

Young Alumni

Alumni Spotlights

Reiver Athletics

Class Notes

IWCC ALUM

A Magazine for IWCC Alumni & Friends



Spring 2012

2012 Outstanding Alum
Dave Petratis

IN THIS ISSUE

Edd and Donna Leach, '89
Jeanine Larsen, '90
IWCC Enterprise Computing Center



Dave Petratis

Dave Petratis, pictured with IWCC men's head basketball coach Jim Morris and on the front cover, is Iowa Western's 2012 Outstanding Alum. Petratis, a Council Bluffs native, now lives in Houston and is CEO for Quanex. While at Iowa Western, Petratis was a guard for the Reiver basketball team. A successful business executive, Petratis enjoys spending time with his family, staying active and training for marathons.

Welcome Alumni & Friends

Greetings!

As an Iowa Western alum involved in a variety of community activities and initiatives, it is heartwarming to hear the many wonderful comments and impressions of Iowa Western Community College. The achievements of our college's graduates are far-reaching; and clearly reflect the remarkable impact that Iowa Western has on the communities of southwest Iowa.

Throughout this issue, you'll read about Iowa Western alumni who've gone on to achieve success. One of these is a former Iowa Western basketball teammate and roommate of mine. Dave Petratis, the most recent recipient of Iowa Western's Outstanding Alumni award, has earned advanced degrees of higher education and led international companies with budgets in the hundreds of millions.



Like the alumni featured in this issue, many of you have gone on to significant accomplishments. We'd love to hear about your community and workplace achievements and the great work you are doing. Please feel free to email us at alum@iwcc.edu, call 712.325.3269, friend us on Facebook (Iowa Western Community College Alumni Association) or follow us on Twitter (twitter.com/IWCCAlum).

And, if you're ever in the area, stop by Iowa Western's campus! Its continued growth is impressive, and I am proud to be associated with such a fine institution.

Best wishes,

Scott Belt, '77 and '82
Alumni Board President

Alumni Board

Scott Belt, President, '77 & '82
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Jane Bell, Vice President, '81
Ameristar Casino Council Bluffs

Joyce Bartels, '86
First National Bank of Omaha

Mark Brandenburg, '86
Iowa State Legislator

John Cool, '81
Iowa School for the Deaf

Doug Coziahr, '95
Sapp Bros. Petroleum, Inc.

Pam Beall-Hill, '88
Community Volunteer

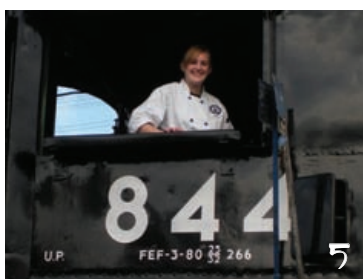
Brandon Juon, '00
Owner, Glory Days

Chris Marks, '99
Iowa School for the Deaf

Diane Osbahr, '90
Iowa Western Community College

Stacy Shockey, '98
Iowa Western Community College

Shawna Klindt, '01
American National Bank



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IWCC Alum

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



Dear alumni and friends,

As many of you may know, over the last decade Iowa Western Community College has had extraordinary enrollment growth. Recently, the college was named one of the fastest growing community colleges in the country. According to Community College Week magazine (December 2011) Iowa Western is listed as No. 9 in the top 50 Fastest Growing Community Colleges with enrollments ranging from 5,000 to 9,999. Our current enrollment is 7,212.

Even as Iowa Western continues to grow and excel, like all institutions of higher education we face a variety of challenges – including our institution's ability to provide a quality education while remaining affordable and accessible to our students.

It is a time for us – the Iowa Western community of alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students – to continue building upon our momentum and fulfill our mission. As an institution, the faculty, staff and administration are focused on helping students achieve their goals. Whether a student attends Iowa Western to complete an associate's degree, to gain credits before transferring to a four-year institution, or to attain a valuable career certificate, helping that student achieve their goal is critical. Your support and efforts toward achieving this goal is greatly appreciated.

We educate our students to help them achieve their personal and professional goals, but also to give them the necessary knowledge, skills and training to be employable and make positive impacts on their families and within their communities. Iowa Western has a vital mission and plays an integral role within our communities throughout Southwest Iowa. It is a great honor to lead this institution and carry out the mission of your alma mater.

Thank you for your support of Iowa Western,

Dr. Dan Kinney
President



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Above: Jill DeVault, culinary arts student, will graduate in May. Right: Nichole Kahle ('10) poses with a Union Pacific train.



Chefs in TRAIN-ing

By Mike Watkins

Ever since she started working as a cook on Union Pacific's passenger cars almost two years ago, Nichole Kahle gained a new appreciation for the railroad.

"I used to hate waiting for trains at intersections, but now I realize how important they are," said Kahle, who has worked as a contract employee for Union Pacific since May 2010. "Riding on a train for weeks at a time gave me a completely new perspective."

Over the course of her time with UP, Kahle, a 2010 graduate of Iowa Western's well-respected culinary arts program, has traveled extensively throughout the southwest and northwest – from Arizona to California all the way up to Oregon as a staff member on the railroad's heritage fleet.

Because she contracts with UP and isn't a regular full-time employee, Kahle also works full-time as a prep and line cook at Cantina Laredo in Midtown Crossing and two nights a week at Uncle Buck's in the Bass Pro Shop in Council Bluffs.

Both jobs allow her a great deal of flexibility to leave for short and extended trips with UP – whichever might be needed – when extra help is needed for VIP and business trips.

"Last year, I was gone more than I was home, but I don't always know when I might be asked to work the trains so I need something regular as well," said Kahle, who moved to Council Bluffs in 2008 from Mound City, Mo., to attend Iowa Western. "This year, Union Pacific is celebrating its 150th anniversary, so I'm expecting a busy year starting in mid-March."

Similar to Kahle, current IWCC culinary student Jill DeVault jumped at the chance when Dave Collins, UP's manager of food services, called to invite her to work the trains.

DeVault learned about the opportunities to cook meals on the trains when Collins visited IWCC last year to discuss the opportunity with culinary students.

"Dave came and spoke to my class, and the idea of traveling by train,

something I'd never done before, always looked so cool to me," said DeVault, who will graduate from IWCC's culinary

arts program this May. "I'm a big fan of older movies, and the vision of Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire traveling by train made me want to do it, too. My first time was everything I imagined it would be. It was pretty amazing."

Considering that the trains move at a relatively high speed most of the time and can sometimes be bumpy, DeVault said she was nervous during her first trip that she might cut herself because of the movement, but the trains are a fairly smooth ride.

Since she's still in culinary school at IWCC, her tasks on board often include making salads and desserts and preparing breakfasts.

