



THE

# COSMOS

VOLUME 128, ISSUE 2

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2016

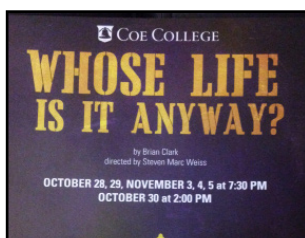
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

## DINING GONE GLOBAL



*Students gather to listen to International Student Advisor Peter Gerlach discuss additions to the dining area. Photo by Lisa McDonald. Continued on pg. 3.*

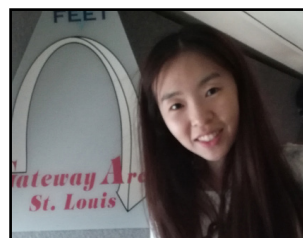
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## Spanish films offer immersion

**Lisa McDonald**

Editor-in-chief

Students no longer need to pay thousands of dollars to explore the culture in Spanish-speaking countries. They can experience the diverse cultures right here on campus in AV theater during Cine de Barrio.

"There is an increasing number of Hispanic-speaking students on campus, or at least heritage students, where they speak Spanish at home," Associate Professor of Spanish Mònica Fuertes-Arboix said.

Fuertes-Arboix explained this trend and an increasing interest in the Spanish classes prompted her to create an opportunity for students to increase their Spanish immersion.

This past spring Fuertes-Arboix decided to arrange a weekly movie night.

"Cine de barrio means a theater that shows all movies," Fuertes-Arboix said. "I would try to bring new movies each time, because there's so many out there."

The movies come from many countries, Fuertes-Arboix said, with the key requirement

being the director filmed it in Spanish. Only one of the movies, "El Bulli," a documentary on Spanish chef Ferran Adrià, contains significant amounts of spoken English.

"I think we need to be more out there," Fuertes-Arboix said, "with all the different cultures that we have [on campus]."

"If you just need a couple of hours to take your mind away from homework and anything, it's just nice," Fuertes-Arboix said.

Cine de Barrio shows 6 p.m. each Wednesday in the library AV theater. If students have movies to suggest, email Fuertes-Arboix at [mfuertes@coe.edu](mailto:mfuertes@coe.edu).



*Students attend the first Cine de Barrio movie, "Amores Perros," Aug. 31 in AV theater.*

*Photo by Amanda Bourne.*

### September movie line-up

7th	Alatriste
14th	Los amantes del circulo polar
21st	Fresa y chocolate
28th	Bienvenido Mr. Marshall

*Movie list courtesy of  
Mònica Fuertes-Arboix.*

Friday, September 9, 2016

# Dining area goes international

**Bridget Moore**  
Staff writer

Students entering the cafeteria will find themselves surrounded by new intercultural awareness items, introduced as part of the International Project.

During the International Project dedication meeting Aug. 30, International Student Advisor Peter Gerlach and Coe College President David McNally spoke about the importance of not only being open to students and culture around the world, but also learning about it every day.

McNally said there are a record number of international students attending Coe this year. For the International Project, international clocks, flags and pictures have been

added to the cafeteria.

A row of clocks hang above the lowered section of roof, each showing the time at various capitals around the world.

Above the dining area toward the ceiling are two rows of flags, each flag representing a country that a Coe international student comes from.

Gerlach said he has already had some students ask him why the flags do not have labels. Gerlach said they hope the absence of labels will encourage students to use their phones to look up the name of the flag, since that will provide them with facts and information about that country a simple label could not do.

The flags will be updated regularly and stay current to always represent the student body.



*Coe College President David McNally, right, and International Student Advisor Peter Gerlach, left, speak during the International Project meeting Aug. 30.*

The final new addition to the cafeteria is the pictures that surround the walls, each one taken by a student of Coe studying abroad. Like the flags, this will also be updated every year to include new pho-

tos taken by Coe students from around the world.

One of the questions that came up during the meeting was why the dining hall was chosen for this project. President McNally said, “[We wanted] a space that is welcome to all but is distinctly Coe.”

