

COURIER

— SUMMER 2026 —



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STUDENTS AND OTHERS,
IN THE FIELD OF
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THUS, ON BEHALF OF
FAMILY, THIS VICTOR
PRESENTED TO COE COL
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COE COLLEGE



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Kohawks lined up one-by-one to ring the Victory Bell on Commencement day, symbolically marking the end of their tenure as a student at Coe. Read about the messages they heard during the Commencement ceremony on page 16.



Greetings from Coe College,

Each year I am reminded how wonderful it is here at Coe by the sense of community that is imbued in each interaction on campus. Our student organizations are doing great work to enhance the experiences of their classmates, and our faculty and staff are all engaged in collaboration and growth with students and across departments. At the end of the day, that is what Coe is about: individuals in a collective whole, all with the chance to live our lives together with shared experiences and to drive each other toward being the best possible versions of ourselves.

We experienced this outpouring of support in a special way in May, as we celebrated students of the Class of 2026 at Commencement. The theme of community was present and strong as we came together to acknowledge their accomplishments and to cheer them on as they prepared to leave the nest. I trust our newest alumni will take that sense of community and purpose with them as they discover new opportunities. I urge them to go be good people – we need it.

This edition of the Courier captures that sense, too, with stories of our alumni and campus updates. You will travel to a glacier in New Zealand, step back in time to Europe during World War II and take a deep dive into Coe’s history to celebrate our storied 175 years. Our one-of-a-kind shared commitment is distinctive in these stories whether you are reading about Kohawks far from home or right here on campus.

Thank you for your interest in and dedication to our Kohawk community near and far. Your presence is felt, no matter where you are.

Alma mater, hail, hail, hail.

David Hayes '93
President

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Questions and comments regarding the Courier can be sent to alumni@coe.edu.

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Visit the Courier online at www.coe.edu/courier.



ZOE FREDRIKSEN '19

finds wonder

ON THE FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER

For many Kohawks, a degree from Coe serves as a springboard into specialized professional fields. For **Zoe Fredriksen '19**, that foundation in biology and environmental science initially led to successful roles as a quality control lead at Toppling Goliath Brewing and a production biochemist and process engineer at Integrated DNA Technologies. However, Fredriksen recently decided to trade the laboratory for the elements, moving across the globe to the Franz Josef Glacier in New Zealand.

Currently, Fredriksen works as a guide for a helicopter tourism company, leading “heli hikes” on the fastest-moving commercially guided glacier in the world. Her day begins at 7:00 AM with a team meeting to review flight plans and assignments. Depending on her assignment, she might hop on an immediate flight to prep the track or stay grounded to outfit and train her guests.

The experience is as breathtaking as it is rigorous. Each tour begins with a five-to-seven-minute helicopter flight up to the glacier’s elevation of 1,300 meters. Once on the ice, Zoe guides groups of 12 through constantly changing blue ice features, including narrow crevasses, staggering ice towers and deep ice caves. Despite having guided approximately 200 experiences on the ice, Fredriksen says the flight still leaves her in awe. Every time she is in the air, she finds herself thinking about how cool it is that she gets to do this and experience it every day.

Zoe’s journey to the west coast of New Zealand was sparked by a connection from her brother, **Espen Fredriksen '13**, who previously worked as a medic support at Scott Base, New Zealand’s Antarctica

base. Zoe took advantage of the New Zealand Working Holiday Visa, a program available to young adults ages 18-30 that allows them to work and travel for up to a year.

Landing the competitive role required more than just a connection, however. Fredriksen notes that her experience at Coe’s Wilderness Field Station near Ely, Minnesota was a key reason she was selected for the position. The time spent canoe-camping, map reading and navigating the Northwoods gave her the essential group management skills necessary to lead tourists safely through a rugged glacial environment.

Living in staff housing tucked between patches of rainforest, Zoe has found a community of like-minded friends from around the world. While her time on the glacier is seasonal and dependent on the temperamental west coast New Zealand weather, the perspective she has gained is lasting. For Fredriksen, this journey has been a lesson in adaptability, proving her philosophy that the small stuff isn’t important and that “everything is figureoutable.”

Her biggest takeaway for fellow Kohawks is the simple importance of the word “try.” She believes that even if a new path doesn’t work out exactly as planned, it provides valuable information about what you want to do next. Whether she is loading a helicopter or backpacking through New Zealand on a day off, Zoe remains a testament to the power of taking the leap. She encourages everyone to reach for their goals, reminding her Coe family that while it’s easy to try new things in college, the importance of taking those leaps doesn’t end at graduation.





THE POWER OF THE COE NETWORK:

A 25+ YEAR LEGACY OF MARKETS AND MENTORSHIP

The power of the Coe College network is more than an idea; it's a professional reality that has been exemplified by over a quarter-century of shared investment and education. This legacy is currently highlighted by two significant milestones: the 25th anniversary of the Birkey Investment Fund and the historic success of the A. Ziffel Investment Club. Together, they demonstrate how the bonds formed on campus evolve into lifelong connections that directly benefit the next generation of Kohawks.

THE BIRKEY INVESTMENT FUND: *Real money, real mentorship*

The Birkey Investment Fund, launched in the fall of 2000, was the "brainchild" of Coe Trustee **Peter Birkey '91**, whose vision was shaped by a senior year internship at AEGON (now Transamerica). Tasked with investing on behalf of the insurance company, Birkey realized that "nothing could substitute for the pressures and consequences of investing real money." When he brought the idea to his alma mater, his goal was to bridge the gap between classroom theory and professional reality.

"Because the students invest real money, it quickly eliminates the hubris that can happen in academia, and replaces it with the unsureness and doubt in their own recommendation," Birkey explained. "Hopefully this same trait carries over to their first employer where the students realize they have a lot to learn, but are willing to try difficult and unsure things."

The foundation of the fund was a collective effort that took three to four years of development. Birkey spent late nights brainstorming with the late **Doug Ramsey '88**, who brought experience from a similar fund at the University of Iowa. They were joined by a dedicated original advisory board — **Deb Gertsen '87**, **Tom Myers '86**, **Barrie Ernst '76** and **Steve Bohr '92** — alongside a multi-disciplinary faculty team including Professor of Business Administration and Economics, Chair **Pam Carstens**, Roger & Mary Baxter Professor of International Business and World Affairs **Rick Eichhorn**, Associate Professor of Stead Department of Business Administration & Economics, Emeritus **Dwight Hansen** and retired **George R. Baker** Professor of Stead Department of Business Administration & Economics **Mickey Wu**. What began with less than \$10,000 has evolved into a rigorous academic class and cornerstone of the Stead Department of Business Administration & Economics. Students earn credit while managing a live portfolio, moving beyond textbook theory to conduct deep research and present findings to an alumni board.

The professional environment and direct connection to alumni are immediately impactful and powerful drivers for

student performance. Wu noted that these board presentations teach students how to think on their feet and effectively answer "why" when their recommendations are challenged. Carstens adds that this direct connection is a powerful motivator.

"Knowing that our advisory board will read their final reports, listen to their final presentations and vote on buying or not buying the stocks they recommend motivates our investment fund students to do their best work," Carstens said.



REAL BUCKS, REAL BUYS

By Steve Gravelle



The fall of 2000 may seem an inauspicious time for a beginner's first venture on Wall Street. But maybe not, if the investors seek more than financial gain.

"We learned, especially, because the market hasn't done that well. The whole investment game is such a great leveler," said **Roshan Khattry '02**.

"I knew what it was and followed it a little bit, but I really didn't know much," said **Jeff Martin '02**. "Once we started my eyes were opened. It just came together."

Khattry and Martin are two of eight junior and senior business and economics majors to manage Coe's new investment fund through a class taught by economics and business faculty and alumni working in the finance field.

The goal, Economics Professor Mickey Wu said, was to teach "how to look at the economy, how to look at a firm in terms of their competitive advantage. It's a full-blown project, where they really do their financial analysis and make predictions."

"This is just a great addition to the program, kind of translating what they've been learning into practical career applications," said Development Officer **Dan Breitbach**, who helped raise the fund's initial \$16,000 endowment.

Breitbach says the program was "kind of the brainchild" of **Peter Birkey '91**.

"He wanted them to handle real money," said Breitbach.

Birkey, now with Amerus Capital Management in Des Moines, brought the idea to his alma mater. He wanted students to get hands-on experience in finance and investment.

The fund is overseen by an advisory board of faculty and alumni. Early fall semester was devoted to faculty and board presentations on the fundamentals of investing. Sessions covered strategic analysis, financial statement analysis, accounting, valuation, and trading practices.

"It was a big learning experience," Khattry said. "There's way too much information out there, and we spent so much

Students learned the stock market this year by investing real money, with the help of Coe faculty and a team of alumni advisors. Pictured in the front row from left to right are **Rick Eichhorn**, **Anna Tenzythoff '01**, **Carrie Yedik '02**, **Jenni Conkel '02**, **Laci Palar '01**, **Emily Sandberg '01** and **Mickey Wu**. Back row: **Pam Carstens '83**, **Jeff Martin '02**, **Roshan Khattry '02**, **Barrie Ernst '76**, **Doug Ramsey '88**, **Deb Gertsen '87**, **Peter Birkey '91**, **Jesse Woerdehoff '01**, **Dwight Hansen** and **Steve Bohr '92**. Not pictured: **Tom Myers '86**.

time surfing the Web. It took time deciding what was good information and what to use. Then, we actually went and applied it."

Finally, advisors approved the investments after hearing proposals from each of three student groups assigned a different sector of the economy.

"It's real-world experience right there," Martin said. "That's how business gets done: You have to state your case and be able to argue and present your case. It's something you don't get to do every day in classes."

While the advisory board has

final approval, "they (students) are managing the portfolio," said Wu.

"They weren't too worried about the companies we picked, as long as we picked good, solid companies," said Martin.

Students had a lesson in market volatility when EMC announced a new product the very day Khattry's group made its board presentation. The stock soared to \$90 a share; it sat at \$42 the last time Khattry checked, in mid-May.

"It was kind of the wrong day to pick it," Khattry said, but he remains bullish on the stock. "We're holding it, and it'll be the first to recover."

