

COURIER

— WINTER 2023 —



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“What’s next?”

This question is on each of our minds, especially as we are in the midst of the spring term and at the midpoint of our strategic planning process. Our students, faculty and staff look to the weeks ahead that promise to bring warmer weather, new projects and experiences within the Kohawk community, Flunk Day (which is always tomorrow) and, for some, their upcoming commencement where we will celebrate their accomplishments and usher them into the next significant chapter of their lives. Spring welcomes renewed energy and forward momentum, as does the planning process as it propels our institution into the next five years.

Strategic planning calls us to define together what a sustainable future looks like for Coe and develop initiatives that seize and create opportunities for success. This collaborative process began last fall and incorporates a wide range of perspectives and voices from Board members, faculty, staff and students. You yourself may even recall conversations of the future, as I actively sought out community partner and alumni input during my travels in Iowa and across the country. The importance of this visioning process is impressed upon all those involved as we recall how powerful ideas have become tangible and transformative aspects of Coe College, such as the David and Janice McInally Center for Health & Society (CHS) and our nationally ranked C3: Creativity, Careers, Community, which both originated in our most recent strategic plan, A Bolder Coe.

As we outline Coe’s next chapter during a time of generational challenge, we will build upon the foundation and spirit of the college while envisioning its bright, accomplished and reimagined future. Formal strategic planning meetings commenced in December, and our conversations surround how to position our institution while addressing the current disruption within higher education. A key focus on financial health, student experience and academic programming remain at the heart of our planning process. I am confident the plan will also strengthen the existing connections between Coe and Cedar Rapids as we look to be a pillar and an influential resource within our community.

My sincerest thanks go out to all the alumni and friends of the college who have offered their input and assistance during this process. I eagerly anticipate finalizing and sharing our strategic plan in summer 2023 and moving forward together into “what’s next” for Coe College.

Alma mater, hail, hail, hail.

David Hayes '93
President

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

The Coe Courier is published for alumni of the college, parents of current students and recent contributors to Coe’s Annual Fund. The next issue will be published in the summer by Coe College.

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

INSIDE THE DAVID AND JANICE MCINALLY CENTER FOR HEALTH & SOCIETY

After its dedication in the fall, the David and Janice McNally Center for Health & Society has been bustling. Students, faculty and new technology have filled the classrooms, offices, lounges and every corner of the building.

Advising hours are set for the spring term and a planned symposium series is bringing guest speakers from within the medical community to campus.

The ongoing efforts of the CHS aim to address health care staffing shortages and provide interested Kohawks with a path to a health care career. You can learn more about CHS programming and opportunities to support at www.coe.edu/chs.

ANATOMAGE TABLE

The Anatomage Table is the most technologically advanced anatomy visualization system available. Students can perform virtual dissections and other virtual procedures using the table, which aids in understanding spatial anatomy — a crucial component of health care education.

The operating bed-sized table can display a realistic cadaver in differing levels of detail, including just layers of bones, muscles and nerves. The table's interactive touchscreen interface is an innovation that has been adopted by many of the world's leading medical schools and institutions.





OUR ATHLETES ARE PRETTY FAMOUS

Athletics are an opportunity for communities to come together and athletes to push themselves to achieve at the highest possible level. The **Coe Athletic Hall of Fame** embodies these qualities of our athletics program and reunites Kohawks to recognize and celebrate their athletic accomplishments. This past fall, the Hall of Fame achieved its own significant milestone: 50 years.

The Coe Alumni C-Club and then-Athletic Director Barron Bremner founded the Hall of Fame in 1972. Set forth in its constitution, the Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding athletes, coaches and athletic administrators who set themselves apart with distinction, at least 10 years after their Coe athletic career. High qualification standards ensure induction into the Hall is truly an honor.

Seventeen charter class members were recognized at an induction ceremony during Homecoming 1973, and each subsequent class added three to five members to the Hall's ranks. Too many pages are needed for each Hall of Famer's story, but let's take a look at the 50-year history through notable honorees, championship teams and awe-inspiring firsts.

As a student-athlete, **Marv Levy '50** won letters in football, men's basketball and men's track and field. He coached each sport at Coe, later moving on to major universities and professional football. The Hall of Fame saw greatness in Levy as part of its charter class, and he has honored the title with an incredible international coaching career for the Buffalo Bills and Montreal Alouettes. He is one of only three people to be inducted into both the Pro Football Hall of Fame and Canadian Football Hall of Fame.

The induction class of 2017 includes another Buffalo Bills star: **Fred Jackson '03**.

Levy influenced Jackson's involvement in NFL Europe and ultimate path to the Bills. His induction into the Coe Athletic Hall of Fame recognized his professional accomplishments and accolades as a student-athlete, including being the first two-time recipient of the Barron Bremner Outstanding Athlete Award.

In the Hall of Fame's fifth year, **Mabel Lee '08** became the first female inductee in 1977. Her life was dedicated to physical education, an "outlandish" path for women at the time. Lee served as director of physical education for women at Coe and other colleges, and she educated the public on women's athletics and for physical education's validity in the academic sphere.

Lee broke the precedent of solely male Hall of Fame inductees, setting the stage to welcome other notable female athletes, like **Beulah Detwiler Gundling '38** in 1980. Gundling received outstanding worldwide recognition for synchronized swimming, never losing as a solo competitor. She claimed numerous national and international firsts and titles for the sport and has left an impressive legacy for Coe and in her athletic reputation.

Another impressive piece of Coe's athletic history is the men's basketball team from 1972 to 1976, an era of champions under the direction of coaches Marcus Jackson and

Don Tune. The team remained undefeated throughout all home games and ranked first in the nation for the 1975-1976 season. Eight players have been inducted over the years, with **Don Stevenson '76** joining most recently at the 50th Hall of Fame. To celebrate Don and reminisce about Coe basketball, a group of players hosted a reunion during Homecoming 2022.

"It was simply magical to see the outpouring of love and affection for Don, Coach Tune and the members of this team who, in the annals of Coe basketball, will best be remembered as living legends, the best that we ever saw," said **Dale Todd '78**.

Today, the Hall has inducted 239 members, including eight male and seven female Barron Bremner Outstanding Athlete Award winners. Fifty years of continuing tradition is a testament to Bremner's contributions to Coe athletics and the high caliber of Kohawk talent the college is lucky to boast.

To learn even more about these Hall of Fame members and many others, as well as stay apprised of the current action, tune in to the Kohawk athletics website, www.KohawkAthletics.com.



From left, charter members included, back, Richard "Dick" Clausen, **Al Pursell '58** and **Wally Schwank '34**; center, **John Rosenberg '57**, **Clem Wilson '12**, **Jack Pence '24** and **Merle Makeever '25**; front, **Harris Lamb '27** and **Willis Lamb '27**. The charter class also included **Marv Levy '50**, unable to attend, and seven posthumous award recipients.



From left, the basketball reunion included, back, **Steve VanEvery '75**, **Henry Bruce '76**, **Steve Ottoson '76**, **Barrie Ernst '76**, **Leonard Cooper '76**, **Doug Baldwin '76**, **Silas Hudson '79** and **Bob Crowe '79**; front, **Dale Todd '78**, Coach **Don Tune**, **Bill Vincent '76**, **Don Stevenson '76** and **Kevin Kiley '76**.

ALUMNI COME BACK TO COE FOR ANNUAL GAMES

Celebrating one another is not the only way alumni stay involved with athletics. Sometimes, the best way is to get back in the game — whether on the court or the track. In January, the annual alumni track and field meet and men's and women's basketball games were held. Alumni had the chance to show off their skills and spend time with other Kohawks who share love of the sport.



Every Day is

#KOHAWKDAY

with the Annual Fund

Coe's Day of Giving, known as #KohawkDay, began in 2015 with the purpose of bringing alumni, family, faculty, staff, students and friends together. This day is a vehicle for Kohawks around the world to unite to create excitement, reminisce and support the Coe Annual Fund. Giving days are not unique to Coe, and small colleges around the country embrace a day of celebration and support every year. It allows us to build momentum into the next fiscal year, and most importantly, continue to create opportunities for the next generation of students.

Our giving day has grown over the last eight years, and Coe's campus has everything to show for it. #KohawkDay provides an avenue to further close the gap between what tuition covers and what it costs to operate the college. It allows us to concentrate on increasing student access to our award-winning C3: Creativity, Careers, Community team. It increases our ability to provide access to wellness resources, as well as essential academic assistance, rounding out the full student experience.

Donations from the Kohawk community play a major role in providing for every student's education, like **Clayten Edwards '23**. Because of your support, Clayten has formed strong connections with his professors, taken advantage of amazing opportunities for internships and research, and had a well-rounded experience playing bass guitar for Coe's jazz band. Majoring in biochemistry, he hopes to work in process development or chemistry research after graduation.

"Your gracious donations allow students like me to improve ourselves for the future, so that we too may one day be in a position to give back and aid students."

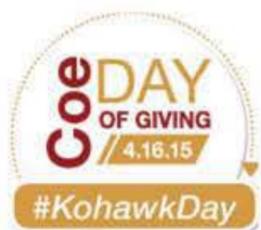
Coe has eyes on the future and how our students will continue to impact not only our local economy, but the global landscape as well. On campus, we're proud that 40% of our students are first generation and that our international student community is growing. In addition, 99% of our last incoming class benefited from a well-



"The scholarships and financial aid I have received are one of the main reasons I was able to consider Coe in my college search and ultimately decide on attending," Clayten says.

tailored financial aid and scholarship package. Investments in the Annual Fund are responsible for helping to provide those. Your support is vital to Coe's ability to recruit and retain students with the support and opportunities of a collegiate experience.

2015: The first #KohawkDay ever gained 82 new donors and raised over \$126,000 for Coe!



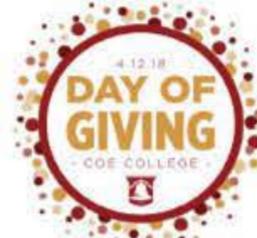
2016: Challenge Leaders were introduced, as each provided matching challenges to multiply the impact of gifts.



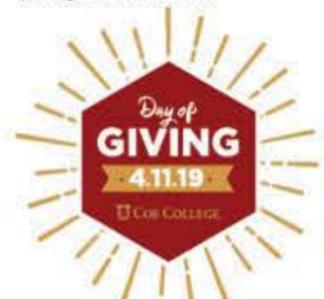
2017: Over 100 Kohawks gathered across the country for city celebrations.



2018: 756 total donors proved the number of people partaking in Day of Giving was increasing exponentially!



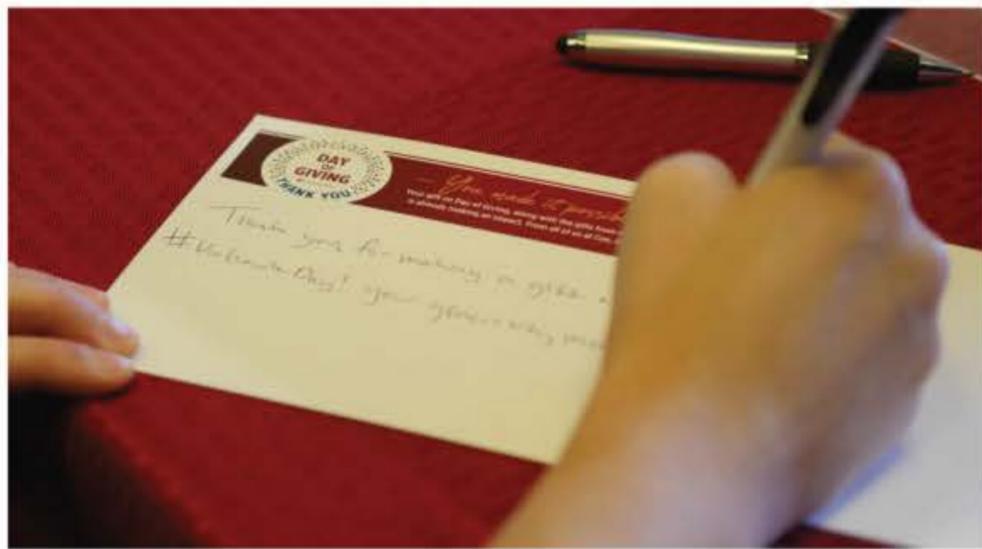
2019: Coe's fifth annual Day of Giving saw over half a million dollars pledged and raised.



Please join us for this year's DAY OF GIVING

and mark your calendars for April 6, 2023.

