



THE

COSMOS

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CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA



Jelani Cobb.

Photo courtesy of Peter Morenus/UConn Photo.

"Race is the four-letter word of the hot-button issues."

*-Jelani Cobb-
Leading commentator on race in America*

ADDRESSING RACE IN AMERICA

Lisa McDonald

Editor-in-chief

"We are in the midst of a very difficult time in this country," said Jelani Cobb. He opened with this line during the annual Contemporary Issues Forum on Feb. 28, and took no time getting to the heart of the issue driving much of the recent violence in America: racism.

"We elected someone who plays into every prejudice we can perceive," specifically the "enduring appeal of the belief that there are people out to get us," Cobb said.

Cobb, an award-winning writer at The New Yorker magazine, spent the hour forum discussing the history of racism in America, and how recent political changes and developments have

revealed the fault lines etched deeply throughout all of American society.

Cobb said the interconnectedness of the issues struck him deeply following the trial of Dylann Roof. Roof, a white supremacist who murdered nine people in June 2015, was sentenced to death Jan. 10, 2017.

Following the conviction, Cobb said he took the earliest flight out from Charleston and headed to San Francisco.

"I'd flown almost as far as was possible without leaving the country," Cobb said, and in doing so hadn't spoken to a single person the entire day. When he arrived at his hotel, Cobb decided to talk to the bellman in the lobby, and made a shocking discovery: the

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Building a new tradition

Kyla Lynch

Guest writer

On Wednesday, March 1, the first Declaration Day event saw about 120 major changes.

Declaration Day is a new event held so that students can celebrate officially declaring their majors and minors. All students are welcome to stop by to update or change their records; however, first-year students are especially encouraged to attend.

Advisor-at-Large Derek N. Buckaloo said he worked with the Learning Commons, First-Year Experience Committee and the Registrar's Office to organize the event.

"It's been a group project, pulling from many corners of campus, and we're all looking forward

to it!" Buckaloo said.

In addition to the main offering of adding or changing majors and minors, Declaration Day will host students with treats and drawings for gift certificates to the Coe Bookstore and the Learning Commons Coffee Bar.

"Declaring a major helps prepare you for your future and the rest of your college career," said Kathy Duong, a first-year student declaring a Nursing major. "You can decide on what classes you want to take now that will help influence your future."

Faculty, representatives from the Registrar's Office, and Learning Commons professionals will be available to give advice or answer questions for students.

"If you choose something you love and pursue it with passion at Coe, you're going to be able to build a wonderful career and life after your college years," said Buckaloo.

If a student does not yet know what they want to major in, Buckaloo said they are



Legos were put out at the event to demonstrate students building their college careers. Photos by Lisa McDonald.

encouraged to continue their introspective search with help from their faculty advisor or him. The Learning Commons also offers an interest inventory to encourage exploration, that students can ask to see at the Learning Commons main desk.

"There are a variety of ways to get there, but basically, students should be looking for subjects that they like and that they feel some passion for," Buckaloo said. "Those are the 'right things to major in,' regardless of whether it seems like those are the majors that are going to pay off in 'a good job.'"

Going forward, the ability to add or change majors and minors continues to exist on my.coe.edu, and also in person at the Registrar's Office.

Students still deciding should declare as Declared Exploratory majors (DEX).



Students fill out forms relating to their majors during the first annual Declaration Day.

Continued from pg. 1.

bellman was originally from Charleston, and personally knew one of the victims.

It was foolish to think a problem like this could be contained to a certain locale, Cobb said, especially when “we look at how we came to exist as a country,” the same issues arising again and again.

Cobb said these issues began at the very start of American history, when the Founding Fathers effectively “copy edited the question of black freedom” out of the Declaration of Independence by removing the section condemning the Trans-Atlantic slave trade.

This acceptance of slavery continued for-

ward throughout the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, with laws like the Three-Fifths Compromise and the fugitive slave laws. Following the Civil War, alternative ways to strip autonomy from non-white individuals took place, such as the Jim Crow laws.

Cobb emphasized the distinction that it’s not as simple as black and white—literally—when an audience member asked when White Anglo-Saxon Protestants (WASPs) began seriously targeting the non-white communities. Cobb said the concept of ‘white’ has been in flux throughout the years, so talking about WASPs as a fixed group is impossible.

The constant idea



Jelani Cobb speaks on race in America at Coe College on Feb. 28. Photo courtesy Coe College.

of threat “hasn’t always been the same but has always had the same implications,” Cobb said. “I don’t think these things are irreversible,” Cobb said, but what makes tackling the issues difficult is people being unable or unwilling to look at the root causes.

