

# COURIER

— SUMMER 2024 —



COE COLLEGE



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## COVER

**Ashley Conde '24**  
rings the Victory  
Bell prior to the  
Class of 2024  
Commencement  
ceremony.



Greetings from Coe College, where our campus has been hard at work. The spring term contained several hallmark events, including the 50th annual International Club Banquet, the always-tomorrow Flunk Day and the capstone of Graduation Weekend in early May. Every Kohawk—students, faculty and staff alike—has been diligent in their efforts to reach these milestones, celebrate them and prepare for the days to come. I am particularly proud to welcome to the alumni family the Class of 2024, who in the fall of 2020 arrived immediately post-derecho, mask-clad, and have since proven themselves to be resilient, determined and a credit to the name of Coe College.

As they approached Commencement, many graduates were preoccupied by two questions: Where would they go next? What would they do? Coe makes it possible for students to confidently embrace these big questions, equipping them with experience, knowledge and expansive opportunities as part of the worldwide Kohawk network.

Coe is truly a global institution, with the reach of the Kohawk community directly connecting our campus in the heart of Cedar Rapids to every corner of the U.S. and the world, from Kenya to India to Australia and beyond. Coe continues to welcome large and geographically diverse classes and fosters opportunities for all Coe students to participate in study abroad experiences. Not only that, this year marked a half-century of the International Club, a student organization dedicated to celebrating the experiences and diverse cultures of our international students. Similarly, this Courier issue highlights the international reach of Coe, featuring stories of students and alumni alike.

Just as Coe's graduates take the lessons they've learned and shift to apply them to the real world, Coe is taking steps to adapt to meet the interests of today's students and industries, in order to navigate the evolving expectations of higher education institutions. Coe has thoughtfully assessed our current programming and market position and identified opportunities to further develop our offerings with a future-oriented mindset. I encourage you to learn more about the culmination of this exploration, as well as exciting developments in the areas of aviation management, engineering physics and art & visual studies, starting on page 23.

As loyal alumni and friends of Coe College, your partnership continues to be essential for our future success as a college. I would like to extend special gratitude to those who expressed your support to Coe and made a gift for our tenth annual Day of Giving. There are several philanthropic opportunities expressed within this issue and throughout the year for you to further invest in the college and even join a new, exclusive community of like-minded donors. In addition, I look forward to seeing many of you return to campus for Homecoming this fall. Until we see you again on campus, keep Coe close to you, wherever you are in the world.

Alma mater, hail, hail, hail.

**David Hayes '93**  
President

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Questions and comments regarding the Courier can be sent to [alumni@coe.edu](mailto:alumni@coe.edu).

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





**T**here was a fresh feeling in the air as the sun rose over the Eby quad and began warming the caps and gowns of graduates gathered before ringing the Victory Bell. Careers would be starting soon, grad school programs were waiting and new friendships were just over the horizon. The moment felt new.

Because this moment was.

The trials, sacrifices and losses of the COVID-19 pandemic can often seem further in the past than they actually are. Not for the Coe College Class of 2024. Almost all of them lost a traditional high school graduation. There were no proms and senior trips. Even as first-year Kohawks not all of them rang the bell, and those who did, rang it with just a small group watching.

So yes, this was new. The pomp and festive air was overdue.

Despite inauspicious beginnings, the class gelled and created the type of memories that all Kohawks share and started down the path to successes all Kohawks hope for one another. It could not have culminated on a more beautiful day.

Soon after Coe College President **David Hayes '93** stepped to the podium and began his remarks to the graduates and their guests on the packed Stewart Memorial Library quad, he paused.



# Commencement 2024

“If ever a class deserved some sunshine on graduation day, it is the Class of 2024,” Hayes said, smiling out over faces bathed in sunlight as guests filled the area between the hill by Voorhees to the trees in front of Hickok.

As the crowd listened, the message shifted focus to the exciting possibilities of the future as Hayes noted routine traditions should not be taken for granted, but you can take any lingering losses and turn them into joys. Before graduation weekend, members of the Class of 2024 shared a multitude

of stories with Hayes — those stories now begin their transformation into lifelong memories to be shared as friends gather in the future to relive their days on campus. Late night shenanigans, impromptu trips, inside jokes and heart-to-heart talks are the college joys that last forever.

“I encourage you all to soak in this experience and let your passion and joy be felt,” Hayes said.

The Class of 2024 shaped the college as they dealt with adversity, which extended to a historic windstorm — a derecho — days before move-in. This class was among students who planted trees to replace those lost during the fall of their first year.

“I admire each of you,” Hayes said. “I hope you go forth with grace and courage and you return often to measure your growth against the growth of the trees you’ve planted.”

**1** **Cecilia Kintopf '24** addresses the crowd gathered at Commencement. Kintopf was chosen as the student speaker.

After those words of appreciation, **Cecilia Kintopf '24** came to the podium to deliver her remarks as the student speaker, also acknowledging the circumstances surrounding the end of the class’s high school career and first year at Coe.



**2** President **David Hayes '93** welcomes the Commencement crowd.

**3** Duane J. Smith delivered the Commencement address. Smith is the executive chairman of TrueNorth Companies in Cedar Rapids.

“We came to Coe following the most disappointing milestone of our educational careers,” Kintopf said. “We didn’t get the satisfaction of a job well done, or the send-off that we had imagined for so many years. We lost the last goodbye for the first chapter of our lives. It was devastating.”

But then Coe stepped up, she said.

“Coe picked us up, brushed us off and worked hard to rebuild. From the beginning, we’ve invested in ourselves. When the trees fell, Coe handed us shovels to replant. We literally grew our own roots. When COVID spread, Coe gave us masks, tests, security. We took what we had been given, and we recovered. We made something beautiful,” Kintopf explained.

“Coe never stopped making us promises, and it never stopped fulfilling them,” she added.

As she moved her remarks to the bright future, there was a parallel

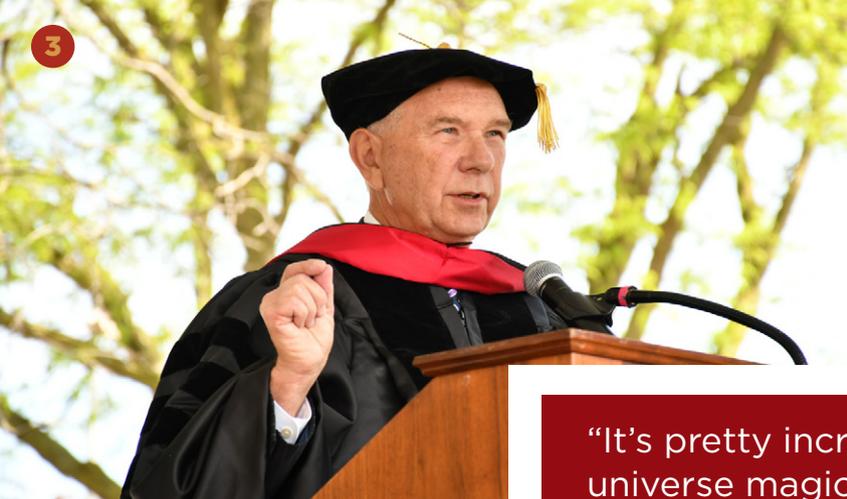
that developed. The class came to Coe during complicated times, and is entering the world during complicated times. Kintopf praised the Coe faculty for taking her in and preparing her for what’s next, calling them friendly, caring and some of the most important influences in her life. She noted they’ve had just as important a role in teaching her how to become a person as they have had in professional preparation.

Many of Kintopf’s classmates remarked that the day was extra sweet as they’ve waited a long time to have their moment in the sun. She reminded them to celebrate one another, leaving them with this advice: “You have accomplished so much, and you deserve happiness, health and a group sense of self-worth. Take what you’ve learned and lend yourself to this complicated world. Be passionate and brave.”

Following Kintopf, the executive chairman of TrueNorth Companies,



Scan to watch the Commencement recap video.



"It's pretty incredible how the universe magically helps you fulfill your dreams."

**Duane J. Smith**



Duane J. Smith, took to the stage. While Smith himself is not a Kohawk, both his wife and daughter graduated from Coe. He noted he's spent many hours in Sinclair Auditorium, Clark Alumni House and the Clark Racquet Center.

After Smith was conferred the honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by President Hayes, he began his remarks, telling his story and the lessons learned from his experiences in chapters. There were Kohawk nuggets woven throughout, including a family whitewater rafting trip with none other than **George Henry '49** as their guide.

Smith has led a life filled with entrepreneurial endeavors, including experience in insurance, financial management, health care and even classic cars. He will say, though, that his greatest triumph has been the opportunities to act as a mentor across those industries. He brought that nurturing nature to the Kohawk graduates in this Commencement message.

His experiences added a level of relatability to classic life lessons. Tough love is still love. Embrace new ideas and experiences. Uncomfortable situations build leadership. Be inquisitive and learn from your mistakes. Understand your strengths and passions and spend time on them. Don't dwell on your weaknesses, but be aware of them.

The most poignant lesson, though, was in adversity. Smith was also tragically affected during the pandemic. His daughter, **Kirsten Smith '04**, passed away from complications of COVID and Lyme disease. He noted that 20 years prior, he was on the same quad for her Commencement. When he received the invitation to be the Commencement speaker this year, his mind remembered the joy of that day, but also the sadness years later. He found the strength to come back by asking, "What would Kirsten want?" Smith knew his daughter would want him to share his thoughts and feelings, so he left Kohawks with one last piece of wisdom.

"Don't stop setting goals, and more importantly don't stop putting a plan together to reach them. Once you have established your goal, share it with as many people as you can. It's pretty incredible how the universe magically helps you fulfill your dreams," Smith said.