And while the trains leave with a good supply of food at the start of trips, when they make stops at various locations, one of the cooks' responsibilities are to find supermarkets or grocery stores and shop for the next few meals or days, depending on when and where they might stop again and the length of the trip.

"I know I want to own my own business some day, so the whole process of buying and controlling the inventory, prepping and preparing the food and serving the food (when in more formal dining situations)

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From left to right: Keri Zimmer, director of Advising; Tori Christie, dean of Enrollment Services; Jeanine Larsen, vice president of Student Services; Kim Henry, dean of Student Services; and Chris LaFerla, director of Admissions.

Jeanine Larsen, '90 Bids Farewell to IWCC After 36 Years

by Don Kohler

From her early days as an accounting clerk to her ascension to a top leadership role in administration, Jeanine Larsen has plenty of accomplishments to hang her hat on at Iowa Western Community College. Then again, she has worn many hats at the place she has called home for 36 years.

There have been three presidents at Iowa Western, and Larsen has worked for them all. Dr. Robert Looft gave her career a jumpstart by hiring her in the accounting office in 1976. She was promoted to director of housing in 1984, director of student life in 1993, and dean of enrollment services in 2000. Dr. Dan Kinney recognized the value of Larsen's "tell-it-like-it-is" leadership style and promoted her to vice president of student services in 2007. Through it all, Larsen said she is most proud of the journey she has taken at Iowa Western, one that included a delicate balancing act of family and work.

"With the added responsibilities at Iowa Western there was a need for me to go back to college," she recalled, detailing the long hours of a divorced mother of two who was focused on keeping the household together. "I went to school part time for seven years, worked full time and raised two teenagers. At the time, I did not think about that too much, but looking back at it, that lifestyle was crazy."

Kinney had another word to describe his loyal employee. "One word comes to mind when thinking of Jeanine Larsen's career at Iowa Western: dedicated," he said. "In every position she has held at the college, Jeanine has always been dedicated to helping our students achieve the highest level of success. She has truly been a valuable member of the Iowa Western team."

Unfortunately, Iowa Western will need to replace a valuable team member this summer. Larsen announced her retirement which takes effect June 30. "There are other things that I want to do," she said. "I have had to say no so many times to people, and I don't want to do that anymore. I want to make a difference in the lives of other people now."

Larsen began making a difference at Iowa Western in 1976, when a close friend told her about a job opportunity on the Council Bluffs campus. "I thought I would take the job for a while to just make ends meet at home. That was 36 years ago."

Larsen, who achieved her formal education at the Omaha School of Business, started at IWCC in the business office helping the late Lester Andrews with the housing books. She became closer to housing issues, which translated into stronger ties to the students. The rest, she admitted, was history.

"I really grew into the housing job as a student aid and counselor," she said. "Students back then were not unlike students today. There are always issues, and I was someone to lean on. Housing really drained your energy. But looking back, that was when I meant the most to students because of the one-on-one with them. I still hear from a lot of those kids, and that is a good feeling."

After receiving her associate's degree at IWCC and her bachelor's from

“One word comes to mind when thinking of Jeanine Larsen’s career at Iowa Western: *dedicated*.”

Dr. Dan Kinney, President

Buena Vista, Larsen welcomed the challenge of several promotions, including the reorganization that brought housing to the student services side of the college operations. She also helped to modernize the registration process at Iowa Western, getting rid of stacks of paper and converting to a computer-friendly process. "I

took people kicking and screaming through the process of streamlining the process, but ultimately it became much more efficient," she said.

Larsen was thinking she would "ride out as dean of enrollment services" when the promotion to vice president came from Dr. Kinney in 2007. Once again, she pulled her team together and developed processes that resulted in quality experiences for all students. "I have always had the attitude of finding better ways to do things, and that has put me in good situations at the college," she said. "When there is a problem I ask my staff how are we going to figure this out so it doesn't happen again, and how are we going to establish a process to fix it."

Larsen's process- and results-driven staff have helped the college reach new heights in enrollment and contributed to the overall image transformation of her alma



Jeanine and her husband, Scott, on one of their many winter vacations.

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Larsen

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“Regents and other transfer institutions used to thumb their noses at us, and now they are beating down our doors to get our students. Iowa Western is truly a special place.”

mater. “I absolutely love this job,” she said. “I tell people all the time that there could not be a better time to be at Iowa Western, and I mean that from everybody to the staff and students. I remember days when we had buckets in the hallways catching water from leaks in the roof. Now look at the facilities! Regents and other transfer institutions used to thumb their noses at us, and now they are beating down our doors to get our students. Iowa Western is truly a special place.”

Being an ambassador to Iowa Western will be No.1 on Larsen’s retirement list, along with spending quality time with her sons and their spouses, all of whom are Reiver graduates. Travis, received an associate’s of arts degree in 2010 and is pursuing a medical/nursing career. Nick graduated with an AAS Nursing degree in 2011 and works in the emergency room at Alegent-Council Bluffs. His wife, Dawn, graduated from IWCC and transferred to Grace University. They have

two children, Kylie and Keegan.

Ross, is a 2006 IWCC graduate and works at Thermal Heating and Cooling in Omaha. His wife, Missy, earned her associate’s degree at IWCC and a bachelor’s degree at Bellevue University and works for Frontier Bank in Omaha.

Jeanine’s husband, Scott, a quiet, unassuming man who runs the family farm in Harlan, is sure to find some chores for his wife this summer. Or, they might just travel, too. “In many ways, he is the opposite of me. He is very calm, which helps me. We complement each other real well. Scott has been incredibly supportive of me and my career aspirations, and I look forward to being there for him.”



The New *Enterprise Computing Center*

By Don Kohler

The Computer Information Technology staff at Iowa Western had a plan to develop a state-of-the-art computer center in Ashley Hall on the campus in Council Bluffs. All they needed was a little help from their friends at Google.

Thanks to a generous donation and some keen advice from the staff at Google, Iowa Western cut the ribbon on its new Enterprise Computing Center in 2011, a first-class learning environment for students seeking careers in computer programming.

“Students with technology and engineering skills are critical to our economy,” said Chris Russell, midwest operations manager for Google. “We’re happy we could partner with IWCC to build a lab that provides the opportunity to work with enterprise-grade technology while still at school. Hopefully this lab will not only give students valuable experience, but will also help attract other students to the field where they can learn computer science is not just a career choice with great prospects, it’s also rewarding and fun.

“We believe in supporting our community of Council Bluffs and Western Iowa. IWCC is an outstanding partner to work with on our goal of enhancing science, technology and engineering education for students in the region.”

The new Enterprise Computing Center was developed thanks to a grant of \$100,000 from Google Tides Foundation.

