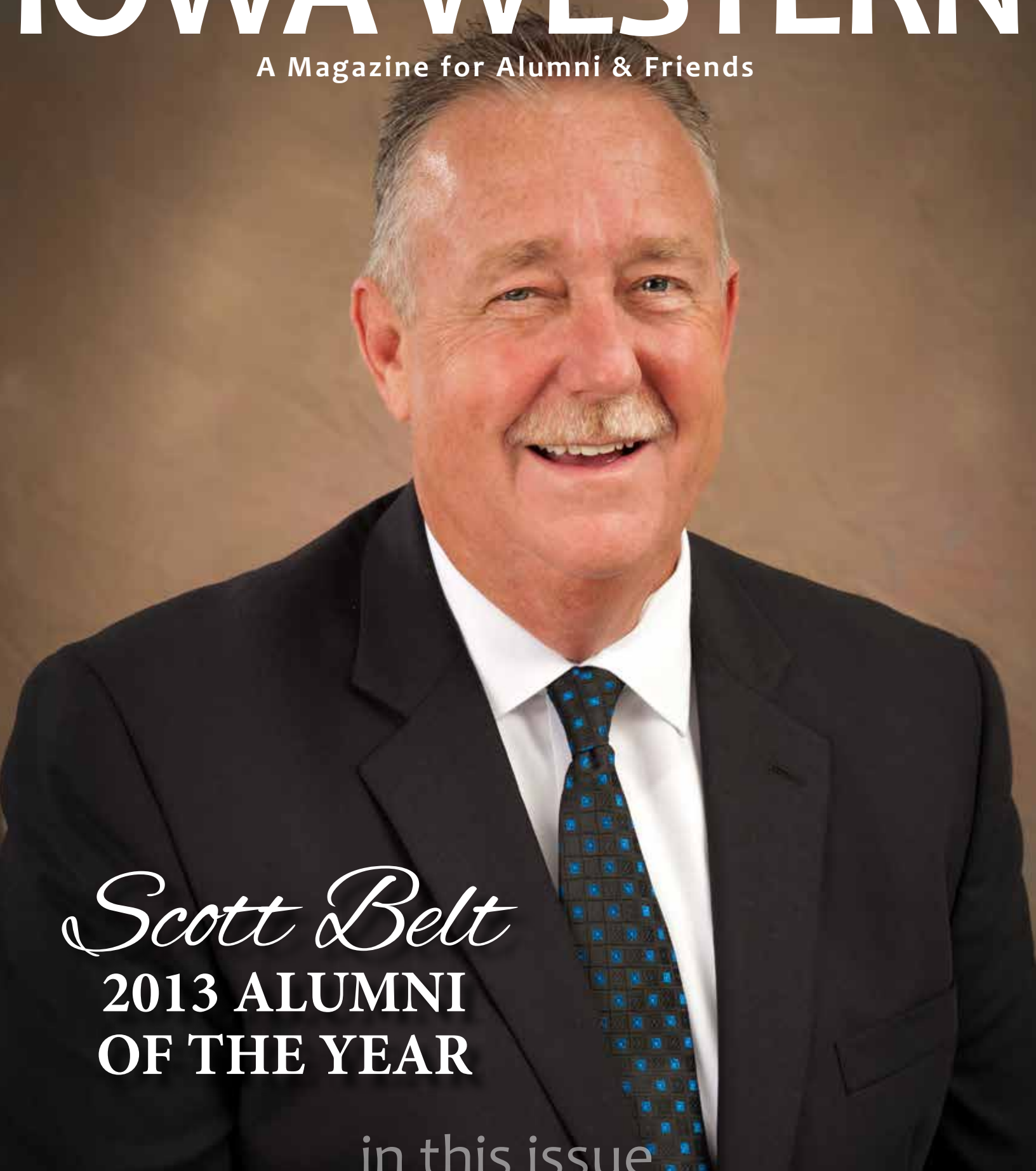


# IOWA WESTERN

A Magazine for Alumni & Friends



*Scott Belt*  
2013 ALUMNI  
OF THE YEAR

in this issue

Faust Retires as Trustee :: Iowa Western Sustainability :: Reiver Athletics

Greetings!

With campus construction in full force and the fall semester here, I know that the staff and faculty at Iowa Western are aggressively working to prepare the buildings, grounds and classes for all the incoming students. Typically, my family would be preparing to send another child off to Iowa Western. But this year is different. My wife, Carolyn, and I watched our youngest son graduate from Iowa Western last spring. I can proudly say that Carolyn, myself and all four of our children now are Iowa Western alumni!



Whether it's at a family gathering, volunteering in the community or visiting with someone at the grocery store, it's amazing to hear the many positive remarks about Iowa Western. I am certainly proud to be an alum of this fine institution – you should feel the same!

I invite you to connect with the Iowa Western Alumni Association – it's truly a great way to learn more about some of the happenings at the college. You can reach us by becoming our friend on Facebook (Iowa Western Community College Alumni Association), follow us on Twitter (twitter.com/IWCCAlum), send us an email (alum@iwcc.edu) or call 712.325.3269.

On behalf of the Alumni Association, thank you for your interest in Iowa Western and for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,

*John J. Cool*

John Cool, '81  
Alumni Board President



Alumni Board

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- Scott Belt, '77 & '82**  
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- Jane Bell, '81**  
Ameristar Casino Council Bluffs
- Mark Brandenburg, '86**  
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- Brandon Green, '07**  
Iowa Western Community College
- Dan Feller, '84**  
Owner, Varsity Freight
- Brandon Juon, '00**  
Owner, Glory Days
- Shawna Klindt, '01**  
American National Bank
- Diane Osbahr, '90**  
Iowa Western Community College
- Jill Schurman, '03**  
Community Volunteer



Iowa Western Alumni Magazine

**Editor:**  
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**Contributors:**  
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Fall 2013

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“I can proudly say that Carolyn, myself and all four of our children now are Iowa Western alumni!”



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Dear alumni and friends,

Community colleges play a vital role in our nation's economic recovery. From re-training the workforce for jobs that manufacturers are re-shoring, to expanding training and education opportunities in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) disciplines, and working with industry partners to develop new programs and redesign or expand existing programs that prepare the workforce for current and emerging careers, community colleges are taking the lead. Iowa Western is at the very forefront of such efforts to position Iowa as a leader in the global marketplace.

Updates are in process to expand and enhance classroom, lab and student study spaces at Iowa Western's main campus and its four college centers. From the recent bond referendum to federal, state, foundation and corporate grants, efforts are unfolding that address STEM fields of study. We have begun site preparation work on the new engineering and technology building being constructed on the Council Bluffs campus. It will house the robotics program and continue to expand STEM programs and curricula that respond to the high-skill demands faced by today's workforce. Additionally, this new building will house Iowa Western's high school equivalency (GED) program. Relocating from the Omni Center to the main campus will allow the program to expand its adult basic education services while also introducing these students to the vast array of educational opportunities available once they receive their high school equivalency diploma.

