

IOWA WESTERN

A Magazine for Alumni & Friends



NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!

in this issue

Dental Hygiene Alumni :: STEM Initiatives :: Iowa Western Visionary Remembered

Greetings!

As spring graduation approaches, the Iowa Western Alumni Association is excited to welcome a new group of graduates who have worked hard to achieve their educational goals. We wish them all the best as they continue with their education or enter the workforce. These graduates join a dynamic Iowa Western Alumni network which is nearly 25,000 strong.



Recently, our Alumni Association utilized proceeds from the football concessions to donate \$5,100 in scholarships to Iowa Western student-athletes. It is a privilege to help these students as they obtain a first-class education from our alma mater.

Our Alumni Association often hears from alumni who share that Iowa Western made a significant difference in their lives. Many of you have great memories of Iowa Western and, because of your Iowa Western education, are achieving great success in your professional careers. We'd love to hear from you and learn more about what you are doing. Please friend us on Facebook (Iowa Western Community College Alumni Association), follow us on Twitter (twitter.com/IWCCAlum), send us an email (alum@iwcc.edu) or call us at 712.325.3269.

If you're ever in the area, please stop by to say hi! Iowa Western's continued growth and expansion is incredible. I am proud to be associated with Iowa Western – let us know that you are, too!

Best wishes,

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

John Cool, '81
Alumni Board President



Alumni Board

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“Many of you have great memories of Iowa Western and, because of your Iowa Western education, are achieving great success in your professional careers. We'd love to hear from you and learn more about what you are doing.”



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Iowa Western Alumni Magazine

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of the Iowa Western Community College Alumni
Association.

On the Cover:

Quarterback Jake Waters of Council Bluffs
eyes another completion during the
Graphic Edge National Championship Bowl Game.
(Photo by Ed Carlson)



Dear alumni and friends,

During the first portion of the 2012-13 school year, Iowa Western has experienced incredible success. With the achievements taking place in the classroom, in various competitions and throughout our communities, you should be proud of your alma mater and your association with Iowa Western.

Recently, Iowa Western culinary arts students captured the top honors at the Iowa Pork Producers Competition, beating a record 18 teams that had entered the competition. In December, Head Coach Scott Strohmeier and the Reiver football team, which completed just its fourth year of competitive play, won the NJCAA Division I National Championship.

Then, just a few days later, the voters in Iowa Western's district overwhelmingly approved a \$22.5 million bond referendum to address a variety of needs on the main campus in Council Bluffs and the Centers in Atlantic, Clarinda, Harlan and Shenandoah. The passage of this bond will allow Iowa Western to construct an electronics and engineering building on our Council Bluffs campus. This 85,000-square-foot building will house the new robotics program, electronics and engineering programs and general purpose classes. This additional space also will allow the college to move the Adult Basic Education classes to the main campus.

Space at the Shelby County Center will be enhanced to accommodate science and math classrooms and an innovative STEM Academy for area high school students. The Cass County Center will gain additional classroom space and student study areas. A new exterior added to the Shenandoah Center along with new roofs and HVAC units on two buildings at the Clarinda Center will greatly improve energy efficiency and decrease ongoing maintenance needs.

With the dedication of the entire Iowa Western community – faculty, staff, alumni, students, friends and community leaders – we continue to achieve great success and create great opportunities for the students and communities Iowa Western serves.

Thank you for your support of Iowa Western,

Dr. Dan Kinney
President

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A Program with Teeth

Iowa Western's dental hygiene program produces great clinicians and a stellar reputation
by Mike Watkins

Before working as a dental assistant her junior and senior years of high school, Marie Wickman had no real interest in teeth beyond her own.

She'd always been conscientious about getting regular checkups and cleanings, but the idea of working in other peoples' mouths as a profession never really occurred to her until she became involved in the HOSA – Future Health Professionals group while attending Abraham Lincoln High School.

It was during this time that she seriously entertained the idea of becoming a dental hygienist and working full time in the dental profession. The combination of her “obsessive” cleanliness and love for working one-on-one with patients made the idea of continuing to work in the dental profession much more appealing.

“I’ve always loved going to the dentist; I’ve never been afraid,” Wickman says. “As a dental assistant, I really enjoyed working alongside the dentist, so becoming a dental hygienist just seemed like a logical next step. I’ve always loved people and teeth, and this was a great way to continue climbing the ladder in the field.”

A member of the second hygienist class (2001) to graduate from Iowa Western, Wickman has worked in the field ever since and has a patent pending for an invention she and her financial backers know will not only improve hygiene processes but also

cut down on the cost of continuously replacing or repairing one of the most important and useful instruments involved with general dentistry.

“Hygienists are constantly having to replace or repair their inspection mirrors (the long-handled mirrors that allow practitioners to see all sides of teeth) because they become scratched and damaged through use, sterilization and storage,” Wickman says. “My invention, Mirror Gear (www.mirrorgearusa.com), provides a protective cover for the dental mirror and is universal for any kind and size of dental mirrors.”

Fellow inventor and Iowa Western program graduate Becki Cole was equally inspired while on the job to produce something previously unavailable but highly useful to hygienists.

Her invention, the E-Prop (www.e-prop.biz) is a simple but effective tool that fits in the corner of a patient’s mouth and holds a standard disposable suction tip for cleaning while eliminating liquids from pooling in a patient’s mouth. It allows the hygienist to work without having to ask a patient to hold his mouth open for long periods.

Like her fellow Iowa Western alum, Cole’s product, while being used proprietarily for now, is patent-pending with a decision to come this year.

“Working as a hygienist for several years, I can’t tell you how many times the suction tool has popped out of

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Family Biz

by Anthony Flott



Albert did it. So did Gail and Dave. And now Clint. For 89 years, a Meyer has been repairing the vehicles of southwest Iowans – from simple Model Ts with no airconditioning and just 50 horsepower to complex modern diesels that are more like computers on wheels.

And for 34 of those years, a Meyer also has been teaching southwest Iowans all they know through Iowa Western's Diesel Technology Program.

From 1979 to 2007 that was Dave Meyer. These days his son Clint runs the show as program chair.

It's a job he was born to do.

"I can't ever remember a time when I didn't want to be a mechanic," Clint Meyer says.

