



THE

# COSMOS

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CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

## MILD WEATHER AIDS WORK



*Construction continues on Eby Fieldhouse Dec. 1. Executive Vice President Michael White said College Drive will not close until the week of Dec. 19. Continued on pg. 2.*

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## Construction continues on Eby

**Lisa McDonald**  
Editor-in-chief

Thanks to building-friendly weather, a lot of headway has been made on the Eby Fieldhouse construction, Executive Vice President Michael White said.

"The floors are almost all in," White said, "with the exception of the area to the south, where the new strength and conditioning room will be."

White said once the walls are installed to ensure climate control, the floor will be poured in that area.

Though a construction update email sent Nov. 15 stated College Drive would be closed the week of Dec. 5 to build the sky bridge connecting Clark Racquet Center and Eby, that construction has been moved to the week of Dec. 19, White said.

White added occasional one-lane closures can be expected to occur during the spring semester.

Along with the installation of the sky bridge, the existing fitness center will be closed during winter break to begin converting the area into additional locker room space. The fitness room equipment will be moved

into the current weight room and Clark Racquet Center. However, White said, further relocation of the equipment will be necessary since the current weight room is also slotted to be turned into additional locker room space.

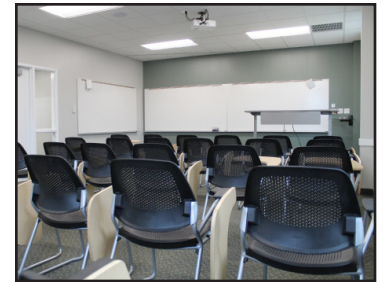
"There is going to be probably a stretch here where the weight room will be relocated and they'll have some weights in various areas," White said. Further details regarding that arrangement will come after winter break.

"It's going to be kind of an inconvenience for the spring term," White said, "but once it's done it will be a lot better."

While there is still a lot of work to be done on

Eby, White said, Hickok renovations are almost fully complete. The last major planned addition to Hickok is the elevator, and delays with the elevator firm currently have the installation occurring in January 2017.

"You'll still be able to get to the new classrooms and everything," White said, since virtually all the work will be contained in the elevator shaft and in the elevator service areas.



*Above, completed classroom in Hickok Dec. 1.*

*Below, construction of the new fitness center and classroom spaces on, top, Sept. 22 and, bottom, Dec. 1.*

*Photos by Lisa McDonald.*



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# A "Fun Home" for the holidays

**Mai Fukuhara**  
Staff writer

On Jan. 12 at 7 p.m., Coe Alliance and the English Department will hold the Winter Read with the support of the Committee on Diversity.

The Winter Read started in January 2016. This will be the second annual Winter Read.

The purpose of The Winter Read is to gather a diverse group of students, faculty and staff to read a common book and discuss its relation to social issues and politics.

In addition, The Winter Read would like to emphasize literature addressing sociopolitical struggles and inequality.

For this year's event,

Thomas Petrino ('17) selected Alison Bechdel's "Fun Home." It was named the best book of 2006 by Time magazine and the stage adaptation won a Tony Award for Best Musical in 2015.

"Fun Home" is a memoir in the style of a graphic novel. Bechdel wrote about her family, her father and herself. Bechdel discussed finding out her father had secret relationships with men at a time she was discovering her own lesbian identity, and shortly before her father's death.

Petrino gave three reasons for choosing "Fun Home."

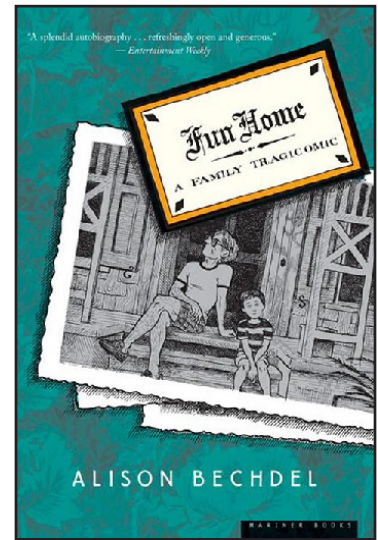
First is "Fun Home" socially relevant. Second is Petrino thought Coe

College students should read graphic novels and memoirs to appreciate these genres can be as literary as more traditional genres.

The third reason Petrino gave is since "Fun Home" is a memoir by an influential lesbian, Petrino believes this book will help people understand sexuality and the problems that LGBTQIA+ face in American society.