If you are in the Corridor or surrounding area, reserve some time for a happy hour celebration with games and new unique prizes! If you would like to get in on the action early, visit <https://bit.ly/Kgive2023> or use the QR code.



2020: Alumni, faculty, staff and students pivoted from Day of Giving to a Day of Gratitude to thank frontline Kohawk alumni during the COVID-19 pandemic.



2021: As students competed in a campus-wide treasure hunt to win prizes, the real prize was seeing over \$650,000 pledged and raised for this year's #KohawkDay.



2022: This year had the first Day of Giving hype video that was made exclusively by Coe's videography and music students.



2023: Together, we can make this the most successful #KohawkDay Coe has seen yet! Join us on April 6 to make a gift and make a difference.

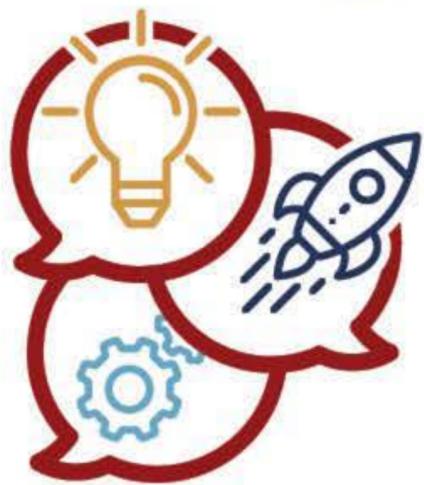


Over the past eight years, the Coe community has raised over \$2.8 million with the help of 5,000-plus total donors.

\$2.8
MILLION



24-hour ideas lead to lifelong insights during



KOHAWK Startup



It's a pretty intense Friday night in the Athletics & Recreation Complex. Teams have formed, winning strategies are being debated and everyone's gearing up to compete to win. The thing is — all the passion and energy is unfurling in a classroom, not Kohawk Arena.

Such is the reality of Kohawk Startup, a 24-hour entrepreneurial and innovation event. Students have the chance to show off their creativity at this fifth annual C3: Creativity, Careers, Community event. Business ideas are pitched, debated, defined and refined amongst student teams alongside mentors. It can seem like a frenzy, but when all is said and done, the event continues to prove to Coe students that when you put yourself through the ringer, you're coming out better because of it.

Students involved adhere to a breakneck schedule designed to simulate the steps to successful entrepreneurship. First, there's a pitch fire where participants pitch and listen to business ideas, which leads to teams forming around a central idea for a start-up business. Next, the team gets right to work with customer discovery, problem identification and solutions brainstorming.

This is all before a short night's sleep, and those involved confirm it's stressful, fun and revealing all at the same time.

"I was terrified to say what I had to say when we had to pitch ideas, but I'm so glad I did. We had a great time. It's so important to remember that sometimes you need to voice your opinion," said

Tyler Van Atta '26, a computer science and physics major.

Contestants can sleep soundly before the second half of the competition because they have mentors working closely with them. Sixteen mentors, along with Coe's Entrepreneur-in-Residence **David Tominsky '98**, work directly with the teams to build out business plans. A mixture of Corridor community members and Coe alumni, the mentors bring experience, entrepreneurial knowledge and a reassuring attitude to the table.

"Mentors are genuinely one of the best parts of the experience. They keep me coming back again and again, getting to talk to people from so many different disciplines. It really goes to show that success can come in many different shapes and forms," said **Marla Cargille '23**, an environmental studies and creative writing major. This is the third time she has participated in Kohawk Startup.

After resting for the night, the teams and mentors reconvene at 8 a.m. to continue sharpening their business ideas and to conduct customer interviews. It's a full day's work, which culminates in the final pitch presentations and judging.

Regardless of the outcome of their pitch, participants gush about the experience:

"It's a lot of real life application, especially with soft skills. There's plenty you learn in your formal education, but the real life experience the mentors are bringing is another kind of learning."

Abhigya Amatya '23,
an interdisciplinary health and society studies major

"It's the most practical test of my leadership and team building abilities I've ever encountered because of the time crunch and the nature of having a random team. You never know what you can do until you're put in a situation where you're tested."

Marla Cargille '23,
an environmental studies and creative writing major

"I realized how effective I can be and what I can bring to the table."

Destini Robertson '24,
a psychology and social & criminal justice major with a minor in health and society

"I'm going to be able to apply the building blocks of a start up. I've had many ideas before, but this event helped me develop a system to use to put the ideas to the test."

Cameron Lay '24,
a business administration major with a marketing focus

"I've learned business is not always rainbows and butterflies. You might think you know something, but until you put an idea out there you won't be fully aware of the challenges."

Joey Williams '24,
a business administration major

KOHAWK STARTUP Winners



First place: Car Care Co.

An app to connect car enthusiasts with those in need of affordable and on-demand car care.

Students: Cameron Lay '24, Yarelis Ramos '25, Tyler Van Atta '26

Audience Choice: Participants and audience members voted for Car Care Co. as their favorite pitch of the weekend.

Prize: \$1,250



Second place: COE-nnect

An app to directly match Coe students with alumni and faculty for specific mentorship opportunities.

Students: Ari Montes-Delgado '23, Anh Ngyuen '23, Victoria Amandianeze '25, Maria Cargille '23

Prize: \$750



Third place: Snap Rolls

A portable digital wallpaper solution to allow real-time brainstorming, art and collaboration.

Students: Aaron Phillips '24, Destini Robertson '24, Ro M'Pemba '26

Prize: \$500



Thank you to our mentors and judges!

Anthony Arrington,
Managing Partner of Top RANK Talent Solutions

Lawrence Bryant,
Life Insurance and Real Estate Agent at Century 21 Realty

Gregory Butz '92,
Chief Marketing Officer at Spores Network and co-founder and co-COO of WTC Metaverse

Nick Dodds,
Biomedical Engineer at UnityPoint - St. Luke's

Jon Fowles '08,
Owner of Jonnie 5 Apparel

Sharon Guthrie,
Associate Professor of Nursing at Coe College

Destiny Hastings '98,
Marketing Strategy Consultant

Rose Hedges,
Nursing Research and Innovation Coordinator at UnityPoint - St. Luke's

Julle Lammers,
President of Lambro Business Services

Nick Ludwig '11,
Product Manager for Alliant Energy

Aaron Parry '94,
President of SDFX Studios

Liz Rogers '87,
Vice President of Sustainable Product at Nike, Inc.

Steve Shriver,
Founder and President of EcoLips

Greg Swartzendruber '98,
Director of Business Development at Point Builders, LLC

Alex Taylor,
Managing Director of Iowa Startup Accelerator and co-owner of Woofables

Jordan Taylor '11,
Owner of Flanker Media and RumbleRank

Laura Taylor,
Owner of Woofables

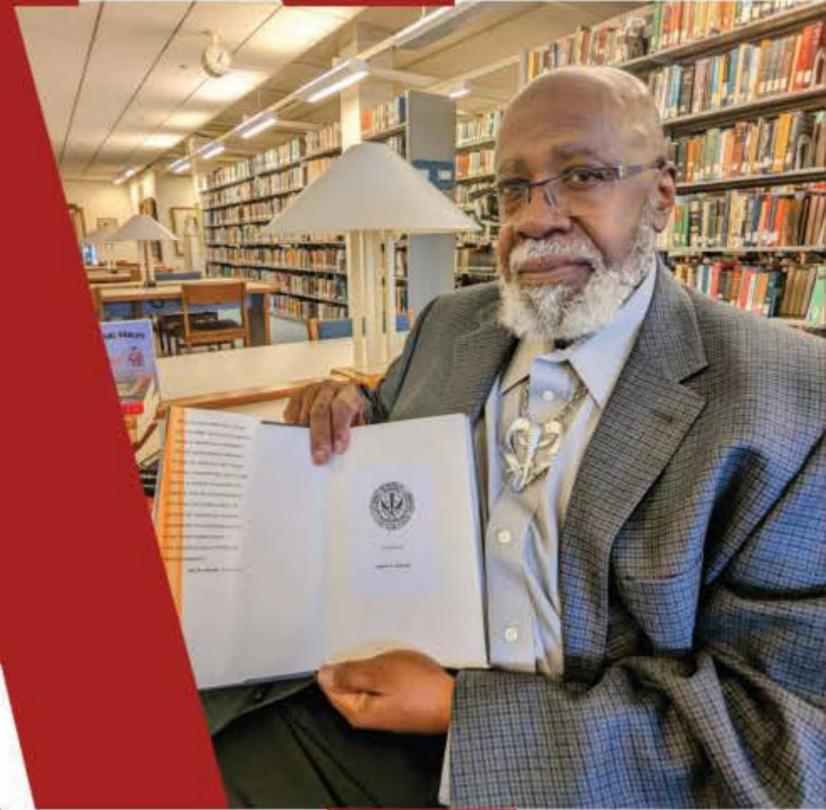
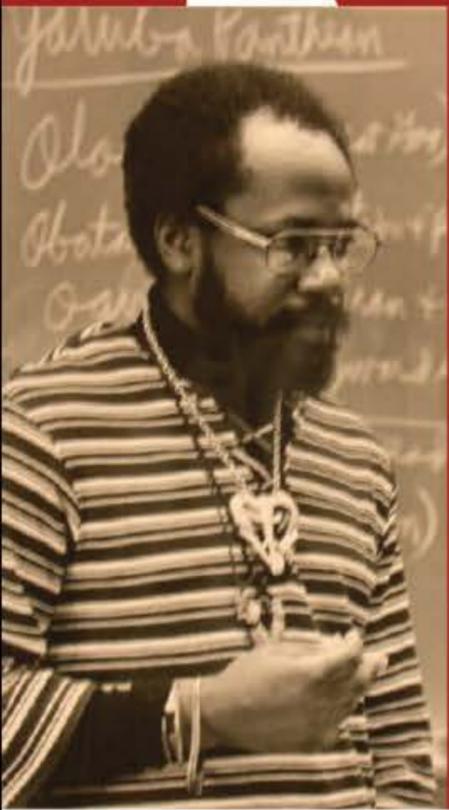
Stacey Teltser '15,
Software Developer for NewBoCo

Kevin Welu '86,
Principal and Practice Leader at TrueNorth Companies

If you'd like to get involved with the entrepreneurship efforts at Coe, contact Barb Tupper in our C3: Creativity, Careers, Community center at btupper@coe.edu.

DR. JAMES H.

DRAN



'One year turned into 41 pretty quick'

—
**COE'S FIRST
TENURED BLACK
PROFESSOR**

has left a legacy of shedding positive light.

Nearly 13 years into retirement, Stead Family Professor Emeritus of English and African American Studies James Randall has allowed himself to overindulge in one of the greatest pleasures in his life — books.

They are his main “addiction” since he has left the classroom behind, and frankly he has never been able to get enough of them. However, at this point in his life, he is ready to let some of his most cherished pieces of literature and culture go. Randall has committed to donate much of his extensive personal collection — which extends beyond books to music albums, video materials and published photo collections — to Stewart Memorial Library.

This act of charity is in poetic alignment with Randall’s mantra of “shedding positive light in addressing issues” through education, which formed when he was a child in segregated North Carolina during the 1950s.

Both Randall’s mother and father firmly believed in education. While his father only finished sixth grade, and his mother 10th grade, because they needed to work, their goal was always for James and his siblings to go to college. His mother even started teaching him to read before he began formal education. In between working on tobacco farms, doing home chores and going to school, James read any newspaper or book he could get his hands on, so he was ready when the time eventually came for high school and college.

Originally, the plan was to major in mathematics, but as he started at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College in 1961, the direction of his education took a hard left to English.

“Suddenly there was a library. Suddenly there were many, many books so I could indulge my hunger for literature,” Randall said.

He still took advanced math courses, but graduated in 1965 with a major in English with a focus on linguistics. His degree provided a path to graduate school at the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which was the predecessor of Carnegie Mellon University.

As fate would have it, this stop eventually led Randall

to Coe. One of his Carnegie professors, Neal Woodruff, became the Chair of the English department at Coe, and Woodruff was instrumental in recruiting James to teach at Coe for the 1969-1970 year while one of the Coe English professors was on sabbatical.

“I had a close camaraderie with the students and faculty, as well as the community, during that first year,” Randall said. He even met some of his future lifelong friends during that year, such as Coe graduate **Vernon Smith ’50** who worked in the lab at St. Luke’s Hospital and was a local lay historian who helped introduce Randall to the area. Vernon’s wife, Phoebe, went on to serve Coe as an ombudsperson for African American students and many Coe graduates have fond memories of the Smith family as gracious hosts and friends.