He's certainly got the pedigree to be one. Great-grandfather Albert Meyer attended an automotive school in Chicago then opened Meyer's Service in

Cumberland, Iowa, in 1924. His son, Gail, worked alongside him until the shop closed in 1981. Albert's grandson, Dave, worked in the shop when he was a kid. After high school Dave worked as a diesel mechanic for the U.S. Navy, including time on a gunboat in Da Nang during the Vietnam War. After his service he returned to Atlantic, Iowa, and worked for Lindeman Tractors. Then he got the teaching bug, instructing students at Scott Community College in Davenport before joining Iowa Western in 1979.

Fourth-generation Clint was around it all, pitching in as a kid with his father's side business repairing farm equipment and cars. Later, he became the go-to guy when his buddies at Cumberland-Massena High School needed help with their wheels.

But when Clint decided he'd follow the family footsteps as a career he got a bit of pushback – from within the family.



“Actually, my dad for a long time tried to talk me out of it,” Clint says. “He was like, ‘This is hard work. It’s out in the heat and the elements. This is not something you have to do.’”

But he did.

“I think it’s kind of in the blood,” says Clint, 35. “One thing I always remembered about my grandfather was he told me if you find a job that you love you’ll never work another day in your life.

“And that’s what I did.”

Iowa Western Roots

What he learned from his father informally continued formally at Iowa Western. Clint had been coming to campus since he was at least 7, hanging in the shop with his father. “There still are times I walk into the shop today and it smells the exact same way,” Clint says.

He attended Iowa Western from 1995 to 1996, graduating with a diploma in diesel mechanics. He had his sights set on working on diesel trucks. A job opened at Capital Rent A Truck in Omaha, but not for engine work – for washing and fueling trucks. Other students at Iowa Western turned their nose at the job. Dave Meyer advised his son otherwise.

“It was a foot in the door,” Clint says.

A second door opened three months later when Meyer was promoted to technician. One year later he became shift foreman. Penske Truck Leasing bought the company in 1998 and Meyer was promoted to lead tech in charge of six employees on the night shift. In 2000 he became a service manager at a Penske shop in Wichita, Kansas. He returned to Omaha in 2003 as service manager of a Penske’s outlet.

“I liked the rental leasing company,” Meyer says. “Anything and everything that we had to lease or rent to people you had to maintain. Instead of going into ... a particular engine manufacturer like Cummins or Detroit, where you’re learning just their equipment, this gave you a lot of training on a lot of different equipment.”

As Clint climbed the company ladder, Dave kept adding

years at Iowa Western. In 2007, though, he decided to step down after 28 years teaching. Clint had talked occasionally with his dad about replacing him, but never decided to do so. While attending his father’s retirement reception, however, he heard Dean Don Kearney make a half-joking plea that if anyone knew of a good diesel instructor they should send him his way.

Clint sent himself (applying for the post without his dad knowing) and eventually got the job.

Dad was happy.

“He was pretty excited about it,” Clint says. “One thing he was glad to see was that somebody came in that had the same heart as he did to take the program over and keep it going. When you put that much time into something, when you leave you’re kind of worried about maybe what’s going to happen to it or if it will continue on the same way or better.”

Clint hasn’t done anything to disappoint. Enrollment has increased every year for the past four years. When he took over classes were 18 students strong. Now classes have 30 students and there’s a waiting list. An average of 20 students get their two-year associate’s degree each year.

It’s not the same teaching his father did in 1979. Engines have changed dramatically, mostly due to electronics. Some trucks have close to 30 computers to operate all the systems. Emission requirements are ever-changing and much tougher to meet. Metals are better, though, and engines that once had to be rebuilt after 300,000 miles now can make it to 1 million.

Clint took over Iowa Western’s program when the economy was tanking, but that turned out to be a good thing for students. As money got tight, many people decided not to buy new trucks but to maintain and fix the ones they had. That was good news for mechanics and Iowa Western graduates. More jobs and more money.

“A lot of the shops that employ our students in this area were actually hiring more than they did in the past,” Meyer says. “Some of the guys in that first group that graduated here in 2008 have been out there and are doing really well.”

So is Meyer. He lives in Underwood in the country. A lot of his neighbors are farmers.

They have big trucks.

“I got to be popular,” he says with a chuckle. “I’ve been known to have a few trucks parked in the driveway from time to time.

“A lot of

people look at that and go, ‘Why be in the heat and the dirt and the grime?’ But ... I found something I love to do, and luckily I get paid for it.” ■

“One thing I always remembered about my grandfather was he told me if you find a job you love you’ll never work another day in your life. And that’s what I did.”

HALL PASS

by Anthony Flott

This Hall of Fame stuff must be getting old hat for Jim Tjader.

Iowa Western baseball fans know Tjader as a standout Reiver second baseman who led two of the best IWCC teams ever. Before that, though, he was a star in multiple sports at New Richmond High School in New Richmond, Wisc.

By the time he graduated there in 1976 Tjader had earned 10 letters in football, basketball and baseball and was a captain in each sport. He was all-conference seven times.

So when the school last fall launched its athletic Hall of Fame, Tjader (and his brother Tom), was a no-brainer to join the inaugural class of inductees.

It's not his first hall pass, though. Tjader in 2010 was inducted into the Iowa Western Athletic Hall of Fame as an individual player. He also has a place in the Iowa Western Hall as a member of two teams inducted last year for their collective accomplishments – the 1977 Reiver baseball team that finished fourth in the National Junior College World Series and the 1978 team that finished sixth.

Today Tjader lives in Germantown, Wisc., a Milwaukee suburb, with his wife, Kris. He's owner and operator of three Pro Image Fan Fairs sports apparel retail stores.

"Which is what I've been doing since I quit playing ball," says Tjader, 55.

Almost in the same breath, though, he adds a qualifier.

"Nobody quits playing ball," Tjader says. "That's a misnomer. Everyone gets told they're done playing ball.

"Nobody ever quits."

Rerouted

Iowa Western can thank the Los Angeles Dodgers for the two years they squeezed out of Tjader. He had just graduated from high school in 1976 and was trying out for the Dodgers at a prospect camp in Mankato, Minn. Also there was second-year Iowa Western Baseball Coach Rick Mathews, who was friends with the LA scout running the camp. The scout told Mathews he should give Tjader not just a look, but an invite back to Council Bluffs.