The first group of students to sign up can receive a free copy of "Fun Home." For people interested in the Winter Read, they can contact Coe Alliance at [coealliance@coe.edu](mailto:coealliance@coe.edu).

Petrino said he hopes The Winter Read will become an annual tradition.



*Alison Bechdel's memoir Fun Home tells Bechdel's story of discovering her father had secret relationships with men, while Bechdel discovers her own lesbian identity. Photo courtesy of Inside Higher Ed.*

## Need help with grad school application fees?

Need monetary assistance paying for graduate school applications? The Lipsky Graduate Application Fund, founded by former Coe College Board of Trustees member Joan Lipsky, will pay for three graduate school applications to schools on the approved list.

All schools on the list are major schools outside of Iowa, with the deadline to apply for these funds being January 23, 2017.

The application requires



*Joan Lipsky gave the Class of 2014 Commencement Address.*

*Photo courtesy of Coe College.*

a letter of recommendation from a faculty member who can speak about the student's academic work at Coe and likelihood of future success in their chosen field.

An email with more details and the application form will be sent from the Provost's Office early next week, so keep an eye out for it.

Students with questions may contact Assistant Professor of English Amber Shaw at [AShaw@coe.edu](mailto:AShaw@coe.edu).

## A cue for diversity

**Rachel Deyoe**  
Staff writer

Just before Thanksgiving break, on Nov. 16, members of BSEO and the theatre department met to discuss diversity in theatre.

According to Professor of Theatre Dennis Barnett, the issue was brought up by an actor wanting to know more about how the cast was chosen.

“It’s been an issue for years,” said Barnett. Barnett explained that achieving diversity in a cast can be difficult.

“We only do three shows a year,” Barnett said, “and the majority of our [theatre] majors are white.”

However, Barnett said, the theatre department uses a system called blind casting, meaning that actors are cast based on their ability to perform, not on race. Barnett mentioned that campus emails calling for tryouts normally carry the message that the shows are open to all students.

“But,” Barnett added, “that doesn’t say it specifically enough. We needed to know that our message wasn’t getting out.”

When scripts are chosen that are traditionally cast with white actors, minority students can feel discouraged about trying out.

“They’re going to look at

some of the scripts we pick,” Barnett said, “and not know we want them to come. It’s going to increase competition, but that’s good; it gives us the best outcome.”

On the flip side, choosing plays cast traditionally with non-white actors can be difficult, as there may not be enough minority actors interested in performing.

“Until we have a sizeable minority involvement, we can’t do those plays,” Barnett said.

In this sense, blind casting only works in one direction.

“I’d cast an African-American as Willie Loman in *Death of a Salesman*, any day,” Barnett explained, “but I couldn’t cast a white actor as Ma Rainey in *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom*.”

The hope for the future is clearer and more direct communication with BSEO and Multicultural Fusion about the plays chosen and the roles that are available to anyone. Furthermore, the department is now offering a minority fellowship position.

“It will increase the diversity of the department to have a professor who is also part of an underrepresented community,” Barnett said.

As the Chair of the Committee on Diversity, Barnett is aware of the work that still needs to be done.

“We’ve made a lot of prog-



*Above: Okieriete Onaodowan, second from left, plays the role of Hercules Mulligan during the first act of Hamilton. In the play, famous white American historical figures are played by people of diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds. Photo courtesy of New Jersey On-Line.*

*Below: Public debate arose following Noma Dumezweni's casting as Hermione Granger in the stage production of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. Photo courtesy of PA Images.*



ress, and there’s a lot of progress still to make,” Barnett said. “There’s a lot of learning that has to be done by both parties here to make Coe the diverse and cohesive campus that we dream of.”

## New faces of Coe: Nathan Hodges

**Yuan Chai**  
Staff writer

A new Coe professor says he finds vulnerability a strong tool for teaching. Coe Rhetoric Department welcomed Assistant Professor of Communication Studies Nathan Hodges to the staff this year. As a new professor in the department, Hodges said he tries to foster an open, vulnerable atmosphere in class.

"My hope is my vulnerability will bring their vulnerability out," Hodges said. "Most of my classes are about building a personal community and hopefully being able to talk about some of things we rarely talk about for fear of being judged or ridiculed."

Hodges said he believes it's important to open up, take risks and play in the classroom.