Cobb compared it to people championing the “All Lives Matter” movement over “Black Lives Matter.”

It’s an avoidance technique, Cobb said, since “it’s not the phrase people are uncomfortable with, it’s the cause.” By focusing on recognizing the lives of all, Cobb explained, people are able to avoid the discomfort of acknowledging the racial hierarchies in society.

An audience member asked if Cobb felt America is already experiencing challenges from the current administration. Cobb responded that society has already been facing them since the 2008 election of Barack

Obama.

The 2008 election was a tremendous advance, Cobb said, but it increased the belief in white victimization among the white community. This is seen in increased reports by white suburbanites of feeling disadvantaged, Cobb said, and the 2013 Supreme Court decision striking down integral sections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

However, just because things might seem impossible in the short term, that’s temporary Cobb said. Civil rights activists only got to be heroic since they had difficult circumstances to confront.

We need to remember Martin Luther King Jr.’s statement “we shall overcome” is not meant as an assault against those opposing us, Cobb said, but as a personal pep-talk that we, in the long run, can achieve what seems otherwise impossible in the now.



Jelani Cobb asked audience members to guess where this picture was taken, before revealing it was not in the south but in 1942 Detroit, Michigan, to highlight how racism affects all of American society. Photo courtesy of Library of Congress Prints and Photographs.

Jazz Summit celebrates 25th anniversary

Claudia Chiappa
Staff writer

On Saturday, Feb. 25 the Coe College Jazz Ensemble and the Sinfonia Jazz Ensemble performed in Sinclair Auditorium, concluding the three-day Jazz Summit held at Coe.

The festival, which celebrated its 25th anniversary this year, is an educational festival featuring middle school and high school students from all over the country, for a total of over 90 different bands. Students come to Coe's campus to work with clinicians and to perform against each other in a competition that culminates in the Grand Finale Concert, where judges announce the winners of the competition and the Coe Jazz Band performs.

According to Assistant

Professor of Music Steve Shanley, who has helped organize the Jazz Summit for the last six years, the festival started in 1992 under the direction of Coe's Concert Band director Bill Carson.

"Jazz is one of America's only artistic contributions to the rest of the world," said Shanley. "It is one of the only art forms that was invented right here, in our country, and we like the idea of helping students learn more about it."

The festival is now the largest jazz festival in Iowa and one of the largest in the nation.

"We bring over 2,000 middle school and high school students to the campus," Shanley said.

Two guest artists worked with the students during the Summit and then performed on



Coe students perform during Coe College's 25th Jazz Summit Feb. 25. Photos by Claudia Chiappa.

Saturday. They are Matt Wilson, a Grammy nominee drummer from New York, known internationally for his performances with many famous artists, and Mark Maegdlin, a jazz pianist, organist, producer and music educator. Wilson said improvisation is key to jazz.

"One of the things we can do is surprise," explained Wilson, "and see how they [the public] react. I try to always have the danger factor; I like to welcome whatever is gonna happen. And I want the students to have the opportunity to feel that."

At the end of Saturday's concert--which included a piece performed by the

All-Sinfonia Jazz Ensemble, six songs by the Jazz Ensemble, two by the Vocal Jazz Ensemble and two bonus pieces--both the students and the audience experienced the "danger factor" Wilson was talking about. The last song ended with an impromptu that surprised the public and generated a long standing ovation. When asked why he chose jazz, Wilson said that it is incredibly flexible and vulnerable, as it allows the artist to explore and stretch things.

"It's all about honesty," said Wilson. "You gotta be who you are, never change what you do for the audience. The other thing about jazz is the aspect of how it is a team effort."



The festival is now the largest jazz festival in Iowa and one of the largest in the nation, with over 90 different bands competing.