"Always make your future bigger than your past — and I truly believe that the best is yet to come," he ended.

With those words in mind, the graduates settled in to receive their degrees, eyes wide with their entire futures ahead of them.



**4** Susan Wolverton, Professor of Theatre Arts recognized for achieving emeritus status.

**5** Professor of Psychology **Mike Baker '92** was bestowed the C.J. Lynch Outstanding Teacher Award.

**6** Emeritus faculty Bob and Margie Marrs earned the Eliza Hickok Kesler Outstanding Service Award.

## 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 emeritus faculty members Bob and Margie Marrs. Both served as long-time faculty members, but their contributions extend far beyond the classroom. May Term trips with students, individual music lessons, establishing the writing center and dutifully tending to the Alumni House Garden are all ways they've supported Coe.

Also honored at Commencement was the Charles J. Lynch Outstanding Teacher Award recipient, **Mike Baker '92**. The annual recipient is selected by

the graduating class and recognizes quality of teaching, concern for students as individuals and scholars and memorializes the values and service of **C.J. Lynch '26**. C.J. 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. Mike Baker, Professor of Psychology
- Dr. Jeffrey Hoover, Professor of Philosophy
- Dr. Bruce Nesmith, Professor of Political Science
- Susan Wolverton, Professor of Theatre Arts



**1851**  
SOCIETY

New program will recognize

# ANNUAL FUND'S MOST LOYAL SUPPORTERS



Coe College is excited to introduce the 1851 Society, a new donor recognition program designed to acknowledge, thank and connect with the Annual Fund's most loyal supporters. The creation of the 1851 Society celebrates

the visionary gifts that funded Coe, the college's founding year and those who make leadership commitments to the Annual Fund each year. These gifts are essential to the growth of Coe, and their impact can be seen everywhere, from scholarships to campus facilities to classroom instruction.

"Today there is abundant conversation about the future of higher education, and Coe finds itself at an inflection point. As an institution we are working to best position the college on a sustainable and sound path. The investment and partnership of our best supporters in the Annual Fund is a key part of this vision, and is needed now more than ever," says Coe President **David Hayes '93**.

Donors to the Annual Fund recognize the value of Coe's transformative impact, often having experienced it for themselves, and their support continues Coe's ability to provide a first-rate education. One such member of the 1851 Society is Dr. **Gala Prabhu '92**. Her support of the Annual Fund started the very summer after she graduated, continuing throughout her educational and professional career. Prabhu currently serves as managing director at the global consulting firm Accenture.

"My experience at Coe served as a critical building block in my life, both personal and professional, giving me a fantastic foundation from which I could springboard to my Ph.D. in molecular biology at NYU and then my job in management consulting. The scholarship and financial aid Coe gave allowed me to come to the United States to study, without which my Coe education would have been impossible. From the moment I arrived on campus in the fall of 1988, I felt welcomed by the Coe community, which was absolutely amazing. I believe when I arrived, I was amongst the first women from India on campus. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity provided to me, and I hope I too can help future generations of people in some small measure to fulfill their hopes and aspirations through an education at Coe."



**1851**  
SOCIETY

**GIVING LEVELS**

**ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
THE COE ANNUAL FUND**

Legacy	\$1,851 - \$4,999
Victory Bell	\$5,000 - \$9,999
Daniel Coe	\$10,000 - \$24,999
Presidents	\$25,000+

In its inaugural year, the 1851 Society will welcome its members to an exclusive reception with President Hayes, other donors and special guests during Homecoming, September 26-28, 2024.

To make a difference in the lives of Coe students through your leadership gift to the Annual Fund and, in doing so, affirm your 1851 Society membership, visit [www.coe.edu/alumni/support-coe/1851-society](http://www.coe.edu/alumni/support-coe/1851-society) or scan the QR code. To learn more or ask questions, please contact Annual Fund Director Mégan Valenta at 319.399.8569 or [mavalenta@coe.edu](mailto:mavalenta@coe.edu).





# HALF A CENTURY OF CELEBRATING AN *International Coe*

Every pop and hiss as a pan starts to sizzle feels like a memory from half a century ago is coming back to life. This year's International Club Banquet was the culmination of a landmark year for the club. The beloved student organization celebrated its 50th anniversary being part of Coe's campus and student culture during the 2023-24 academic year. Not only is the International Club celebrating this milestone, its annual signature events also took place for the 50th time with Culture Show in the fall and International Banquet in the spring.

International Club, known as I-Club among students, was founded in 1973 with the goal to be "an internationally minded group which would like to bring about a closer contact among students of diverse cultural and linguistic interests." It has since become embedded in the student culture on campus.

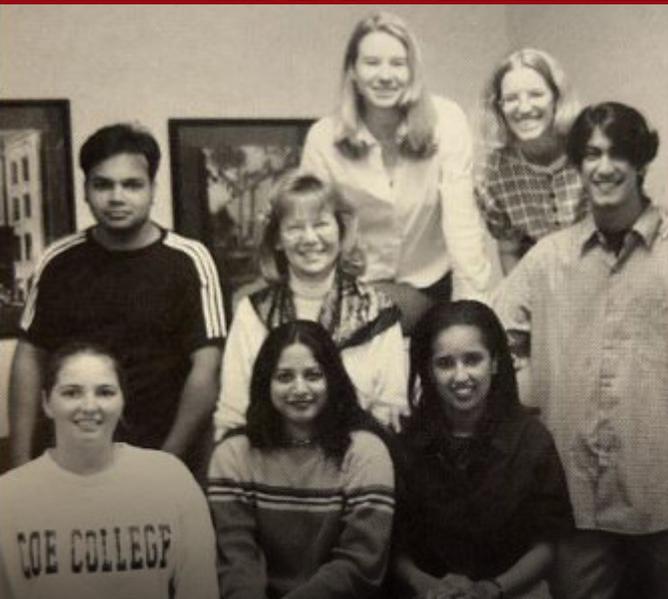
**Mohammad Kharoti '75** from Afghanistan served as the president of the club in its first year, and activities have remained open to all students, whether they originally came to Coe from another nation or simply had an interest in making connections.

"I am delighted that the International Club remains vibrant and continues to enhance life at Coe College. You are making a difference!" said Deanna Jobe, who served as the international student advisor from 1980 to 2014 and advised the club for over 30 years.

Coe has long boasted a diverse student body with international connections stretching across the globe. During most academic years Coe has from 20 to 35 exchange students from Coe's two exchange programs in Japan, Waseda University in Tokyo and Nagoya Gakuin University in Nagoya. This year, the college welcomed a return to robust, pre-Covid numbers of international students, with the Class of 2027 representing 21 countries. Many Kohawks also take advantage of the study abroad programs offered by Coe, whether it is spending a month, a semester or a year in another country, broadening their relationships and experiences.

"The impact of the Coe International Club cannot be overstated. There were so many deep friendships that were forged in I-Club — friendships that have endured over decades," said **Libby Slappey '74**, who served as a resident director of Murray Hall, which often housed international students. "It was my honor to be the mother-away-from-home to students from around the world who lived in Murray. Every day, every week, every year, members of I-Club learned from each other, whether they were roommates in the residence halls or lab partners in Peterson Hall."

Both as a student and as former associate dean of admission, **Pat Campbell Cook '84** met, worked with and forged deep relationships with many international Kohawks during the 20 years she spent at Coe. "I met students from all over the world and learned so many new and wonderful things. From working with them





through the admission process to meeting them at the airport and getting them moved into the residence halls, I loved welcoming them to Coe and watching them thrive!" she said. "Being part of I-Club activities — the welcome reception, the international retreat, the Culture Show and the spring banquet — enriched my world in so many ways."

I-Club's signature events hold a high profile on campus year over year and draw excellent performances, audiences and cultural experiences.

## Culture Show

"The I-Club Culture Show was always an amazing array of talent, fashion and fun," Slappey recalled.

Taking place each fall, the Culture Show invites members of I-Club and the student body to showcase their talents, cultural dances and traditional dress in a fashion show. No two shows are alike from year to year, as acts are dependent on what students perform and present for the Coe and Cedar Rapids communities. One thing remains constant — the show is a wonderful representation and recognition of the countries and cultures that come together to form the Coe student body.

## International Banquet

"I am so very proud that the International Banquet is truly one of the most long-lived traditions at Coe College. It is a tribute to all of the international and American students who worked to keep the banquet going year after year," said Jobe, who was involved in 34 of the 50 events.

"The International Banquet began as a celebration and an opportunity to share the rich diversity that international students bring to Coe College and has become a tradition that unites our entire community," said this year's I-Club President, **Thanh Thanh Tran '24**.

The first banquet was held in January 1974, and each year has featured a wide variety of dishes prepared and served by students from their home countries, often accompanied by entertainment — both for the guests and the club members.

"Working together and cooking for the annual I-Club Banquet was certainly among the most memorable experiences," said Slappey. "After all, when was the last time the fire department showed up in your kitchen when you were attempting to caramelize onions?"

Jobe also had many memories from banquets over the years. "I remember so many staff members joining me to make pans of baklava, students calling their mothers to double-check their recipe and especially the joy of seeing all the students the night of the banquet all dressed up in their native dress proudly sharing their countries' cuisine."

During this year's festivities, the banquet included appetizers, entrées, desserts and drinks from Brazil, France, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam. Members of the community were invited to join in honor of the event's 50th anniversary, and many alumni and friends made their way to Gage Memorial Union to take part in the experience, chat with current students and, of course, eat some delicious food. The recipes from this year's dishes are available online at the QR code below for those interested in learning more or perhaps even attempting a dish of their own.

