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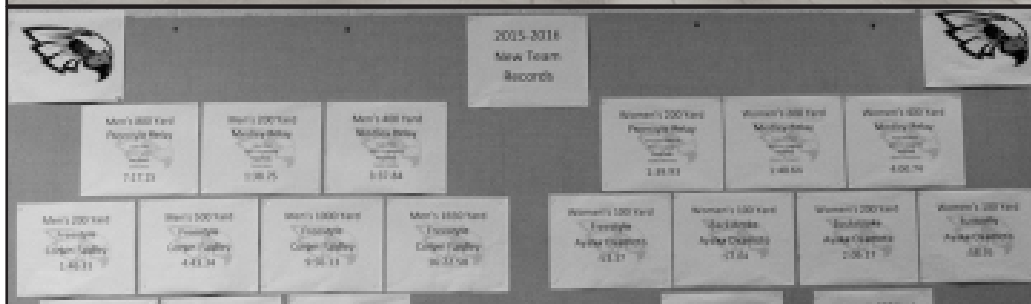
# COSMOS

VOLUME 128, ISSUE 13

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2016

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

## SWIMMERS MAKE A SPLASH



*The Coe College swimming and diving teams practiced Dec. 8 in preparation for their winter trip to Puerto Rico. The Kohawks swept the Kohawk Invite Dec. 4. Photos courtesy of Susanne Gubanc. Continued on pg. 8.*

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# Reasons for wrongful convictions

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**Allison Bartnick**  
Staff writer

In America, one of the key arguments against use of the death penalty rests on the possibility some of the death row inmates were wrongfully convicted. Yet just how common are wrongful convictions? That question, and the factors which lead to wrongful convictions, were answered during the Dec. 6 Kohawk Pre-Law Society event.

The Kohawk-Pre Law Society brought in University of Iowa law professor Brian Farrell to talk about wrongful convictions. Farrell teaches a wrongful convictions course and is involved with the Innocence Project of Iowa, a project that seeks to prevent and remedy wrongful convictions.

Farrell discussed how the United States judicial system, when determining the success of cases, tends to look at procedural compliance rather than make sure each case got the right result. Claims of innocence also tend to be dismissed unless there were specific procedural errors made.

In 1992, following the



*Brian Farrell, left, talked about the factors that lead to wrongful convictions Dec. 6.*

*Photo by Allison Bartnick.*

introduction of DNA testing in the 1980s, Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld founded the Innocence Project, a non-profit organization which uses DNA evidence to look into claims of innocence by those already convicted.

The Innocence Project has been a part of 347 DNA exonerations, of which 20 were on death row and 70% were minorities. Of these 347 exonerations, 149 lead to the real perpetrator of the crime being identified.

The original Innocence Project inspired many like it to follow suit, and today there exists an Innocence Network in the United States, comprised of many different Innocence Projects.

According to Farrell, the six most common causes which lead to

wrongful convictions are:

1. Eyewitness misidentification
2. Forensic science
3. False confessions
4. Incentivized witnesses
5. Government misconduct
6. Bad defense lawyers.

Farrell said identifying issues within the procedures and standardizing the steps the law officers and justice system must take are key to addressing the bulk of these issues.

Farrell maintains that people in the United States need good judges, lawyers, and prosecutors educated on these issues.

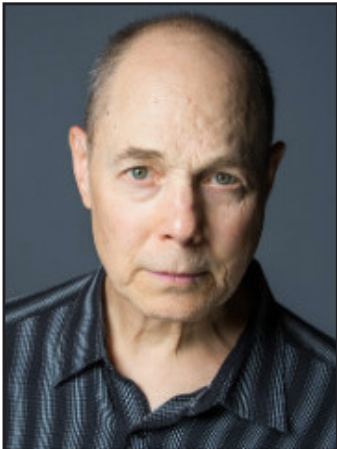
Along with this, Farrell said he believes lawyers must take ownership of the science presented in the courtroom, as well as push for increased diversity in the justice system.