Gerlach is looking for any flags from students’ countries that are not in the hall, along with any pictures students studying abroad take. If students have a flag they would like to see put up in the dining hall, or a picture to send in, they can email the suggestions and pictures to Peter Gerlach at [pgerlach@coe.edu](mailto:pgerlach@coe.edu).

*Flags from the home countries of Coe international students line the ceiling in the cafeteria as part of the International Project.*  
*Photos by Lisa McDonald.*





## Life and death at play

**Rachel Deyoe**  
Staff writer

Do people have the right to decide when they die. This fall, Coe's theatre department will present a dramatist's look at the question as they prepare and perform Brian Clark's "Whose Life is it, Anyway?"

The play was originally written as a television play in 1972, and has since seen multiple adaptations as it was prepared for live theatre and modified for the 21st century.

In the play, sculptor Claire Harrison becomes a quadriplegic following a car accident. After some time, she decides she wants to be taken off life support, effectively ensuring her death. The story involves her journey and her legal battle for assisted suicide.

Despite its heavy subject matter, the story is comical. Director and Professor of Theatre Arts Steven Marc Weiss said, "The main character has come to maintain a humorous philosophical perspective on the gravity of her situation. She's written very humorous and very bright."

Full of lighthearted moments and profound

social issues, the play promises thought-provoking entertainment. Weiss said they have the strong cast a complicated play like this needs.

"There's really not a weak link in this cast,"

week, and now Weiss and production stage manager Emily Wilke ('18) have a long road ahead to get the play ready for performances starting in October.

Staging will be the most

will move and work together in performance.

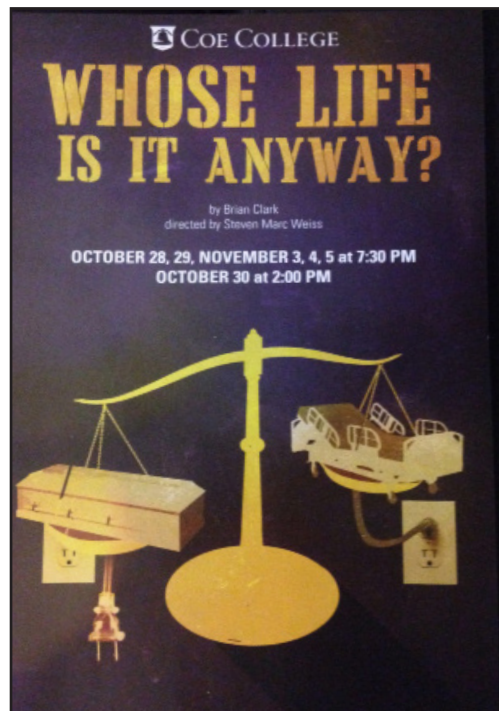
"Actors explore their own blocking," said Weiss, "and my job, like a sculptor, is to shape it and prune it until the parts look like parts of a whole."

Wilke said the play was a good one to get people thinking.

"I like that [the play] is a social issue," Wilke said. "A college campus is a great place for social change to start. It's an issue that's put on the backburner a lot, but that doesn't make it any less important."

In Weiss' words, "This is a play about a woman in the prime of life who gets in a car accident and her life gets turned upside down," he said. "I think it can resonate with anyone who's aware of their own mortality."

The play will open Oct. 28, with an unticketed preview showing the day before.



*Envisioned by Steven Marc Weiss and designed by freelance artist John Foster, the flyer advertisement for the coming play features a balance holding a hospital bed plugged in and a coffin, unplugged, to hint at the life and death decisions in the play. Graphic courtesy of Theater Department.*

Weiss said.

The cast of 13 includes five first-years, among whom is Maggie Hart, cast as the lead role. Casting was finished early this

time-consuming process, in which the actors and director will work together to explore the space on the stage, collaborating to figure out how the actors

Friday, September 9, 2016

# Students, chose your tutors

**Lisa McDonald**  
Editor-in-chief

With the new online tutoring database, students no longer need to worry if the tutor they're paired with is right for them. They can choose their own.

