

MAY 2019

TODAY NEWSLETTER

Vol 5, Iss 5



**CENTRAL
CHRISTIAN
COLLEGE**
OF KANSAS

The newsletter for
alumni and friends of
Central Christian College



A TRIP TO CHINA



I am writing this article while on the road between Shen Yun and Dalian China. For the last several days I have been traveling throughout the north-east region of China, networking with universities, as well as several private high schools. While the intent of my time here is to investigate possible avenues for academic and cultural exchange, I also have had opportunity to enjoy the building of new friendships and furthering my appreciation of China and Asian society. As opportunities have allowed, we have been able to visit a number of cultural, artistic, and historical sites.

Just today my hosts guided me to a site celebrated for its mining and refinement of jade. As part of our excursion we visited the Jade Buddha Palace, which at face value may not sound overly impressive. However, you must understand that this effigy was fashioned out of a singular piece of jade that weighs 260 tons and stands 26 feet tall. In fact, a plaque at the site attests that this image is the largest jade sculpture, as attested to by the Guinness Book of World Records.

You may be wondering why I would choose to use a large jade Buddha as the subject of my article to you. Be assured, my faith holds firm. The reason for such an odd focal piece is due to

the stirring of my spirit as I stood there listening to the guide speak of the temple, monks, ceremonies, figures, and traditions. It was the same sense I received while standing in the cathedrals of Rome. It is that issue I would like to share with you today.

“WHAT STRUCK ME, AND WHAT I BELIEVE THE VOICE OF GOD WAS SAYING TO ME, WAS A REMINDER ABOUT MY OWN TEMPLE.”

Here I was standing in a temple, replete with ornate decorations, carvings, and images. The sweet smell of incense heightened the vaulted ceilings adorned with gold-plated depictions of divine mythologies. All around us were places for worshipers to kneel, pray, and lay their offerings in hope of luck and long-life. In the center of it all stands this titanic olive green icon, lifelessly and dispassionately staring down upon its celebrants.

What struck me, and what I believe the voice of God was saying to me, was a reminder about my own temple. In response to our mission, to provide a *Christ-Centered Education for Character*, the faculty and staff of Central Chris-

tian College of Kansas guide our students to understand the importance of maintaining a Fit Soul. An aspect of this is ensuring that we present ourselves as instruments of Christ, temples of the Holy Spirit, worthy tributes to the Father. Yet, standing in that place, I was ashamed that my own life – the temple of my body (physically, mentally, and spiritually) – did not reflect the same level of piety, consecration, and splendor as I found in this place. Here was a temple, dedicated to a lifeless god, resplendent with jade, gold, treasures, and veneration. In contrast, here I was – the very vessel of the living God, the Almighty One, Everlasting to Everlasting – but could I say that I was bringing my finest to lay before the feet of the One that created the very jade used in this temple? The answer was a clear no.

Rather than refinement and devotion, I, like so many of us, seem to struggle to live a life that reflects the wonder and splendor of He who sits upon the throne of eternity. In fact, I would little wonder if others simply walked by my life – never knowing that inside this roughly hewn hide of skin and bone, lies a sanctuary – a shrine – to the Creator of the universe.

Ctd. on page 3

FIRST WORD

Ctd. from page 2

It was in that moment that I was cut to the heart realizing that my meager rotten offering paled in comparison to the jade giant before me, and I could hear the echo of Paul's words, "What a wretched soul am I. Who will rescue me from this body of death?"

A thought that quickly found its resolution in the words, "Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord!" For it was in that same moment of despair that I also found the Spirit of God speaking hope. Yes – my temple could use some work, my life could display greater consecration, and the meditations of my heart could be more pious. Nevertheless, God does not need

a temple built by hands of flesh and blood. His Spirit stands ready to direct and develop, to form and fashion, to shape and to sanctify. He is the temple builder, I only need to submit the materials and allow His power to transform this humble hovel into a sanctified sanctuary, worthy of His honor.

There is great hope for each of us and for every student who walks our hallowed halls.

So pray for us, as we strive to help our students present their lives to Christ in a manner worthy of His high calling. Your support, both prayerfully and financially, is both an encouragement and blessing as we seek to fulfill the mission before us. While you will never find a jade icon exhibited in the center of campus, you can interact with the hundreds of temples being built in the lives of our students every day, and there is nothing jaded about that!