These alumni provide a vital through line of expertise, with some having been involved since the early 2000s and others being recent graduates. This culture of giving back is rooted in a deep desire to see current students thrive in high-demand career paths.

When reflecting on why alumni are so uniquely invested in this mission, Carstens explains that many recognized the need for these skills early in their own careers.

“Alumni working in finance, particularly in the investment industry, realized during their Coe internships and in the early years of their jobs after graduation that targeted learning in the field would benefit Coe students,” she says. “Having a chance to network with advisory board members also helps students better understand job opportunities in the industry and has led to careers in the industry for several investment fund students, some of whom are now advisory board members to our current students!”

Ultimately, Birkey notes that the goal isn't just to produce Wall Street analysts, but to ensure all Kohawks have the skills to understand their own 401k allocation and manage their own future assets. He hopes the legacy remains one of total immersion.

“The ‘Birkey Fund experience’ is to allow the students to jump in the deep end of the finance pool, giving them a glimpse into the world of investing,” Birkey said.

THE A. ZIFFEL SUCCESS STORY:

A lifelong network

The A. Ziffel Investment Club serves as a prime example of the lifelong potential of these Coe connections. Formed in 1998, the club was born from a group of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity brothers who had originally partnered to purchase and manage a house for Coe’s Phi Kappa Tau chapter. The group’s identity is famously quirky; they took their name from Arnold Ziffel, the pig on the television show Green Acres, and began with “random” monthly contributions of exactly \$51.

Now entering its 28th year, the club remains in pursuit of makin’ bacon and has successfully reached the \$1 million milestone. Beyond the financial results, which have crushed the S&P 500 with an eight-fold increase, the club’s true strength is its roster of Coe graduates spanning decades.

The historical roster, maintained by club historian **Tom Hazelton ’77**, includes 21 Kohawks from the Class of 1961 through the Class of 1987, representing a deep cross-section of Kohawk history. **Dave Lusson ’87**, a driving force behind the group, emphasizes that while the portfolio contains heavy hitters like Nvidia and Microsoft, the 25+ years of camaraderie and quarterly meetings remain the true heart of the club. The connection between the professional success of the Ziffel group and the academic training of the Birkey Fund is strong, with club members like Lusson, alumni like Birkey and faculty members like Carstens acting as a through line, connecting the experiences of veteran alumni with the ambitions of current students. For Carstens, the parallel success of these two groups is a natural extension of the Coe experience.

“It’s fun to watch Kohawks work together,” Carstens said. “The Ziffel club started with a group of Coe friends who had an interest in investing. Similarly, the Birkey Investment Fund started when a group of Coe alumni working in the investment industry approached the Stead Department of Business Administration & Economics with an idea about how to spark an interest in investment careers and enhance the education of Coe students.”

As the Birkey and A. Ziffel Funds each embark on their next quarter-century, they remain a testament to the fact that at Coe, the most valuable investments are the ones made in each other.

“Whatever school you go to, the network you become a part of is a substantial part of the value of your college experience. Programs like these are the specific ways - ‘Coe makes it possible. You make it happen,’” said Birkey.



“Whatever school you go to, the network you become a part of is a substantial part of the value of your college experience.”

Peter Birkey '91



1



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5



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1 Members of the A. Ziffel Investment Club at a club meeting in 2024. Left to right, front row: Scott Harry, **Kinch Donithan '84**, **Tom Hazelton '77**, **Bruce Benson '85**, **Dave Lussion '87**. Back row: **Chuck Van Hoeck '77**, Jerry DuBall, **Kurt Tjelmeland '84**, **Jeff Busse '85**, Chad Waring, Todd Manternach.

2 A group of Ziffel Coe graduates deep sea fishing in 2018 in Naples, Florida. From left to right: **Kinch Donithan '84**, **Brett Bednar '84**, **Tom Hazelton '77**, **Chuck McDonald '85**, **Kurt Tjelmeland '84**, **Dave Lussion '87**.

3 Arnold Ziffel, the pig on the television show Green Acres, and the investment club's namesake.

4 Members of the A. Ziffel Investment Club at a meeting at the Starlite Room in Cedar Rapids.

5 Birkey Fund students pose for a group photo in the fall of 2025. Front Row: **Erin Danner '26**, **Jarin Sanders '26**, **Julian Garcia Ayala '26**, **Brevin Dahl '27**, **Malik Pedraza-Palominos '26**, **Shannon Linder '26**. Back Row: **Brady Kelly '28**, **Brady Langan '27**, **Claire Brandenburg '27**, **Kai Sidhu '27**, **Levi Rubin '27**, **Adam Severson '26**.

Lieutenant **Donald H. Niggemeyer '44**'s dog tag, Purple Heart and the clothing he wore at his death now reside in the George T. Henry Archives at Coe College, along with other memorabilia.



WWII MAY TERM

Footsteps of the “Coe 22”

IN MAY 1944,

22 members of the Class of 1944 were commissioned Second Lieutenants in the United States Army Infantry and went on to command infantry units in Europe during the next year of World War II.

“I think I grew up and matured more [than] at any other time in my life on that afternoon I joined the 18th [Regiment],” wrote **Richard A. Fuller '44**. **William H. Marske '44** wrote, “Crossing the Atlantic on the troop ship Mount Vernon, even while playing basketball on board ship, I didn’t fully realize the seriousness of what was ahead of me.” In May 2026, Coe students followed in the footsteps of the “Coe 22,” traveling to France, Belgium and Germany to trace the movements of their predecessors near the end of the second world war.

Preceding their departure for Europe, as a group, the Coe 22 completed the college’s ROTC and Army Specialized Training programs, plus the Army

Infantry Basic Training in California or Texas. After they left Iowa in 1944, they scattered in different directions, but the men who stayed together could be recognized by their voices as they marched to the songs of Coe College.

Nearly all of the Coe 22 saw front line duty under fire. **Victor E. Lowman '44** wrote, “The first day under fire, near Nancy, France, is how I celebrated my 22nd birthday.”

One soldier was killed in action: Lieutenant **Donald H. Niggemeyer '44**, whose Purple Heart and the clothing he wore at his death now reside in the George T. Henry Archives at Coe College, along with other memorabilia.

Several of the Coe 22 received honors for bravery, and many received the Purple Heart for wounds endured. **Kenneth E. McCulloh '44** wrote, “. . . the German rifleman who put a hole in my left ear would have scored a bullseye if he had aimed one inch further to my right.” Marske was one of the last to see Niggemeyer alive, remembering, “...I found out that Don Niggemeyer’s unit...was camped adjacent to my unit. I looked Don up. They were packing up to move out that night. We had a

good conversation. I did not see Don again, later learning that he had been killed the next day.”

Although all graduated from Coe in March 1944 with degrees awarded in absentia by the Board of Trustees, most men continued their education after the war with the help of the GI Bill of Rights.

Little did the Coe 22 know, over 80 years later, their paths would be traveled by a new generation of Kohawks.

Led by Henrietta Arnold Professor of History Bethany Keenan and Associate Professor of Mathematics Brittany Miller, *The End of WWII: The Coe 22 and the Liberation of Western Europe* allowed students to explore the experiences of soldiers and civilians, including concentration camp victims. Students learned about the military, social and cultural history of WWII's end in Europe, analyzing its memorialization, as they crossed through London, Portsmouth, Caen, Luxembourg City, Brussels, Munich and Berlin. Keeping a daily journal and noting their cultural observations and interesting encounters, students began with the D-Day attack at Normandy and followed with stops in France and into Belgium for the Battle

of the Bulge before spending time in Germany. Beyond the history of these once war-torn nations themselves, students learned about the experiences and the legacies of the Coe 22.

In 1947, 12 members of the original Coe 22 returned to campus to attend the rededication of the Victory Bell Arch in memory of Donald Niggemeyer, joined by his widow, **Frances Niggemeyer Pfaff '44**. One of the 22, **Charles P. McManaman '44**, addressed the crowd, “Upon graduation as Second Lieutenants in the spring of 1944, we reported to various divisions as replacement officers. Most of these units were scheduled for overseas duty. Don joined such a unit, ending up in the north of France where he was lost while on patrol duty in October, 1944. In his memory the tower was dedicated with the hope that it will never again be necessary to dedicate another.”

“Nothing more alarming, nothing more shaking to go through, which only a person who's gone through will ever know. They only know there will never be anything worse,” wrote **Paul D. Scheele '44**, adding, “I'm alive and delighted to be back with the '22.' God has put his blessing on all of us.”

1. A morning outing to the Luxembourg American Cemetery offered the group a chance to experience the final resting place of over 5,000 American soldiers.
2. Kohawks on their last dinner in Berlin, after 20 days, five countries and seven cities of following in the footsteps of the Coe 22.
3. The group (including a travel-size Charlie Kohawk) kicked off the May Term with an exploration of the Churchill War Rooms in London, England.
4. A stop in Berlin began with a tour of the Bundestag, the federal parliament of Germany. The group saw graffiti from when Russians occupied the building.
5. The group visited the gravesite of Second Lieutenant **Donald Niggemeyer '44**, who was the only member of the Coe 22 to perish during the war. Niggemeyer is buried in the Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium.





A SEASON OF GRIT

LEADS TO SUCCESS AND A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR KOHAWK WRESTLERS

The Kohawk wrestling program continued its streak of successes during the 2025-2026 season, delivering another successful campaign despite early season uncertainties. The team entered the year unranked with the departure of three All-Americans, but the Kohawks proved that their culture of toughness and developmental excellence remains stronger than ever.

The season was defined by a steady ascent. The team's resilience was on full display at the National Duals, where they battled to a gritty seventh-place finish. Then, the team claimed 13th at the D-III national championships held in Cedar Rapids.

At the heart of the Kohawks' success were standout performers **Brayden Parke '28** and **Bo Koedam '29**, who both earned All-American honors. Parke finished as the national runner-up at 125 pounds, while Koedam earning a seventh-place finish at 165 pounds. Their individual achievements provided the spark for the team in its late season surge.

Parke, in particular, has quickly ascended into the program's upper echelon.

