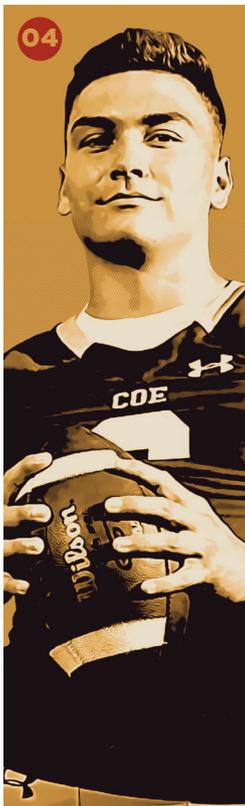


# COURIER

— SUMMER 2023 —



COE COLLEGE



## FEATURES

# 04

Kohawks Soar to Success

# 08

Athletics Update

# 12

The Class of 1973 —  
Remembering Coe 50  
years ago

# 15

Coe nationally ranked  
again as a Best School  
for Internships

# 16

2023 Commencement

# 22

Washington, D.C. Term  
Reaches Another Landmark

# 26

[www.coe.edu/alumni](http://www.coe.edu/alumni) —  
Your Kohawk Connection

# 30

Spring break civil rights trip  
was “transformative”

# 32

The P.U.B. is getting a redo

# 33

Coe spirit with the  
Kohawk Shop

# 34

Day of Giving Impact

# 35

Class Notes

## COVER

**Faith Zeonweh '23**  
beams during the  
Kohawk Family  
Graduation Celebration  
before Commencement.  
One of her stoles comes  
from Coe College's  
inaugural Inclusive  
Graduation ceremony.



Greetings from Coe, where campus is enjoying the summer season following the energy of an academic year. The summer recess signifies the closing of another successful year, Kohawks pursuing opportunities across the country and the world and the Class of 2023 embracing the next chapter of their lives after graduation. This issue of the Courier celebrates the accomplishments and triumphs of our students and our community who, in a year where they were able to spread their wings, deeply engaged with the world around them.

Over the past months, our students have continued a tradition of studying abroad and experiencing life in places like Washington, D.C. and Nagoya, Japan. They also seized opportunities to gain real-world experience from California to New York and the states in between. Several athletics teams competed at the highest levels across the country, and our clay target team brought home a national title. We partnered with communities and invited alumni including **Paula Kocher Barnes '77**, **Bill Schmarzo '79** and **Andrew George '07** to share their expertise with students, faculty, staff and friends.

The above broader connections and widespread opportunities our students are able to pursue circle back to an integral force in the Coe legacy: our alumni. Coe can only thrive through the enduring support and involvement of alumni, and I am grateful for your engagement with Coe, in all the forms it takes. Your opinions shared in the alumni survey, your participation in Day of Giving, your loyal readership of the Courier and so much more speak volumes to this institution's dedicated community. Our success is determined by the success of our alumni and by your investment to shape the futures of both the college and our students.

Because of your support, we continue to move forward. When students step back onto campus, they will be greeted by new sights in Murray Hall and the "U" to offer an enhanced dining experience. We are also busy preparing for numerous events that make up the fall term, including Homecoming. I look forward to seeing many of you at this year's events. Together, our community joins to rejoice over achievements, urge one another to victory and look forward with bright eyes to the future of a place so many of us have been lucky to call home.

Alma mater, hail, hail, hail.

David Hayes '93  
President

## 2022 - 2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wale Adeosun '84  
Peter Birkey '91  
Kevin Buckner '93  
Doug Eden '77  
Sam Freitag '78  
Christine Galloway '73  
David Gehring '89  
Ken Golder '82  
Dennis Greenspon '68  
Sarah Hemming-Meyer '05  
Gene Henderson '68  
Kent Herink '76  
Shirley Hughes '67

Mary Jorgenson '80  
Steven Kline '76  
Mary Jeanne Krob '73  
Kristin Lenz '96  
Dave Lusson '87  
Julie Johnson McLean '78  
Curt Menefee '87  
Paul Meyer '74  
Sumit Nijhawan '93  
Sigrid Reynolds '94  
Brett Rule '86  
Tim Sagers '97  
Larry L. Shryock '65

Kristin Strohm '05  
Craig Struve '70  
Hank Taylor '75  
Carson Veach '74  
Ed Walsh '70

**LIFE TRUSTEES**  
Terry J. Abernathy '70  
J. David Carson '72  
Jack B. Evans '70  
John Giroto  
Doug Hyde '74  
William P. Johnson '53

Vince Martin  
David McNally  
Chuck Peters  
James R. Phifer  
Gary Schlarbaum '65  
Bruce Spivey '56  
Jerre L. Stead '65  
John D. Strohm '79  
Lori Sturdevant '74

**EX-OFFICIO**  
David Hayes '93,  
Coe College President  
Lauren DuBay Gilbertson '13,  
Alumni Council President

# COURIER

**Art Director**  
Melissa Kronlage

**Graphic Designers**  
Katie Campbell  
Marc Valenta

**Advancement Communications  
Coordinator**  
Ally Roeker '22

**Director of Content Development  
& Strategy**  
Matt Barnes

**Director of Alumni Engagement**  
Michael Geneser '06

**Executive Director of Marketing &  
Institutional Effectiveness**  
Natalie Bordignon Milke '11

**Vice President for Enrollment,  
Marketing & Institutional Effectiveness**  
Julie Kleis Staker '93

**Vice President for Advancement**  
Chantel Olufsen

**Alumni Council President**  
Lauren DuBay Gilbertson '13

**President**  
David Hayes '93

**Contributors**  
Donald Jaamal  
Drake Klemme  
Kim Langley  
Morgan Ogg  
Joe Photo  
Faith Webb '25  
Hunter Yrigoyen

Address changes and inquiries regarding alumni records may be addressed to the Office of Advancement (319.399.8745 or [advancementservices@coe.edu](mailto:advancementservices@coe.edu)).

Information may be submitted online at [www.alumni.coe.edu](http://www.alumni.coe.edu). Contact the Alumni Office at [alumni@coe.edu](mailto:alumni@coe.edu) or 877.KOHAWKS (564.2957).

Questions and comments regarding the Courier can be sent to [courier@coe.edu](mailto: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 fall by Coe College.

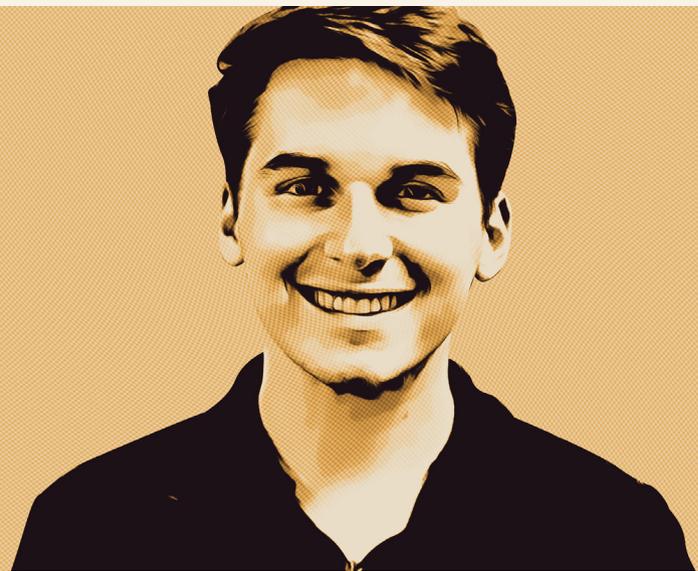
Visit the Courier online at [www.coe.edu/courier](http://www.coe.edu/courier).

# Student Success

Stories

These Kohawks are soaring to success! Max, Ta'sjé, Emma and Carter are jumping at the chance for new experiences that allow them to pursue their passions, with their skills and talents being recognized from California to New York...and all the way to Spain. Whether their path to success is through internships, scholarships or job opportunities, one thing is for sure — these students embody the drive and determination that define a Kohawk. Coe may make it possible, but they are the ones who made it happen.

## Kohawk's **DEDICATION** and **INVOLVEMENT** leads to Truman Scholarship finalist designation



On campus, **Max Gorden Mercer '24** can be found just about everywhere. This past academic year, he served as the student body treasurer, Student Activities Committee business chair, CoeVotes president, Alpha Phi Omega vice president of leadership, a resident assistant and a peer tutor. Off campus, he volunteers at Willis Dady and is a Coe representative in United Way of East Central Iowa's Board Orientation and Leadership Development Program.

Being involved is a way of life for him, so he added another endeavor to his busy schedule — the rigorous application process for the prestigious Truman graduate fellowship. The \$30,000 award is for those pursuing careers in public service.

Nationwide, only 705 students completed the process this year, which includes seven essays and a detailed policy proposal. Gorden Mercer was

among the 199 students shortlisted as a finalist — the only finalist who attends a college or university in Iowa.

"It means a lot to be recognized on a national level," Gorden Mercer said. "Being named a Truman finalist has solidified my path in public service and I have been able to connect with so many people making real change in the public sector because of it."

As a public accounting and business administration major, Gorden Mercer is planning to pursue a master of public affairs with a concentration in nonprofit management with the goal of working with nonprofits on properly funding social services.

Gorden Mercer joined Kohawks **Angelina Ramirez '22**, **Larissa Alire '20**, **Kelly May '19** and **Briana Gipson '19** as Coe finalists in the last six years. Alire and May both were awarded a Truman Scholarship.

# GOOD THINGS come to those who do their assignments

The only outcome better than an “A” was the dream job offer that came to environmental justice advocate **Ta’sjé Lisandra Carrasco ’23** a mere day after updating her online networking profiles for class.

The biology and environmental studies major started her senior year worried. Her family back in Chicago kept asking about her plans after graduation, she kept filling out applications with nothing panning out, and the pressure was on. To ease some nerves, Carrasco signed up for INT-100.

INT-100, or Professionalism and Self Presentation, is a half-term course offered by C3: Creativity, Careers, Community which prepares students for the workforce and builds their practical skills. During the spring 2023 session, Professor of Chemistry and Faculty Co-Director of C3 Marty St. Clair and Career Specialist Maya Danner guided students of all years through topics like writing resumes, networking, dealing with rejection and preparing an online presence.

Carrasco knew what she wanted to do since sophomore year of high school, when she took an advanced placement environmental science class and toured neighborhoods, explored water quality issues and learned about environmental injustice.

“I felt super inspired,” she said. “This was the first time I could feel something make my heart flutter. Environmental injustice is an important issue, and I feel like people rarely learn about it.”

Deeply in touch with the earth and nature, Carrasco pursued her newfound

passion at Coe. This included extensive volunteer time teaching children about environmental injustice, among other environmental endeavors.

“I loved teaching and started wishing I had done education as a collateral major,” she admitted.