# Update on Steven Marc Weiss

**Lisa McDonald**  
Editor-in-chief

On Wednesday, Dec. 7, Professor of Theatre Arts Susan Wolverton sent a campus-wide email to provide updates on her husband, Professor of Theatre Arts Steven Marc Weiss, who has been living with a cancer diagnosis since October of 2007.



*Above top, Steven Marc Weiss.*

*Above bottom, Susan Wolverton.*

*Photos courtesy of Coe College.*

Hello Coe Community:

As some of you may know, my colleague and spouse, Steven Marc Weiss, has been living with a cancer diagnosis since October of 2007. This past fall the hormonal drugs stopped working and he had to begin chemo treatments as a last resort to fight the spread of the disease to bones and lungs. That process left him weakened and unable to eat for about 5 weeks. His doctor recommended hospice care when it became clear that chemotherapy was not going to help Steven any further.

We started hospice care over the Thanksgiving break and since that time Steven's overall condition has actually improved so that at present his appetite has returned, he has a bit more strength and he is also somewhat more independent in the day to day functions than he was even two weeks ago. That being said, he does spend most of his day in a hospital bed in our living room watching films, reading or listening to selections from his 6,000+ classical CD collection.

We know that many of you have expressed an interest in helping out in some way, but that you also wish to respect Steven's need to rest.

Steven is not presently experiencing any pain or on any medications so now is a good time to plan a visit if you are interested or to send a card or letter to brighten his days. We do have good support from colleagues who are providing meals and hospice support for medical checks, baths, massage and general comfort care.

Steven is open to having visitors mornings between 10:00 and 12:00. We ask that you make an appointment by calling his cell at 319-573-2428 to coordinate visits.

Since his immune system is weak, we ask that if you are fighting off a cold or think that you may be contagious that you use a phone call as your visit instead.

Cards and letters can be sent to the home at : 2424 Bever Ave, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Coe is our second home and the Coe family has already been incredibly supportive as we pass through this difficult journey. We greatly appreciate all of the positive energy that has been directed our way so far and welcome any form of support you wish to give directly or indirectly.

We wish you all a restful holiday season.

Warmly,  
Susan, Steven and Ian

## Creative writing students present their work

**Mai Fukuhara**  
Staff writer

On Dec. 6, the Creative Writing department held the first Ann Struthers Student Reading Series.

Ann Struthers wrote four collections of poetry, including *What You Try to Tame* (2004) and *Stoneboat* (1989). Struthers has been a visiting professor of English at Coe College since 1987.

Struthers and the creative writing faculty selected five students to present their stories and poems.

Following the event was a senior reading of Jade Riley's ('17) capstone manuscript.



Jade Riley, who leaves for Chicago next semester, had his capstone manuscript, "The Shattered Metaphor," read following the Ann Struthers presentations.



Above, four students read Sarah Schmitt's ('18) play "Hold the Ice," about movie theater workers discovering a body in the ice locker. Schmitt, above right, is a student in Advanced Playwriting.



Gretchen Oelrich ('18), above, read "West Texas Wildflowers" and several other poems. Oelrich is a student in Poetry Workshop.



Xenia Greniuk ('19), above, read two pieces of flash fiction, "River Rock" and "In and out of the Roof." Greniuk is a student in Fiction Workshop 2.

Sharon Levy ('19), below, read from her untitled novel about a serial murderer. Levy is a student in Fiction Workshop 2.



Hannah Wiles ('17), left, read her piece "Brown in the woods." Wiles is a student in Fiction Workshop 2.

Photos by  
Lisa McDonald.





# Encouraging women in STEM

**Sidniann Rumman**  
Guest writer

Women from various STEM majors met for a Dec. 5 open forum hosted by one of Coe's newest organizations, Women in STEM (WinSTEM), to discuss challenges women face in the STEM fields.

The STEM initiative—which promotes education and innovation in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math—is one that has received a lot of attention in the last few years.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the United States now ranks 25th in math and 17th in science against other industrialized nations of the world.

