It’s just that simple.

A gift to support the Coe Fund touches every facet of the institution’s life. For this reason, few gifts are of greater importance and value to the college than those that support continuing operations.

Alumni participation rates are very important for reasons well beyond financial support. Prospective students and their families rely on college ranking guides as a resource when deciding which college to attend. A crucial factor used to determine this rank is alumni participation, which reflects the degree to which alumni feel their collegiate experience was enjoyable, rewarding and beneficial. In addition, foundations and corporations also look at alumni participation when evaluating funding requests. That’s why participation at any level will improve this important benchmark and enliven the spirits of all those striving to raise Coe to an ever-higher level.

Please take advantage of a special offer by six alumni and support Coe. Any gift of any size to the Coe Fund received between Feb. 16 and June 30 will be matched one-to-one by Dave Carson ’72 and Mary Bridenstine Carson ’73, Ken Golder ’82 and Sue Roe Golder ’82, and Gene Henderson ’68 and Glenda Sullivan Henderson ’75.

Contact Kelly Allen at kallen@coe.edu or 319-329-8943 or 1-800-324-8404, ext. 8592 if you would like to make a gift to the Coe Fund and support Coe.

www.gifts.coe.edu

Your participation matters. It’s just that simple.
A key feature of Coe College, an international club banquet, was announced for Coe, the 40th annual International Club banquet. This year’s buffet-style banquet featured foods from various countries including Germany, Korea, China, Japan, Nepal, France, Cambodia, Ireland, Italy and Vietnam. Dishes such as bulgogi, topokki, stuffed grape leaves, Irish rolls, and much more were served. A brief program featuring student officers followed the students served dinners and these officers reflected their nationalities while serving from around the world in Gage Dining Hall.

This year’s buffet-style banquet featured foods from various countries including Germany, Korea, China, Japan, Nepal, France, Cambodia, Ireland, Italy and Vietnam. Dishes such as bulgogi, topokki, stuffed grape leaves, Irish rolls, and much more were served. A brief program featuring student officers followed the students served dinners and these officers reflected their nationalities while serving.

With Ryan Chavez ’14 holding the microphone, Punisa Pov ’16 sings a Cambodian song while playing the roneat aek.

Japanese students entertained the audience by dancing to pop music. AKB48.

TOP TO BOTTOM ▶ Serving up Lumpsiang Shanghai (pork spring rolls) at the reception preceding the 40th annual International Club banquet were Frank Loyo ’17 and Danielle Capalad ’16. In keeping with longstanding tradition, Coe international students donned costumes reflecting their nationalities while serving from a buffet line.

Photos from study abroad: Study abroad photo contest entries are featured in this issue of the Courier. From 68 photos submitted by 19 students in the annual Coe off-campus study photo contest, 10 were entered in the 2013-14 Associated Colleges of the Midwest study abroad photo contest.

Contemporary Issues Forum: Former Senate Majority Leader and Special Envoy George Mitchell gave this year’s Contemporary Issues Forum audience – especially the students in attendance – reasons to be optimistic about the United States’ future on the world stage.

Scientist turned entrepreneur turns hearing loss on its ear: After two decades in research and academia, Dianne Van Tasell ’70 is experiencing the exciting, exhausting and all-consuming life of an entrepreneur.

Coe business degree provides leg up to restaurant ownership: Winning Iowa’s 2013 Best Bite Restaurant Challenge meant several months of hard work for chef Pam Oles ‘03.

Coe physics program paves road from India to Google: Sandeep Giri ’04 never planned to attend Coe, much less major in physics. He also never dreamed he would one day work at Google.

Center for the Study of Glass sets Coe apart: Already distinguished for decades of glass research, Coe now has an academic center focused on the field.

Address changes and inquiries regarding alumni records may be addressed to: alumni records, Office of Advancement, phone (319) 399-4652, or email: advancementservices@coe.edu.

Visit the Courier online at http://coe.edu/courier.

Many alumni have added their email addresses to Coe’s alumni database. To add yours, write to the Office of Alumni Programs or visit Coe’s website.

Contact the Courier editor at: courier@coe.edu or (319) 399-4652.

The Coe Courier is published for current and former students, and recent contributors to Coe’s Annual Fund. The magazine is published in the spring, fall and winter by Coe College, 1220 First Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402.

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HER HONOR: ROSALIE WAHL AND THE MINNESOTA WOMEN’S MOVEMENT

by Lori Sturdevant ’74

While there is no single hero of the Minnesota women’s movement, Rosalie Wahl, the first woman on the state’s Supreme Court, changed the way her fellow judges saw the cases they decided. A champion of both women’s rights and civil rights, she brought new attention to the problems that faced women impoverished by divorce, women abused by their partners, and others who coped by their partners, and others who coped by their poverty and discrimination. With sharp intelligence and hard work, Wahl had overcome childhood tragedy and an abusive marriage to become a defense attorney, a respected judge, and a sharp intelligence and hard work, Wahl had overcome childhood tragedy and an abusive marriage to become a defense attorney, a respected judge, and a sharp intelligence and hard work, Wahl had overcome childhood tragedy and an abusive marriage to become a defense attorney, a respected judge, and a sharp intelligence and hard work, Wahl had overcome childhood tragedy and an abusive marriage to become a defense attorney, a respected judge, and a sharp intelligence and hard work, Wahl had overcome childhood tragedy and an abusive marriage to become a defense attorney, a respected judge, and a sharp intelligence and hard work, Wahl had overcome childhood tragedy and an abusive marriage to become a defense attorney, a respected judge, and a sharp intelligence and hard work, Wahl had overcome childhood tragedy and an abusive marriage to become a defense attorney, a respected judge, and a sharp intelligence and hard work, Wahl had overcome childhood tragedy and an abusive marriage to become a defense attorney, a respected judge, and a sharp intelligence and hard work, Wahl had overcome childhood tragedy and an abusive marriage to become a defense attorney, a respected judge, and a sharp intelligence and hard work, Wahl had overcome childhood tragedy and an abusive marriage to become a defense attorney, a respected judge, and a sharp intelligence and hard work, Wahl had overcome childhood tragedy and an abusive marriage to become a defense attorney, a respected judge, and a sharp intelligence and hard work, Wahl had overcome childhood tragedy and an abusive marriage to become a defense attorney, a respected judge, and a sharp intelligence and hard work, Wahl had overcome childhood tragedy and an abusive marriage to become a defense attorney, a respected judge, and a
American studies major from Colorado Springs, Colo., Mouré has been involved in Student Senate as a senator and communications officer. She has served on Homecoming and Presidential Ball committees, runs KCOE radio, is publicity chair for the National Society of Leadership & Success, and is coffee shop co-chair for the Student Activities Committee. A member of Delta Delta Delta sorority, she also works as a tour guide in the Admission Office.