This summer, I had the opportunity to join Gov. Terry Branstad at the National Governor's Education Summit. While much was shared about many changes forthcoming in our nation's educational system, one thing remains certain – the demand for and responsibility of community colleges continues to increase. Iowa Western is well aware of these demands and is confident that the work we do each day is providing tomorrow's leaders and workforce with the skills necessary to excel in the local, national and global marketplace. Our determination to match our mission to the needs of our community is reflected in our ability to be responsive to current and emerging workforce needs by developing and offering relevant programs that prepare students for employment among a wide range of excellent career pathways.

As a leader in education and workforce training, Iowa Western remains a catalyst in southwest Iowa's regional vitality. Your continued interest and support remains a critical component in our ability to serve Iowa Western students.

Thank you for your support of Iowa Western,

*Dan Kinney*  
Dr. Dan Kinney

President

## Leading the Way by Mike Watkins



Larry Miller is the general manager at Conductix-Wampfler in Harlan, Iowa.

Larry Miller never saw himself as a leader. Graduating from Harlan High School in the early 1980's without a plan, Miller was aimless and unaware of the career options he could pursue that would tap into his strengths. While he didn't have a clear vision of what he wanted when he grew up, he did know that he was not prepared for the requirements and time commitment of a four-year institution.

Wanting to pursue a career that would lead to a good standard of living, he looked into Iowa Western's tool and die program shortly after graduating high school. In 18 months, Miller had the education completed that would drive his career for the next 30-plus years.

Now the general manager at Conductix-Wampfler in Harlan, Iowa, he works for a global organization and oversees 90 employees with various backgrounds and trades degrees. He is responsible for millions of dollars worth of merchandise and product every year. It's not something he takes lightly — and he attributes his success largely to his education at Iowa Western.

"Iowa Western was a great experience for me at a time in my life when I really needed direction,"

says Miller, who finished IWCC's program in 1987 and returned years later to earn his Associate of Science degree in 1992. "The school was great, teachers were always available to answer questions — I couldn't have asked for a better atmosphere for me."

While lacking direction out of high school, Miller has never been a stranger to hard work. He grew up helping his dad on the family farm and learned valuable lessons in teamwork, problem-solving and, most importantly, success.

Those lessons carried over to his time at IWCC.

"I am one of nine kids, and we always had chores — feeding and taking care of the cows and hogs — that taught us accountability and responsibility at a young age," says Miller, who grew up tinkering with things and was always interested in how things worked.

"Once I was established with Conductix-Wampfler, a manufacturer of mobile electrification which builds conductor rail for shuttle buses and power trains, I knew if I wanted to grow with the company, I needed the skill set offered at Iowa Western."

Miller's roles and responsibilities advanced as the company expanded

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# FAUST'S FINAL VOTE

Gary Faust had front-row seat  
to Iowa Western growth

by Don Kohler

After 23 years of making difficult votes on the Iowa Western board, Gary Faust knew his final decision would be the hardest. A new statewide redistricting proposal combined with a desire to just take it easy were the final factors contributing to Faust's decision to retire as the longest-tenured trustee in Iowa Western history.

"I am most proud of just the totality of what our institution has done over the last 30 years," says Faust, who served as board chair from 1997 to 2009. "When you look at the growth, the expansion and our ability to serve the public in all aspects of what we do, it is an impressive history. I truly believe that Iowa Western is one of the premier community colleges in the state of Iowa."

Faust has enjoyed a front row seat for Iowa Western's record growth. He helped champion four bond campaigns, all of which passed with record public approval. The list of new structures constructed under his watch includes the Arts Center, the Kanesville Arena, College Park in Harlan and the Student Center. The new 90,000-square-foot engineering facility is scheduled for a Spring 2015 grand opening. Bond proceeds also helped jumpstart countless renovation projects on the campus in Council Bluffs and in Atlantic, Clarinda and Shenandoah.

The college catalogue has grown under Faust's watch as well, with popular academic programs such as Veterinary Technology, Surgical Technology, Sports Marketing, Building Trades, Media Studies and Aviation being added as options for students.

According to one of his former colleagues, Faust was largely responsible for helping put Iowa Western on that successful course. "Gary set the example for the rest of us to follow," says former trustee Colleen Geiger of Thurman. "He was the epitome of an excellent trustee: He had a sense of humor, was dedicated, intelligent, and knowledgeable. It was a pleasure to serve on the board with Gary, and I value his friendship. Iowa Western will definitely miss his insights and dignified demeanor."

Faust was appointed to the IWCC board in 1990 after a neighbor had convinced him to fill out an application, and he was elected a year later. Although he was familiar with the K-12 system after serving eight years on the Council Bluffs School Board, Faust admitted knowing little about the college he was getting ready to serve. "I knew very little about Iowa Western, and I certainly did not realize all of the facets involved with being on the board," he says.

"The college at that time was still growing, and the public perception was markedly different than it is now."

The college faced many tough decisions in the early '90s, Faust said. An across-the-board cut in state funding led to budget and staff reductions and to the revamping of many academic programs. "We had a lot of challenges," he says.

Faust recalls a key strategic planning session in 1994 as a turning point for the college. Leading the session was Iowa Western's new president, Dr. Dan Kinney, who had a large-scale plan for the future. "If I were to look back, I would say that I did not know if all of those long-term plans would come to fruition. Obviously, they did to a much greater degree than we could have imagined."

The board and its leader, Faust, would have many tough decisions to make in the years following that planning session, including several votes on constructing housing facilities in Council Bluffs. "If you look at housing, we had limited opportunities and there was a lot of gnashing of teeth there because of it. I think we had the 'If-you-build-it-they-will-come'

mentality." In the years to come, Iowa Western constructed two housing units called "The Reiver Suites" and increased the college's on-campus student population to 1,400.

Another key vote came in 2008 when the administration came to the board with a proposal to start a football program and become members of the Midwest Football Conference. After months of research and debate, the board voted 7-1

to proceed with football. Faust was the lone no vote, expressing concern at the time about adding another high-profile sport to the athletic department budget. Although he cast a no vote, he has remained a Reiver booster and lauded the efforts of the student athletes at Iowa Western. Much to his delight, Faust was presented with a Reiver football jersey at his retirement ceremony in August.

"Athletics have really taken off and performed well," he says. "They have added an element that defines the college and enhances the college."

Geiger, who served 20 years prior to her retirement in 2011,

says her fellow trustee had the college's best interests in mind when he called for additional information and discussion on difficult topics. "He did an excellent job of keeping the issue in the forefront.

Therefore, people

remained calm and focused," she says. "There were frequent times that Gary was not in favor of possible new programs recommended for Iowa Western. He expressed his concerns, often was the only one to vote against it, but once the vote was taken he accepted it."