Blessings,

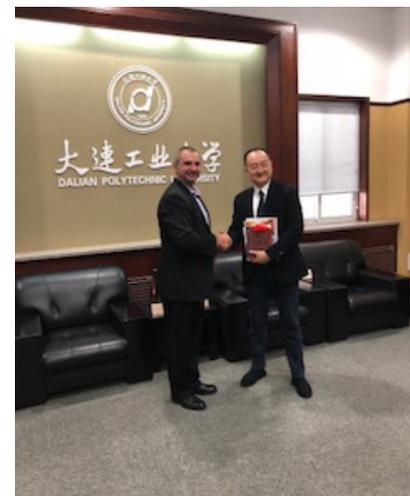


Rev. Dr. Lenny F. Favara

President | CC '89, '91



PICTURES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CHINA TRIP



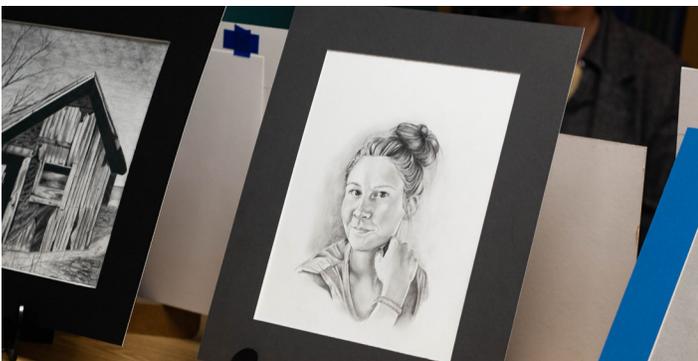
SPRING 2019 ART SHOW

Our talented group of art students recently displayed their fantastic work from the past semester in Briner Library. From classes taught by Mr. Chris Gates and Ms. Amy Goering, art mediums included oil painting, drawing, stained glass, ceramics, graphic design, and more! Check out some of the art pieces below.

Art professor, Ms. Amy Goering, was very proud of the work her students put in this last year, saying, "This school year, I have loved observing growth in my students' skill and the confidence they discovered in their work along the way. I'm really proud of them and how they have applied themselves to create many beautiful pieces, in a variety of media!"



Students with artwork displayed at the Spring 2019 Art Show



APRIL MUSIC EVENTS

TENEBRAE SERVICE

The Department of Music recently held its first Tenebrae Service leading up to Easter. "Tenebrae" is a Latin word meaning "darkness" and is an ancient religious service held during the three days before Easter. The service is characterized by a gradual extinguishing of candles, each of which was preceded by a reading of scripture and the singing of song, led by our talented choir. At the end, a "strepitus" or "loud noise" is made - in this case, the slamming of a door - near the end of the service. This symbolizes the earthquake that followed Christ's death.



Mrs. Allison Mackey reads scripture



LAB BAND CONCERT

CCK music students showcased their talents at the semester's final Lab Band Concert. This concert features covers and originally written music from students who take the songwriters class.

The bands that performed were Dreamist, Magnolia, and Broadview. In addition, songwriters Emily Widiger – known professionally as "Emmy Wid" – and Sheila Elmore played some pieces of their own.



The band Broadview



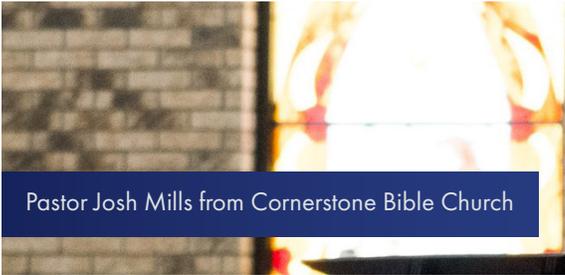
Bishop Ryan Mackey heads up the sound booth



Emmy Wid



Sheila Elmore



Pastor Josh Mills from Cornerstone Bible Church

THE PATH TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

At the final chapel of the school-year, students, faculty, and staff were privileged to hear from Pastor Josh Mills of McPherson's Cornerstone Bible Church. He spoke from Psalm 1. The following is a brief summary of his message. We hope it brings you hope and encouragement.