"Thank you for coming to celebrate with us!" Tran added as a message to the guests who joined events throughout the year in honor of the club's 50th anniversary.



[www.coe.edu/academics/majors-areas-study/asian-studies/clubs-organizations](http://www.coe.edu/academics/majors-areas-study/asian-studies/clubs-organizations)



# Going the Distance

## TRAVEL TALES FROM INTERNATIONAL KOHAWKS

The trip from home to Coe can be as short as a 15-minute walk or as long as a 37-hour delay-filled quagmire. When you have both students from around the block and across the globe calling Coe their college home, Kohawks complete all types of treks to get to Cedar Rapids.

When you're a global Kohawk, getting to Coe means a flight, or two or three. That's the case for **Ankita Kandel '26** and **Earvin Dizon '25** who each spend over 24 hours traveling from their hometowns to get to their second home at Coe.

Kandel is from Surkhet, Nepal. She discovered Coe through the Common App. When her Coe admission counselor traveled to Nepal to talk with interested students, she knew that she'd be seen as an individual at Coe and she made her decision to enroll.

Kandel's hometown of Surkhet is only a one hour flight from Kathmandu, but that same trip takes 16 hours by car thanks to the winding roads. It typically takes Kandel 25 hours to get from Kathmandu to Cedar Rapids. She flies from Kathmandu to Dubai or Qatar, to New York City, to Chicago and then to Cedar Rapids.

After all that travel, when Kandel arrives at Coe she likes to reorient herself with a walk around campus.

"I like walking around just to settle myself down," said Kandel. "This is my next home."

Kandel has truly made herself at home at Coe. She's embraced making friends, taking classes and conducting research in the psychology department. She is double majoring in psychology and neuroscience.

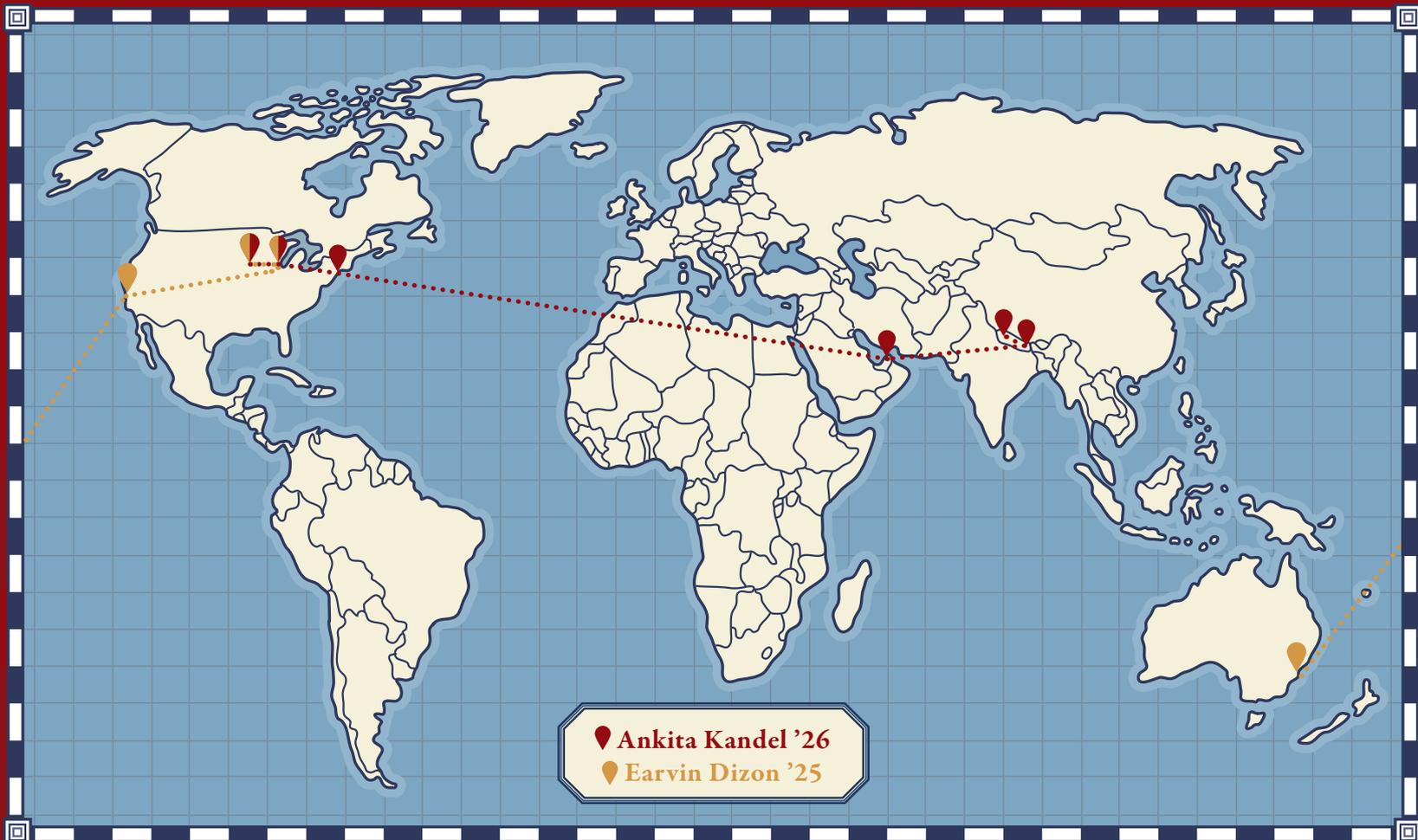
Not everything is always smooth sailing. During Kandel's last journey to Coe, she was delayed in Dubai for 10 hours. Her bad luck persisted through the entire journey. She was stuck in New York City overnight and then delayed further by snow in Chicago. She spent 37 hours in transit and ended up missing two days of classes.

While Dizon takes different routes, his trips to Coe look similar. Dizon is originally from the Philippines, but his family moved to Sydney, Australia, when he was 12.

Dizon was attending Iowa Wesleyan University when the school announced it was closing permanently. Suddenly, Dizon had to decide where he wanted to finish out his college career. Dizon was hoping to find a school in Iowa in a city where he could continue playing basketball — Coe ticked all his boxes.

"All directions led to Coe," said Dizon.

Dizon has made the most of his time at Coe. In addition to playing basketball, Dizon is a resident assistant, marketing and athletics work-study student.

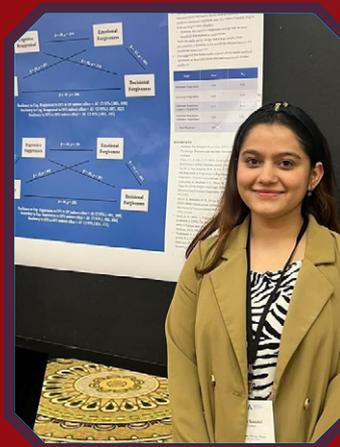


“I don’t know if I could have this kind of experience anywhere else,” said Dizon.

When it’s time to go home, Dizon flies from Cedar Rapids to Chicago to Los Angeles to Sydney. It’s a total of 21 hours of air time with approximately 28 hours of total travel time.

This summer Dizon spent a month at home before heading to Los Angeles for the FOX Sports internship. This internship is exclusive to Coe and was set up by alumnus and Board of Trustees member, **Curt Menefee '87**. The FOX intern works closely with producers, directors and talent of studio shows originating from the Fox Studios Lot in Los Angeles.

Each student's journey to Coe at the beginning of the term looks different. Dizon and Kandel are just two examples of the long routes Kohawks may take to get to their new home away from home.

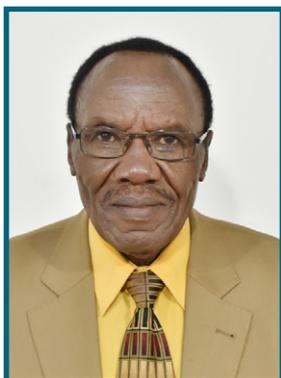


*“All directions led to Coe.”*

– Earvin Dizon '25

# HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD FELT LIKE *Home*

So many alumni came halfway around the world to continue their education at Coe. And, now, many have taken that education and found incredible success internationally in their careers. Here, a few recall how Coe helped set them up for success while also becoming a second home.