While the nation's position as an influential player in world affairs is threatened by a lack of students pursuing STEM careers, an even more specific concern is the lack of

female students pursuing these careers.

Women, who make up 48% of today's workforce and 57% of college graduates, only hold about 25% of positions in STEM-related occupations, according to the United States Department of Commerce.

Nationwide, initiatives like President Barack Obama's Educate to Innovate campaign, are working to expose girls to careers and female role models in STEM. WinSTEM at Coe is no exception.

WinSTEM aims to "foster the pride, purpose, and confidence that science, technology, engineering, and math has brought to our own lives in other girls," says the club's Facebook page, "as well as create a space for students to gather and support each other, to advertise opportunities that could help STEM

students' careers, and to provide mentorship and role models to students in both K12 and higher education."

At the meeting, the club's advisor, Assistant Professor of Physics Firdavs Duru, the only woman physics professor at Coe, prompted the group to have meaningful discussion aimed at not only understanding the disparity of women in STEM, but addressing how long-term, progressive change can be made both on and off Coe's campus.

"My biggest motivation to start WinSTEM here at Coe was to bring the women of all the STEM disciplines together," said WinSTEM president Dahlia Baker ('18).

"Our individual majors all go through the same kind of experiences with bias and undeserved doubt and the only way to make the future better for the next generations of

women scientists was for us to start making changes," Baker said.

Looking toward the spring semester, WinSTEM plans to invite speakers to campus, give scientific demonstrations at local schools, host a recognition gala for Coe's Women in STEM and partake in community outreach events.

In addition, open forums mirroring the Dec. 5 discussion will regularly allow for the group to provide "students a chance to encourage each other and discuss STEM related topics in a more casual environment," said WinSTEM member Heather Ruiz ('18).

Anyone interested in joining WinSTEM can contact Coe College Women in STEM ([win-stem@coe.edu](mailto:win-stem@coe.edu)) for more information.



*During the first official meeting Dec. 5, Women in STEM president Dahlia Baker ('18) said a big motivation to start the club was to bring together women from all the STEM disciplines.*

*Photo courtesy of Dahlia Baker.*

## RISE to the challenge

**Lisa McDonald**  
Editor-in-chief

At Coe College, various campus clubs spread awareness about how to combat sexism, racism and sexualism. Recently, a new club joined the mix, to raise awareness of neurodiversity.

The Rights, Inclusion, Support and Education club (R.I.S.E.) kicked off their "Voices on Inclusion" series Dec. 1, with speaker Delaney Cummings ('15). Cummings, a Coe alumna, talked about what it's like being on the autism spectrum.

Cummings, who was diagnosed as autistic at a young age, said her parents provided her support and a structured routine at home.

"Even if I didn't have many friends growing up," Cummings said, "I knew I'd always have [my mom] when I got home."

Her parents enrolled Cummings in multiple programs like speech therapy and a social skills

group to help her improve her social interactions. What helped the most though, Cummings said, was the summer camp she started attending in middle school.

Called the Talisman Programs, Cummings said the North Carolina-based camp introduced her to a lot of other kids who dealt with the same struggles she did, and the counselors showed her new ways to think about autism.

When Cummings reached high school, the school paired her with a resource teacher, who Cummings said helped teach her the importance of advocating for herself to secure the accommodations she needed to succeed in class.

When transitioning to college life, Cummings said she worried about making friends at Coe.

"Am I just suppose to go to classes and then go to my room?" Cummings said. "That's boring. College isn't suppose to be boring."



*Delaney Cummings, a Coe alumna of 2015, came back to Coe to speak about what it's like living with autism. Her talk was the first event hosted by the new Rights, Inclusion, Support and Education (R.I.S.E.) club on campus.*

*Photo by Lisa McDonald.*

Cummings joined a sorority and made a network of friends who offered her continual support. Additionally, Cummings went on the Vietnam May term, a D.C. term and held three internships, things which she said helped her improve her independence and do well at her current job at the National Czech and Slovak Museum.