In INT-100, the assignment came to share these experiences with others and update her LinkedIn and Handshake profiles. Carrasco spent all day updating her profiles, and the next day, a message was waiting for her on Handshake. A talent associate from Classical Charter Schools in New York saw her profile and knew she was the exact right person for their fellowship. The school prepares children from marginalized backgrounds to attend college preparatory academies, like the kind Carrasco herself attended, and encourages them with teachers who look like them. As a Black woman in the science field, she would have the opportunity to use a scripted curriculum and educate K-8 students about environmental injustice from a young age. She quickly accepted the position.

“The entire Coe community has been here for me, the whole time,” she said. “With all the growth I’ve done here, I’ll be taking that with me, and I know that I’ll have Coe always.”





## From CEDAR RAPIDS to SPAIN via a Fulbright

Graduation brought about quite a change in scenery for **Emma Lassen '23**.

Lassen has been awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship for the 2023-24 academic year, joining an elite group of nearly 30 Kohawks to receive Fulbrights in the past decade.

As the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program, the Fulbright creates the opportunity for recent college graduates to teach in primary and secondary schools across the globe.

Lassen — who triple-majored in English, social and criminal justice and education — is headed to Spain, which is historically one of the most competitive Fulbright awards. Right now, she is keeping her career options open when her Fulbright assistantship concludes.

"My most important career goal is finding a profession that brings me a sense of genuine fulfillment, and so I know wherever my career takes me it will involve helping others in some way," Lassen said.

Coe Fulbright applicants and recipients receive guidance from Associate Professor of English Amber Shaw, who serves as the college's national fellowship advisor.

"Emma is a great Fulbright recipient because she is a dedicated student with multiple, varied academic interests. She's curious about the world and eager to immerse herself in another country and culture, all of which are central values for Fulbright," Shaw said.

Lassen acknowledges many people who have assisted her, including Shaw, John William King Professor of Literature and Creative Writing Gina Hausknecht, Assistant Professor of Social and Criminal Justice Neal McNabb and friend and Student Body President **Celeste Panduro-Orellana '25**.

"One of the things that has made my college experience so great has been the people I've gotten to work with during my four years here at Coe. I've felt lucky to be surrounded by people at Coe who care about me and want to help me be successful, and I see that as part of the culture of the college," Lassen said.

On campus, Lassen was a member of the women's tennis team and worked as a writing center consultant as well as a supplemental instruction leader. She also volunteered with the Catherine McAuley Center as an English language tutor.

# From the spotlight on CLARK FIELD to the bright LIGHTS OF L.A.

You have to have confidence — and an ability to always stay positive — to play quarterback. You're the person the team looks to for leadership, a spark on the field and the catalyst to quickly move on from a poor play. Kohawk quarterback **Carter Maske '24** embodies that swagger and is taking it to Los Angeles as the next Coe intern at FOX Sports.

Maske has had his own ups and downs on the field in his football career, but is using the lessons learned in perseverance and optimism to embrace this new and unfamiliar challenge.

"Thrilled," Maske exclaimed when asked about his feelings about being selected. "It is going to be completely different than anything I have ever done, which will be awesome. Being involved in the world of sports is something I have wanted as a career since childhood so it will be incredible to make that a reality this summer."

The internship Carter has accepted is reserved exclusively for a Coe student each summer, courtesy of Coe alumnus **Curt Menefee '87**, host of FOX NFL Sunday. Menefee wanted to create an opportunity for a Kohawk interested in the sports industry. Giving back to Coe students is common among Kohawk alumni, who are constantly open to networking with current classes.

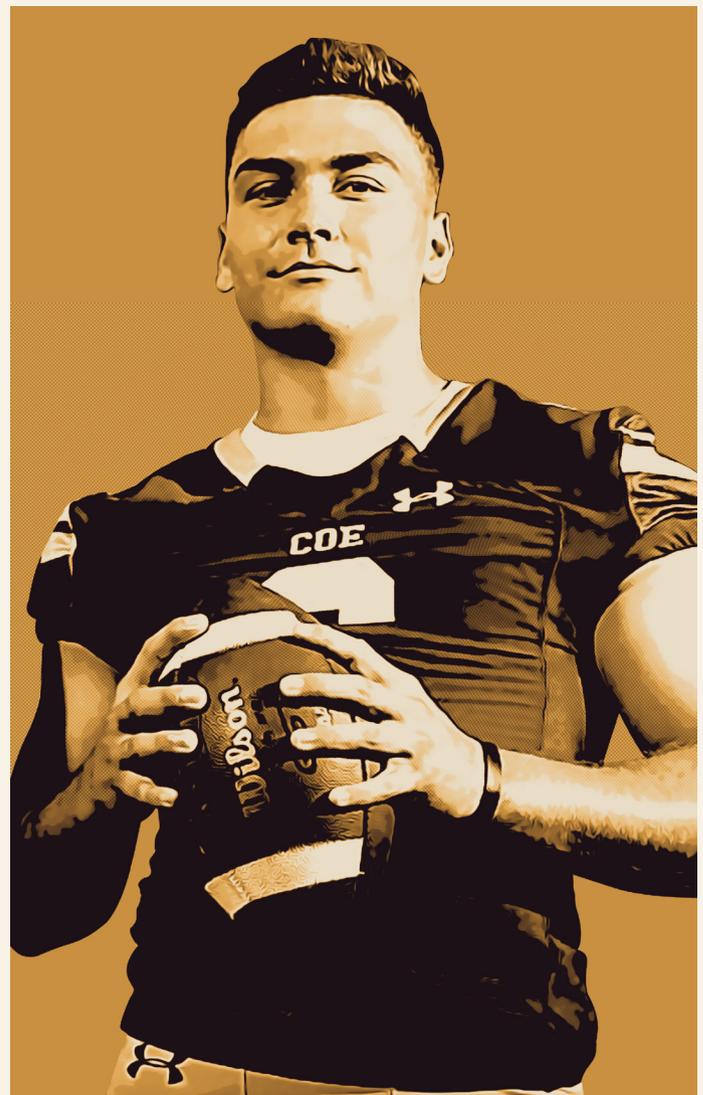
While he is interning at FOX, Maske will undertake a variety of projects, closely mimicking the work of a production assistant. He will conduct research for stories, pitch ideas, create social media content and learn some technical skills in the company's editing bays. It's a perfect combination for the communication studies and business administration major, who also has a sports management focus within his studies.

Perhaps the greatest benefit, though, will be the people he meets and interacts with on a daily basis.

"Hopefully I make some great connections that will be beneficial in the future. I know I will gain valuable skills, but developing a network will set me ahead in the sports media industry," Maske said.

The journey to Los Angeles started in early June, and as part of the internship agreement, housing and transportation was provided for Maske. He will be living on UCLA's campus, a short trip from the FOX Studios.

"I can't describe how appreciative I am of Curt and the FOX team for this opportunity. This is a once-in-a-lifetime internship and for them to offer it to a Coe student every year is so cool. I am excited to represent Coe in L.A.," Maske said.



# CLAY TARGET

## 2023 DIII CLASSIC ALL-AMERICAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

The Coe College clay target team hit the mark at the Collegiate Clay Target ACUI Clay Target Championships, taking home the national title in the DIII All-American Classic discipline in late March at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio, Texas. The Kohawks competed in the Classic All-American division against 10 different teams, taking on the likes of Mississippi State University, Vermont University, University of Delaware, University of Louisiana, West Virginia University and George Mason University.

The credit goes to the Coe Board of Trustees, President Hayes, Athletic Director Cook and all the Coe faculty," said Head Coach Patrick Cory. "The professors at Coe are remarkable in their effort and support of student athletes! They truly made this possible.

Coe took the top spot earning 1,263 total points, finishing just ahead of runner-up Louisiana. Three Kohawk individuals were also honored following the competition as **Erin Nepl '25**, **Whitney Finer '25** and **Allison Darling '23** earned podium positions in their respective disciplines. Nepl was the runner-up in the Classic All-American discipline while Finer and Darling finished second and third in the C Class Trap Singles discipline.

This championship is a product of every single member of the team creating a culture of safety, growth and a shared mission," Cory said. They all brought different individual strengths that produced a greater whole.

Coe took  
the top spot  
earning  
**1,263**  
total points.



**Front row:** Roman Notsch '26, Allison Darling '23, Jamie Mastin '26, Whitney Finer '25, Erin Nepl '25, Bradley Metz '26. **Back row:** Assistant Coach Ryley McMahan '21, Bailey Swanson '26, Konner Wade '26, Nathan Litterer '26, Collin Malin '25, Hunter Linder '25, Cameron Kelso '25, Head Clay Target Team Coach Patrick Cory, Assistant Coach Stephanie Cory.

# BASKETBALL A-R-C TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

The Kohawk men's basketball team put together a magical run to end its 2022-23 season, winning five straight games in the last two weeks of February, including three consecutive wins en route to its first-ever conference tournament title. Coe, which made its return to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1976, battled ups and downs throughout the season but finally began to click down the stretch. Head Coach Bryan Martin's team ended the regular season with narrow wins over Wartburg College and Nebraska Wesleyan University, sneaking its way into the American Rivers Conference postseason tournament as the sixth and final seed. Martin's Kohawks then won three straight road games against third-seeded Nebraska Wesleyan, second-seeded University of Dubuque and fourth-seeded Loras College, taking down the Duhawks 93-86 in the conference championship game.

"Winning the A-R-C tournament championship for the first time in school history was special in so many ways," said Martin. "For our players and staff on this year's team, it was the culmination of our belief in each other and the players' ability to improve each day throughout the season and ultimately peak when it mattered most. We have always emphasized that if we put relationships first, then the championships will soon follow — so to see their joy after winning the title together was truly special."