It was mid-summer and Tjader had plans to play at Minnesota if the Dodgers didn't nab him. That didn't hold immediate promise, however, as the Golden Gopher roster featured returning starters at shortstop and second base, that including future MLB Hall of Famer Paul Molitor.

But after one talk with Mathews, Tjader switched course.

"I fell in love with Rick," Tjader says. "He was just such a good guy. My mom and I drove down the next weekend. There wasn't much there back in '76 on that campus, but it was really Rick selling it and the opportunity to play."

And play he did. Tjader became a hard-hitting second baseman whose teams won back-to-back conference, regional and district championships and earned trips to the NJCAA





Tjader with current Iowa Western head baseball coach Marc Rardin.

JUCO World Series. Combined, they were 79-25. Tjader was a first-team JUCO All-American both years.

He graduated in 1978 with an associate's degree but wasn't done with baseball. He received a scholarship to the University of Texas, foregoing an offer from the New York Mets, which had drafted him. He became the Longhorns' starting second baseman, helping Texas to the 1979 College World Series in Omaha, Neb.

Texas entered the tournament with a sparkling 53-6 record. The Longhorns won their first game but then lost to Arkansas and Pepperdine.

"It was a great year," he says. "I wouldn't have given that up for anything."

In fact, if he has any regrets it's that he didn't stay one more year. Texas in 1979 had the bulk of its team sign professional contracts after the season.

"That just seemed like the thing to do," Tjader says.

He signed, too, with the Texas Rangers organization, and played the next three years at rookie, Class A and AA ball. That amounted to 146 games, in which Tjader had a .262 batting average and 14 home runs.

It wasn't enough, though. The Rangers let him go. Tjader

tried to land a job with the Minnesota Twins the following year, but near the end of spring training he was cut again.

At 23, he was told, Tjader was too old to go back to A ball. And he wasn't showing the big league potential that warranted a stay at AA.

"That was it," Tjader says. "I didn't go on after that."

He kept working, though. Never quit.

Tjader had been attending the University of Wisconsin during each baseball offseason and in 1983 earned a BA in business administration from there.

That same year he began working as a store manager at Pro Image Fan Fair, where he's been ever since. He worked as liaison between corporation and franchises for 12 years and has owned his own stores since 1987.

"We've seen a lot in 30 years," he says. "A lot of change in this business. A lot of it has been really good." It's tough competing with the big box stores, he says, but he's still in the game. He scours sports websites every day to see who's hot so he can make sure his stores are carrying their branded merchandise.

The only other job he's had was five weeks with a mall-based Foot Locker.

He lives near two of his stores with Kris, his high school sweetheart and wife of 30 years. They have three grown children, all college graduates.

He's got time now to look back on his playing days.

Especially with hall of fame inductions coming every so often.

"There's not a lot I'd do differently," he says. "I was always really satisfied with my career."

Iowa Western and New Richmond High would say the same. ■



Members of the 1976-77 and 1977-78 Reiver baseball teams at the Hall of Fame Breakfast in October 2012.

STEM Initiatives at Iowa Western

by Don Kohler

Iowa Governor Terry Branstad toured the state last fall promoting his administration's emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiatives. Iowa Western has become a leader in STEM education, answering the governor's call by providing more than 25 programs that either lead directly to employment in high-demand careers or that prepare students to transfer to universities in order to further their education.

"We are proud to be on the forefront of delivering educational programs that challenge students in the area of science, technology, engineering and math," says Iowa Western President Dr. Dan Kinney. "With key partners like Google and Siemens, we have been able to emphasize these important career options to students across our area."

Iowa Western has hosted a number of challenging STEM initiatives, including:

Anti-Gravity Games

In partnership with Google, Iowa Western brought the highly successful Anti-Gravity Games to its campus in Council Bluffs last October. More than 60 students from 11 area high schools took part in the rocket launch activity. Each high school team was challenged to build a rocket, which included

equipping it with two cameras designed to capture in-flight video from two different perspectives. The teams also secured parachutes inside the rockets, which helped deploy and safely carry the rocket back to the ground. Rockets were judged in several categories, including altitude, landing distance from the launch pad, best design, and best in-flight video. The Anti-Gravity Games are designed to be an annual campus event.

TechDaze

This year will mark the 10th year Iowa Western will provide its TechDaze Day Camp, an event developed and taught by Iowa Western faculty and staff that introduces campers to the world of technology with hands-on, interactive activities. Open to all middle school boys and girls entering the sixth, seventh and eighth grade, campers attend six different activities over three days with topics including: Build a Computer; Create a Web Page; Explore Electronics; Investigate Forensics; Go Green; Be a Radio Rock Star; Explore Construction and others.

Math Days

Math Days, the quiz bowl competition that pits high school teams against each other, has been held at Iowa Western since



2001. Students respond to questions ranging from number theory, Pre-Algebra, first-year Algebra, Geometry and second-year Algebra with winners determined within different brackets. From its beginning when only three schools competed, Math Days has grown to 28 participating schools and more than 300 students.

Project Lead the Way

Iowa Western is an active member of Lewis Central High School's Project Lead the Way Engineering Partnership Team. This hands-on project-based program gives students an opportunity to envision, design and test their ideas with the same advanced modeling software used by companies like LockheedMartin. The knowledge and skills that students gain through this program create a strong foundation for further STEM learning.

Emerging Technology Academy

Through the new Council Bluffs Community School District's Emerging Technology Academy, students are provided with real-world, hands-on opportunity to develop, innovate, and design technologies of the future. Students gain problem-solving and technical skills highly sought in today's workplace. Iowa Western has developed career pathways from pre-engineering and manufacturing technology high school courses that provide college credit and prepare students for college degree programs.