While Coe did well supporting her, Cummings said, there are areas

where Coe could improve, such as additional training for faculty to understand the necessity of accommodations for students with neurological differences.

Cummings said the biggest thing is letting students know their contributions are meaningful.

"Every single thing you do is important," Cummings said.

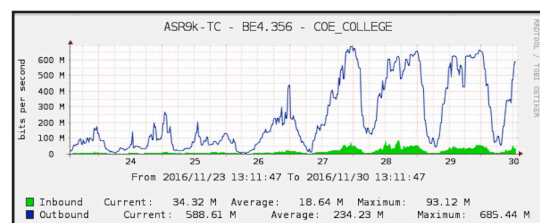
## Campus Update

Internet usage increased significantly upon students' return from Thanksgiving break. As such, the Coe Office of

Information Technology requested Coe's Internet provider increase Internet bandwidth for campus.

An additional 150 MB has been added, so there will be 750 MB for the last two weeks of school.

In January, the new



STREAM2 service will be available on campus, so content can be streamed

from that across the Coe network instead of using the Internet bandwidth.

## Creating art with force

**Bridget Moore**

Staff writer

The connection between how the body interacts with fundamental forces is rarely ever noticed, but now there are five paintings at Coe that show just that. Drew Geiseman ('17) brought this force out into the open with his new collection of digital works titled *Figures of Mass*.

An opening reception for Guzman's senior thesis exhibition took place Dec. 2 in the Marvin Cone Gallery.

Geiseman describes the figures as "Both upright and collapsing... My figures can be viewed as both impoverished and rich, dilapidated and defiant." Geiseman said the figures also represent the unyielding spirit of the midwest as the balance of gravity and physical



*Drew Geiseman, above left, presented his senior thesis exhibition, Figures of Mass, Dec. 2 in the Marvin Cone Gallery. Geiseman said he created his artwork to showcase the connection between "force and flesh" and to connect viewers to the mindset of the midwest. Below, additional pieces from Geiseman's exhibit.*

*Photos by Bridget Moore.*

forces are always pushing against each other.

The paintings show fatty figures being twisted and shaped by strong, gravitational forces to create forms that are both identifiable and alien. While some figures are more recognizable, some of

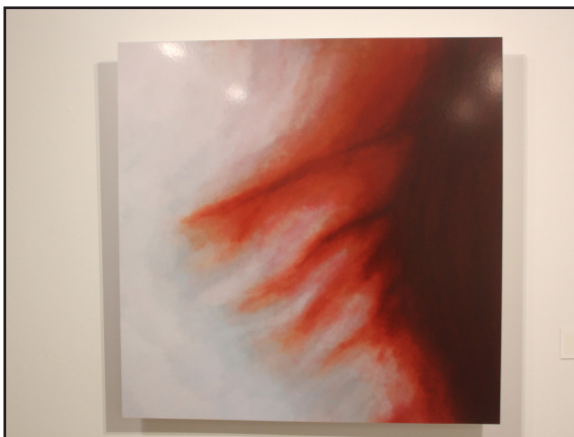
the works are so twisted by gravity that the figure doesn't seem human at all.

Geiseman wanted to create this art to showcase the connection between "force and flesh" as well as connect viewers to the mindset of the midwest and its

rigidness. He wanted to help his viewers connect with the familiar tone of defiance while also understanding the decay occurring at the same instant.

Creating the pictures on computer and then using digital layering of colors allows for the depth in the picture as the layers overlap and allow for the colors to both flow together and contrast with each other. The backgrounds of the art contrasts well with the often pale figures, making every shadow more pronounced and each fold of skin larger.

The collection was hosted in the Marvin Cone Gallery in Sinclair Fine Art Galleries until Dec. 9. Some of the pictures are for sale, for more information please contact Director of Galleries and Collections Ranelle Knight-Lueth at [rlueth@coe.edu](mailto:rlueth@coe.edu).