While Randall resumed graduate studies after his year’s stint at Coe, he soon returned in 1971 when a

tenure-track position was open. His initial experience and the opportunity to offer additional African American literature and studies courses on campus made the decision to come back to Cedar Rapids an easy one. And, as he put it, “one year turned into 41 pretty quick.”

“I had a close camaraderie with the students and faculty, as well as the community, during that first year.”

Time as a student prepared Randall to become the respected and influential professor his students would value at Coe. The political and social climate of the times augmented his preparation to become an authority on his subject matter.

While at North Carolina A&T, the civil rights movement continued to move as a driving force of change in American society. Students and professors were engaged in the movement so he saw firsthand how to handle academic and civic responsibilities simultaneously.

“This was still the era of segregation and I was at a college for African Americans. I had some very good, innovative and prepared professors. Through them, I could see myself doing something similar that would help mend issues in society,” Randall said. “The opportunity to talk and discuss, to look at important topics that were not only happening in class, but in society, was encouraging.”

In Cedar Rapids, he recognized a swelling of positive activity surrounding civil rights in the community, and set out to make his contributions. At Coe, this was centered around launching the African American studies program.

As he added courses to an established range of African American literature, including African American history, African and Caribbean literature and topics in African American studies and promoted dialogue in and out of the classroom, Randall entrenched himself as a Kohawk who was revered by his students and respected by his peers. He became Coe's first tenured Black professor in 1976.

Highlights from throughout his tenure include advising a campus magazine spearheaded by Black students. *Mwendo* (connoting "creative enlightenment" in Swahili) published literature by Coe students, ACM students and drew a number of submissions from across the United States. Randall assisted students when *Mwendo* organized literary conferences and when it played leading roles in bringing writers to campus. Randall interacted and created friendships with renowned artists like poets Gwendolyn Brooks and Sonia Sanchez and novelists Ishmael Reed and Richard Fowell. He saw his students graduate and become influential professionals with medical, law, professional and graduate educational degrees among other successful careers. But he also found great satisfaction in establishing important courses to support the liberal arts mission and witnessing changes in society locally and nationally.

"I could see progress being made, and I can look back on that with levels of hope," Randall said.

Randall has seen much change happen throughout his life, and those past experiences continue to be factors today.

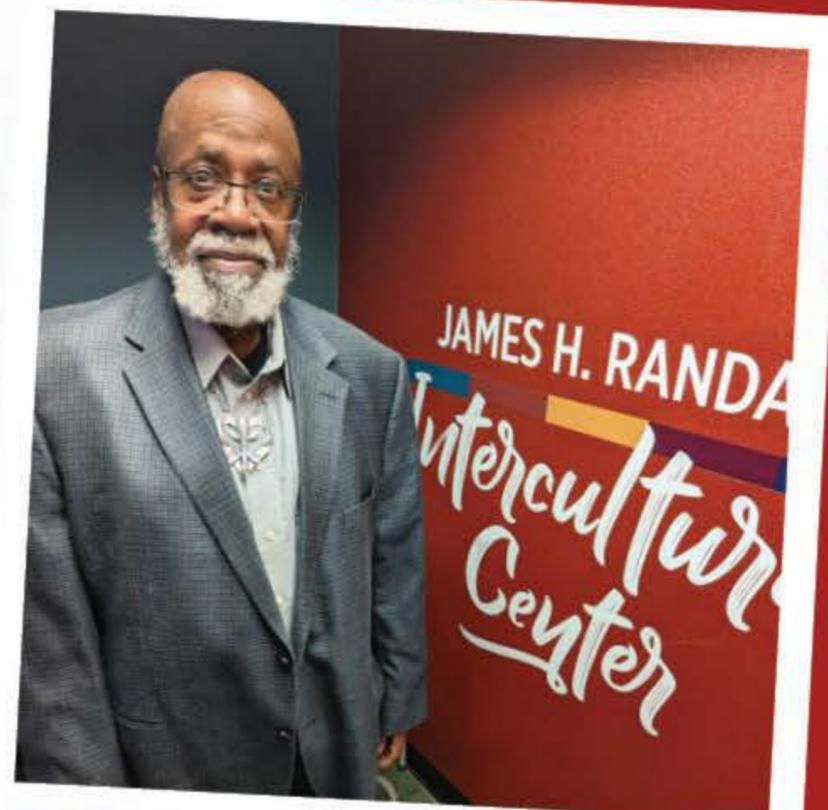
"Education will always be a key to change because there's a need to bring light to people's awareness," he said.

For those expanding their education at Coe, Randall's name will always be remembered. The legacy he has built remains in people's minds and is memorialized through his name on the outside of the James H. Randall Intercultural Center within Gage Memorial Union.

In 2016, President David McNally dedicated the center in Randall's honor. He remembers the overwhelmingly positive outpouring from the Coe community, as well as the Cedar Rapids community. Throughout the years, he has continued to engage with people and organizations in the Corridor, including his work to develop and support the African American Museum of Iowa.

"It was so reassuring to see different people and groups emerge and share an event like that," he recalled.

Going forward, Randall is glad to see the college grow and increase the presence of people of color among students, staff and faculty. He supports the commitment of the college to actively pursue ways to continually grow and find new ways to engage with students on campus.



James Randall actually began expanding Stewart Memorial Library's collection before he was a tenured professor.

In the summer before he started at Coe, the library contacted him and asked him what materials he thought would be useful to have on site. Randall sent a list of books covering African American literature, history and general studies and the library began to acquire those pieces.

Now, more than 50 years later, Randall is continuing to expand the library's holdings by donating from his own personal collection. Highlights include material on the Harlem Renaissance; literature from Toni Morrison, James Baldwin, Langston Hughes and Ralph Ellison; historical photography; video material; and a range of jazz and West Indian music.

CREATE AN ENDOWMENT — *Your Legacy Now and Forever*

You already know the joy that comes from making a difference. When you support Coe College, you have the immediate satisfaction of seeing your gift in action for our students. Creating an endowment generates that same feeling, plus something more. It leaves you with the sense of accomplishment knowing generations of Coe students will benefit from your legacy. An endowment carries your wishes forward not only for today and tomorrow, but forever.

WHAT IS AN ENDOWMENT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

A gift meant to last forever sounds complicated, but it really is simple. An endowment has three essential parts:

-  **You make a gift** to establish an endowment.
-  **We sign an agreement** with you detailing your specific purpose for the endowment and how it will be administered by the college.
-  **We handle the investments** and distributions.

AN ENDOWMENT IS POSSIBLE FOR EVERYONE

You might think endowed funds are only for the wealthy. However, anyone can start one. While there is a minimum gift amount to establish permanent endowed funds, you have the option to make this gift in one lump sum or through a series of payments. You can always supplement your fund in your estate plan, and you can also create an endowment with your will or trust. It does not have to be created in your lifetime.

Endowments may be funded with an array of assets. Cash, appreciated stock, investment accounts, retirement funds and more are all possible sources.

HOW THE ENDOWMENT AGREEMENT WORKS

When you are considering an endowment, we create an agreement called a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU details the purpose and criteria so you will know how your endowed fund will be administered and distributed in order to have the desired effect throughout its lifetime. The scope and impact of your endowment are up to you.

WE DO THE WORK — YOU ENJOY THE LEGACY

A major feature of the endowment is that once it is started, we do all the work. Endowment gifts are invested and administered according to the endowment policies established by the Coe College Board of Trustees. All endowment funds of the college are pooled together to increase the total returns. The principal of the endowment is kept intact and each year a set percentage from your endowed fund is distributed according to your endowment agreement.

BENEFITS OF AN ENDOWMENT:

- Its impact is long-lasting
- There is no administration cost
- It is simple to establish
- A one-time gift creates many returns
- You can always add to your endowment
- You can create an endowment now or in your will
- A variety of assets can fund your endowment
- Your children and grandchildren see your legacy in action and can contribute to it

MAY WE HELP YOU?



If you like the idea of making a difference today and tomorrow, an endowment is your perfect choice. It is simple to establish, and we design them to last forever. To learn more, please contact us. We welcome the opportunity to answer your questions and work with you.

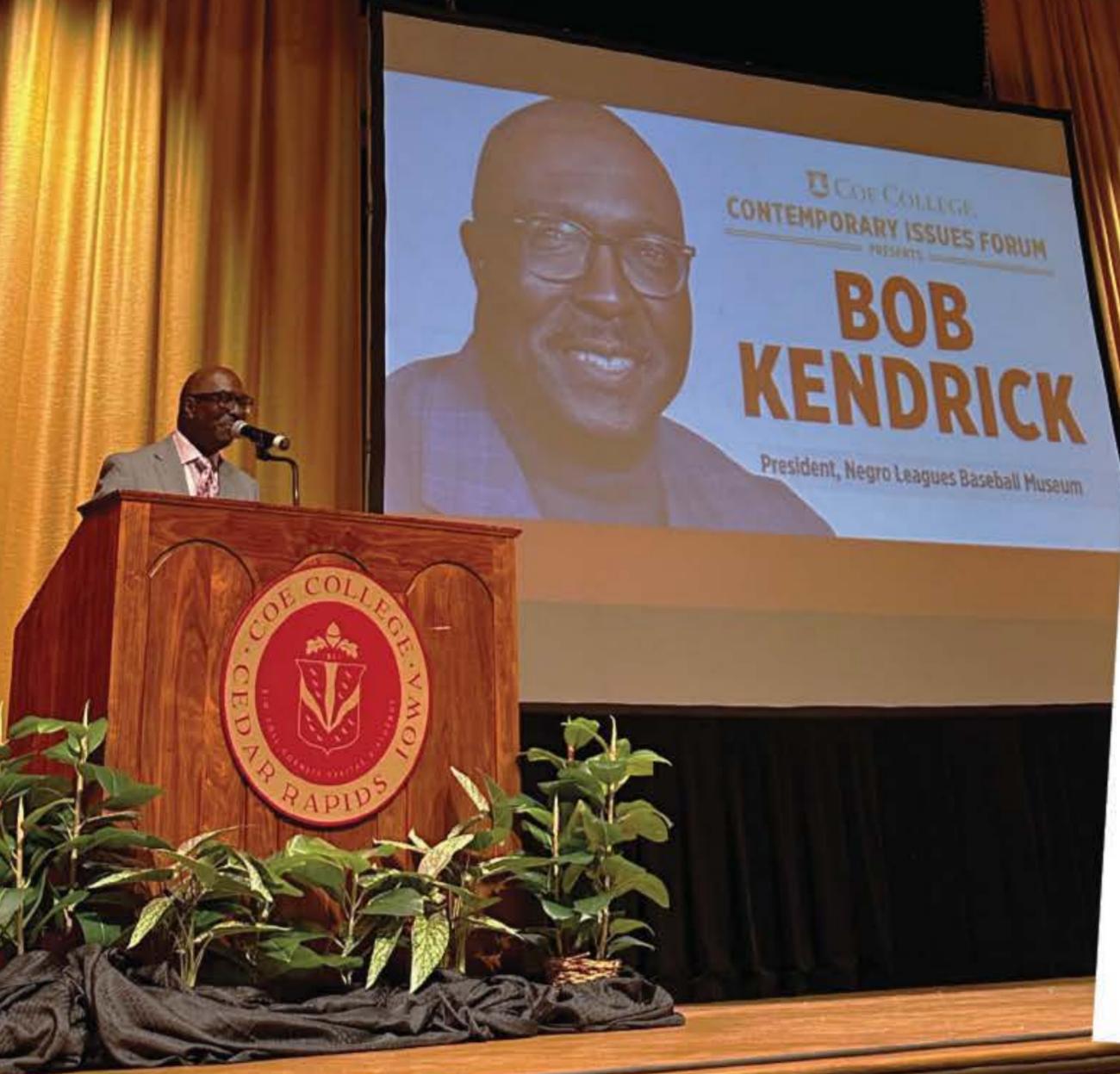
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Nonprofit leader and educator headlines 19th

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES FORUM

Bob Kendrick, president of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (NLBM) in Kansas City, Missouri, made his first visit to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, finding himself at home amongst a community of baseball fans and eager learners.



On February 28 in Sinclair Auditorium, the storyteller invited the audience of the 19th K. Raymond Clark Contemporary Issues Forum to learn about why the NLBM and Negro Leagues are so special and significant not only to baseball history, but also the social advancement of America.