"We wanted to utilize our tutors more efficiently," Administrative Assistant for AAP and Learning Commons Karen Swenson said.

Swenson explained in years past, sometimes tutees did not learn well from the tutor assigned to them. On the flip side, Swenson said, sometimes tutors found themselves paired with a tutee who only came to one session the entire semester.

Moving the tutoring sign-up online, Swenson said, meant tutees could sign themselves up with different tutors until they found one that clicked. It also meant tutors would not have to rely on a particular tutee to show up

every week, she said.

Academic Coach and Academic Support Coordinator Michelle McIllece said the new system requires tutees to take a more active role.

Not only must the tutee sign up at least a day ahead of time for a tutoring session, McIllece said, students can only cancel the session through the system if there are more than four hours until the meeting. If they wish to cancel in less time, McIllece said, the tutee must find other means to do so, like emailing the tutor.

McIllece said it is important to remember the tutor is not a substitute for the professor.

Tutors are aides to clarify ideas introduced by professors in class, McIllece said.

By that same token, McIllece added, tutors are not therapists. If a student faces challenges like note-taking and time management, she said, other programs in the



*Tutoring staff, from left, Karen Swenson, Yareli Hernandez ('18) and Michelle McIllece by the tutoring desk Sept. 1.*

*Photos by Lisa McDonald.*

Learning Commons can help them improve those things.

McIllece said another change from last year is all tutor sessions occur in the library unless they get prior permission.

This way, she said, time-sheets can be kept in a library binder and tutors won't have to worry about keeping track of them.

Tutors do still need to fill out separate time-sheets for the business office though, McIllece said, that can be turned in each month to the tutoring desk in the library's basement.

McIllece said tutors also need to fill out small reports at the end of each session, describing what was covered in the session and provide recommendations for the tutee to practice until the next session. These can be completed via the online

system, McIllece said.

Swenson said the idea to revamp the tutoring system began during the 2014-15 school year, and the tutoring staff spent last year observing the system before deciding on any changes. The staff also contacted colleges around the nation for additional ideas, Swenson said.

McIllece said any student is allowed to sign up to tutor, regardless of if they qualify for work-study, as long as they did well in the class they wish to tutor for. This can be done at [www.coe.edu/tutorapp](http://www.coe.edu/tutorapp).

Swenson said the tutoring staff appreciate feedback, and suggestions or questions about the new system can be sent to [tutoring@coe.edu](mailto:tutoring@coe.edu). Ultimately, tutoring is all about "Coe students helping Coe students," Swenson said.



*Students sign FERPA documents during tutor orientation Aug. 28.*



## Celebrating the sophomores

**Lisa McDonald**  
Editor-in-chief

A new program at Coe, created to help sophomores make the most of their second year, kicks off next week.

Accessibility Services and ADA Coordinator Kim Pierson summarized the trend Learning Commons staff noticed: "Sophomores sometimes struggle when they start their second year."

Pierson said it likely comes from the letdown of freshman year excitement. At that time, school personnel dedicated themselves to helping new students make the transition from high school to college.

Sophomore year, however, leaves students mostly to their own devices, Pierson said.

Gina Hausknecht, Associate Dean of the Learning Commons and John William King Professor of Literature and Creative Writing, said by junior year, students usually find their place in various departments and clubs on campus. The journey to that point, Hausknecht said, begins sophomore year.

The Learning Commons staff hope to aid that journey with the new sophomore initiative, Pierson said.

Pierson said the sophomore program contains three parts: increase engagement with clubs and faculty, increase interest in major and increase interest in academic practicum. The first phase of the program begins with Sophomore Week, running Sept.

12-16, with events to engage the sophomores on campus.

Hausknecht said the Learning Commons staff do not want to see students reach senior year in a panic. "There's an awful lot available at Coe," Hausknecht said. The program will help sophomores discover that, she said.

Pierson said the program is "not just learning about the college but learning about yourself." Pierson added the program will aid with that discovery as well.