"With Brayden being a two-time All-American and a national finalist in his first two years of college he is on track to be one of the most decorated wrestlers in Coe College history. He sets a great example with the toughness and commitment he brings to the program," Head Coach John Oostendorp said.

Koedam matched that intensity, navigating a difficult bracket to secure his own All-American status. Together, Parke and Koedam spearheaded a group of five national qualifiers.

Reflecting on the team's trajectory, Oostendorp noted the significance of their performance on the national stage.

"With us losing three senior All-Americans and being unranked coming into the season, I was proud of how this team competed and performed. What is really exciting is that we return all five national qualifiers and two All-Americans, which puts us in position to have one of the most successful seasons in program history."

KOHAWK WOMEN'S BASKETBALL RETURNS TO THE NATIONAL STAGE

The Coe College women's basketball program blended senior leadership with a high-octane offense to finish with a flurry in 2026. For the first time in 14 years, the Kohawks punched their ticket to the NCAA D-III Tournament, marking a triumphant full-circle moment for Head Coach **Kayla Waskow '13**, who was competing as a player for Coe the last time the program competed in the tournament.

The Kohawks finished the season with a stellar 21-6 record, but their most defining moments came in late February. Entering the American Rivers Conference (A-R-C) tournament as the No. 2 seed, Coe battled through a gauntlet of conference rivals, eventually beating No. 1 seed Wartburg College 61-50 on the road to claim the conference title.

The momentum carried into the national tournament, where Coe secured a first-round victory, its first since 2012. Waskow said it was willpower that drove her squad to success,

"We had lofty goals at the start of the season and our resiliency was tested throughout the season in different ways but at the biggest moments our players stepped up. To be able to go on the road and win the conference tournament championship game to qualify for the NCAA Tournament was a result of their grit and belief in one another," Waskow said.

While the team's success was collective, point guard **Caydee Kirkham '26** delivered a season for the record books. Kirkham, already the 2024 A-R-C MVP, reached legendary status this year by becoming the program's all-time leader in both scoring and assists. Her season was highlighted by multiple 30-point performances including a triple-double, earning her D3hoops.com third-team All-American honors and another A-R-C MVP. Waskow said her efforts will leave a lasting legacy on the program.

"Caydee impacted our program as soon as she stepped on campus. As a point guard she had a lot of expectations and we placed a lot of trust in her to manage the game. Her name is scattered all over the record books and to claim both career assists and points is nearly unheard of. She elevated the game of those around her," Waskow said.

With a first-round NCAA win under their belts, the Kohawks have set a new standard for the program moving forward.

"Winning a game in the NCAA tournament provided further motivation for our returning players and was a great way to send out our senior class," said Waskow.





CLAY TARGET TAKES AIM AT NEW NATIONAL HEIGHTS

The Coe College clay target team remains a force in collegiate shooting sports. Competing at the 2026 Association of College Unions International/Scholastic Clay Target Program (ACUI/SCTP) National Championships in San Antonio, Texas, the Kohawks brought their focus and consistency, earning a third-place overall team finish and two historic individual national titles.

The weekend was headlined by the record-breaking performances of **Gregory Stewart '28** and **Kamea Herrera '29**. Both Kohawks claimed individual national titles in the Classic All-American Division, marking a milestone moment for the program.

Stewart's path to the title demanded nerves of steel. After totaling 276 to tie for the top spot in the male division, he faced a winner-take-all shoot-off. Stewart came out on top with a 14-10 score to hoist the trophy. Earlier in the season, Stewart also claimed the program's first-ever regional title with a perfect score of 100 in American Skeet.

"Shooting at regionals and finding success there gave me the confidence to just let go and have fun at nationals," Stewart said. "No matter what happened, I could come off the line and be with a group of people that loved me. The shoot off felt the same — I knew that I had the support of my teammates, families and my coaches to fall back on. Once it was over, it felt like we won as a team, not just as an individual. Winning and being with my team is so much more fulfilling than anything I could have asked for."

Herrera was equally dominant, matching Stewart's success to sweep the Classic All-American titles for Coe by winning the female division. She posted a 276 to beat her nearest competitor by four points. Herrera's season was also defined by perfection; she notably posted a 100/100 perfect trap score earlier in the year, helping the team set a new school record in the discipline.

"I feel incredibly blessed to earn this title. I wouldn't have accomplished it without God. Throughout the season, I lacked confidence in myself, but I kept trusting in God's plan and remained committed to accepting that every experience was meant to help me grow. Every target I shot was an opportunity to learn and improve, and that mindset helped me reach this point," Herrera said.

This year's third-place finish in San Antonio continues a remarkable streak for the program, which includes a Division III Classic All-American National Championship in 2023. The Kohawks have now been on the national podium five years in a row, a feat Head Coach Patrick Cory attributes to a massive support system.

"Our success didn't happen by accident. It is the result of tremendous support from our Board of Trustees, President Hayes, Athletic Director Steve Cook and the athletic department staff. Our program held up a trophy this year, but it was the entire Coe College team that made it possible," Cory said.

TWO KOHAWK BASEBALL PLAYERS COMBINE TO CREATE A PROGRAM FIRST

The Kohawk baseball program has a history of All-Americans, but never has it had two players earn All-American status in the same season.

Following the 2026 season, **Jack Walsh '27** and **Ryan Thoreson '26** were each named to both the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) NCAA Division III and the D3baseball.com All-America teams. The duo, earning Coe's first All-American honors since 2024, were the cornerstones for the Kohawks, bolstering the pitching staff, offensive production and defensive output for the team.

Walsh made good on his preseason all-American recognition from D3baseball, claiming second team ABCA honors and third-team D3baseball honors. He had

a dominant junior season posting a 9-2 record with an all-time program high of 102 strikeouts while flustering opponents with a 2.77 ERA.

Thoreson was named to the ABCA fourth team and D3baseball fifth team after his best season as a Kohawk, totaling 70 hits, tied for fourth-most in a single season for Coe, while hitting .407. Additionally, Thoreson started all 44 games behind the plate, throwing out 16 runners while posting a fielding percentage of .984.

Thoreson was also named the American Rivers Conference Position Player of the Year.

Walsh and pitching staff teammate **Xander Cloudy '27** were first team all-conference performers.

JACK 2.77 ERA 9-2 W-L 102 Ks

RYAN 70 HITS 42 RBI 20 XBH 6 HR .407 AVG

STUDENT ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HOLDS COESPES

The Coe College Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) held its annual awards ceremony in late April at Sinclair Auditorium on campus. The night included 10 awards that honored individual and team success throughout the season with women's basketball & football earning the Female & Male Team of the Year awards. Archery was named the Co-ed Team of the Year for the first time in program history.

A special senior dinner at Ellis Park Golf Course in Cedar Rapids was paired with the ceremony on the following evening with the SAAC team organizing a catered meal for the athletes in attendance.

Best Male Team: Football

Best Female Team: Basketball

Best Co-Ed Team: Archery

Best Male Athlete, Team Sport: Brady Kelly '27

Best Female Athlete, Team Sport: Caydee Kirkham '26

Best Male Athlete, Individual Sport: Kamen Rangelov '28

Best Female Athlete, Individual Sport: Lily Mayo '26

Male Newcomer of the Year: Bo Koedam '29

Female Newcomer of the Year: Maddie Harris '29

Lugnut Award: Denise Guerrero '28

COMMENCEMENT 2026

Kohawks are ready to *embrace their future*

There's a pesky question graduates tend to get. An inquiry that stirs excitement, but can be a bit repetitive.

The question is one we all face at least a few times in our lives, but perhaps never as prevalently as at a life milestone like a graduation.

“What's next?”

For the Kohawks gathered during graduation weekend, there was a resounding reply: Bring it on, we're ready for it.

There was also a strong sentiment to live in the moment, and for one day at least, the Coe College Class of 2026 put that question to the side to let the joy of accomplishment be at the forefront.

The 2026 Commencement was full of celebratory reflection, and yes, the theme of “what's next” did bubble to the top. There was reassurance, though, that the conviction that comes from a Coe education will lead you down a productive and righteous path.

“You have learned what it means to live among others with purpose, with respect and with care,” President **David Hayes '93** reminded the graduates gathered under a perfectly blue sky on the Stewart Memorial Library quad.

“So, as you leave this place, I ask something of you. Carry that forward. Be the person who brings people together. Be the neighbor who shows up. Be the colleague who builds trust. Be the citizen who strengthens the

communities you enter. The world does not need more spectators. It needs more participants. And it needs more builders,” Hayes continued.

Student speaker **Kyra Phillips '26** built on the theme of utilizing the skills and knowledge gained at Coe to move forward with intention even in the face of adversity or uncertainty.

First, though, she empathized with her classmates – she has also been haunted by the question of what's next, which sometimes can be magnified by world events.

“We went to college and put in the work to hone our knowledge and skills. We held part-time jobs, networked, completed internships and research experience. Some of us applied to graduate school. Others have already secured a job and are preparing to enter the workforce.

“And yet, the question ‘what's next’ still looms particularly heavy in many of our minds. Because the truth is, we are living in unprecedented times. Every day, we are bombarded with headlines alluding to the imminent threat of what appears to be the end of the world, or at least the end of the world as we know it,” Phillips said.

Phillips implored her classmates to reject any cynicism that they may feel and face uncertainty with intention, urging them to actively shape their future through compassion, courage and integrity.

“So, will you meet ‘what's next’ with fear? Or with intention?” Phillips asked.

“The Coe College experience has prepared us well for what intention looks like. We have learned how to adapt when plans fall apart, to think critically when answers aren't obvious. We have learned how to compromise, cooperate and work effectively with people who see the world differently from us,” Phillips said.

Much like pursuing an education is an active process, Phillips encouraged her classmates to remain active in their lives. Stay informed, and instead of waiting for moments of certainty to act, proactively be part of the change you want to see.

The guest Commencement speaker, Dr. **Heather Hain '94**, was able to relay experiences from her own life to illustrate how rewarding it can be to move ahead with conviction in times of uncertainty.

Hain is a genetic counselor at Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C. She assists families impacted by rare genetic conditions, guiding them through the genetic background of a diagnosis and associated continued care options to achieve the best life possible.