The center features a student-run network similar to what they will encounter in the business world. Students have their own Internet connection, servers and Fibre Channel Storage Array Network. The students recently developed a student-run Computer Help Desk for IWCC staff and students.

Students will continue to develop the classroom for virtual desktops and remote access to their classroom computers.

Google added another generous donation in fall 2011, when the Iowa Western Computer Information Technology Department received a pallet loaded with 43 used Dell 1850 rack-mount computer servers for use in the new center. The servers will be used by students for hands-on projects, including installing VMware and virtualizing computer systems.

“I appreciate the working relationship we have with Google and the donations that they



Left: Chris Russell, midwest operations manager for Google, visits with students. Right: John Magill, professor in Computer Information Technology, helps set-up the new center, which opened fall 2011.

have provided IWCC,” said IWCC Professor John Magill. “These servers will provide hands-on experiences that the students may not have received until they were in a job.”

IMMORTALIZING THE WORLD through Life's Lens

By Mike Watkins

Don Faust insists photography is just a hobby – something he does during his adventures with wife, Chris, who globetrotts to exotic locales throughout the world as a freelance writer and blogger.

And while the 1982 Iowa Western graduate says he doesn't get to travel with her as often as he'd like – his full-time gig as a pharmaceutical business consultant keeps him busy and traveling on his own quite a bit – the spots they've encountered together more than make up for what he sometimes misses.

"I can't imagine a better way to use my vacation each year than to see the world with her," said Faust, who grew up in Atlantic, Iowa, but now calls Seattle home. "I really love taking photos, and I've taken a variety of different photos all over the world. They are mostly for our own personal use, but I sometimes take photos for Chris' website, www.chrisaroundtheworld.com, and freelance work."

Faust's journey toward becoming an accomplished photographer (although he doesn't consider himself a professional) began in 2007 when he purchased his first digital SLRS camera kit, which brought professional-level photos into range for enthusiasts like himself.

"I decided to take on the hobby and try my hand at it," he said. "Being able to take high-quality pictures definitely made subjects more interesting."

His travels with Chris have taken them to places Faust only dreamt of as a youngster living in rural Iowa. Through their many passages, he's photographed the Pantheon and Coliseum in Rome, ancient ruins in Pompeii and snow-peaked mountains of Alaska, as well as people, scenes, festivals, relics and architectural masterpieces in Spain, Germany, Southeast Asia and the Caribbean, among other locations.

Faust said he particularly enjoys photographing natives of the city or country they are visiting. He also likes researching the history of



A variety of photos Faust has captured on his world-wide journeys.

the area prior to traveling so he can photograph both well-known and out-of-the-way landmarks and hot spots.

"Those are the shots that really give you a sense of the place; otherwise, you don't get to experience the city as it really is," he said.

As a student at Iowa Western in the early 1980s, photography was nowhere on Faust's radar. He was more interested in computers, and IWCC had a good record of placement for graduates compared to four-year universities.

After finishing his associate's degree in computer studies at IWCC he continued onto Eastern College outside of Philadelphia, where he went to school for a short time before moving to Louisiana to do some consulting work. While there, he finished his bachelor's degree in organizational management at the University of New Orleans.

Still, Faust admits it was his educational foundation from his two years at Iowa Western that helped lay the groundwork for his future.



Photographs courtesy of Faust.

"The program at IWCC was a pretty fast track with a good workload," said Faust, who met Chris while living in Philadelphia, where she worked as a travel writer for the Philadelphia Inquirer. "I liked the hands-on classroom approach. Back then, we were working primarily with punch cards and programming using a text editor. That was back in the age of MS-DOS – before Microsoft products and word processing as we know it today."

With Chris traveling regularly for her travel blog and freelance work, Faust has settled into Seattle and works as a principal business consultant for IMS Health, the leading provider of information services for the health care industry covering markets in 100-plus countries.

He works with pharmaceutical clients addressing business questions, largely through collected data from market research and industry data. He also provides short- and long-range strategic planning for the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals as it pertains to the data.

"I help them make data-based decisions," Faust said. "I had gotten away from computer programming and into sales in the mid-1990s, and one of my leased furniture sales was to the president of a major drug distributor (McKesson).

"We got to talking about my background and what programmers do and the move made sense. That was 14 years ago, and I've been in the same seat ever since."

McKesson recently was acquired by IMS, and Faust said he's still learning his way through the much larger company structure, although his day-to-day responsibilities remain largely unchanged.

He said he most enjoys interacting with clients, all of whom are located on the West Coast, as well as helping them problem-solve. Now that he's with a larger company, he said he's struggling a bit with giving up responsibilities of the many hats he wore as a member of a smaller organization.

Because his work schedule allows him some flexibility to travel with Chris, he tries to make a minimum of four trips with her annually. Their

travels have taken them throughout the world, but he says there are still some locations in Europe, South America and the European-centric countries in the Mediterranean, especially Turkey, that remain high on his travel wish list.

"I'm not nearly as well-traveled as my wife, but growing up in Atlantic, I could never have imagined that I would see as many places around the world as I have,"

said Faust, who most recently accompanied Chris to New Zealand. "I've visited about 15 countries so far, and now that Chris is a freelancer and is invited to go on trips all the time, I know I'll visit many more before we're done."

And while he hasn't visited the Iowa Western campus in nearly three decades, Faust said he remembers his time fondly and vividly. The school consisted of only a few buildings back then and the student population and course/major offerings were much smaller. But he always goes back to his Midwestern upbringing and education as the basis for what he's accomplished today and has yet to accomplish.

"It was almost exclusively a commuter school when I was a student, although I lived in the dorms and then the apartments before moving off campus," Faust said. "I understand the school and campus have grown and changed a lot since those days. I don't make it back to Atlantic to visit Mom and Dad as often as I'd like, but one of these times when I return, I hope to stop by the campus and see how much it's changed. I might not recognize it."



SPARK IN THE ENGINE

By Anthony Flott

David Petratis ticks off the date as if it were staring at him from a desktop calendar: Jan. 6, 1964.

The day his father died.

John Carl Petratis – Jack – passed away right in front of his house, leaving behind a wife, Elizabeth, and six children under the age of 12. Within the next 18 months, both of David Petratis’ grandfathers also would die.

“You had to grow up fast,” said Petratis. “It certainly marks you.

“We didn’t have a lot; probably didn’t need a lot. But it tends to put some spark in the engine because clearly you could look around and there were kids that had more.”

Jack Petratis had been a warehouse manager for Hinky Dinky; Elizabeth, now 85, went to work as a registered nurse. Like them, David Petratis worked. And worked. And worked.