Faust said he will miss the interaction with his board colleagues when he officially steps down in September. A new district would have pitted Faust against current board member Kirk Madsen, a good friend and brother of one of his law partners, Kris Madsen. Faust, who earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa and his jurist doctorate from Drake, practices at Stuart Tinley Law Firm in Council Bluffs. He plans to spend more leisure time with his wife, Susan.

"I am going to miss the camaraderie of my fellow trustees," he says. "I have a great deal of fondness for the college. I truly enjoyed graduation, which is the pinnacle of it all for students. I really enjoyed those commencement ceremonies. They gave me a lot of satisfaction." ■



Gary Faust presents a degree to a happy student during a commencement in 2001. Faust admitted his favorite duty as a board member was taking part in graduation ceremonies.

"I am most proud of just the totality of what our institution has done over the last 30 years. When you look at the growth, the expansion and our ability to serve the public in all aspects of what we do, it is an impressive history."

Gary Faust



Dan McMullen with one of his favorite toys, a Shelby GT500.

# A Sweet Ride

by Anthony Flott

How sweet that lemon has become for the McMullens of Council Bluffs.

Long ago, door-to-door salesman Harry McMullen needed wheels to get to Glenwood. He bought a ride from a little car lot and hit the road — burning through nearly two gallons of oil on the way there and home.

Back to the dealer he went.

“You sold me a lemon,” McMullen said. “I want my money back.”

Replied the car dealer: “Go pound sand.”

There and then, McMullen decided to go into the car business, “Just to make sure I can take care of people and treat people right,” relates his grandson, Dan McMullen. “That’s always stuck with us, that treating people right is best.

“That’s everything.”

“Us” today is McMullen Ford in Council Bluffs where 27-year-old Dan McMullen is vice president and collision repair manager. He’s a third-generation car dealer. Harry broke into the business with H&H Chevrolet of Omaha then spent 23 years at McFayden Ford in Omaha, rising from salesman to vice president and general manager. Scott

McMullen, Dan’s father, also worked at McFayden before joining his dad to purchase Whittaker Ford, now McMullen Ford, in 1980.

So cars have been Dan’s life. But it wasn’t a fait accompli that he join the family biz.

“When I was a kid, they always told me that there was no pressure and if I wanted to do something else, that was fine,” McMullen says. But, he adds, “I was just always interested in cars ... and loved being around them.

“This is where I wanted to be.”

And Iowa Western helped him get there.

## Wash and Ride

Like his father, Dan McMullen entered the car business with a sponge in one hand and a bucket of soapy water in the other. At 14 he started washing cars at McMullen Ford, later cleaning the shop and performing an oil change now and then. He did that all through his days at Council Bluffs Lewis Central High School, where he ran cross country well enough to earn a scholarship offer from South Dakota State.

He had his eyes set on higher education. “I knew if I wanted to take over the business I had to have a college degree,” he says.

But SDSU was too far from home. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln was another option (“Just to be a Husker,” he says), but McMullen found it too large.

Iowa Western fit just right. It was close to home, tuition was affordable and credits transferred easily. He also had taken some Iowa Western classes for college credit while at Lewis Central. Once on campus, he says, he was surprised at how personable faculty were. “Very understanding and would always work with you if you needed help with anything,” he says. “Almost all of them gave you their personal number and you could call them if you needed to.”

He stayed home that first semester and quit working at McMullen to concentrate on his studies. He didn’t fare well, though. He did just fine academically, but not working turned out to be a chore in itself.

“I just went nuts not doing anything,” he says. “I wanted to be there. I missed being in the shop, being around the guys, being around the cars.”

He returned to the dealership washing cars and helping in the shop but slowly started taking on other responsibilities. He worked at a desk in the dealership’s warranty administration filing claims and checking warranty statuses. Then he worked several years in the body shop writing estimates and making sure cars were repaired properly while dealing with customers and insurance companies.

Then came six months in sales. “A huge curveball learning experience,” he says. “That’s a whole different world. Everywhere else, working in the shop, in warranties, customers always came to me and asked me questions. In sales, you have to walk out to a complete stranger and strike up a conversation.”

Through it all McMullen continued his education, earning a degree from Iowa Western in 2006, then a BS in business

from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2010.

He learned at work and school.

“Some days I would get fed up or frustrated and dad would say, ‘If you want to keep in this business, this is where you have to start. You have to learn the business from the bottom up,’” McMullen says. “The more I started learning about the business by working there and taking more business classes, the more exciting it got. The more fun it got.”

## Hail of a Storm

Two years ago, though, his career path took a hit — literally — when a hail storm pounded Council Bluffs Aug. 18, 2011. Winds reached 100 mph while baseball- to softball-size hail pounded homes and cars throughout the city. McMullen Ford was not spared. “Everything on the lot was demolished,” McMullen says.

Scott needed someone to manage the body shop, and after Dan completed his sales shift one day, he called his son in and handed him those reins. There were about 60 cars on the lot that still needed to be fixed.

He and his department worked anywhere from 12- to 15-hour days. “Half days,” they called them. It took them until April of 2012 to finish. “I’m pretty sure my dog forgot what I looked like,” McMullen says.

He was rewarded with a new position and title, today as vice president and collision repair manager handling the 60 to 75 cars a month that go through his shop. The lot sells 800 to 1,000 cars a year.

McMullen also has been buying shares of the company for a couple of years.

And he’s just 27.

“I’m very lucky, is what it comes down to,” he says. “I was put in a situation where I had the opportunity to learn and grow and if I did want to do the work and put in the time, then good things would happen. Very lucky. Very blessed.”

Away from the lot, McMullen spends time with his wife, one-time Iowa Western student Katie Peters, and their 100-pound chocolate lab, Riley. In-season, McMullen hops in his 2001 F-150 and goes fishing or bow hunting. Every now and then, a trip to South Dakota to chase pheasants.

It’s a good life that came from that melon. Harry’s been gone for almost three years now since passing away in January 2011. Dan loved hearing his stories. And his grandfather was around long enough to see him start to prosper in the business.

Harry likely would have liked what Dan says today.

“I like dealing with people and making people happy and seeing people get a new car. They’re always thrilled about it,” McMullen says. “In the body shop they bring in a mangled mess of a car that they just got in an accident with their prized vehicle, and you turn around and fix it for them and they’re all smiles when they pick it up.”

No lemons here — on the lot or inside. ■



# Sustaining Futures

by Mike Watkins

Depending upon whom you listen to and what you believe in, sustainability is the wave of the future. In fact, it's viewed as the fuel for our future.

It's what will save us as a people by replacing fossil fuels for renewable energy sources to move and preserve our planet.

Likewise, sustainability as a profession is all the rage — and can be as green financially as it is for the Earth. As the movement continues to grow, so will good-paying job opportunities in various fields all connected to sustainable living.

Embracing this career trend, Iowa Western has created its own program to teach, promote and implement sustainability on campus by meeting the needs of the present without compromising the resources of the future.