At Coe, Hain graduated with degrees in psychology, biology and general science, but the road to her current role was long and winding...she has often asked herself “what's next?”

Her academic pursuits started with an eye toward becoming a pediatrician. That shifted to neuroscience, then eventually Hain started working at a pharmaceutical company. She said her liberal arts training at Coe prepared her to be inquisitive and flexible in her professional pursuits, but it was the passing of her best friend from Coe, **Andi McComb '94**, that left her with an important professional lesson: lead with empathy.

Andi succumbed to cancer at the age of 25 and Hain had agreed to notify their extensive network of friends of her death. From her grief she gained a skill she uses regularly and one she thought important to press upon the graduates intently listening.

“Whatever profession you choose, learn to exhibit empathy, if for no other reason than you'll be repaid with empathy in times of need. So continue learning and lean on your community,” Hain said.

However there needed to be a next in Hain's life. She worked in Malaysia, came back to the United States, was laid off and then doubled down on her passion for genetics and got her master's in genetic counseling — at age 45.

Hain even called career services at Coe 20+ years after she had graduated and discovered that two fellow alumni were genetic counselors, including one who had graduated a couple of years behind her. The Coe connections came through and helped her pursue the career path she is on today.

“I've discovered this: After graduation, you don't have to leave your Coe community,” Hain said.

Coe friends and classmates remain part of Hain's life today and she told the graduates to always hold these years and connections close.

“Class of 2026, what you've learned at Coe will serve you well for the rest of your lives. Life is not about perfection. It's about continuing to learn, taking risks, falling forward, creating, using, and leaning on your communities, and I'll add, remembering to

thank people along the way,” Hain said.

“What's next?” can be scary. It can be exciting. It can be unexpected. But the resounding message was “you're ready” for what's next.

Phillips captured the moment as she concluded her Commencement address.

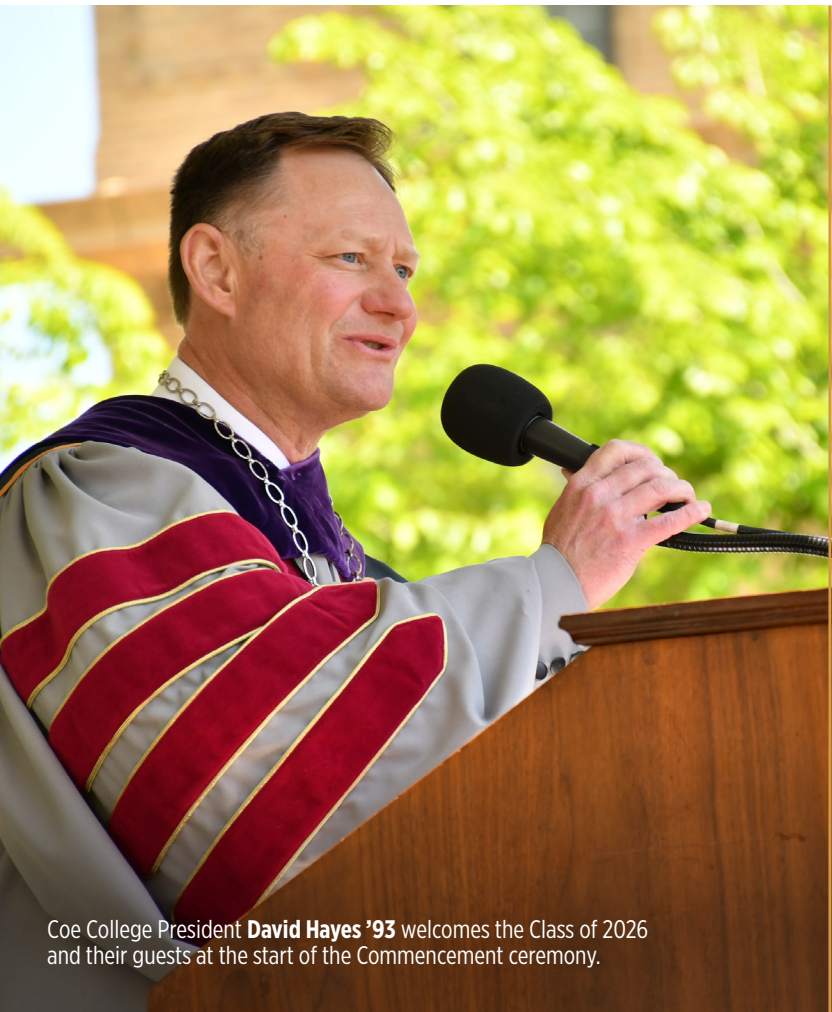
“Up until this point, Coe has made it possible. But moving forward, you must make it happen. Congratulations, Class of 2026. The question of ‘what's next’ is finally yours to answer.”

“Life is not about perfection. It's about continuing to learn, taking risks, falling forward, creating, using, and leaning on your communities, and ... remembering to thank people along the way.”

DR. HEATHER HAIN '94



Kyra Phillips '26 was the student speaker at Commencement.



Coe College President **David Hayes '93** welcomes the Class of 2026 and their guests at the start of the Commencement ceremony.

Words *from* *President Hayes*

"Coe is, at its best, a place where people show up for one another. Where learning is not just pursued but shared. Where success is not just individual, but collective. You have experienced that here in ways both large and small. In classrooms and labs, on teams and stages, in residence halls and late-night conversations. You have learned what it means to live among others with purpose, with respect and with care.

You have also learned something our country needs more of right now. How to be a builder of community. How to listen. How to engage. How to disagree with dignity. How to contribute rather than withdraw. These are not small lessons. They are essential ones.

So, as you leave this place, I ask something of you. Carry that forward. Be the person who brings people together. Be the neighbor who shows up. Be the colleague who builds trust. Be the citizen who strengthens the communities you enter. The world does not need more spectators. It needs more participants. And it needs more builders."

RECOGNITIONS & AWARDS

The Eliza Hickok Kesler Outstanding Service Award was announced at Commencement. Created in 1999 to honor superior, long-term service to Coe, the Outstanding Service Award is given most years at Coe's graduation. The award is named for **Eliza Hickok Kesler '31**, known to generations of the Coe family as Roby, whose lifetime of distinguished service to the college is unparalleled.

This year's Kesler Award was bestowed upon two members of the Coe community: Director of Financial Aid Barb Hoffman and Executive Assistant to the Provost Tammie Wodnik. Both were honored for their tireless work behind the scenes to ensure streamlined college functions and a superior student experience. They have demonstrated extraordinary care, patience and expertise, making Coe better every day.

Also honored at Commencement was the Charles J. Lynch Outstanding Teacher Award recipient, Assistant Professor of Education Stacy Haynes-Moore. The annual recipient is selected by the graduating class, and the award recognizes quality of teaching, concern for students as individuals and scholarship. It memorializes the values and service of **C.J. Lynch, Class of 1926**. Lynch was a prominent Cedar Rapids attorney whose dedication to Coe was reflected, among other ways, by 43 years of service on the Board of Trustees of the college. Above all, C.J. Lynch valued inspirational teaching and sound scholarship.

Dr. Lynda Barrow, professor of political science, was recognized for achieving emerita status. After starting at Coe in 1999, Dr. Barrow had a remarkable career as an educator and scholar. Students noted her incredibly deep knowledge and brilliance when it comes to political science as a whole, but especially pertaining to her interest in the intersection of world politics and religion.



Coe College President **David Hayes '93** presents the Eliza Hickok Kesler Outstanding Service Award to Director of Financial Aid Barb Hoffman.



Coe College President **David Hayes '93** and Coe College Provost Angela Ziskowski present the Eliza Hickok Kesler Outstanding Service Award to Executive Assistant to the Provost Tammie Wodnik.



Chairman of the Coe College Board of Trustees **Hank Taylor '75** presents the C.J. Lynch Outstanding Teacher Award to Assistant Professor of Education Stacy Haynes-Moore.



Professor of Political Science Dr. Lynda Barrow was honored as an emerita faculty member.

First ENGINEERING PHYSICS *degrees conferred*

The first Bachelor of Science in Engineering degrees were awarded during the 2026 Commencement ceremony. Four Kohawks received their B.S.Es after the engineering physics major was announced in February of 2024.



Members of the Class of 2026, including **Ankita Kandel**, rang the Victory Bell to symbolically mark the end of their time as students at Coe.



Mahki Johnson '26 receives his diploma from President **David Hayes '93**.



As Commencement began, President Hayes acknowledged the loss of an iconic member of Coe's faculty, Dr. Steve Feller. Doc was honored with the placing of his academic regalia on his chair.



Dr. Heather Hain '94 accepts her honorary degree from Associate Professor of Sociology Lisa Barnett before addressing the Class of 2026 as the Commencement guest speaker.



Nicole Gasca '26 presents President **David Hayes '93** with the senior class gift check.

Date **May**

CLASS OF **2026**
Coe College

A MILESTONE MET:

Celebrating the first Kids on Course Scholarship graduates



This graduation season marked a historic first for Coe's partnership with Kids on Course. Three students, including **Dakota Harris '26**, crossed the Commencement stage as the inaugural recipients of the Coe Kids on Course scholarship. Kids on Course places more than 1,000 children in the Cedar Rapids Community School District on the path to post-secondary success.

Harris began his journey with Kids on Course in the hallways of Harrison Elementary in Cedar Rapids. For Harris, the program was more than just a scholarship; it was a companion through his formative years.

"Kids on Course came in and offered an opportunity for students and family to connect with others," Harris recalls. He initially joined a running club where the program organized free dinners and socializing events, noting, "I grew more intertwined with Kids on Course, and in return they became more committed to my graduation over the years."

That commitment has paid off in dividends. Harris graduated with a degree in computer science, and reflected on how the scholarship removed challenging financial barriers in his pursuit of a nationally ranked liberal arts education.

Free from the weight of tuition stress, Harris was able to immerse himself fully in his studies. "The assistance allowed me to focus more on my coursework and personal development, rather than worrying about how to pay for school. This support gave me the opportunity to take full advantage of my education."

The impact of this program extends beyond just the classroom; it has fostered a profound sense of self-belief. Harris shares that the investment from the community served as his greatest motivator.