He mowed grass in the summer, shoveled snow in the winter. Every day after school he delivered papers and every summer he worked on an uncle’s farm. In high school, while at Iowa Western Community College and during breaks from the University of Northern Iowa he worked at Interstate Electric in Council Bluffs.

So, when in 1986 the brass at Square D, a circuit breaker manufacturing company, made Petratis the youngest manager in the history of its Raleigh, N.C., plant, no one knew what to expect from the 28-year-old not far removed from college.

“They were clearly trying to chew me up and spit me out,” Petratis said. “Day 1 at Square D I had 72 direct reports. There was a test going on. Headquarters wanted to develop college graduates at the entry management ranks. Those ranks historically ... you came up from within. And they wanted divergent thinking, outside thinking. People higher up the ladder wanted to see some young people come in and really learn it at a first-line level.

“A lot of them didn’t make it.”

Petratis did. He made it at Square D, and at a handful of other corporate assignments, almost

always as the man in charge. Today he's chairman and CEO of Quanex Building Products, a Houston-based manufacturer of engineered materials and components for building products sold to original equipment manufacturers. In 2011 it had revenues of \$850 million.

Looking back, Petratis said, growing up without a father, learning coping skills in a large family, working from a young age ... all that gave him a head start on peers. He was battle-tested, and didn't blink when Square D put him on the front line.

"I didn't necessarily like it," he said, "but sometimes what scares the hell out of you is good for you."

A Unique Opportunity

Iowa Western was good for Petratis, and he sings its praises without prompting. He recalls how a neighbor and sometime caretaker of his, Macyl Boruff, began her IWCC studies at the same time he did in 1976.

"It was unique that that institution could look at Macyl Boruff, a housewife probably in her mid-40s, and me, an 18-year-old, and provide opportunities to advance," he said. "That was unique in 1976, and it's unique today.

"I'm sure there are still Macyl Boruffs there

Abraham Lincoln and was accepted to the University of Iowa. His Mom had one question for him, though: "How are you going to pay for that?"

He couldn't. Fortunately for him, IWCC Basketball Coach Rod Clarkson lived just up the street. Petratis remembers Clarkson pulling into the driveway one day in a '67 Camaro and asking him to tryout for the Reivers. Petratis' older brother, Stan was 6-foot-11 and had played for the Hawkeyes. Another brother was 6-7.

David Petratis, 6-3, would play for the Reivers. A forward in high school, he switched to guard at Iowa Western. The squad went 19-34 in his two years there.

Lessons off the court, though, may have been more valuable. "I would say I slid through high school," he said. "I proved I could learn at the college level. When you can play college bas-

ketball, work and academically survive, it tests you for things you'll have going forward."

Moving Forward

He went forward rapidly. Petratis finished his IWCC studies in the summer of 1978, then moved on to the University of Northern Iowa, where he earned a BA in industrial management in 1981. He considered joining the military but by the February preceding his commencement he had an offer from Square D. The economy was

tanking, but Petratis landed what he said was "one of the best jobs in my graduating class."

He managed the plant in North Carolina, then one in South Carolina until 1993. That year, two years after Square D had merged with Schneider Electric, Petratis served as vice president of operations of EPE Technologies, a Schneider subsidiary and power supplier in Costa Mesa, Calif. Two years later he became its president. He went on to leadership posts with other Schneider subsidiaries until becoming COO for Schneider Electric North America in 2003. One year later, he got the top spot as CEO. He was in charge of 22,000 employees and 51 factories. He had a private jet.

Four years later, he

walked away. The job, he said, was "eating me alive" from a time and health perspective.

“...sometimes what scares the hell out of you is good for you.”



Petratis on the job at his Edge Tech facility.

today along with young 18-year-olds trying to figure it out."

Petratis had graduated from Council Bluffs

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The Coffee's Always On

By Lori Rice

Edd Leach enjoys a cup of coffee. Actually, make that many, many cups of coffee. He is a man who lives up to the image that his now-famous slogan – “the coffee’s always on” – has embedded in his customers throughout the Midwest for the past several years. Known for his outstanding customer service, loyalty to his employees and desire to help others, Leach has made a name for himself with the success of his RV dealership, Leach Camper Sales in Council Bluffs.

But he hasn’t done it alone. He is flanked by his wife of 28 years, Donna Ray, who has immersed herself in community service work, volunteering her time and energy to many organizations and community events. Together, this generous couple continues to make it a priority to give back to the community that has given them so much.

“We like to give back,” Donna said. “We feel you should be doing good in the community.”

It was a cold, snowy winter day in January 1984 that saw Edd, president of Leach Camper Sales, walk down the aisle to marry Donna. Nearly five years later they were preparing to walk down the aisle together again, this time for their graduation ceremony at Iowa Western Community College in August 1989. Both would earn associate’s degrees in business and management that day, but their paths toward achieving those diplomas were vastly different.

For Edd, it was a 20-year journey. In 1968, after moving back from California, Edd began taking courses occasionally at Iowa Western back when classes were held in the basement of the old Mercy Hospital and the idea of a campus was nonexistent. The next year he joined his dad, Max, in what was already proving to be a successful business in the sale of recreational vehicles. During the next 20 years Edd would slowly chip away at earning his degree while in the mean time taking over the Council Bluffs operation of Leach Camper Sales in 1970. What had started with the sale of a few campers alongside a gas station on 16th and Ave. B grew into a two-building operation on eight acres at its current location on Veterans Memorial Highway. In 1974, Edd was joined in the business by his older brother Pat in Council Bluffs, and in 1977, Pat took over management of the 10-acre location in Lincoln, Neb. Today, as Leach Camper Sales celebrates its 50th anniversary, it has grown into one of the largest RV dealerships in the central United States.

It wasn’t until Donna decided to go back to school



in 1987 to earn her associate's degree – and ultimately her bachelor's degree – that Edd was motivated to finish the few classes he had left to earn his degree. After working for Enron Corporation for nine years, Donna decided to pursue opportunities in management and enrolled at Iowa Western. After earning her associate's degree, she went on to graduate with a bachelor's degree in human resources management and business administration from Bellevue University, which led to positions at various companies including work at AmeriTrade and a startup company called Smartpay. She also worked several years at Nexterna, an Omaha company, as director of Human Resources. Iowa Western enabled her to take that first step toward her bachelor's degree.

"It impacted my life," Donna said of her time at Iowa Western. "I wouldn't have been able to get those positions without my bachelor's degree."

Edd jokingly refers to a time in the 1970s when he had a short stint as a "college professor" at Iowa Western. Approached to teach an adult education class on RVs, Edd spent a semester at the college teaching a service-oriented class on the use and maintenance of RVs, trailers and fifth wheels. Today Edd points to the joy he sees in his customers and the challenges each day brings as motivation for continuing in the business.

