

# IOWA WESTERN

A Magazine for Alumni & Friends

## OUTSTANDING ALUM

Matt Johnson, '91



in this issue

Fall 2015

Scholarship Program Builds New Dreams :: Kinney Hall: The Future of Technology

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Greetings!

This fall has been amazing and being a part of it has been rewarding. If you are like me, some of the best memories come to mind as we reflect on the many activities we were a part of at Iowa Western and the friendships we forged while going to school. As you take a moment to reflect on some of those memories, take the time to consider the opportunities of this school year.

The campus is bustling these days, and we encourage and invite our ever-growing alumni base to come to campus to start making new memories and experience Reiver Fever. Whether it is a student show at the Arts Center or attending an athletic event, there is plenty to choose from if you want to reconnect with your alma mater. Planning is under way for celebrations such as the Homecoming Parade, the Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet and the opening of the performing arts season. Football and volleyball are underway, and as with all of our athletic events, Iowa Western competes at a high level. Make the time to come to a game and cheer future alumni on to victory. I attended the fall "back to school" picnic and found myself once again energized by the enthusiasm of the Dance Team and Cheerleading Squad, as well as members of the band who provided a wonderful snippet of things to come this school year.

Iowa Western continues to grow and flourish. There are so many opportunities to be involved, including being a part of alumni events by being involved in the planning, serving on the Iowa Western Alumni Board, assisting at the concession stand at football games, or just by being a fan at the games or attending shows. Visit the college's website [www.iwcc.edu](http://www.iwcc.edu) and click on the links that most interest you, then join us for some fun. I do hope to see many of you during this next year. Stay well and as always, "Go Reivers!"

John Cool, '81  
Alumni Board President



The crowd cheers on the Reivers at a home volleyball game.





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## Iowa Western Alumni Magazine

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Fall 2015

# Scholarship Program *builds new dreams*

By Kara Schweiss

**A**bi Fisher hopes to fulfill her life goal of helping others by entering the field of social work. “My mother (Christy) is a social worker; she’s in the mental health field. I either want to go into the child services part of the health field or mental health as well,” Fisher says.

But in her last years at Abraham Lincoln High School before graduating last spring, Fisher wasn’t entirely sure how she was going to fund the postsecondary education necessary to make her future career an eventual reality.

“My mother has had a college fund for me since I was really little, but there’s not a lot in it because my mother is a single parent,” she says. “I was planning on just getting my associate (degree) at Iowa Western and then starting out.” Fisher knew she also would have to rely on her mother for food and housing — and probably have to hold down a job, too — while attending school. And living on campus? Definitely out of the question.

But thanks to an Iowa West Foundation education initiative called “Pottawattamie Promise,” Fisher was awarded a full-ride scholarship that also covers on-campus housing and provides academic support services. Her college and career plans now look very different.

“It’s wonderful,” Fisher says of the program. She’s now expecting to pursue a bachelor’s degree after receiving her associate’s degree at Iowa Western. Plus, she says, “it’s given me more opportunities to get involved on campus and be

around other people with the same interests and drive.”

The first 45 students in the program, Fisher included, graduated from the Council Bluffs Community and Riverside school districts last spring and have begun classes at Iowa Western.

Following the current school year, the pilot will ramp up to serve 110 students in 2016-2017, followed by 165 in 2017-2018.

The program is based on a national model and targets first-generation, Pell-eligible students, with a goal to reach 400 students by 2020. Over the course of the three-year pilot program, the Iowa West Foundation is providing a total of approximately \$2.3 million. The total cost of the program is approximately \$5.3 million.

“What we did was look overall at our educational investments. And we wanted to begin with marrying our educational investments with what we know is a critical issue for many of our families in our communities who don’t have access to post-secondary education. As a result, they are limited in their future ability to help support their families. So the idea was to target our investment to young people who maybe hadn’t thought about postsecondary education as something that was possible or viable,” says Iowa West Foundation President and CEO Pete Tulipana.

The Iowa West Foundation is partnering with IWCC, the Council Bluffs Community School District and the Riverside Community School District, along with the Aksarben





From left: Fisher and her mom before Abraham Lincoln High School's graduation; Pottawattamie Promise scholarship recipients pose for a photograph during a reception honoring the awardees.

“This scholarship program, *it changes lives on so many levels*. We're seeing these students so excited about the prospect, **that somebody believed in them** enough to nominate them for the program.”

Tori Christie  
Iowa Western Vice President of Student Services

Foundation and the Peter Kiewit Foundation.

“We're thrilled to have been able to put this partnership together,” Tulipana says. “The Aksarben Foundation, Kiewit Foundation and Iowa Western Community College have endorsed this program and are financially supporting it, and we hope their support will continue to grow as well as we expand our numbers.”

The first 45 participants were nominated by teams of educators, administrators and counselors at their schools. Eligibility requirements included demonstrating financial need, achieving a minimum GPA of 2.0 and participating in an interview with the nomination team, which included representatives from Iowa Western Community College and the community when possible.

“They still had to have motivation and be a student who is driven to achieve,” says Iowa Western Vice President of Student Services Tori Christie. “If the goal is there and we could just remove some of the barriers, they would still have the innate ability to persevere.”

With barriers gone, the program participants are blending in well at college, she reports.

“Because we have such a diverse group of students and because we are an open-door community college, they don't differ from the typical Iowa Western student,” Christie says.

Support services such as counseling and specialized math instruction begin in high school and extend through the years at Iowa Western and are an important component of the Pottawattamie Promise program, Tulipana says.

“It can be intimidating for young people to go into that type of environment for a variety of reasons — they don't have the family experience in terms of the navigation — and research shows that when you have that support piece, that help, it can

be a deal-maker to really make it possible,” he says. “Early preparation, access with residential, and navigation once you're there are three components that we believed would set the program up to be successful with the young people we were recruiting.”

Christie agrees. “It's not just about access, it's about success,” she says. “It's that two years of preparation in high school, the support services to transition them and

then the support throughout their academic career here at Iowa Western.”

Pottawattamie Promise is already making a difference on a larger scale, she adds.

“This scholarship program, it changes lives on so many levels. We're seeing these students so excited about the prospect, that somebody believed in them enough to nominate them for the program. College becomes a real opportunity for them. For a lot of them coming up on high school graduation, they weren't really sure what they were going to do and this gives them a clear plan,” Christie says. “It doesn't just change the lives of the students in the scholarship program; it changes their families...They are inspirations to those around them.”