Plumb, from Johnstown, Colo., is a history and biology major who is minoring in Spanish. He is a member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity and a Writing Center consultant. He serves on the Interfraternity Council and is vice president of the Model United Nations Club.

“I am very excited to continue the work of the food committee to continue to bring new options to the cafeteria,” Plumb said. “I am also excited to continue to support the Committee on Diversity and their work with accessibility on campus, among many other issues we would like to address this year.”

CAREER SERVICES PHASING OUT TEACHING CREDENTIAL FILES

Teaching credential files will no longer be kept by Coe’s Career Services Department beginning July 1. Alumni have until Dec. 1 to request their credential files by sending an email to jdirks@coe.edu. The email should include the request, your full name (including, birth name), and graduation year, along with a mailing address.

Alumni and students are welcome to use Coe Connections, the Career Services online database, to manage their credentials for free. Visit Coe Connections at www.coe.edu/careerservices and register through the student/alumni login.

For questions, call (319) 399-8844 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central time.

SODEXO MANAGES WASTE, FEEDS HOMELESS

Officials with Sodexo, Coe’s dining services provider, have partnered with a local food reservoir to reduce waste while feeding the homeless. Instead of composting leftovers at the end of each meal, food that is still safe but unsuitable for being re-served is set aside for the Hawkeye Area Community Action Program. Examples include leftover soup, vegetables and starches. HACAP picks up the food twice each week and takes it to a shelter where it is used to feed the homeless.

The HACAP Food Reservoir channels donated products to area soup kitchens, pantries, senior and daycare centers, drug and alcohol treatment centers, homeless shelters and other nonprofit food programs that feed the needy. Sodexo has also partnered with HACAP when it conducts periodic food drives on campus.

The HACAP partnership is just one method Sodexo management employs to reduce food waste and cost. Coe’s Environmental Club helps spread the word about reducing waste by awarding prizes to students who clean their plates.

“This intermittent positive reinforcement is designed to get the message, in a light fashion, to students from students, to take only what they will eat or be good to the environment and waste less.” said Dining Services Director Tom Wieseler.

SPORT SHORTS

WOMEN’S TENNIS WIN IN SPRING OPENER GIVES RODGERS 700TH CAREER VICTORY

An 8-1 win over Calvin on Feb. 22 in the spring season opener for Coe women’s tennis gave Head Coach Eric Rodgers his 700th career win.

Rodgers came to Coe in 1989 as the director of Clark Racquet Center and head men’s and women’s tennis coach. He has led Coe to all 18 of its conference titles, earning Regional Coach of the Year honors in 1993, 2001 and 2008. He was also named Iowa Conference Coach of the Year in 2001, 2004, 2005, 2012 and 2013 for the men’s team and was the coach of the year in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2011 and 2012 for the women’s team.

Through February, Rodgers’ 25-year Coe coaching record was 427-163 and with the men and 228-145 with the women.

Previously, Rodgers led the men’s tennis program at the University of Evansville, an NCAA Division I school. His teams captured two Midwestern Collegiate Conference titles and he was twice named Coach of the Year while compiling a 46-51 record in four years.

COE WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY HONORED BY USTFCCCA

The Kohawks were one of 215 women’s cross country teams to receive the honor of All-Academic Team. As a group, the Kohawks accumulated a 3.23 GPA through 2013. The team was also recognized by the USTFCCCA in 2011, making this the second time in the last three years the Kohawks have qualified for the award.

HALVORSON NAMED TO COSIDA/CAPITAL ONE ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT BASKETBALL TEAM

Mary Halvorson ‘14 was named to the CoSIDA/Capital One Academic All-District First Team in women’s basketball. Halvorson made a school record 13 field goals en route to a career-high 28 points at Carleton this season. She also tallied a career-high four blocked shots against Luther, while tying for second in school history with a 10-for-30 performance at the free throw line against Dubuque. She ranks fifth in school history in free throw percentage, while ranking in the top 15 in blocked shots and both offensive and defensive rebounds.

To be eligible for the team, a student-athlete must have a 3.3 cumulative
Spring 2014

Games this season, while finishing his Coe career with 11 games played. He consulted his college career at the D3 Senior Classic in Salem, Va. on Dec. 13.

Montgomery was a two-time All-Iowa Conference selection, earning first-team honors this year. He was also a D3football.com All-West Region selection. Playing in just seven games before suffering a season-ending injury, Montgomery tallied 82 tackles for Coe. He led the Kohawks with 11 tackles for loss of 4.5 sacks. He also had an interception, recovered a fumble and blocked a kick. His four quarterback hurries were tied for the 12th most in school history. Montgomery returned from injury to play in the All-American Bowl in Minneapolis on Dec. 29.

Joining Yelton and Montgomery in post-season all-star games was defensive back Antoine Allen-Jackson '14, who played in the Tazon de Estrellas (Bowl of the Stars) in Monterrey, Mexico on Dec. 21. A two-time-second-team All-Iowa Conference selection, Allen-Jackson finished the season with 41 tackles, including three for a loss. He had also three interceptions for 80 yards and a touchdown. Yelton, Montgomery and Allen-Jackson were among eight players in nine positions on the 2013 All-Iowa Conference football team. Tight end Lathan Bass '15 joined Yelton as a first-team offensive line selection. Montgomery was Coe’s third first-team honoree.

Joining Allen-Jackson as second-team selections were running back Gage Mohr ’14, wide receiver and punt returner Keaton Juergens ’14, linebacker Dylan Youel ’14 and kicker Wes Anderson ’14. Youel rushed for 851 yards and 9.9 per game. Mohr hauled in 17 catches for 267 yards and a touchdown. Anderson was named to the D3football.com first-team offensive line. Montgomery was named to the D3football.com first-team honors, defensive back Logan Keehner ’14 was named to the CoSIDA/Capital One Academic All-District Football Team. Keehner finished the regular season 7-3 and tied for third at 4-3 in the Iowa Conference. The Kohawks were the only team in the league to defeat conference champion Warburg, as they downed the Knights 24-10 in Waverly.

Coe placed 21 student-athletes on the fall Academic All-Iowa Conference team. All eight fall sports placed at least one athlete on the team, including five from each football and women’s cross country.

To be eligible for IIAC All-Academic Team honors a student-athlete must compete at the varsity level, he at least a sophomore in academic standing with at least one year in residence and attain a 3.5 or better grade point average (on a 4.0 scale).