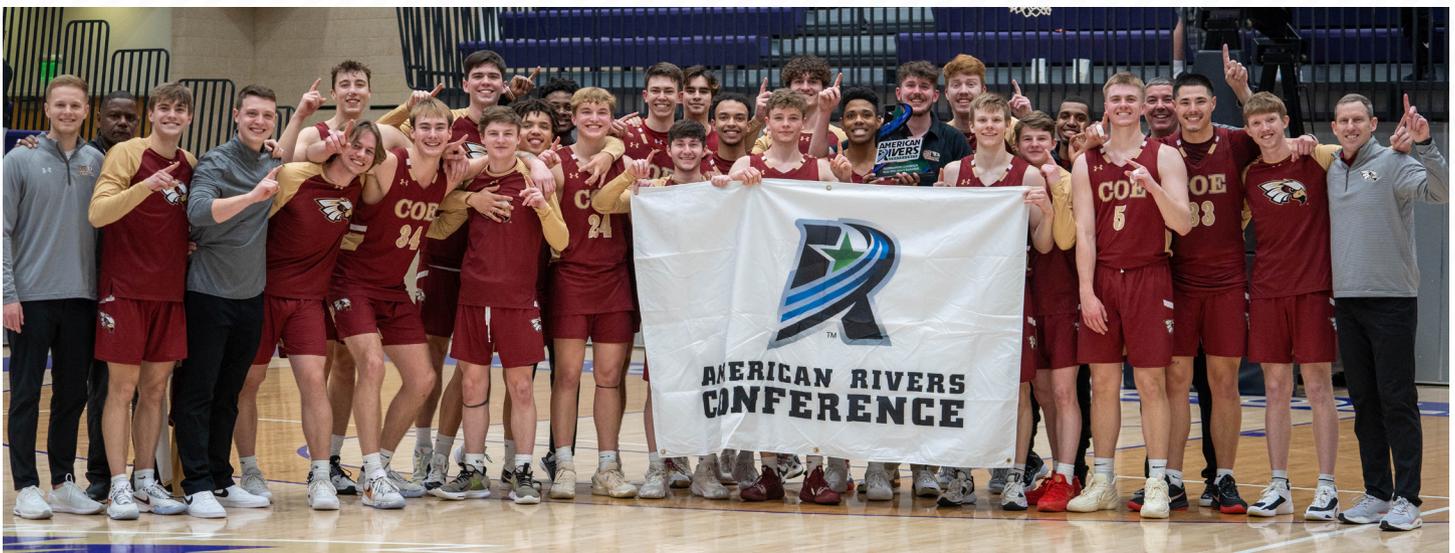
Coe was led by two first-team all-conference performers in **Cael Schmitt '24** and **TJ Schnurr '24**, who were two of the league's top scorers throughout the season. Schmitt and Schnurr combined for 55 of Coe's 93 points in the title-clinching win over Loras, with Schnurr exploding for a career-high 36. The junior from Algona, Iowa, put together the greatest shooting performance in Coe men's basketball history, going 14-of-15 from the floor to shoot 93.3 percent

from the field, a new single-game school record.

*"We are grateful for the success that came our way this season. We want to parlay this year's success into future opportunities to represent Coe at the national level and keep taking our program to new heights."*

- Coach Bryan Martin

Schmitt, who directed the Kohawk offense and defense throughout the season, was named the American Rivers Conference Defensive Player of the Year along with his first-team all-league selection. Schmitt continued to earn accolades and recognition following Coe's first-round loss to Washington University - St. Louis in the NCAA Tournament, being named academic All-American by the College Sports Communicators as well as one of 10 men's finalists for the Division III Jostens Trophy.



# SWIMMING & DIVING

## HOSTS INAUGURAL A-R-C SWIM & DIVE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Coe swimming and diving welcomed four schools from across the American Rivers Conference to the Coe natatorium for the first-ever A-R-C Swim & Dive Championships in mid-February. The Kohawks hosted Luther College, Loras College, Nebraska Wesleyan University and Simpson College in a three-day competition that featured numerous school and conference record-breaking performances from Coe and its fellow competitors. Women's team members **Megan Norris '24** and **Margaret Rhodes '26** made the biggest splash for Coe, earning the diver and swimmer of the meet honors following the action. Norris, who made her second-straight appearance at the NCAA Diving Regional following the championships, earned the female diver of the year award, sweeping the one meter and three meter competitions. Rhodes picked up the female swimmer of the year honor after an impressive weekend which saw her earn three individual all-conference honors and four relay all-conference honors.

In total, Coe's men's and women's teams earned eight first-place finishes and set eight new school records. **Lauren Pio '23** was responsible for three of those school-best marks, turning in record times in the 400 individual medley (IM), 200 IM and 200 freestyle to cap off her excellent Kohawk career. The Coe men were led by

the senior tandem of **Luke Baldwin '23** and **Zach Kolker '23** who combined for six podium finishes and three school records. Baldwin secured three podium finishes, taking first in the 200 breaststroke and second in the 200 and 400 individual medley. Kolker registered three school records in his final collegiate competition, posting new school-best times in the 100 butterfly, 100 backstroke and 200 backstroke. The Mount Vernon, Iowa, native also posted a new conference record in the 100 backstroke, registering a time of 50.25 seconds en route to a gold medal finish. Following the conclusion of the A-R-C Championships, the Kohawk coaching staff of Bobby Kelley, **Igor Sanchez Portillo '23** and Tony Kramer were recognized as the women's staff of the year.

Norris highlighted the end of Coe's season at the DIII Region II Diving Championships in Atlanta, Georgia. She finished seventh in the one meter and 11th in the three meter competition, finishing just 34.50 points shy of the first-place finisher. The Kohawks had three student-athletes honored by the College Sports Communicators at the end of the campaign with Norris, Pio and Kolker being named to the academic all-district team.



**From left:** Women's Assistant Coaches Tony Kramer and Igor Sanchez Portillo '23, Women's Head Swimming/Diving Coach Bobby Kelley.



**From top left:** Lauren Pio '23, Margaret Rhodes '26, Megan Norris '24 and Luke Baldwin '23.

# **BOWLING TEAMS**

**QUALIFY FOR ITC SECTIONALS AND COLLEGIATE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS, THREE WOMEN'S BOWLERS & DODGE SELECTED FOR ALL-AMERICAN & COACH OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

The Coe bowling teams reached new heights in 2022-23, putting together their best seasons since the inception of the programs in 2021. The women's bowling team competed in its first-ever United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Intercollegiate Team Championships (ITC) Sectional qualifying tournament in mid-March. The Kohawks were one of 17 women's teams to earn the invitation to the Addison, Illinois regional after finishing the regular season ranked 39th in the USBC collegiate rankings. As a team, Coe finished in 10th place with a total of 11,598 pins across the 64-game block, averaging 181.22 in the Baker format. Seven Kohawk individuals competed in the ITC Singles Championships on Friday with **Michaela Beckmann '26, Carli Gordon '26, Kaliah Griffin '24, Autumn Grzenia '25, Katrina Kendle '24, Kaitelin Konz '26** and **Whitney Morse '24** taking part in the solo qualifier.

In addition, the Kohawk men's and women's teams finished the regular season ranked in the top 20 of the Collegiate Club bowling rankings. Both teams qualified for the Collegiate Club National Championships, a two-day tournament on the first weekend of April that featured the top club teams from around the country. Three Kohawk women were selected as all-American finalists in the organization's postseason honors release with Kendle, Morse and Beckmann representing the women's team. Head Coach Randy Dodge was also honored by the Collegiate Club Bowling organization, being named a finalist for the Larry Wilson Women's Coach of the Year honor.



**Front row:** Kaliah Griffin '24, Carli Gordon '26, Grace Swanson '26, Kaitelin Konz '26, Cheyenne Spuehler '26, Katrina Kendle '24, Alex Thomas '25.  
**Back row:** Autumn Grzenia '25, Michaela Beckmann '26, Whitney Morse '24, Taylor Peterson '25, Regyn Buffington '25, Christina Harrelson '25, Head Coach Randy Dodge.

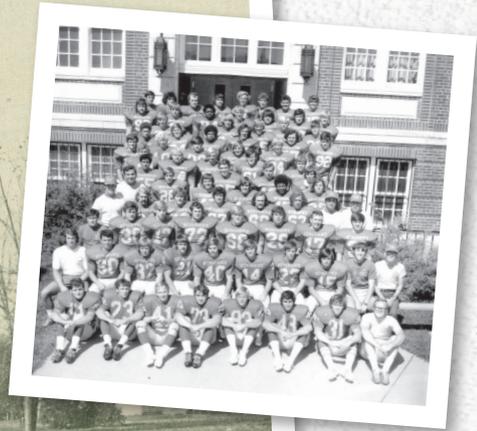
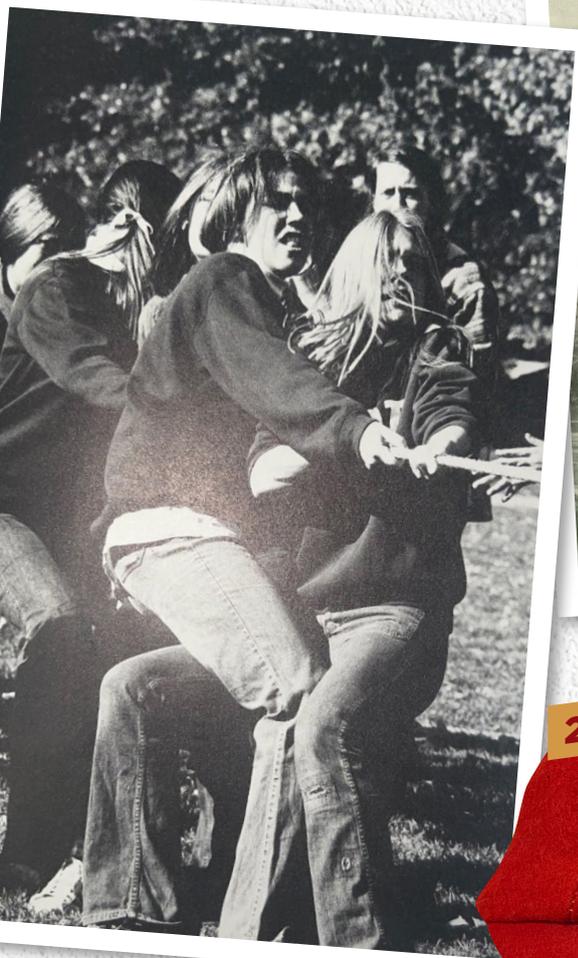
# THE CLASS OF 1973

## *Remembering Coe 50 years ago*

The world of Coe looked a little (or perhaps a lot, depending on perspective!) different 50 years ago. Fashions, traditions, milestones and even the layout of campus defined the distinct experience of being a Kohawk in the early '70s. To reflect on the half-century since the Class of

1973 traipsed across the quad as students, each photo in these pages holds a thousand words — and at least as many memories. Even more stories and experiences will be shared in-person as the class gathers for their 50th reunion at Homecoming this fall.





Many of these materials were provided with the help of Archives Assistant **Harlene Kohls Hansen '91** and the George T. Henry College Archives, located in the lower level of Stewart Memorial Library. To explore more about Coe College's past, be sure to visit the Archives on Friday, September 22, during Homecoming.

**1** The family of **Sutherland Dows**, longtime member of the Coe Board of Trustees with a special interest in the college's art program, pledged \$1.5 million in 1970 for the construction of a fine arts complex. Old Main, the oldest building on campus at 102 years old, was demolished due to structural issues, and construction of the Dows Fine Arts Center occurred during the Class of 1973's tenure.

**2** First-years were required by upperclassmen to wear beanies. In October 1972, the Class of 1973 witnessed the first-years win against the sophomore class in the annual pushball contest, earning the right to forego wearing their beanies. Pictured is a first-year beanie of the Class of 1973.

