
Sunday, Mar. 4 / 3:00 p.m.
Celebrate St. Patrick's Day early! A truly authentic Irish experience using traditional instruments and brilliant vocalists. An unforgettable, captivating evening!

TICKETS: 712.388.7140
artscenter.iwcc.edu

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Porter's & Elmer's
Red Giant Oil
Seaside Petroleum Products
SilverStone Group
TS Bank, Truist State Bank
Farmers & Merchants State Bank
Hicks & Mohr's Grocers
Peoples National Bank

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Campus Calendar

2011 Fall and 2012 Spring Semesters

Aug. 22	Fall 2011 Classes Begin
Sept. 9	IWCC Mills County Golf Tournament - Glenwood, Iowa
Sept. 24	Black Tie Harvest for Scholarships
Sept. 25	Deaf and Hard of Hearing Alumni Event
Oct. 14-16	Homecoming Weekend
Oct. 15	Athletics Hall of Fame Breakfast, Council Bluffs Baseball Reunion, Council Bluffs Football vs. North Dakota State College of Science, 1 pm, Council Bluffs
Oct. 28	Construction Technology Reunion, Council Bluffs
Nov. 7-11	Spring Priority Registration Week
Nov. 16	Open Registration for Spring Begins
Dec. 16	End of Fall Semester
Dec. 17	Fall Graduation Ceremony - Council Bluffs
Jan. 9	Spring 2012 Classes Begin
April 2-6	Fall Priority Registration Week
May 11	End of Spring Semester Spring Graduation Ceremony - Clarinda
May 12	Spring Graduation Ceremony - Council Bluffs

View the full athletics calendar at www.athletics.iwcc.edu

View the IWCC academic calendar at http://iwcc.edu/es/academic_calendar.asp

Iowa Prep Champion Returns to Home State to Lead Reiver Program

By Don Kohler

Josh Watts made a name for himself on the wrestling mats as a stellar high school athlete. Now he is hoping to do the same from the coaching chair. Watts, a former three-time Iowa State wrestling champion at Davenport Assumption High School, recently was named head wrestling coach for the new Iowa Western Community College program.

"I am excited for the opportunity that this job presents," Watts said. "With the popular-

athlete at Davenport Assumption, Watts owned the record for most wins in Iowa history (190) and was the school's first three-time state champion. He was a High School National All-American and a member of the Iowa Freestyle National Team.

The experience on and off the mat is what impressed Iowa Western officials and the



interview committee, said Athletic Director Brenda Hampton. "Josh is obviously a guy who has had experience building a program from the ground up," she said. "He has produced solid student-athletes at the junior college level, and he obviously has plenty of experience on the mat."

"With the popularity of wrestling in Iowa and Nebraska, I think we will have what it takes to be successful."

ity of wrestling in Iowa and Nebraska, I think we will have what it takes to be successful."

Watts has little time to waste, as his inaugural team will take the mats November. Watts left Darton College in Albany, Ga., to return to his home state. As he hopes to do at Iowa Western, Watts started a wrestling program from scratch at Darton and built it into an NJCAA Division III contender in just four seasons. During his tenure, Watts produced 30 national qualifiers, one NJCAA All-American and 13 Academic All-Americans. Watts led his 2009-10 team to a sixth-place finish at the national tournament.

Prior to his coaching stint, Watts wrestled at the collegiate level at Loras College and the University of Northern Iowa before injuries sidelined his competitive career. As a prep

2011-2012 Schedule

Nov. 5	Loras Open	Dubuque, Iowa
Nov. 13	Iowa State Open	Ames, Iowa
Nov. 19	Coe Invite	Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Nov. 22	Ellsworth Dual	Iowa Falls, Iowa
Dec. 3	UNI Open	Cedar Falls, Iowa
Dec. 10	Buena Vista Open	Storm Lake, Iowa
Jan. 7	Hastings Open	Hastings, Neb
Jan. 15	Iowa Lakes Dual	HOME
Jan. 28	Grandview Open	Des Moines, Iowa
Feb. 4	Briar Cliff Open	Sioux City, Iowa
Feb. 11	Regional Tourn.	Mason City, Iowa

Feb. 24 and 25
NJCAA Wrestling Championships
Rochester, MN

Reiver Highlights – Spring 2011

For the 2010-2011 year, four teams were nominated NJCAA Team of the Year: softball (GPA 3.397), women's golf (GPA 3.335), women's soccer (GPA 3.268), and baseball (GPA 3.073).