Tulipana couldn't agree more. “We know that the best possible vehicle to lift families out of poverty is education,” he says. “Because education allows you to become employed in a way that allows you to support yourself and your family. We're contributing to the workforce, we're lifting families out of poverty, and we're providing access for families — that maybe could never dream to do that — in an environment that's healthy.”

Ultimately, the entire community benefits, Tulipana says.

“One of the biggest issues that we're facing in the region is talent, and do we have the talent to stay competitive and keep businesses wanting to locate here? It's not just Council Bluffs or Omaha, but a regional issue. We have a regional workforce,” he says. “Our goal, then, is to make sure our community — Council Bluffs and Pottawattamie County — is designing the kind of programs that gets everyone into a productive part of the workforce.” **W**





Ben Bartholomew, '15, was inducted to the All-Iowa Academic Team in 2015. He is pictured with his wife, Michella. Photo courtesy The Atlantic News Telegraph.

# Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign

It's probably not a good idea to take a snooze in the back seat of Ben Bartholomew's Cass County Sheriff's cruiser.

Sure, you may be doubly tired after a double shift and that's why your car was swerving down the highway. Or, maybe you're just über chill and can catch 40 winks anywhere.

But to Bartholomew, a catnap in his cruiser is a good sign you're either hammered or high.

"Most people get a little adrenalin rush when they get pulled over," says Bartholomew, a Cass County Sheriff's deputy since 2007. "Falling asleep, that's not consistent. It doesn't matter how tired a person is. They could be falling asleep on the road ... and

you stop a person who's tired and they're not tired anymore by the time they're pulled over."

It's just one of the signs Bartholomew is looking for as a DRE — a Drug Recognition Expert. Even before performing a field sobriety test or administering a breathalyzer, Bartholomew is adept at identifying whether a driver he or a fellow law enforcement officer pulls over is impaired from alcohol or drugs.

And Bartholomew is among the best at doing that.

In May, the recent Iowa Western Community College graduate received an award for Outstanding Performance for DRE at the Iowa Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau Conference. It's the fourth



consecutive year Bartholomew was so recognized.

Iowa is among 45 states that participate in the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program through which law enforcement officers are certified as DREs. Once trained, DREs use a 12-step evaluation to determine if subjects are impaired and unable to operate a vehicle. There are more than 8,000 DREs nationwide, 125 of them working in 52 Iowa counties.

Bartholomew began serving as a DRE in late 2010 and since has made more than 170 drug-related evaluations, the most in Southwest Iowa. That includes 47 in 2014, second most in all of Iowa — behind the much more populous Iowa City.

“If you can’t find someone impaired there, you’re not trying,” Bartholomew says.

Many times the signs aren’t so obvious as falling asleep in a cruiser. But the signs are there.

“You just have to pay attention,” says Bartholomew, the only DRE with the Cass County Sheriff’s Department and one of only a few in Southwest Iowa. “The signs are there, you just have to be aware of them. Not only aware of signs, but looking for them. It sounds silly, but a lot of times officers don’t recognize them.”

That’s why he’s often called to the scene when others stop a driver suspected of driving while impaired. Bartholomew typically works the night shift when such drivers are most likely to be on the road.

Bartholomew will look for signs such as dilated or constricted pupils, droopy eyelids and whether the driver is looking him in the eyes. Perhaps the driver has body tremors, which certain drugs can cause. The driver might be extremely talkative or fidgety. Or maybe they’re sweating excessively on a chilly evening or shivering on a 90-degree day. “That’s not a common thing,” Bartholomew says.

He’s always asking himself, “Why is this person acting the way they’re acting?”

If the behavior is caused by drugs or alcohol, Bartholomew is likely to identify that.

It’s no surprise he’s so good at what he does — Bartholomew seems to excel at whatever he undertakes.

The 32-year-old Mason City, Iowa, native graduated from high school in 2001 and headed straight for the Marines. After boot camp he graduated from the Armed Forces School of Music and joined the 2nd Marine Division band as a percussionist. Later, he became a fire-team leader, section leader, squad leader and eventually a platoon sergeant in a combat zone in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, during a deployment that lasted

most of 2005. While there he was awarded a combat action ribbon. He also was a small arms coach and a sustainment and stability operations instructor.

He joined the Cass County Sheriff’s Department a year after his honorable discharge and in April 2008, graduated from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. He received the Woodard Award — given to the student with the highest scholastic achievement.


Bartholomew started taking classes part time at Iowa Western in 2012 and received his associate’s degree in business administration this year. He was one of two Iowa Western students named to the All-Iowa Academic Team and was nominated to the All-USA academic team. He also was named Outstanding Business Student and inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society while finishing with a 4.0 grade-point average. He’s now pursuing a degree in accounting at Peru State College in Nebraska.

That he didn’t graduate sooner from Iowa Western was understandable. Bartholomew not only was working full time but also busy with his large family. He and his wife, Michella, who works in drug prevention through Zion Recovery Services, have four children and two foster children ages 2 to 13.

He’s got plenty to keep him busy during the day.

And at night.

“When you’re dealing with drug-impaired people, it’s interesting to say the least,” Bartholomew says.

Just look at the signs. 



In 2013, Bartholomew was honored with the U.S. Department of Justice’s law enforcement coordinating committee (LECC) award. Pictured from left are: Deputy Kyle Quist, Deputy Kent Gries, Deputy Bartholomew and Deputy Josh McLaren.

A photograph of the exterior of Kinney Hall at Iowa Western Community College. The building features a prominent entrance with a large glass door and windows, flanked by two tall, illuminated columns. The roof is a dark, curved structure. The sky is a clear blue, and the building's interior lights are visible through the glass. The overall scene is well-lit, suggesting dusk or dawn.

# Experience the Future of Technology

That message welcomes visitors to the new \$14 million engineering building on the Iowa Western Community College campus in Council Bluffs, and hundreds gathered in July to celebrate the opening of the state-of-the-art facility. Iowa Governor Terry Branstad joined a long list of state and local officials in christening the new facility, named “Kinney Hall” after longtime Iowa Western President Dr. Dan Kinney.

“You have a tremendous crowd here and that is a tribute to your leadership and this project,” the governor said in his remarks to a crowd of more than 250 people. “I have been back here many times and I have seen tremendous growth and progress at Iowa Western Community College. You really are the envy of the community college system we have in Iowa.”