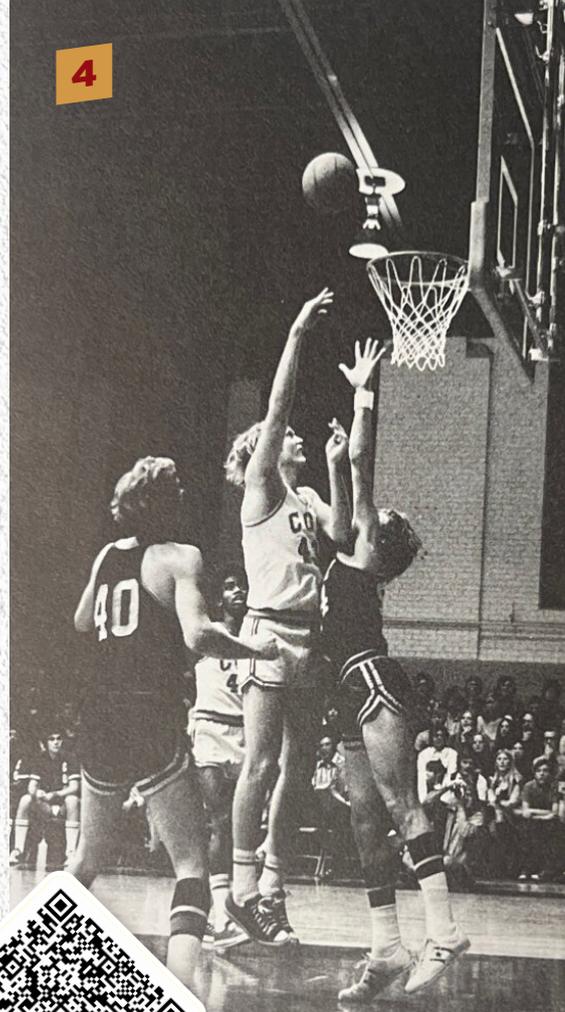
**3** **Kitty Freeman** was crowned queen at Homecoming 1972. She was a representative of the Afro-American Self-Education Organization and the first Black student at Coe to be named Homecoming queen.

**4** The men's basketball team under head coach **Marcus Jackson** set off a streak of wins and excitement in the 1972-73 season. The Kohawks went undefeated in the regular season with 22 wins and went to NCAA nationals in April 1973.

**5** **Steve Moshier '73** was chairman of the Coe College Soccer Club, which was the first organization that introduced soccer to Coe.

## Class of 1973

The reunion committee, comprised of **Debbie Balvanz Brooks '73**, **Dave McCulla '73**, **Steve Moshier '73**, **Elaine Washington Mosley '73** and **Clinton Stevenson '73**, is excited to reunite with you at Homecoming and celebrate the years that have passed since your time at Coe. In the meantime, you can still get in touch by joining the Class of 1973 space on Coe Connect (go to page 26 to learn more about this new website!) or taking part in the 50th reunion giving campaign. Priorities for this campaign include the annual fund or the 50th reunion endowed scholarship fund, but all gifts from the Class of 1973 received until June 2024 will count towards the campaign. You can scan the QR code with the camera on your phone to make your contribution.



# Coe nationally ranked again as a **BEST SCHOOL FOR INTERNSHIPS**

---

For the sixth consecutive year, Coe College has been named a top private college in the country for internships. The recognition comes from The Princeton Review, which also named Coe as one of the Best Value Colleges for 2023.

Coe came in at #12 on the Best Schools for Internships list in the private college category, and is the only Iowa college or university to be ranked. Nationally, Coe is one of just five private colleges or universities to be recognized in this category six years in a row.

The Best Value Colleges list was released in late April. Only 209 colleges in total were recognized by The Princeton Review for meeting its best value criteria, placing Coe in the top 7% of four-year undergraduate colleges and universities in the country.

This annual review names the public and private colleges that have earned the highest return on investment rating — a score the company tallies using more than 40 data points including academics, affordability and career preparation.

In its profile, The Princeton Review cites Coe students who praise the college's breadth of resources, classroom environment, academic rigor and emphasis on experiences like internships before graduation.

"Connecting students with meaningful experiences not only solidifies what they're learning in the classroom, it provides a head start on building their resume and expanding their emotional intelligence in the workplace which will be attractive to employers," said Coe President **David Hayes '93**.

The Princeton Review releases an additional series of rankings at the end of summer. In the most recent summer release, Coe's career services were ranked #17 in the nation. C3: Creativity, Careers, Community assists students individually with career exploration, networking, interviewing, application critique and identifying volunteer opportunities. The department is uniquely situated within the college's Advancement & Alumni Office, creating quick connections with alumni who have positions for Kohawks in their organizations.

The Princeton Review also ranked Coe's faculty as the #20 Most Accessible Professors in the Nation last summer.

"The efforts to provide the best education and opportunities for our students extend beyond campus. Our Kohawk alumni are remarkable in their consistent willingness to help current students and each other, and that generosity is one of the reasons the Coe community is exceptional," said Vice President of Advancement Chantel Olufsen.



# 2023

## COMMENCEMENT

Student Commencement speaker **Mimi Daoud '23**.

There are certain dichotomies that come with getting your diploma. It's an end...but also a beginning. There is effervescent joy surrounding the last four years...paired with nervousness about the next four decades. All you want to do is stay on campus and hang out just a little longer...but it's time to move out and move on.

Yes, graduation is a milestone; one that deserves full-spirited celebration. It's also the beginning

of what's next. Those who addressed the Coe College Class of 2023 captured the conflicting emotions poignantly. Look back fondly, but look ahead with tenacity, they said. Always remember that as Kohawks you are part of a collective — you've turned moments of perseverance into opportunities to thrive. You're ready to shine and you have all of Kohawk Nation behind you. That was truly evident during Commencement.

Before the Stewart Memorial Library Quad filled to capacity and before the Class of 2023 lined up to ring the Victory Bell a final time, the sun slowly filled a clear sky creating a picture-perfect morning. That was the first indication of the collective power of this class of Kohawks. Three days earlier at their senior celebration, the forecast had been dubious enough that President **David Hayes '93** asked the class to focus their energy and envision a pristine morning for Commencement. It worked.

“We’ve spent so much time thinking about success in the most traditional form. I challenge you to not only expand your definition of success but to celebrate the entire journey. Our messiness and imperfect stories deserve to be honored just as much.”

- Mimi Daoud '23

The truest moments of triumph, though, were ones that all Kohawks can relate with. Resoundingly ringing the Victory Bell to the cheers of friends and family. Processing from behind the library, and smiling in awe as a full quad of supporters is revealed for the Commencement ceremony. Walking across the stage and finally feeling your diploma in hand. Those snapshot memories will last a lifetime, but on Commencement morning there was still more to experience.

Once settled into seats, President Hayes welcomed the class and acknowledged that the support of families, friends and guests in attendance allowed the day to happen. Hayes said he made it a point to visit with as many members of the class as possible, listening to their stories. He noted the context of this graduation class’ experience was unusual — with disruption from pandemic and natural disaster.

“Your stories are bursting with everything that is supposed to be there...the lasting friendships; late night cram sessions; overnight trips with clubs and teams; performances on stage, fields and courts; new student organizations formed; majors declared — switched — and declared again; dorm room arguments about the big questions that shape our perspectives and worldviews as we

all try to figure out what it is all about,” Hayes said. “You were resilient and persevered, which allowed the academic and campus experience at Coe to endure with and for you. You will carry the habits of mind and values developed in this place with you as individuals and for the rest of your lives. But because of who you are and how you handled what was thrown at you, you’ll travel from here with diploma in hand with energy, passion, grace, awareness and courage.”

Hayes then welcomed the student speaker, **Mimi Daoud '23**, to the stage amidst a resounding round of applause. Daoud came to Coe from Peoria, Illinois, double-majored in psychology and social and criminal justice with a minor in communication studies and was a recipient of the Williston Jones Diversity Leadership Scholarship. She spoke about embracing those around you to help find the strength to face adversity and learn from failure, but also to share all the victories you’ve had and will have.

“We all succeed in a million different ways throughout our college career,” Daoud said. “We’ve spent so much time thinking about success in the most traditional form. I challenge you to not only expand your definition of



Commencement speaker **Andrew George '07**.

success but to celebrate the entire journey. Our messiness and imperfect stories deserve to be honored just as much.” Turning to the future, Daoud reminded her classmates to continue to lean on the lessons learned at Coe, which includes knowing how to persist and persevere.

“While today is and remains to be a celebration of everything we accomplished, we’ll wake up tomorrow, or next week, or next year and be asked to face the next awkward, or frustrating, or daunting task. And it is the failures we’ve encountered that have prepared us to take on those next challenges,” Daoud said.

In concluding her address, Daoud said her hope for her classmates is that they are proud of who they are and will remain proud of who they become.

Next, President Hayes introduced a proud Kohawk graduate as the guest speaker. **Andrew George '07** is the executive director of The Honda Classic, a PGA TOUR golf event. George started at the tournament as an intern and through various leadership roles has helped double the tournament’s charitable giving, which is now in excess of \$60 million.

George drew on his own experience post-graduation to help inspire a mindset for

success — because well-drawn-out plans don’t always come to fruition. An admitted type-A personality, he was set to enroll in a master’s program after his Coe Commencement, but the program was abruptly canceled. Feeling a little out-of-sorts and anxious, he let life come to him and it worked out brilliantly as he learned to be adaptable to life’s circumstances.

“This is the finish line and you’re heading off in all directions towards new and exciting endeavors. But with 16 years of perspective post-graduation I share with you that as a member of the Kohawk family, this is just the beginning,” George said.

He relayed the lessons he’s learned as the three P’s: display perseverance, exude passion and make it personal. He encouraged the Class of 2023 to remember that it’s not what happens to you, but it’s how you respond that matters in the end. “You are better qualified than any previous class to turn challenges into opportunity, because you’ve been doing it from day one, and I’m excited to see the collective impact you make in the years to come,” George said.

At the end of his address, George said everyone’s path is unique and that each graduate will need to identify what drives them, but have confidence now as you move forward



Board member **Hank Taylor '75**, Board Treasurer **Dave Lusson '87**, Provost Angela Ziskowski, President **David Hayes '93**, Board Chair **Carson Veach '74** and guest Commencement speaker **Andrew George '07** presided over Commencement ceremonies.

in your talents and experiences.

“Lead by your own values, choose right over easy, have fun and when mistakes inevitably happen, have empathy for others and grace for yourself,” he said.

With those pieces of advice, reflection and inspiration, the swirl of emotions that accompany the weekend suddenly seemed calmer.

## Recognition and Awards

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

This year’s Kesler Award was bestowed upon Academic Technologist Lisa Stroschine. Stroschine has had a profound influence on the quality of academic instruction at Coe, planning

online exercises, developing online instructional platforms, assisting with student portfolios and taking on extra projects for the college and her colleagues.