Psalm 1 serves as a passage to help each one of us know which side of the road we are on. The first verse of Psalm 1 begins by describing how blessed the man is who walks not in the counsel of the wicked; stands in the way of sinners; or sits in the seat of scoffers. Ask yourself, "Who am I turning to for counsel?" As the psalmist implies, the righteous man turns to godly people for counsel. He rejects the counsel of the wicked, their lifestyle and their acceptance.

Unfortunately, this is where some Christians stop - they forget to focus on righteousness. Follow what verse two says: to delight

in the law of the Lord, and meditate on it day and night. Sometimes following Christ can seem "boring" compared to what the world offers. There is an age-old adage that describes this dilemma: "You can ei-

PSALM 1

¹Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ²but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

³He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

⁴The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

ther be holy or happy". However, God designed us to be holy and when we follow Him and His Word, that is where our happiness comes from. If we meditate on His word day and night we will learn this. Our ultimate goal of reading the Bible should

be to digest what we are reading, not just simply read it.

Another way to look at it is to consider whether or not you find yourself asking, "What does God think about this?" during your daily activities and interactions. By doing so, you may prosper. As verse

three states, you will find that you will be like a tree planted by streams of water, filled with fruit and leaves that do not wither.

All in all, God created you to follow in His Word and thrive in this life. He knows your ways intimately and carefully. Will you be sure to follow Him and His Word, that you may find yourself on the path to Righteousness?

We appreciate each and every person who took the time to come speak to our students during convocation or chapel this past school year. You have been a blessing and God has used you in more ways than you can know. Thank you!

ACROSS CAMPUS



BUSINESS AS USUAL

Central Christian College of Kansas has secured national recognition for our Bachelor's in Business Administration Degree. In OnlineDegrees.com's report, *Top Online Colleges for Bachelor's in Business Administration*, our program has been ranked 3rd in the country for our exemplary scores in numerous categories, including:

1. The number of available distance education programs
2. The percentage of undergraduates who were awarded financial aid
3. The percentage of students enrolled in distance education
4. The retention rate of full-time students

According to senior managing editor of QuinStreet, Marcelle White, this survey "highlighted features important to prospective online students such as career services, including job placement and student services, interaction with peers, [and] available scholarships and grants. [The] well-thought-out methodology aims to provide prospective students with the best college options for completing an online bachelor's degree program in business administration."

In addition to our recognition in Business Administration, our online Bachelors of Science in Psychology degree has now received national accolades. Our degree was specifically recognized for its stellar preparation as a route to becoming a counselor.

Our counseling track made a short list of just 30 prestigious degree programs, with the ranking stemming from tuition value, affordability, quality of program, course range, school awards and accreditation, and overall reputation as an institution and program. We received this recognition from TopCounselingSchools.org, an entity dedicated to alleviating the stress out of choosing a quality counseling program for online students.

To support any of our excellent academic programs, please go online to www.ccckfoundation.org.



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PURCHASE WITH PURPOSE

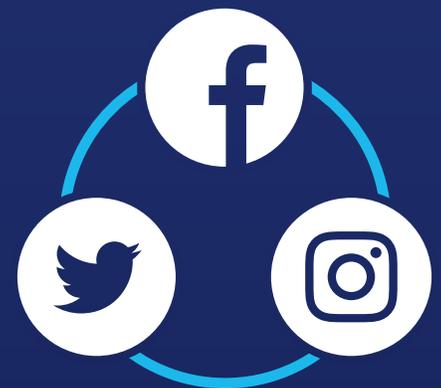
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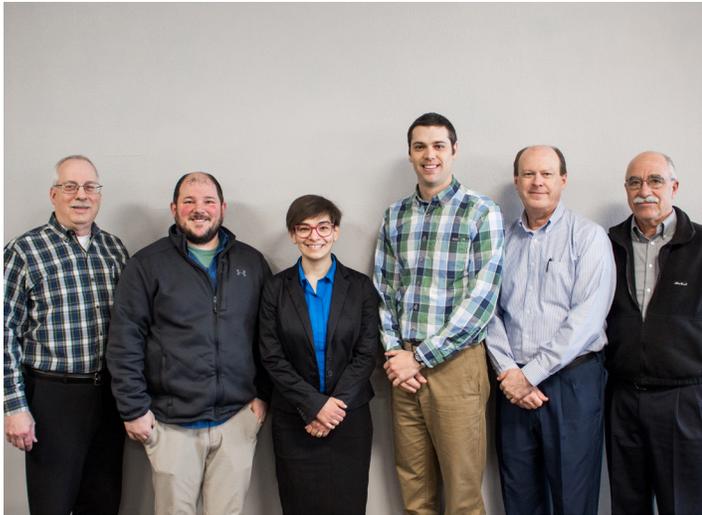
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BUSINESS DRIVE 2019

Our annual Business Drive took place this past April. Teams consisting of alumni, community, and student volunteers joined together to visit different businesses around town in order to raise money for the college.