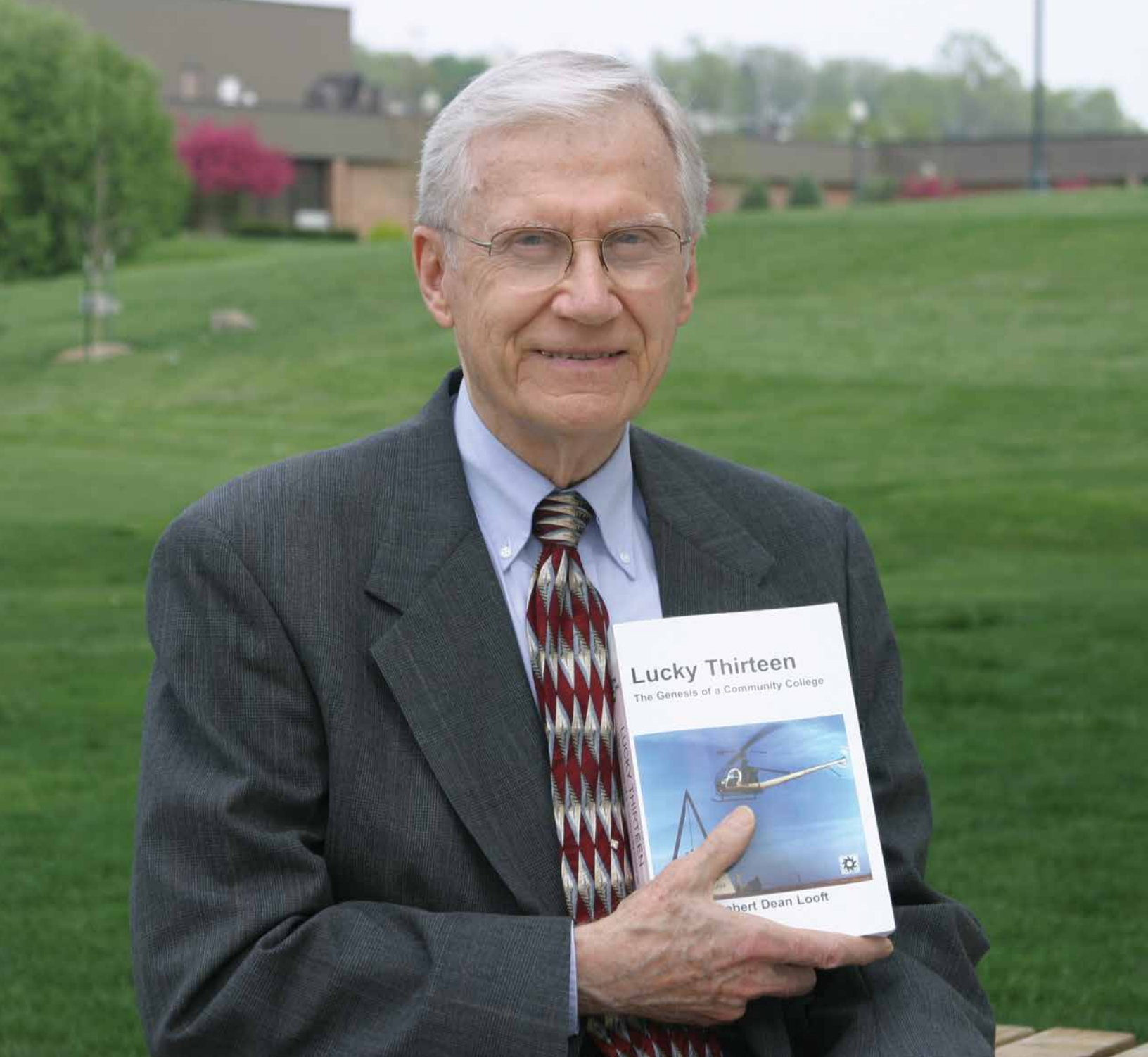
Partnership with Ellison Technologies Automation

Ellison Technologies Automation approached Iowa Western to address the difficulty they were experiencing in finding qualified robotics technicians in the Council Bluffs area. In partnership with Ellison Technologies, Iowa Western began a new associate degree program of study in Robotics/Automation Technology (Fall 2012), with robotics-specific courses and labs held at the local Ellison Technologies plant.

National Science Foundation Grant

Iowa Western has provided leadership in grant research and development to pursue additional financial support to expand and enhance STEM programming and projects at Iowa Western. Iowa Western also is an active partner on the Governor's Southwest Regional STEM Hub Advisory Council, a partnership of business, policy and education leaders convened to bolster STEM education and innovation and better position Iowa's young people and the state's economy for the future. ■





Iowa Western
Visionary

Remembered

by Don Kohler

When the State of Iowa formed the community college system nearly a half-century ago, a small junior college in Page County became the focal point for expansion. The Clarinda Junior College would ultimately become Iowa Western Community College, and civic leaders lobbied to bring the education center to Pottawattamie County and Council Bluffs. All they needed was a leader to see this dream become reality. Dr. Robert D. Looft proved to be that visionary during what were exciting yet challenging times.

“Bob Looft was the right man for the right time and the right place,” says attorney Bob Laubenthal, who helped draft legal papers establishing the community college in 1966. Laubenthal still serves as legal counsel for Iowa Western today. “He was a fine man. In Southwest Iowa, the timing was right for Bob because of his age and his energy. He had the right background to take on this challenge.”

Council Bluffs and communities throughout Merged Area XIII mourned the loss of their visionary in August 2012 with the passing of Looft at the age of 87. Looft was born Feb. 3, 1925, in Kossuth County, Iowa, and in 1943 graduated from Armstrong High. He earned a BA in science from DePauw University while serving in the Navy V-12 Program. On March 19, 1948, he married Marilyn Jacobson in Story City. The two were married for 62 years until her death in 2010. The Loofts had three daughters: Nanci, Salli and Diane. Together, they enjoyed a life dedicated to family and education.

“Dad really loved what he did in education,” says Looft’s daughter, Diane Machmuller of Council Bluffs. “He loved teaching, he loved being in the public, and he loved being an administrator. He cared about his employees and his students.”

That love for the classroom took Looft to many corners of the state. He taught school and coached in the communities of Boxholm and Roland before serving as superintendent of schools in Volga, Ruthven and eventually Clarinda. In 1966 he received his doctorate from Iowa State University and began weighing options for his next career stop.

“He had several options upon receiving his doctorate, one of which was the Area XIII position,” Machmuller recalls. “Dad loved a challenge, and he wanted the challenge of starting a community college. To a lot of people, it seemed like a daunting task, but Dad saw it as the challenge of a lifetime.”