Kendrick provided his engaged in-person and virtual audience an entertaining and illuminating evening, first introducing them to his personal journey with the NLBM and telling stories about shining exemplars of Negro Leagues baseball history.

When working as a senior copywriter at the Kansas City Star daily newspaper, he drew the assignment of promoting the NLBM's first-ever traveling exhibition, Discover Greatness, which is still touring the country 30 years later. Never having heard of the NLBM before, he decided to go to the nearby museum to research for his campaign. He still recalls his first visit.

"There was a man by the name of Don Motley, who was the museum's executive director. I knock on the door, I peek my head in and I kind of sheepishly say, 'I'm looking for the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.' He looks up at me and he smiles. He says, 'Son, you're standing in it,'" Kendrick reminisced. "Little did I know that I had walked into what would become my passion."

He became a volunteer with the then one-room museum in 1993, only three years after the organization's inception, and dedicated himself to it and the 3,000-plus male and female players who call the Negro Leagues home. It is still hard for Kendrick to believe he has 30 years of involvement with the museum, with 12 of those years serving as its president and leading what he knows to be one of the most important cultural institutions in the world.

"It was an awakening for me. And I truly believe that the museum today is an awakening for the majority of the people who come to see us."

This awakening is the driving force behind Kendrick's main piece of advice for college students: "Have a passion for whatever you're doing. If you have a passion for it, you will find ways to develop the skills necessary to be successful in it."

During his time at Coe, Kendrick had the opportunity to interact with current students. He visited Dr. Alissa Boguslaw's Social Change course, which is currently doing a segment on social movements and thinking about how people come together, organize and take action for change. He also met with students who are part of Coe's Black Self Educated Organization (BSEO) and ate dinner with invited students and staff. Throughout his conversations, something came up again and again: COVID-19.

Kendrick treated COVID with a baseball metaphor — you've got to get back up, or at least go down swinging. 2020 was set to be an amazing yearlong celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Negro Leagues. Kendrick had to ask himself if he could summon the same resilient spirit that was held by the players he so admired. The answer? Absolutely.

The NLBM put forth a virtual marketing campaign called "Tip Your Hat to the Negro Leagues," and it went viral. Participation ranged from former U.S. presidents

like Jimmy Carter and Barack Obama, to TV personalities Steven Colbert and Conan O'Brien, to Kendrick's personal baseball hero Henry Aaron, to even NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy aboard the International Space Station. This campaign's undeniable success led to one of the greatest years in the museum's history.

"The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum doesn't just need to survive," Kendrick said. "It has to survive. Our children will learn from a piece of Americana we never had the chance to. These stories are not only educational, but inspirational."

Our children will learn from a piece of Americana we never had the chance to. These stories are not only educational, but inspirational.

— Bob Kendrick



After all, Negro Leagues baseball is an integral part of America's baseball history, even if it has been forgotten. Kendrick told his captive audience how the Negro Leagues are responsible for helping to make baseball the global game that it is, introducing the sport to Japan in 1927. He shared how a league born out of exclusion became one of the most inclusive, not limiting itself to African American or even male players. He outlined just how significant the integration of baseball sparked social change across the nation itself, a story previously untold in American history books.

In short, the audience gathered in Sinclair Auditorium were able to experience what Kendrick's museum-goers do. "When visitors come into the NLBM, they are amazed by what they learn, but they're also a little bit dismayed by the fact that they just now had the opportunity to learn it. Our guests walk away literally cheering the power of the human spirit to persevere and prevail," he said.

Kendrick titled the latter part of his talk "How a Monarch changed baseball and America too." Jackie Robinson became the chosen one to bring Major League Baseball's self-imposed, six-decade-long color barrier to an end. Before he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, Jackie's professional baseball career began in the Negro Leagues in 1945 with the Kansas City Monarchs.

While Jackie was not the best player in the Negro Leagues at the time, he was the right player.

He was the right man to be the first, because the first to do anything cannot fail. Negro Leagues baseball built the bridge that allowed Jackie to cross the color barrier in 1947, and that, claims Kendrick, was the beginning of the Civil Rights movement in this country. Jackie Robinson and Negro Leagues baseball sparked movement and conversations about social change almost a decade or more before recognized Civil Rights milestones, such as the 1955 bus boycotts and 1963 march on Washington.

A leading authority and almost verifiable encyclopedia recalling facts, dates and names at the drop of a hat, Kendrick is also a master at weaving stories. He provided the audience with a crash course on Negro Leagues baseball history, yet his talk felt like a enjoyable conversation with an old friend, filled with lots of smiles and laughter. He spoke fondly and expertly about major figures including the "chosen one," Jackie Robinson; superstar Monte Irvin; "Queen of the Negro Leagues" Effa Manley; James Leslie "Wilkie" Wilkinson; "baseball's forgotten man," Larry Doby; charismatic pitcher Leroy "Satchel" Paige; Cedar Rapids native Art "Superman" Pennington; John "Buck" O'Neil, founder of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum; and more.

Closing out the Contemporary Issues Forum program, President **David Hayes '93** called Kendrick one of the finest storytellers Coe College has had the honor to host, and the audience's standing ovation seemed to agree. While Bob Kendrick is a savvy businessman, an influential leader, a recognized writer and podcaster with many accolades to his name, at his core, he is a man who wants to share his life passion with others, and he has done so successfully. During his talk, Kendrick and the Negro Leagues reminded Coe of a simple and powerful lesson: if it is possible, you have the power to make it happen.

"They just wanted to play baseball," Kendrick said. "The determination and courage of Negro Leagues baseball players, in the face of adversity, is a story that transcends race and it transcends age. If you dare to dream, you can do or be whatever you want to be."







Orchestra Iowa
celebrates its

100- year

history with
Coe College

“The first appearance of the Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra and the Choral Society of Cedar Rapids will take place tomorrow night,” wrote the Coe College Cosmos on April 12, 1923. This symphony orchestra, later renamed Orchestra Iowa, has grown into a renowned music organization since its debut performance in Sinclair Auditorium 100 years ago.

The group stems from music aficionados at Coe College. In 1922, a new choral society was in need of orchestral accompaniment. Enter the Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Joseph Kitchin. As a professor of violin at Coe from 1916 to 1957, Kitchin was well-equipped to lead the

organization, which he did until 1953. Eventually, Daehler-Kitchin Auditorium was named after him.

While the group initially started as a volunteer organization, they began to pay their musicians in the 1950s. Orchestra Iowa operated at Coe until moving to the Cedar Rapids Paramount Theatre in the 1970s. They invited Kitchin back for the 50th anniversary symphony concert to honor him and had him conduct Mendelssohn’s “Hebrides Overture,” the very same piece with which he opened the organization’s first concert. When much of the Paramount was destroyed in the 2008 flood, Orchestra Iowa performed in different venues, including returning to Coe.

During the 2022-2023 season, Orchestra Iowa is featuring works by Iowa-native composers and is coming back to its Coe roots for the 100th anniversary. A series of interviews with composers is scheduled at the college this spring.

They are set to feature Cedar Rapids native and Alma A. Turechek Professor Emeritus of Music Jerry Owen on March 23, Grammy Award-winning composer Michael Daugherty on April 12 and Iowa-based Nancy Hill Cobb on May 17. Each interview will be centered in the Stewart Memorial Library Perrine Gallery starting at 5:00 p.m. with a wine and cheese reception to follow. Events are free to the public. Those interested should consult the Orchestra Iowa website for RSVP details.



Professor Joseph Kitchin, photo taken in 1957 by George Henry '49.

Music department ready to raise the curtain on a Coe

SHOW CHOIR REVIVAL



The latest announcement from the Coe College Music Department is sure to be right *on key*.. How could something as exciting as a show choir ever *fall flat*?

You don't have to be *too sharp* to realize show choir is coming back to Coe! Formerly known as Collage, the new group is going by Coe Sho Cho for now. While that is a melodious mouthful, the group is sure to be smooth sounding under the direction of Professor of Music **Luke Lovegood '07**.

All Coe students are eligible to participate, and the new ensemble will provide the classic show choir triple threat — singing, dancing and performing — without the intense commitment that oftentimes high school level groups demand. Without many college show choirs around, there are few competitions, and Lovegood notes that he wants members to be students first.

“We can still do show choir for the love and passion for being on stage. We will push ourselves to perform at a high level, but it won't be for a score, rating or trophy. It will be to build awareness of Coe, our music program and ensembles on campus. It will be to give back to the community that has so generously supported our institution,” Lovegood said.

The group plans to perform for area schools and organizations, as well as on-campus events.



Music alumni Q&A

Hailee Gehrls Hopkins '13

Coe grad: Music ed hits all the right notes

While most Kohawk musicians and educators leave Coe after graduation, many don't go too far. A strong contingent of Kohawks lend their talent and expertise in local classrooms and organizations.

Hailee Gehrls Hopkins '13 was a music education major and is currently a kindergarten—fourth grade music instructor and upper elementary chorus director at Echo Hill Elementary in Marion as part of the Linn-Mar school district. She shares a little bit about her experience.

What do you like most about your current position?

I love working with elementary-aged students in the general music classroom. This is such a perfect age for student exploration and for helping students find creative ways to express themselves! We sing, we dance, we play instruments and we connect music to the real world. It is so rewarding to watch a child progress through the elementary music classroom and see their musical abilities grow!

How did Coe prepare you to succeed in this position?

Coe provides wonderful connections to area teachers and classrooms, which allowed me to get great observation and teaching experience! The Coe music faculty work to ensure that music education students are receiving enriching content, both in and outside of the classroom. My methods courses and private lessons were designed with a strong curriculum in order to help prepare me for leadership in my own classroom.

In your opinion, what's the best part about Coe's music education program?

To me, the best part about Coe's music education program is the content exposure. As a music education student, I was able to learn about and feel confident in my knowledge of general, vocal and instrumental music across all grade levels. The professors also helped foster my interests and encouraged me on my career path.

COE BOASTS FOUR NATIONAL RANKINGS

by The Princeton Review!



#10

PRIVATE COLLEGE
FOR INTERNSHIPS

#20

MOST ACCESSIBLE
PROFESSORS

#17

CAREER
SERVICES

#20

ALUMNI NETWORK
AMONG PRIVATE
COLLEGES

**Do you know a college-bound student who
would benefit from these advantages?**

Refer them to Coe!

apply.coe.edu/register/refer-kohawk



More *than* Classes:

CONFERENCING OPPORTUNITIES AT COE

“Coe” has a multitude of meanings, depending on who you talk with. Alumni may remember Coe as the place that hosted the best years of their collegiate lives. Students may think of Coe as the tight-knit campus that encourages a well-rounded experience. Still others may recognize Coe as an institution consistently ranked in the top 1% of four-year colleges and universities for its alumni network, accessible professors, career services and internships.

Another meaning that Coe holds is one that you might not be aware of. At any given time, the campus is host to community members through its ever-expanding conference programming, and we want to ensure you’re aware of our capabilities.

Coe’s facilities can be used to host your events! In doing so, we offer a needed service to the community and enable other organizations to smoothly execute events and achieve their goals. Not only does conferencing expand the number of ways we engage with our community, it also aids the college as an additional source of revenue that helps ensure the future of both our institution and the ones with whom we collaborate.

COE IS A ONE-STOP SHOP THAT PROVIDES AN ENCOMPASSING PACKAGE OF OPTIONS FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION.

