Long Night Against Procrastination's Return Comes with Mixed Results

Long Night Against Procrastination took place in Stewart Memorial Library on Thursday, February 21 and roughly 130 students attended the event.

"I think Long Night is a great opportunity to study with your friends as long as you don't get distracted," said Logan Rockwell ('22). "It does seem like a long night, but not necessarily against procrastination."

The relatively small turnout allowed students to work better and kept the noise at a reasonable level for people to actually complete their assignments. It also meant that food was not gone too quickly.

"This my second year doing Long Night Against Procrastination and I think that it is a good opportunity for students to get motivated to do work during a stressful time of the semester with mid-term exams coming up and essays to write," said Deborah Kim ('21).

This year's Long Night came with a couple of twists: instead of simply staying at the event long enough to be able to win a t-shirt, students were required to fill out a passport with activities such as Writing Center and Speaking Center conferences, tutoring sessions, professor's office hours, etc. in order to be eligible to win a t-shirt. The idea, said Rockwell, is to "make students study with their friends and I think it is a good distraction," said Logan Rockwell ('22).

Students study together during Late Night Against Procrastination. Photo by: Lauren Hansen

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Cedar Rapids Weekly Forecast

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Courtesy of the National Weather Service
however, did not pan out entirely, as the activities were disproportionately geared toward underclassmen. As a result, not many were completed and by the end of the night there were many leftover t-shirts left.

“I think that it is harder for upperclassmen to obtain challenges for the passport because most upper classes don't have SI sessions to attend, nor do they have essays to revise for classes unless its for scholarship applications,” said Kim. “I feel like if professors for every major also came, then studying could have been more effective and students could get signatures for their passports. Many students this year were not able to receive a t-shirt because they weren’t willing to do the passport challenges.”

There are still about 100 T-shirts available. Any student who completes three of the challenges in the passport before the end of term can get one while supplies last. Allison Carr will send an email out after spring break explaining the process, but there will most likely be a designated time once a week when passports can be redeemed.

“We tried a new thing to try to control for some of that chaos and I think maybe we overcorrected a little bit, so we’re still working on that,” said Assistant Professor of Rhetoric Allison Carr, coordinator of Long Night. “Certainly the idea that there were not enough things in the passport to apply to older students, that’s not something I thought about when I put it together. I didn’t think about the way those resources are useful in different ways depending on how advanced you are in your program, so I’m glad to know that now. Now we just need to figure out...how do we get enough people in the library to make it sort of a fun event where work can still be done and prizes can be earned and people can feel like it was not a waste of their time.”

Adjustments will be made before the next Long Night which will return in the fall.

“It is still a goal to try to control a little bit of the chaos, but I want to do so in a way that still makes students excited and I think that that element was missing this year,” said Carr.
Kohawks and Cedar Rapids Community Have a Taste of International Cuisine

Administrative staff, faculty, community members and students alike all had a taste of international cuisine as the Coe College International Club held the annual International Banquet on Sunday, February 24. The banquet featured 15 cuisines native to 11 different countries.

“It was amazing that we could enjoy such diverse dishes from different corners of the world,” stated Mohamad Talal Khan (21’) who hails from Pakistan. “Although I personally could not help this time, I could see that a large fraction of international students really put in a tremendous amount of effort to prepare the food, which was absolutely delicious.”

International, as well as domestic students started prepping for their native dishes as early as Friday last week and worked throughout the weekends to replicate the taste of food they enjoyed in their home countries. However, the real spectacle was international students working together preparing the different dishes for the banquet as not only Kohawks who have had the various dishes before help in its preparation but also students who have never had the dish are willing to help and learn how the food is prepared.

“The International Banquet is a unique opportunity for students to represent their culture through food important part of their lives that helps them connect to their childhood and family,” stated Abhinav Shrestha, the President of the International Club. “But honestly the best thing I love about the banquet is seeing people help each other out, learning about the dish and its relevance in the process, and sharing experiences of their own.”

The different dishes adhering from different countries not only treated many taste buds who had never had specific dishes before, but, at the same time was also authentic enough to bring in nostalgia of their childhood to students who came from a diverse background.

“My favorite part of the banquet was eating Japanese comfort food,” stated Mary McCormick, who is half Japanese. “It made me really miss my mom, in fact I called her right after the banquet. I also loved trying every single dish and learning about the culture behind it since I was sitting with the student chefs at the event. Food is communion and we were full of both!”

“You have to be very generous to be willing to share your culture, your food and your music and make so much effort to put everything together,” said Coe College President, David McInally, speaking with Cosmos after the event. “I am very thrilled to have had the opportunity to experience such diversity and teamwork among Coe Students and I appreciate the hard work of all the students who volunteered to make this event a great one.”
Kohawks Say Goodbye to Vice President of Student Development Erik Albinson

On Friday, February 22, Coe College said goodbye to Erik Albinson, Vice President for Student Development and Senior Diversity Officer. Albinson, who had joined the Kohawk community in 2007 as Director of Res Life, worked as Associate Dean of Students and Dean of Students before becoming Vice President. As such, his role included overseeing the entire Student Affairs program, from International Affairs to Diversity and Inclusion to Health Services to Residence Life, and being in charge of the Title IX program.

After getting his Master's in Higher Education Administration, Albinson started working at Washington University in St Louis and soon after his friend Josh Walehwa suggested him to interview at Coe.

“It was my one small college interview ... and I just fell in love with it,” said Albinson. “The experience, the closeness between faculty staff and students, as I set foot on campus I knew I had to work here. So I did.”