MEN'S GOLF FINISHES STRONG

A short couple days after the women's tournament wrapped up, the Sooner Athletic Conference Men's Golf Championships kicked off in Amarillo, Texas, at the La Paloma Golf Club. After three long rounds of golf, the Central Christian College of Kansas men's golf team took home a sixth place finish out of the seven teams at the tournament to wrap up their 2018-2019 season.

After two rounds on day one, the Tigers found themselves in a tie for fifth place, on a day that included an outstanding second round by the Tigers. After scoring a 316 in round one, the Tigers came

back out and took 20 strokes off their team total, closing out round two with a 296, good enough for the fourth best score in the second round. That improvement was good enough to place them in a tie with Mid America Christian University for fifth place. On the final day, however, MACU would make their way up to fourth place, with a final round score of 312 would end up landing the Tigers in sixth place with a tournament score of 924, in front of Oklahoma Panhandle State University with 1106, and just behind Southwestern Christian University with a 911.

The Tigers were led by their two seniors, who have been a steadfast presence on the course for the Tigers over the course of the past four years. Collin Duckworth finished with the eighth best individual score of the tournament with a 218 (75, 71, 72), and fellow senior Lowell Stephens followed him with a score of 232 (79, 71, 82). Freshman Fisher Kautsch showed his potential for the next three years to come, as he finished with a score of 234 (80, 80, 74), right behind the two senior leaders. Following Kautsch were juniors Trehern McGill and Matt Rettinger. McGill shot a 244 (82, 78, 84) for the tournament, and Rettinger finished with a 254 (85, 76, 93).

Coach Kyle Moody had this to say on his team's final outing of the season. *"I am very pleased with the way we played overall during the tournament. I'm especially proud of Collin's performance, as he finished seventh overall in the conference. He and Lowell will finish their careers as two of the most prolific golfers in school history. Juniors Trehern and Matt showed flashes of great play, especially in round two. Fisher played well, and as we look to next year, he has positioned himself to be the leader on the team with Collin and Lowell both graduating."*

LADY TIGER GOLFERS CLOSE OUT YEAR AT SAC CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Central Christian College of Kansas women's golf team closed out their season at the Sooner Athletic Conference Women's Golf Championships. After finding themselves in sixth at the end of the first round, the Tigers were unable to make any progress in day two, finishing the tournament in seventh out of the nine teams competing.

The Tigers actually finished round two with the exact same team score as day one, at 339. Baily Bowman made the biggest move on day two, after shooting an 87 on day one, put up a 78 on day two, making her the top scorer for the Tigers at 165. Kendra Jellison followed her at 168 (83, 85), followed