Also honored at Commencement was the Charles J. Lynch Outstanding Teacher Award recipient, Assistant Professor of Accounting Amy Perry. The annual recipient is selected by the graduating class and recognizes quality of teaching, concern for students as individuals and scholarship and memorializes the values and service of **C.J. Lynch ’26**. Lynch was a prominent Cedar Rapids attorney whose dedication to Coe was reflected, among other ways, by 43 years of service on the Board of Trustees of the college. Above all, C.J. Lynch valued inspirational teaching and sound scholarship.

### **There were also four faculty members recognized for achieving emeritus status:**

- Dr. Heide Bursch, Associate Professor of Nursing
- Lucy Goodson, Associate Professor of Art
- Dr. Marty St. Clair, Professor of Chemistry
- Peter Thompson, Professor of Art



President **David Hayes '93**



Charles J. Lynch Outstanding Teacher Award recipient, Assistant Professor of Accounting Amy Perry.



Dr. Marty St. Clair, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry





*Coe's Washington, D.C. Term Reaches Another*

# LANDMARK



It was early fall, 1963. “A small group of us from Coe were unloading ourselves and our luggage and looking at a shabby-looking four-floor tenement on Kalamora Street in the District of Columbia. This was to be our home until sometime in December when we would complete our studies during Coe’s inaugural Washington Term Program,” recalled **John Merrill ’64**.

Sixty years later, Washington, D.C. Term has gone through several iterations, yet it has remained a life-changing experience for students. Professor of Political Science Bruce Nesmith has spent almost two decades wearing dual hats as professor of political science and the program’s director, and the time has come to pass the torch. The program crosses two major milestones this year in celebrating its 60-year anniversary and welcoming a new director in Assistant Professor of Social and Criminal Justice Neal McNabb.

“If I can be a person who can support our students and connect them to the opportunities in Washington, that’s exciting to me,” says McNabb. “I look forward to working with the on-site director and other advisors, and encouraging students to step out of their comfort zone.”

Professor of Political Science Richard Taylor started Washington Term at Coe, and he was remembered fondly by one of his successors, Professor of Political Science Margaret Haupt, as the “father and architect” of the program.

Under Haupt’s direction, the program first integrated outside partnerships to help manage programming, when student interest in Washington Term declined in the late 1990s. Nesmith took over the director role in 2004 and established a long-lasting partnership with the Capitol Hill Internship Program (CHIP) in 2007.

“It’s a consortium of eight schools, and it’s been a very good relationship,” says Nesmith. “It’s a smaller collective, so we’re part of something and able to preserve the kind of intimate program experience, even though we’re not running it ourselves.”

This next transition of leadership is one that feels natural, as many students currently interested in Washington Term are on the social and criminal justice track. However, the program remains open to all students regardless of major, as there is something for everyone in Washington.

McNabb has also always been supportive of the Washington Term experience, a passion that started by talking with students in a similar program at his previous institution. “They always came back with these really phenomenal stories. It struck me that for many of these students, this will be the thing that was their highlight of college,” says McNabb. “Even though we have great opportunities in Cedar Rapids for internships, there are things that just can’t be replicated anywhere else than in Washington, and I want to

continue to be supportive of that.”

**Paul Hattimer '79** sums it up best as he recalls that “Washington Term was the best term of my college career at Coe.” Memories and stories demonstrate how impactful the past 60 years of Washington Term have been.

Whether it’s their first time in a big city or not, Washington can be a whole new environment for Kohawks. Navigating the city by bus or taxi (before there was any subway) for **Jack Evans '70** or through the Metro system for **Justin Adams '03** are still memorable learning experiences. Not only was the term the first time **Mike Mead '67** visited Washington, “It was my first trip away from my home in Oklahoma, including my first airplane ride.”

Meeting new people is also a large part of the term. “For a kid from the Midwest, it was both eye-opening and interesting to experience the diversity of a city like Washington. It has served me well since,” says **Mark Dukes '78**.

In all its iterations, art, culture and experiences have been important pieces of Washington Term. Under Haupt’s direction, the program offered a class on the arts, one on political science and an internship element. For students in spring 2023, an advantage of the CHIP program is two night class options that don’t overlap with internships. Fridays feature guest speakers and planned trips to see sites and experience Washington to the fullest.

“Lincoln’s Cottage is definitely up there as memorable for me,” says **Tristan Corcoran '24**. “The cottage has a back porch where Lincoln and his family used to sit and they would look out onto D.C. downtown. Standing on that porch was a chance for me to visualize what it would look like for them and live how they lived, at least for a second.”

The internship component of Washington Term has oftentimes directly contributed to the careers of alumni. Over the years, Nesmith has seen students intern in diverse areas including Congress, museums, art, history, law firms, social and criminal justice, interest research groups and more.

“The Term inspired me to seek and achieve a Ph.D.

and become a university professor,” says **Harrison Means '65**. “I am nearly 80 years old now and as I look back over 60 of those years my Washington Term adventure was among my most important.”

**Paula Kocher Barnes '77** spent her internship in Senator Dick Clark’s office on Capitol Hill. “My experience there no doubt influenced my career. I went on to work for the federal government, specifically the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a lawyer, ultimately becoming the general counsel to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And my career gave me the opportunity to go back to Capitol Hill on official business.”

“Requesting books for a research paper at the Library of Congress and having them retrieved and brought to me” is one of many memorable moments for **Beth Nickels-Wisdom '80**, who later became a librarian.

“My favorite memories were mostly from my internship at the National Museum of the United States Navy. That’s where I really began my career in museum work,” says **Delaney Cummings '15**. Because of her great experience on Washington Term, Cummings lived on Capitol Hill for five and a half years after graduating from Coe.

Their time in Washington has also allowed generations of Coe students to experience history as it is happening in the very heart of the nation. They have lived in Washington through a dozen presidential elections, administrations, protests and significant cultural moments. Here are just a few:

Merrill vividly remembers the day his lecture at the National Gallery of Art was cut short. “Upon finding a taxi, we found the driver crying as he told us that President Kennedy had been shot in Dallas,” Merrill says. “The loss was significant for the students. The funeral of President Kennedy was something so unexpected but Dr. Richard Taylor and his wife provided dialogue opportunities as well as arranging for the students to go together and find places where they could view the funeral procession.”

For Evans, “It was a difficult time in Washington as the war in Vietnam was raging. I will never forget going down to the White House one night and

**“It was both eye-opening and interesting to experience the diversity of a city like Washington. It has served me well since.”**

**– Mark Dukes '78**

seeing it surrounded by three rows of city buses. Anti-war protesters were marching around the Treasury Department carrying lighted candles.”

Adams participated in Washington Term in fall 2002. “I vividly remember planning a solo trip to Arlington the day after a blizzard, hiking to the top of the hill in front of the Robert E. Lee house and seeing the huge buildings of Washington in the distance contrasted with the white headstones spread over the hills of Arlington. It was a moment to reflect on the prior year in which our nation had a shining period of American unity post-9/11.”

For many alumni, it is hard to pick just one memory of Washington Term that has left a lasting impression — it’s the whole experience. “Just living and working in our nation’s capital, riding the metro to Dupont Circle, working on Embassy Row and every day passing the National Monuments was eye-opening and life-changing,” says **Kate Cheetham Pizzi ’94**.

“Other than meeting my wife of now 50 years, Washington was my highlight of my time at Coe,” says Evans.

There are endless stories to be shared from the 60 years of this program that can’t all fit within the pages of the Courier. For the Washington Termers, more information will be shared about reunion opportunities this fall, at Homecoming September 22 and, back where it all started, in Washington, D.C. October 1.



Students in Washington during the spring 2023 term included (from left) **Delano Arias ’23, Zoë Mazurkiewicz ’23, Tristan Corcoran ’24 and Kenzie Hilderbrand ’24.**



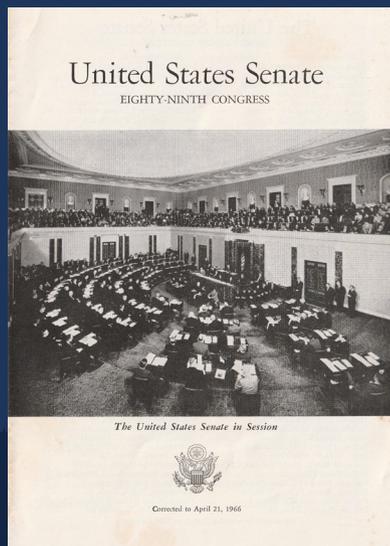
Provided by **James Evans ’72.**



Provided by **Justin Adams.**

**Rick Carlson ’68**

collected passes he received in 1966 to enter the Senate Chamber and House of Representatives during the 89th Congress, as well as the Library of Congress.