Laubenthal said civic leaders were impressed with the young educator’s passion for bringing a college to Council Bluffs. “Bob was a teacher, a coach, a principal



The three Iowa Western presidents celebrate the College’s 40th anniversary – Dr. Robert Looft (1966-1987), Dr. Carl Heinrich (1987-1994), and Dr. Dan Kinney (1994-present).

and superintendent, so he had plenty of experience,” Laubenthal says. “Of course, he was the superintendent in Clarinda, and that made him the key ingredient for getting the merged area started. He was an idea man, and he knew all the right people to talk to

“Dad loved a challenge, and he wanted the challenge of starting a community college. To a lot of people, it seemed like a daunting task, but dad saw it as the challenge of a lifetime.”

Diane Machmuller, Dr. Robert Looft’s daughter

get this done.”

Machmuller agreed with her family friend on the description of her father. “He was an idea person. That was one of his greatest assets. He was somewhat of a dreamer, and that was beneficial to his success here.”

Another key to success, she says, was the people whom Looft brought on board for the challenge. Folks like the late Lester Andrews, longtime chief financial officer for the college.

“Dad did not have a business background and really did not even know how he would be getting paid,” Machmuller says with a chuckle. “He surrounded himself with good people like Les Andrews. One thing Dad mentioned to me was that so many people he hired stayed on for 25 to 30 years or more until retirement. There is something appealing about the atmosphere at Iowa Western.”

Part of the allure of Iowa Western was its location, which Looft and civic leaders quickly identified as the perfect place for a fledgling college. Located on the corner of Highway 6 and

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Above: Groundbreaking on the Iowa Western campus circa 1966;
Left: Dr. Looft while president of Iowa Western.

Visionary

Continued From Page 13

Interstate 80, Iowa Western was situated in a highly visible spot. “Bob and others believed it was an ideal piece of land,” Laubenthal says. “Bob believed it was a big enough piece of property for Iowa

Western to grow. He knew the campus would change, and boy has it.”

Iowa Western today, often referred to as “the premier community college” by state legislators, is a bustling campus with residential housing and state-of-the-art buildings interspersed among the beautiful tree-lined campus. More than \$90 million of new construction and renovation projects have occurred during the last two decades, making Iowa

Western one of the fastest-growing campuses in the country. Looft Hall, located on the north side of campus, houses the college’s Continuing Education Department.

“My dad was very pleased with where the college had gone,” Machmuller says. “He loved to come out to campus and still be a part of what was going on.”

Looft’s love for Iowa Western was the drive behind a book he had wanted to pen for years. Numerous hours of research and interviews culminated with the printing of “Lucky Thirteen: The Genesis of a Community College” in 2004. Machmuller spent months taking dictation for the book and reliving memories of the college on the hill. “I enjoyed that time with him very much,” she says. “He was encouraged by so many people to write that book, so he decided to put all of his thoughts down on paper.

“Dad was so pleased that the college was moving forward and thriving in such a fashion. I know that he was proud of playing a role in the development of this beautiful campus. He loved Iowa Western.” ■

Dental

Continued From Page 5

patients' mouths and onto the floor," Cole says. "The e-prop is designed of a much softer material and allows dental professionals the freedom to perform procedures much easier and faster. The

sleek design allows for increased accessibility."

Wickman and Cole are just two of the many success stories that have emerged from Iowa Western's dental hygiene program developed and run by Director Jan Hillis since 1998. When she took it over, it was a fledgling program that Hillis was only planning to establish before moving on to her next project at the next school.

Fifteen years later and nearing retirement, Hillis still is leading the program as it continues to grow and gain notoriety for its proficiency and sterling reputation in the field.

Candidates who complete the program earn an associate of applied science (AAS) degree, preparing them to complete both the National Board Examination and a state or regional exam. The program works in conjunction with Creighton University to offer clinical experiences off campus.

"We started with 18 students our first several years and then grew to 20. Now, as of 2011, we're admitting 30 students a year for the two-year program," says Hillis, a Michigan native who started dental hygiene programs in Florida and Wyoming and a dental assistant program in Texas before coming to Iowa.

"Our relationship with Creighton began when the two schools wanted hygiene programs but Creighton didn't have faculty. So we decided to share – they have the facilities, we have the faculty."

A recent renovation to space on the lower level of Clark Hall at Iowa Western has created room for informational classes and practicum, but the majority happens on the Creighton campus and in real-world settings. Iowa Western has an agreement with Offutt Air Force Base, One World Health, the Veteran's Hospital and several other locations to allow students to get hands-on experience outside the classroom.

Program graduates are among the most prepared dental hygienists in the region, boasting a 99-percent board pass rate on regional and state exams, and a 100-percent pass rate on the jurisprudence exam. The program is accredited by the Commission of Dental Accreditation and has been granted accreditation without reporting requirements.

It's this reputation that drew Melody Hanus away from Mutual of Omaha after 10 years to pursue a new career path.

She finished the program in 2004 and currently works as a full-time hygienist in the area. Shortly after graduating, she joined the Omaha Dental Hygienist Association and eventually became president, the first Iowa Western graduate to hold that office.

"I was ready to do something different, and my

husband's friends suggested I look into Iowa Western's dental hygiene program," says Hanus, from Missouri Valley, Iowa. "Initially, I didn't know how hard it is to get into, but once I was admitted and started classes, I quickly learned why. It's a challenging program that really prepares its students for the real world."

A new faculty member (and program graduate), Jami Kelly started as a dental assistant in Las Vegas before applying for the dental hygiene program at Iowa Western in 2005. She finished her prerequisite courses at a community college in Cheyenne, Wyo., and completed the Iowa Western hygiene program with her AAS degree in 2007.

She earned her bachelor's degree from Buena Vista University (on the Iowa Western campus) in 2012 and started teaching at Creighton this past fall.

For her, it's an honor to give back to the program that she said has given her so much professionally and personally during the past few years. She knows impacting the lives of others as an instructor is definitely the next phase of her dental hygiene career.

"Iowa Western dental hygiene students have a range of emotions about the program," Kelly says. "Iowa Western provides a challenging program, and the instructors are fantastic at making sure that each student who graduates is prepared intellectually, technically and ethically to meet the oral healthcare challenges of a diverse patient population.