**Kipkoech Titus Korir '74**  
Chairman of the Board, Kenya Forest Service

**Hometown:** Kericho, Kenya

**Major:** Biology

*"I was one of the founders of the International Club in 1973-1974. I can vividly remember our first meal was Mexican, Indian, Japanese, Chinese, Hawaiian and of course African dishes."*

*"Accessibility to all my professors was a big plus in completing my college successfully."*



**Geci Karuri-Sebina (nee Karuri) '96**  
Associate Professor, University of Witwatersrand

**Hometown:** Nairobi, Kenya

**Majors:** Computer Science and Sociology

**Minor:** Art & Design

*"Coe prepared me with an excellent liberal arts education and portfolio that got me into architecture school at UCLA which was a dream come true for me. The academic foundation, including the honors program, small class sizes and excellent faculty, was invaluable. The multiple activities and leadership roles I could get involved in also bolstered my experience and resume, while the diversity gave me confidence to continue exploring and traveling across cultures."*

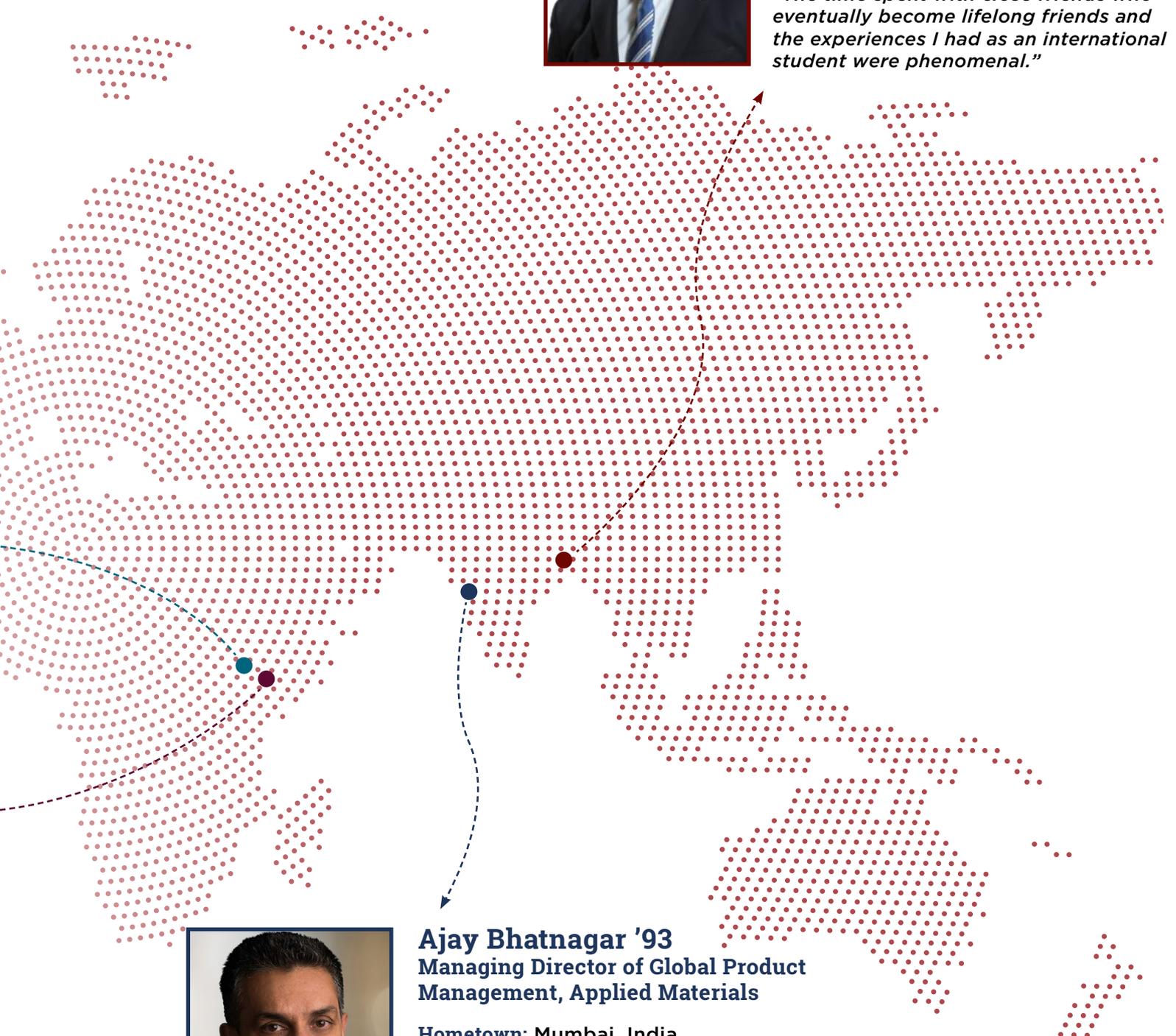


**Mangal Goswami '91**  
Executive Director, SEACEN Centre in  
Kuala Lumpur

**Hometown:** Calcutta, India

**Majors:** Computer Science and Economics

*“The time spent with close friends who eventually become lifelong friends and the experiences I had as an international student were phenomenal.”*



**Ajay Bhatnagar '93**  
Managing Director of Global Product  
Management, Applied Materials

**Hometown:** Mumbai, India

**Majors:** Computer Science and Physics

*“Coe gave me an opportunity to do cutting-edge research as an undergraduate student. By the time I graduated, I had published papers in respected journals.”*

# *Tennis alum puts forth matching challenge for Clark Racquet Center improvements*

On a chilly January day, nearly 30 Kohawks returned to the Clark Racquet Center for the first annual men's alumni tennis meet, coordinated by Head Men's Tennis Coach Eric Rodgers. While the day was filled with the sounds of tennis balls popping off racquets and laughter as alumni reminisced about their experiences and connected with current students, there was also the realization that the once state-of-the-art Racquet Center from their memories remains unchanged.

The name "Clark" installed on the Racquet Center's walls — and indeed across many places on Coe's campus — is a symbol of the generosity and legacy of **K. Raymond Clark '30**. Clark took up tennis and a fondness for racquet sports in his mid-50s, which led to his vision that Coe would benefit from a racquet facility. In 1989, the Clark Racquet Center was constructed and established, including not only indoor and outdoor tennis courts, but an indoor track, weight rooms and spaces for other racquet sports.

Over the past 35 years, the Clark Racquet Center has been the site of record-breaking achievements, grit, determination and the blood, sweat and tears of student-athletes and coaches alike. Kohawks across tennis, golf, track and field, cheer, dance and many other teams have put in countless hours of practice at the Racquet Center to improve their game, their teamwork and themselves.





The space also welcomes students, faculty, staff and community members.



Coe College Trustee **Kevin Buckner '93** remembers the space well from his time as a student and knows that 35 years has been long enough. Involved with Coe for years, Buckner was a former tennis student-athlete, started his professional career as an admission counselor and has served on the Coe Board of Trustees since 2017. He is generously offering a \$150,000 matching challenge gift to raise funds to support renovation efforts for the Clark Racquet Center for today's Kohawks, matching any dollars raised between now and December 31 dollar for dollar.

"Please join me in our effort to refresh the Racquet Center: a place where we all spent many hours of our time at Coe, building lifetime friendships and learning the meaning of camaraderie, commitment and hard work," says Buckner. "With the newly resurfaced outdoor courts, we need to bring the indoor facility to even footing. Together, we can make the Clark Racquet Center a showplace on campus and one of the finest tennis facilities in the conference and region!"

In addition to marking the Racquet Center being added to campus, 1989 also welcomed Eric Rodgers as head men's tennis coach, who has since made an impact on generations of Kohawks. "Thanks to hard work and love from Custodian Joe, the Clark Racquet Center still looks good and has good 'bones,' but with original paint, furniture and carpet, she badly needs a refresh," says Coach Rodgers. "Our pride and joy, the indoor courts, have gotten so much use that a new paint job would really slow the courts down and make them play fairer. The lights could use a few extra candle watts as well."

Up-to-date resources and facilities are an important part of providing the opportunities Kohawks look for in their college experience.

"Being a part of the tennis team is my favorite aspect of being a student at Coe because I am surrounded by people who support me and are pushing me to not only be a better athlete, but a better student and person," says **Maddie Schultz '25**, current tennis student-athlete studying psychology and kinesiology. "The Racquet Center is a huge part of that experience because having good facilities allows me to practice and be around my team all year long."

Gifts to this project will go directly to refreshing the lobby with new paint, carpet and furniture, with the hope of also being able to address upgrading lighting and potentially resurfacing the courts.

If you are interested in contributing to this project, you can make your gift at [support.coe.edu/racquet-center](https://support.coe.edu/racquet-center) or by scanning the QR code. To discuss your contribution or how to maximize your support of this project and Kohawk student-athletes, please reach out to the Office of Advancement.



[support.coe.edu/racquet-center](https://support.coe.edu/racquet-center)

# KOHAWK ATHLETES

## RISE TO THE OCCASION DURING SPRING COMPETITION

*Another season in the books for Coe College athletics, another season yielding a slew of impressive accomplishments. All of Kohawk Nation is proud! Talons Out!*

### **MEN'S BASKETBALL SHARES A-R-C REGULAR SEASON TITLE AND EARNS SECOND-STRAIGHT BID TO THE NCAA DIII NATIONAL TOURNAMENT**

The Coe men's basketball team had a record-setting season in 2023-24, winning 22 games, its highest total since 1976-77. The Kohawks were ranked as high as 19th in the D3hoops.com poll and knocked off Wabash College in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament before a narrow loss to eventual national champion Trine University. Coe's season was capped off with three A-R-C all-conference performers as **Cael Schmitt '24**, **TJ Schnurr '24** and **Bennett Sherry '25** received postseason honors. Schmitt was also honored as an all-region performer and an academic all-American for the second time in his career. Additionally, he was named the College Sports Communicators Academic All-America Team Member of the Year, becoming the first Kohawk athlete to earn the prestigious honor.

### **NORRIS QUALIFIES FOR NCAA DIII NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Megan Norris '24** from Cedar Rapids capped off an illustrious diving career as a Kohawk, earning a spot in the DIII 1-meter and 3-meter championships. Norris excelled at the A-R-C championship meet, earning the Female Diver of the Meet honor for the second year in a row before a strong performance at the NCAA Diving Regional in San Antonio, Texas. Norris then made Coe's first appearance at the national meet in nearly 30 years, finishing 21st in the 1-meter competition and 24th in the 3-meter competition.

### **KLEMAN REWRITES COE TRACK & FIELD RECORD BOOKS**

**Lewis Kleman '24** from Cedar Rapids rewrote the Coe men's track record books during his indoor and outdoor seasons. Kleman opened the year with a school record in the 3,000-meter race at the Grinnell Opener in December and later broke his own mark to start 2024. He capped off the indoor season with back-to-back school records in the 1-mile, moving into the top 50 in DIII with a time of 4:13.07. He opened the outdoor season with the second-fastest time in school history in the 10,000-meter race at Washington University and posted a school and stadium record in the 5,000-meter race at Mount Mercy University, with a time of 14:50.54.