"The scholarship has motivated me to stay committed to my goals and maintain a strong level of academic performance. Knowing that others have invested in my success has encouraged me to work harder and make the most of my opportunities," Harris said.

Looking toward the future, Harris plans to stay local, aiming to contribute to the Cedar Rapids tech scene through website design or software development. As he and his fellow graduates turned their tassels, they weren't just finishing school — they proved that when a community invests in its students, the finish line is only the beginning.

Congratulations to the first of many Kids on Course graduates.

Stories from the Coe CLASS OF 2026.



Watch
Caitlin's story.

CAITLIN ATWOOD

*Instrumental music education
Van Horne, Iowa*

Caitlin was coming to Coe long before she enrolled. She attended All-State Music clinics hosted by the music department, and the campus quickly felt like a second home.



Watch
Greg's story.

GREG FLEMING

*Engineering physics
Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

Greg came to Coe with two objectives — learn how to use his creative design passion to engineer more efficient transportation in his hometown and win a lot of football games.



Watch
Michellel's story.

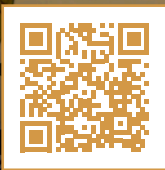
MICHELLEL JONES

*Philosophy and psychology
Charles City, Iowa*

Michellel's Coe admission counselor forged a true connection with her, and when it came time to start her Kohawk career, Michellel created her own connections all around campus.



Four years of growth, guidance, opportunity, laughter and building friendships that turn into forever friends...familiar stories for all of us that have called Coe home. Relive some of those fond memories through a few members of the Coe College Class of 2026 who were gracious enough to share their experiences and ruminations regarding how Coe has changed their lives. **Scan the QR codes to watch their video interviews.**



Watch
Laura's story.

LAURA NEUMARK

*Philosophy and political science
Point of Rocks, Maryland*

Laura didn't come all the way to Coe to take a passive approach as a Kohawk. She took on challenges, joined student organizations and athletic teams and even interned for a United States Senator.



Watch
Roman's story.

ROMAN NOTSCH

*Engineering physics
New Brighton, Minnesota*

Roman has always been driven by curiosity, which has led him to take apart and rebuild some of the objects and systems he has encountered in life. That's one of the reasons Coe's engineering physics program was perfect for him.



Watch
Ryan's story.

RYAN THORESON

*Data science and economics
Bettendorf, Iowa*

Ryan has balanced quite a bit during time at Coe — academics, band, baseball — but also learning how to use his quantitative skills to enhance his altruistic ambitions.

MOMENTUM IN THE FIRST YEAR

of the

PROGRESS WITH PURPOSE

strategic framework



NEW RESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- Aviation management
- Aviation management & flight operations
- Partnership with the Eastern Iowa Airport to open a flight school
- Engineering physics
- Healthcare administration
- Nutrition
- Risk management/insurance
- Supply chain management



STARTED AN ONLINE DEGREE PATH

- 100% online business administration degree with a concentration in strategic leadership



CELEBRATED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Goldwater
- Rhodes



JOINED GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL



ENGINEERING DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP WITH WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



WELCOMED NEW INITIATIVES ON CAMPUS

- NetVue vocational partnership
- Regular competition in the Campus Race to Zero Waste, including a 2026 first place finish in the per capita recycling category, small campus division
- NASA grant for computing resources
- Women's wrestling program
- Google AI for Education Accelerator partnership



RECOGNITIONS FROM NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS IN CRITICAL CATEGORIES

- Best Career Services (The Princeton Review)
- Most Accessible Professors (The Princeton Review)
- Best Student Support & Counseling Services (The Princeton Review)
- Ranked for social mobility and contributions to the public good (Washington Monthly)



David Hayes '93 has been unanimously reappointed as president of Coe College by the Coe College Board of Trustees. The reappointment extends Hayes' leadership for an additional five-year term through June 2031.

As the 16th president of Coe College, Hayes was inaugurated October 28, 2022 after serving as interim president since January 1, 2021.

"Serving my alma mater is a profound privilege, but the true gift is the trust placed in me by the Board and the incredible Kohawk family. I am deeply humbled by your support and energized by the future we are building together," Hayes said.

During his tenure as president, Hayes has guided Coe during a transformative time in higher education. Nationally, shifting demographics have led to a decline in the college-aged population, public confidence in the value of a college degree has decreased and the rise in artificial intelligence has rapidly shifted workplace demands. Hayes has been proactive in collaborating with campus partners to align with student needs and create community connections.

While Hayes would be the first to note any progress made has been a community effort, a select list of the accomplishments Coe has achieved during his tenure is on the opposite page.

Coe College Board of Trustees Chair **Hank Taylor '75** announced the reappointment to the Coe community in a campuswide communication shared below.

Dear Members of the Coe Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to share that the Board has unanimously reappointed David Hayes to serve as President of Coe College for an additional five-year term, extending his leadership through June 2031.

This decision reflects the Board's strong confidence in President Hayes's vision, integrity, and steady leadership. Over the past several years, he has guided Coe with a clear commitment to academic excellence, student success, financial stewardship, and the long-term vitality of the institution. His work has advanced key strategic priorities and deepened Coe's partnerships across Cedar Rapids and the region.

As Coe continues to navigate a rapidly changing higher education landscape, the Board believes that President Hayes' thoughtful leadership and collaborative approach will ensure continued momentum. We look forward to supporting his efforts as he leads the College into its next chapter.

Please join us in congratulating President Hayes on his reappointment and in expressing appreciation for his ongoing service to Coe College.

Sincerely,

Hank Taylor
Chair, Coe College Board of Trustees



WHAT IF?

Pondering pivotal moments
— in Coe's history —

History is full of instances of benevolence beyond reason, dreams refusing to dissipate, courageous acts of leadership and sometimes just plain good fortune. In its 175-year existence, Coe College has had its share of historical milestones — large and small decisions that had a ripple effect in shaping the Coe we know today.

So, in the present, with Coe positioned for another 175 years, we have the privilege to look back and ask 'what if?' in reflecting on some choice moments. There are no definitive answers when it comes to history that didn't happen, but what do you think would have changed?



1853

New York farmer Daniel Coe donates \$1,500 to Rev. Williston Jones

Daniel Coe had heard the Rev. Williston Jones ask for financial support to send Cedar Rapids men east to attend seminary. Coe, a farmer and a deacon in the Catskills Mountains, had bigger ideas. He pledged \$1,500 (equivalent to approximately \$65,000 in purchasing power today) to Jones to start his own seminary on the Iowa frontier. He insisted that part of the money be used to purchase a farm so students could support themselves.

Coe, though, had never been to Iowa or seen the 80-acre plot of land that would become Coe College's campus. By many accounts, the land was scrubland full of sand and scraggly bushes.

Would the farmer have thought twice about his investment if he had chosen to lay eyes on the site?

The \$1,500 pledge was sent via courier in bills. There were no wire transfers or direct deposits, of course. Travel in those days had certain dangers, including bandits who were known to hold up the stagecoaches and groups traveling along the desolate roads heading west. Legend has it, the money was sewn into a woman's petticoat to prevent detection and theft.

WHAT IF the money had been intercepted? What would the college look like today?

1881

T.M. Sinclair liquidates the college's debts



Cedar Rapids industrialist T.M. Sinclair personally cleared the way for Coe to experience a prosperous decade. After the institution spent years operating under names like the Cedar Rapids Collegiate Institute, Coe College Institute and Parsons Seminary, Sinclair's

means and generosity allowed the college to incorporate as Coe College without any debt. The Iowa Presbyterian Synod adopted Coe as one of its colleges and the good times started to roll.

Coe began to experience strong student enrollment, and tuition, room and board rose to \$149 per year. A faculty of nine taught the growing student body and in 1884, **E. Belle Stewart** and **Stephen W. Stookey** graduated as the first degree holders from the incorporated Coe College.

WHAT IF Sinclair was unable or unwilling to free the college of its debts? Would students have arrived on campus in such great numbers?

1913

The Class of 1913 chooses a bell as its class gift



The bell the class purchased would go on to be known as the Victory Bell. It was erected in the middle of campus and the unwritten rule was that it was rung only to celebrate victorious Coe football and basketball games. Eventually the bell was also rung to

signal the beginning of Flunk Day.

The bell has been moved, removed and replaced in its history. It was originally housed in a wooden structure with a metal roof, and students had to climb to the top of the structure to ring the bell because the bell rope was lost in

1934. The structure was eventually condemned in 1944 and the bell went into storage. A new bell tower was unveiled behind Sinclair in 1947, but had to go into storage again in 1958 when Marquis Hall was constructed. In 1966, the bell was hung in its present location. The bell has been replaced multiple times since due to wear and tear.

Now, the Victory Bell is memorable for every Kohawk. New students ring the bell during their first day of New Student Orientation to symbolically mark the beginning of their time at Coe. Later, on their Commencement day, Kohawks ring the bell again to mark the closing of their Kohawk chapter as students.

WHAT IF the Class of 1913 decided on a different gift? Would another class have chosen a bell? If not, what would have become the college's symbol? A squirrel?

1947

A student slaps a janitor...and Sinclair burns to the ground



The skies of Cedar Rapids glowed orange as crowds of townspeople, alumni and students gathered to witness Sinclair Memorial Chapel burn. The building, nearly a total loss, was valued at \$275,000, with a much greater sentimental value.

Later, a janitor admitted to starting the fire in response to a student who slapped him.

Smoke-stained glass windows were salvaged from the smoldering ashes and later installed in Poe Chapel as a reminder of the original chapel.

WHAT IF that janitor had channeled his anger in a different manner? Would the college's First Avenue presence look different?

1969

A fierce on-campus rivalry is discontinued



Coe is no stranger to athletic rivalries, but one of the fiercest rivalries in the school's history used to be confined to campus. The men of the freshman and sophomore classes once fought for on-campus supremacy in what were known as scraps.

Older alumni remember the days of pushball, which came with its own set of physical risks, but the freshman-sophomore scraps had an even more dubious origin. In the early 1900s, freshmen and sophomore men wrestled on the roof of Old Main — with the intent of throwing their opponents off the roof to the ground three stories below. These matches didn't last long as staff and faculty were horrified by the dangerous stunt.