"What the business is all about is lining people up to have a better life," Edd said. "There are trials and tribulations to any business, any job, but when you see how happy people are ... it's a lot of fun."

Edd and Donna enjoy giving back to the community that brought them so much prosperity over the years. Edd is a former board member for Children's Square, Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce, past board member for local and national chapters of the Recreational Vehicle Dealers of America, and currently serves on the board for Pottawattamie County Development Corporation (PCDC).

Donna is actively involved in the Loess Hills chapter of the Red Cross, where she has served on the board for five years. According to Jill Orton, executive director of the Loess Hills chapter, her role has helped provide stability and continuity during a time of change for the Red Cross.

"She is a wonderful community volunteer," Orton said. "She has lots of connections to help us get the word out and advocate our life-saving services."

They also continue to support Iowa Western, where they have been actively involved over the years in the college's Black Tie events, Iowa Western's largest scholarship fundraising event.

"Edd and Donna are very supportive and very frequently involved in efforts to raise scholarship money for students," said Dr. Dan Kinney, president of Iowa Western.

Kinney also points to their support of Iowa Western's various sports teams, where Edd often donates the use of a motor home for the television and radio crews when they cover a far-away Reiver sports game. Most recently, Kinney said, Edd was a major contributor as one of the wrestling founders this past fall, offering yet another opportunity for students to accept scholarship support to help pay for their education.

Donna also served for several years on the board for the Arts Center at the college.

"I have to say I was always impressed with Iowa Western," Donna said. "Everything about that school is top-notch. I think the community has a tremendous respect for that school and it has a good reputation."

Edd and Donna lead active lifestyles and have an array of activities and interests. Edd, a 37-year scuba diving veteran, has spent his life around the water and also enjoys playing basketball, running, fishing with his grandsons and other outdoor activities. Donna belongs to book and garden clubs, attends a weekly bible study group, loves to shop and workout.

Coming off the heels of a diagnosis of prostate cancer for Edd in 2009, these days the self-proclaimed "very social" couple is taking more time out to enjoy these activities, travel, and spend time with friends and family, which includes their children and grandsons.

Continued On Page 17

“From 2003 to 2008 I spent 12 weeks of the year off the continent.”

Quanex

Petratis didn't stay idle very long. In July 2008 he joined Quanex, a global operation that designs and produces window and door products, systems and solutions, and aluminum sheet products from 100-percent recycled materials. He took over Quanex at a time when the economy was tanking,

as was the price of aluminum. His CFO quit and he had issues with the board.

“It was bad,” Petratis said, “and it just got markedly worse, in the

economy and at the company.”

He had the company revisit its strategic plan – three times. Believing Quanex had commoditized itself, he actually had Quanex raise its prices. There was some belt tightening, too.

“You don't have many choices,” said Petratis, who serves on several industry boards, including the Board of Governors of National Electrical Manufacturers Association. “I could have laid everybody off and just locked up the business and waited for prices to come back up, or you figure out a way to ride out a very bad and unique perfect storm.”

They not only bore the brunt of the storm but landed safely ashore. Under Petratis' leadership Quanex had net sales of \$585 million in 2009, up from \$408 million in 2008. In 2010 net sales increased to \$798 million with income from continuing operations at a \$24.2 million positive versus a loss in 2009 of \$136.1 million. In 2011 net sales jumped again, to \$848.3 million.

Back Home

In late February, Petratis was back on campus with his wife, Cindy, and daughters Terese, Natalie and Claire.

The college presented him with its 2012 Outstanding Alumni Award, conferring it – fittingly – at halftime of a men's basketball game.

It had been more than three decades since he'd taken classes at IWCC. He's never stopped learning, though. In 1998, he earned an MBA from Pepperdine University. Today he reads constantly.

Early in his career, he mostly read business-related tomes. Now, he's mixing in history and fiction (he just finished “Killing Lincoln” and was reading Bill Clinton's latest effort). “I think you have to have balance in your perspective,” he said.

He employs the services of an executive coach, whose duty is to challenge him at work while also helping him maintain balance among work, self and family.

Balance includes physical fitness. Petratis had maintained his court savvy for a long while, even winning a North Carolina 3-on-3 tournament while working for Square D. He proudly points out that his squad downed a team featuring one-time NBAer Chuck Nevitt. His hoops days, though, are over. These days he trains for marathons – he's run the Chicago and Houston Marathons and other half marathons. Last summer he rafted down Idaho's Salmon River, the “River of No Return.”

Work, family, play... Petratis is in constant motion. As he's always been. He recommends the same for today's students, suggesting they fill their resume with internships, community service and outside learning. Such a student, he said, “is going to have an easier



Petratis and the voice of Iowa Western athletics, Jake Ryan.

time than someone who just rode the academic path. In my mind, it's a must-have,” he said.

He had a lot of that when he first stepped foot on the IWCC campus.

“I had some pretty strong values. I guess that helped me,” Petratis said. “I knew things that they didn't test for on the SAT and ACT that you learn on the street by doing hands-on learning and growing up in a family that required you to work. So maybe I didn't fully appreciate what I had in my head and my hands when I was 18 to 20 years old.”

Even when others did.

while moving on a train provides a great environment for on-the-job training,” said Kahle, who learned to love baking from her grandfather, William Kahle, as a youngster.

UP’s culinary connection with IWCC essentially grew from Collins’ previous working relationship with instructor Brenda Windmuller. The two worked together for Swanson, which provided food service for the cafeteria in Union Pacific’s old headquarters.

The two remained in touch when Windmuller first left for Dana College and then IWCC. In addition to coming out to campus to give presentations about opportunities to work on the trains, Collins also sits on the IWCC culinary advisory board.

“We try to bring in people from different industries and businesses to interact with the students about opportunities beyond restaurants, bakeries, etc.,” Windmuller said. “The program

is varied in that we want the students to leave with a focus but have a broad background in management and service, as well as being able to cook.

“They might be managers or supervisors some day, and they need to know how to work with and lead as well as make great food.”

That comprehensive learning and background is one of the reasons UP and Collins, an Iowa Western graduate himself in the late 90s, enjoy working with IWCC faculty and students.

“We’ve always tried to promote our work to new culinary students because it’s a great way for them to learn and see the world at the same time,” said Collins, who has worked at Union Pacific for 43 years, starting as a sorter/filer.

“Our relationship with Iowa Western is a relatively new one, but I know the quality of students and work there is very good. Nichole and Jill both show a willingness to learn more, and the basics

they’ve learned at Iowa Western have prepared them well.”

Kahle said her multiple professional experiences as a result of her culinary education at IWCC have positioned her well for whatever future path she might take.