A total of eight Kohawks were named to the team for at least the second time, while five of those eight earned the award for the third time. Academic All-Conference honorees listed alphabetically by sport were: sport: men’s cross country – Shea Devine ’14; Tanner McClenahan ’15 and Keenan McLaughlin ’14, women’s cross country – Brianna De Jong ’16, Amy Hurd ’15, Allison Rogers ’16. Kate Worthington ’15 and Josie Visser ’14, football – Mark Atwater ’16, Justin Jagodinsky ’15, Kevin Jennings ’16, Logan Keehner ’14 and Ben Perez ’16, women’s golf – Amber Suhr ’14, men’s soccer – Spencer Henessee ’16 and Eric Hour ’16, women’s soccer – Courtney Rogers ’14 and Hannah Torry ’16, men’s tennis – Tai Lucero ’14 and Amy Sebastian ’16, and volleyball – Brianna Smith ’16.

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PHOTOS FROM STUDY ABROAD

“CELADON” by Deidre Gomm ’14: “This photo was taken at a store and gallery in Thailand that specialized in celadon pottery. The girl is doing the ‘sawat dee ka’ or ‘hello’ pose.”

“REFUGEE CHILD” by Haley Welby ’14: “While we were in Thailand teaching English we were able to take a day to visit the Mae La Refugee Camp. There we met and played with many children from both the orphanage and a boarding house (pictured). We quickly learned that fast friendship did not require language at all; only a smile, a game and hours of simple enjoyment. If these children can teach you anything it’s that, even in the hard parts of life, you have to take the time to play.”

“SORRENTO STREET LANTERNS” by Gretchen Yell ’14: “This photo was taken around the holiday season in Sorrento, when streets were filled with hanging lanterns. It is common for all Italian cities to have lights hanging across narrow streets and Christmas trees in the center for all to enjoy.”

From 68 photos submitted by 19 students in the annual Coe off-campus study photo contest, 10 were entered in the 2013-14 Associated Colleges of the Midwest study abroad photo contest. See more of the Coe student submissions on the Web at www.coe.edu/studyabroad1314.
“SHROUDED SECRETS: VIEW FROM VILLA MEDICI A FIESOLE” by Meg Reilly ’15: “One September morning, my esotericism class was held at a Renaissance villa. I was excited to see the wondrous panoramic view of Florence. To my dismay, the entire city was covered in a thick haze. The class continued, as we imagined the life of a determined patron who was set on understanding ancient secrets while we were also mysteriously shrouded from the rest of the world. I turned back to the edge of the garden and noticed the cloudy weather begin to clear as the sun illuminated the landscape, casting a dramatic chiaroscuro effect over the Mediterranean Cypress.”

“TALENT SHOW” by Amanda Kohn ’14: “Two 11th grade girls singing in front of their classmates and nearly the entire school in Mae Sot, Thailand, as everyone had stopped to watch out of their classrooms.”

“BOY” by Sara Nieland ’14: “We called this city park in San José ‘Pigeon Park’ because there were hundreds of pigeons everywhere. I was drawn to this little boy playing with them, because the scene was so pure and innocent within this huge city area.”

“REMEMBER THE MESMERIZING” by Josie Visser ’14: “Of the millions who were unjustly murdered during the Holocaust, it is estimated that over one million children were also killed. This image represents the true horror these children lived in, as they awaited death in Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camps. The children of these camps faced almost certain death by gassing, starvation, disease, shooting, or burning. They would often claw at the walls of the barracks crying out for their mothers or screaming out in pain from lack of food. They would scrape so hard that the walls of the children’s barracks are lined with scratch marks from nights of turmoil.”

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“CERAMIC PETALS” by Deidre Gomm ’14: “This flower is made of broken ceramic pieces that decorate a temple in Bangkok. It shows resourcefulness and practicality.”

“PRAYER” by Lindsey Souvannarath ’15: “A young Thai woman prays at a Buddhist temple. She sits before a shrine containing offerings to Lord Buddha.

Gretchen Yell ’14 won honorable mention - and a spot on the cover of this issue of the Courier - with her photo of a small chapel on the Greek island of Santorini. “The exterior walls of the chapel and its white rock garden reflect the surrounding architecture and the marvelous Aegean Sea behind it. The white architecture today functions as a trademark to the beauty the Greek islands have to offer.”
Former Senate Majority Leader and Special Envoy George Mitchell gave this year’s Contemporary Issues Forum audience – especially the students in attendance – reasons to be optimistic about the United States’ future on the world stage.

Calling his time in the Senate “the greatest experience of my life,” Mitchell noted that despite its many imperfections, the U.S. remains “the most free, the most open, the most just society in all of human history.”

Mitchell credits the Founding Fathers with creating a governmental system based on independence and self-governance, which he asserts has formed the basis for the greatest country in human history. “I believe that the United States was a great country from the moment of birth, long before it was a great military or economic power, because our greatness lies in the principles and ideals under which our society was organized and which are set forth in those charter documents,” he said.

Mitchell reeled off the important premises outlined in the U.S. Constitution, considered radical at the time but now universally accepted: no legitimate authority for the government other than that which is freely given by the people, primacy of individual liberty (as stated in the Bill of Rights), an independent judiciary, rule of law that applies equally to every citizen and the government itself, and a society that encourages opportunity for every person. “Those are the principles that have now become universal,” Mitchell explained. “Those are the goals of people all around the world who seek to obtain what we have had for so long that we largely take it for granted.”

Mitchell was appointed to the Senate in 1980 to complete Muskie’s unexpired term when he became secretary of state. He was re-elected in 1982 and finished his last Senate term in 1995. Mitchell served as Senate Majority Leader for six years, when he championed free trade, environmental legislation, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other landmark legislation.

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Since leaving the Senate, Mitchell has been tapped by presidents and others to forge peace treaties in Northern Ireland and the Middle East, investigate scandals, lead corporations, and navigate sensitive international conflicts. As a federal judge, Mitchell said his most enjoyable experience was the swearing in of naturalized citizens as they pledged their oath of allegiance to the United States.
“America is freedom and opportunity.”

internal conflicts in Islam, which date back centuries, will continue to cause social unrest and bloodshed. “As this growth in population occurs, as the turbulence continues, I believe that the United States will experience greater growth and greater influence,” Mitchell said.

Domestically, he envisions America’s strength will be tremendously enhanced by the increased likelihood of energy independence. As recently as 2005, the U.S. imported approximately 60 percent of the oil it consumes. Today, it is less than 40 percent. Mitchell noted that the Department of Energy predicts the U.S. will import less than 10 percent of its oil by 2040.

“That will have a dramatic effect on what happens in the Middle East and Asia and its connection to us,” he said.

The former Senator pointed out that the Navy guarantees free passage through the world’s oceans – including the oil-rich Persian Gulf – even though the principal benefactors are China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. Those oil-dependent countries pay nothing for U.S. protection of the shipping lanes, which Mitchell predicts will change in the future.

“Russia faces very serious problems in the next few decades,” he said. “Its economy is almost totally dependent on oil and gas production. This year, for the first time, the U.S. will pass Russia in oil and gas production.”