A tug-of-war briefly replaced Coe's early version of Wrestlemania. Members of each class took their end of a rope and tugged across a Marion pond. Then, in about 1915 or 1916, pushball took center stage. The pushball was about seven feet high and freshman and sophomore teams would try to push the ball over the opposing team's goal line. It was a rough game that led to mangled fingers and tattered clothes. The contest lasted until the late 1960s when it was declared too rough and the freshman-sophomore rivalry quickly petered out.

WHAT IF this rivalry was still alive today? What would it look like in the twenty-first century?



Celebrations to come

A constant throughout Coe's history is a liveliness and willingness to celebrate the milestones. Details regarding Coe's 175th anniversary (our demisemiseptcentennial!) plans during Homecoming are on the following page.



Celebrating 175 years of Coe

The 2026-27 academic year marks a historic milestone as Coe College celebrates 175 years of educating students, building community and shaping generations of Kohawks since 1851. Throughout the year, special events, traditions and new initiatives will honor our history while celebrating the people who continue to shape Coe's future:

175th Anniversary Pop-Up Shop

Launching this summer, a limited-edition online store will feature exclusive anniversary-themed apparel and accessories available for a limited time.

Oral History Project

More than 2,000 alumni have already shared stories and memories through the Oral History Project. Story collection continues through October, helping preserve the voices, experiences and traditions that define the Coe community.

175th Anniversary Beer

In partnership with Lion Bridge Brewing Company, Coe will release a special anniversary beer later this summer. The recipe was inspired by feedback from alumni and friends who participated in a tasting event this spring.

Homecoming 2026 | October 1-3

This year's Homecoming celebration will serve as the centerpiece of the anniversary year, featuring reunion gatherings and several special events unique to the 175th anniversary year. Highlights include:

- The unveiling of a life-size Charlie Kohawk statue
- A 50-year reunion for former members and friends of Collage
- A free All-Kohawk Concert on the Eby Quad that will bring together alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends for an unforgettable evening

A Year of Celebration

The 175th anniversary theme will be woven throughout campus events and traditions, including Orientation Weekend, Family Weekend, Founder's Day, Day of Giving and Commencement.

As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we invite all Kohawks to join us in honoring Coe's past, celebrating its present and helping shape its future.



Persistence does pay off: Gabrielsson earns a Goldwater scholarship

For **Rebecca Gabrielsson '27**, the path to one of the nation's most prestigious undergraduate awards was an exercise in persistence.

In April, the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation announced Gabrielsson as a 2026 Goldwater Scholar. A mathematics and physics double major from Ankeny, Iowa, Gabrielsson joined an elite group of students recognized for their potential to become the next generation of research leaders in STEM fields.

The news was equal parts shocking and sweet for Gabrielsson, who first applied for the scholarship during her sophomore year. While she didn't receive the award then, she used the experience to bolster her academic standing and deepen her research portfolio.

"I put a lot of effort into my application both last year and this year, so it felt really good to be rewarded for that effort," Gabrielsson shared. "Honestly, I was in shock. It didn't fully hit me until later that day... Once it hit me, I was pretty excited."

The Goldwater scholarship is widely considered the most preeminent undergraduate award in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering. This year, 454 scholarships were awarded out of more than 5,000 applicants and Gabrielsson was one of only five students from an Iowa college or university to earn the honor.

Her journey to the Goldwater was fueled by Coe's emphasis on early undergraduate research. Gabrielsson has worked closely with physics and mathematics faculty including Associate Professor of Mathematics Brittney Miller, Fran Allison and Francis Halpin Professor of Physics **Mario Affatigato '89** and the late Professor of Physics Steve Feller — all who also provided direct support in regards to her Goldwater application.

She has already completed academic literature reviews, co-authored a paper for publication and conducted discrete

mathematics research in a REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) setting. She presented her findings in Cambridge, England and at the Joint Mathematics Meeting in Washington D.C., the premier conference in her field.

Coe's National Fellowship Advisor Amber Shaw was instrumental in assisting Gabrielsson through the application process, which lasted from October through January.

"One of the reasons Rebecca was a quality candidate for the Goldwater is her range of experiences, which have helped Rebecca refine her educational and career plans post-Coe," Shaw said.

This summer, Gabrielsson will participate in the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), focusing on chemometrics through mathematics and data science.

Gabrielsson's achievement continues Coe's strong legacy with the Goldwater Foundation, following 2024 winner **Tyler Salrin '25**. It reinforces the college's reputation as a powerhouse for student-led research.



Rebecca Gabrielsson '27 poses with Coe's National Fellowship Advisor Amber Shaw minutes after learning she was awarded a prestigious Goldwater Scholarship.

16
JULY
 2026

44TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING & FUNDRAISER

10:00 AM Registration | 12:00 PM Shotgun Start | Hunters Ridge Golf Course



FUELING KOHAWK ATHLETICS ONE SWING AT A TIME

The Coe College Athletic Golf Outing and Fundraiser stands as one of the longest-running and most impactful traditions supporting all 29 men's and women's varsity athletic programs at Coe College.

Celebrating its 44th year, this annual event continues to strengthen Kohawk Athletics because of the extraordinary generosity of our loyal community, dedicated sponsors, alumni, families and friends. All proceeds benefit the Kohawk Club, the primary athletic fund that provides critical support across every sport and program.

Funds raised through this event help ensure student-athletes have what they need to compete and succeed, including travel assistance, modern equipment, uniforms and program-wide enhancements that elevate the overall athletics experience.

Beyond fundraising, the outing is a gathering rooted in Kohawk pride. It is a day centered on connection, friendly competition and a shared commitment to Coe Athletics. Whether participating on the course or contributing as a sponsor, your involvement plays an essential role in advancing our programs and enhancing the student-athlete experience for years to come.

JOIN US | GOLF SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Major Sponsor	\$3,000
Celebration Sponsor	\$2,000
Birdie Sponsor	\$1,000
Keg Sponsor	\$750
Hole Sponsor	\$500

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact **Assistant Director of Athletic Development Jon Michael Lafayette** | 319.399.8614 | jlafayette@coe.edu

KOHAWK

ATHLETIC DAY OF GIVING

— ONE TEAM. ONE GOAL. —



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026

Building a Standard, Leaving a Legacy

This August, we're building on a powerful tradition as Kohawk Nation comes together for the second annual Kohawk Athletic Day of Giving. On Thursday, August 6, alumni, fans, families and friends will unite to celebrate and support all 29 varsity sports that embody the pride, passion and perseverance of Coe College athletics.

Because of your generosity last year, Kohawks soared to new heights, earning national playoff berths in football, women's basketball and volleyball, while multiple wrestlers competed on the national stage. Days like Athletic Day of Giving are what fuel

that success, turning belief into opportunity and hard work into championship moments.

Timed with the start of the 2026-27 athletic season and fall term, this special day is your chance to keep the momentum rolling. Your gift helps our teams start strong, supporting travel, uniforms, equipment and the resources our student-athletes need to compete and excel. You may choose to support Kohawk Athletics as a whole or designate your gift to the team that means the most to you.

Join us on August 6 and help propel Kohawks toward another unforgettable year.

To sponsor or provide a lead gift to the team of your choice and learn more about the Kohawk Athletic Day of Giving, visit alumni.coe.edu/g/2026-kohawk-athletic-day-of-giving



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact **Assistant Director of Athletic Development Jon Michael Lafayette** | 319.399.8614 | jlafayette@coe.edu

INVEST IN THE FUTURE THE COE COLLEGE HERITAGE CLUB

COE'S HERITAGE

Coe College received a gracious gift when Daniel Coe, a farmer from the state of New York, generously gave money for a collegiate institute which he would never see. Inspired by the preaching of Reverend Williston Jones, Mr. Coe wanted to shape and share the school's vision to become an innovative educational institution of great significance.

Since that forward-looking gift in the 1800's, many other Coe College benefactors have come forward to invest in what is yet to come. Bequests, trusts, annuities and other planned gifts have been tremendously important to Coe in times of both great challenge and opportunity. Generous supporters have committed to the future of Coe College, to help it continue to become the important school that Daniel Coe believed possible.

“Coe College is a solemn compact between those who have gone before, ourselves, and those who will come after us.”

The Coe College Heritage Club was inspired by the college's 11th president, Joseph E. McCabe and exists to recognize and honor those who have committed to the long-term future of Coe College through a planned gift. On June 11, 1993, President McCabe delivered his A Night to Remember address to the charter members of the Heritage Club. He exclaimed, “The future is ours if we have the vision to seize it.”

Planned gifts provide future support to the college. Planned gifts of any size can be accomplished in many different ways including naming Coe in your will or trust, by naming Coe as beneficiary on a retirement account or life insurance policy or giving a qualified life insurance policy. Planned gifts that pay you income for life, such as charitable gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts, also make you eligible for membership in the Heritage Club.

Whatever your gift, know that it is much more than a sum of money or other assets — it represents your values and priorities and a lifetime of hard work. And always, these gifts enrich the

educational opportunities for current and future students and provide the college with financial stability.

If you have created a planned gift for Coe College, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you.

RECOGNITION YOU DESERVE FOR THE LEGACY YOU LEAVE

The purpose of the Heritage Club is to serve and recognize you. We want you to know how much we appreciate your decision to give and that by your action, you have made a commitment to the future just like Daniel Coe. As a member, you are invited to the annual Heritage Club Dinner celebrated during Homecoming weekend, and a permanent plaque in the Clark Alumni House lists all members of the Heritage Club.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

Membership in the Heritage Club is simple and easy, and there are no dues or other obligations. If you have made a planned gift of any kind and of any size to Coe College, then you are eligible for membership. All you have to do is let us know.

We will work with you to make sure we understand your goals and intentions and make certain that your gift is used in the way you intend. If you are unsure of the best way to make a planned gift, we will work with you to discuss how to meet your goals, including maximizing your gift to Coe.

A legacy gift says you believe in the future of Coe and is a way to thank the college for all it provided as you looked to the future.

If you have made a planned gift to Coe College, or if you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Associate Vice President of Advancement Debbie Green or Development Officer Megan Valenta or call our office at 319.399.8555.