Currently working toward her degree in hospitality management, she has many options in front of her – including potentially pursuing a future in teaching.

“I would love to teach culinary some day, perhaps even back at Iowa Western if there was an opportunity,” Kahle said. “I enjoy working with cooks as a supervisor at Cantina Laredo and see that as a natural move into teaching some day.”

Coffee

Continued From Page 15

More irritated than anything else by

the diagnosis and not used to slowing down, Edd chose to face the cancer head-on and with a sense of humor. Just 10 days after having surgery, he was up and dancing – albeit slowly, Donna says – at her 45-year high school reunion. Recovered now, he hopes his battle will help others and ease the stigma that is sometimes associated with the disease.

“People saw that it didn’t kill him,” Donna said. “It gives people hope.”

His courage in the face of adversity led to Edd receiving the 2011 Spirit of Courage Award through the Jennie Edmundson Foundation – a recognition he initially balked at accepting.

“When I was honored for that award, I thought it was a little ridiculous,” Edd said. “You look at it that people are feeling sorry for you and I don’t need anybody to feel sorry for me. But then

you find out what kind of good you can do ... it’s kind of a cool thing.”

Ironically, the couple rarely travels in the campers they have built their success on, citing too much time away from the business that has become like family to them – family that includes the couple’s daughter, Julie, who joined the business in 2002 as sales manager.

One of the best parts, Julie said, is seeing the longevity of the employees at Leach Camper Sales. With a staff of 30, the average employee has been with Leach Camper Sales for at least 10 years, many even longer than that.

In 1985, Nancy Alkire started at Leach Camper Sales as a bookkeeper and 27 years later fondly remembers the flexibility afforded to her when her children were young and she was able to attend all their school functions and even coach after school.

Edd, she said, is “just a very generous person to work for, super person ... it’s just a big huge family working together.”

“It’s a great place to work,” concurs

Bob Saunders, parts manager for the past 17 years. “Edd takes extremely good care of his people...every day is a challenge, every day is something new. It’s a fun business to be in.”

Edd and Donna’s impact is “tremendous,” Julie said. “They go above and beyond for the community.”



A photo taken Thursday, August 3, 1989 of Edd and Donna at summer graduation where they received their IWCC diplomas.

Legendary Iowa Coach Gable Headlines Wrestling Program Kickoff

By Don Kohler

One of the biggest names in collegiate wrestling lent his support and encouragement to Iowa Western's inaugural wrestling season. Renowned former Iowa State All-American, Olympic gold medalist and University of Iowa coach Dan Gable was the keynote speaker at the Oct. 26 fundraising dinner at the Mid-America Center.

"I'm proud to be here," Gable said after receiving a standing ovation from the crowd. "I am proud to have another opportunity to enhance the sport. This is a special night. This (the sport of wrestling) is like family for me, and the family has grown!" More than 250 fans came to hear the sports legend speak about the benefits that wrestling brings to the collegiate environment.

The name Dan Gable is synonymous with wrestling



Head Wrestling coach Josh Watts visits with Dan Gable after the Oct. 26 wrestling event at Mid-America Center.

Wrestling Founders

IWCC Wrestling Founders contributed a minimum of \$2,500 to help with the start-up of the Reiver Wrestling Program.

C & A Scales

Doug and Deb Goodman

HGM Associates, Inc.

Hy-Vee

Leach Camper Sales

Lustgraaf & Coppock Families

Lew and Denna Massey

Miller Orthopaedic Affiliates

Jon L. Narmi and Charles M. Narmi

The Narmi Group, Investment Services

Brent and Valerie Siegrist

Ron Stander "The Bluffs Butcher"

Gary and Barb Woods

James and Gertrude Woodworth

dominance in Iowa. During his prep and college careers, Gable amassed an amazing 182-1 wrestling record. He was undefeated in 64 prep matches, and was 118-1 at Iowa State. A three-time All-American and three-time Big Eight champion, Gable set NCAA records in winning and pin streaks. His

numerous honors include inductions into the U.S. Wrestling Hall of Fame (1980) and U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame (1985).

As the University of Iowa's all-time winningest wrestling coach from 1977 to 1997, Gable compiled a career record of 355-21-5. He coached 152 All-Americans, 45 national champions, 106 Big Ten champions and 12 Olympians, including four gold, one silver and three bronze medalists. His winning percentage of .932 and nine consecutive NCAA Championships (1978-86) equaled the longest streak of national titles won by any school in any sport at that time.

Before even taking the mat, Iowa Western's first-ever Reiver wrestling team and new head coach, Josh Watts, had the opportunity to meet with Gable and enthusiastic fans at the kickoff event. All proceeds from the event were dedicated to Iowa Western's new wrestling program, which began competition this winter.

The addition of this wrestling program brings the number of Iowa Western's Division 1 NJCAA competitive sports to 18. To learn more about IWCC athletics and to view the wrestling schedule, visit <http://www.goreivers.com/>.

ANOTHER BANNER YEAR FOR REIVER ATHLETICS

by Don Kohler

It was another headline year for Reiver athletics, both in the field of competition and in the classroom. Two Iowa Western athletes – baseball player Adam Lavelle and soccer standout Chris Soenksen – were presented the coveted Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence for achieving a 4.0 grade point average throughout the season. In addition, 24 other Reiver athletes earned Academic All-American honors during the year.

Football Rolls Again

Head coach Scott Strohmeier has built a football powerhouse in just his third season at the helm. The Reivers rolled to a 62-0 victory over Rochester, Minn., in the 2011 Graphic Edge Bowl to wrap an impressive 9-2 campaign. The Reivers finished No. 7 in the final NJCAA football poll and sent another long list of players to the NCAA Division I ranks.

Volleyball Earns Another Tourney Bid

Reiver Volleyball continues to be a force at the national level under head coach Darren McBroom. Iowa Western earned its sixth straight trip to the NJCAA Championships and brought home a fifth-place trophy, finishing with a solid 45-8 record. A number of Reiver spikers earned post-season honors, including First Team NJCAA and AVCA All American Dayana Acevedo (libero) and Second Team All-American Alexa Griffith Hardy (outside hitter).

Soccer Teams Excel in 2011

The men's soccer team, under the direction of Jordan Carver, survived a tough conference and district schedule to earn a spot in the NJCAA Championships. The Reiver men, making their second straight trip to nationals, finished seventh overall and capped an impressive 18-3-1 season.

The Reiver women, under head coach Brad Silvey, were prominent in the national polls all season long and fell just short of a return trip to the NJCAA Tournament. Iowa Western battled Lewis & Clark, Ill., through double overtime before losing in a shootout in the district semifinals, ending the Reivers' impressive season at 14-4. Iowa Western maintained its presence in the national polls, finishing No. 6 on the year.