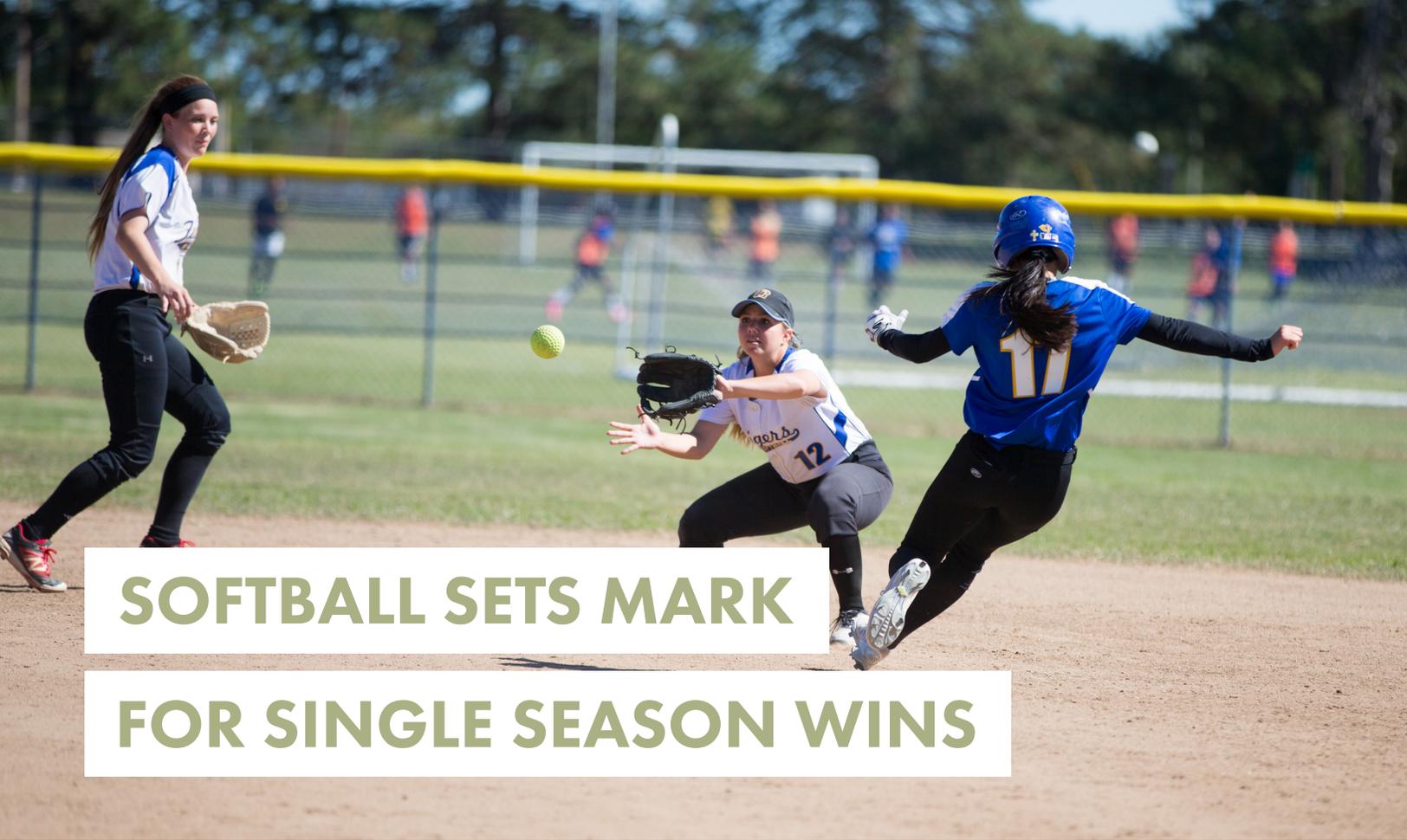
by Kari Kirl with 169 (84, 85), Alyssa Ramirez at 180 (85, 95), and Vanessa Warner at 190 (99, 91).

The Tigers were one spot ahead of St. Thomas (TX) on Friday, leading by 5 shots, but they would leapfrog the Tigers on day two shooting 331 to the Tigers' 339, finishing 3 strokes ahead.

Coach Kyle Moody had this to say about his team at the end of the season. *"I am so proud of this team and how far they've come. We might not have gotten the finish we would have wanted, but I couldn't ask for a better team to go through this season with. These ladies have given me their best all year, both on and off the golf course. Best of all, I have gotten to be a*

part of their spiritual growth. It will be an exciting time when we can get back on the grind and build on this year's successes."





SOFTBALL SETS MARK

FOR SINGLE SEASON WINS

The Central Christian College of Kansas softball team played their second-to-last home series of the season, taking on the Warriors of Sterling College. Being the last time they will play at home on the weekend, the Tigers also took the opportunity to honor their lone senior, first-year transfer Breanna Bill. In addition to celebrating their senior, the Tigers also got to celebrate two wins, taking both games of the doubleheader over Sterling 7-2 and 5-2.