### **KIRKHAM EARNS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PROGRAM'S SECOND-EVER CONFERENCE MVP AWARD**

**Caydee Kirkham '26** from Carthage, Illinois, became the program's second-ever conference MVP, joining current head coach **Kayla Waskow '13**. She led the A-R-C in scoring and assists, marking one of the greatest seasons in team history. Kirkham's season was nothing short of spectacular, falling 11 points short of the single-season scoring record set by **Aleena Hobbs '18** in the 2015-16 season. Additionally, her 122 assists and 50 steals are sixth and 13th respectively in Coe's single-season history. Her sophomore campaign featured 10 20-plus point performances.



## **ESMOIL EARNS SECOND CAREER ALL-AMERICAN HONOR AT NCAA DIII WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Will Esmoil '24** ended his Coe career with his second All-American honor at the 2024 NCAA DIII Wrestling Championships, placing sixth in the 165-pound bracket. The West Liberty, Iowa, native dominated his way through the opening rounds of the national tournament, securing a 6-0 decision in his opening match before an 11-3 major decision in the quarterfinals. He punched his ticket to the semifinals with a win over third-seeded Cooper Willis of Augsburg University, avenging a pair of regular-season losses.

## **CLAY TARGET TEAM FINISHES RUNNER-UP AT ACUI NATIONAL MEET**

The Kohawk Clay Target squad picked up a trophy at the national meet in San Antonio, Texas, for the third straight year, finishing runner-up in the Division II Classic All-American discipline in early March. The Kohawks were led by **Whitney Finer '25** and **Erin Neppi '25** on the women's side, finishing 14th and 15th on the Individual leaderboard while **Collin Malin '25** finished 15th to lead the men.



# RELEVANT IN THE PRESENT AND FIT FOR THE FUTURE:

*Coe's academic catalog changing to meet market demands*



**A**cademic additions and transformations will ensure Coe will continue to offer programs that are sought-after by both students and industry professionals. In collaboration with local leaders, Coe constantly evaluates the career landscape to keep a pulse on the skills and degrees needed at present and in the future. That assessment has led to new academic additions and a transformation to the art program.

Coe has announced plans to open a flight school and add concentrations in aviation management and finance to the business administration major, as well as the addition of a Bachelor of Science in Engineering (engineering physics major) and new concentrations in multimedia graphic design, media production and non-profit arts and creative leadership to the art program, as well as a new minor in museum studies.

“Part of our responsibility as educators is to ensure what we’re teaching and the skills we are developing are relevant in the present and simultaneously future-focused,” said Provost & Dean of the Faculty Angela Ziskowski. “There is clear demand and growth potential in these academic areas to meet evolving industry needs.”

## Aviation set to take off

In partnership with Revv Aviation and the Eastern Iowa Airport (CID), Coe College is opening a flight school and aviation management program. Those interested in becoming a professional pilot can complete their certification while enrolled as students within Coe's new aviation management concentration. This new concentration and program will be offered pending approval by the Higher Learning Commission.

The need for pilots and support personnel across the aviation industry has reached a critical level. There is estimated to be a 17,000 pilot gap as many are leaving the position due to age-mandated retirement, and the increase in demand is driving starting salaries near \$90,000 or more. Coe will help train the next generation of pilots. Students who choose Coe for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) pilot certification will also graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a concentration in aviation management, which is preferred by major carriers and creates higher earning and career promotion potential.



“Cedar Rapids is an aviation rich town. With the presence of national and international companies in the area, there is a concentration of pilots and aviation professionals, so Coe will build a program with highly skilled experts to teach courses and mentor students,” said Coe College President **David Hayes '93**.

Coe has engaged with Revv Aviation to run the flight school. Revv Aviation has many years of experience as a flight training partner, producing over 3,000 flight school graduates. Through this partnership, Coe will pursue Part 141 certification with the FAA, which is a more structured and rigorous training program designed for professional pilots.

Courses within the aviation management program will be taught on campus and Coe's aviation field station at CID, where students will have exclusive use of a hangar and office space as an extension of

Coe's campus. Students can forgo the flight school and take classes within the aviation management concentration to prepare for non-flying roles within the aviation industry.

A Coe donor with unparalleled excitement and support for the program is investing \$200,000 to jumpstart the initiative. In addition, the college is pursuing federal funding in partnership with the airport.

Coe plans to offer the flight school and aviation management program beginning Fall 2025. However, college and airport officials recognize the demand for professionals in the aviation industry is significant. We are prepared to open the program this fall (2024) if the market demands are such that a sizable cohort wishes to enroll immediately.

*Coe College intends to open a flight school and aviation management program, as part of the Bachelor of Arts degree (business administration major). A substantive application for this program has been submitted to the accreditor and is pending Higher Learning Commission approval.*

## New engineering degree builds on strong physics reputation

Building on Coe's strong Physics Department, Coe plans to add an engineering physics major. Employment in engineering fields is projected to grow faster than average over the next decade compared to other occupations, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The median wage is also expected to continue to exceed national averages as well, by nearly \$40,000.

"This is an exciting development for us at Coe, especially considering the confluence of professional demand, interest in engineering displayed by current and future Kohawks and our internationally well-regarded pre-engineering and physics programs," said Hayes.

Coe's Physics Department is already one of the largest and most respected programs in the state of Iowa. For years, Coe graduates have become celebrated engineers across a range of fields, having excelled in physics, chemistry, mathematics and computer science at Coe and entering graduate school on full-ride scholarships.

The existing expertise, connections and technology within the physics program has created a strong foundation for a dedicated engineering physics major, which has been lauded by local business leaders as well.

"We have incredible businesses in the Cedar Rapids area and surrounding communities. Manufacturing continues to be a critical element of our community's economic success, and strong engineering programs that attract and retain top talent in our community are a must. We are excited to partner with Coe College on their new engineering program and continue to foster the economic and social development of our students and city," said Rocki Shepard, CEO of New Leader Manufacturing.

Students can expect a hands-on approach.

"Our engineering degree will have a significant experiential and interdisciplinary lean, aligning with the requirements for an engineering program and the liberal arts tradition," said Assistant Professor of Physics Caio Bragatto. "This adds an even deeper level of learning past the technical aspect of engineering — one that will sharpen each students' critical thinking, creative problem solving and communication abilities — all in high demand in the market and integral in order to excel in the field."

## Art & Visual Studies Department adapts to industry needs

A transformation within the Art & Visual Studies Department at Coe College will continue to provide innovative artists and creative thinkers with a gateway to a multitude of professional opportunities. Beginning this fall, students at Coe pursuing an art degree can also choose to add concentrations in multimedia graphic design, media production and non-profit arts and creative leadership. Minors in art history and museum studies are also offered in addition to the traditional art major.

"Creative industries are constantly evolving and we are dedicated to ensuring our students have the tools they need to be successful. These transitions in curriculum and degree outcomes are going to make Kohawk graduates distinctive because they will have gained experiences and developed skills that will make them strong, dynamic leaders and creative thinkers," said Associate Professor of Art **Jennifer Rogers '03**.

Students within the Art & Visual Studies Department will continue to benefit from expert instruction and internships. In particular, Cedar Rapids is home to a wealth of professional experiences due to proximity to a number of local art galleries, creative agencies and regional art and cultural institutions, including the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art.

"Throughout the course of my education, I greatly benefited from interdisciplinary programs like Coe's that give students the opportunity to work on projects with real-world applications and make connections with professionals in their chosen field. Programs like these let students focus on their areas of interest while gaining the skills they need to be successful and allow them to step confidently into a career in the arts," said Cedar Rapids Museum of Art Curator of Collections and Exhibitions Julia Jessen.

Kohawk art graduates have excelled in their careers. Within the last decade they've started their own businesses, created digital content for the NFL, earned graphic design awards, curated collections in New York City, taken leadership positions as marketing directors and restored art in Florence, Italy.

These new programs and the restructuring of the Art & Visual Studies Department help Coe stay at the forefront of what students and industry professionals are searching for today.

**"Creative industries are constantly evolving and we are dedicated to ensuring our students have the tools they need to be successful."**

**— Jennifer Rogers '03**



# Coe College 42nd Annual KOHAWK CLUB ATHLETIC GOLF OUTING AND FUNDRAISER

**JULY 18, 2024 • HUNTERS RIDGE GOLF COURSE • MARION, IOWA**  
**10:30 AM - 7:00 PM**

In its 42nd year, this annual event has been providing support to Coe Athletics for more than four decades, and it is because of the involvement of both golfers and sponsors. The funding is used throughout the athletics department to provide various services for our student-athletes, such as equipment, uniforms and travel for Coe's 26 men's and women's varsity sports in the American Rivers Conference.

More than a fundraiser, the Golf Outing brings alumni, family, friends, students, faculty and staff together. It unites the Coe community to create excitement, reminisce and provide support to the next generation of Kohawk athletes.

## *Join us!* GOLF SPONSORSHIP PROSPECTUS

**Below you will find the outline of this year's golf sponsorship offerings.**

### **MAJOR SPONSOR ..... \$3,000**

- Foursome for golf at Coe Athletic Golf Outing on July 18, 2024 (\$800 value).
- Logo on complimentary item given to all participants.
- 30 x 48 sign at registration area.
- Linked logo on main event page and event sponsor page.
- Press release announcing support of Coe Athletics.
- Opportunity to provide promotional materials to attendees.