The idea is to educate future generations about the importance of not depleting or harming natural resources or natural cycles, while pursuing economic and social justice — and make a good living in the process — for all human beings.

"There's a strong, growing interest in sustainable careers, and Iowa Western is right there to provide the education necessary for them," says Matt Mancuso, coordinator of IWCC's Sustainability programs. "These are good-paying jobs in fields of high demand. Iowa Western recognized this a few years ago, and we continue to make the programs

stronger and stronger each year."

Mancuso grew up interested in green practices and attended graduate school at New School for its urban policy program in New York City after graduating from UNO. Part way through, he changed his focus of study to sustainability.

After graduation, he worked with numerous organizations on sustainability issues that ranged from construction debris to green roofs to other community development issues. Shortly thereafter, he followed his interest for teaching, and in 2010, he learned of Iowa Western's intention to start a sustainability program and agreed to help develop and promote it.

"It was a huge undertaking, but I saw a lot of potential for interest and growth in the program," Mancuso says. "There are three different programs of learning depending on the intentions of the students. The program is designed to meet all those needs."

The programs Mancuso is referring to provide educational opportunities at various levels (and durations of learning) targeting three audiences:

- The general public through continuing education;
- Workforce Training through continuing education, and;
- Credit students.

General Public classes constitute 1- to 2-hour classes in numerous areas: rain gardens, native plants, solar panels,

etc. Workforce Training constitutes short-term training in programs from eight to 260 hours. These include programs in Weatherization and Lead Safety and a Solar Certificate — all part of the Iowa Western Green Environmental Training program funded through an EPA grant — plus more.

Credit classes include an AAS degree in Renewable Energy as well as a certificate and sustainable construction certificate. Credit students also get involved with projects like installing rain gardens, culinary composting, installing a nature explorer playground and more.

There also are community events, such as electronic recycling, where about 32 tons of material were collected and recycled (over three years), and a highway cleanup option.

This September, Mancuso says, the program also is installing a small prairie at the Clarinda campus utilizing native flowers and grasses — plus more including local food events, photo contests, recycled art show, etc.

"Iowa Western is committed to identifying, exploring and formulating best practices in sustainability in both education and on campus," Mancuso says. "Iowa Western is on the leading edge of green training with education in wind energy, green building, biofuels, landscaping, agricultural and bio-diversity."

The college accomplishes this in a variety of "green" methods, including teaching students how to:

- Use renewable and clean energy;
- Decrease our carbon footprint;
- Increase recycling and decrease waste;
- Change purchasing habits by increased knowledge of products;
- Protect the endangered species of the world;
- Protect the land and forests and employ better water management;
- Increase consumer knowledge of products, and;
- Control population and find an end to extreme poverty.

Following is an overview of the educational options available through the program.

## Sustainable Energy: Renewable Energy Technology (four semesters, one summer to complete)

In just two years, students in this program are qualified to work as installation or maintenance technicians in renewable energy businesses, such as photovoltaic or passive solar, wind turbine technology, or geothermal systems. In addition, students learn a variety of skills that can be translated to industries outside of the renewable energy field, including troubleshooting electrical circuits and programmable controllers, wiring, and programming.

In the final semester of the program, students choose one of two areas of concentration — wind energy or solar energy. Wind turbine fields and solar thermal plants are



cropping up all over the country, which means that jobs are awaiting those who want to pursue this growing career field.

Students in the Associates of Applied Science (AAS) degree program will study core aspects of sustainable energy technology and branch into specialized areas such as wind energy, solar power, geo-thermal, and sustainable construction practices.

This program is designed to place students into the workforce upon completion of this two-year degree. This program prepares students for entry-level positions in the manufacture, installation, and maintenance of renewable energy systems.

Wind Turbine Technicians operate and maintain the hydraulic, pneumatic, and electrical systems that support wind turbine electrical power generation. With the state of Iowa being the second largest producer of wind energy in the United States and with more wind turbines continually being installed across the state, graduates can expect to find jobs within the region.

## Sustainable Energy: Renewable Energy Certificate (one semester)

Renewable energy technology is the wave of the future, and Iowa Western's new certificate program will enable students to get on board with this expanding career field. This certificate program is designed to provide the basic skills and knowledge needed

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## Council Bluffs Native Scott Belt **TRUE BLUE REIVER**

by Don Kohler

Scott Belt has used the joke on more than one occasion. The tall and commanding community leader, who easily attracts attention when walking into a crowded room, often pokes fun at the fact that he has earned two degrees from Iowa Western Community College. “I tell folks that I had to come back twice to finish my degree,” Belt says with his ever-present smile.

Those who know him well, however, can attest to his love of Iowa Western and for a city he has served most of his adult life. “Scott Belt is a dedicated community leader and someone that has always been proud of our hometown college,” says Council Bluffs Mayor Tom Hanafan, a longtime friend who worked closely with the former city council member. “He is a great ambassador for Iowa Western.”

It is because of such dedication that the Iowa Western Foundation named Belt its 2013 Alumni of the Year. Belt, who serves on the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors, will be honored during Homecoming festivities Oct. 19 at the college, joining a long list of distinguished alumni that includes Doug Goodman, David Petratis, Jon Leiber, Linda Lloyd, and many other notable graduates. Belt, who also has served as Iowa Western Alumni President, is well aware of the names that have preceded him on the wall of fame. He has played a large role in promoting his alma mater to graduates young and old.

“It is an honor to receive this recognition,” Belt says. “I have lived here my whole life, and it is great to see when people come back to the community and see the transformation of our campus. They are amazed by what the college was and where it is going today.”

The landscape at 2700 College Road has changed considerably since Belt arrived on campus nearly four decades ago. A 1975 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School, Belt was recruited by then-head basketball coach Rod Clarkson and assistant coach Jim Ficek, who later would become a professor at IWCC and a devoted Reiver booster. The Reivers played home games on the tartan floor in old Kanesville Arena and at Council Bluffs St. Albert High School.

“I was a 6-foot-4 guy that could handle the ball pretty well,” Belt recalls. “We had kids from New Jersey, Chicago and St. Louis on the team, so we were pretty good. I think we finished .800 my sophomore year.”

Between trips to the basketball court and the classroom, Belt found time to socialize with his classmates, and one in particular caught his eye: an early childhood education student from Algona, Iowa, named Ann Thilges. The Belts have four children: Kara



Scott Belt was on hand for the inaugural Iowa Western football game. Pictured from left: City Councilman Matt Walsh; Nebraska quarterback and Heisman trophy winner Eric Crouch; Dr. Dan Kinney of Iowa Western; Belt; Dr. Dan Kinney of Iowa Central; Congressman Steve King; Heisman winner Johnny Rodgers; former Iowa Rep. Doug Struyk; and, Mayor Tom Hanafan.

(husband Daron) Bear, Erin, Justin and Chad Belt.

“We met at Iowa Western and kind of hit it off, I guess,” Belt says of his future wife. “She moved on to the University of Northern Iowa, and I followed her a year later.”