The former Communist state is heavily dependent on tax revenues from its energy and as these revenues decline, Mitchell said the country will face a severe financial crisis. Also, its population is aging and declining rapidly, creating other economic pressures. “Russia’s position in the world relative to ours will decline substantially over the next few decades,” he predicted.

Mitchell says the population in China is predicted to stay relatively stable at 1.3 billion people, with an aging population. He believes Chinese governmental authority is rooted in continued economic growth, which will be difficult to maintain. He cited an increasing demand for energy, corruption and an absence of a meaningful rule of law among China’s long-term problems.

“I think it is unlikely that the current system of control in China will continue and be in place decades from now,” Mitchell said. “The best scenario is that they have an evolution that leads to genuine democracy, meaningful democracy, in which there is that legitimacy granted. But that outcome is not assured and does remain in doubt.”

In conclusion, Mitchell reiterated his belief and I believe that we can and will do so in the future, and that, for the young people here, you will live for the best years in American history.”

In answering questions from the audience, Mitchell was asked to comment on the current state of gridlock and polarization in Congress. Mitchell said that “It has always been tough in American politics,” and cited the mudslinging that took place in the 1800 presidential campaign between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. A distinct and concerning difference today, Mitchell observed, is the advent of electronic communication and the need for vast sums of money for politicians to win elections.

“When Congress today requires a constant, never-ending chase for money,” he said, “I believe it is corrupting our system.”

Not overt corruption, Mitchell further explained, but rather the “bond of trust between the people and their elected representatives, which is so essential in a democracy, has been severed. Nobody believes that their elected officials are acting in the interest of their constituents, which is the only thing they should be doing.”

that we can continue to perfect this imperfect union.”

Contrary to much of the current commentary, Mitchell believes that the “United States is not in a period of decline, but rather will experience over the next several decades a period of renewed growth and greater influence in world affairs than has been the case in the past.”

To explain how fast the world is changing, Mitchell highlighted demographics. He noted the world population is projected to reach 10 billion by the middle of this century, with most of the growth taking place in underdeveloped countries, mostly in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Currently, one in five people are Muslim, but that proportion will change to one in three by mid-century. He predicted that legitimacy granted. But that outcome will change in the future.

“We don’t have the capacity, nor should we have the right to dictate to others how they should organize their governments or how they should conduct their affairs. We can, should and will support those whose values we share – those who aspire to the same kinds of lives that our people have.”

As further reason to be optimistic, Mitchell highlighted the profound challenges faced by two U.S. rivals, Russia and China. “Russia faces very serious problems in the next few decades,” he said. “Its economy is almost totally dependent on oil and gas production. This year, for the first time, the U.S. will pass Russia in oil and gas production.”
Scientist turned entrepreneur
Van Tasell turns hearing loss on its ear

After two decades in research and academia, Dianne Van Tasell ’70 is experiencing the exciting, exhausting and all-consuming life of an entrepreneur. With her hearing science partners Andrew Sabin and Kevin Franck, Van Tasell has launched EarMachine, an iPhone app that makes it easier to hear. Funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health and The Capita Foundation, EarMachine just might turn hearing loss on its ear.

The app was downloaded more than 5,000 times in the two months following its Nov. 2 release. The EarMachine team is gathering data and pursuing FDA approval in hopes of making compatible wireless earpieces available to the public in 2015. An Android version of the app will be developed after Google solves its audio latency issue, Van Tasell said.

A psychology major at Coe, Van Tasell received her master’s in speech-language pathology from the University of Iowa in 1972 and earned her Ph.D. in hearing science at Northwestern University in 1977. She subsequently spent 19 years teaching and conducting research on hearing, hearing loss and hearing aids at the University of Minnesota. In 1996, she joined Starkey Hearing Technologies as director of advanced research developing hearing aid signal processing algorithms.

“I left after six years because I wanted to pursue some alternate ways to help hearing at reduced cost,” Van Tasell said. “People ought to be able to tune their own hearing aids.”

Enter EarMachine. Van Tasell, the senior scientist, teamed with Sabin, the managing member, and Franck, the business developer, and secured $3 million in grants to research the safety and effectiveness of smartphone controls for hearing aids. Partnering with the Northwestern University Audiology Clinic and the University of Minnesota Hearing Research Lab, the team is creating novel and accessible hearing tools.

“We’re going to start changing the way people acquire hearing aids and at greatly reduced costs,” Van Tasell said.

Visit www.earmachine.com for more information and to download the free app.

EarMachine is designed to take the cost out of hearing loss while giving users greater control over their hearing aid settings. “The goal is to increase the control people have over their own hearing devices,” Van Tasell said. “It’s all about customizing the audio experience, whether you have impaired hearing or not.”

The app picks up sounds through the microphone in an iPhone or earbuds, enhances them and sends them to the users’ ears. Adjusting either of the EarMachine wheels changes more than 100 different values that control state-of-the-art signal processing. The app also allows users to access and enhance the sound of music on their device.

Only 20 percent of the 36 million people in the United States who could benefit from hearing aids actually have them, Van Tasell says. At about $4,000 per pair — which Medicaid doesn’t reimburse and few insurance companies cover — cost is the biggest barrier.
BUCKING THE TREND OF MEDIA DOWNSIZING, Kendra Dodson Breitsprecher ’87 has launched a newspaper in her small central Iowa town. The Dayton Leader is actually the second newspaper serving the Webster County community located about 60 miles north of Des Moines.

By August, Breitsprecher decided to defy the popular sentiment that “print is dead” and head to the presses. Bloomquist took a break to concentrate on her family as Breitsprecher called on her husband, Dean, and children, Kelso, Josie and Patrick, to help produce and distribute the weekly newspaper. Even a neighbor was enlisted to deliver the paper to the doors of subscribers in Dayton and nearby Burnside, Lehigh and Harcourt.

The family of Kathlynn Shepard, the 15-year-old girl murdered in the May abduction, was the first print subscriber. Paid subscriptions have since surpassed 200 with many more issues sold at newstands and the local grocery store. The Facebook page, the print edition and the Leader’s website are unique but complementary components of the media operation on which Breitsprecher spends 50 hours per week. “Call it a midlife crisis, which is kind of what it is,” she said.

Breitsprecher has been involved in journalism since her junior year in high school in Nevada, Iowa. She was editor of her high school newspaper and yearbook and then editor of the Cosmos while attending Coe, where she majored in English and communication studies.

About 10 years ago, she was led to start writing again and won an Iowa Press Association award-winning column, “Coffee Break,” for a decade and even won the “Master Columnist” award one year. She also writes for Our Iowa magazine and other publications. Breitsprecher also works as an English, speech and theater instructor for Des Moines Area Community College, Buena Vista University at its Fort Dodge campus and Iowa Central Community College.