### **CELEBRATION SPONSOR..... \$2,000**

- Twosome for golf at Coe Athletic Golf Outing on July 18, 2024 (\$400 value).
- 18 x 24 sign at registration area.
- Linked logo on main event page and event sponsor page.
- Press release announcing support of Coe Athletics.
- Opportunity to provide promotional materials to attendees.

### **BIRDIE SPONSOR ..... \$1,000**

- Choice of Hole/Keg Sponsorship OR a twosome at Coe Athletic Golf Outing on July 18, 2024.
- Linked logo event sponsor page.
- Opportunity to provide promotional materials to attendees.

### **HOLE SPONSOR ..... \$500**

- 18 x 24 sign at Tee Box at Coe Athletic Golf Outing on July 18, 2024.
- Linked logo event sponsor page.

### **KEG SPONSOR..... \$500**

- 18 x 24 sign at Keg Placement at Coe Athletic Golf Outing on July 18, 2024.
- Linked logo event sponsor page.

**To sponsor or register to play golf, visit [alumni.coe.edu](http://alumni.coe.edu).**  
For more information, please contact Mégan Valenta at 319.399.8569 or email [mavalenta@coe.edu](mailto:mavalenta@coe.edu).

**Register Here!**



# Two Kohawks earn prestigious **NATIONAL AWARDS**

This spring, two more Kohawks added their names to a growing list of Coe students who have been recognized with prestigious national scholarships or fellowships. **Tyler Salrin '25** was named a Goldwater Scholar, and **Sarah Hyatt '24** earned a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship. Just in the last five years, 18 students have received accolades as Truman, Goldwater, Fulbright, Gilman and National Science Foundation award winners.



## **Tyler Salrin '25 named Goldwater Scholar**

An academic foundation in research led Tyler Salrin to the Goldwater Scholarship, a highly regarded scholarship for students who intend to pursue research careers in science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

A physics and chemistry major, Salrin has completed a number of research projects and plans to pursue his Ph.D. in materials science after graduating from Coe.

“Being a Goldwater Scholar will help me stand out on my applications as someone dedicated to science research and discovery,” said Salrin.

Coe students who are applying to rigorous national fellowship programs receive guidance from Associate Professor of English Amber Shaw, who also serves as the college’s national fellowship advisor. Shaw was recently selected by the Goldwater Foundation to participate in its inaugural mentoring program designed to cultivate an active pipeline of STEM students for the Goldwater Scholarship, and worked directly with Salrin.

“Tyler has excelled in his coursework at Coe, which is a key selection criteria for Goldwater,” shared Shaw. “He has also worked on multiple research projects — both at Coe and at other institutions — and has helped write multiple published articles, all of which demonstrate his commitment to the sciences and his likelihood in a successful career as a research scientist.”

Salrin has also made many connections with Coe alumni. Through these networking connections, he’s gained research experience at Alfred University in New York and this summer is interning with SpaceX.



## **Sarah Hyatt '24 awarded Fulbright grant**

Ever since she learned about Fulbright teaching assistantships in high school, Sarah Hyatt saw an opportunity to combine her love of traveling and education. That opportunity just became reality as Hyatt was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program English Teaching Assistantship for the 2024-25 academic year. Hyatt joins the nearly 30 Kohawks to receive Fulbrights in the past decade.

As the U.S. government’s flagship international educational exchange program, the Fulbright is the most widely recognized and prestigious international exchange program in the world. The Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship program offers recent college graduates the opportunity to teach in primary and secondary schools across the globe.

Hyatt, who is majoring in psychology and theatre arts with a minor in English, is headed to Greece. She even earned her Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) certification in anticipation of potentially teaching overseas.

“Being a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant will help me gain valuable experience in serving students from varied cultural backgrounds and build strong communication, leadership and adaptability skills that I will need as a counselor,” Hyatt said. “I’ve always thoroughly enjoyed teaching.”

When she returns from her Fulbright, she plans to work for a few years before applying to graduate school in a counseling-related field with the goal of working with children someday.



# CLASS NOTES

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

## 1970s



'79 **Tilford Bartman** of Williamsburg, Virginia, is now fully retired and enjoying life with his wife, Susan Hildum.

## 1980s

1 '88 **Vance** and **Adrienne Zentay Schumacher '90** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, hosted a reunion for Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) brothers and spouses from the late '80s/early '90s in February 2024. It was a full house with a gathering that went into the late hours of the night. Kohawks present included (from front left):

**Meagan Geadelmann Patterson '90, Adrienne Zentay Schumacher '90, Russ Gerst '88, Michele Finn West '88, Joe Berutti '88, Mike Connolly '90, Jeff Patterson '91, Brian Spensley '90, Mary Ann Manternach Petsche '90, Mindy Barr Makinster '92, Kris Phearman Sehr '88, Rich Tado '88, Selena Fahlgren Tado '88, Brian Makinster '87, Barb Ernst Tupper '89, Audra Fahlgren Drahn '90, Dave Drahn '88, Jennifer Kelleher Swearingen '90, Kevin Clemens '91, Jim Tesdahl '88, Chad Knutsen '89, Daryl Deutmeyer '90, Theresia Pallischek Berutti '86, Steve Kuntz '89, Vicky Huber Knutsen '87, Barb Bowie Connolly '93, Kim Spranger Lundry '90, Joe Lundry '90, Vance Schumacher '88, Michael Black '92, Marie Strilich Anderson '88, Eric Tupper '88, John Anderson '88, Brad Swearingen '88, Ed Petsche '89 and Bonnie York Gerst '89** (not pictured).

## 2000s

'07 **Tyler Walker** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, started a new job as pastor of Trinity/St. James United Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids.

'08 **Liz Huggins Sutherland** of Olathe, Kansas, has started a new position as impact data analyst for Kansas-City-based Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) AltCap.

## 2010s

2 '19 **Alyssa Olson** Gingrich of Fairfax, Iowa, matched into the residency program in emergency medicine at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.

## 2020s

2 '20 **Austin Wisnousky** of Fairfax, Iowa, matched into the residency program in anesthesia at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.



2010s

**1** '12 Hilary Gehin and Tim Berry of Monona, Wisconsin, on October 21, 2023.

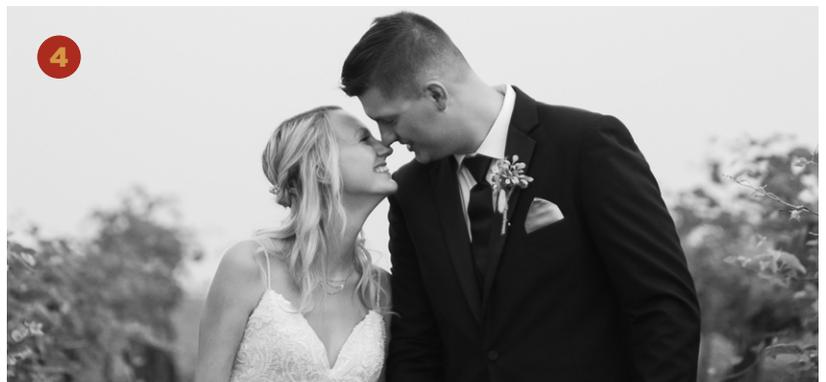
**2** '19 Claire Lapensky and Lee Arnold of Fargo, North Dakota, on September 8, 2023. Kohawks in attendance included Lisa Billingham '79, Larry Smith '80, Sharon Chur Lapensky '79, Scott '82 and Jill Oshiro Stensrud '85, Breanna Moore '19, Jaelynn Smith-Harmon '21 and (not pictured) Devante '18 and Tianna Roberts Gordon '19. Photo credit: Alysha Rose Photography.

2020s

**3** '20 Jordan Brunette and Josie Krook '22 of LeMars, Iowa, on July 29, 2023. Many Kohawks were in attendance at the wedding, including members of the wedding party, DJ Michael Woodruff '19 and the wedding band composed of all Coe music alumni.

**4** '21 Keaton Mullins and Cassandra Buhr '21 of Des Moines, Iowa, on July 15, 2023.

**5** '22 Kayti Schuler and James Ford of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on November 19, 2023. Kohawks in attendance included Trey Schuler '18, Chandler Robles '21, Ally Roeker '22, Maddie Niedfeldt '23, Dharma Bruce '23, Myah Eggert '24 and Andrea Grewe Joyce '24.



# ALUMNI COUNCIL *Update*

## Hello Alumni and Friends!

First and foremost, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the 601 alumni and friends who generously supported Coe College on our 10th annual Day of Giving. Your contributions, regardless of size, make a tangible difference in sustaining the excellence of our alma mater.

Together, we are ensuring that future generations will continue to benefit from the transformative Coe experience. Your generosity underscores the profound impact of giving, reinforcing the sense of community and shared purpose that defines us as Kohawks.

Next, mark your calendars for Homecoming on September 26-28, 2024. It promises to be a weekend filled with cherished memories, reconnecting with friends old and new and celebrating all that makes Coe special. We'll also provide well-deserved recognition for our three annual alumni awards. Stay tuned for the announcement of those honorees!

Lastly, I invite you to consider nominating yourself or a fellow alum for the Coe Alumni Council. Serving on the council offers a unique opportunity to give back to our alma mater, contribute to meaningful initiatives and shape the future of Coe College through a gift of your time and talent.

With my term with the Alumni Council coming to a close this summer, it has been an absolute pleasure to serve as the president of the Alumni Council, representing the 15,000 alumni of Coe. Together, you help move Coe forward, and I want to personally thank you for your continued support and dedication.

Best,



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

## FUTURE ALUMNI

WELCOMING NEW KOHAWKS  
INTO THE NEST

### 2000s

● **'03 Matthew Tyler and Jennifer Anderson** Tyler '03 of Chicago, Illinois, a son, William Robert, on March 11.