Belt graduated from Northern Iowa in 1980 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration and promptly returned to his hometown, where Ann had secured a teaching job in the Council Bluffs School District. Again, Belt found himself back in the classroom at Iowa Western. “I wanted to get a job in the

computer field, and I knew Iowa Western had the coursework I needed,” he says.

Not only did the college have

the classes he needed, but upon graduating a second time, with a computer studies degree, Belt landed a job working for longtime Iowa Western academic dean Otis Elkin. As a teacher in the federally funded SPACE (Secondary Programs in Area Career Education) program, Belt travelled to high schools throughout Southwest Iowa providing much-needed computer literacy training to juniors and seniors.

The instability of a grant-funded program led Belt to the business world, and Council Bluffs entrepreneur Ed Morris opened the door to a career with his convenience store operation, Eddy’s. Morris now owns the successful Quaker Steak and Lube restaurant in Council Bluffs.

“Scott Belt is a dedicated community leader and someone that has always been proud of our hometown college.”

Mayor Tom Hanafan

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## TRUE BLUE REIVER

Continued From Previous Page

“I was originally hired to work in the stores because I had strong computer skills, and I was doing some custom programming,” Belt says. After an 18-year career with Eddy’s, Belt worked as a business development director for MidStates Bank before becoming a commercial property manager with Heartland Properties. “I have been fortunate to work for some impressive companies here in Council Bluffs.”

Belt says his love for Council Bluffs provided the drive and motivation to enter the political arena early in his life. “Being a lifelong resident, you want to be part of positive change in the community. I look at some of the things that were not there for our generation and wanted to make a difference. I wanted to help make a well-balanced community.”

Belt first entered political waters in 1980 when Mayor Hanafan appointed him to the City Parks and Recreation Board. “That appointment gave me an understanding of the process and functions of city government, and the players that make a community thrive.”

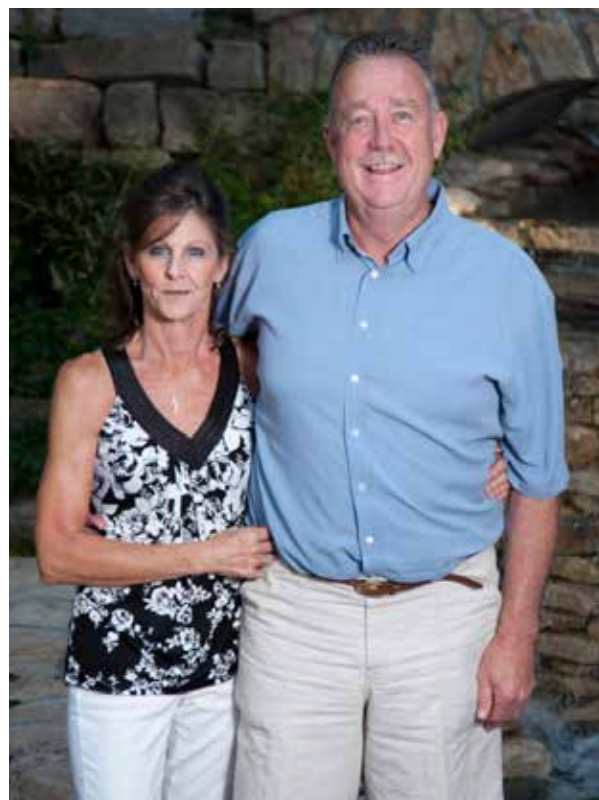
Belt soon became one of those players, earning election to the City Council in 1998 and serving as Mayor Pro-Tem for consecutive council terms. He gave up his council seat in 2009 to run a successful campaign for the Pottawattamie County Board. He has served on the board of numerous civic organizations, including the Micah House, United Way, Heartland Family Service, Promise Partners, Pottawattamie County Growth Alliance, Pottawattamie County Development Corporation, Teammates Board, VNA, Council Bluffs Parks and Recreation and Public Property Board, and the Metro Area Planning Agency Board.

Regardless of his busy schedule, Belt has always found time to support his alma mater and can be found on campus attending arts events, ribbon cuttings and athletic activities. “I have been involved with Iowa Western for nearly 40 years, so it gets to be kind of a blur,” he says. “Iowa Western is definitely a shining star in our area and a premier community college in the state.” ■



“Iowa Western is definitely a shining star in our area and a premier community college in the state.”

Scott Belt



From top: Belt at a Pottawattamie County Board meeting; Belt presented the Alumni of the Year award in 2011 to his longtime friend David Petratz; Scott and his wife, Ann, at a fundraising event for the college.

## LEADING THE WAY

Continued From Page 5

to accommodate the relocation of a landlocked plant that needed the wide-open spaces of Harlan in order to grow. From his initial position as a cost estimator, he moved into inventory control after receiving his associate degree at Iowa Western. Miller proceeded into production management before taking over the plant reins as the general manager this past May.

Proud of many things in his personal and professional lives — including being married to his wife for 26 years and the father of “three great kids” — Miller says he’s very proud of Conductix-Wampfler’s performance and excellent customer service.

“We have 99 percent on-time deliveries and shipments and that’s something we’re constantly looking to maintain and improve,” Miller says. “To accomplish this, it takes the teamwork of everyone involved. We can’t do it individually.”

Miller recently hosted a tour of IWCC students through the Harlan plant. He talked about his own experience and growth while at Iowa Western and how he’s grown with Conductix-Wampfler over the years.

The biggest thing he noticed was the number of students who commented on how they need to obtain their bachelor’s degrees in order to get good-paying jobs in the future.

It’s a misconception he is working toward clarifying by educating parents, students, counselors and teachers at the local high school that a two-year degree is affordable and most graduates get jobs and can make a great living — here in Harlan or anywhere in the world.

“We’re working hard to support Harlan’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program to let kids know that good, high-paying jobs exist without having to get a four-year degree,” says Miller. “Going through Iowa Western’s technical degree (A.S.) and diploma programs provide them with the education and hands-on learning to get good jobs in manufacturing. We actually have a tough time finding qualified candidates.”

Another misunderstanding Miller says Conductix-Wampfler and similar companies are facing is the negative perception that manufacturing in the United States is no more.

“People think good-paying manufacturing jobs have all been sent to Mexico or overseas, but that’s not the case. Many of these jobs are coming back from China and



Miller provided a tour of the Conductix Harlan facility to the Iowa Western volunteer group in April 2013.

Mexico because they take a certain skill level,” Miller says. “Breaking that belief will open more awareness that good-paying manufacturing jobs are back in the United States.”

In the meantime, Miller says, he continues to focus on family and work — creating the best processes and outcomes for both.

And above all else, he’s all about continuing to grow and improve.