Albinson will soon start a job as Director of Students Educational Services at Marquette University, in Wisconsin. His decision comes as an attempt to bring his wife and two children closer to family.

“My main focus there will be students’ success,” explained Albinson. “I will oversee tutoring, a few scholarship programs for low income students, retention responses, and I’ll teach a students success course with faculty. It is about the same work I have been doing here, except I’m not gonna be doing any of the crisis responses.”

After 12 years at Coe, Albinson said to be grateful for the opportunity to explore leadership positions and said he’ll definitely miss the faculty, students, and staff, the sense of the community, and the close relationships he formed at Coe.

“Working with the senior staff and making decisions on behalf of the whole college has taught me a lot about higher education, so I’ll be taking that back with me,” said Albinson. “I am really grateful to president McInally and I’ve learned a lot about his leadership style, which is very optimistic, and very compassionate.”

On Thursday, February 21 at 3 pm, students and faculty gathered in CJ Lynch Room, Lower Gage, for a Farewell Reception meant to celebrate Albinson’s work at Coe and to wish him a great start at his new job. Albinson said he looks forward to having a new Vice President, but as for now, Tom Hicks will be interim Vice President of Student Affairs.

“Deep learning happens through relationships,” said Albinson. “College is one of those experiences where you get out what you put in, so get involved, make friends with people that are different than you, and really push yourself to form strong relationships.”
Coe Hosts Weekend Long Jazz Summit Festival

Last weekend, from Thursday, February 21 to Saturday, February 23, Coe hosted a Jazz Summit Festival in Sinclair.

Schools from all over Iowa came and performed for the community and students while being coached.

For Class 4A in first place we had Linn-Mar HS Jazz I directed by Dan Terrell. Lastly, for Class 4A we had Iowa City West High School Jazz Ensemble directed by Rich Medd.

For the Saturday night Grand Finale Concert the summit

Jazz Orchestra Performs in Sinclair Auditorium
Photo by: Cynthia Salgado

Delta Delta Delta Sorority Holds 19th Annual Dessert Gala

On Saturday, February 23rd Delta Delta Delta sorority held their 19th annual dessert gala fundraiser where all proceeds benefit St. Jude's Children Research Hospital. The event took place in Gage Memorial Union, where not only were there desserts, but also a silent auction, and materials to make cards for kids.

“I’m really excited because it is our biggest fundraiser,” said Piper Cooper (‘22). “It’s a nice event to go with friends and family. It’s a great opportunity to raise money for St. Jude’s and you get the opportunity to make cards for the kids.”

“Each year, Deltas struggle to obtain donations from local businesses,” stated Dana Dela Fuente (‘20) “But it makes it all worth it for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital since we raised over $4k this year just from this event alone. Lots of stress such as technical difficulties occurred, but it was successful and everyone enjoyed it.”

Event poster provided by Delta Delta Delta
Coe Indoor Track and Field Teams Compete at Conference

On Friday, February 22, the American Rivers Conference indoor track and field conference meet was hosted at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. Out of the nine teams competing, the Coe women’s team finished eighth in team scoring with 14 points while the men’s team finished ninth after scoring 14 points as well. While those certainly were not results many athletes on the team wanted to see after a long indoor season full of personal records and continuous improvement, head coach Matthew Barreau says he hopes all athletes learn from the meet.

“I want everyone on the team to take the disappointments as fuel,” says Barreau. “Failures and success go hand in hand—we are driven by our disappointments and failure just as much as our success. There were many successes throughout the day with multiple PR’s set and more events scoring points than last year.”

The points for the women’s team came from runners Marion Edwards (‘22) in the 60-meter dash, Katalina Stai (‘20) in the 3000-meter, and thrower Tieranny Keahna (‘20) in the weight throw. Also contributing to the women’s point total was a distance medley relay consisting of McKayla Morris (2019), Rachel Kelly (‘19), Dana Koester (‘20), and Stai. On the men’s side, points were scored by all four relay teams, along with a sixth-place finish by Jackson Varney (‘21) in the long jump.

A major point of focus Barreau wanted his athletes to take away was that getting better is about raising the normal or bad performances, not just getting a new best every week.

“When a ‘bad’ performance is consistently better than that same person’s marks from last year, that is sign of improvement,” said Barreau. “Raising the floor is an important aspect of getting better that most people forget about.”

Despite a low placing in the team standings for both the men and women, there was a lot of momentum built up throughout the indoor season that will push the team into their outdoor season. With that being said, there is a lot of excitement throughout the team regarding their upcoming outdoor season.

“I’m hoping we can take all the lessons we learned this past season, all the positives and the negatives, and use them to point us in the right direction,” continues Barreau. “If we can do that, we have a chance to have a great outdoor season.”
Gabriel Davidovich, Argentina’s Chief Rabbi was attacked in his home during a home intrusion. Him and his wife were restrained and he is being treated for injuries including a punctured lung.

American Danny Burch has been reunited with his family after being released. Burch was kidnapped in 2017 by the Houthi rebels after dropping his children off at school. He worked for a Yemeni oil company at the time.

After an attack on the Ebola center, Doctors Without Borders shut down the treatment center at Katwa which is in the eastern part of the country. The attackers set the center on fire and threw stones at it, making it unusable. Local militias are thought to be the attackers at this point.

Elephant poaching is becoming a more significant problem in Botswana specifically. Elephants Without Borders, a group concerned with elephants, claims they have seen an increase in elephant carcasses in the northern part of Botswana which leads to beliefs that there has been an increase in poaching.