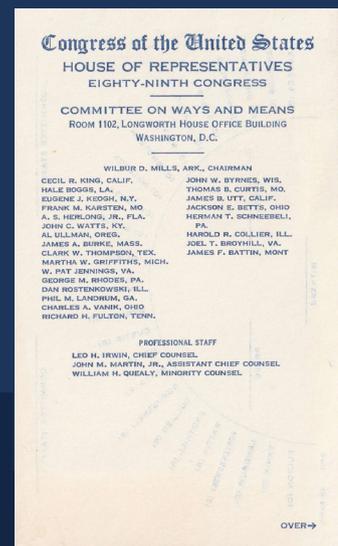


United States Senate  
EIGHTY-NINTH CONGRESS

The United States Senate in Session



Continued to April 21, 1966

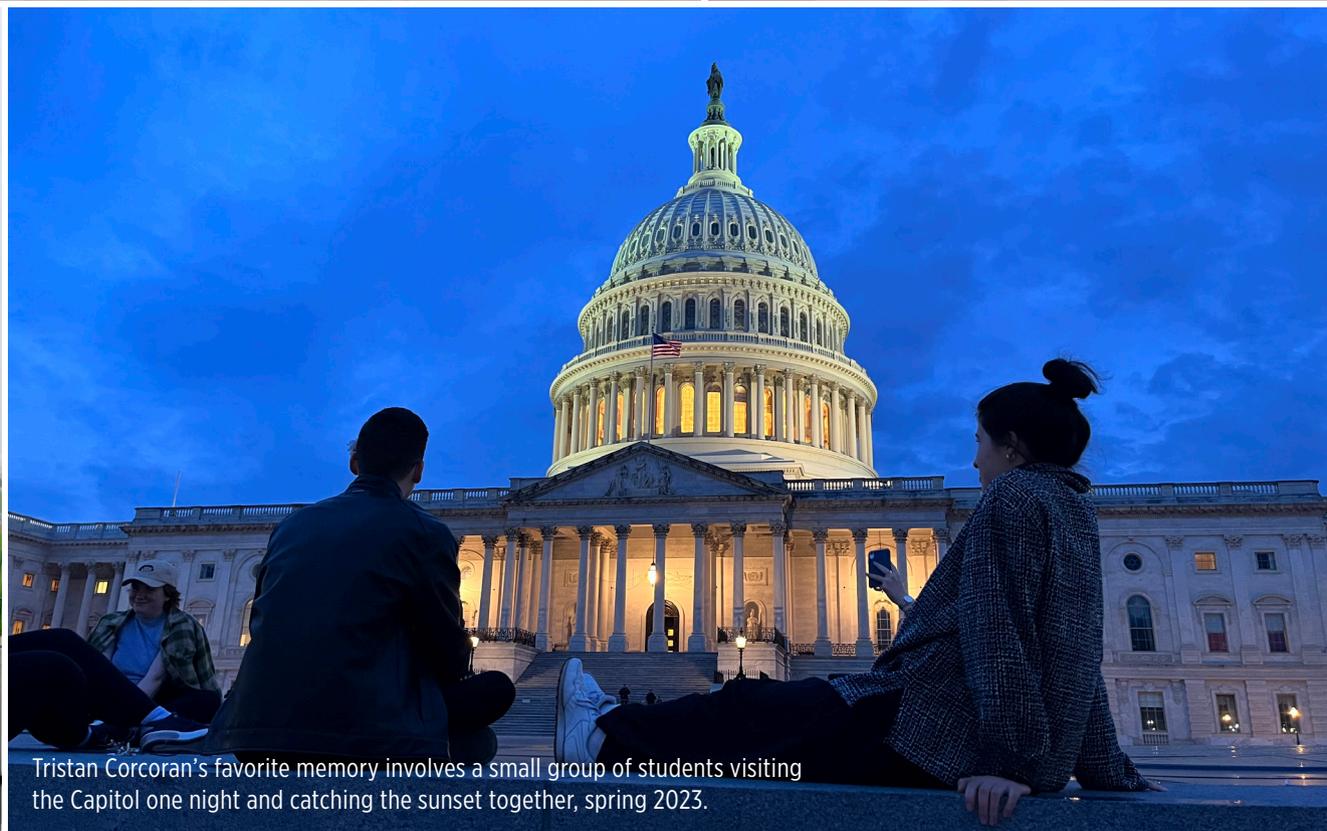




Provided by Paula Kocher Barnes.



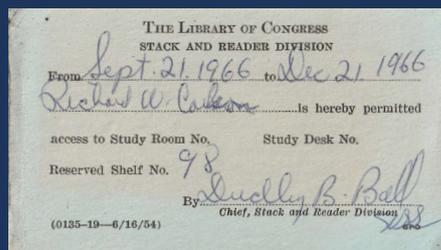
Provided by Paula Kocher Barnes.



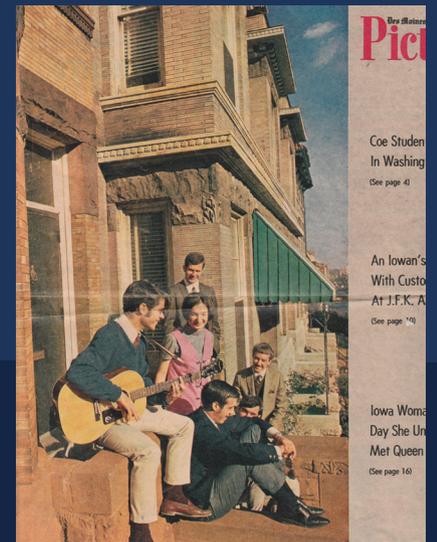
Tristan Corcoran's favorite memory involves a small group of students visiting the Capitol one night and catching the sunset together, spring 2023.



some facts about the LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



Coe's Washington Term students were featured on the cover of the Des Moines Sunday Register in 1970.



# www.coe.edu/alumni



## Your Kohawk Connection

Plan a Visit

Apply

Careers

Current Students

Faculty & Staff

Parents & Visitors

COVID-19

Search



Admission

Academics

Student Life

Why Coe

Athletics

Alumni

### The alumni website is getting a comprehensive overhaul to better serve YOU!

The past few years have revealed just how important the digital world is to stay connected with one another. The Office of Advancement is the touchpoint between campus and Kohawks who have flown far and wide. In January this year, the office sent out an all-alumni survey to gather feedback and learn how the college can better fulfill the needs and wants of alumni. The 1,000-plus survey respondents provided essential input about what is most important to them, which has in turn shaped the new alumni website.

Coe.edu will now be the one-stop shop to visit and connect with all things Coe — including your fellow alumni! Rather than being an isolated site, webpages for alumni are integrated into the already-familiar Coe website. A new two-pronged approach allows you to learn information and understand how to stay connected at a glance on Coe.edu — engaging as an alum, giving to the college, utilizing resources and more. When you're ready to take the next action steps, we invite you to join us on Coe Connect, an alumni-centric platform tailored to suit the needs indicated by our community.

This website will be launched in **July 2023**, when you can start your digital journey at the "alumni" tab on Coe.edu.

#### CONNECTING WITH OTHER ALUMNI

Across all decades of respondents, the most sought-after function of an alumni website is the ability to log into and search an alumni directory. The robust online directory on Coe Connect will allow you to find fellow Kohawks through a variety of filters and methods.

One method is locating Kohawks geographically. The new map directory function allows you to find other Kohawks geographically by zooming into various areas across the world. Users are required to log in for information on other alumni, so you are protected from those outside the Coe community.





According to survey results, 15% of respondents indicated they owned a business. The new, additional alumni business directory will catalog businesses and not only let you support Coe entrepreneurial efforts, but help you find new recommendations and even score a discount or two!

### SHARING YOUR LIFE UPDATES

News about your classmates is one of the staples of the Courier — just take a look at page 35. However, sometimes life can happen at a breakneck pace. What if you don't want to wait until the next Courier issue comes out? Class News on Coe Connect will consolidate submissions from you and your classmates to share life updates more immediately, so you can stay in-the-know on others' accomplishments and lives.

### HEARING ABOUT YOUR AFFINITIES

When asked what they want to hear and keep up-to-date about at Coe, alumni ranked a dozen options of what is most important to them. A few choices rose to the top for survey respondents: their class, their past faculty/staff and their departments and majors. These elements about the Coe experience are personal with close ties for alumni over the years. Spaces are dedicated areas for alumni to connect over affinity and shared interests.

By activating your Coe Connect profile, you have the opportunity to access a Kohawk-only platform — no additional accounts need to be created. This one-stop shop for interaction allows you to converse with fellow alumni about shared interests, while valuing your privacy as a user.



These groups will be built throughout the process of alumni being added to Coe Connect, which allows Spaces to continue to be responsive to alumni interests and what matters to you. More information will be shared through Coe Connect as Spaces evolve and grow, so be sure to check the platform regularly to see the newest and greatest.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE & STAYING INVOLVED

We've taken the best parts of the old alumni website and made them better than ever. Giving to Coe is an integral part of the alumni experience, and Coe Connect provides an enhanced user experience to continue to process your investments safely and securely.

You will also still be able to register for your favorite events, including alumni get-togethers and Homecoming each year. This easier process will allow you as guests to receive real-time updates, see other attendees and encourage others to join you.

## GETTING STARTED

Can't wait to check out everything on the new site? Neither can the Advancement Office, and they are excited to launch you into your Kohawk connections this July! Look for your invitation to join the site through the email address you have shared with Coe or a mailed postcard. We can't wait to connect with you through this improved, streamlined digital experience for alumni.



## Class of 1973 50th Reunion

✓ Class of 1973 Verification

📍 Cedar Rapids, IA, USA

This space was created to connect 1973 Coe alumni before the 50th Class Reunion on Saturday, September 23! We will share updates about Homecoming weekend activities, keep you in the loop about reunion festivities & take you back to 1973 with fun pictures from your time at Coe!

TOPICS ⚙️

# All posts

# General

# Homecoming

# Reunion

# Reunion Giving

 COE COLLEGE



# — 41st Annual — Coe College Kohawk Club Athletic Golf Outing and Fundraiser

← All events

## 41st Annual Golf Outing & Fundraiser

 COE COLLEGE

Thu, Jul 20, 2023  
10:30 am CDT to 07:00 pm CDT

Remind me to register

Register

 Joe Photo and 46 others are attending



# “ Spring break civil rights trip was transformative ”

*By Donald Jaamal  
Dean of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*

Coe College’s Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, along with the college’s Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Collaboration student group, spent spring break on an immersive civil rights trip to several historical sites. The trip provided students with a deeper understanding of the civil rights movement and its impact on American society and diversity, equity and inclusion work today.

The students visited several important historical landmarks during their trip, including the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968. The motel has since been converted into the National Civil Rights Museum, which features exhibits on the history of the civil rights movement and King’s life and legacy.

The group then traveled to Sumner, Mississippi, where they visited the Emmett Till Interpretive Center and the Tallahatchie County Courthouse. The Emmett Till Interpretive Center, located near the site where Till’s body was found, provided a powerful reminder of the brutality and violence that characterized the Jim Crow era. Till was a 14-year-old African American boy who was brutally murdered in 1955 for allegedly whistling at a white woman. The Tallahatchie County Courthouse is a significant site in the history of the civil rights movement. The trial of two men accused of killing Emmett Till was held there. The men were found not guilty in the case. Public Engagement and Museum Education Director Benjamin Saulsberry conducted a private tour of the courthouse and discussed the trial’s events.

AL  
IGHTS  
M  
NE MOTEL

# MISSISSIPPI CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM

## Toyota Gallery



Next on the itinerary was the COFO Center on the Jackson State University campus in Jackson, Mississippi. The center, which served as the headquarters for the Council of Federated Organizations during the civil rights era, now houses a museum that provides students with an overview of the various organizations and individuals who worked tirelessly to advance the cause of civil rights in Mississippi and throughout the country. While at the COFO Center, Dr. Robbie Luckett, associate professor of African American history, spoke to students about the contributions of Ms. Fannie Lou Hamer, Medgar Evers and James Meredith.

The group also visited the Medgar Evers Home Museum in Jackson, Mississippi. Evers was a civil rights leader who was assassinated in his own driveway in 1963. The museum was once home to the Evers family. Today, it stands as a testament to Medgar's life and legacy, showcasing artifacts and exhibits that highlight his contributions to the struggle for civil rights. Students had an opportunity to learn about Evers' work as a leader of the NAACP, his advocacy for voting rights and his efforts to desegregate schools and other public spaces.

The final stop on the trip was the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in Jackson. The museum, which opened in 2017, features a wide range of exhibits and interactive displays that showcase the struggles and triumphs of the civil rights movement in Mississippi. From the Freedom Rides to the voting rights struggle, the museum provided students with a comprehensive overview of the movement and its impact on American society.

For the Coe College students who participated, the trip was a powerful and transformative experience. By immersing themselves in the history of the civil rights movement, they gained a deeper understanding of the struggles and sacrifices made by those who came before them. They were inspired to continue the fight for social justice and equality in their own lives and communities and left Mississippi with a renewed commitment to making a positive impact on the world.