“We are always looking for new, improved, more efficient ways to do things on the manufacturing and distribution side of the business,” Miller says. “In our business and in the market, it’s all about quality, cost and deliverability, and we need to address and focus on those every day to remain competitive. We always want to make sure we are doing things right and best.” ■



# Safety Net

By Anthony Flott

Joanie Poore knows what it's like to struggle. Growing up in Council Bluffs, Poore watched as both her parents suffered with poor health, especially her mother. By the time Joanie was in the fifth grade her mother already had fought cancer twice and then become disabled, forcing her to give up her job as a nurse.

The hardships took their toll.

"We struggled financially," Poore says.

But Poore also knows what it's like to get a helping hand. "We thankfully had a family and others who were our support network," she says. "Our safety net."

Poore has spent much of her teen years and all her adult life doing the same for others. Today she does so as director of homeless services for Heartland Family Service.

From her own family's struggles came a calling.

"What I saw through some of those experiences were people who didn't have a support network and who didn't have lots of family members, someone to rely upon," Poore says. "That goes to our social service system to pick up for those people who don't have that."

Poore was part of that system long before graduating from Iowa Western in 1999. While attending Council Bluffs Lewis Central High School she logged more than 700 hours during five years as a teen volunteer for Jennie Edmundson Hospital. Later, at Iowa Western (attending then as Joanie Spitznagle), she was president of the college's Human Services Organization student club. At Iowa Western, her studies complemented her service with science.

"There was a robust practicum program," she says, adding that classes were relevant and current. "I felt prepared."

Poore immediately entered the social service workforce after graduating, joining Youth Emergency Services. That was while working toward a BA in human services from Omaha's College of Saint Mary (graduating summa cum laude). She next joined Lutheran Services in 2003 before coming to Heartland Family Service in 2004.

Today she directs a staff of 38 people who deliver nine unique programs supporting the homeless in Council Bluffs, Omaha and surrounding areas. That includes programs such as Hardship Assistance and Housing, which provide immediate and long-term survival assistance, and the Career Clothing Closet and Gendler Emergency Medication Service.

The services are sorely in need.

"On any given year we serve over 7,000 unique persons in the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metro area," Poore says.

And the recent economic downturn has shifted the makeup of that population.

"A lot of those are children," she says, and "not just your stereotype homeless single male that's maybe panhandling or asking for help somewhere."

According to the Heartland Family Service website, there are more than 1,200 children and adults in the community experiencing some form of homelessness. Among its clients who do have a home, 80 percent have annual incomes of \$20,000 or less.

Poore says Heartland and others are trying to help such persons differently today than when she first entered social work.

"We've made a concerted effort to reduce chronic homelessness," Poore says. "Those people who have been homeless the longest, who have the most severe needs. We've seen a reduction in that because we made the effort to do that."

A big push for change has come from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which has established Continuum of Care (CoC), a set of three compet-

itively-awarded programs created to address the problems of homelessness in a comprehensive manner with various federal agencies. That is driving coordinated access systems which foster cooperation among various social work agencies. The goal is to avoid what Poore calls a "service mismatch." If a person in need seeks help at an agency where such help can't be provided, it's up to staff at that agency to find the right match for that client.

"It shifts the responsibility to service providers so that clients don't have the burden of figuring it out on their own," Poore says. It's an exciting change, she adds, and is one of the reasons she feels "less like we're putting a bandaid on it and more like we're patching it for good."

That approach is taking root at Heartland Family Service. Staff, Poore says, are getting away from the "homeless popularity contest" whereby the only clients who get help are those who do or say

the "right" things.

"I'm probably most proud of the switch to a client-centered model where we provide service based on what they need and what they want," she says. "It doesn't mean we don't have expectations or focus on their needs to some extent, but we're working with them to get them to a point where they want to do it."

She's also excited about a recent grant Heartland received to implement an intensive service model that will serve 12 to 18 clients with severe mental health issues, pairing them with therapists and psychiatrists. "Folks who had no place to go," Poore says.

All her work has made Poore a community asset beyond Heartland. She is on the board of directors for Municipal Homes, on the advisory council for Iowa Legal Aid and previously served on the executive committee for the Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless and on the board of the All Care Health Center. In 2007 she was named to the Midlands Business Journal's 40 under 40 list.

She concedes that her work can lead to burnout. "There's never a time when things aren't critical in social work," Poore says.

But Poore has been at this for more than two decades now. And she's got plenty away from work to keep her balanced. That includes a 7-year-old daughter, Kate. And this summer she married Jarrod Poore, a Council Bluffs police officer.

Jarrod jokes that Joanie is trying to turn him into a social worker. She tells him "he already is, he just doesn't realize it."

Support, she knows, can come from anywhere. ■



## SUSTAINING

Continued From Page 11

energy systems, in just one semester.

The program is designed to place students into the workforce upon completion of this four-month certificate. This certificate program prepares students for entry-level positions in the manufacturing, installation and maintenance of renewable energy systems. Students who wish to earn an advanced degree and prepare for higher-level jobs should continue to complete the Sustainable Energy technology: Renewable Energy program and earn an Associate of Applied science degree.

### EPA Green Environmental Training

In October 2012, Iowa Western received a three-year, \$200,000 EPA Workforce and Job Training grant to provide environmental and green training to unemployed and underemployed individuals in Council Bluffs and Omaha. Iowa Western's EPA Green Environmental Program provides relevant training to local and regional industry needs with the goal of protecting the environment, health and property.

for entry-level jobs in the manufacturing, installation, and maintenance of wind turbines and solar

Iowa Western has worked with community partners, including the City of Council Bluffs, Heartland Workforce Solutions, Iowa Workforce Development, Eastern Nebraska Community Action Partner, Heartland Family Services, North Omaha Contractors Alliance and B2 Environmental in developing this program.

Applicants will complete an intensive, seven-week, 260-hour training focused on environmental remediation training and new green job opportunities. This training is at no cost to the participant. Individuals completing this program will be expected after training to find employment.

The bottom line is the stress on the Earth and her natural resources are greater now than ever before. The large population growth of the last century (and continued growth) and harmful production cycles are depleting natural resources while releasing harmful amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. This not only endangers humans but also species around the world.

"Recycling isn't enough to protect our Earth, and we need to go further," Mancuso says. "It is up to everyone, all 7 billion of us, to pursue the goal of sustainability. It will take both economic and social change as well as global cooperation for this to truly be accomplished." ■

Did you know that Mickey Mouse's shoes are made by a manufacturer in Southwest Iowa? How about the impact robots have in advanced manufacturing and the importance of training professionals to program and maintain these robots?

These are just a few of the things Iowa Western's VIP Ambassadors learn when they meet and travel throughout the college's seven-county district. The group, comprised of various community leaders, Iowa Western retirees and friends of the college, meet on a monthly basis from September through May to learn about happenings at Iowa Western, its various programs and ways in which they can help the college. Additionally, each fall and spring, the group takes a trip to one of the college's rural center's to gain information about the center as well as to tour a business for which Iowa Western partners with and provides training.