By Brenda Hampton

Baseball

Head coach Marc Rardin (ninth year) and the Reiver baseball team finished the season with a record of 43-20, advanced to the JUCO World Series for the fifth-straight year and finished third. Chris Waylock was named the ICCAC Defensive Player of the year and Levi Meyer was named the Northern District Tournament MVP. Mitch Warne and AJ Gaura were named to the All-Tournament team and Adam Lavelle was named to the NJCAA Academic All-American list. The team was also named an NJCAA Academic Team of the Year.



Men's and Women's Golf

Head Coach Tyler Schiffelbein (first year) coached the women's golf team to a first-place finish at the Region XI tournament, which qualified the team for the national tournament in Daytona Beach, Florida. The women's team finished 13th. The men's team qualified for the national tournament in Alabama, where it finished 12th. The women's team was an NJCAA Academic Team of the Year and golfers Ashleigh Sorensen, Ashley Hinrichs and Emily Wenstrand were named NJCAA Academic All-Americans.



Softball

Head Softball Coach Lana Ross (ninth year) led the Reiver softball team to a 49-14 record, finishing as the Region XI & District K Champions. The team also advanced to the NJCAA Tournament, where it placed seventh. Bradi Wall, Daleigh Fossler and Greta Smeins were named ICCAC players of the year and Bradi Wall and Kylee Simpson were named NJCAA All-Americans. Bradi Wall was named the NJCAA Academic All-American award winner and the women's team was named an NJCAA Academic Team of the Year.



Men's and Women's Track & Field

Head Coach Emmett Statzer (fourth year) led his team to another successful year. The men's and women's indoor track team finished fourth and 18th at the indoor national tournament respectively, and 12th and 24th at the outdoor national tournament. The team broke 25 indoor and 16 outdoor records. Isaiah Samoei was named a two-time NJCAA All-American. Dominique Samuel, Justin Hazard and Stephanie Hamilton were named NJCAA Academic All-Americans.



Class Notes

1971

Gary McCall

Gary is a manager at Union Pacific

1972

Ann (Burkey) Jones

Graduation from the AND Nursing Program in 1972 has been the cornerstone of Ann's career success. Ann has worked in full-time family practice as a FNP/PA for the past 33 years.

1973

Debra (Berrier) Lord

Debra is the campus visit coordinator for Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa

1974

Jo (Kirsch) Headrick

Jo is a staff assistant at University of Nebraska at Omaha

1976

Joe Brazda Jr.

Joe is attending ITT Tech for computer drafting and design

1978

Bruce Schediegger

Bruce is the athletic director at Carol Sandburg High School in Orland Park, Illinois

1979

Robert Baker

Robert is the transportation supervisor for Falls City Public Schools in Falls City, Neb

1981

Mark McQueen

Mark is the head baseball coach at the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia

1984

Carol Robertson

Carol was appointed Mills County Auditor in September 2009. She was re-elected in 2000, 2004 and 2008

Michael Gell

Michael is the director of human resources at Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha, Neb

1986

Tammara Weis

Tammara is married to John Link and have one daughter, Harleigh. Tammara is a personal assistant and child care provider

Joel Beal

Joel is a partner with JBA Investments in Texas

1988

Keith Jones

Keith is a police sergeant with the Council Bluffs Police Department

1993

Heidi DiGiacomo

Heidi has one daughter, Sydney, and is employed with Iowa Western Community College at the Clarinda Correctional Facility's Education Department as the office manager and GED Examiner

Michael Koesters

Michael is a toolmaker/wire EDM for Distefano Tool and Mfg. Company

Joel Schlueter

Joel is a highway tech for the Iowa Department of Transportation

1994

Lisa (Smith) Koffman

Lisa married in 2010 and purchased her first home. She tested for RID and received her NIC Master. Lisa is a freelance interpreter and enjoys it

Steve Graham

Steve received his bachelor's degree from Missouri State University in 1997 in computer information systems. Steve maintains the PeopleSoft HR and payroll systems for DST. Steve is married and has two children