"The best way to learn is by doing and figuring out certain skills on your own but with some guidance. I want the students to understand that learning is a life-long process, and the skills they develop while in the program are just the foundation of their ever-evolving clinical practice skills. Teaching future dental hygienists gives me a new perspective into this field of work I love." ■



Cole demonstrates the E-Prop.



Black Tie Investment in Excellence Award History

2012	Liz and Scott Doll
2011	Dr. and Mrs. John Marshall
2010	Linda and John Allen
2009	Suzanne and Ron Mahoney
2008	Linda and Dr. Eugene Lloyd
2007	Don Fenster, DDS
2006	Colleen B. Geiger
2005	Bob Laubenthal
2004	Gertrude and Jim Woodworth
2003	Carmen Gioiello (deceased)
2002	John P. Nelson
2001	Wanda Rosenbaugh
2000	Lyman Bennett (deceased)
1999	Tom Whitson

“Celebrating Our Success” at the 15th Annual Black Tie

Each fall, hundreds of Iowa Western supporters gather on the college’s campus for the annual Black Tie Harvest for Scholarships auction and dinner to honor friends of Iowa Western and raise funds for the college’s scholarship fund. This year marks the 15th year for event, which has raised nearly \$2 million in scholarships since its inception.

The 2012 event, chaired by Dan and Martha Peterson, honored Scott and Liz Doll of Council Bluffs with the annual Investment in Excellence award. With their generous gifts of time and resources, the Dolls have made a significant impact on the lives of thousands of students attending Iowa Western.

Iowa Western students have an active role at the event, from Culinary Arts students who help prepare and serve the meal, to Presidential Scholars who assist at the event in a variety of ways.

With the many great achievements taking place at Iowa Western, 2013 chairs Cal and Frankie Parrott have chosen “Celebrating Our Success” as the theme for this year’s event. The event is slated for Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013. For more information, contact Black Tie Director Molly Noon at 712.388.7141 or mnoon@iwcc.edu. ■





Fall Review

REIVER ATHLETICS

The theme for the 2012 Iowa Western athletic season said it all: “Charting a Championship Course.” Iowa Western teams continued to dominate the national landscape last fall with a team championship and several individual honors highlighting a successful athletic department campaign. “Our student athletes continue to bring Iowa Western immeasurable attention on the national stage,” says Iowa Western President Dr. Dan Kinney.

That is especially so for the young football program, which stunned NJCAA member schools with its first national title (page 18) in just its fourth season of

competition. Coach Scott Strohmeier directed an impressive run to the championship with an 11-0 regular season before the Reivers rolled past perennial power Butler, Kansas, 27-7 in the Graphic Edge National Title game in Cedar Falls.

“Our student athletes continue to bring Iowa Western immeasurable attention on the national stage.”
Dr. Dan Kinney, Iowa Western President



Cross County

The cross country team continued to show great strides in 2012 as the women finished seventh overall and the men 11th at the National Half Marathon Championships. Several Reivers came home with top individual times from the competitive meet.

Cheer Team

The Reiver Cheer Team did more than rally the home crowd in 2012. The talented team finished second at the UCA National Collegiate Cheer Competition, missing a first-place trophy by 0.4 points.

Volleyball

The Reivers continued their winning ways on the volleyball court in 2012, finishing with an impressive 45-4 record and a fourth place trophy at the NJCAA Championships in West Plains, Mo. The Reivers, who made their seventh straight trip to the national tournament, have established themselves as a force in Division I volleyball. Dayana Acevedo Rios, a talented libero, was named an NJCAA First-Team All-American after the tournament and joined three other Reivers on the all-region team.

Soccer

Iowa Western's soccer teams made a charge on the field in 2012. The women, under the direction of Coach Brad Silvi, dominated the regular season before earning a spot in the national tournament in Florida. The Reivers defeated Lake County (Ill.) in pool play to advance to the semifinals, where they suffered a 5-4 heartbreaking loss to No. 2 Paradise Valley (Ariz.). The shootout setback ended a sterling season for the Reivers at 19-2-1.



The Reiver men, ranked No. 1 throughout the season, suffered a disappointing loss to rival Marshalltown in the region championship to finish 17-1-1. ■

Reivers *claim* FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP *in fourth* Season of Play

by Don Kohler



We had a great group of kids who stayed focused all year long on a goal of playing for a national championship. To put our name on the trophy in just our fourth season is a great honor.

Scott Strohmeier, head football coach

It seems like just yesterday when a large and boisterous crowd packed Iowa Western's Kaneshville Arena to celebrate the announcement that the Reivers would take a bold leap into NJCAA Division I football. In December 2012, many of those same supporters packed another venue, this time to cheer on the nation's best football program.

In just four seasons, Iowa Western went from fledgling football program to NJCAA powerhouse, culminating the 2012 season with an impressive 27-7 victory over perennial contender Butler (Kansas) Community College in the Graphic Edge Bowl National Championship game held at the UNI Dome in Cedar Falls.

"It is still a little unreal to think of everything we accomplished in 2012," says Coach Scott Strohmeier, who was present at the first pep rally announcing his hire and the start of football in Council Bluffs. "We had a great group of kids who stayed focused all year long on a goal of playing for a national championship. To put our name on the trophy in just our fourth season is a great honor."

Iowa Western cruised through the regular season with an 11-0 record, earning a spot in its first national title game. The Reivers won a school record 12 games in 2012, winning the Midwest Football Conference Championship for the second time in three years. In running the table on the gridiron this season with the nation's top-rated offensive unit, the Reivers knocked off six teams that were ranked among the NJCAA Top 25 at some point during the course of the season, including three foes ranked in the Top 15 nationally at the time of their head-to-head meetings.

The Reivers were an offensive powerhouse, averaging nearly 20 more points and 50 more yards of total offense per game than the next closest offense in Division I. Coach Strohmeier has compiled an impressive 35-8 overall record since taking over head coaching duties for the new football program in 2008. After a winning debut season in 2009, the Reivers went on to back-to-back 9-2 seasons, capping the 2011 season with a 62-0 win in the Graphics Edge Bowl against the Rochester Yellow Jackets. This season marks the third straight season the Reivers were named Region XI champions.