The governor praised the business partnership between Iowa Western and Acieta of Council Bluffs to bring engineering careers to the forefront of education. “With the focus of STEM education, I can say with confidence that few people can match your commitment here at Iowa Western for expanding the training and education opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math, and also in working and partner-

ing with the private sector in developing programs,” said Branstad.

Kinney, the longest-tenured president in Iowa Western history, was a driving force in developing a key business partnership with Acieta to bring the growing field of robotics to campus. Robotics and automated systems have advanced from futuristic science fiction to become today’s manufacturing reality. As the demand for sophisticated automation systems using robotics increases, so does the demand for highly trained, skilled technicians to assemble, install, program and maintain them.

The showcase of Kinney Hall is the new robotics lab featuring modern equipment straight from the Acieta plant floor. Iowa Western is transforming demand into opportunity with its new facility, offering specialized programs in applied robotics, robot and controller maintenance, electronics, circuits, fluid power, CAD (Computer Aided Drafting) and programming. Through the partnership with Acieta, students will have an opportunity to work with robotics and automation systems industry experts on real-world problems and systems. This program is designed for






students intending to enter the workforce upon completion of the two-year Associate of Applied Science degree. The program prepares students for careers in many industries, including manufacturing, bio-medical, food service, telecommunications, and government as technicians who assemble, program, install, maintain and troubleshoot robotics and automated systems equipment.

The new engineering facility will bring an array of opportunities for hundreds of students at Iowa Western. The 86,500-square-foot facility features 51,000 square feet on the ground floor and 35,050 feet on the second floor. The building houses spaces for state-of-the-art labs in CNC (Computer Numerical Control), welding, electronics, sustainable energy and physics.

The new facility also is home to 15 general purpose classrooms (total seating 612), two math labs (90 seats), two computer labs, one student computer lab, two conference rooms and 34 offices. Eight classrooms also will make up the new space for the college's Adult Basic Education HiSet Program.

Others speaking at the Kinney Hall dedication were: Randy Pash, president of the board at Iowa Western; W. Kent Lorenz, chairman and chief executive officer of Acieta; Ron Tekippe, president of HGM Associates and architect for the project; Brad von Gillern, owner of Lueder Construction Company; and Council Bluffs Mayor Matt Walsh. 



From top: Dr. Dan Kinney, Iowa Western president, speaks at the July 6 Kinney Hall open house; Gov. Terry Branstad praises the partnership between Iowa Western and Acieta; and the Kinney family poses next to a surprise dedication from the Board of Trustees. Pictured from left to right: Dr. Kinney's daughter-in-law Jennifer, son Dr. Daniel Kinney, granddaughters Page and Rylee, and wife Pam.

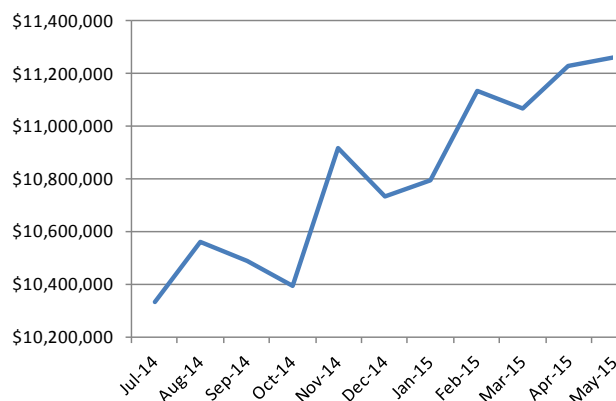
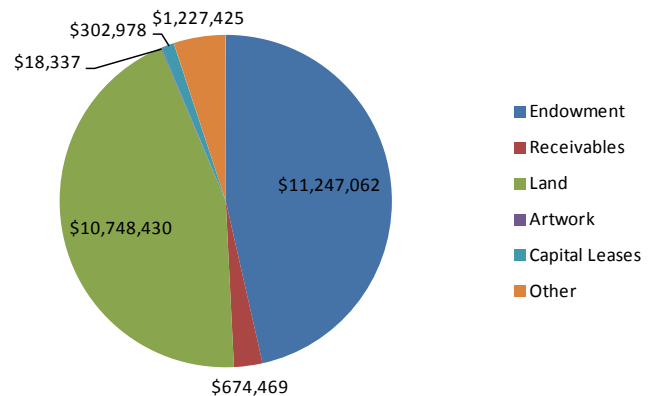
# Iowa Western Foundation annual report

Iowa Western Community College is committed to excellence in meeting the educational needs of students. The Iowa Western Community College Foundation is proud to provide support to both the college and our students as they achieve their educational goals.

This Foundation review highlights several activities and efforts of the Iowa Western Community College Foundation over the last year, including scholarship awards and fundraising. Each year, the financial needs of our students continue to rise. More than 80% of Iowa Western students are eligible for financial aid and student surveys cite financial need as one of the greatest challenges they face to stay in school.

Thanks to our generous donors, the Foundation has facilitated scholarships for thousands of students. As the year draws to a close, please consider a contribution to the Iowa Western Community College Foundation, and thank you for all you do to make higher education possible for worthy students.

total foundation assets  
**\$24,218,701**



total endowed funds  
**\$11,247,062**



# signature events



**BLACK TIE HARVEST FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2014  
\$169,895



**GOLF SCHOLARSHIP TOURNAMENTS**  
JUNE 2015 - SEPTEMBER 2015  
\$45,970



**OMAHA GIVES - MAY 20, 2015**  
\$12,405



**EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGN - SPRING 2015**  
\$28,770

# 2015 highlights

**Iowa Western Magazine**  
*distributed to more than*  
**23,000 alumni**

*Iowa Western awarded*  
**1,314 scholarships**  
**totaling \$2,937,251**

**\$1,729,978**  
*New grants funded during FY14-15*



# OUTSTANDING ALUM

## *Matt Johnson: Accomplishments Due to Teamwork*

By Mike Watkins

**M**att Johnson knows a thing or two about teamwork.

As a forward on the 1988 Abraham Lincoln High School's basketball team that made it to the state tournament — the first for the boys' program in 25 years — he knew it took synchronicity and balance to get them there.

“Overall, we weren't that great of a team as individual players, although we had several good ones. But we learned how to work together toward a common goal and succeed,” says Johnson, a 1988 AL graduate.