Five years ago, she received her master’s in literature with a concentration in Shakespeare from Iowa State University. “Always wanted to be a teacher, but I thought I’d teach journalism,” Breitsprecher said.

After her brother was diagnosed with brain cancer and her social worker husband took a significant pay cut, Breitsprecher took a job at Kohl’s to help bridge the financial gap. One missed family gathering was all it took to convince her to take a different approach, and the Leader was born.

Breitsprecher said she has a two-year break-even plan for the newspaper, and hasn’t yet borrowed money or tapped the family’s retirement nest egg. “It’s going OK,” she said.

Visit the Dayton Leader online at daytonleader.wix.com/daytonleader.
To say Pam Oldes ’03 won a restaurant is a gross oversimplification. More accurately, the winner of Iowa’s 2013 Best Bite Restaurant Challenge got several months of hard labor to convert a former sandwich shop into an upscale restaurant and sports bar in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

“I knew it was going to be a lot of work,” she said. “Until you’re doing it, you never really know.”

While the building underwent an extreme makeover – complete with expanded kitchen, 200-seat dining room, full-service bar, meeting room and downstairs reception hall with outdoor stage for weddings and concerts – Oldes was busy creating delectable dishes and finding vendors to cater to her preference for products that are fresh and locally grown.

“After doing a lot of research, I knew what would work in this town,” she said. “Until you’re doing it, you never really know.”

Tuesday through Sunday, Oldes is gearing up for a busy summer in her new hometown while already building a strong base of regular customers. “We have people who come in every night,” she said. Oldes moved to Oskaloosa after winning Iowa’s Best Bite Restaurant Challenge. Partnering with Shataya Bruce and Zane and Suzanne Muntz of Des Moines, the team earned $40,000 in cash, kitchen equipment, six months’ rent, TV commercials and various support services to open the restaurant. The prize package was valued at $153,000.

A finalist in the 2012 contest, Oldes decided to take another shot upon visiting the Oskaloosa building and seeing the potential. “I wasn’t going to do it again,” she said. “It was so much work and I was so disappointed when I didn’t win.”

As the contest rolls out for 2014, this year in West Liberty, Oldes is happy to let others pursue their dreams. “I won’t enter again, but I do dream of having another restaurant,” she said.

After two years at Ellsworth Community College, Oldes transferred to Coe and played basketball and softball while majoring in business administration and public relations. After graduation, she moved to Washington, D.C., and got a job in 401k investments. The desk job made her more mindful of her diet, which drew her to cooking.

“I didn’t want to give up the foods I loved, but I wanted to make them healthier,” she said.

One day while watching the Food Network, she saw an ad for culinary school. Plans to pursue her master’s soon changed and she enrolled in the School of Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management at Stratford University.

After graduating with honors, she opened her own personal chef business, Pots and Pam’s. Specializing in healthy New American, cooking for all types of clients helped diversify her culinary repertoire. She subsequently returned home to Des Moines, working as the culinary supervisor at Principal Financial and a restaurant consultant for the Grinnell Steakhouse.

Even as a chef and restaurant owner, Oldes utilizes her background in business and public relations every day. “I wouldn’t be where I am today without my Coe degree,” she said. “Cooking is sometimes just the easy part.”

Follow On the Green on Facebook or on the web at eatonthegreen.com.

Feeling Saucy

Coe business degree gives Oldes an edge in restaurant contest

Risotto tots, a favorite with Iowa’s Best Bite Restaurant Challenge judges, are a featured appetizer at On the Green.
Sandeep Giri ’04 never planned to attend Coe, much less major in physics. He also never dreamed he would one day work at Google [X], the semi-secret facility run by Google that is dedicated to making major technological advancements.

At Google’s corporate headquarters in Mountain View, Calif., Giri works at the lab focused on “moonshot” projects like self-driving cars, balloon-powered Internet service and Google Glass, a wearable computing device that displays information in a smartphone-like hands-free format and that can communicate with the Internet via voice commands.

The lab is overseen by Sergey Brin, one of Google’s co-founders, who sets aside a weekly time slot for one-on-one meetings with employees to discuss ideas or problems they may be having with their projects. “I consider myself very fortunate to work for him,” Giri said.

Giri learned about Coe from a high school friend in Kolkata, India. He wasn’t going to apply until a chance meeting with William P. and Gayle S. Whipple Professor of English Robert Drexler. After receiving a generous scholarship package, Giri arrived at Coe in 2000 and endured one of the worst winters in decades after having never before experienced snow.

“Coming to Coe was quite a cultural and geographical transition for me,” he said.

Giri planned to major in computer science, but added physics after taking an introductory class with B.D. Silliman Professor of Physics Steve Feller. He graduated cum laude in 2004 and made a lifelong friend in Feller.

“Doc Feller was the best thing to happen to me during my years at Coe,” said Giri, who returned to Coe for last summer’s Physics Reunion. “He helped launch my career and his motivation was contagious. We stay in touch very regularly.”

Research opportunities available through the Coe Physics Department allowed Giri to publish five papers and present them at over a dozen conferences as an undergraduate student, a fact that surprised graduate school colleagues at Stanford University and his Google co-workers.

“Research undertaken at Coe was an excellent experience,” Giri said. “The opportunities offered are a big reason for what I have been able to experience since then.”

While at Coe, Giri also served research internships at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory near Chicago and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. Accepted at eight of the nine graduate schools to which he applied, Giri chose to attend Stanford University.

“I think the graduate school decision had more to do with California and its weather and less to do with the department,” he said.

Wanting to get work experience in the tech industry, Giri left the Ph.D. program with a master’s in material science. “I think it’s one of the best decisions I’ve ever made,” he said. “I learned that sometimes quitting is a good move.”

Giri was hired as an engineer by Qualcomm in San Jose, Calif., and worked on display technology for e-readers, smart phones and smart watches. He also worked on solar technologies and filed several patents. He married his wife, Sonia, in 2009. They now have twin 3-year-old boys.

When Qualcomm moved its manufacturing to Taiwan, they sent Giri there in 2011. He gained valuable high volume manufacturing experience and enjoyed life as an expatriate. “If there’s one thing I would’ve done differently at Coe, it is to study abroad,” he said.

Immediately upon returning from Taiwan early last year, Giri began interviewing with Google, one of the Silicon Valley companies trying to bring manufacturing back to the U.S. He joined the Google special projects team in April and relishes the fast-paced culture that thinks big and empowers innovation.