Game one started off the same way that many of the Tigers' games have started recently, with leadoff hitter Ashton Nelson creating instant offense with her bat and speed on the bases. She led off the game with a double over the head of the Sterling left fielder, then moved to third on a sacrifice bunt from Breanna Bill, and was brought home by a Cassidy Pitts single. The Warriors would answer right back in the top of the second inning with a solo home run to tie it up at 1 apiece. The Tigers would take complete control of the game in the bottom of the third with six more runs to give the Tigers a 7-1 lead. The Warriors would get one back in the

top of the fourth, but that would be the last run scored in the game. The Tigers would take game one 7-2 on the back of a big third inning and Shiloh Burn's complete game pitching performance.

Game two started out in the favor of the Warriors, as they threatened to take a big lead in the top of the second inning, but Cheyann Sales managed to pitch her way out of a bases-loaded situation with just one run given up. The Tigers would once again make their big push in the bottom of the third inning, this time scoring four runs all with two outs. After a strikeout and a pop out to start the inning, Breanna Bill would hit her first home run as a Tiger, tying the game up 1-1. Cassidy Pitts would then find herself on second base thanks to a fielding error by the Warriors, and she would be brought home (with Karlee Adams running for her) by a Jessica Aldana single. Aldana would take an extra base on the throw home by Sterling, and then she would make her way home thanks to Altavia Hall's single. Two batters later, Kaitlyn Kindle would bring Hall around to score with an infield single. The Tigers would take the 4-1 lead. The Warriors would score

once more in the top of the fifth inning, and the Tigers would get one more in the bottom of the sixth, with Breanna Bill bringing home Taelyn Pagel on a groundout. Cheyann Sales would close out the complete game, giving the Tigers a 5-2 victory.

With those two wins, the Tigers have set the single-season record for wins, surpassing the previous mark of 14 (2014, 2018). In just his second season at the helm, Head Coach Aaron Annis has also become the winningest head coach in Tiger softball history as a four-year institution.

In his senior day message to his senior transfer Breanna Bill, Coach Annis had this to say. *"When we first got Bre to commit to Central, I was so excited that I was able to pick up an extra leader on the field and in the classroom. Bre is a great player and I will miss her when the season is over. She's always full of energy, which makes it so much fun to be around her. I will miss her, but I'm also excited to see what the future brings her."*

LIFTING OTHERS UP

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)

Reuben and Kendra Willard - graduates of Central Christian College - run a nonprofit they began 2 years ago inspired by James 1:27. Based in Midland, TX, their organization, Lift Them Up International (LTU), works with orphans, widows, and other vulnerable people in post genocide countries including Rwanda, Iraq, and Pakistan.



Center of Picture (L to R) | Kendra and Reuben Willard

In Rwanda, the different programs they have set up are:

- an Educational Sponsorship Program with 59 children matched with US and Canadian sponsors to receive an education, health care, clothes, food, Bibles and Bible teaching, and after-school tutoring.
- a Nutrition Program where they have served over 20,000 meals to malnourished children in a rural community.
- a Widow Blessing Program that blesses over 20 widows with 3-month supplies of food for them and their children.
- an Artisan Craft Training Program where widows and other women from the church are taught how to make jewelry to provide for their families. Kendra runs an online shop to sell their jewelry, a pop-up boutique, and is looking to connect them with US markets to steward a #BlessedTrade environment. Blessed Trade goes above and beyond just fair trade. Their product line is call Nyiramugisha, which means "Blessed Woman" and fosters "Women blessing women, in Jesus' name".

In Iraq, the different programs they have set up are:

- an Evangelism Program that partners with local Christian nonprofits to show love to Syrian refugees by meeting their physical and spiritual needs. They facilitate Bible Studies, distribute Scriptures, and provide food, shelter, fuel for heat, etc., while forming deep community bonds. Many are coming to Christ and are hungry for Scriptures and teaching!
- a Kurdish Miracle School Program, where they support a school for poor children along the Iraq/Iranian border. Through this, they can sew love where there's hate, compassion in place of fear, and kindness instead of violence- with the goal of stopping the next generation of terrorism before it can even start.
- a contact who is able to get Bibles into Iran.

The programs in Pakistan are:

- a Nutrition Program for feeding Christian children in rural, impoverished villages that has served

almost 2000 meals in the past 6 months. Bible lessons are taught during the meals and when possible, clothes and books are also distributed. Their partners work in 3 villages, but desperately need to expand to cover 5 villages.

- an Evangelism Program where equipment is rented, events are held, and Muslims and Hindus are coming to Jesus! Yes...IN PAKISTAN!