Now, as the owner of Barley's Bar & Grill in the historic 100 Block of Broadway in downtown Council Bluffs, Johnson says it takes the same level of dedication and commitment from the 25-plus members of his staff to help make the business successful and sustaining.

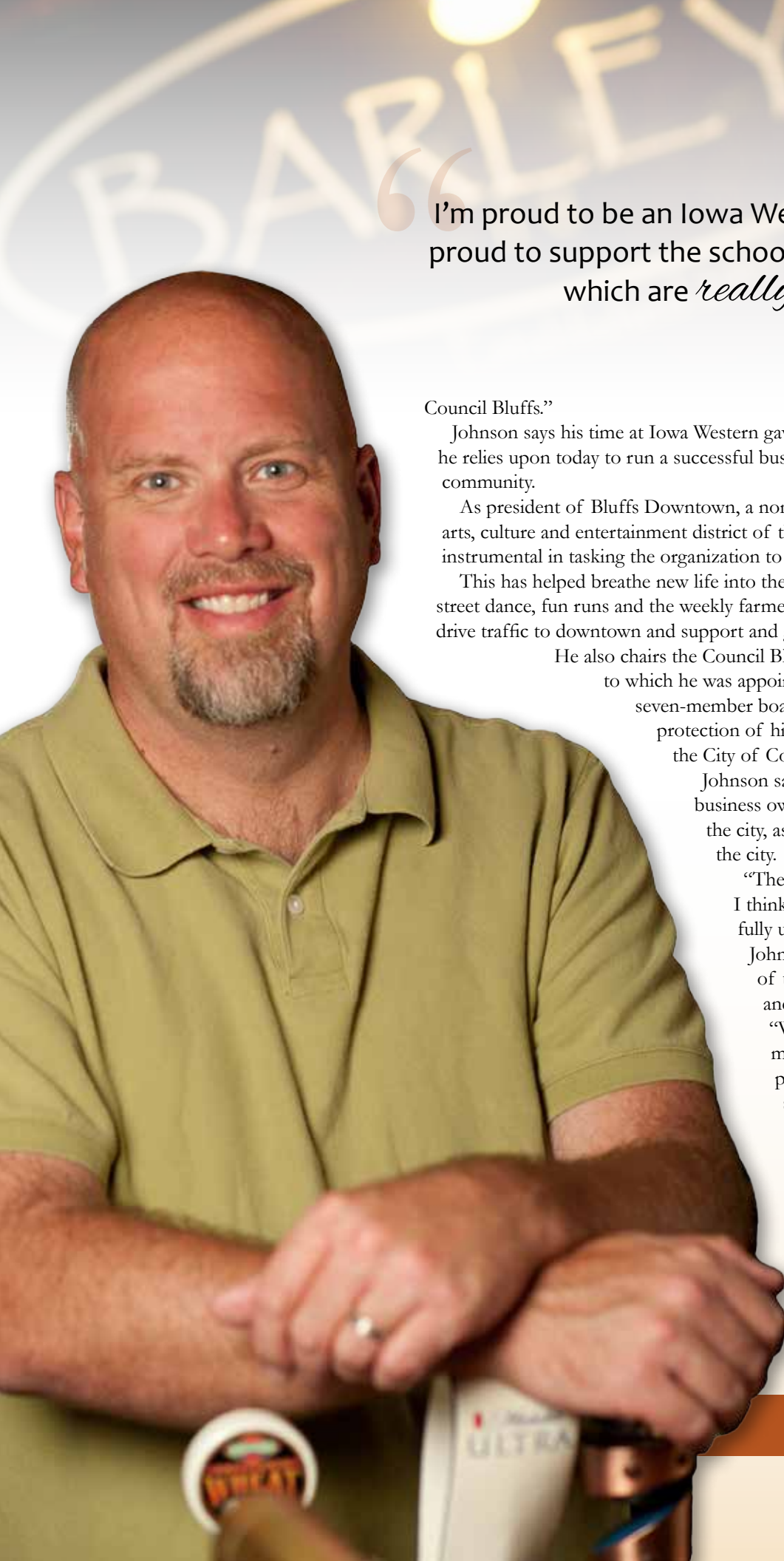
He takes that same approach in his local and statewide

civic and business memberships — as well as in his support of Iowa Western Community College, where he earned his degree in general studies in 1991.

Johnson is on the Homecoming committee and has been an athletic sponsor for the Reivers for 15 years. He is also this year's recipient of the college's Outstanding Alumni award and will be honored during homecoming on Oct. 10.

“I'm proud to be an Iowa Western graduate, and I'm proud to support the school and athletic programs, which are really amazing,” Johnson says. “When I was a student, baseball was good, but the rest of the athletic programs were often overlooked. Now, they are all good every year and bring a lot of notoriety and respect to the school and, indirectly, to





“I’m proud to be an Iowa Western graduate and I’m proud to support the school and athletic programs, which are *really amazing*.”

Council Bluffs.”

Johnson says his time at Iowa Western gave him some of the foundations that he relies upon today to run a successful business that has become a pillar of the community.

As president of Bluffs Downtown, a nonprofit dedicated to the success of the arts, culture and entertainment district of the 100 Block Bluffs Downtown, he’s been instrumental in tasking the organization to work with other nonprofits.

This has helped breathe new life into the 100 Block by working to organize a fall street dance, fun runs and the weekly farmer’s market within the area. All have helped drive traffic to downtown and support and grow local businesses.

He also chairs the Council Bluffs Historic Preservation Commission, to which he was appointed by the mayor. The commission is a seven-member board that works toward the promotion and protection of historic districts, landmarks and sites within the City of Council Bluffs.

Johnson says he sees his role, particularly as a business owner in one of the most historic parts of the city, as vital to preserving the flavor and brand of the city.

“There is a lot of great history in our city, and I think when we’re young, we don’t appreciate or fully understand the importance of that,” says Johnson, who also is the secretary-treasurer of the statewide Iowa Restaurant Association and will step into the presidency in 2017.

“When I was younger, I honestly didn’t see myself staying in town. Like a lot of younger people, I wanted to live somewhere else, somewhere bigger — somewhere I thought was more exciting with more to do.

“But this is my home. This is where my family is. This is where my business is. Council Bluffs has been home from the start and will most likely be for the rest of my life. I feel a lot of ownership and responsibility here now, and I love being engaged in the community.”