Runners Glide to Titles

Several Reiver runners cruised to top times at the National Cross Country Championships in Hobbs, N.M. The top performer for the IWCC men was Lewis Central High standout Blake Hunter, who finished 83rd overall, while Ariel Andrews finished 88th for the women. Other top finishers for the Reivers were: Conrad Sain; James Speight, Robert Bestenlehner; Jake Moore; Michael Gaitan; Cody Taylor; Mariah Myers; Allison Spath; Nadine Scott; Kelly Murray; Samantha Winter; Lacey Wright.

The Reiver distance teams participated in the NJCAA Half-Marathon National Championship hosted by Chattahoochee Tech., and freshman Conrad Sain led the men to a 9th place team finish. Ariel Andrews helped the Reiver women secure a school record seventh place finish. Andrews finished in a time of (1:35:09.14) placing her 18th overall.



Class Notes

1971

Michael Carr

Michael retired in 2006 after 30 years of teaching middle school. Michael is the state secretary for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and also the state secretary for the Knights of Pythias Lodge.

Larry DeMeo

Larry has worked in the maintenance department at the Iowa Western Community College Clarinda center for 20 years.

William Ryner

William is employed with Securitas Security Services as a security officer.

1974

Grace Zook

Grace is CEO/owner of Central KS REI. She is married with two sons and has five grandchildren.

1976

Diane Suhr

Diane works in home health as an RN.

1977

Sheri Bawens

Sheri is employed with Walgreens Infusion Services/Advanced Surgery as an RN (Infusion Specialist/PACU).

1979

Timothy Gibler

After graduation, Timothy continued his education at UNO and earned his bachelor's degree. Timothy is currently a letter carrier for USPS.

1981

Keith Brothers

Keith is the chief of police for the Clarinda Police Department.

Robert Perin

Robert is working at APCON in Inside Sales.

1982

Diane Sands

Diane taught elementary special education for 10 plus years. She is in her eighth year as library director at Omaha's Creighton Preparatory school. Diane and her husband recently celebrated their 17th wedding anniversary.

1984

Edward Stecki

Edward is married and lives in Denton, Texas. He currently works for Bell Helicopter.

1985

Rich Justus

Rich is a program coordinator at Duncan Aviation. Rich met his wife while attending Iowa Western and they recently celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary.

1987

Jackie Masker

Jackie is employed with Creighton University as an office manager.

Lisa Rys-Jones

Lisa is employed as the mail clerk for the US Department of the Interior National Park Service — Midwest Regional Office. Lisa has two daughters — Alyssa and Katy.

1989

Todd Nelson

Todd is an engineer for Kelloggs.

Mark Welsh

Mark is a facility engineer with UPS.

1992

Hope Diercks

Hope is a controller for Together (a homeless prevention agency) in Omaha.

1993

Stephanie Harden

Stephanie is a finance specialist with Sheppard's Business Interiors, Inc.

Allen (Oscar) Myers

Oscar is supervisor of the maintenance department at Iowa Western.

Kristina Nelson

Kristina is a senior clerk for the Omaha Police Department.

1994

Sandy Villafierte

Sandy is a medical assistant at Ridge Family Practice.

1996

Christopher Chetwynd

Christopher is employed with Good Brother Dodge as an automotive technician.

Dawniel Johnson

Dawniel is the director of trade accounting at Green Plains Renewable Energy.

Troy Lehan

Troy was promoted to internet content coordinator for the Internet marketing team at Nebraska Furniture Mart.

1998

Russell Archer

Russell works at Nishna Productions, Inc.

Belinda Cook

Belinda is an executive assistant at Rent-A-Center.

Ginger Larson

Ginger is an analyst for Union Pacific.

1999

Terry LeMaster

Terry is a captain with the Council Bluffs Police Department.

Jan McAlpin

Jan is a quality engineer at Eaton Corporation.

Brian Turner

Brian is coaching the men's basketball team at Southeastern Community College. Brian is also the CEO of WisE Brand Clothing.

Carla Weible

Carla is an RN at Presbyterian St. Lukes Hospital.

2000

Kathryn Hagen

Kat is the TRIO Programs director at Iowa Western Community College. She recently received the NISOD Award.

Loreno Jameson

Loreno is the learning management system administrator for Omaha Public Power District.

Sherry Stork

Sherry is employed with Mid America Computer Corporate as a quality assurance analyst.

2002

Wesley Campbell

Wesley is an experimental technician for John Deere. Wesley is married with two children and a third on the way.

Pam Grap

Pam is the closing/licensing coordinator for Farmers National.

Amy Paulsen

Amy has worked as a dental hygienist since graduating from IWCC in 2002. She is married and has four boys.

2003

Kyle Lensch

Kyle owns Sears Hometown Dealership in Atlantic, Iowa.

Justin Terry

Justin works for the state of Iowa. Justin married the woman he met while attending Iowa Western.



Students in the IWCC Student Center game room.

John Reddish

John was promoted to assistant professor - construction technology in 2010 at Iowa Western Community College.

2004

Michaela (Starner) Brooks

Michaela is a science teacher at Kearney High School.

Kathy Derengowski

Kathy is an LPN at Longview.

Julie Hemmingse

Julie is an accountant at BGCM.

Jessica Oswalt

Jessica is an accounts payable specialist with MV Transportation.



Iowa Western vocal ensemble *First Edition*.

2005

Timothy Milan

Timothy is working for Leo A Daly as an IT specialist for its international offices.

Crystal Murray

Crystal is employed with PJ Morgan Real Estate.

Suzanne Wiese

Suzanne is an administrative assistant in the continuing education department at Iowa Western.

Cameron Ziegenfuss

Cameron works for an insurance company as an underwriter. She is married and has a daughter.

2006

Sue Crosby

Sue works in the accounts payable department as a payroll clerk for the Salvation Army.

2007

Brice Hermanson

Brice works at Graybill Tire and Repair.

Lindsey Kocol

Lindsey works as an interpreter and was married April 24, 2010.

Jessica Pagett

Jessica continued her education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha with a minor in biology. She will student-teach in August and will graduate in December 2012.

Todd Smiley

Todd is a supply sergeant with the Iowa National Guard.

2008

McKinzee Abbott

McKinzee is a recovery specialist for medical accounts at West Asset Management.

Lucas Hennings

Lucas is on-air talent for 89.7 the River and is in sales.

Brian Ogle

Starting Feb. 20, Brian will become director of animal placement at the Nebraska Humane Society.

Elyssa O'Tool

Elyssa is a customer service representative for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska.