Every February the group also takes a trip to Des Moines for a meeting with elected officials from Iowa Western's district. These meetings are important to Iowa Western and Iowa's community colleges as legislators work to determine the level of community college funding each year.

If you would like to become involved with the VIP Ambassadors, contact the Iowa Western Foundation office at 712.325.3241.

## VIP Ambassador Group at Iowa Western

# Spring Review REIVER ATHLETICS

by Don Kohler

The Winter and Spring athletic seasons at Iowa Western continued on the same course as the Fall sports — toward championships.

The Reivers posted successful seasons in basketball, wrestling, baseball, softball, golf and track and field during the campaigns stretching from 2012 through 2013. A highlight of the Fall 2012 season was a return trip to the NJCAA Championships for legendary head basketball coach Jim Morris, whose squad came within a few points from a spot in the semifinals in Hutchinson, Kansas. Morris, in his 18th year at the helm, watched as future Creighton University recruit Devin Brooks grabbed all-tournament honors after leading an injury-depleted Reiver squad into the quarterfinals. Iowa Western finished with an impressive 32-3 record and both region and district titles.

Second-year wrestling Head Coach Josh Watts pushed his young Reiver squad harder in 2012, and it paid off with several athletes earning spots in the national championships in Des Moines. The Reivers went 3-0 in dual action and grapplers Zak Benitz and Dan Williams earned NJCAA All-American honors.

Coach Marc Rardin and his Reiver baseball squad finished 45-14 after being upset in the district finals in Illinois. Iowa Western, which had won two of the last three NJCAA championships, captured its eighth-straight Region XI title and handed Rardin his 500th coaching victory.

Lana Ross had the Reiver softball team rolling again in 2013. Iowa Western cruised to both region and district titles en route to a berth in the NJCAA Championships in St. George, Utah. NJCAA All-Americans Rebekah Sanchez and Jena Gonzales led the Reivers to a 42-14 record and a strong showing at the national tournament. Ross, in her 11th season, is poised for another solid season in 2014.

There were plenty of headlines for the golf team in 2013, as Coach Tyler Schiffelbein's women finished as Region XI champs for the third-straight year and finished seventh at nationals. The men made their share of quality shots as well, placing sixth at nationals.

Emmett Statzer, in his sixth season at Iowa Western, guided his men and women to another solid season in track and field. Both squads had high team finishes in the Indoor and Outdoor Nationals, while Latario Collie-Minns was the NJCAA triple jump champion and All-American at season's end. ■



Class Notes

1986

Lee Schechinger is a city letter carrier for the United States Postal Service in Harlan, Iowa.

1989

Melanie Gabel is the conferences and meetings coordinator for Easter Seals Inc. in Chicago.

1993

LeAnne Bradley is an RN with On With Life. She and her husband, Dennis, have three grandchildren and another on the way.

Maggie Brown is a wound nurse for the Clarinda Regional Health Center.

1994

Jennifer Arp is the performance improvement director for Cass County Memorial Hospital.

1998

Dawnette (Stuart) Schmidt is chairman of the Recruitment and Training Committee for the Omaha Metropolitan Medical Response System and assists with 800 Mhz radio control during hospital drills and is trained if a disaster should happen. She has been the secretary for the Tri-County Community Response Team for the past seven years. She also helps the state of Nebraska teach the Safe Boating Course now required to operate water craft. She also is a storm spotting home base for the Channel 7 Radio Emergency and Communications Team. She recently retired from Creighton University and is enjoying spending time with her two wonderful granddaughters. “I enjoyed the opportunities Iowa Western gave me when I returned to school later in life.”

1999

Jaime Roush is working in sales for Food Marketing Services in Omaha, Neb.

2001

Lara Nothwehr is an RN-ADON for Clarinda Regional Health Center.

2005

Ryan Barnes is a line cook for Ruby Tuesday’s in Council Bluffs.

2006

Stephanie (Davidson) Bahr is a stay-at-home mom to her two daughters.

2007

Tara McBride is a dental assistant for Dr. John K. Capua in Utah.

2008

Mimi Oldenhuis is the catering manager for Abraham Catering in Omaha, Neb.

Landon Southwick is attending and playing soccer for Brigham Young University in Hawaii.

Violet Walford is a dietary cook for the Red Oak Health Care Community.

2009

Kathy Barlow is an LPN at the CTC – MHI in Clarinda, Iowa. She and her husband, Gary, have one granddaughter.

Mark Davis is the head men’s soccer coach at Brigham Young University in Hawaii.

Marene Gomez is a dental assistant for Oquirrh Mt. Dental in Utah. She graduated with her bachelor’s degree in business management from Southwest Baptist University in 2012.

Christina McClain is an RN for Montgomery County Memorial Hospital in Red Oak, Iowa. She and her husband, Kaylon, welcomed their first son in May 2013.

2010

Michelle Allen is furthering her education and playing soccer at the Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee.

Bailey (Baxter) Bybee is a phlebotomist for Intermountain Healthcare in Utah and is attending nursing school. She and her husband, Brad, were married in January 2012.

Charles Bell is a cook at the Horseshoe Casino in Council Bluffs.

Kimberly Cox is a CNA/Med manager for the Ameila House in Council Bluffs.

Weston Salisbury is working with team sales at Scoreboard Sports in Utah.

Shelby Warren is attending PTA school.

Bethany Wiedeman is a toddler specialist teacher for the Madonna Child Development Center. She recently purchased her first house. On June 21 she celebrated her one-year anniversary with Madonna Child Development Center.

2011

Mia Felts is a financial manager for Wasatch Property Management. She leaves Sept. 19 for her LDS Mission trip to London, South England.

Lauren Gilmore is working for the state of Nebraska.

Jaden Hoth is a UTS operator for Icon Health & Fitness in Utah.

Erik Maldondo is an agent for Comcast in Utah.

Nathan Winger is the prep chef for Dixie Quicks in Council Bluffs.

2012

Kara Chapman recently accepted the head cheer coach position at Iowa Lakes Community College. She will be the first cheer coach at Iowa Lakes as they are just starting the program.

Randi (Jones) Cline is furthering her education at Southern VA University and is doing archival research in Washington, DC.

Cody Dickson is attending Ball State University as a football student-athlete majoring in criminal justice with a minor in sociology.

Virginia Swank is working at Ringgold County Hospital in Mt. Ayr, Iowa. She and her husband, Eric, have four children.

Cynthia (Wait) Trepes is the assistant store manager for Christopher & Banks. She graduated from Buena Vista University in August 2013 with her bachelor’s degree in business administration/management. She and her husband celebrated their five year anniversary July 31.

2013

Bol Chok is married to Yawavi Bade and they have a 1-year-old daughter.

Jason Fink is self-employed and plans to continue his education.



Greg Clausen, left, Iowa Western facilities manager, oversees progress on the site of the new engineer building that is scheduled for completion in Fall 2015. The campus in Council Bluffs also underwent extensive road construction to replace the crumbling circle drive. The road now has new storm sewers and sidewalks. The second half of the project will be completed next summer.