He also loves being engaged with

Continued Page 14



Iowa Western. When he was a student in the late 1980s, school was largely a commuter college — a place to go for classes, but that was pretty much the extent of it.

Fortunately for him, having gone to high school in the city, many of his classmates also attended Iowa Western, so he felt a strong sense of community inside and outside the classroom.

He often went to see his good friend from high school, Jon Lieber, play for the Iowa Western baseball team (Lieber would go on to enjoy Major League Baseball success), and he also participated in intramural sports, so he says he felt there was a sense of “campus life” even back then.

But it’s nowhere near what Iowa Western students enjoy today.

“It’s just exploded, hasn’t it?” he says. “The campus is just amazing to go out and visit now for different events. It doesn’t even feel or look like the same school from when I was a student — and that’s a good thing. I love seeing its growth. Every time I visit, I get a strong sense of pride knowing I went to school there.”

After earning his associate’s degree from Iowa Western, Johnson says he took a couple of years off to work and gain some life experience before returning to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where he finished his degree in 1995.

During this time, he came to the realization that he didn’t really want to work for someone else. An entrepreneur at heart, he got his feet wet selling real

estate for Heartland Properties for three years, and quickly learned there are as many lean times as there are prosperous ones.

“That was a really good learning experience for me — especially with me eventually owning my own business,” says Johnson, who is husband to Jill and father to Beckett, 9, and Ruby, 7. “You have to be prepared for the rough financial times while celebrating the good ones. It’s a balance, and it’s something a lot of business owners, myself included, often learn the hard way.”

Having worked at a couple of local bars / restaurants (Scott Street Pub and the Railway) in town while attending college, Johnson says he always envisioned himself owning his own one day.

In the late ’90s, he opened Repetitions restaurant and bar at 28th and Broadway, which, after a few years of late nights and rowdy crowds, he leased to Jill before they were married. She ran MJ’s in the spot for five years.

A few years later, he sold that building and opened a second Barleys at the Tip Top Building near TD Ameritrade Park. Despite solid sales during the College World Series, he quickly learned that traffic in that area was largely dead during the rest of the year, and he closed that location in 2011.

During all of these business and life learning experiences, Johnson ran Barleys (formerly Dirty Harry’s), taking over the reins of the business in July 2001. In 2004, he bought the building to the east, knocked out a wall and created an even larger eat-in bar atmosphere.

And while he’s seen his share of good and tough times in his 14 years at Barleys, Johnson says, for the most part it’s never really felt like work.

“I wasn’t planning to do this forever, but now I’m really enjoying this experience,” he says. “We started out as a bar and now we’re more of a restaurant, and the city — and college — have really embraced us.

“I’ve learned a lot by being a board member of the Iowa Restaurant Association, sharing stories and experiences — good and bad — with peers from all over the state. We deal with a lot of the same things, so everyone brings a wealth of information together to make all of our businesses stronger and more successful.”

Because of his personal — and now business — ties to Iowa Western, Johnson says he’s excited to see where the college will go and grow in the future.

“It’s really fantastic to see how the college has progressed under Dr. Kinney and the administration there over the past couple of decades,” Johnson says. “The physical growth of Iowa Western is impressive, but what’s really amazing to me is how the culture has become much more social. That’s tough to do when you only have students for a couple of years and then they move on to somewhere else.

“Every time I see the new commercial for the school — where the camera flies over the campus and you get to see how big and beautiful it is — I’m excited to know that I was a student there and proud to still be associated with it. I see a strong future for the college moving forward.” 🍷



# A Calling to Claus

It's a good bet that those who attended Carson-Macedonia High School with Stanton Campbell wouldn't recognize him these days.

And even if they did, they might not believe their eyes.

First, there's the rather ... ahem ... notable change in the Iowa Western graduate's appearance. In high school, Campbell was tall, skinny and had coal-black, curly hair.

But as he got older, his hair turned white. The long, bushy beard he sports now is white, too. And that once-skinny frame carries considerably more heft. The 5-foot-11 Campbell admits, "I'm portly."

If the thought arises that Campbell might make a good Santa, you're right. In the past 10 years he's made hundreds of appearances as Jolly Old St. Nick.

And that's what might surprise old friends most of all. Campbell's transformation goes beyond looks.

"When I put the suit on, I become him," Campbell says. "That's why some of my friends said, 'Who would have ever thought?' I was a rowdy guy. A brawler. A beer drinker. Who would have thought I would be so good with kids?"

"Everyone has a calling in life. I guess I found mine."

His original calling was business. Campbell was a four-sport athlete at Carson-Macedonia and even found time to play trumpet in the band. After graduating in 1979 he started classes as a business major at Iowa Western, attending with a \$300 Federated Women's Club scholarship. But he and his high school sweetheart also married (they've since divorced) and soon thereafter had a child.

Now he had a family to support.

"I tried to work full time and go to school full time," he says. "Something had to give, so I stepped away from schooling and concentrated on work."

He got a job at Morrison Railway as a janitor.

Within three months he was working on cars and learning to weld. In

1981 he started working in the machine shop at Allied

Continued Page 16



Communications Equipment Supply Company. He'd stay there for almost 17 years, and with good reason — owner Bill Barrier took care of his employees, even paying for their continued education.

Barrier sent Campbell back to IWCC to earn his welding diploma, received in 1985. Later, Barrier paid to have Stanton earn an associate of applied science degree in safety engineering technology in 1999.

"Bill Barrier sent a lot of people through school to Iowa Western or wherever they wanted to go," Campbell says. "All he asked for was a C. Everyone always exceeded that. Bill was a very generous man. Still is."

Today Campbell's a welder at Omaha Standard Palfinger, a hydraulic lift manufacturer. He's also the union safety officer.

But he's found a way to be as generous as Barrier. Campbell's Santa seeds were planted in the mid-1980s when he delivered presents to a child. He wasn't dressed like Santa and didn't yet look like him, but he remembered the experience.

"That's kind of a cool feeling," he says. "I tucked that away."

Eventually, Campbell's appearance took on a more decidedly Santa look. Through work he met Milt Cottrell, a graduate of IUSC — the International University of Santa Claus. Cottrell noticed the hair, the beard and the girth and encouraged Campbell to find his inner Claus. Campbell attended a weekend IUSC seminar in St. Paul, Minn., "bought a cheap Santa suit and rubber boots," landed a few gigs and was on his way.