*Improvements are coming to a popular campus space*

# THE P.U.B. IS GETTING A REDO

Charlie's P.U.B. is undergoing a transformation from order and go grill to grab and gather hub. The kitchen space will transform into a self-checkout convenience store stocked with freshly-prepared sandwiches, salads and other handy meals and snacks, while the rest of the space will be refreshed. This includes updating the entryway from the building to the patio.

"We want to put more emphasis on the space as a gathering, performance and collaboration hub for the campus," said Becky Bateman, general manager for dining and retail at Coe.

The changes will allow the space to be open until midnight, providing extended retail and

dining options for students. The store will be accessible to students with a current Coe ID, and those on a meal plan can utilize their Coe Cash as well as traditional payment options.

The lounge area will be open the same hours as the store, and will feature updated furniture, lighting and finishes.

The decision to renovate the P.U.B. was driven by available funding dedicated to dining facility improvements, which originates from the partnership between Coe and Sodexo.

"When exploring the options to put this money to work, we wanted to do a project that would have an impact on dining and retail, but also improve the

environment where students gather in the union, where most of our operations reside," Bateman said.

Currently, most of the transactions that occur in the P.U.B. are meal plan exchanges. Moving the grill operation from the P.U.B. to Gage allows the dining staff to extend the Caf hours and focus on the food and service in one location.

"Being able to concentrate on one kitchen location gives us a better opportunity to improve the overall dining experience for the community," Bateman said.



# THE KOHAWK SHOP

APPAREL • GIFTS • CONVENIENCE

 COE COLLEGE

*Show off your  
Coe spirit  
in style!*

The Kohawk Shop continually brings in new products for all audiences and shows off a wide variety of apparel, decor, gifts and more. Easy, convenient and available 24/7, its online store is the best place to go to make sure you're repping your Coe pride. Check out all they have to offer!





**#KOHAWKDAY REACTIONS:**  
**TOP POST:**  
Student Celebration

**TOP DESIGNATIONS:**  
Annual Fund (1)  
Academics (2)  
Athletics (3)

**TOTAL PLEDGED  
& RAISED:**  
**\$481,912**

# CLASS NOTES

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

## 1970s

'71 **Nick Spencer** of Port Washington, Wisconsin, sold another story to Alfred Hitchcock's *Mystery Magazine*. The piece, entitled "Death in the Swamp," is one in a series of stories he's published, inspired by years in West Africa while serving in the Peace Corps. The bi-monthly magazine is available by subscription or at major metropolitan newsstands. Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine* purchased two of Nick's other stories in the 1980s.

'74 **Dr. Christopher Soldat** of Iowa City, Iowa, retired from the Grant Wood Area Education Agency in May as a K-12 science curriculum consultant for area school districts. He has been named to the national OpenSciEd Professional Learning Facilitator team, which will help school districts implement high quality science instructional materials in their K-12 science classrooms.



**Connie Terwilliger** of San Diego, California, opened her home to a Ukrainian refugee and her eight-year-old daughter in October 2022. Vira Ustianska is an accomplished oil painter, and Connie has used her media contacts to spread

the word about her work through articles in the *Union Tribune*, radio and television stories on KPBS, NPR, *The World* and CBS Channel 8. To view all of Vira's beautiful artwork created here in the United States, visit [bit.ly/3X6Nekr](http://bit.ly/3X6Nekr).

1 '76 **Donald Stevenson** of LaPlace, Louisiana, was inducted into the Coe College Athletic Hall of Fame in October 2022.

2 '79 **Matthew Novak** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers at its annual meeting held in Rome, Italy, last fall.



## 1980s



'83 **Joel Barrows** of Bettendorf, Iowa, had his book, "Deep Purple Cover," named to the list of the Best Truly Independent Books of 2022 by the Independent Fiction Alliance (IFA). The IFA celebrates the work of authors who are published by smaller independent publishers. "Deep Purple Cover" is the fourth book in Joel's "Deep Cover" series and is available at most bookstores or from [downdandoutbooks.com/bookstore](http://downdandoutbooks.com/bookstore).



'85 **Dan Oberbroeckling** of Noblesville, Indiana, got together with lifelong alumni friends to celebrate their "milestone" birthdays in Cabo San Lucas in March. These Kohawks included **Dick Kaufmann '85**, **Bob Possehl '85**, **Dennis Deutmeyer '85** and **Mike Lutzenkirchen '85**. They like to think they are entering into the decade of the "Go Go Years," and their clever T-shirts were courtesy of Dan's wife, **Carol Nelson Oberbroeckling '86**.

## 1990s



Associate music director Angie Benson plays the odaiko in "Pacific Overtures." (Daniel Rader)

'99 **Angie Fullarton Benson** of Spotsylvania, Virginia, recently served as associate music director on the rarely-produced Stephen Sondheim musical, "Pacific Overtures," at Signature Theatre in Arlington, Virginia. She also played keyboard and a 6-foot-6-inch Japanese odaiko

drum, the largest known of its kind on the East Coast. Sondheim's collaborators, librettist John Weidman and orchestrator Jonathan Tunick, both visited the rehearsal process at Signature. Photo courtesy of Daniel Rader for *The Washington Post*.

## 2000s

3 '00 **Susie Ebacher-Grier** of Bargersville, Indiana, received the presidential medallion from the American Culinary Federation for excellence in the hospitality industry. This is the highest honor bestowed by the American Culinary Federation.



'01 **Brandi Nava Lane** of Olathe, Kansas, is the deputy division director of adult services with Johnson County Mental Health. She lives with her husband and their three sons.

'02 **Richard Lane** of Olathe, Kansas, teaches physics and physical science at Olathe East high school, where he also coaches football. Rich has also been asked to teach the high school's 3DE program next year. This program stems from Junior Achievement of Greater Kansas City, presents a problem from real businesses and allows students to develop and present solutions to those businesses. He lives with his wife and their three sons.

'05 **Hallie Clodfelter-Moyer** of Cameron, North Carolina, received her master's degree in data analytics from Western Governors University. She started a job as a data scientist with Lockheed Martin in March.

## 2010s

'12 **Chelsea White** of Marion, Iowa, started a new position as audience services manager at Mirrorbox Theatre in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



'13 **Samantha Sikrisamouth Wood** of Anoka, Minnesota, was elected to be co-chair of the diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging committee for the Northrop Grumman Minnesota and Armament Systems in Mesa, Arizona locations. The committee's goal is to understand how they can drive positive social change to impact their workplaces and communities where their facilities are located.



'15 **Caileen Stuebe** Roberts of Grapevine, Texas, was awarded the Exemplar Educator Teacher of the Year award at Lakeview Elementary School in Trophy Club, Texas. She has been with the Northwest ISD school district for eight years, since she graduated from Coe. She currently teaches third grade language arts and social studies.

# PUSHA DA PEN

WRITTEN ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COE'S ALUMNI

## 2000s



'01 **Jennifer Pietz** of Saint Louis Park, Minnesota, published the book "Mary Magdalene, La Malinche, and the Ethics of Interpretation" (Lexington Books/Fortress Academic). The book covers how these two women were noted as agents in the foundation of new communities and have turned into icons over time. The book is available from Lexington Books/Fortress Academic, Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

## 2010s



"Stellaphasia," a final book of poetry by **Jason Bradford '10**, has been published posthumously through University of Northern Iowa's North American Review press. His poems have been called "direct and mysteriously inevitable." After graduating from Coe, Jason earned a master's degree at UNI and was working on an MFA degree at the University of North Carolina - Wilmington when he passed away in 2016. "Stellaphasia" is available from the University of Northern Iowa bookstore.



'14 **Hailley Fargo** of Dayton, Kentucky, helped to co-edit the book, "Undergraduate Research & the Academic Librarian: Case Studies and Best Practices, Volume II" (American Library Association). The book contains 22 chapters exploring collaborations, programs and strategies for librarians to work with students, faculty and undergraduate research coordinators to support student success.

# WEDDING BELLS

CONGRATULATIONS, KOHAWKS

## 2010s

**1** '10 **Clint Cox** and Brittany Blanscet of Las Vegas, Nevada, on April 22, 2022. Kohawks in attendance at the Hawaiian-themed wedding in Cancun, Mexico, were **Brandon Hoffer '09** and **Melissa Entzminger '09**.

'12 **Molly Steffens** and Kelle MacQueeney of Clive, Iowa, on November 11, 2022.

**2** '15 **Colton Benhart** and **Savanah Schott '14** of Coralville, Iowa, on October 15, 2022.



## 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 March 15. **The deadline for the Fall 2023 issue is August 1.** Announcements older than one year at the time they are submitted will not be published.

Please follow these basic guidelines when submitting information:

### NEWS

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

### MARRIAGES & ANNIVERSARIES

Include both spouses' full names (including birth/maiden names,

where applicable) and complete date. Please notify us after your wedding; we cannot publish based on an engagement announcement.

### BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

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

### DEATHS

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

### PHOTOS

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

Submit information via email to [courier@coe.edu](mailto: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](http://www.alumni.coe.edu).

2000s

**1 '07 Morgan Sackett** Kocer and her husband, Grant, of Oronoco, Minnesota, a son, Nash Joseph, on December 26, 2022.

2010s

**'12 Kyle Preuninger** and his wife, Kelly, of North Liberty, Iowa, a daughter, Charolette Delight, on January 1.

**2 '13 Reid Galbraith and Kelly Strohm** Galbraith **'13** of Greenwood Village, Colorado, a daughter, Kennedy Ann, on March 1.

**3 '13 Alex Hirsch and Kelly Sandquist** Hirsch **'13** of McHenry, Illinois, a son, Hollis Gideon, on September 15, 2022.



# ALUMNI COUNCIL *Update*

**Hi Coe community!**

As Coe has wrapped up another academic year, it is my pleasure to welcome the Class of 2023 into our alumni family! We wish you all the best in your next chapter, and we want to make sure you know the Coe alumni community is here to help you wherever those endeavors take you.

For new and current alumni, the college is launching a brand-new alumni website in July. This website will provide a space for alumni to connect with each other, stay up to date with college news and events and learn about opportunities to get involved in ways that are meaningful to you.

Speaking of events, mark your calendars for Homecoming on September 22-24, 2023! It will be a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with old friends, relive cherished memories and create new ones. We can't wait to see you there!

Lastly, I would like to share a couple of updates from Alumni Council:

- We are working hard to develop new opportunities for alumni to engage with the college, current students and each other in meaningful and impactful ways. As we continue this progress and align it with the college's new strategic plan, we'll keep you updated in future editions of the Courier.
- Additionally, the Council is currently seeking new members who represent a broad range of diverse perspectives and experiences. If you or someone you know is interested in giving your time to the college, please don't hesitate to reach out.