“At heart, I’m an engineer,” Giri said. “I’m excited by ideas that are completely out of the box. The culture at Google [X] is very attractive to me.”
Information compiled in “Class Notes” comes from a variety of sources, including direct correspondence from alumni, clipping services and news releases. The college received these class notes by Feb. 1. The deadline for the summer issue is May 1. Announcements older than one year at the time they are submitted will not be published. Please follow these basic guidelines when submitting information:

**NEWS** – At least the following basic information should be provided with any submission: name and class year, spouse name and class year if Coe alum, city and state of residence and your news. Please spell out acronyms. Milestones (anniversaries, birthdays, etc.) will be noted only in five-year increments (25th, 30th, etc.).

**MARRIAGES AND ANNIVERSARIES** – Include both spouses’ full names (including birth/maiden names, where applicable) and complete date. Please notify us if your wedding is not able to be published based on an engagement announcement.

**BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS** – Include child’s first name, legal names of parents (mother’s birth/first name and father’s last name), mother’s maiden name (if published if Coe alum) and complete date.

**DEATHS** – Include full name, complete date and city/state of residence at time of death. Please include a newspaper obituary, if possible.

**PHOTOS** – Digital photos must be at least 300 dpi when sized to 3.75 inches wide. Please save photos as a TIFF or JPEG file. We must have the photographer’s permission to print a copyrighted photo. Please indicate if you would like prints.

Submit information to:
Courier editor at courier@coe.edu or phone (319) 563-4101 x1126.
Mail to 1220 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402. Information may also be submitted online at www.coe.edu/alumnisupdate.
Curt Menefee of Studio City, Calif., said attending Coe was proving in launching his prolific career in architecture on an Orange County Register feature story. Menefee, the host of “You NFL Sunday” — the highest-rated NFL pregame show — recently worked his third Super Bowl for Fox.

‘88 Jeanne Arrigo of Chicago is learning to play cello to add to her repertoire of instruments to make her a more versatile performer.

‘89 25TH REUNION: SEPT. 18-21, 2014

‘93 Vijay Gosula of Bahia, Brazil is a senior partner at Baker Tilly’s New York office.

‘94 20TH CLUSTER REUNION: OCT. 15-18, 2015

Laurie Arboro Garner is named as the weekday afternoon drive announcer at KXTC 92 FM, Kansas City’s top-rated NPR station. She takes listeners through the afternoon commute during “All Things Considered” and into the early evening hours during various other well-known public radio programs. She also does some digital audio production for the station.

Zain Haik of Houston is general manager for Shell Oil.

‘95 20TH CLUSTER REUNION: OCT. 15-18, 2015

Drew Davis’ company, Oxale Designs, won the most gold awards at the 55th annual American Design competition at NEA Nebraska’s The Show 2.2. With just nine golds awarded this year, Oxale was the only firm to earn two of the top awards. The Show is Nebraska’s biggest annual design competition. Oxale’s award-winning projects were the corporate headquarters for Contemporary Analysis and beer packaging for Zipline Brewing.

Lisa Smith of Shellsburg, Iowa, is a senior service representative at TransAmerica.

Shawn Freeman of Fort Worth, Texas, is a step-in-school coordinator for the Fort Worth Independent School District.

Cassie Sisson of Denver is an accounting technician/communication assistant for the city and county of Denver Department of Finance. She presented a paper titled “A Visit to the Network, an Ocean of Possibilities: The Affect of Postmodern Anxiety in David Lynch’s Inland Empire” at the Western States Communication Association Convention in February.

Holly Lundsager Zimmermann of Tillotson, Ill., is a vice president and treasury management consultant at Bankers Trust.

David Andrew of Cedar Rapids is a financial consultant at Dupaco Credit Union.

Heather Houzenaga of Savannah, Ill., opened Imaginart Center for the Arts in Mount Carroll. The art center houses a music studio and Art & Zen Art Gallery, which features the works of more than 20 artists, including her. She also is president of the Main Street Art Guild and is pursuing her master’s in art education while teaching art to K-6 students two days a week at Easton Valley Schools. She also manages Pizza Bella in Shullsburg.

Mike Leonard is a litigation associate with Lommen Almen. He and Tracy VanDeboom ’00 live in Oak Park, Ill.

Jon Dill of Grimes, Iowa, is membership manager for the Iowa Motor Truck Association.

Gina Flint of Shellsburg, Iowa, is a senior service representative at TransAmerica.

Swagato Chakraoty of New Haven, Conn., is pursuing his Ph.D. in film and media studies and art history at Yale University.

Gather is executive chef at Houston’s Overland Park, Kan. He and Danielle Jamison Gather “are super excited to be here,” Marc Gorenstein of Longmont, Colo., is a girls’ basketball coach at Clear Creek High School in Idaho Springs.

Amanda Havel received her master’s in architecture and took a position in Overland Park, Kan., as she continues her path to becoming a licensed architect.

Caitlin Staebell is pursuing her MFA at East 15 School of Acting in London.

Cassie Mitrovsky of Cedar Rapids was featured in the Gazette during National Adoption Month in November for adopting two sons from the foster care system.

Joe Brannen of San Angelo, Texas, is a coach with the San Antonio Bandits indoor football team.

Kate Schneider of Omaha, Neb., is a technical writer at Omnus.

Nick Zimmerman is a senior software engineer at AEGON Global Technology.

Chelsea Zaugn Zimmerman ’00 is a financial analyst at AEGON Global Technology.

Andrew Visser of Cedar Rapids is business development director at Ready Wireless.

Rebecca Benedict Tommington of Cedar Rapids is a graphic designer at BaffleCOD.

Chelsea Dowdell of Dubuque, Iowa, is a kindergarten teacher at Clear Lake Elementary School.

Alec Herr of Verona, Wis., works in the finance department at Epic Systems.

Alli Dickman Thompson is director of communications for the Iowa Barnstormers. She and Zach Thompson in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Jeffrey Allen of Solon, Iowa, is an assistant professor at Rockwell Collins.

Sierra Boley of Cedar Rapids is hourly facilitator at LynnHaven.

Tasha Brink of Cedar Rapids is an accountant at Compass Commercial Services.

Allison Charles of Wauwatosa, Wis., is a customer service specialist at Footlocker.com/Earthly.

Sara Heizer of Cedar Rapids is an admissions counselor at Coe.

Alex Nichols of Deerfield, Ill., is investment relations manager at Caterpillar.

Christopher King of Cedar Rapids is department coordinator for business information and technology at Kirkwood Community College.

Kaitlin Lubahn of Waukee, Iowa, is a production artist at EastBay.

Caitlin McGowen of Dubuque, Iowa, is an executive team lead at Target.

Stephen Scarrott of Clear Lake, Iowa, is a kindergarten teacher at Clear Lake Elementary School.

Alex Shields of Cedar Rapids is associate music director at Flat Rock Playhouse.

Joe Sorenson of Cedar Rapids is a youth specialist at Foundation 2 Youth Shelter.