DEBBIE GREEN
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MÉGAN VALENTA
Development Officer
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CLASS NOTES

NOT FOUR YEARS...FOR LIFE. STAYING CONNECTED TO THE COE FAMILY.

1950s

'55 **Paul Kemmerling** met and married **Betty Santen '53** of Newton, Iowa at Coe College. Upon graduation, Kemmerling joined the United States Air Force (USAF), earning his pilot's wings in January 1959. Twenty-seven years later he would retire as a command pilot, full Colonel and Vietnam veteran. In 1965 Paul received his Master's of Science in psychology at Oklahoma State University and became the Director of the USAF Crew Station Design and Research Facility, contributing to the design of everything from the F-15 to the space shuttle. In August 1982, Paul retired from the military and joined the faculty at Virginia Tech as an associate professor where he taught for 15 years. He retired again in January 1995 but continued his lifelong hobby of penning lyrics and writing novels. On January 6, 2012, Paul's wife of 57 years succumbed to the ravages of long-term diabetes and died of heart failure in Abingdon, Virginia. On April 15, 2014, Paul married the former Jeanine Hesson

(Betty's sister-in-law and fellow traveler) of Newton, Iowa, and they spent seven glorious years together rejoicing in the light of the Lord's presence. Jeanine died of heart failure on October 14, 2021. Paul currently lives in Newton and continues his writing.

1980s



'85 **Todd Van Nest** has found his way back to serving in a great academic community. After a career as an industrial-organizational psychologist, Todd will transition from part-time adjunct professor at Elmhurst University in Chicago, Illinois to full-time visiting professor in August 2026. The program at Elmhurst serves career-active professionals and recent bachelor's-prepared students in an evening program. It is rigorous, inspiring and inclusive — and it reminds Todd of his Coe beginnings. He is grateful for Coe professors Fritz Frederickson, Richard "Dick" Bahwell and Wendy Dunn who he credits as great members of the Coe community.

1990s

'95 **Michael O'Nele** was published in May 2025 by Focal Press, an imprint of Taylor & Francis. The book, *Fabrication for Theatre and Entertainment: Wood and Fiber Products*, is the first volume in a series of four and expands on the material data and construction methodologies available to a broad section of the enterprise industry. It also caters to creative makers that fabricate from lumber and similar materials. A second volume, focused on fabricating with metals, followed in January 2026, titled, *Fabrication for Theatre and Entertainment: Metals*.

2020s

'23 **Jenna Meehan** of Brooklyn, New York, became legislative director to New York City Council Member Harvey Epstein.

ALUMNI COUNCIL *Update*

Dear Kohawks,

As Coe College celebrates its 175th anniversary this year, it's a great time to reflect on the history, traditions and lifelong friendships that make the Coe community so special. For 175 years, Coe has helped shape generations of students through outstanding academics, leadership opportunities and the close-knit campus experience that continues to connect Kohawks around the world.

The Alumni Council remains committed to strengthening those connections and supporting the future of the college we all care so deeply about. Whether through Homecoming, regional gatherings, student engagement or alumni outreach, it's always encouraging to see Kohawks staying involved and connected across generations.

This year, we are excited to welcome three new members to the Alumni Council: **Jenny McArdle '08**, **Amy Nyert Duru '01** and **Tara Crosby '24**. Each brings valuable experience, fresh ideas and a strong commitment to Coe College. We are grateful for their willingness to serve and help continue the Council's work of

building pride, engagement and lifelong connections among alumni.

As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, we're reminded that the strength of Coe has always come from its people — students, faculty, staff and alumni who continue to carry forward the values and traditions that define the college.

We're also looking forward to another memorable Homecoming Weekend (October 1-3) and the many events planned throughout this anniversary year. These celebrations are wonderful opportunities to reconnect with classmates, return to campus and celebrate everything that makes Coe such a special place.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement with Coe College. Your support and involvement help keep the Coe spirit strong for future generations of Kohawks, just as it has meant so much to all of us over the years.



Go Kohawks!
Pat Steele '75 | Alumni Council President

FUTURE ALUMNI

WELCOMING NEW KOHAWKS INTO THE NEST



2010s

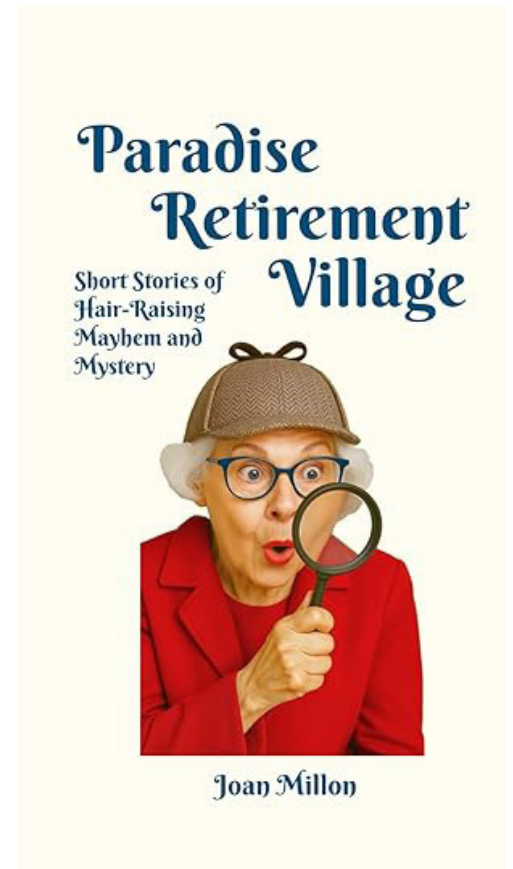
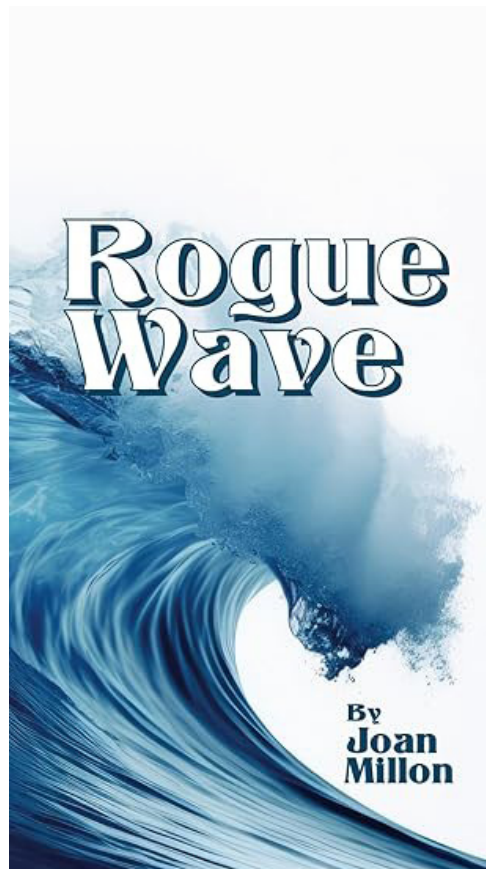
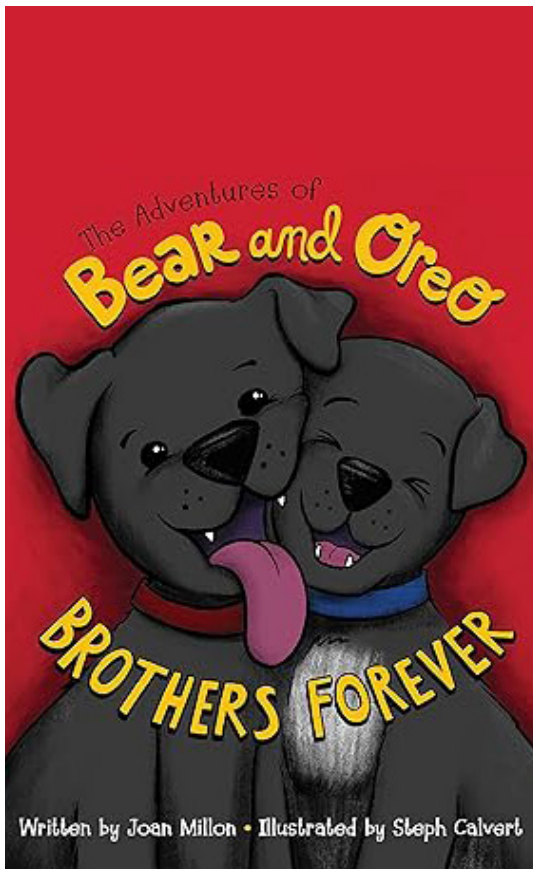
'12 **Jennifer Zeman** and David Brushaber, of Brookfield, Wisconsin, Charlotte Brushaber, on April 21, 2025

PUSHA DA PEN

WRITTEN ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COE'S ALUMNI

1960s

'65 **Joan Driscoll Millon** has written three books, all of which are available on Amazon: "Bear and Oreo" (2021), a children's book; "Rogue Wave" (2025), a mystery; and "Paradise Retirement Village" (2025), humorous short stories.





Indicates decedent was a member of the Coe College Heritage Club

Served on the Alumni Council

For information, contact Associate Vice President of Advancement Debbie Green at 319.399.8592 or dgreen@coe.edu.

Full obituaries for all decedents can be found at www.coe.edu/courier.