## Swimmers bring home victory

**Lisa McDonald**

Editor-in-chief

For the second-straight year, the Coe College swimming and diving teams swept the Kohawk Invite. They won eight titles on Sunday, Dec. 4, bringing their total to 12 for the weekend.

Coe won the team title on both sides, as the men finished with 1,513.5 points and the women with 1,040.5 points.

The Kohawks next game will occur Jan. 4, 2017, at Copa Coqui in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



*Katie King, front, and Kendall Bundy, behind, placed numerous times throughout different events during the Kohawk Invite Dec. 4.*

*Photos courtesy of Susanne Gubanc.*

### Women

#### One-meter dive

- First place: Erin Horton ('20), score 295.1

#### 200-yard medley relay

- Second place: Kendall Bundy ('17), Sam Fitzgerald ('18), Katie King ('17), Alanna Thompson ('19); time 1:53.86

#### 400-yard individual medley

- First place: Sam Fitzgerald ('18); time 4:52.63

#### 200-yard freestyle

- Second place: Katie King ('17); time 2:02.43
- Third place: Katy Apler ('17); time 2:03.18

#### 100-yard butterfly

- Third place: Kendall Bundy ('17); time 1:03.90

#### 100-yard breaststroke

- First place: Sam Fitzgerald ('18); time 1:08.50

#### 200-yard backstroke

- Second place: Kendall Bundy ('17); time 2:16.71

#### 50-yard freestyle

- Second place: Sam Fitzgerald ('18); time 25.15

#### 400-yard freestyle relay

- First place: Sam Fitzgerald ('18), Kendall Bundy ('17), Katie Freeland ('20), Alanna Thompson ('19); time 3:47.88

### Men

#### One-meter dive

- First place: Andrew Koehler ('17); score 153.65

#### 200-yard medley relay

- Second place: Collin Flynn ('19), Tucker Dangremond ('17), Andy Cheng ('17), Quincy Markham ('20); time 1:42.68

#### 400-yard individual medley

- First place: Douglas Sauer ('20); time 4:35.10

#### 200-yard freestyle

- Second place: Collin Flynn ('19); time 1:51.89
- Third place: Blake Sterns ('20); time 1:52.07

#### 100-yard butterfly

- Fourth place: Andy Cheng ('17); time 56.60

#### 100-yard breaststroke

- Second place: Tucker Dangremond ('17); time 1:04.85

#### 200-yard backstroke

- First place: Collin Flynn ('19); time 2:01.96

#### 50-yard freestyle

- Fifth place: Quincy Markham ('20); time 23.20

#### 1,650-yard freestyle

- First place: Blake Sterns ('20); time 17:26.29
- Second place: Quincy Markham ('20); time 18:05.84
- Third place: Andy Cheng ('17); time 18:53.56
- Fourth place: Eric Ford ('20); time 19:08.87
- Fifth place: Phillip Cunningham ('20); time 19:13.72

#### 400-yard freestyle relay

- Second place: Joshua Seymour ('20), Quincy Markham ('20), Tim Bosn ('17), Collin Flynn ('19); time 3:23.28



*The Kohawk men and women's swimming and diving teams stand during the Pledge of Allegiance.*



# "You're so vain..."

**Nicholas Hodges**

Staff writer

About three times a week I get stuck at a railroad crossing in downtown Cedar Rapids. This may seem like an inconvenience to some, but it's also an opportunity to engage in my favorite pastime activity—people watching.

What captivates me most isn't the people behind the wheel, it's their license plates. Today I sit behind a Nissan that boasts "YODAIAM."

Though vanity plates exist in my home state of Indiana, you, my dear Iowans, undertake this endeavor with zeal unmatched by Hoosiers.

Almost all US states allow some form of license plate personalization, but comes at a cost—\$45 in Indiana; \$50 in Iowa. In all states, an application process is required and

the state reserves the right to deny applicants of their request.