The dominating performance in 2012 came with its share of individual accolades, as Iowa Western sent 16 student-athletes to play for NCAA Division I programs (see list at right). In addition, Strohmeier was named the 2012 American Community College Football Coaches Association Coach of the Year. ■



2012 FORMER REIVERS

For a complete listing of former Reivers, visit goreivers.com

NCAA Division I

Dallas Hinkhouse	Illinois
Martize Barr	Illinois
Jordan Heiderman	Indiana
Steven Funderburk	Indiana
Andrew Stone	Iowa
Rodney Coe	Iowa State
Tyler Harmeyer	Iowa State
Aaron Wimberly	Iowa State
Mike Smithburg	Kansas
Isaiah Johnson	Kansas
Jake Waters	Kansas State
Devon Nash	Kansas State
Travis Green	Kansas State
Deon Long	Maryland
Don Jackson	Nevada
Malkaam Muhammad	Wyoming

NCAA Division II

Terrell Porter	Ferris State
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NCAA Division III

Ty Troutman	Wartburg
Carr Terpstra	Wisconsin Platteville

NAIA

Tyler Ahrens	Grandview
Ty Robinson	Morningside
Devin Thomas	Morningside
Cody Marsh	Morningside

Class Notes

1970

Randy Williams is self-employed as a farmer in Crescent, Iowa.

1972

Alan Wadsworth is a maintenance mechanic for Owens Corning Fiber Glass.

1973

Joe Liberator is working for the State of Nebraska as a mechanic.

1975

Delmar Brandes is a mechanic at Keast Chevrolet in Oakland, Iowa.

Gregg Harless is a mechanic for the City of Omaha Police.

1976

Shelia Hunt retired in June 2012 after 29 years with Wells Fargo.

1979

Brad Sorensen is the owner of Sorensen Auto Plaza in Shenandoah, Iowa.

John Cox is a maintenance review board chairman for the Federal Aviation Administration in Texas. John's son, LTJG Christopher Cox, is on a six-month deployment on the USS Thach as a Naval Aviator (Seahawk pilot).

1986

John Amdor III is a senior global vehicles technician for FedEx Express. John has been with FedEx for 13 years.

1989

James Williams recently retired from Werner Enterprises. He had been with the company for 23 years.

1991

Brian Leahy is a marketing representative for Metropolitan Utilities District in Omaha.

Randy Alsman is employed with Omaha Public Power as a transportation crew leader.

1992

Jeff Amos is self-employed.

1997

Leslie Amdor is working at Mercy Hospital as a special project analyst.

Sarah Klaudt is an account manager at NEI Global Relocation.

Chad Williams is working at First National Bank of Omaha as a Windows system engineer.

Patrick Herrman is an auto technician for McMullen Ford in Council Bluffs.

Jason Just is a master auto tech at Rick's Auto Clinic in Atlantic, Iowa.

1998

Anthony Tompkins is working in product support at Infogroup.

Jill (Brinker) Kramer is a medical assistant with Iowa Health Systems.

Lisa Carr is a special education teacher with St. Louis Charter Schools.

Ronald Anderson is working in the maintenance department at Offutt Air Force Base.

Joni Vallier has moved her way through the Alegent Health Care system. She is a graduate of the Council Bluffs Chamber's Leadership Academy and Hospice and Palliative Care Association of Iowa. She has been voted its next president. She also has been involved with obtaining the highest certification for hospice in the We Honor Veterans Campaign. This campaign is "designed to empower hospice professionals to meet the unique needs of dying veterans."

Allyson Serefko is the mother of two boys ages 9 and 5 and lives in Omaha.

1999

Danna Kehm is a product manager for Health Interlink in Omaha.

Eric Johnson is the restoration manager at Mikes Classic Cars.

2000

Sarah (Porter) Meyers married in March 2012. She works at Physicians Mutual in Omaha.

Ray Miller is married to Lindsey and they have a 3-year-old son, Kyler, and a 6-month-old daughter, Adley. Ray is the director of financial aid at Grace University in Omaha.

Tony Simons is a Unix administrator for Infogroup.

Julie (Williams) Cortinas has two boys ages 3 and 2 and is an American Family Insurance agent in Omaha.

2001

Tony Kruse is currently employed at Menards as the cabinets and appliances manager. Tony married Andrea in 2006 and they have twins - Lincoln (boy) and Reese (girl). Tony and Andrea love riding their Harley Davidson motorcycles.

Sarah Burmeister is working at Urbane Salon & Day Spa.

Katie (Gompert) Freeland works for Conceptus in medical device sales. Katie is married and has three children: Jaden 4; Crew 2; and Taylor 8 months.

Christine Tally is an academic/educational advisor with Kaplan University in Chicago.

2002

Grant Coover is a senior tax professional for Add It Up Tax & Bookkeeping.

2003

Lacey Falk is completing her bachelor's degree through Buena Vista University. She is an HR specialist at ConAgra handling severance packages, technical assistance and adoption programs and other support for field representatives. Her previous employer was Loomis, Fargo & Co., where she handled HR functions for the Nebraska/Iowa area.

2005

Kat Marshall is a claims processor at Blue Cross Blue Shield in Omaha.

Josh Kiefer is an auto tech at Omaha Japanese Auto Repair in Omaha.

Mikelle Wankum is a dental assistant with Taylor Dentistry in Omaha.

Leigh Bloomquist is a supervisor with First National Bank of Omaha in Wausa, Neb. Leigh and her husband, Matt, are expecting their second child in February 2013.

Kayla Prince is an RN at Methodist Hospital.

Timothy Milan is working for Leo Daly in Omaha as a technical support specialist. He has returned to Bellevue University to obtain his bachelor's degree.

2006

Alex Walker is employed with Musically Speaking as an instructor.

2007

Mary Trecek is an underwriter with Mutual of Omaha. She graduated from Peru State in 2009 and is working on her master's in English.

Keith Bruck is an accountant with West Central Community Action in Harlan, Iowa.

Misty (Jago) Wissel is substituting for Clarinda Community Schools and is working at the Ice House in Clarinda, Iowa. Misty was married in August 2012.

Julie Kenealy will graduate in May with her physical therapy degree.