"I try to have fun and we play in class a lot," explained Hodges. "I talk about myself as a human being, not just as a teacher, including my fears, failures, silly thoughts, and insecurities...I want to relate to students on a human level."

Hodges said his passion for a personal, open classroom atmosphere

derived from his experience in high school.

"I wasn't a very good student in high school," Hodges said. "I wasn't good at a standardized way of thinking. I was always the person challenging authority and that usually got me into trouble."

Hodges believes that critical, trouble-making self is still a part of who he is today.

"There are some aspects of that younger me still alive today," Hodges said. "Professors are often appreciated for challenging authority."

"Whereas in high school it's more about standardized way of thinking," Hodges said, "I am now at a place where it's okay to push boundaries and to question everything."

Hodges said he believes the opportunity to be in a college classroom is a privilege many students take for granted.

"How many other places in your life [besides a college classroom] do you have an opportunity to get fifteen to twenty people together to argue and share perspectives?" Hodges said. "Teaching is a great way to have a career in which I am able to



*Nathan Hodges, new associate professor of communication studies, said he hopes by showing his vulnerability in the classroom, it will help students feel comfortable showing their vulnerability as well.*

*Photo by Antonio Perez.*

hear diverse perspectives and argue about ideas, to exercise my critical thinking and creativity everyday."

When Hodges graduated from the University of South Florida this past spring, he said he wanted to find a college where he could teach with this openness.

"I came to [Coe] for the interview in January," Hodges said, "and I knew right when I stepped on campus that I fit in."

"This place is very similar to my undergrad [Manchester College]," Hodges said. "I know the feeling of being in a small

community where people know each other and people walk by, smile, and know your name because I had that as a student. I want to be part of that as a professor."

Hodges said he loves to play board games, watch documentaries and workout in his free time. As a wrestler during his undergraduate days at Manchester College, Hodges said he had the opportunity to wrestle a Coe student.

"I got beat by him, so that's how I knew Coe was a good school," Hodges said.

## Volleyball makes IIAC Tournament finals

**Ryan Izer**  
Sports editor

Kohawk volleyball advanced to the IIAC Tournament finals held on Saturday, Nov. 5. The team met Wartburg in the conference championship, and lost 3 sets to 1 in a hard-fought conference matchup. The last time the Kohawk volleyball team made the conference finals was in 2014. The 2014 team won the conference title in the regular season as well as the tournament that year.

Some highlights from the championship included Lindsey Koch's ('19) career high 23 kills, which

tied her for fourth best in school history in a four-set match. Hanna Reese ('17) had 44 assists and 16 digs, tallying up her 19th double-double of the season. Madi Miller ('19) added a strong 18 digs to the Kohawk stat sheet as she lead in the digs category.

"Team chemistry was awesome and they did a great job of focusing on getting better at the little things that make a big difference every day," Coach DeAnn Woodin said. "Everyone understood and embraced their role, putting their team ahead of themselves. Many adjusted well and stepped up

when their team needed it the most."

"It was a very fun year with this team, both on and off the court," Woodin said. "They challenged each other and really took ownership in their own development and team success."

"I'm proud of their accomplishments, but more importantly of the awesome and amazing young

women they are becoming," Woodin said. "The best is yet to come, and that makes me excited and inspired to work with them as much as I can."

The Kohawks ended the season 23-11 for an overall record and 5-3 in the conference. The future Kohawks expect nothing but similar results next year hoping to take the conference title.

### WEEKLY SUDOKU

Submit your completed sudoku to the *Cosmos* email to be entered into our monthly drawing to have your photo published.

1	2	4		3		9	6	
3			9	6		1	4	
		9		2	1			3
		5	1				2	
	8				5	7		
8			3	5		6		
	1	6		8	9			5
	3	2		1		8	7	9

Sudoku courtesy of www.websudoku.com

In response to student requests, two additional staff members have been added with whom students can do their intake and formal reporting of a sexual assault:

**Krista Kronstein**  
Director of Residence Life & Sexual Misconduct Coordinator  
Student Development Suite in Upper Gage  
kkronstein@coe.edu  
319-399-8843

**Tess Werner**  
Human Resources and Payroll Coordinator  
Business Office - Lower Voorhees  
twerner@coe.edu  
319-399-8098

**Tom Hicks**  
Dean of Students & Title IX Coordinator  
Student Development Suite in Upper Gage  
thicks@coe.edu  
319-399-8843

All reports will be sent to Kronstein, and she will contact students to offer them these three intake options.