As always, we appreciate your ongoing support and dedication to Coe College. Please reach out to the Alumni Office if you want to get in touch with any questions or feedback. We look forward to staying in touch and seeing you at Homecoming!



Warm regards,

**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](mailto:dgreen@coe.edu).

Full obituaries for all decedents can be found at [www.coe.edu/courier](http://www.coe.edu/courier).

## 1940s

**1942 Phyllis Darby** Thompson, 100, of Thousand Oaks, California, on October 12, 2022.

**1943 Janet Jefferis** McMeans Tompkins, 100, of Durant, Oklahoma, on March 13.

**1949 Stella Steffenson** Easker, 94, of Lisbon, Iowa, on March 19.

**Virginia McElhinney** Johnson, 94, of Morning Sun, Iowa, on March 21.

## 1950s

 **1950 William Severa**, 96, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on February 23.

**1951 Jean Richardson** Duffy, 95, of Irving, Texas, on November 22, 2022.

**1952 Charlotte Lazier** Algozin, 91, of Carol Stream, Illinois, on February 9.

**Lois Fix** Wunschel, 92, of Carroll, Iowa, on February 6.



**1954 John "Jack" Elgin**, 90, of Earlham, Iowa, on December 5, 2022. Jack married his high school sweetheart, Patricia "Pat" Ann Novak, in 1950. He earned seven varsity athletic letters across f o o t b a l l, baseball and wrestling while at Coe and graduated in 1954 with a bachelor's degree in education. He was voted most valuable player his senior year as the quarterback of the football team and was inducted into the Coe College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1983. He spent his life in education, teaching biology and physical education and coaching football, wrestling and baseball throughout the years. He earned his master's degree in education from Drake University in 1967.

He enjoyed playing badminton, golf and slow-pitch softball into his 70s. Jack was eager to share stories about Pat after her death in 1986, and he retired in 1991 to move to the countryside. He is survived by his children, Jeff (Terri), Mike (Cynthia), Dave (Gayle), Rick, Ann (Tim) and Matt; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Dr. Albert Hybl**, 90, of Baltimore, Maryland, on December 12, 2022.

**Phyllis Dellmann** Stanchfield, 90, of St. Louis Park, Minnesota, on March 11.

**1955 Farrell "Dutch" Gay**, 89, of Springfield, Illinois, on March 27.

**1956 Barbara Anderson** Behrman, 88, of Frisco, Texas, on January 8.

**1957 Wallace "Wally" Krouse**, 90, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on February 6.

**1958 Ann Lefebure** Gay, 87, of Springfield, Illinois, on August 31, 2022.

**Rita Gibson** Koman, 85, of Alexandria, Virginia, on March 10, 2022.

**Jeannette Hamilton** Messerli, 87, of Clinton, Iowa, on March 5.

**1959 Marilyn Mueller** Coppernoll, 85, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on February 24.

**Diane Teigen** Williams, 85, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on December 6, 2022.

## 1960s

**1960 Roger Berghs**, 84, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, on May 19, 2022.

**Lloyd "Gus" Hoffman, Jr.**, 84, of Pleasant Grove, Utah, on January 8.

**Sandra Dahlstrom** Kruger, 83, of Omaha, Nebraska, on January 23.

**Charles "Dick" Swarzentruher**, 85, of Columbia, Missouri, on January 21.

**1963 Charles "Chuck" Holtz**, 82, of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, on February 24.

**Richard "Dick" Wood**, 82, of Waukesha, Wisconsin, on February 15.

**1964 Anthony McCoy**, 80, of St. Petersburg, Florida, on January 31.

**1968 Naomi Hocken** Brewster, 81, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on February 16.

**Maurice Van Note**, 87, of Palo, Iowa, on February 7.

**1969 Ralph Kephart**, 83, of Manchester, Iowa, on January 18.

## 1970s

**1971 David Kruger**, 78, of Lake Bluff, Illinois, on November 30, 2022.

**1973 Ruth Rigby** Adams, 72, of Decatur, Georgia, on February 24, 2018.



**William "Bill" Carrithers**, 71, of Yakima, Washington, on January 19. Bill was a standout athlete in tennis and basketball at Washington High School in Cedar Rapids. He was approved for conscientious

objector status during the Vietnam War and graduated from Coe with a degree in sociology. He was inducted into the Coe College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1992 as the first third-generation Kohawk to be inducted. His grandfather, athletic director and coach Ira Carrithers, was inducted in 1973 and his father, professor and Chair of Business Administration and Economics **James Carrithers '36**, in 1976. Bill earned his master's degree in social work from Portland State University and later settled in western Massachusetts. He served as a therapist, volunteered with the Red Cross and helped coach men's soccer. He was intellectual, athletic and compassionate throughout his life. He is survived by siblings, Caroline, Ellie and David; daughter Angie; granddaughter Fiona; former girlfriend Joan Axelrod-Contrada and extended family.

**1976 Craig Kadlec**, 68, of Robins, Iowa, on January 5.

## 1980s

**1983 Steven Gensicke**, 75, of Marion, Iowa, on February 17.

## 1990s

**1990 Georgieann Schmitt**, 80, of Plano, Texas, on January 23.

**1991 John Grace II**, 55, of Tiffin, Iowa, on January 4.

**1993 Lee DeWitt**, 75, of North Port, Florida, on March 8.

**Glenda Parker** Kea, 66, of Allen, Texas, on April 25, 2022.

**1998 Jane Schneider** Suiter, 74, of Marion, Iowa, on January 24.

## 2020s

**2026 Tyler McDonald**, 19, of Waukegan, Illinois, on February 17.

## FACULTY/STAFF



**Dr. John Jackobs**, 83, of Mason, Ohio, on January 10. John graduated from Superior State University in 1961 and had open heart surgery that same year at Variety Heart Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He received his master's degree in chemistry from Iowa State University in 1964 and his doctorate in chemistry specializing in crystallography from Arizona State

University in 1967. He married Miriam Kaled in 1965 in Sioux City, Iowa. He continued post-doctoral studies at Case Western Reserve University, where he published five papers. He then served as associate professor at Heidelberg College and as director of the computer center and registrar at Coe College. He worked at Coe for 12 years before joining Jenzabar, a software company in Cincinnati that specialized in computer program packages for colleges and universities. He taught purchasers how to use the programs until his retirement in 2004. John's activities included sharing

camping skills as a scoutmaster, being active in the Eastern Iowa Science Fair, photography, woodworking, biking and volunteering with Habitat for Humanity to build homes. He was active in several councils in his parish and the church's twinning parish in Uganda, the Friends of Nyamitanga. He participated in two mission trips to Honduras and Mexico and enjoyed traveling far and wide with his wife of 57 years, even completing a half-marathon on the continent of Antarctica. He is survived by his sons, Mark (Alicja), Dan (Debbie) and Tom and his two grandchildren.

## UPDATES AND ACCOLADES

Adjunct Assistant Professor of English **Kate Aspengren** was invited to give a talk at the 2023 Fowey Festival of Arts and Literature in Fowey, United Kingdom.



Associate Professor of Rhetoric **Allison Carr '05** published a review and interview with Priyanka Kumar about her new book, "Conversations with Birds," at CRAFT Literary.



Alma A. Turechek Professor of Music **William Carson** served as a presenter and a performer at the convention of the European Music Educators Association in Vicenza, Italy.



Esther and Robert Armstrong Associate Professor of Rhetoric **Theresa Donofrio** published "On Writing (and not writing) 'Out of the Office'" in the Journal of Multimodal Rhetorics special issue on care work and writing during COVID-19.



Associate Professor of Physics **Firdevs Duru** served in the local organizing committee for the American Physical Society Conferences for Undergraduate Women in Physics (CUWIP), which was held at the University of Iowa in January 2023. The Coe College physics department was a sponsor for the event, and Duru was in charge of organizing and leading the workshop on communicating your research effectively. The meeting was also attended by three physics students, **Katie Ameku '25**, **Maren Kagin '25** and **Virginia Walker '25**. Katie Ameku introduced one of the keynote speakers, and Virginia Walker presented a poster at the event.



John William King Professor of Literature and Creative Writing **Gina Hausknecht**, Assistant Professor of Social and Criminal Justice **Neal McNabb** and Associate Professor of Sociology **Katie Rodgers '03** received an



Associated Colleges of the Midwest Institutionalizing Community-Based Pedagogies grant to support the creation of a new Prison Learning Initiative (PLI) at Coe which will provide high-impact experiential learning and engagement around the carceral system. PLI builds on strong interest in mass incarceration among Coe students, capitalizes on the



college's strategic geographic location in Cedar Rapids (the administrative home of the Sixth Judicial District of Iowa) and extends the capacity of the popular and growing social and criminal justice program. It will expand on existing efforts on campus to engage in community-based research and teaching related to the criminal legal system; coordinate opportunities for faculty to work with existing community programs that allow Coe students to learn with and support incarcerated people and returning citizens through community-based research projects, service learning and volunteer opportunities; and provide the necessary infrastructure at Coe to begin partnering with the Iowa Department of Corrections to develop educational experiences that bring Coe students and incarcerated students together for formal and informal learning.



Assistant Professor of Nursing **Aleesa Kittrell** was appointed as co-chair for the National League for Nursing (NLN) Foundation Scholarship Selection Panel with succession to the chair position in 2025.



Visiting Assistant Professor of Film Studies **Kayti Lausch** assembled and chaired a panel, "Pink Inc.: Audiences, Branding and LGBTQ+ Visibility," at the 2023 Society for Cinema and Media Studies conference in April. She presented her work, "'The Extras That Have to Be Thrown In at Hallmark Nowadays': The Conservative Backlash to Hallmark's Efforts at Queer Inclusivity" as part of that panel.



Assistant Professor of Communication Studies **Oluwadamilola Opayemi** finalized a contract with Cognella Academic Publishing to publish a pedagogical book chapter she wrote titled "Pop Culture and Family Communication" in the Teaching Communication series, volume four, scheduled to publish in September 2023.



Associate Professor of Nursing **Michelle Umbarger-Mackey** collaborated with the Iowa School Nurse Organization on December 7, 2022, to virtually present "Care & Support of LGBTQ Students & Families" as a continuing education offering for all Iowa school nurses. Michelle's presentation was critical for Iowa school nurses as it included current evidence-based practices that school nurses can utilize in their daily work with Iowa students who become the future.

## FACULTY &amp; STAFF



1220 First Avenue NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Permit No. 26

Parents: If this issue of the Courier is addressed to your child who has established a separate permanent residence, please notify us of that new address. Call 319.399.8745 or email [advancementservices@coe.edu](mailto:advancementservices@coe.edu).

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



# HOMECOMING

— *FIGHT ON, YOU KOHAWKS!* —

**SAVE THE DATE**  
for Homecoming 2023 - September 22-24

*Reconnect with classmates and celebrate your experiences at Coe.*