Kevin Finlayson is working on his RN degree at Iowa Western and is working at the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Neb.

Lauren Foster recently was married to Andrew Greedy. They will be moving to Ft. Hood, Texas.

Brent Fulton is working in the meat department at Hy-Vee.

Steven Hand will be continuing his education at the University of Iowa.

Austin Johnk is a pastry chef for Hy-Vee.

Sarah Kemp will be continuing her education at Arkansas State as she was offered a full ride to play volleyball.

Sarah Koesters is an RN for Alegent Creighton Health.

Cody Newman is an accountant/financial planner for J & R Tax Service.

Lauren Wilson will be continuing her education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She made the 2013-14 dance team for UNO.

Leah Wright is an educational interpreter. She and her husband, Jordan Borgaila, have a 2-year-old son, Evan.



Dr. Dan Kinney rides the new bicycle designed and constructed by students in the Design Technology Program in Atlantic. Students utilized Siemens PLM software to design the bicycle and other projects throughout the year.

Light Up the Night with DAZZLING ENTERTAINMENT

2013-2014 NATIONAL PERFORMANCE Season

The Arts Center Iowa Western Community College

Susan Werner WAYSEED SEP. 8

TICKETS / INFORMATION: 712.388.7140 or 800.432.5852, ext. 7140 Buy Tickets Online! artscenter.iwcc.edu

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Sam Hobart's RAT PACK SINGS OCT. 11

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ALL HANDS ON DECK! NOV. 15

The Church Basement Ladies in A Mighty Fortress in Our Basement JAN. 17

FIRST PERSON: SEEING AMERICA ENSEMBLE GALILEI FEB. 7

Major Sponsors: Housing Iowa, Iowa Western, The University of Iowa, The University of Nebraska, The University of Wisconsin, The University of Michigan, The University of Texas, The University of California, The University of Florida, The University of Georgia, The University of South Carolina, The University of North Carolina, The University of Virginia, The University of Kentucky, The University of Tennessee, The University of Alabama, The University of Mississippi, The University of Louisiana, The University of Arkansas, The University of Missouri, The University of Illinois, The University of Indiana, The University of Ohio, The University of Pennsylvania, The University of Maryland, The University of Delaware, The University of New York, The University of Connecticut, The University of Rhode Island, The University of Massachusetts, The University of Vermont, The University of New Hampshire, The University of Maine, The University of New Brunswick, The University of Nova Scotia, The University of Prince Edward Island, The University of New Brunswick, The University of Nova Scotia, The University of Prince Edward Island, The University of New Brunswick, The University of Nova Scotia, The University of Prince Edward Island.

The Arts Center is sure to “Light Up the Night” with the 2013-2014 National Performance Season. The season features a dazzling array of musical entertainment spanning more than 90 years. From the Turtle Island Quartet and Nellie McKay to Chris Mann, the Rat Pack and a 1940’s USO revue; music lovers will find it hard to choose this season.

The music selections are brilliant, but the entertainment doesn’t stop there. The Arts Center also has included shows for dance and musical theater fans. The 2013-2014 season is thrilled to have back two crowd favorites: Ballet Nebraska’s Nutcracker and the most recent installment of the Church Basement Ladies series – A Mighty Fortress is Our Basement. This season truly has something for everyone.

In appreciation of past Iowa Western students, the Arts Center is delighted to offer special discounted tickets to all alumni. Simply call the box office, mention you are an Iowa Western alum and join the Arts Center for an evening of entertainment as we “Light Up the Night” in 2013-2014.



The Iowa Western alumni office enjoys when alumni reconnect. In April, Clarinda nursing graduates reminisced at a social gathering; and in June more than 180 alumni and friends gathered in Utah for a soccer event.

We invite you to join the Iowa Western spirit! If you are interested in planning an alumni event, contact 712.325.3269. It is always great to have alumni back on campus!

We currently are planning spring alumni events for Veterinary Technology and Turf and Landscape Management. Stay tuned for more information. If you would like to be included in future reunion mailings, send your updated information to [alum@iwcc.edu](mailto:alum@iwcc.edu). You can also visit [www.iwcc.edu](http://www.iwcc.edu) or find us on Facebook - [IWCCAlumniandFriends](https://www.facebook.com/IWCCAlumniandFriends).

## Alumni Events

### HOMECOMING 2013

Men's Soccer Alumni Game

Homecoming Football Tailgate

Outstanding Alumni Reception

Photographs of the Utah soccer event and Clarinda nursing reunion.



## 2013 Fun Facts!

- Iowa Western offered 193 New Student Registration and Orientation (NSRO) sessions this summer.
- Iowa Western recruiters traveled 31,000 miles last year — greater than the circumference of the earth (24,960 miles).
- If one were to stack the viewbooks requested by potential students during the last year, it would be over 1,000 feet tall.
- Iowa Western usually welcomes individuals every year from 50 different countries. For the 2013-14 school year, we are excited to welcome students from a few new countries, including: Greece, Hungary, Sweden, Honduras, Guatemala, Mongolia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Congo and Niger.
- 89 Iowa Western student-athletes from the 2012-13 teams signed with senior colleges or universities to continue their athletic careers.
- In the 2012-13 academic year, eight student-athletes received the Awards for Academic Achievement with cumulative GPAs ranging from 3.6 to 4.0.

Dear alumni and friends,

The role of community colleges continues to receive significant attention from the state and federal government as well as the national media. Community college educators long have known the value these institutions bring to citizens of this country and around the world.



Nearly fifty percent of all undergraduate students in the U.S. are enrolled in community colleges. In addition, community colleges are essential for workforce training and retraining, particularly as jobs are “re-shoring,” and the skill sets needed for these jobs are increasingly more technical.

The focus and importance of the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines is crucial as the United States works to remain competitive in today's global marketplace. Iowa Western is at the forefront of these efforts. Its numerous partnerships with diverse industries ensure that curricula meet industry needs and that Iowa Western graduates have the 21st century skills necessary to fill local, national and global labor needs. Several programs slated for the new engineering and electronics building, which will break ground this fall on the Council Bluffs campus, will provide training for students looking to enter the highly technical advanced manufacturing world.

Since 1966, Iowa Western has provided quality, affordable and accessible educational opportunities to those who can benefit from it. The college continues to exceed the ever-changing expectations of the community and support local economic development through innovative, accessible programs and services.

Iowa Western alumni are involved in a variety of capacities — serving on advisory boards, speaking to classes and providing internship opportunities to current students. If you would like to become involved, please contact our alumni office at [alum@iwcc.edu](mailto:alum@iwcc.edu) or 712.325.3269.

Thank you for all that you do for Iowa Western and, most importantly, our students.

All the best,

*Renee P. Coughlin*

Renee Coughlin  
Vice President of Institutional Advancement



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