Darryl Banks program hosts first scholar

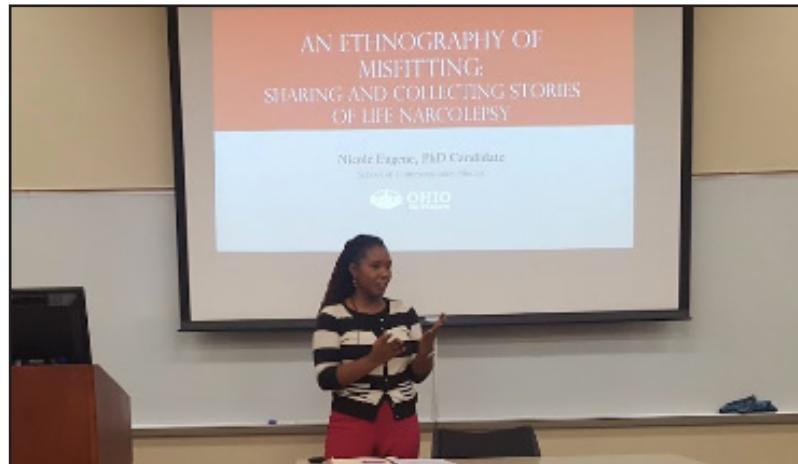
Allison Bartnick

Staff writer

The Rhetoric Department hosted a disability advocate at Coe as part of the new Darryl Banks Pre-Doctoral Scholar Residency program.

The Darryl Banks Pre-Doctoral Scholar Residency is a new program at Coe, initiated this year, designed to bring scholars from underrepresented populations to campus. Nicole Eugene from Ohio University was the first of several scholars to come to Coe's campus through this program for a period of three to four days that consist of lectures, class visits, and meetings with both students and faculty.

Eugene gave two presentations on narcolepsy during her visit, one on Feb. 23 focusing on how



Nicole Eugene gives a presentation on her dissertation work on narcolepsy Feb. 24. Photo by Allison Bartnick.

the fictions created in media contribute to the social construction of the disability and one on Feb. 24 focusing on her dissertation research, which uses sensory ethnography to talk about what a hidden disability is by collecting and sharing stories from particular places.

Having been diagnosed with narcolepsy at age sixteen, Eugene

explained in-depth during her talks how stories of narcolepsy portrayed through mediums such as film and television construct society's understanding of it. Thus, when narcolepsy is used as a joke in fictional mediums, it serves to delegitimize a very real illness.

Chair of the Rhetoric Department Theresa Donofrio said she felt lucky to have gotten to be part

of this program in terms of the work that her department got to do.

"I left feeling like there was so much that Nicole shared during her visit," Donofrio said. "In many ways it enriched not just the study of the community, but the academic work we do here at Coe."

Donofrio said she hopes Eugene took something away from her visit that will have an impact on the work that she'll do going forward.

According to Provost Paula O'Loughlin, the Psychology Department will host the next Darryl Banks Scholar later this year.

Spring Break Travel Safety Tips

Vaccines and Immunizations

It is very important to make sure your immunizations are up to date. Some countries require certain immunizations before allowing foreigners in. To obtain a current record of your immunizations, contact Coe Health Services (319-399-8617) – we require

this to be on file in order to attend Coe classes. Alternatively, you may also contact your primary care provider or pediatrician from home for those records.

Sun Safety

Remember to apply sunscreen often – every 2 hours, or more if you are sweating or swimming. Use at least SPF 15, and look for sunscreens with UVA and

UVB protection. Sunblocks, containing zinc oxide and titanium oxide ingredients, may work best to block the sun's harmful rays. Remember to wear sunglasses to protect your eyes, and a hat to protect your head.

Know where to get medical treatment

Find out where health care facilities are and how to access them.

Program to Coe-nnect with prospectives

Mohan Xu

Staff writer

"The Coe Connector Program gives students who are interested in Coe [prospective students] an opportunity to connect to current Coe students and to learn about what Coe offers," said Coe Admission Counselor Jake Osborn. Coe Admission Office put forward this idea.

Osborn said the Admission Office works to create and implement new ways to connect prospective students to Coe, and Coe "Connector" is one of these programs.

"The Admission

office wants to provide the students that have confirmed to Coe a connection to Coe over the summer, so they can feel a little part of Coe even before they get here," said Learning Commons Administrative Assistant Judi Dirks. "In addition to the counselor, Admission Office, and advisor, the current student will be sending out an initial email to the incoming student as well."

Dirks explained that current students need to fill out a profile sheet including their hometown, major(s) and interests. The Admission Office will then match current students with confirmed

incoming students that have the same interests and majors so they can build a relationship, Dirks said.

For the current students, they can contact their incoming students through email, phone or social media. "We expect current students to contact incoming students, but how much time they take on this program depends on them," said Osborn. Osborn said if incoming students have questions on prospective majors or other topics, current students can help them to understand.

Osborn said this program also bring advantages to current

students by "expanding their ability to communicate" since they will have the opportunity to "share their experiences, accomplishments or their suggestions to the incoming students."

Students returning to Coe in the fall can apply to be a Coe "Connector" by contacting the Admission Office or Learning Commons.