Hundreds of appearances later he's a member of the Fraternal Order of Real Bearded Santas and has a national agent.

Santa-ing is big business these days. Campbell says a mall Santa can make from \$25,000 to \$35,000 working 12-hour days from Thanksgiving to Christmas. He mentions a Chicago Claus referred to as "Million Dollar Santa." One Santa turned his garage into the North Pole and makes money charging for live online appearances and selling mugs and shirts. Has a 1-900 number, too.

Campbell has donned the red suit at Bass Pro and Edwards Nissan in Council Bluffs, at Omaha's Durham Museum, at malls, businesses and numerous private settings. Even at Iowa Western for its holiday party last year. He estimates he's been Santa 600 to 700 times.


He's upgraded his suits and now has leather boots, but he's not out to make a killing.

"I could make \$50 an hour just doing a Skype thing people click on," he says, but doesn't. He gives plenty of freebies — maybe at a homeless shelter or at a Toys for Tots drive. Or for a sick child.

"I have my steady customers, my pay base," he says. "They treat me well. I don't mind giving it away to ones that really understand what it's all about."

He does that on the sly.

"I don't let anybody know I'm kind of a softy, being a welder and all," he says.

Friends in Carson would have to see it to believe it. 



From top: Campbell's high school senior photograph; with his youngest daughter Brooke Nelson circa 2000 (not pictured — daughter Kacie); featured with little elves at Gina Cordes Smith's home; and as Santa at the Iowa Western employee holiday party in 2014.

Interested in contacting Santa for an appearance?  
Please email [alum@iwcc.edu](mailto:alum@iwcc.edu) for additional information.



# LIVING HER SOCCER DREAMS

By Mike Watkins

**E**ven though English isn't her native language, Celia Jimenez is quite clear about how she views her time as a standout soccer player for

Iowa Western.

Now starting her junior season at the University of Alabama, Jimenez credits her past two years at Iowa Western for not only having made her a better player but also a better person.

"I grew a lot as a player and person at Iowa Western," said Jimenez, who plays the forward position. "The coaches helped me find my best qualities and made me feel empowered. My teammates were the best support, on and off the field."

Fresh from helping the Reivers play in back-to-back National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) national title games (they won in 2013; finished as runner-up in 2014), Jimenez realized one of her biggest athletic dreams when she represented Spain along with her national teammates at the FIFA World Cup in Edmonton, Canada.

Despite her home country not making it out of the early rounds of competition, going 0-2-1 against the rest of the field in its first appearance ever at the World Cup, Jimenez said it had been her dream to play at this level since she was a young girl.

For several years, she attended competitions with the Spanish team at lower-level events — but she'd never made it to a national-level event.

"When I was called to debut with Selection Absolute team, that opened a huge opportunity in my career," said Jimenez, who earned her Association of Arts degree from Iowa Western and plans to study aeronautical engineering at Alabama, after being named an NJCAA and NSCAA All-American twice and MVP in 2014. "When the list of players summoned appeared, it was exciting to find my name among the 20 players who would play the World Cup Canada 2015 with the senior team."

"In an interview I did with The Sport of Jaen, I said that I would work for headlines. Every day, I have endeavored to do my job better, and every game I have played every minute to the fullest. It was a wonderful experience playing with the best Spanish players against the best players in the world."

Originally from Alcaudete, Spain, Jimenez came to Iowa Western via former Reiver coach Brad Silvey's connections.

She met Silvey through a Spanish coach who works in the United States, and she decided coming to Iowa Western — despite knowing very little about the school or state — was the best option for her.

"The experience living in Iowa was wonderful," she said. "Although I lived far from my family and friends in Spain, in Iowa I found very generous people, girls and boys that I will always carry in my heart. They are part of the two years that have been very happy."

"At Iowa Western, I managed to graduate in record time, and I've got a national title and a second-place finish with my Reiver teammates. It



Jimenez enjoyed her time at Iowa Western. While playing for the Reivers, she was named NJCAA most valuable forward in 2013.

was an honor to be named an All-American when I played in the Reivers' jersey. The high level of soccer demanded by our coach and the high commitment of the players are the reason I have won this award. I keep striving each day to learn and compete at a higher level."

Jimenez said she has loved soccer since childhood and received tremendous, consistent encouragement from her family to follow her dreams. She also enjoyed cycling and tennis, but eventually saw promise in a future in soccer.


From the age of 14, she competed in Spain at the senior level, playing for a couple of top-level club teams. That earned her the attention and recognition from the Spanish Soccer Federation for national-level teams.

To be able to represent her country against the best in the world (the United States beat Japan 5-2 to win the title) was a dream come true for Jimenez — a dream she hopes to repeat in the future.

"Representing Spain in a World Cup is an experience that's difficult to describe," she said. "It's a mixture of feelings: happiness, responsibility, commitment, pride and passion. It is the greatest honor that an athlete can experience, I am very proud to be part of this group of women who changed the history of soccer in Spain."

And what memories will she take with her from her time at Iowa Western?

"I have met some very generous people who helped me to adapt to the new language and new culture," she said. "Knowing these partners and coaches and competing for the Reivers was a very deep and wonderful experience."

"I have grown as an athlete, but especially, I found the best person inside me. The work was hard: study, train and compete — plus exams. Despite this, every day I could find time to laugh with my teammates and fellow students. I will always carry the people I met at Iowa Western in my heart." 



Until a few weeks ago, the closest Alister Balcombe came to playing at the famous St. Andrews Links in Scotland was via Xbox.

Now, the England native — who most recently arrived at St. Andrews by way of Council Bluffs and Iowa Western Community College — has played the historic course recognized as the “home” of golf in person after making the cut to play in this year’s Open Championships.

He qualified for the Open by making it through two stages of qualifying — first at Remedy Oak in Dorset (he shot a 3-under-69 to take one of seven spots among 150 golfers) then moved into the final round at Royal Cinque Ports (he shot rounds of 4-under and 1-under). The scores tied him for the top place with two other golfers and earned him entrance into St. Andrews.

At the Open, he shot 74 and 76, missing the 36-hole cut.