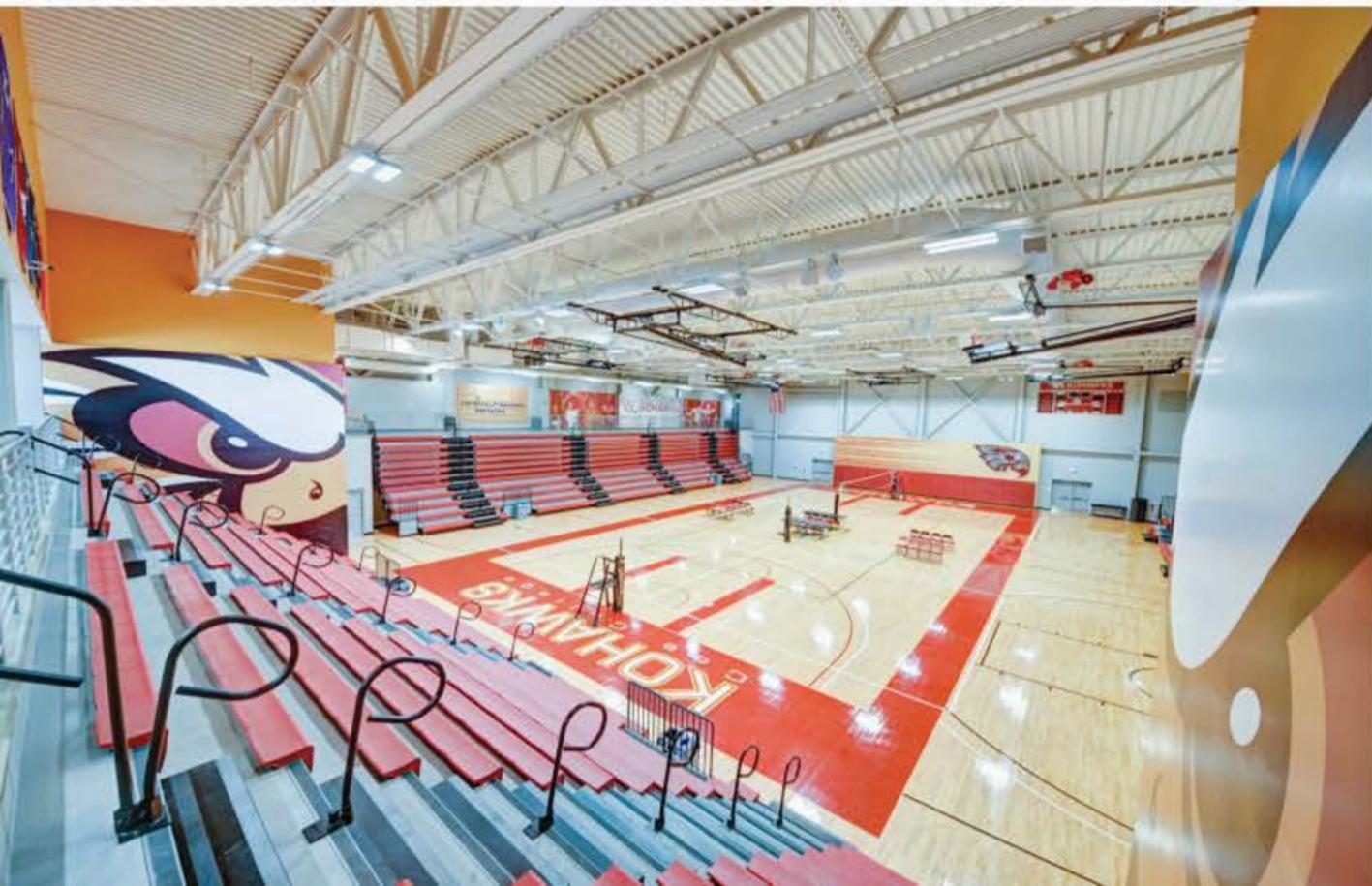
The same campus elements that provide our students with a fulfilling residential experience — housing, dining services and a wide scope of facilities — are available to make your vision happen and address your needs. From something as simple as a holiday office party to as complex as an overnight athletic camp, Coe has experience finding a solution for you. We have collaborated with organizations ranging from the philanthropic and nonprofit realm to public services, high schools and even the corporate sector.

We provide the resources for the space so you can focus on what’s important: impacting lives. For example, Coe College is the site for the yearly College for Kids program, which is a Grant Wood Area Education Agency (AEA) program. College for Kids provides opportunities for middle school students across seven counties to challenge themselves and take topic courses on a college campus. Coe also hosts overnight athletic camps with High Performance Volleyball, an Iowa-based organization with the mission to support and develop athletes’ skills to compete in championships. Coe has also partnered with organizations like First Presbyterian Church, the Cedar Rapids Opera, Iowa Ball Stars, Iowa State Patrol Testing, the Special Olympics of Iowa and many more.

In the past two years, Coe’s conferencing has vastly grown and developed into what it is today under the direction of Joelle Rummel, assistant athletics director and director of auxiliary operations. Today, our conference programming has connected over 10,000 people, bringing together the Cedar Rapids and Corridor communities, people from the state of Iowa and even those across the nation to Coe.

“Conferencing has become such a huge part of Coe College within the past few years,” said Joelle. “We work daily to utilize our facilities as resources for our community to achieve their organizational goals, as well as providing an additional revenue source for the college. Our reach has expanded so far, and our hopes as a department are to continue serving as that resource for past, current and future Kohawks.”

WE’RE OPEN FOR BUSINESS! If you want to learn more about what Coe can do for you and your organization or to get involved in our conferencing programming, reach out to Joelle at jrummel@coe.edu.



Coe College was

ON THE ROAD

again

POSTCARD

Kohawk connections are never limited to one time or place, and in the past year, they've been just about everywhere.

We all were looking forward to when we could see familiar Coe faces once more while the COVID-19 pandemic halted in-person gatherings. When it was safe to do so, Coe decided to head out "on the road again" with President **David Hayes '93** and other members of the Office of Advancement, bringing Coe to alumni across the country over the course of a year. At these events, President Hayes shared updates on the college's current events and its future plans, and alumni were able to reconnect, reminisce and often enjoy food and beverages together.

"We are fortunate to have such a wonderful group of alumni," said President Hayes. "It is truly a privilege whenever I am able to meet up with them, hear their life stories and see firsthand how Coe's impact continues beyond their time as a student."

The continued dedication and involvement of our extended community is the reason why Coe is recognized as having the #20 alumni network in the nation among private colleges, according to The Princeton Review.

Although the packed travel itinerary of this year of events is over, Kohawk get-togethers are never done. Keep an eye out for future events in your area, and make plans to get "on the road" yourself to reconnect with fellow alumni at Homecoming each year.



Coe College

1220 1st Ave NE

Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

15
cities visited

10,875
miles traveled

450+
alumni attended

**TOO MANY
TO COUNT**
memories made



Boston, MA



Minneapolis, MN



Chicago, IL

Cedar Rapids: *A Destination*



Do you ever wonder what it would be like to be a tourist in a place you've called home?

Don't wonder — break out your fanny pack for a return trip to your college town! Cedar Rapids has undergone a cultural and culinary renaissance in the last decade, and if you haven't been back to Coe even in the last five years, it's time to come home for a visit. You'll be amazed, according to Associate Executive Director of the Cedar Rapids Tourism Office Julie Stow.

Yes, it's Stow's job to talk about Cedar Rapids, but there is a genuine love for Cedar Rapids in her voice when she talks — nay, raves — about her adopted hometown. A native of California, she's eager to gush about what Kohawks who have moved away are missing, which is quite a bit.

"We're not the same community we once were. We're not even the same we were five years ago," she said. "Now, I literally can't do everything I want to do on the weekends."

The buzz begins with a few key neighborhoods which are thriving. Czech Village, New Bohemia (NewBo) and the west edge of the Cedar River downtown are all full of local favorites and promising developments. Then, within those neighborhoods, and throughout the city, the restaurant scene "has completely changed." Once known as a hub for chain restaurants, 62% of the Linn County restaurants are now locally owned and independent according to The Cedar Rapids Gazette.

Some of the headliners on the food scene include chef Andy Schumacher, who is the chef and co-owner of both Cobble Hill and Caucho in Cedar Rapids, and chef Samuel Charles of Rodina.

In 2005, Schumacher appeared on the Food Network's "Next Food Network Star" and lost to superstar chef Guy Fieri. Years later, Schumacher reunited with Fieri on "Guy's Grocery Games" and won that competition before he opened an urban taco joint, Caucho.



In 2015, Cobble Hill earned a semifinalist award for excellence from the James Beard Foundation and was labeled one of the “Most Romantic Restaurants in Iowa.” James Beard awards are the most prestigious honors in the United States food industry.

Across the Cedar River, Charles was just nominated for a James Beard award himself, and Rodina has been named the best restaurant in Iowa.

Sparked by Cedar Rapidians and visitors alike seeking out the local eating options, areas that once were quiet are alive with pedestrian traffic. Micro economies are flourishing. The NewBo City Market is half small business incubator and half gathering place for the community. Inside the market, local entrepreneurs fill small stalls that act as storefronts. There are budding restaurateurs and craftspeople, and shopping around the market is extra enjoyable knowing you are helping people who are as passionate about their product as they are about their success. An interesting fact — 80% of the market’s businesses are minority or women-owned.

In Czech Village, an eclectic mixture of local merchants creates a small town main street feel adjacent to downtown and NewBo. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library resides within the Czech Village. Amazingly, the 2.8 million pound building was moved 480 feet — intact — and elevated 12 feet after the historic 2008 flood.

Finally, just west of downtown, a surge of development is changing one of the most visible areas of the city, which is just inside the “S-curve” of Interstate 380. A new outdoor amphitheater plays host to national musical acts and occasionally acts as a sit-in movie theater with family-friendly movies. New restaurants have popped up here, including upscale Bari which serves rustic Italian dishes. Just down the road, a major development called 1st & 1st has started construction. It will be an entertainment complex featuring a brewery and rooftop pickleball courts.

When you throw downtown into the mix, the four neighborhoods form a square that has revitalized the center of Cedar Rapids. You can walk, or bike, to and from each neighborhood, and with the theaters and arena downtown, a night often starts in one place and ends in another.

“One of my favorite things is a Friday or Saturday night when there’s a show going on at the Paramount for example, and something at the McGrath Amphitheater, and there’s a mass of people. The energy is just palpable. It’s so strong. There’s people everywhere and I love seeing that,” Stow said.

Kohawks, it’s time to consider your old home a destination now — start to plan your trip back to Cedar Rapids and be sure to stop by campus to say “hello!”



HIDDEN GEMS

- Opus Concert Cafe in the Paramount Theater hosts jazz sets on a monthly basis and has welcomed hall of fame blues musicians.
- Scribe Stationer is a stationary, desktop and gift boutique, located in a historic firehouse in NewBo.
- The trail system is well-known to locals, but few outside the region know Cedar Rapids is one of the best bicycling cities in the Midwest. The Cedar Valley Trail is the main artery, but there are other trails in every quadrant of the city.

ENTERTAINMENT VENUES

- Alliant Energy PowerHouse
- Theater Cedar Rapids
- Paramount Theater
- CSPA
- McGrath Amphitheater
- Veterans Memorial Stadium
- Cedar Rapids Ice Arena

MUSEUMS

- National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
- The History Center
- The Cedar Rapids Art Museum
- The African American Museum of Iowa

PLACES TO STAY

- Hilton DoubleTree Downtown
- Babi's Place Airbnb in the heart of Czech Village
- Historical Herda House Airbnb in the middle of NewBo
- The Heart House Airbnb in NewBo
- Clark Alumni House at Coe College



A PERFECT DAY IN CEDAR RAPIDS

- **Have breakfast** at Brewhemia in one of Cedar Rapids' thriving neighborhoods — NewBo. The breakfast burritos were on the Food Network's list of "Best Burritos in the Country" in 2019.
- You just laid down a great foundation for a fabulous day, so **get moving**. Explore the walking trails at Indian Creek Nature Center or if you like to bike, there is an extensive trail network throughout the city.
- Take a brief respite for **lunch**. Split a melt-in-your-mouth wood-fired pizza at Cedar Ridge Winery and Distillery. And, you can do some whiskey tasting too, if that's your thing!
- You're going to be back on your feet for the afternoon, but really it will be your brain getting a workout deciding which **museum** to visit (see sidebar). They're pretty close in proximity, so you can probably fit in two!
- **Grab a cocktail** and possibly an appetizer at Rodina.
- Now, we'll give you permission to get off your feet. There's bound to be a **show (or a game)** at one of Cedar Rapids' seven theaters, stadiums or arenas (see sidebar).
- **A later dinner** at Cobble Hill would be perfect — send your tastebuds to bed happy!



Lifelong Learner? **KICZENSKI** — IS A LIFELONG KOHAWK —

If there's one thing TJ Kiczenski '99 knows after spending more than half his life in research, it's that there's always something new to discover. At 17 years old, TJ thought his future involved baseball over the summer and following family footsteps to be a dentist. He had no way of knowing the winding path life would take him on.

Today, TJ has worked his way through the ranks at Corning Incorporated to serve as a principal scientist in glass research. During his time at Corning, he has filed 70 patent applications with more than 50 of them granted, traveled across the globe, experienced research and management, spoken at conferences and taught countless others about

glass and his innovations. He is a fast-talker from Chicago, a Cubs and Bears enthusiast, a fantasy "super-geek," a husband, a father and, notably, a huge fan of Coe College. His undergraduate experience revealed significant lessons inside and outside the classroom that have shaped who he is and remained with him throughout his life.