Benjamin Strelner of Schaumburg, Ill., is an account manager at C.H. Robinson.

Lynette Volden of South Lomond, Minn., is an AmeriCorps state member for Vermont Youth Development Corp.

Delisle Yacab of Chicago is an account manager at Cooper Concepts.

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MARRIAGES

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SPRING 2014 COE COLLEGE COURIER www.coe.edu

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1986 Erika Linden and Randy Thompson of West Des Moines, Iowa, on Dec. 21.
Kim Rust and Ken Overeif of Marion, Iowa, on Oct. 5.

1987 Kathryn Becker and Ezra Colon of Albuquerque, N.M., on Aug. 23. They are both actors and members of the Duke City Repertory Theatre.

1988 Helinda Sheckles and Jim DeChick of Auburn, N.Y., on Aug. 4.

Jessica Johnson and Nick Gabriel of Cedar Rapids on Aug. 3.

1991 Balam of Silver Spring, Md., on Aug. 9.

1992 Axl and her husband, Jamison, of Cross Plains, Wis., on Oct. 11.

1993 Tamara Loan of Silver Spring, Md., on Aug. 10.

1994 Sarah Carlin and Rick Patch of Rochester, Minn., in May.

2000 Carissa Wiederholt Wolfer and her husband, Jason, of Cross Plains, Wis., a daughter, Elise, on Dec. 6.

2001 Scott Holland and Kristie Workman Holland ‘02 of Gurnee, Ill., a son, Isaac, on Oct. 11.

2002 Jessica Schau and Rick Patch of Rochester, Minn., Iowa, a daughter, Addison, on Sept. 19.


2004 Matt Steele ‘03 and Jeff Redick were (left to right) Rachel Andrews ‘07, Aubrey Miles, Liz, Stephanie Jackson and ‘07, Ana Natkins and Kristin Toerpe Steele ’09. The couple lives in Des Moines, Iowa.

2005 Erik Chavarin Bailey and her husband, Scott, of Colorado Springs, Colo., a daughter, Reagan, on Oct. 2.

2006 Zach Dillon and Danielle James Dillon ’08 of Cedar Rapids, a daughter, Jaxon, on Aug. 24.

2007 Chris Adair and Jackie Bruso Adair of Cedar Rapids, a daughter, Harper, on May 1.

2008 Among those attending the Oct. 12 wedding of Liz Miles ’07 and Jeff Redick were (left to right) Rachel Andrews ‘07, Aubrey Miles, Liz, Stephanie Jackson and ’07, Ana Natkins and Kristin Toerpe Steele ’09. The couple lives in Des Moines, Iowa.

2009 Kory Winsor and Megan Manske Winsor ’07 of Atkins, Iowa, a daughter, Katie, on Dec. 29.

2010 Jennifer Anderson Tyler and Matthew Tyler of Evanston, Ill., a daughter, Claire, on Oct. 29.

2011 Abby Sweet Schmitz and Brandon Schmitz ’05 of Norwalk, Iowa, a daughter, Charlotte, on Nov. 14.

2012 Eric Wood and Samantha Sikrisamouth ’13 of Cedar Rapids on June 29.

2013 Among those attending the July 6 wedding of Penni Tierney ‘91 and Michael Haar ‘91 in Las Vegas were Derek Cole ‘93, Mark Haar ‘92, Paul Teget ‘91, Jennifer Potter Teget ‘91, Allen Kassabbaum ‘93 and Kelly Wylie Week ‘91. The couple lives in San Antonio, Texas.

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BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

2000 Gretchen Lewis Kleint and her husband, Greg, of Ander, on March 8, 2013.

2001 Jake Owens and Maggie Snell Owens ’05 of Cedar Rapids, a daughter, Emerson, on June 17.

2005 Sydney, on Aug. 6.


2007 Lisa Thornburg and Jared Creason and Jessica Zimmerman Creason of Indianapolis, Ind., a son, Roub, on April 1.

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Marie Quasa Avascelo, 96, of Cedar Rapids, on Jan. 20. After teaching elementary grade in Newton in 1940, she earned a bachelor’s with a certificate in public health nursing and a bachelor’s with a certificate in botany from the University of Minnesota. She held a 45-year military career, he received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He was a member of the Iowa Crime Prevention Board. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Lois Erdahl.

Dorothea Hartley Flynn, 86, of Edina, Minn., on Nov. 11. She taught music at Rockford, Ill., where she worked for five years. She taught private singing and instrumental lessons from her home for many years. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Loe, 92, of Edina, Minn., on Nov. 13.

Eldridge Timm, 89, of Rock Island, Ill., on Dec. 29. His college years were interrupted by his military service during World War II and was thrilled to go on an Honor Flight in April. He started with Iowa Mutual New York Insurance Co. in 1948 and was a member of the Iowa Crime Prevention Board. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Doreen, 211 First Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52201; three children, Wayne, of Cedar Rapids, and Dixie Saur Grote of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and four great-grandchildren.

Collette Lewis Ferguson, 81, of Cedar Rapids, on Nov. 9. She taught music in Boulder and Cedar Rapids schools for five years. She taught vocal and piano lessons and instrumental lessons from her home for many years. She is survived by her husband of 17 years, Loe, 92, of Edina, Minn., on Nov. 13. She taught music at Ray (Micoy) Hartman of Pierre, S.D.

William Severa, 70, of Cedar Rapids, on Nov. 6. He was a member of the Masonic Order and the Legion of Merit and the USAF Academy. During his 45-year military career, he received the Legion of Merit and the USAF Lifetime Achievement Award. He was a member of the Iowa Crime Prevention Board. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Doreen, 211 First Av. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52201; three children, Wayne, of Cedar Rapids, and Dixie Saur Grote of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and four great-grandchildren.

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Wallace Christen, 78, of Anamosa, Iowa, on Oct. 14. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Judi, of Bloomington, Minn.; and a grandson.

Judith Dunley Elchibur, 76, of Lake Kiowa, Texas, on Jan. 17. She served eight years as president of the volunteer fire department in Lake Kiowa. She is survived by her husband, Jerry; two daughters, Karen Johnson of Elkhart and Joy Daniel of Tintahka, Okla.; and grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren.

Phyllis Franta Iluay, 89, of Marion, Iowa, on Dec. 30. She received her master’s degree from the University of Northern Iowa. She was a teacher for both the Linn- Mar and Marion Independent School districts for many years. She is survived by her mother, Margaret B. Franta of Cedar Rapids; a sister, Muriel Arntzen of Marion; a grandson; and a brother, Doug Franta of Davenport.

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Ronald White, 77, of Rossona, Minn., on Dec. 27. He owned and operated the volunteer fire department in Little Rock, Ark. She continued her career as a physical education coach and a referee throughout the Rockford (Ill.) School District for many years until she retired. She is survived by her husband, Robert Nolen, 4-6473 Cee Cee Rd., LaVille, KY 40194; a daughter, Cathleen Hamm of Bardstown; a son, Robert Nolen of Richmond, Ky.; and five grandchildren.