1995

Sherry (Gorden) Long

Sherry was promoted to procurement officer for the Kansas School for the Deaf

Tammy (Best) Bownds

Tammy is a loan servicing manager at the Great Western Bank in Nixa, Missouri

Marie Miller

Marie is a senior software analyst at Mutual of Omaha in Omaha, Neb

1998

Angela Bowman

Angela is an LPN in the Medical-Surgical Unit with the Madison County Health Systems

1999

Jackie (Milner) Ditsworth

Jackie is a graphic designer for the Iowa Cattleman's Association

Krista (Bubke) Riesselman

Krista is the training and development coordinator for American Home Shield

2000

April Stevens

April is a paralegal with Ortale, Kelley, Herbert & Crawford in Nashville, Tennessee

Brian Lukowski

Brian is a senior financial analyst for The Knot in Omaha

Tyson Reimers

Tyson is a senior applications developer with Paperhost.com

2001

Matt Moore

Matt works at Mutual of Omaha as a manager in web communications

Nickie Gute

Nickie is a registered dental hygienist at Broadway Family & Cosmetic Dentistry in Council Bluffs

2002

Lisa Perry

Lisa is the sales and marketing coordinator at Service Management Group in Kansas City, Missouri. Lisa is getting married on Nov 11, 2011

2004

Ashley McElderry Forrester

Ashley is a training specialist at Lincoln Financial Group

Julie Thompson

Julie works at Iowa Western as the Auxiliary Accountant. Julie has one son, Cole

Debra (Underwood) Hendricks

Debra graduated from Buena Vista University with a bachelor's in business management. She works at Iowa Western as the manager of food service - administrative. Debra and her husband, Kent, have two children - Kendra and Kent Jr

Kylie Goreham

Kylie is the human resource manager for AC Nelsno Enterprises in Omaha

2006

Heather Kernes

Heather is the billings manager for Body Evolution Fitness in Texas

Samantha Richey

Samantha works as the assistant director of advising at Iowa Western



2008

Brandy Carlisle

Brandy and alum Kodie Powers ('08) were married May 13 and just purchased their first home in Shenandoah, Iowa

2009

Amber Casebeer

Amber graduated from Buena Vista University in May 2011 and is the disability services coordinator at Iowa Western

Alisha Moe

Alisha is an admissions representative for Hawkeye Community College

2010

Amanda-Dawn Fielman

Amanda works on-air with NRG Media

Kara Chapman

Kara plans to get her bachelor's degree at Midland University. Kara loved her time at IWCC!

Stephanie Schmidt

Stephanie is attending Wayne State College and will be a senior this fall. She is a member of Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society and is a pitcher/utility player for the Wayne State College Wildcats softball program

2011

Dustin Haase

After graduation, Dustin began working as an operator at Agriland FS

Mitchell Kohl

Mitchell is working at UPS as a package handler while finishing his bachelor's degree

Christopher Soenksen

Christopher plans to continue his education at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Christopher was just awarded the NJCAA Student Athlete of the Year award

Adam Long

After graduation, Adam became the new student center coordinator at Iowa Western Community College. Adam is working on his bachelor's degree in business administration at Bellevue University

Tarrah Sweet

Tarrah will continue her volleyball career at Eastern New Mexico University

Ben Snyder

Ben is attending Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Missouri, to earn his athletic training certification (ATC)

Justin Hazard

Justin works as a personal trainer at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Rec Center. He will be attending the University of Nebraska - Lincoln this fall. Justin is a former cross country runner for IWCC and continues to run long distances in his spare time

Continued from Page 5

that I had enough credit hours so I could finish my degree."

Morris rode him hard in the gym, too.

"We bumped heads one or two times," Kitchen said with a laugh, "always because he was pushing me, and that's what I needed."

In his lone season at IWCC the 6-foot-4 guard averaged 14 points, 6.1 rebounds and 3.3 assists, helping the Reivers to a 28-5 record and No. 11 spot in the final NJCAA rankings. He earned All-American honors and plenty of suitors. Playing for the Seminoles put him close to home and family (the son of Geraldine Oliver and Vincent Kitchen, he has three brothers and a sister).

It also helped that FSU was rebuilding and in need of his talents. He started almost from the get-go and was a key component in a Florida State basketball resurgence. The Seminoles made the NCAA tournament all three years Kitchen was on the court, advancing

to the Sweet 16 this year. FSU won 70 games overall during Kitchen's career, third most in the ACC. Kitchen ended his career 14th in school history with 308 career assists and tied for 16th with 133 career steals.