With similar costs, I assume I'd see similar numbers of vanity plates in Iowa and Indiana, but I see many more vanity plates here.

Are Iowans more vain than their Midwestern neighbors? Researchers say it's more complicated than vanity.

Brett Pelham, an expert in "implicit egotism" at the National Science Foundation, said vanity plates are "one of the ways you can let the world know what you are and how people should treat you" and displaying signs in general "helps people predict and control what's happening in their lives."

A 2008 study published in the Journal of Applied Social Psychology reveals drivers with vanity plates, bumper stickers, and

other "territory markers" were much more likely to express rage while behind the wheel, like following closely and honking.

"We were surprised to find that something as simple as a vanity plate or having some personal identity attached to a car relates to a willingness to cut someone else off," says Jake Benfield, who conducted the research with colleagues at Colorado State University.

While most personalized plates are innocuous, there have been controversies surrounding some. The state of Minnesota recently revoked its approval of license plates "FMUSLMS" and "PETA-LOL."

There has been recent debate about whether license plate messages are protected under the First Amendment. Minnesota has added a clause in the

license plate application process stating "a personalized plate that offends public morals or decency may not be issued."

People display vanity plates as a form of individualism. The man in front of me is one of millions of Star Wars fans, but like Yoda, he is one of a kind. My neighbor, "4THAND1" is an avid football fan. He is not the type of man who punts; he takes risks. The Ford Focus that parks near campus, "HOTGUYS" is both brave and set themselves apart from other members of their sex.

In a city of 130,000 people, one must be creative to stand out as an individual. As the train rolls past I consider shell-ing out the fifty dollars as both a warning and apology to my professors, "LTE4CLS."

## Easy Peasy Recipes

*Recipe courtesy of Allrecipes*

*Photo by Nina Wilson*

### Ingredients

- 3 cups flour
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 2/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 2 cups buttermilk

## Boston Brown Bread

### Instructions

1. Grease 9x5 inch loaf pan
2. In large bowl whisk together flour, soda, brown sugar, and then mix molasses and buttermilk until just combined
3. Pour into the greased pan
4. Bake at 350° F for one hour
5. Cool on a wire rack



## Sending cards to wounded servicemembers

**Lisa McDonald**  
Editor-in-chief

Nina Wilson ('17) sent 200 holiday cards to injured and recovering servicemembers the first year she started her annual tradition. This year, she mailed over 3,000.

Wilson said she saw a Hallmark commercial advertising their "Cards for Courage" project her sophomore year of high school and decided to participate.

The project, Wilson said, involves sending holiday cards to injured servicemembers recovering at military hospitals around the nation, and

can't make it home for the holidays.

In each card Wilson writes a note thanking the servicemembers for their service and wishing them happy holidays. To make it more personal, Wilson said, she includes hand-made items inside the card like completed coloring book pictures, bookmarks and crocheted friendship bracelets.

The cards go to an air station in Alaska, two army bases in Georgia and Texas, and a marine wounded warrior group in North Carolina, Wilson said.

Starting her senior year in high school, Wilson be-

gan emailing card companies for donations. If the cards arrive with a winter holiday explicitly stated, like Christmas or Hanukkah, Wilson makes a note of that on the envelope.

Wilson mailed the cards over Thanksgiv-

ing break to ensure they reached their destinations by December.

If students are interested in helping prepare holiday cards for next year, they can contact Wilson at [njwilson@coe.edu](mailto:njwilson@coe.edu)



*Boxes containing the 3,000 holiday cards Nina Wilson sent to servicemembers this year.*

*Photo courtesy of Nina Wilson.*

## WEEKLY SUDOKU

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

Sudoku courtesy of [www.websudoku.com](http://www.websudoku.com)

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

## Coe-community Camera



*Students sing while holding candles during the annual Christmas Vespers concert the night of Dec. 6. A similar program, Christmas Convocation, took place that afternoon. Both programs consisted of hymns and carols.*