If sophomores did not receive the email containing the list of events, or have any questions concerning Sophomore Week, email the Learning Commons staff at [learningcommons@coe.edu](mailto:learningcommons@coe.edu).

Pierson said the Learning Commons staff is also looking to create a student advisory group to help the staff evaluate programs created for the sophomore initiative. Interested students can message the above email.

"We really want [sophomores] to come talk to us, attend and participate," Pierson said.



*Sophomores receive a t-shirt featuring this logo if they attend the kick-off event Monday.*

*Graphic courtesy of Kim Pierson.*



## Coe-mmunity Camera

*Discover a new view of Coe with these special Coe-mmunity close-ups.*

*Photos by Amanda Bourne.*



## New faces of Coe: Wei Mengxi

**Yuan Chai**  
Staff Writer

"I've always had this dream of coming to America and seeing the outside world," said Wei Mengxi, Coe's visiting faculty fellow in Chinese from Szechwan province, China.

After spending one and a half months at Washington University in St. Louis, Wei came to Cedar Rapids and began her new journey in teaching Chinese language at Coe.

"My father told me that I need to be prepared coming to Cedar Rapids because it's not like any city I used to live in," Wei said.

Wei grew up in big cities and completed her master's degree in Chinese Linguistics and Language Acquisition at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

"I feel like my first few months are like from bad to good," said Wei.

Though there are a few challenges to deal with, like leaking rain in her room, trying native American food and getting to know Coe, Wei said she loves to work here.

"Life and work here are less busy than those in Hong Kong and I have more time to focus on my teaching, helping my students and improving myself," said Wei.

Wei said she wants students to know that Chinese is not difficult to learn.

"I mainly focus on the oral speaking and I want my students to memorize the dialogue and speak as much Chinese as they can in class," said Wei.

Wei wants learning the language to be fun, not "struggling or tor-



*Wei Mengxi visits the Gateway Arch in St. Louis summer 2016.*

*Photo courtesy of Wei Mengxi.*

turous." She has taught basic expressions and daily conversations so that together with her students, they create an ideal language-learning experience.

Besides teaching, Wei is also learning. Wei is taking two courses on campus, The Essay and Topics: US in Superpower Age.

"There is a lot to read and I am trying to understand American essays,"

said Wei. She said she is making an effort to find the balance between work and study and, in the meantime, enhance her English skills.

"I am planning to pursue a Ph.D. in communication studies in the U.S. and now I am preparing for my GRE," Wei said.

Wei said she wants to further improve her teaching skills too.

### Coe College Photo of the Month Contest



One Coe-themed photo will be selected from all submissions each month. Multiple submissions accepted. Digital photo resolution minimum of 1800x2400 pixels. Photo must be taken during the month of submission. Submit to [sgubanc@coe.edu](mailto:sgubanc@coe.edu) by the last day of the month. Winning photo will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card and the photo will be printed, framed and hung in the Struve Communication Center. Open to current Coe students only.

## Point of Discussion

*The Cosmos* is always looking for new voices on campus. Coe is a diverse place, and the paper should be also. Check out the discussion question each week and email your response to [cosmos@coe.edu](mailto:cosmos@coe.edu) with "Point of Discussion" in the subject line. Keep your response to 150 words or less and include your preferred name and your graduation year. We would love to publish your thoughts.

**This week's question:**

**What sport is the best and why?**

*Feel free to have fun with it. Be humorous, be serious, be snarky...be you. We look forward to hearing your thoughts.*

## SUDOKU CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

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

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

Sudoku courtesy of [http://www.websudoku.com/?level=1&set\\_id=1854245735](http://www.websudoku.com/?level=1&set_id=1854245735)

## Meet the Provost

Want to say hi or ask a question of the new Provost and Dean of Faculty Paula O'Loughlin? Stop by the Pub Mondays 2-3 p.m. or her McCabe office Wednesdays 1-2 p.m.



*Photo courtesy of the Crimson Chronicle.*