LESSON #1: WHEN OPPORTUNITIES ARE PROVIDED TO YOU, SAY “YES.”

After disliking his first biology class — derailing the dentistry plan — he turned to his first-year advisor B.D. Silliman Professor of Physics Steve “Doc” Feller, who already had a different idea in mind. “You’re going to do research with us this summer,” Doc told him, repeating it many times over the course of TJ’s freshman year until he actually listened as a sophomore.

On Coe’s campus, TJ’s research centered around a type of glass called alkali germanates. However, he was not limited to one place or topic. With the Coe physics department’s help, he utilized various methods of spectroscopy at Iowa State and Indiana Universities, studied vanadates in England and visited China for a month-long trip to Fudan University. These opportunities allowed him to experience other cultures and opened his eyes to the many different ways someone can pursue a career in glass.

One of those routes after graduation from Coe led to Stanford University’s geology department where TJ simultaneously earned his master’s degree in materials science and doctorate in geology. His research utilized nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, a method he learned about as a Coe student conducting research at Indiana University.

Coe not only introduced TJ to the world of glass, but also his future wife, **Tandi Shaul** Kiczenski ’00. After dating in undergrad, they reconnected while TJ attended a glass conference hosted at Coe. After long-distance dating and a move to northern California for Tandi (where she worked as a nurse at Stanford University Medical Center), the two were married in 2005 just before TJ completed his degrees. The next big move for the Kiczenskis would be to the opposite side of the country: New York.

In the small town of Corning resides a Fortune 500 company. While Corning Incorporated is famously known for making the encasement for Thomas Edison’s lightbulb and introducing CorningWare in the 1950s, for more than 170 years, Corning has combined its unparalleled expertise in glass science, ceramics science and optical physics with deep manufacturing and engineering capabilities to develop life-changing innovations and products. The technology company participates in a wide variety of industries including life sciences, mobile consumer electronics, optical communications, display and automotive markets. They also sponsor research in academia, including several years of TJ’s research at Stanford studying the structure of fluorine in silicate and aluminosilicate glasses.

“Coe repped very well in the glass industry,” TJ said about applying for Corning’s open position in 2005. “It was down to three candidates, and two of us were Coe graduates.”

Since joining Corning, TJ has moved around within the company’s different research areas. He primarily works on compositional development using a particular method of glassmaking called fusion and has also held leadership roles, recently completing a two-year stint

as a business technology manager. He is constantly innovating and taking on new challenges and opportunities. Corning regularly sends TJ across the globe to collaborate on products he invents and supports trials in locations around the world. A previous distaste for public speaking has dissolved, and his communication skills position him well for leading teams, teaching others and speaking at the very same conferences he attended in his teens and twenties.

TJ’s time with the Coe physics department in the ’90s was a formative experience. “Glass was just something to do because I liked Doc,” he admitted. After spending 26 years in glass research, it is clear how seizing opportunities allowed TJ to discover a previously-unknown and enduring passion for the subject.

“So,” TJ affirmed about Coe, “slightly life-altering.”

LESSON #2: DON’T SHY AWAY FROM FAILURE, BECAUSE IT LEADS TO INNOVATION.

As a student and a scientist, TJ has a talent for destroying things. Whether it was demolishing five crucibles in a year or accidentally setting chemical waste on fire, Doc Feller’s classroom gave TJ the chance to fail, and more importantly the chance to learn.

The former perfectionist’s curiosity leaps at the opportunity to push boundaries and discover how to make the impossible possible. A penchant for curiosity benefits him in his work, where he is encouraged to conduct exploratory research. As an example, Corning scientists developed an extremely smooth, pristine piece of glass for car windshields, but the innovation turned out to be unnecessary for that industry. When LCD came along, however, with a need for a perfectly flat substrate for electronics, Corning dusted off their windshield technology.

TJ is fascinated by the unknown and loves working on the projects with a high chance of failure. He has previously won Corning’s Stookey Award, which is given out each year to one research scientist whose achievements in exploratory work have contributed to



TJ and Tandi Kiczenski with their two children, Sydney (12) and Joey (14).

significant scientific or technical breakthroughs. “I get paid to fail but fail intelligently,” he said. “All those times I was failing, I was learning, and eventually the failures lead to successful projects for Corning.”

As an illustration, he holds out his smartphone and bends it in half, demonstrating the thin, foldable glass as a component of its screen.

“When Corning asked me to take over leadership of the bendable glass research project, I said yeah, let’s do this.” He laughs. “At the time, I didn’t know how exactly we would make it work, but that’s why it’s so neat.” Today, foldable glass is commercially available, demonstrating how Corning’s scientists can push the edge.

TJ is already working on finding the next cool invention that will move technology in new directions. A professional — and personal — philosophy is that it’s worth it to constantly innovate and try creative things because you truly don’t know where the future will take you. Regardless of what happens next for TJ, Doc Feller is confident that it will be bright.

“TJ’s future at the moment is golden,” he said. “He’s doing well at Corning, and they are lucky to have him. He’s working with the best of the best and more than holds his own. We should be proud of him at Coe.”

LESSON #3: NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF YOUR NETWORK AND RELATIONSHIPS.

“It has been wonderful to have TJ go from a student to a colleague in the field,” said Doc Feller. “Underlying everything he has been a friend too — he’s family.”

The feeling is a mutual one. Doc has become another father figure in TJ’s life, attended TJ and Tandi’s wedding in 2005 and remains a close friend. The physics department forged other lifelong friendships for TJ, such as **Chandrika Vira ’99** and **DaNel Hogan ’99** after going through almost all their classes together. Using his network as a student and learning to ask for help when he needed it has been a huge influence on professional relationships.

TJ credits his success half to being proficient in technical research and half to his network and skills as a communicator. At Corning, scientists work with technicians to conceptualize experiments and execute them. When he first started as a scientist, TJ would figure out who conducted measurements on his glasses and reach out to sit with them in the lab to learn about their measurement, curating a reputation as someone who not only knows but cares about people.

His biggest piece of advice for current Coe students is to learn this lesson early, be proactive and reach out to alumni. There is a reason why Coe College is ranked #20 nationally for its alumni network by the Princeton Review. Connecting at reunions, reaching out to graduates in the field and taking advantage of Coe’s network can only be a benefit to current Kohawks.

Connections among connections abound in the glass industry. One of the most famous inventors in Corning’s history was **S. Donald**

Stookey ’36, recipient of the Alumni Award of Merit and Founder’s Medal from Coe College. When he started, TJ was lucky to be assigned an excellent technician, Michelle Pierson-Stull, who is now a scientist in the glass research department at Corning and still working with TJ. By happenstance, Michelle’s dad had been the technician for Don Stookey, and Michelle facilitated a connection between “Uncle Don” and TJ. After Stookey, TJ believes he was the second Coe graduate employed at Corning. Today, however, there are several currently at the company, including someone just two doors down from TJ’s office.

LESSON #4: THE BEST WAY TO SHOW YOUR GRATITUDE IS TO GIVE BACK.

As a student, TJ was affectionately known as “the delinquent one” by Doc Feller and Fran Allison and Francis Halpin Professor of Physics **Mario Affatigato ’89**. A self-proclaimed hustler and someone who once tried to skip summer research to go golfing (foiled by Doc coming to his apartment), something clicked for TJ during his junior year. He realized what he owed Doc and the physics department and started looking for opportunities to help the people around him, an attitude which carried into graduate school and beyond.

A major highlight, which causes TJ to smile, was collaborating with Don Stookey to establish the Stookey internship only a few years into TJ’s career. This internship has allowed Coe students to experience glass research at Corning, even recruiting several as employees. More than that, it has been a great way to give back to Coe and help out students.

TJ’s sense of deep gratitude compels him to give back as much as possible to support the people and college that poured so much into him. He attends physics reunions and regularly speaks to Coe students, striving to visit every two to three years and meet everyone during their time in the program. Since his own era, the physics department has grown from hosting a handful of students for summer research to 40-plus students conducting glass research each summer. The unique, impactful experiences of our alumni and research have turned Coe physics into a sought-after major and well-known department.

Each year, TJ and Tandi visit Florida with their kids, Joey and Sydney, and purchase one lottery ticket to just dream. Never once in these dreams does he leave his work at Corning. “Coe took an 18-year-old who didn’t know anything and invested so much in me,” he said. “I’m forever grateful to Doc, Mario and Coe for providing me with a career where I’m blessed enough to have a job I like so much that even if I won the lottery, I would still choose my job, every day.”

Doc celebrates the three physics graduates of 1999, (from left) **Chandrika Vira**, **DaNel Hogan** and **TJ Kiczenski**, with a barbeque at his house.





CLASS NOTES

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

1970s



'71 Nancy Berghold Davenport and Mike Davenport '72 of Robins, Iowa, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past September. They met at Lake Balaton, Hungary, in 1970 during Coe's first choir and band trip

to Europe. They have four children and 14 grandchildren. They would love to hear from you: mndavenport@gmail.com.

'72 Steven Baird of Roseville, Minnesota, retired back in 2018 after completing a 30-year career as a technical writer. Last May, Steve and his wife Deb traveled to Salt Lake City to see their first grandchild, Anna, and her proud parents, son Tim and daughter-in-law Shannon. Their daughter, Linnae, is an epidemiologist in Seattle.

'74 Michael Kirtland of Woodland Park, Colorado, was awarded the Colorado Bar Association's John Campbell Award for Outstanding Contributions to Elder Law.

Dr. **Richard Lucchesi** of Chatham, Massachusetts, retired from the Army Reserves with the rank of Colonel. He retired from the Providence Veteran's Administration in July 2021 and is currently working part-time for the VA.

1 '77 Malcom Ruhl of Elk Grove Village, Illinois, recently appeared as a musician and actor in his 18th season of the Goodman Theatre's "A Christmas Carol." It was his 12th season as the production's music director. He is currently in pre-production for the Chicago premiere of his award-winning musical "Cicada Dance" (CicadaDance.com). Photo by Liz Lauren.

'78 John Breed of Estes Park, Colorado, celebrated his 40th anniversary playing the organ for St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in October. There was a special service with a presentation and reception. The congregation joined in singing the hymn John wrote for the parish's 50th anniversary.

'79 Dee Ann Casteel of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, is an organic chemist and recent chair of the department of chemistry at Bucknell University.

1980s

'83 Phillip Haynes of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, is a New York-based musician currently teaching at Pennsylvania's Bucknell University. Phil is featured on more than 85 releases by numerous American and European record labels. International media have compared his drumming to masters Jack DeJohnette, Roy Haynes and Elvin Jones. His 60-plus diverse published compositions are reminiscent of music from Duke Ellington, Charles Ives, Charles Mingus and the Art Ensemble of Chicago. His upcoming biography, "Chasing the Masters" (June 2023) is an international insider's journey to discover one's artistic potential. Phil's current touring ensembles include his definitive saxophone trio No Fast Food, romantic jazz-grass string band Free Country, Three Shamans and the romantic piano trio Day Dream. You can learn more about his music at www.philhaynes.com.

'88 Paul David Stanko of Plymouth, Minnesota, released his new single, "Artist's Prayer," in September 2022. The song premiered on KXFM Laguna Beach, California, on September 18. You can hear it at www.PaulDavidmusic.net.

1990s

'95 John Needelman of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, started a position as chief information officer for the Iowa Department of Corrections in September.

Jennifer Lokenvitz Schwitzer of Green Bay, Wisconsin, is currently serving as associate general counsel for U.S. Venture based in Appleton, Wisconsin.

'97 Peter Yong of Fort Lee, New Jersey, started a position as information security manager at the Philadelphia International Airport.

'98 Jennifer Blattner Waloch of New Ulm, Minnesota, was promoted to senior manager at Accenture. Jenny's job entails responsibility for client interaction and

leading the delivery of outcomes for global clients.

'99 Stephanie Baughman Ryan of Marion, Iowa, celebrated her six-year anniversary as the owner of Illuminations in October 2022.

2000s

2 '02 Will Johnston of Clarkston, Georgia, received global recognition with the Jack Kemp Excellence in Affordable and Workforce Housing award. He helped establish a pocket neighborhood of eight sustainable micro-cottage homes, located in the most ethnically diverse square mile in America.