The 'Big Picture' goal is to encourage and equip the Rwandan Church, who has overcome the principality of genocide to go and preach forgiveness and reconciliation in Jesus to these other nations. Check out their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LiftThemUpInternational and their website at www.liftthemup.org in order to keep up with what their organization is doing.

Reuben and Kendra graduated from Central in 2006. Reuben is a professional pilot, the President of the LTU Board of Directors, and works part-time for the charity doing IT work. Kendra is the Executive Director of LTU and works there full-time. She also travels doing presentations.



Above | Dr. Barry McKeown is pictured second from the left
Right | Dr. Barry McKeown attending Wessington Springs in 1963

THE JOY IS IN THE JOURNEY

FORMER BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

We congratulate former Central Board of Trustees member, Dr. Barry McKeown on the recent announcement of his impending retirement. McKeown is a former Wessington Springs student and faculty member and friend of Dale Burge (CS '76) and the late Dr. Jerry Alexander (CS '67). He served on the Board of Trustees from 1999–2013.

McKeown had the following to say about his upcoming retirement:

"It has been an honor and pleasure for me to serve in the Department of Kinesiology at The University of Texas at Arlington for

the past 37 years. This is my 42nd year of employment at the university level including five years at my alma mater of South Dakota State University and my 54th year actively involved in my profession including two years of high school teaching, four years in the United States Air Force and six years of university graduate assistantships.

I have immensely enjoyed my journey at UT Arlington. I have enjoyed coming to the Department of Kinesiology every Monday morning. I have enjoyed my time with [everyone] throughout the week including personal interactions, classes, faculty meetings, departmental lectures, seminars,

journal clubs, student research day, and student awards day

It is my intent to retire from my position in the Department of Kinesiology at The University of Texas in Arlington August 31, 2019. I have great hope and expectations for [the] department to be of outstanding quality and at the highest level whenever our programs are evaluated on the national scale. I will continue to support departmental activities and to be [its] advocate.

Blessings to you, my friends. May there always be great 'Joy in your Journey.'"

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THEIR PATH TO LEGENDARY BEGINS AT CENTRAL

Know someone – family member, friend, co-worker – looking to get their college degree? Refer them to Central Christian College of Kansas today! They can email us at admissions@centralchristian.edu to find out more information. Thanks for your help!

THE
LEGEND
 OF YOU

BEGINS AT CENTRAL

FACULTY & STAFF NEW HIRES



Tricia Roots
Admissions & Financial
Aid Counselor

Central is excited to introduce and welcome Tricia Roots to the Central family as its newest Admissions and Financial Aid Counselor.

Tricia attended Manhattan Christian College and was one of their first pilot students for their dual enrollment program with Kansas State University (KSU). This allowed her to graduate with both a Bachelors in Kinesiology and in the Bible. She went on to work

“[TRICIA’S] UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND ALLOWS HER TO CLEARLY ARTICULATE THE VALUES OF A CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION WHILE ALSO BEING ABLE TO CONTRAST THE TRADITIONAL STATE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS.”

as a Grad assistant athletic trainer at KSU while she pursued her Masters in Student Development and Counseling where she graduated in 2004. Since graduating, Tricia has worked in a variety of health and wellness and sports-related industries doing everything from physical therapy tech to the Director of Health and Wellness at a YMCA.

Now looking to return to the world of higher education, Tricia is excited to

bring her spunky personality to the world of admissions. She is excited to help students experience the same type of Christ-Centered college experience that she benefited from at Manhattan. Her unique educational background allows her to clearly articulate the values of a Christ-Centered Educational Institution while also being able to contrast the traditional state school experience for prospective students. As we were giving her a tour of campus she peaked into the North gym and had memories of playing volleyball here on campus and, remembering where we were several years ago, was impressed at how our facilities have grown and improved.

We look forward to getting to know Tricia and having her as a part of the Central team!

FUN FACT

TRICIA IS A NATIVE OF COLORADO. SHE IS AN AVID DENVER BRONCOS FAN IN ADDITION TO BEING A FAN OF THE K-STATE WILDCATS.

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Contact the Advancement Office to learn how donating to CCKC can result in tax benefits for YOU!
Contact Dr. Dean Kroeker at 620-504-3000 (press 1) or Joe Johnston at 620.504.3000 (press 3)

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