Katy Burford accepted a head athletic trainer position in July 2012 at Mary Lanning Healthcare in Hastings, Neb.

2008

Luke Hansen is an alignment technician at Country Tire.

2009

Ramona Martinez has advanced to employment manager within Tyson Foods.

Pete Anglen is working at Certified Transmission as a builder.



Student section at a Reiver basketball game.



Tammi Kroll, '96, speaks at the December graduation ceremony at Iowa Western. Seated: Larry Winum, board of trustee and foundation board member; Dr. Dorothy Duran, vice president of academic affairs; and Tom Johnson, vice president of finance & operations.

Employees Make A Difference

Each year, Iowa Western employees come together for the annual Together We Make a Difference employee campaign. The 2013 campaign drive is just wrapping up with tremendous participation.

Because of the generosity of Iowa Western employees, a variety of student needs are addressed. The scholarships raised help students attend Iowa Western, while the emergency assistance fund is meant to help students who find themselves in dire situations that might interfere with their completion plans. In order to qualify for emergency

funds, students must submit an application, which is reviewed by emergency assistance fund committee.

During the 2012 calendar year, the committee received 31 applications requesting more than \$12,000 in funds. Twenty-four grants totaling more than \$4,500 were funded, distributed as follows:

- 47% for transportation;
- 22% for utilities;
- 18% for housing/rent;
- 7% for groceries;
- 6% for textbooks/textbook codes.

Clearly there is a significant need to provide such support to Iowa Western students. Thank you to Iowa Western employees and all of the college's generous supporters who help make a difference in the lives of our students. These resources may be the difference between one student completing his or her degree or having to quit school.

If you would like more information on how to contribute to the school's scholarship or emergency funds, contact Renee Coughlin at rcoughlin@iwcc.edu or 712.325.3306.

Julie Worrell is employed with Eventide Lutheran Home for the Aged as a CNA and is pursuing her bachelor's degree in nursing.

Karrie Hansen is the volleyball coach and manages online programs at Lewis Central Community Schools.

2010

Bret Olsen is finishing his undergrad for vocal performance at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Paula Jensen is working on her master's in Clinical Counseling and getting ready to start work at Encompass doing respite care for special needs out of her home.

2011

Derrick Danker is an assembler with Anderson Industrial Engines.

Nelson Houdek is a mechanic at Lake Manawa Kia in Council Bluffs.

Dennis Lahr is a mechanic with Schildberg Construction.

Aaron Harris is a welder/fabricator for Artistic Iron Works in Des Moines, Iowa.

2012

Shannon Crawford is working with First Data/ Customer Service with an eye on a promotion and continued advancement within the company.

Shari Albaugh-Tamba is a technician with O'Daniel Honda in Bellevue, Neb.

Cherith Polinko is working at the Immanuel Medical Center and Nebraska Spine Hospital as a surgical technician.

Corey O'Malley is working as a board operator for NRG Media.





Alumni Reunions

Upcoming Alumni Events:

- April 27 Football Alumni Reunion
- June 1 Soccer Alumni Reunion in Salt Lake City
- Oct. 19 Athletics Hall of Fame Breakfast
Homecoming Activities

The Iowa Western Alumni Office always enjoys welcoming alumni back to campus and reconnecting! Since our last issue, alumni gathered together for the First Edition/Show Choir, Automotive & Diesel, Culinary Arts, Clarinda Nursing and Council Bluffs Nursing alumni reunions. The Alumni Association also hosted a Homecoming Tailgate at Lewis Central prior to the football game. Save the date for another Homecoming Tailgate on Oct. 19, 2013!

We look forward to gathering with more alumni in the coming months and welcome everyone to stop by! For more information, or if you would like to host an alumni event, please send us an email at alum@iwcc.edu or call 712.325.3269.



At top: John Cool, alumni board president; Doug Goodman, board of trustee and Iowa Western's 2012 Outstanding Alum; and Dr. Dan Kinney, Iowa Western president.
From left to right: Automotive/Diesel Technology Reunion; Culinary Arts Reunion; and Homecoming Tailgate.



2012-2013 Fun Facts!

- Iowa Western residence life sent 2,237 letters to Santa for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.
- The mailroom has received 3,954 packages for students.
- Residence life has had 94 programs this year.
- Three recruiters traveled more than 30,000 miles (greater than the circumference of the earth, which is 24,960 miles) last year on recruiting trips in Southwest Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri.
- The records and registration office printed and delivered more than 6,000 official transcripts since July 2, 2012.
- If stacked, the college's marketing materials handed out during the last year would be more than 1,000 feet tall.
- All competing fall sports were ranked in the Top 20 at one time.
- By the end of the academic year, Iowa Western will graduate nearly 1,000 students.

Dear alumni and friends,

The importance and impact of a community college education is growing more and more significant in today's global economy. This topic has been frequently discussed throughout national news mediums, including a recent article published by CNN Money.



In the article, Jon Marcus shared staggering statistics on the value and impact of a community college education. Specifically, Marcus reported that, "the increase in wages for community college grads is being driven by the high demand for people with so-called "middle-skills" that often require ... an associate's degree."

As alumni of Iowa Western, your education and skill sets are important to the continued growth of the U.S. economy. With nearly 25,000 alumni, Iowa Western continues to provide competitive education and training opportunities to many professionals who impact the communities in which we live. As the needs of these skill sets and training programs evolve to reflect today's workforce needs, so do Iowa Western's offerings. For example, Iowa Western's Computer Information Technology (CIT) department recently was awarded a grant from Google to offer a cyber-defense competition for students studying CIT. These skills and the ability to quickly respond to computer "attackers" are becoming more and more critical to all organizations.

With the increased demand for the skills being taught at community colleges like Iowa Western, graduates are able to enter the local, national or global workforce and find jobs with highly competitive wages. In fact, a recent study performed by Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce found that nearly 30 percent of Americans with associate's degrees now make more than those with bachelor's degrees.

Alumni throughout the country are involved in many of Iowa Western's advisory boards and provide ongoing input to ensure the educational programs are meeting industry needs. If you would like additional information on various ways to become engaged, contact our alumni office at alum@iwcc.edu or 712.325.3269.

All the best,

Renee P. Coughlin

Renee Coughlin
Vice President of Institutional Advancement



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