Lee Sanders of Albuquerque, New Mexico, purchased a second coffee shop and diner, Duggan's Coffee near the University of New Mexico, expanding Trifecta Coffee in Albuquerque to two locations.

'05 Jonathan Sims of Iowa City, Iowa, has been designing and illustrating artwork, labels and packaging for ReUnion Brewery since 2016. As of now, he has designed artwork for over 50 different beers, which have labels featuring original cartoon characters representing each of the different beer brands. Jonathan had the opportunity to create artwork for a new three-floor restaurant and brewery for ReUnion in downtown Iowa City. The location opened in October and is adorned with three murals, 13 paintings and other graphics and artwork by Jonathan that are fun, vibrant, gigantic and over-the-top.

'06 Jill Wyckoff Batten of Carlisle, Iowa, completed her doctorate in education at Drake University in August 2022. She started a new position as director of first-year experience and professor of practice at Grand View University.

'08 Kaitlin Johnston Boyse of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, started a new position as associate director of engineering support services within the mission systems business at Collins Aerospace.





2010s

'11 **Holly Bouma-Johnston** of Oak Park, Illinois, started a position as a medical writer at Abbott Laboratories.

3 '12 **Brittany Nichols** Peacock of Davenport, Iowa, was elected as president of American Bookmobile and Outreach Services, a national organization centered around providing support, continuing education, networking and providing a yearly conference to individuals working in the outreach field in libraries. Brittany has previously served as vice president of this organization. During her year as president, she will oversee their new strategic plan, as well as plan the annual conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

'13 **Levi Kellogg** of Cleveland, Ohio, has accepted a position as a cardiothoracic anesthesia fellow at University of California, San Diego. He is currently a resident physician at Cleveland Clinic.

'15 **Maya Faaborg** of Urbana, Illinois, published a research article, "3D-printed machines that manipulate microscopic objects using capillary forces," in the top-rated journal for science in the world, *Nature*.

4 **Mia Phifer** of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, assisted in the successful reopening of America's Black Holocaust Museum (ABHM) in Milwaukee after 14 years of closure. She was then promoted to education and research coordinator at ABHM. Mia has been with the museum since 2018 when she was hired right out of University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee's history master's program with concentrations in public history, museum studies and nonprofit management. She started honing her skills and passion for public history and museums when she majored in history at Coe.

5 Dr. **Marissa Seamon** of Pembroke, Georgia, started a scientific

communications company, Academia, Industry, Medicine, Education (AIME) Higher Scientific Communications LLC, with her colleague Dr. Mackenzie Hagan.

'16 **Emily Roberts** of Iowa City, Iowa, ran the New York City marathon in November as part of the Beyond Type One charity team to raise funds and awareness for type one diabetes.

'19 **Jaimee Rindy** of Atlanta, Georgia, had a documentary film win an Emmy at the 43rd Annual News & Documentary Emmy Awards. She worked on the documentary as an associate producer with CNN. The film, "Eating Planet Earth: The Future of Your Food," won an Emmy for Outstanding Science, Technology or Environmental Coverage. Jaimee was passionate about the topic and is very proud to have worked on this documentary. This marks her first Emmy award nomination and win.

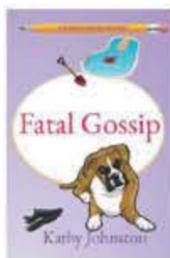
PUSHA DA PEN

WRITTEN ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COE'S ALUMNI

1970s

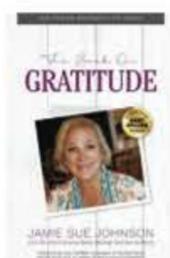


'72 **Rita Rohse Popp** of Fort Collins, Colorado, writing as Rita A. Popp, published her debut mystery novel "The First Fiancée: A Bethany Jarviss Mystery" (The Wild Rose Press). The discovery of human bones near a remote New Mexico mountain village sets Bethany on the path to solve a murder. She fears her future brother-in-law killed the young woman, who had been his beautiful and secretive first fiancée. This cozy whodunit is available in ebook and paperback formats through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, The Wild Rose Press and other local bookstores.



'74 **Kathy Johnston** of Grayslake, Illinois, released her third book, "Fatal Gossip." Karen Fowler's neighborhood is filled with secrets and information. When one gossipy neighbor is murdered, Karen teams up with Detective Brian Kerns to solve the murder mystery. The book is available through Amazon.

1980s



'85 **Jamie Sue Johnson** of Oviedo, Florida, published "The Book on Gratitude" based on her philosophy of living fully and passionately. Her book is designed to encourage readers to dream it, design it, do it and live out their best life. "The Book on Gratitude" is available through Amazon.

2000s



'09 **Jordan Pinckney** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, published the book, "Working Through the Dark." Written with former NFL player Asante Cleveland, this book shares Asante's story and life lessons moving beyond childhood abuse to help inspire and instill hope in others. "Working Through the Dark" is available on Amazon.

2010s

'15 **Tucker Rathjens** and Elizabeth Platte of Waverly, Iowa, on October 22.

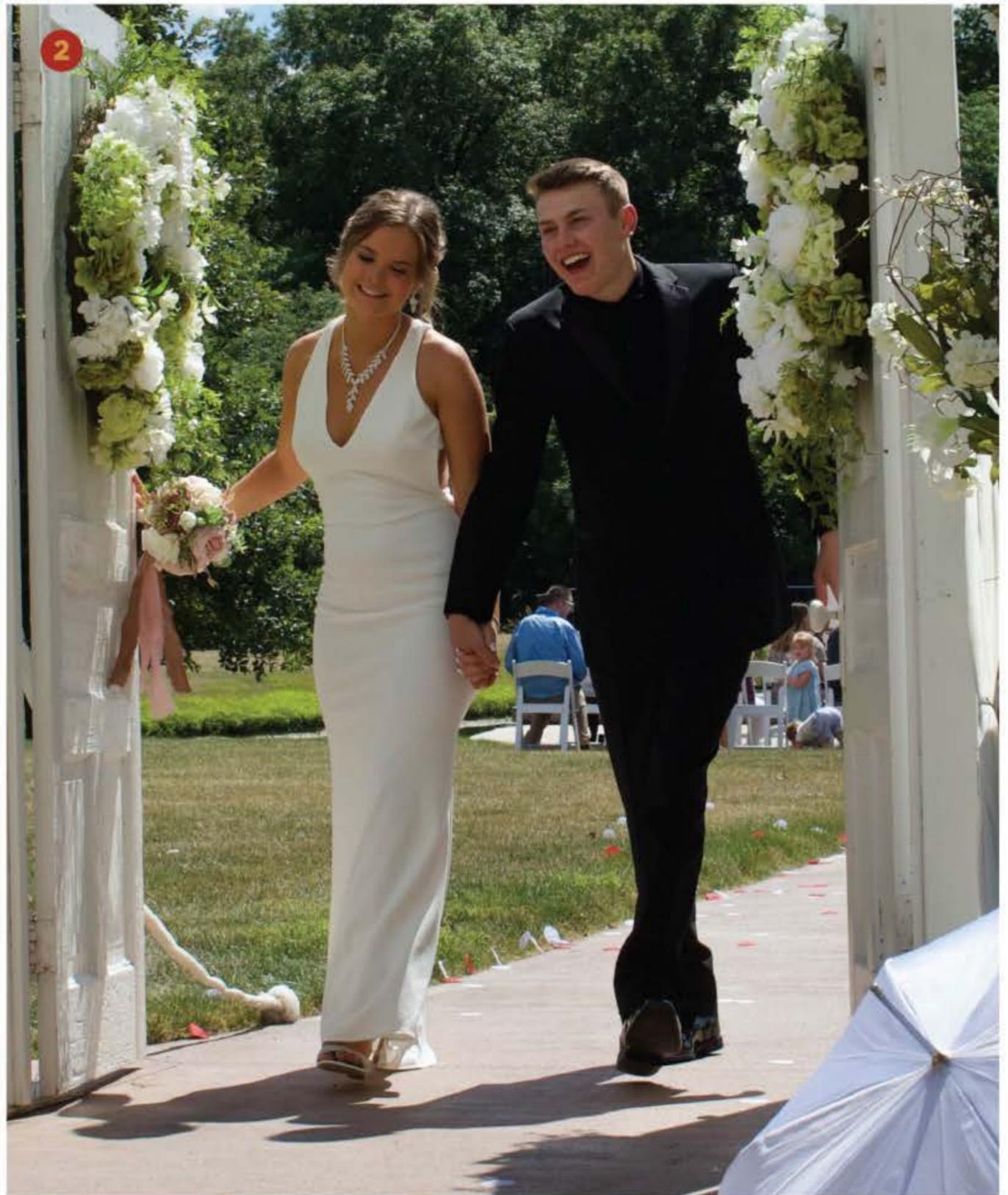
1 '16 **Hunter Mulnix** and '17 **Fabiola Hernandez** of North Liberty, Iowa, on October 22.

2020s

'20 **Josiah Oleson** and Megan Rye of Grinnell, Iowa, on August 12.

'20 **Michael Packard** and McKenzie Magee of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, on August 27.

2 '22 **Breeana Runyon** and Camren Coberley of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on July 30.



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 Summer 2023 issue is April 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 courier@coe.edu or mail to 1220 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402. Information also may be submitted online at www.alumni.coe.edu.

2000s

1 '08 **Lee Boyse** and **Kaitlin Johnston**
Boyse '08 of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a son, Nolan, on November 12.

2010s

2 '12 **Jennifer Zeman** and her husband, David Brushaber, of Brookfield, Wisconsin, a son, Theodore, on November 10.

'13 **Dylan Boyle** and his wife, Rebecca, of Travelers Rest, South Carolina, a daughter, Mila Mae, on October 14.

3 '16 **Craig Konrardy** and **Alexis Lichty**
Konrardy '16 of Altoona, Iowa, a child, Kovin, on October 18.



ALUMNI COUNCIL Update

I hope the spring of 2023 is going well for you all!

As the council seeks to keep you connected to what's happening at Coe and to things on campus that are meaningful to you, we have a few updates about where we've been and where we're going!

The alumni survey that wrapped up in January is one of the most effective ways to hear what is meaningful to you. A big thank you to the over 1,000 alumni who participated and shared their unique perspectives and preferences.

In the coming months, the Alumni Council will be utilizing the survey responses in tandem with the next Coe College strategic plan to create a clear direction for the Council's work for the coming years. Our goals will look to help bolster your relationship with the college in the ways that matter to you and positively impact the college and its students.

One avenue to continue driving impact and change on campus is through Coe's annual Day of Giving on April 6th.

Whether you're looking to give dollars or time, keep an eye out for email communication about how to get involved. On Day of Giving, small donations can have a large multiplying effect as donors step up with matching dollars. Save the date and take advantage of this opportunity to drive a larger impact with your donation.

I'm excited about what this year will bring for students, alumni and the campus community. As always, if you have ideas or suggestions, please share them.



Lauren DuBay Gilbertson '13
Alumni Council President

 Indicates decedent was a member of the Coe College Heritage Club. For information, contact Director of Planned Giving Debbie Green at 319.399.8592 or dgreen@coe.edu.

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

1950s



1950 Charles "Chuck" Elias, 97, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, on December 22. Chuck married Mary Rose O'Connor in 1946 in Cedar Rapids, and they were an example of faith-filled married life until "Migs" passed away in

2006. Chuck was a U.S. Marine in World War II and was present on Mt. Suribachi when the flag was raised on Iwo Jima. He was awarded two Purple Hearts during his service, as well as other campaign medals. He graduated from Coe College and was inducted into the Coe College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1990 due to his success as a football player and member of the coaching staff for several years. A coaching position at Marshall University High School brought Chuck and Migs to Minneapolis. He and his staff had great success coaching football at Central High School, winning two city championships. Chuck coached other sports as well as teaching science and was inducted into the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He eventually moved into administration and was assistant principal at Edison and Washburn High Schools in Minneapolis. Chuck was active to the end. He loved golfing, dancing and music, staying physically fit and active through the activities at Friendship Village, watching his grandchildren and great-grandchildren and spending time with people. Most important to him was his Catholic faith and his family. His was truly "a life well-lived." He is survived by his daughter, Joan (Tony) Bauer; three grandchildren, Amy (Jim) Conway, John (Kelli) and Tom; and six great-grandchildren.