During his senior season (by then the dreadlocks he donned at IWCC were gone) he started all 34 games, averaging 10.4 points. The Seminoles also beat Duke when it was ranked No. 1. FSU also beat No. 1 North Carolina in 2009. "One of the greatest feelings," he said

of the wins.

But they pale, he said, in comparison to the NCAA tourney run this spring. A No. 10 seed, Florida State opened with a 57-50 win over Texas A&M, Kitchen leading the team with 15 points and seven assists. Next, FSU downed No. 2 seed Notre Dame 71-57. The Seminoles exited the tourney with a 72-71 loss to VCU.

"I knew we had the talent but I didn't know if we were able to put it all together and make a run," Kitchen said. "We should have went further than the Sweet 16, but it was fun. I know nobody expected us to make it that far."

At the end of the season Kitchen at the Seminoles' 2011 Honors banquet was named the Bob Sura Outstanding Offensive Player. He also received the Otto Petty award for most assists for the second consecutive season.

On April 30 he graduated with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary social studies. Now he's working out every day, trying to get a consistent jump shot and hoping for a call that will take him overseas.

He doesn't care where in Europe he lands or what language they speak there.

"I just want to play basketball," he said.

And these days, hoops is a language spoken the world over.



Alumni Reunions

The IWCC Alumni Office remains busy hosting and planning reunions for 2011 and 2012. If you are interested in planning an alumni event, contact the alumni office at 712.325.3269.



April 16

Nursing alumni gathered at the new Center for Advanced Nursing and Allied Health Education. Seventy-four alumni and friends attended the event and took tours of the brand-new facility, visited with fellow alumni and learned of college updates in a presentation from Dr. Kinney.

Upcoming Reunions . . . Mark Your Calendars!

Sept. 25 - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Alumni Event

The Sunday event will offer tours, a presentation, lunch and socializing from 10:00am - 1:30pm. For more information, contact the Alumni Office at 712.325.3269.

Oct. 15 - Baseball Alumni Reunion

Reunion consists of Athletics Hall of Fame breakfast, alumni baseball game and social gathering. For more information, contact Coach Marc Rardin at 712.325.3331.

Oct. 28 - Construction Technology Reunion

Reunion in the student center Reiver Room. For more information, contact David Hazlewood at 712.325.3362.



If you would like to be included in future reunion mailings, send your updated contact information to alum@iwcc.edu. You also can visit us on the web – www.iwcc.edu – or find us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/IWCCAlumniandFriends.

Institutional Advancement

Hello alumni and friends,

As Iowa Western Community College (IWCC) embarks on the start of a new academic year, there is great energy and buzz on our campus and throughout our centers. Students are excited to continue their education or begin a new adventure; faculty members are returning refreshed after the summer break; and we all are reminded that IWCC is a great place that offers life-changing opportunities for our more than 7,000 students.

In many cases, students' opportunities to achieve a degree of higher education from IWCC are made possible because of the financial support from the college's many friends and supporters. With more than 80 percent of the student population relying on financial assistance, and more than \$2.1 million awarded in scholarships last academic year, a large majority of IWCC's students depend on your support.

Many of the 23,000 individuals who call themselves "IWCC alumni" relied on scholarship and financial support to achieve their educational goals. These individuals now are nurses, teachers, mechanics, attorneys or business leaders living in our communities, serving our needs and positively impacting our communities' economic growth.

George Washington Carver once stated, "Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom."

We invite you to continue giving our students the opportunity to achieve their dreams and work toward a degree of higher education. To unlock their "golden door of freedom" and achieve a degree of higher education, many students rely on the support of scholarships. Please feel free to use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible gift to IWCC's scholarship program — 100 percent of your donation supports student scholarships.

Thank you for all that you do to make your community a great place. IWCC is proud to call you an alum!

Regards,



Renee P. Coughlin
Vice President of Institutional Advancement



Quick Facts

- IWCC offers more than 90 programs of study, including a number of career and technical programs, as well as a wide range of Arts and Sciences majors.
- Students enrolled at IWCC come from more than 40 different countries.
- Nearly 600 IWCC student-athletes participate in the school's 19 NJCAA Division I athletic teams.



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