1940s

1945 Ruth Kubik Frost, 101, of Okemos, Michigan on January 16.

1947 Marjorie Clapp Harden, 100, of Bettendorf, Iowa on October 3.

1947 Jean Hughes Carlson, 100, of Sun City West, Arizona on January 1.

1947 Jeanne Ferguson Pinckney, 101, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on March 29.

1950s

1951 Margaret "Peg" Clough Troyke, 98, of Newton, Iowa on January 14.

1952 Florence Mueller Moore, 95, of Dunwoody, Georgia on March 27.

1956 Gloria Coleman Klinger, 91, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on March 6.

1956 Rosalee Swanson Thomas, 91, of Raleigh, North Carolina on February 6.

1960s

1960 Elaine Tsoutsouris Nabhan, 86, of Valparaiso, Indiana on March 20.

1960 Daniel "Danny" Wessel, 88, of Davenport, Iowa on March 10.

1961 Dr. Robert "Bob" J. Johnson, III, 86, of Shelbourne, Vermont on February 2.

1962 Claudette Lauck Harrington, 85, of Shell Lake, Wisconsin on February 16.

1965 Richard "Rich" Tosi, 82, of Sanford, Florida on March 26.

1967 Mary Lou Shuler, 79, of Eugene, Oregon on September 5.

1968 John Coats, 79, of West Long Branch, New Jersey on February 13.

1970s

1971 Howard "Matt" Orme, of Louisville, Kentucky on February 9.

1974 Glen Sanborn, 73, of San Antonio, Texas on October 8.

1980s

1980 Robert "Bob" Greenebaum, 67, of Hemlock, New York on January 24.

1983 Paul Milakovich, 65, of Washington, D.C. on January 18.

1984 Lawrence "Larry" Price, 66, of Aiken, South Carolina on March 11.

1986 Wilson Allsbrook, 78, of Scotland Neck, North Carolina on March 28.

1986 Thomas "Tom" Brennan, 85, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on February 16.

1988 Douglas "Doug" Ramsey, 59, of Savage, Minnesota on January 21.

1990s

1992 Dana Hoffmann Virden, 55, of Marion, Iowa on March 2.

1993 Kevin Heffron, 55, of Georgetown, Iowa on March 18.

1996 Dr. Joseph Quetsch, 71, of Columbia, Missouri on January 4.

2000s

2000 Mark Jourdan, 59, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on April 6.

SHARE YOUR News!

Information compiled in "Class Notes" comes from a variety of sources, including direct correspondence from alumni, clipping services and news releases. The college received these class notes by December 1. **The deadline for the Fall 2026 issue is August 1.** Announcements older than one year at the time they are submitted will not be published.

Please follow these basic guidelines when submitting information:

NEWS

At least the following basic information should be provided with any submission: name and class year, spouse name and class year if Coe alum, city and state of residence and your news. Please spell out acronyms. Milestones (anniversaries, birthdays, etc.) will be noted only in five-year increments (25th, 30th, etc.).



MARRIAGES & ANNIVERSARIES

Include both spouses' full names (including birth/maiden names, where applicable) and complete date. Please notify us after your wedding; we cannot publish based on an engagement announcement.



BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Include child's first name, legal names of parents (mother's birth/maiden name will be published if Coe alum) and complete date.



DEATHS

Include full name, complete date and city/state of residence at time of death. Please include a newspaper obituary, if possible.



PHOTOS

Digital photos must be at least 300 dpi when sized to 3.75 inches wide. Please save the file as a TIFF or JPEG file. We must have the photographer's permission to print a copyrighted photo. Please indicate if you would like prints returned.

Submit information via email to alumni@coe.edu or mail to 1220 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402. Information also may be submitted online at www.coe.edu/alumni.



Associate Professor of Psychology **Samantha Brown** and Associate Vice President of Development, C3 and Special Projects **Barb Tupper '89** facilitated a vocation session for a faculty opening conference for NetVUE, a grant which helps Coe initiate and support vocation and purpose activities on campus.



Professor of History **Brie Swenson Arnold** chaired the "New Directions in Midwestern Gender History" roundtable at the Midwestern History Association Conference.

She presented the invited lecture "Emma Oliphant and Women's Labor Activism in Late Nineteenth-Century Cedar Rapids" at The History Center in Cedar Rapids and served as a manuscript peer reviewer for the *Annals of Iowa* journal.



Assistant Professor of Creative Writing **Jen Ferguson's** latest novel, *A Constellation of Minor Bears*, has received numerous honors and recognitions, including multiple starred reviews.

It has been named a USA Today Bestseller, a Horn Book's Summer Reading Selection, a Winnipeg Free Press Summer Reading Selection, a Canadian Children's Book Center Best Book, Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Book of the Year and an Amy Mathers Teen Book Award Finalist.



Associate Professor of Nursing and Faculty Director of Center for Health & Society **Sharon Guthrie** shared a presentation titled "Difference abilities: Life after traumatic injury" at the Wisdom at the Winery conference.

"Jordan Kelly, Certified Flight RN, and two other flight nurses joined in the presentation to share information and their thoughts as they provided care that saved my life," said Guthrie.



Professor of Philosophy **Jon Lemos** spoke on a panel about moral responsibility, luck and Aristotle at the recent Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Organization.



Assistant Professor of Biology **Dr. Jon Mitchell** published "Argentine fossil evolutionary history of a baffling dinosaur clade" in *Nature*. The paper is a description of a new species of theropod dinosaur, which sheds light on the phylogenetic organization of this group.

The Coe teacher education team served as a co-host institution for the Iowa Association of Colleges of Teacher Education in Ankeny.



Associate Professor of World Languages and Director of Off-Campus Study **John Chaimov** and Assistant Director of Residence Life **Natalie Wilson** took students to volunteer at Midwest Books to Prisoners in Chicago for the day on February 28, fulfilling requests for reading material by incarcerated people.



Professor of Political Science **Kimberly Lanegran** was elected Vice Chair of the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission.



The Coe College Concert Choir was selected as one of the three clinic choirs for the Iowa Choral Showcase in April, hosted at Marquis Hall and Sinclair Auditorium.

Fran Allison and Francis Halpin Professor of Physics **Mario Affatigato '89** delivered the annual Scholes Lecture at Alfred University. The Scholes Lecture Series was established to honor the late Samuel R. Scholes, who established the first glass science program in the United States.

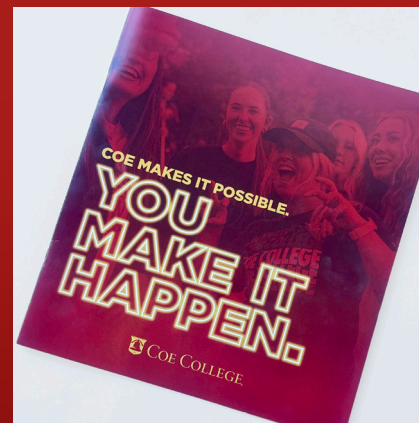


the late Samuel R. Scholes, who established the first glass science program in the United States.

WINS ADDY AWARD

The Coe College Office of Marketing, in collaboration with the Office of Admission, received a Bronze Addy Award in the direct mail category from the Cedar Valley American Advertising Federation. The award recognized the college's prospective student viewbook. The annual American Advertising Awards honor every facet of advertising creative: copy and design, print and digital, branding and marketing.

The prospective student viewbook captures the spirit of Coe and disseminates the information prospective students and their families desire to know at a high level. It is mailed out to a select group of high school students who have demonstrated interest in Coe.



A KOHAWK'S LIFE

— JOSEPH DUFOE '26 —

Why I'm considering **THE MILITARY AFTER COE**



My name is Joseph Dufoe, and I just graduated from Coe College with degrees in business administration, organizational science and psychology. I grew up in Center Point, Iowa, a small town just north of Cedar Rapids. I was a pretty typical small-town kid growing up. I liked sports, the outdoors,

hanging with buddies and getting into trouble. I was pretty active — mainly because I couldn't sit still very well. I played four sports and did most of the school musicals and plays. I think having a well-rounded childhood prepared me to take advantage of the opportunities Coe had to offer in the academic and experiential spaces. I'm a legacy Kohawk as both of my folks, my two sisters, grandpa, multiple aunts and cousins, and my brother-in-law all went to Coe. I guess you could say that I was a Kohawk from the start. When I first stepped onto Coe's campus as a student, I had no idea what I wanted to major in, but I knew I definitely wanted to join the military after graduating.

I've wanted to join the Navy ever since I can remember. While I cannot nail down the specific moment that inspired me, I do remember some things that spurred me in that direction. Early on it was movies and books about war and the heroic, brave men that have served. There was something so captivating about going and doing something difficult that lit a passion inside of me. The biggest contributor by far was definitely from my great grandpa Joe. He flew Hellcat fighter planes during World War II in the Pacific theatre and was stationed on the USS Belleau Wood. All the stories passed down about his adventures and the strength of his character during the war have fueled my passion to serve. He is the only member on either side of my family to serve in the military, and I'd be lying if I said there isn't a sense of duty I feel as his namesake to carry on his legacy, which I pray I get to do.

The idea of traveling to a foreign land, being a hero and fighting for what's right sounded so amazing, but that was an immature motive. That's not what serving is about, and I had to learn that over time and through many conversations with veterans and active-duty service members. That's where my drive started throughout school. But then I got to Coe.

In retrospect, at first I was a selfish guy looking to make a name for myself. It wasn't until I plugged into one of Coe's clubs that I finally got my head on straight. That club was Salt Company, a Christian college ministry out of Veritas Church in downtown Cedar Rapids. Coe's Salt Company group is where I truly met Christ and understood what the gospel was, and what it meant. Christ is the new compass I use to direct my life. This is where that old vision of glorifying myself transformed into putting others before myself. Jesus says in the gospel of Matthew that those who want to be first must be last as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve. Isaiah 32:8 says, "He who is noble plans noble things, and on noble things he stands." Slowly but surely my boyish dream of being a hero was molded into desiring a "noble thing" for the kingdom of heaven. Which is why now I view my military service as serving something bigger than myself. And I can confidently say that it was because of Coe's Salt Company club, through which God worked, that this shift of desires happened in me.

Although I have not signed the dotted line just yet I am continuing to prepare physically and mentally for the military before I leave for bootcamp. Coe has done so much in teaching me critical thinking, emotional intelligence, work ethic and the grit to not quit when things get hard. Coe is where I was taught to push on, because Coe made it possible; and I got to make it happen.





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We are no longer resending the magazine to corrected addresses provided by the U.S. Postal Service unless specifically requested by the addressee. Circulation will resume to the corrected address with the next issue.



HOMECOMING

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS

Save the Date for Homecoming 2026 | October 1-3

Reconnect with classmates, celebrate your experiences at Coe and cheers to 175 years

REGISTRATION OPENS THIS SUMMER | www.coe.edu/alumni/alumni-engagement/homecoming