Still, so early in his career, it was the experience of a lifetime and one he intends to build upon

# HOME ON THE LINKS

By Mike Watkins

## Alumni Board

**John Cool (President), '81**  
Iowa School for the Deaf

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

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

**Stacy Shockey (Alumni Director), '98**  
Iowa Western Community College

**Scott Belt, '77 & '82**  
Heartland Properties

**Mark Brandenburg, '86**  
Iowa State Legislator

**Dan Feller, '84**  
Owner, Varsity Freight

**Brandon Green, '07**  
Iowa Western Community College

**Brandon Juon, '00**  
Owner, Glory Days

**Julia Kenealy, '07**  
CHI Health Mercy Hospital

**Shawna Klindt, '01**  
Butterbaugh Insurance

**Diane Osbahr, '90**  
Iowa Western Community College

**Jill Schurman, '03**  
Community Volunteer



A student is excited to receive her diploma at graduation; renovations are complete at the Shenandoah Center; and the marching band plays at halftime of a Reiver football game.



moving forward — and he took away a few exciting memories in the process.

He had a better shooting day than two greats of the game — Tom Watson and Tiger Woods — as well as a few other previous Majors champions.

His locker was next to Tiger's, so he got a chance to meet and speak with him, and he picked up some sage advice from Watson on the course.

Not a bad way to spend part of your summer vacation, right?

“Obviously I was disappointed with not being able to make the cut, but I wasn't too disappointed with how I played, especially with it being my first major tournament,” said Balcombe, who came to Iowa last fall via Clevedon, England, a town just outside of Bristol that is about the same population as Council Bluffs. “I had a particularly hard draw going late in the day both days and had to contend with considerably higher winds than the morning wave of players.”

“I was surprised at how comfortable I was in that sort of situation being surrounded by the players that I have idolized for so long, and being able to consider myself equal with them was very special. The main thing I took away was how good their pitching from 50 to 130 yards is. It really highlighted that it's something I need to work on in my game going forward.”

Balcombe has been golfing since he was 10, starting at his local golf club with his older brother. He devoted himself exclusively to golf after giving up cricket at 14.

He came to Iowa Western last fall because of the successful golf team at the school. He said he felt it would be best for his development to come to a smaller school, get a few classes done and get acclimated to the American way of life

rather than going straight into a larger Division I program.

A general studies major at Iowa Western, Balcombe said he made some significant improvements in his game during his first year as a Reiver (he said he didn't know what the mascot was before golf coach Derrick Thompson told him) despite not playing as well as he would have liked. He still earned National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) recognition as an All-American.

“I really like the set up in junior college; it's a great way for internationals to get into college life and college sports without being overwhelmed by a huge school,” said Balcombe, who admits the Iowa Western co-eds often ask him to say certain words because of his British accent.

“I am planning on transferring to a Division I program after this year — where yet, I'm not entirely sure,” he said. “I think it is incredibly important for me to stay grounded and not rush into trying to turn professional based on one summer's golf so I definitely plan on finishing out four years of college.”

And what are his goals for his final year at Iowa Western — a program and school that have left an indelible impression upon him?

“I really enjoy going to the sporting events, like the basketball games,” he said. “It's a great atmosphere — something we don't have at home and it's great to support fellow athletes. My first year was a challenge, but it's been a challenge I have enjoyed.”

“I want to build on what I did last year and really push on as an individual. If I can do this, I think that we have the strength in our team with the incoming freshman to really compete for a national title, which is my ultimate goal. It would be great to win that for the school.” **W**

## Class Notes

**1976**

**Brent Wagner** is retired in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**1999**

**Danna Kehm** works at Welch Allyn as managing director.

**2002**

**Richard Muell** works in wholesale parts shipping and receiving at Woodhouse Auto Family in Missouri Valley, Iowa. He has two children — Ana (12) and Lane (11).

**2009**

**Whitney Tranmer** is a detention officer for Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Department.

**2014**

**Abby Parris** is a para-educator and married to Anthony Parris.

**Angela Lovejoy** works in sales and services at West Central Coop in Irwin, Iowa. She was initially hired in July 2014 to run grain elevators as a full-time employee. She loves her job.

**2015**

**Jaclyn Luzum** attends Wayne State College and will major in exercise science.

**Ashley Arnold** is the financial aid loan processor at Iowa Western.

**Caitlyn Weigel** had her first daughter, Morgan, on June 20.

**Alexis Rea** has a 3-year-old daughter, Mackinley.

**Lisa Lee** works for Angel's Care In Home Health as a LPN.

**Felicia Bryson** is a dental assistant for Hoover Dental.

**Cheyenne Benton** will marry Sean Snodgrass on June 18, 2016. She is the pantry chef at Des Moines Golf and Country Club in Des Moines.

**Amanda Jo Larsen** has three children and is married to Kurt Larsen.

**John W Snyder** works at Union Pacific and National Indemnity.

**Sara Rieken** is a clerk at Wings America.



It was an exciting time at the Iowa Western campus as students started moving into housing Aug. 13.

# SNAPSHOT: REIVER ATHLETICS



From left: Iowa Western volleyball players Kathia Sanchez and Kassidy Sullivan go up for a block. Sanchez now plays for Central Michigan and Sullivan at University of Alabama-Birmingham; Baseball player Mitch McIntyre pitches at the JUCO World Series. He graduated and is now at Indiana State.



**R**eiver athletic teams enjoyed another banner season of competition, demonstrating again that Iowa Western is a force on the national front. Iowa Western placed second in the NATYCAA (National Alliance of Two-Year Athletic Administrators) Cup Standings last season. Rankings in the NATYCAA Cup are formulated by awarding NJCAA institutions points based on competition at NJCAA Championship events. The Reivers celebrated several championships, with 18 of the 20 sports programs qualifying for post season competition.

Several Reivers made their marks in the classroom as well with 18 student-athletes receiving awards for academic achievement with cumulative GPAs ranging from 3.60 to 4.0. All Reiver student-athletes, more than 500 combined, had cumulative 2.833 GPA. Seven Reiver teams qualified as 2015 NJCAA All-Academic Teams, requiring a cumulative team GPA of 3.0 or better.

## MEN'S & WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Both the men's and women's team qualified for the national tournament, the sixth straight year the Reivers have been represented at the post season championships. The men's team finished 16th and the women 17th. Sylvester Barus was named an NJCAA All-American.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

The women's team finished with a record of 21-1-1 following a championship game loss to Monroe College. Three Reivers — Nicole Gowans, Celia Jimenez and Maria Martinez — were named to the NJCAA All-Tournament team, while Gowans, Haley Johnson and Brianne Richards were named to the NJCAA All-American team.