2009

Nicholas Athen

Nicholas received his bachelor's degree from Bellevue University and is working for the family John Deere dealership.

Amber Casebeer

Amber is the disabilities accommodations coordinator at Iowa Western.

Wayne Hill

Wayne is working with advanced technology services at Kiewit.

Tabetha (Pauly) VanderWoude

Tabetha is the front desk manager/group coordinator for the Iowa House Historic Inn. Tabetha married her high school sweetheart and is currently attending Iowa State University.

2010

Rick Cross

Rick is the technical support and trainer for CenturyLink.

Rosa Diaz

After working in a casino in Florida for a year, Rosa decided to travel overseas. She is now back in the states and attends Bellevue University.

David Perkins

David is a retail merchandiser for ACOSTA Sales and Marketing.

Kalynn Pulley

Kalynn is a greens goods clerk for Earl May.

Carrie St John

Carrie has been working full time as a surgical technician at Mercy Hospital since graduating from Iowa Western.

Tammy VanFossen

Tammy is the kitchen manager for McDonalds.

2011

Michelle Christensen

Michelle is a licensed vet tech for the Council Bluffs Veterinary Clinic.

Ashley Clark

Ashley works for Pinnacle Bank as a senior human resources generalist. Since graduation, Ashley has earned her PHR.

Chelsea Colton

Chelsea is attending the University of Nebraska at Omaha for chiropractic care.

Jessica Cox

Jessica is a server at Longhorn Steakhouse and is attending Bellevue University.

Shelly Donnelly-Tovar

Shelly works in payment operations at PayPal.

Nicole Fischer

Nicole is attending Buena Vista University.

Jessica Fox

Jessica is attending Bellevue University to pursue her bachelor's degree.

Dean Giese

Dean is working on his bachelor's degree from Bellevue University. He is the student support specialist at Iowa Western.

Theresa Hill

Theresa is attending Buena Vista University and is an associate in the early childhood center at Iowa Western.

Damian Impelluso

Damian has plans to have a summer internship in the wind energy field.

Kassie Kinney

Kassie is a social worker for the Glenwood Resource Center.

Greta Knudsen

Greta is a licensed vet tech for Banfield Pet Hospital. Greta's future plans include furthering her education to become a licensed vet tech manager or instructor.

Geoffrey Martens

Geoffrey is attending Iowa State University.

Kevin O'Meara

Kevin is attending University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Roger Rasmussen

Roger is the deputy sheriff for the Crawford County Sheriff's Office. He is taking classes at Bellevue University.

Linda Rubene

Linda is playing basketball at Indiana University.

Brittany Scott

Brittany is a medical laboratory technician for USAF.

Adella Shaw

Adella is a sign language interpreter for Iowa Western.

Shannon Spetman

Shannon is a delivery coordinator for Nebraska Furniture Mart.

Larissa Stogdill

Larissa is employed with Lewis Central schools as a para.

Alumni Reunions

More than 250 alumni have returned to campus for a variety of alumni events since August 2011. Alumni who attended the events had a chance to see the many campus updates and reconnect with former classmates and instructors.

It is always great to have alumni back on campus! For more information on alumni events, please send us an email at alum@iwcc.edu or call 712.325.3269.

2011-2012 Alumni Events

Sept. 25, 2011 - Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Oct. 15, 2011 - Baseball

Oct. 15, 2011 - Athletic Hall of Fame

Oct. 28, 2011 - Construction Technology

Nov. 5, 2011 - Sign Language Interpreting

Feb. 17, 2012 - Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting

Feb. 25, 2012 - Outstanding Alumni Reception

Spring 2012 - Alumni After Hours

Summer 2012 - Athletic Training



Photographs taken at numerous alumni gatherings held in fall 2011.

To view additional alumni event photos visit foundation.iwcc.edu/alumni.asp

To submit photographs from alumni events, please alum@iwcc.edu

Win an Android Tablet!

Win an Android tablet! Simply scan the following code with your smartphone or visit magazine.iwccalum.info and answer a few questions to be entered to win!



Hello alumni and friends,

As Iowa Western Community College alumni, you are vital members of the college's community, as well as the communities where you live, work and play. An education from Iowa Western provides you with the skill set to carry out your professional careers and impacts your earning capabilities. Statistics show that community college graduates earn approximately \$400,000 more in their lifetime than those who have only a high school diploma.



The college's alumni association has made a dedicated effort to enhance your opportunities for involvement with increased alumni gatherings, additional communications efforts and expansion of our advisory board. We invite all of you to become involved with Iowa Western and the work we are doing. Your participation and support is certainly appreciated.

The alumni association is working to do its part to augment student scholarships and help even more students achieve their dreams of obtaining a college degree. For the 2011-12 school year, the Iowa Western Alumni Association awarded \$5,100 in student scholarships. These scholarships are important to our students as they pursue their goals.

With more than 80 percent of IWCC's student population qualifying for financial assistance, and 49 percent citing "lack of finances" as an issue that would cause them to withdraw from class or Iowa Western, scholarships are important for our students. I invite you to help us continue supporting our students by contributing to the scholarship fund using the enclosed envelope. Your contribution will give more students the opportunity to attend Iowa Western.

If you'd like more information on various ways to become involved, please contact our alumni office at alum@iwcc.edu or 712.325.3269. Thanks for all that you do for Iowa Western and, most importantly, our students.

All the best,

Renee P. Coughlin

Renee P. Coughlin

Vice President of Institutional Advancement



Quick Facts

- IWCC provides more than 42,795 region-wide enrollments in continuing education classes and workshops each year.
- IWCC's cyber library provides access to 400,000 resources and netbooks.
- 53 percent of IWCC's students are the first in their family to attend college.
- There are more than 20 different clubs and organizations that students can join.



Alumni Board members and IWCC Alumni Association Scholarship recipients. **Front Row:** Pam Beall-Hill, '88; Shawna Klindt, '01; Keasha Zadina, Seward, Neb.; Daleigh Fossler, Beatrice, Neb.; Taylor Turgeon, Council Bluffs; John Cool, '81. **Back Row:** Scott Belt, '77 & '82, Alumni Board President; Michael Hoppes, Scottsbluff, Neb.; Matt Waters, Council Bluffs; Spencer Lachnit, Gretna, Neb.; Tavian Pomlee, Davenport, Iowa; Zach Christianson, Atlantic, Iowa; and Brandon Juon, '00. **Not Pictured:** Charlee Edmonds, Rocky Comfort, Mo.; Cori Ehman, York, Neb.; Tiffany Haney, Columbus, Neb.; Aaron Reynolds, Covington, Ga.; Alexander Turbyfill, Syracuse, Utah; and Sydnie Vanous, Mason, Iowa.





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