Franny Girlando and Andrew; and a sister, Marjorie Chapman Jordan, 80, of Cedar Rapids Jan. 11. She attended Austin High School, Bill Jordan of Cedar Rapids; two daughters, Kathy Litow and her husband, Charles Litow; and a brother, Charles Litow Jr., 2201 Washington Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402, and Karen Van.

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Judith Dunley Elchibur, 76, of Lake Kiowa, Texas, on Jan. 17. She served eight years as president of the volunteer fire department in Lake Kiowa. She is survived by her husband, Jerry; two daughters, Karen Johnson of Elkhart and Joy Daniel of Tintahka, Okla.; and grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren.

Phyllis Franta Iluay, 89, of Marion, Iowa, on Dec. 30. She received her master’s degree from the University of Northern Iowa. She was a teacher for both the Linn- Mar and Marion Independent School districts for many years. She is survived by her mother, Margaret B. Franta of Cedar Rapids; a sister, Muriel Arntzen of Marion; a grandson; and a brother, Doug Franta of Davenport.

Ronald White, 77, of Rossona, Minn., on Dec. 27. He owned and operated the volunteer fire department in Little Rock, Ark. She continued her career as a physical education coach and a referee throughout the Rockford (Ill.) School District for many years until she retired. She is survived by her husband, Robert Nolen, 4-6473 Cee Cee Rd., LaVille, KY 40194; a daughter, Cathleen Hamm of Bardstown; a son, Robert Nolen of Richmond, Ky.; and five grandchildren.

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FACULTY & STAFF

For a more complete list of faculty accomplishments, visit www.coe.edu/dean and click on "faculty accomplishments."

Alma A. Turechek Professor of Music William Carson and Assistant Professor of Rhetoric Karen Sindelar performed in Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre’s production of Carmen.

Jason Clapp joined Coe as registrar and evening service at Mount Mercy University in the same capacity since 2008. He replaces Evelyn Moore, who resigned to become registrar and professor of nursing.

Rob DeSpain ‘04 came back to Coe as archives assistant in September to work with Margaret Haupt, Herschel Wiese, and Jim Cottingham.

Scott Burke welcomed a son, Walter, on Sept. 18.

Mary euch and Jim Cottingham.

Also attending, but not pictured, was Lloyd Sanford.

Teresa Reuter joined Coe as medical assistant to the Office of Health Services. She replaced Michele Owoswe, who resigned to pursue another opportunity.

Professor Emeritus of Biology Floyd Sanford spent several days in February in Santa Barbara, Calif., as a guest of the Santa Barbara Humanists during their Darwin Day celebration. He gave two lectures on Darwin to the Vistas Lifelong Learning Group, then performed his one-man play “Darwin in Remembering” the following day at Santa Barbara City College.

Physics Teacher (Vol.52, Issue 1) and “Tips and Tricks for Supporting Undergraduates” printed in Radiations. Associate Professor of Spanish Mónica Puertas-Arboix had her book review of Josep M. Domingo’s Barcelona i els Jocs Florals, 1859 published in Catalan Review.

Coe Fund Director Katie Kahler resigned to become associate director of events at the University of Iowa’s College of Health Sciences.

Admission Office Records Supervisor Erica Leuenberger and Zachary Holk welcomed a son, Walter, on Sept. 18.

The Center for the Study of Glass sets Coe apart

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The Treandy distinguished for decades of glass research, Coe College now has an academic center focused on the field. The Center for the Study of Glass was dedicated Oct. 21 at a ceremony featuring Alfred University Professor Emeritus of Glass Science L. David Pyle, a former president of the American Ceramic Society and of the International Commission on Glass. Coe joins Alfred as the only U.S. colleges with centers focused on glass study.

Calling it “the liberal arts ideal,” Coe President David McNally remarked how the center will help the college fulfill its mission by supporting interdisciplinary studies, providing students with new opportunities for research and learning, and building on the international reputation of students and faculty in the study of glass.

“One of the most exciting features of scholarly centers is the opportunity to teach, learn and do research at the boundaries of traditional disciplines,” McNally said. Initially proposed by Fran Allison and Francis Halpin Professor of Physics Mario Affatigato ’89 in 2012, the concept was approved by former President James Phifer with the assent of the Board of Trustees. The center was launched in January 2013, although it started formally on July 1.

Affatigato proposed the center after noting Coe was behind many peer institutions in the formation of scholarly centers. The center is also expected to add credibility to external grant applications.

“You need something that says you’re a big player,” Affatigato said.

In addition to Affatigato, B.D. Silliman Professor of Physics Steve Feller and Assistant Professor of Physics Ugur Akgun, the center is staffed by the Center for the Study of Glass.

Inspired by the opening of the center, administrators have submitted a white paper that may lead to its first grant application with the National Science Foundation. Under the proposal, Glass Center faculty will work with students and scientists from U.S. Borax to determine whether boric glasses can be used to create a fertilizer delivery system for sustainable agriculture – a problem that draws not only upon the expertise of physicists and biologists, but that also has economic and political implications for developing countries. The center also hosted visiting researchers from Japan and Italy last fall.

“...It helps set Coe apart,” he said. “I hope we do another one or two.”

Except for start-up costs, administrators believe ongoing costs of the center can be covered by external grants. Initially, college funds are needed for bringing speakers to campus, sending faculty to glass conferences and an annual student research project supervised by faculty from two different departments.

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It’s just that simple.

A gift to support the Coe Fund touches every facet of the institution’s life. For this reason, few gifts are of greater importance and value to the college than those that support continuing operations.

Alumni participation rates are very important for reasons well beyond financial support. Prospective students and their families rely on college ranking guides as a resource when deciding which college to attend. A crucial factor used to determine this rank is alumni participation, which reflects the degree to which alumni feel their collegiate experience was enjoyable, rewarding and beneficial. In addition, foundations and corporations also look at alumni participation when evaluating funding requests. That’s why participation at any level will improve this important benchmark and enliven the spirits of all those striving to raise Coe to an ever-higher level.

Please take advantage of a special offer by six alumni and support Coe. Any gift of any size to the Coe Fund received between Feb. 16 and June 30 will be matched one-to-one by Dave Carson ’72 and Mary Bridenstine Carson ’73, Ken Golder ’82 and Sue Roe Golder ’82, and Gene Henderson ’68 and Glenda Sullivan Henderson ’75.

Contact Kelly Allen at kallen@coe.edu or 319-329-8943 or 1-800-324-8404, ext. 8592 if you would like to make a gift to the Coe Fund and support Coe.