## MEN'S SOCCER

The Reiver men's soccer team finished No. 3 in the nation after a sparkling 23-0-2 season. NJCAA All-Tournament team members were Nick Melville and

Edgardo Reyes, while Fazlo Alihodzic, Matthieu Braem and Kaique Fernandes were named NJCAA All-Americans.

## VOLLEYBALL

Iowa Western was a force all season and finished with a school-record 45 wins against two losses. The Reivers made their ninth straight appearance at the NJCAA National Tournament, where they finished fifth. Kathia Sanchez and Aly Dawson were named NJCAA All-Americans.

## FOOTBALL

The Reivers were back in the spotlight again in 2014, rolling through their regular season undefeated before losing to host East Mississippi in the NJCAA Championship game. Danny Hamilton, Chris Schleuger, Mike Edwards, Charlie Rogers, Mondo Williams, Taj Williams and Marcus Montgomery were named NJCAA All-Americans.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Reivers capped a strong regular season with an eighth-place finish at the NJCAA Championships and a 31-4 overall mark. The Lady Reivers, who enjoyed a 20-game win streak, were led by NJCAA All-Americans Jasmine Trimboli and Fanni Csutoras.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

Head coach Jim Morris, in his 20th year at Iowa Western, guided the Reivers to a 22-8 record while achieving 500 career victories on the bench. Reiver stars Deshawn Munson, Thik Bol and Matt Donlan were named to the All-Region XI team.

## WRESTLING

The Reivers exploded onto the scene in 2014-15, sending nine wrestlers to the NJCAA Championships in Des Moines,



# IOWA WESTERN ANNUAL FUND

Iowa. The Reivers took eighth as a team, while Oscar Ramirez became the highest-placing Iowa Western wrestler with a runner-up medal. All-Americans were Clay Stine, Oscar Ramirez, Matt Walker, Jhalen Flanders and Luke Nohns.

## MEN'S & WOMEN'S GOLF

The Reiver women's golf team brought home top honors at the Region XI Tournament for a fifth year in a row and finish eighth at the national tournament in Florida. Damla Bilgic was named an NJCAA All-American. The men's team also qualified for the national tournament in Newton, Kansas, and finished 15th.


## MEN'S & WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

The track programs continued their success throughout the season. The men's team finished fifth while the women placed seventh at the national indoor meet. Both teams placed in the top 10 at the national outdoor championships. Strymar Livingston, Andreas Soerensen, Ihab El Hajari and Yanique Bennett all were crowned national champions.

## SOFTBALL

The Reiver softball team rolled to a 43-18 record and a runner-up finish at regionals. Rachel Henks, Kaitlin Buchholz, Jocelyn Hernandez, Dana Hieda, Allie Martinez, Tracey Edwards and Amanda Wightman were named to the All-Region XI Team.

## BASEBALL

The Reivers were the Region XI Champions for the ninth-straight year, were Northern District Champions and placed fifth at the JUCO World Series, capping a 54-7 season. Devon Perez and Alex Krupa were named to the NJCAA All-Tournament team. All-American award winners were Krupa, Ryan Merrill and Dom Thompson-Williams. 



“Scholarship support makes it easier for me *to be successful while I work toward my goal of becoming a school psychologist.*”

- Moriah, sophomore

Each year, scholarships transform the lives of thousands of Iowa Western students. Join the Iowa Western Foundation annual fund campaign and help worthy students achieve their educational dreams.

The 2015 annual fund campaign is underway to raise much-needed support for Iowa Western student scholarships. The need is real — more than 80 percent of Iowa Western students qualify for financial aid and 66 percent are the first in their family to attend college. For these students, a scholarship can provide the positive influence to keep them on the path to success.

Watch your mail for more information on the 2015 annual fund campaign or give now at [www.foundation.iwcc.edu](http://www.foundation.iwcc.edu).

# ALUMNI EVENTS



The Iowa Western Alumni office strives to reconnect alumni with the college. Homecoming and a host of alumni events are right around the corner and you are invited to attend.

The second annual Homecoming parade will take place Oct. 8 and a community pep rally will immediately follow.

On Oct. 10, you are invited to join fellow alumni and Reiver fans for the Homecoming tailgate as Iowa Western takes on Independence Community College. Later that evening, Iowa Western will host a special reception in honor of our 2015 Outstanding Alum, Matt Johnson.

We hope you will join us for any or all of the exciting Homecoming activities planned this year. For additional information or to plan a future alumni event, contact the alumni office at 712.325.3269 or email [alum@iwcc.edu](mailto:alum@iwcc.edu).

We look forward to connecting with our alumni in the coming months.

In May, soccer alumni and friends gathered in Utah for the third annual soccer alumni event. Former Reivers participated in an alumni game followed by a Real Salt Lake men's soccer game at Rio Tinto Stadium. Bottom right photo, from left: Ammon Bennett, the first men's and women's soccer head coach at Iowa Western; Adam Sanchez, current women's soccer head coach; Jordan Carver, current men's soccer head coach; and Brad Silvey, former women's soccer head coach.





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## Homecoming Schedule of Events

### Oct. 8

**Second Annual Homecoming Parade  
Pep Rally to Immediately Follow** 7:00 pm  
100 Block of Council Bluffs  
*Free to the public*

### Oct. 10

**Athletic Hall of Fame Breakfast** 8:00 am  
Student Center, Council Bluffs  
*For more information call 712.325.3418*

**Homecoming Tailgate** 12:00 pm  
**Reiver Marching Band Alumni Event**  
Lewis Central Stadium, Council Bluffs  
*Free to alumni and friends*

**Reiver Football Game** 2:30 pm  
Lewis Central Stadium, Council Bluffs  
*\$10 admission at the gate*

**Volleyball Alumni Event** 7:00 pm  
Barley's Bar, Council Bluffs  
*For more information call 712.325.3269*

**Softball Alumni Event** 7:30 pm  
Barley's Bar, Council Bluffs  
*For more information call 317.797.8405*

### Oct. 11

**Softball Alumni Barbeque and Game** 11:00 am  
Iowa Western Softball Field  
*For more information call 317.797.8405*



Photos from the 2014 Homecoming parade (clockwise): students Ryan Gray and Elly Targy were crowned King and Queen at the pep rally; the Iowa Western dance team march down the Council Bluffs 100 Block; Iowa Western president Dr. Dan Kinney and supporter Verne Welch; members of the alumni association; local policeman starting the parade festivities.



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