1951 Helen Taggart Birkemeier, 93, of Spring Green, Wisconsin, on October 6.



James Ka'upena Wong Jr., 93, of Waianae, Hawaii, on September 24. He was an educator, Na Hoku Hanohano Award winner and the most prominent male chanter of his generation. Wong graduated from the

Kamehameha School for Boys in 1947 and from Coe College in 1951. His training as a chanter began the following year after he returned to Hawaii and was introduced to Mary Kawena Pukui. With Pukui's guidance he became a master chanter, learned dozens of chants and dances and became one of the few qualified players of the ancient Hawaiian musical "implements." He was the foremost player of the 'ukeke (musical bow) of his generation. Wong became one of the standard-bearers of traditional Hawaiian music in the decades following statehood in 1959. He wrote his first song, "Alika Spoehr Hula," in 1961 and recorded his first album, "Folk Songs of Hawaii," in 1963. Wong also performed at the Newport Folk Festival in Rhode Island in 1964 and chanted at the unveiling of the statue of King Kamehameha in Washington, D.C., in 1969. Wong set an example for later generations of chanters and male hula dancers when he wore a traditional Hawaiian malo rather than post-missionary western attire for the dedication of the Hokule'a voyaging canoe in 1976. "He brought legitimacy to any ceremony, any function he was at," said Kamehameha Schools community strategist Hailama Farden. Wong received a Na Hoku Hanohano Award in 1993 for his work annotating an anthology of recordings by kumu hula Maiki Aiu Lake. He received the Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004, was selected for a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship in 2005, and was inducted into the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame in 2008. His niece, Haunani Denhart, said that her uncle never let the accolades "go to his head" and recalled fondly his "graciousness and knowledge of Hawaiian (language) and Hawaiiana (Hawaiian culture)." He always felt a spirit of dedication for his work and the attitude of being a lifelong student. He is survived by his niece, Haunani Denhart.

1952 Kirk Wade Hansen, 91, of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, on September 25.

Donald Henry Monson, 91, of Iowa City, Iowa, on September 2.

Dr. David C. Priest, 90, of Asheville, North Carolina, on September 25, 2021.

1953 Paul Hansen, 91, of Tucson, Arizona, on July 26.

1955 Bruce Thomas Caldwell, 88, of Renton, Washington, on February 14, 2022.

Harriet Brooks Jackson, 88, of Langley, Washington, on September 26.

Major General **Charles D. Metcalf, 88**, of Oakwood, Ohio, on October 29, 2021.

1956 John W. McDonald, 87, of Lakeland, Florida, on March 7, 2022.

1957 Dr. Vernon "Vern" W. Seltrecht, 87, of Lincolnshire, Illinois, on October 23.

1958 Ray V. Hewitt, 89, of Clear Lake, Iowa, on September 19.

1959 Gwendolyn LaVonne Haugen Sheeley, 85, of Iowa City, Iowa, on November 5.

Sandra "Sandy" Jane Ashby Zeman, 85, of Mooresville, Indiana, on October 17.

1960s

1961 David "Birdie" N. Johnson, 83, of Belle Plaine, Iowa, on October 25.

James "Jim" Leon Werner, 81, of Charlotte, North Carolina, on January 26, 2021.

1962 Wayne Jackson, 85, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on November 3.

1963 Larry Elias Ellingson, 80, of Howell, Michigan, on August 29.

1964 Robert McInerney, 81, of Lincoln, Nebraska, on September 18.

1966 June Webb Silliman, 90, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on October 14.

1967 George Andrew Harper, 76, of Columbia, South Carolina, on November 22.

1970s

1970 Thomas George McCuskey, 74, of Keokuk, Iowa, on September 8.

 **Nancy Showalter, 82**, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on November 21.

1971 Karen Lee Mulherin Soteco, 75, of Marion, Iowa, on November 5.

1972 Steven Hicks, 69, of New Orleans, Louisiana, on September 4, 2020.

1976 Laverne "Vern" Atwater, 70, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, on December 26.

Carol Griffin Hammond, 67, of Saint Charles, Illinois, on October 14.

1978 Daniel J. Murray, 72, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, on August 19.

1980s

1981 Alicia Naylor Goehring, 61, of San Francisco, California, on August 23.

1983 Sally May, 74, of Poinciana, Florida, on November 5.

1986 William Hull Drennan, 83, of Clear Lake, Iowa, on April 8, 2019.

1990s

1991 Jo Ann Kathryn R. Scheer, 88, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on September 28.

FORMER TRUSTEES



Archibald McClure, 99, of Evanston, Illinois, on August 6. Upon graduation from the Hotchkiss School in 1940 and Yale University in 1944, Archibald was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy. He served as a combat information center officer and later an executive officer on a destroyer with two convoy escort runs in the Atlantic and operations as a picket ship to support carrier task forces in the Pacific. Upon retirement from the Navy as a lieutenant in 1946, Arch joined the engineering department of the Quaker Oats Company and worked at plants across the country, eventually settling his family in Kenilworth, Illinois. He retired from Quaker as an executive vice president and director in 1979 and served as vice president in administration of the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) in Chicago until retirement in 1988. He supported many businesses and charitable, educational and civic organizations, notably serving on the Coe College Board of Trustees from 1970 to 1977. Arch was married to Sallie Van Norden for 40 years and then to Anne Cunningham Downey for 28 years. In all, he was father and stepfather to nine children, 19 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren. Arch nearly made it to his 100th birthday on August 19, but passed away peacefully in his sleep. Family love remained as what mattered most to him.

FACULTY/STAFF



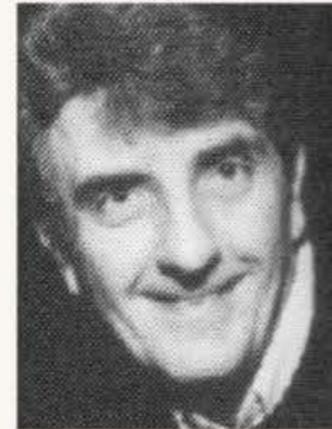
Associate Professor of Business Administration and Economics Emeritus **Dwight Wesley Hansen**, 73, of Bellevue, Wisconsin, on November 26. Professor Hansen's

service to Coe began in 1978, and he taught accounting courses for the college until his retirement in 2016. His success in the classroom was affirmed by a frequent best in the state pass rate on the CPA exam for Coe's accounting graduates and the distinguished careers in finance and accounting enjoyed by his many students. His love shined brightly to all who knew him, and friends, family and students alike gravitated to him. After retiring, Dwight and Jan moved to Green Bay, Wisconsin, to be close to their family. Dwight is survived by his wife of 51 years, Janet; his son, James Wesley (Erica) Hansen; grandson, Joseph; three sisters and many beloved nieces and nephews.



Professor of Philosophy Emeritus **Peter McCormick**, 79, of Scotts Valley, California, on August 29. Peter held a doctorate from the University of Michigan, a

master's in computer science from the University of Iowa and bachelor's degrees from Cornell College and Oxford University. He taught Coe students from 1974 until his retirement in 2018 as a professor in the philosophy and computer science programs. During his Coe career, Peter helped establish the honors program and served as the first honors program advisor in 1982. He also played a critical role in integrating the internet to campus operations as Coe's first director of academic computing in 1994.



Professor of Theatre Arts Emeritus **Michael Erwin Pufall**, 86, of Hartwell, Georgia, on October 9. Michael proudly served our country in the U.S. Army. He shaped the

lives of Coe students and the college's theater productions from 1976 to 2000. With his wife Candace, who also taught in the theater department, the Pufalls provided a full and hands-on theater experience and put on first-rate productions. Michael continuously sought to improve his craft as an actor, and he was incredibly proud of his students, keeping in touch with alumni across the world. He is survived by his wife Candace and siblings, Kathryn Sangiovanni and Peter Pufall.



Retired assistant alumni director and director of parent programs **Kate Louise Rose**, 72, of Mount Vernon, Iowa, on September 10. Kate worked for Coe for approximately

20 years and strived to improve the alumni experience for generations of Kohawks through reunions, homecomings and other special events programming, retiring in 2014. She remained active in the Cedar Rapids and Coe communities, including co-founding Reading Camp in partnership with the Jane Boyd Community House, a program hosted at Coe to provide reading opportunities and mentors for kids in Cedar Rapids during the summer. Kate is survived by her husband of 51 years, Richard, and other family members.



Professor of Physics **Ugur Akgun**, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Physics James Wetzel and their collaborators secured \$60,000 in funding for the next three years from the University of Iowa Research Foundation for their “A Fast Dose Monitoring System for Conventional and FLASH Radiotherapy” project.



Associate Director of Financial Aid **Renae Armentrout** was awarded the Midwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (MASFAA) State Leadership Award at the Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (IASFAA) conference in the fall. This annual award recognizes those who have made outstanding contributions to the financial aid profession at the state and regional levels for seven years or more.



Associate Professor of Rhetoric **Allison Carr '05** gave the annual Common Read Lecture at Susquehanna University in September 2022. The address, titled “Work in Progress,” discussed the role failure plays in learning and community-building.



Associate Professor of Anthropology **Julie Fairbanks** gave a presentation to the Linn County United Nations Association of the U.S.A. (UNA-USA) in November 2022 on authority and public opinion in Russia.



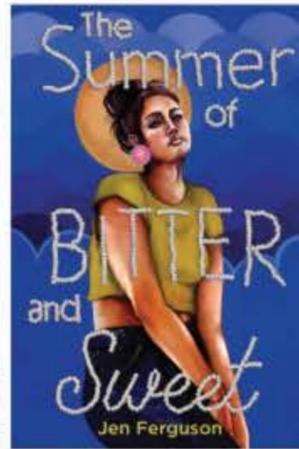
Associate Professor of Nursing **Sharon Guthrie** published the article “National Practices Regarding Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Projects” in the Journal of Doctoral Nursing Practice.



Assistant Professor of Education **Stacy Haynes-Moore** presented “Called to the office and yet we stay cool: Teachers’ navigation of censorship in language arts classrooms” at the 2023 National Council of Teachers of English in Anaheim, California.



Associate Professor of English **Amber Shaw** published the article, “‘there are two views often’: The Epistolary Friendship of Harriet Beecher Stowe and Elizabeth Gaskell” in the scholarly journal Women’s Studies.



Assistant Professor of Creative Writing **Jen Ferguson** has received one of the highest accolades for a writer, and some days, she still doesn’t quite believe it.

Ferguson was walking into Hickok when she was inundated with Facebook messages, wishing her congratulations for being named a finalist for the Governor General’s Literary Award. Not even knowing she was being considered, this was definitely a surprising revelation as she began office hours. Later, she was getting ready to give a talk to 250 high schoolers at Whistler Secondary School when she received the call from Ottawa. She had won. Needless to say, her talk at Whistler was a haze.

The Governor General’s Literary Awards are presented by the Canada Council for the Arts to celebrate literature and increase recognition for Canadian authors. This honor is equivalent to the National Book Award, one of the most prestigious literary prizes in the U.S. Established in 1936, the Governor General’s Literary Awards annually recognize winners in seven categories. Ferguson’s young adult (YA) debut, “The Summer of Bitter and Sweet,” won for Young People’s Literature - Text.

The novel follows Lou as she enters a tumultuous summer working in her family’s ice cream shack after high school graduation. Praised as a timely and emotionally evocative novel, “The Summer of Bitter and Sweet” deals with the complexities of family relationships, discovering sexuality, living as Métis and Canadian settler and feeling different on the small-town prairie.

This novel stems from a personal place for Ferguson. As she was walking through a period of writing burnout, sexuality discovery and identity struggles as a Métis and white woman in her own life, one of her writer friends suggested she write about the very issues she was facing. The first draft of “The Summer of Bitter and Sweet”

poured out of Ferguson in little more than a month.

“I have always been a fiction writer who put their own experiences into their writing, but this book in particular makes me very vulnerable,” she said. “It has had a great critical reception, perhaps because it is so vulnerable, but that doesn’t necessarily make it easier.”

Ferguson practices one of the most important lessons she teaches her creative writing students: taking risks. She intends for her classes to be the “practical” side of creative writing and learn what you need for a creative writing career, like knowing what comes next after taking those risks and exploring the relationship between craft and content.

“YA was more receptive to the themes I was interested in,” Ferguson learned of her own writing process. In comparison to her previous serious adult literary fiction ventures, YA allows her to explore the relationship Native people have to the land and society and how setting amplifies those themes. The second YA novel of Ferguson’s two-book deal, “Those Pink Mountain Nights,” explores these ideas and will be released in September 2023.

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