Coe-community Camera

Women in STEM (WinSTEM) hosted their first WinSTEM Gala on Feb. 24, to recognize all the dedication and hard work of women at Coe. Professor of Chemistry Maria Dean spoke about her journey to full professorship and the challenges she faced as a woman, while Provost Paula O'Loughlin gave ten life hacks women should keep in mind going forward in their careers.

At the end of the evening, female students from various STEM departments received certificates as recognition of their accomplishments.



Photos by Lisa McDonald.

Golf members ready for season

Miranda Anderson

Guest writer

The men's golf team is on to another season, with head Coach J.D. Grimm in charge. Grimm has been with the men's and women's golf teams for twelve years.

After winning their first off season tournament in four years at the Loras invite, the men will be traveling back to the same invite for their season opener on April 2 and 3. During spring break the team will also be traveling to the Scottsdale area of Arizona to compete in an exhibition match against Simpson's golf team.

"These are a really solid group of guys, we have a really balanced team," Grimm said. "We had four of our guys finish in the top ten at a tournament in the fall. We don't just have one guy who stands out, we have multiple guys who are pretty solid and can [lead the team]."

Wade Hill ('19) said he feels the team is looking forward to the season.

"I think we're all looking forward to getting back to competing out on the course



*Hunter Livermore ('19) plays golf.
Photo courtesy of the Coe Athletics.*

each week," Hill said. "We're looking to build off of our momentum coming off of our fall schedule that included a first place victory at Thunder Hills in Dubuque. This year we've been fortunate to

have the opportunity to practice outside in February and we've been seizing this opportunity to get some extra work in on our golf games."

For the first time ever the team has been

able to practice outside in the month of February. They had their first outdoor practice at Airport National, a public course ten miles from Coe. This is one of a few golf courses open this early in the year. The men are waiting for their usual course, Elmcrest Country Club, to open up so they can get down to more set practices outside.

With the extra work and momentum the team has been putting in, Grimm said, it looks promising that the team will compete well in the difficult golf conference that they have.

Team Lineup

Seniors:

Anthony Warden

Juniors:

Jason Gingrich, Hunter Livermore, and Jake Van Oort

Sophomores:

Wade Hill

Freshmen:

Cyril Spicer

Exchange student from Japan:
Yudai Hirano

Track and field team set new school records

Delena Humble

Sports editor

This past week at the IIAC championships, the Kohawks track and field team walked away with three new school records and four titles.

Cassie Hocker ('17) was at it again as she broke her own school record for the third time this season. She came in first in the 55-meter dash with an impressive time of 7.22. Hocker has remained undefeated throughout this season, and will hopefully keep up the streak as she advances to the qualifier.

Erik Franklin ('17) tied the school record in the 200-meter dash with the time of 22.93, run-



Cassie Hocker ('17), center, broke her own school record for the third time this season. She has not lost a race this season. Photo courtesy of Cassie Hocker.

ning the 41st best time in the nation. He also won the 400-meter

dash, running a 49.68, which is the 31st best time in the nation.

Women's Tennis

- On Sunday 02/26, the Kohawks lost 8-1 against Carleton College.
- Next match: Sunday 03/05, at John Carroll (7 a.m.)

Women's Track and Field

- On Saturday 02/25, the Kohawks competed in the Iowa Conference Championships and placed 8th of 9.
- Next meet: Saturday 03/04, at NCAA Qualifier (10 a.m.)

Women's Softball

- On Sunday 02/26, the Kohawks defeated University of

Chris Hawkins ('18) walked away with the 15th best jump in the nation with 47' 1/4". He also came in second in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 7.87.

In throwing, Robbie Peters ('18) came in second at the championships with a throw of 56' 10 3/4".

This throw broke the school record that was previously set by his teammate Jake Hayes ('18) last week. It was also the 23rd best throw in the country.

The Kohawks return to action on March 4 in Waverly as they head to the qualifiers.

Sports Reports

Delena Humble

St. Thomas 4-2 and defeated St. Catherine University 4-3.

- Next game: Saturday 03/04, at Kean University (9 a.m.)

Men's Wrestling

- On Saturday 02/25, the Kohawks competed in the NCAA Regionals and placed 3rd of 15.
- Next meet: Friday 03/10, at NCAA National Championships

Men's Baseball

- Season starts Sunday, March 5 against Saint Mary's University of Minnesota (8 a.m.)

Men's Tennis

- On Saturday 02/25, the Kohawks defeated Loras 9-0.
- Next match: Sunday 03/05, at John Carroll (7 a.m.)

Men's Track and Field

- On Saturday 02/25, the Kohawks competed in the Iowa Conference Championships and placed 7th of 9.
- Next meet: Saturday 03/04, at NCAA Qualifier (10 a.m.)