● **'05 Ryan Keller** and his partner, Erin Welsh, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a daughter, Collins Grace, on March 10.

## PUSHA DA PEN

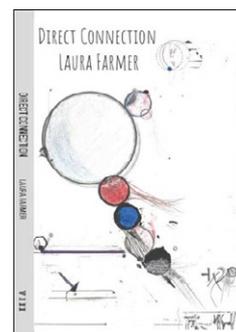
WRITTEN ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
OF COE'S ALUMNI

### 1980s



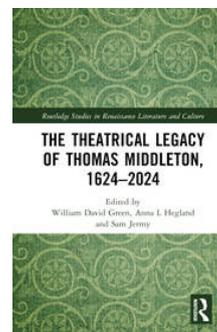
**'83 Anita Vasquez** of Missoula, Montana, published two books in 2022 regarding her study of and relationship with nature. "Sparkling Reflections: Hummingbirds" contains insightful information about black-chinned, rufous, calliope, broad-tailed and Anna's hummingbirds, and it discusses hummingbird habitat, behavior and landscaping. The compact book contains photographs taken by Anita herself as she was conducting hummingbird research. "Nature's Awakening Murmurs" is a collection of poetry, nature photography and related facts. Both books are available through Barnes & Noble. These books follow her 2008 release, "Sparkling Reflections of the Bitterroot Valley," which also had a writeup in the Bitterroot Valley Historical Society Newsletter.

### 2000s



**'02 Laura Farmer** of Marion, Iowa, had her debut collection of short stories, "Direct Connection," published in April 2024. The Iowa characters in these short stories are moving through seasons of change, grappling with loss and hope and finding meaning in life's everyday moments. The book is available on Bridge Eight Press's website and Amazon.com. Laura's debut novel, "Catch and Release," is forthcoming with North Dakota State University Press.

### 2010s



**'13 Anna Hegland** of Kenosha, Wisconsin, co-edited the academic book, "The Theatrical Legacy of Thomas Middleton, 1624-2024." The volume celebrates Middleton's legacy as a dramatist and the significance of his writing to a study of early modern English drama. The collection is divided into three seasons on critical and textual reception, afterlives and legacies and practice and performance, and it is relevant for specialists and students of literature, drama and theatre. Anna wrote the chapter, "Reconstructing 'The Sun in Aries': An Interview with Beyond Shakespeare." The book is available on Routledge's website, Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble and more.

 Indicates decedent was a member of the Coe College Heritage Club

 Served on the Alumni Council

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

**1943 Paulin Huston** Miller, 101, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on December 22, 2023.

**1944 John "Jack" Walters**, 103, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on January 18.

**1946 Lois Apel** Sellon, 98, of Mason City, Iowa, on March 25.

**1948 Virginia Crim** Duecker, 97, of Ames, Iowa, on December 25, 2023.

**1948 Dorothy Ackerman** VanMetre, 94, of Saint Louis, Missouri, on August 19, 2022.

**1949 Margaret Phinney** Wetzel, 96, of Scottsdale, Arizona, on January 16.

## 1950s

**1950 Bruce Bastian**, 95, of Conroe, Texas, on February 15.

**1950 Paul Bowlin**, 94, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, on December 4, 2023.

**1950 Kenneth "Ken" Erger**, 98, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on March 8.

**1952 Walter "Rocky" Daehler**, 93, of Mendelein, Illinois, on December 20, 2023.

**1952 Mary Kay Hurst** Thompson, 93, of Coralville, Iowa, on February 15.

**1953 Forrest "Frosty" Cobb**, 92, of Graettinger, Iowa, on December 16, 2023.

 **1954 Stephen "Steve" Towle**, 91, of Wayzata, Minnesota, on January 14.

**1955 James Bruton**, 90, of Saint Charles, Missouri, on December 16, 2023.

**1955 Mary Dewey Hamilton**, 91, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on March 16.

**1955 Judith Robinson** Marron, 90, of Arlington Heights, Illinois, on December 10, 2023.

**1955 Fifi Thomas** Psihogios, 89, of Lake Oswego, Oregon, on December 21, 2023.

**1957 Rev. William Harnish**, 91, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on February 22.

**1957 Curtis Hoepfner**, 89, of Machesney Park, Illinois, on February 19.

**1957 Dennis Moffatt**, 89, of Wheaton, Illinois, on March 1.

**1958 Kevin Jeffery**, 87, of Golden, Colorado, on March 12.

## 1960s

**1960 Jill McArthur** Nordyke, 85, of Savage, Minnesota, on March 13.

**1960 Nancy Peterson** Snyder, 85, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on January 31.

**1960 William "Bill" Steadman**, 90, of Marion, Iowa, on March 7.

**1961 John "Dan" Haerle**, 86, of Denton, Texas, on March 2. Dan earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Coe College and a master's degree in music composition from the University of North Texas (UNT). His six-decade-long career included significant contributions as both a musician and educator. As a composer and performer, Dan performed all over the world and did extensive recording and show work in Dallas, Miami Beach and New York, and his compositions and arrangements became standards in the jazz repertoire. As an educator, Dan taught a variety of elementary, middle school, high school and college bands before landing back at UNT in 1977, where he was instrumental in developing the jazz studies program. Dan was a faculty member there for 25 years, was appointed regents professor in 1992 and professor emeritus in 2007 after his retirement. Dan authored essential texts on jazz education and created new approaches to jazz improvisation that are today the mainstays of jazz education throughout the world. He was honored as an International Association of Jazz Educators Hall of Fame inductee and a Jazz Education Network LeJEND of Jazz Education. Dan's impact on the jazz community is profound and far-reaching, with former students and colleagues consistently praising his mentorship, musicianship, kindness and unwavering support. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Jill Haerle; daughter, Darin (Ryan) Heimlich and grandchildren, Lincoln Daniel and Harper Elizabeth.

**1962 Ronald Kozemczak**, 83, of Midlothian, Virginia, on January 28.

**1962 Claude Post**, 84, of Belmond, Iowa, on February 13.

 **1962 Walter Ritter**, 84, of Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, on March 22. After graduating from Coe, Walt received a banking degree from Stonier School of Banking at Rutgers

University and served in the U.S. Army Reserves. During his Philadelphia banking career, beginning at Girard Trust Corn Exchange Bank, he ran five miles every morning before heading to the office. In 1982, he took over the fledgling Broad Street Run, and his seven-year leadership as chairman helped make it the Cancer-Society-sponsored success it is today. In 1987, Walter received the Alumni Award of Merit from Coe College. Walt's friend and family times were built around Eagles games; beach vacations; trips to New York City for fine art, opera and jazz concerts and visits to museums in Italy, Paris and London with his wife Linda. He is survived by his wife; their three children, Greg (Kristine), Ben (Stacie) and Amy (Joe) Adamski, and five grandchildren.

**1962 Gary Svec**, 83, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on February 22.

**1962 Jan Schwank** Van Slyke, 83, of Juneau, Alaska, on March 16.

**1963 Bernard "Bernie" Brown**, 83, of Swisher, Iowa, on December 26, 2023.

**1963 Cynthia Jobling** Grubb, 82, of Austin, Texas, on March 1.

 **1965 Jon Duerr**, 81, of Saint Charles, Illinois, on February 13.

**1965 Wanita Zumbrunnen**, 90, of Saint Louis, Missouri, on February 19.

**1966 William "Bill" Wells**, 79, of Friendsville, Tennessee, on January 3.

**1967 William "Bill" Stern**, 78, of Saint Louis, Missouri, on February 14.

## 1970s

**1972 Gary Holub**, 73, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on January 8.

**1973 Neal Augustine**, 88, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on December 29, 2023.

**1973 Lon C. Ewing**, 72, of Bellevue, Nebraska, on June 15, 2023.

**1978 James Barr**, 67, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on February 28.

## 1980s

**1980 Karen Henrink** Holloman, 65, of Rye, New York, on December 8, 2023.

**1985 Craig Wright**, 72, of Lakewood, Colorado, on January 20.

**1987 James "Jim" Dostal**, 59, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on January 3. During his football career at Coe College, Jim was a key part of the first Coe team to advance

to the NCAA Division III playoffs, served as a team captain, earned third team All-American honors in 1986 and was named the Eastern Iowa Male Athlete of the Year by the Cedar Rapids Sports Club. In 2003, he was inducted into the Coe College Athletic Hall of Fame. After graduating from Coe College with his degree in teaching, Jim earned his master's degree in educational leadership and doctorate in educational leadership and administration from the University of Northern Iowa. He started his teaching career in Kirkwood, Missouri, in 1987. He continued teaching social studies at Jefferson High School and coached football at Jefferson, Prairie High School and at Coe College for nine years. Jim enjoyed traveling, teaching, coaching, working outside and spending time with his family. He is survived by his wife Amber Dostal, father Charles Dostal and brother **Randy Dostal '83**.

## 1990s

**1992 Jeffrey Randall**, 52, of Marion, Iowa, on February 19.

**1993 Sara Habeck Kannenberg**, 52, of Jackson, Wisconsin, on December 17, 2023.

## 2000s

**2007 Mary Kay Novak McGrath**, 67, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on February 23.

## FACULTY/STAFF



Professor of English and National Fellowship Advisor Dr. **Ann Mohr Struthers**, 93, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on February 24. A lifelong learner and teacher, Ann

was a poet, writer, professor, Fulbright Scholar, Malone Fellow, 25-year faculty member of Coe College and 60-year member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church. She earned a bachelor's degree in English from Morningside College and her master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop. She married Mel Struthers in 1952, and they moved to Washington, D.C. where she began her teaching career. Returning

to her Iowa roots in the late 1950s, she became a committed advocate for higher education and equal rights. She was awarded two Fulbright Fellowships to Aleppo, Syria, and Colombo, Sri Lanka, and her chapbooks of poetry, "Aleppo Burning" and "The Kindness of Crocodiles," were based on her experiences abroad. In 2013, Ann received the Kesler Outstanding Service Award from Coe College. She took her writing, teaching and parenting responsibilities seriously, loved her students fiercely and adored her colleagues, friends and family deeply. She was an invested community volunteer, an exceptional baker and enthusiastic traveler. Ann is survived by her four children, John Struthers, Georgia Struthers (Tom Warmath), Charity Struthers and Mary Dittmer; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Computer System Director **Jack Tripolino**, 93, of Waverly, Iowa, on December 18, 2023. Jack graduated from Jesuit High School in 1948 and worked for Orleans Material until entering the United States Air Force in July 1949. In 1951, Jack married Marylou Colson at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado. He was honorably discharged in 1953 and resumed working for Orleans Material, followed by Amana Refrigeration for over 25 years. His career continued at Coe College, Mt. Mercy University and then Cornell College before he retired in 1995. Jack was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church, American Legion Post #76, Jaycees, Knights of Columbus and Catholic Layman's Club. He was privileged to be on an Honor Flight on September 17, 2013. Jack enjoyed bowling, golf, his Golden Retriever Bing and was an avid Hawkeye fan. Jack is survived by his loving wife of over 72 years, Marylou; three children, Mike (Judi) Tripolino, Steve (Gretchen) Tripolino and Mary Sue (Bruce) Ervans; five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

## 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 April 1. **The deadline for the Fall 2024 issue is August 1.** Announcements older than one year at the time they are submitted will not be published.

Please follow these basic guidelines when submitting information:

### NEWS

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

### MARRIAGES & ANNIVERSARIES

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

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

### BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

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

### DEATHS

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

### PHOTOS

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

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

Assistant Professor of Psychology **Sam Brown** published a blog post titled “Imposter Syndrome and Vocation” on Vocation Matters, a blog produced by the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE).

Esther and Robert Armstrong Associate Professor of Rhetoric **Allison Carr '05** co-edited “Revising Moves: Writing Stories of (Re)Making” (Utah State University Press). She also published the memoir essay, “City: A Love Story,” in the literary journal Archetype.

Elnora H. & William B. Quarton Professor of Business Administration & Economics **Jay Chen** used his sabbatical leave in spring 2023 to write a book called “Successful Stock Market Strategies.” The book is now available on Amazon.com.

Associate Professor of Business Administration & Economics **Josh Christensen** and his colleague Attorney Tim Semelroth at RSH Legal secured a jury verdict of \$803,091.86 for their client who was injured by a negligent truck driver in rural Benton County.

Assistant Professor of Art and Film Studies **Zen Cohen** chaired a panel session titled “Teaching Digital Art in the Age of Machine Learning” during the Mid-America College Art Association Virtual Conference in March 2024. She also received a Grant for Arts Projects from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for her curatorial project, Open Air Media Festival in partnership with Public Space One in Iowa City. This funding will support an expanded version for next year’s festival, including an inaugural artist-in-residence program and an outdoor screening at FilmScene. The 2024 festival occurred from May 31 - June 1. Cohen’s video project, “The Gatekeepers,” screened at Blum & Poe Gallery in Los Angeles in June 2023. A video series made in collaboration with performance artist and author, Guillermo Gómez-Peña, screened during the Inverse Performance Art Festival at The Momentary in Bentonville, Arkansas, in November 2023. A photograph of the artist was also published by the San Francisco Arts Commission for the 2023 Artistic Legacy Grant. She also recently completed the first of six courses in pursuit of a Certificate in Book Arts at the University of Iowa Center for the Book. To support this research, she received the Perrine Faculty Fellowship from Coe College. She plans to integrate this research into new coursework as well as her studio practice.

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts and Costume Manager **Emily Ganfield '06** had her costume design for Eurydice nominated for the Region 5 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Costume Parade.

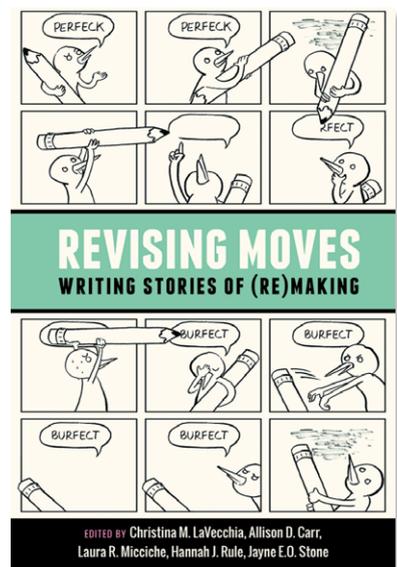
Assistant Professor of Nursing **Sharon Guthrie** was honored with recognition in the National Academy of School Nursing Fellows (FNASN). She will be inducted during a ceremony held in late June 2024 at the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) Annual Conference in Chicago. NASN honors school nurses who have made extraordinary, unique, and enduring contributions to school nursing with recognition in the FNASN. This is the most prestigious recognition that members can receive from NASN.

Assistant Professor of Nursing **Aleesa Kittrell** presented a conference session on the topic of AI in Nursing Education at the 2024 Innovate to Elevate conference in February 2024.

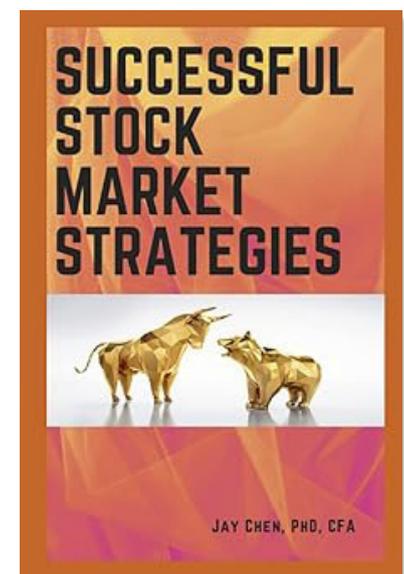
Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education **Luke Lovegood '07** created, organized and presented the inaugural Collegiate Choral Festival as part of his platform as Iowa Choral Directors Association (ICDA) president, along with choirs from Des Moines Area Community College, Southwestern Community College, Iowa Lakes Community College, Morningside College and Graceland College. The festival choir performed a varied repertoire including ICDA member Adam Orban’s world premiere of “Sound, Sweet Song,” in memory of Everett Johnson, longtime ICDA member and executive director of Iowa High School Music Association. He also hosted the Vocal Jazz Summit at Coe, where over 400 singers came to Coe to participate in the second attempt at the first annual vocal jazz summit. This included 24 jazz choirs and 40 solo contest participants from ADM, Ballard, Central City, Clinton, HLV, Hudson, Liberty, Maquoketa Valley, Mt. Vernon, Muscatine, North Scott, Pleasant Valley and Waverly-Shell Rock, as well as Jefferson, Kennedy and Washington in Cedar Rapids. He also hosted a Collaboration Concert with Kirkwood Community College, Tipton High School and the Metro Mix Sweet Adelines Chorus, as well as Coe’s Concert Choir and A-Coe-Pella. Each group performed their own set, and the concert concluded with a group performance of “Hope Lingers On” by Andrea Ramsey. With Lovegood, Alma A. Turechek Professor of Music **Bill Carson** and Pearl M. Taylor Associate Professor of Music **Steve Shanley** organized and administered the state’s largest jazz

festival, the Coe College Jazz Summit, with over 120 jazz bands and jazz choirs participating. The festival brought nearly 3,000 prospective music students and music educators to campus for a great musical experience. Hundreds more attended the performances in person, and close to 5,000 watched the live streams.

Robert O. Daniel Associate Professor of Art **Jen Rogers '03** had an exhibition, “With a Whimper,” at the Ceramics Center and Glass Studio of Iowa in Cedar Rapids.



Allison Carr '05



Jay Chen

A Decade of Generosity

# Celebrating 10 years of Coe's Day of Giving

DECADE WITH THE  
LARGEST NUMBER  
OF GIFTS:

1990s

DIGITAL  
AMBASSADORS:

32

THANK YOU  
CARDS WRITTEN  
DURING STUDENT CELEBRATION:

390



TOTAL NUMBER  
OF FACULTY/  
STAFF GIFTS:

114

SOCIAL MEDIA  
IMPRESSIONS:

6,584

GRATITUDE  
CALLS MADE TO  
DONORS  
ON DAY OF GIVING:

117

*Generosity looks good on you!*

TOTAL NUMBER  
OF GIFTS:

601

TOTAL PLEDGED  
AND RAISED:

\$471,648

# *Flat Charlie's adventures begin with you*

Charlie wants to explore, so we're sending him to you to see the world. Take him along to see your favorite city landmark, catch some rays on family vacation or put some hours in at your workplace. It's easier than ever to celebrate your Coe connection anywhere you go:

- 1.** Cut out Flat Charlie.
- 2.** Snap a picture of Charlie on his adventures.
- 3.** Post on social media with the hashtag #FlatCharlie.  
*(Make sure your post is public so we can see it!)*





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



# HOMECOMING

— *IT'S GREAT TO BE A KOHAWK!* —

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**for Homecoming 2024 - September 26-28**

*Reconnect with classmates and celebrate your experiences at Coe.*  
[alumni.coe.edu](http://alumni.coe.edu)