New faces of Coe: Josh Thorud

Yuan Chai

Staff writer

Josh Thorud is not only the new assistant professor of art at Coe; he is also a sophisticated video maker, screenwriter and filmmaker that has produced many short films and digital art exhibitions throughout years.

“I’ve always loved movies and I fell in love with people like David Lynch and Wes Anderson,” said Thorud. “I took introduction to film history and I loved it so much that I decided to do the major.” Thorud changed his major five times while pursuing his undergraduate degree at the University of Iowa. He finished a degree in history and went back for a cinema degree.

“Both history and film are similar because they all build around narratives,” said Thorud. “What drove me to both of the majors were stories. My greatest interest is in stories.”

Thorud loves to break all rules in his

film productions and tries to tell stories that nobody has ever heard or experienced in a typical Hollywood film. To present his stories vividly to more audiences, he chose the path of art.

“Shattering expectations and treating sto-

Thorud has created art works based on his techniques of combining digital art and videos. He held exhibitions called “Possible Futures” at the Sediment Arts Gallery in Richmond, VA and “Inlight Richmond” at the Virginia Museum

taught at Virginia Commonwealth University, but he found the teaching experiences very different. “I would have students in a class and I would never see them again,” Thorud said. “But here at Coe I get to see students develop as artists. I get to be here through the whole way and that’s really awesome!”

Thorud does a lot of screenwriting with a collaborator named Joshua Katz, and produces short films in his free time. He also really loves to cooking because he thinks cooking is also a creative art.

“It relates well to art, you can go off the book and you can totally improvise. And it either turns out well or doesn’t. It’s quite exciting,” said Thorud.

He lives with his wife in Cedar Rapids and both of them enjoy cooking.



Josh Thorud and his wife visit Monte Albán, Mexico in October 2016. Photo courtesy of Josh Thorud.

ries as ideas are something that a Hollywood film doesn’t really do, but art does,” explained Thorud.

Thorud went to Virginia Commonwealth University in Photography to do Master of Fine Arts, where he learned how to create videos and digital photography.

of Fine Arts and 1708 Gallery.

Thorud said he enjoys teaching digital art, time-based art and film classes this academic year. “I fell in love with [Coe]” said Thorud. “It provides an unique opportunity because I get to teach both sides of arts I like.”

Before Coe, Thorud

Market Talk

Question of the Week

Series EE Savings Bonds

If you're uncomfortable or nervous about investing because you don't like the possibility of losing money, there are ways to heighten your chances of obtaining a profit. You can do this by investing in fixed income assets like Series EE Savings Bonds. Series EE bonds are sold by the US Treasury, so they come with the reliability and backing of the

U.S. government. However, there is a downside: the strong reliability is matched with a low interest rate (the current fixed rate being 0.10 percent). Rates for savings bonds are set the first of every May and November, so if you have an interest in buying them keep a close eye on what the fixed rate is.

Series EE bonds are

Michael Lachocki

sold from prices ranging from \$25 to \$10,000, with \$10,000 being the maximum amount you are allowed to buy per year. You must hold these bonds a minimum of one year before you're allowed to sell them. The interest accrues monthly and compounds semiannually. Simply, this means you gain interest value every month and begin to earn interest on your interest twice a year, i.e., your principle amount updates twice a year and you will begin to earn interest on the updated amount. For example, if

you invest \$100 and earn \$10 in interest over six months, the interest rate will now be used for the updated \$110 you have.

However, if you were to sell the Series EE bond before holding it for five years, you forfeit the three most recent months of interest. But if you sell it anytime after five years you won't have to pay any interest penalties. That's why these bonds are good for long-term investing. They are reliable regardless of whether the state of the economy is in a natural expansion or recession.

WEEKLY SUDOKU

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

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| 9 | 2 | | | 5 | 7 | | | |
| 1 | 6 | 4 | | 2 | 9 | | 3 | |
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Translation in Prose

The *Coe Review* is sponsoring a contest for best translations of prose fiction by undergraduate students in the Associated Colleges of the Midwest.

The four best translations will be published in the Spring 2017 issue of the *Coe Review* and translators will receive prizes of \$100 and two free copies of the journal.

Translations should be no longer than 7,000 words and a max of two submissions per student will be considered. Please include a copy of the original text, permissions (if needed), a short preface about the author as well as a short preface about the approach taken and choices made in the translation.

Submissions will be accepted until April 1st. Send via email to tglac.acm@gmail.com with the header "Translation Contest."