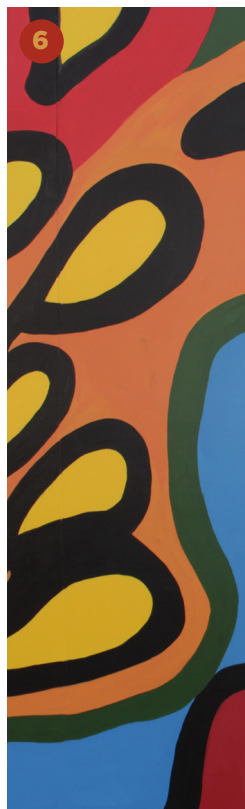


COURIER

— SPRING 2025 —



COE COLLEGE®



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COVER

In November, Kohawk **Katie Ameku '25** earned the world's most preeminent academic award, the Rhodes Scholarship. She celebrated by ringing the Victory Bell during a surprise all-campus celebration. *Read more on page 4.*



Greetings from Coe College,

As we reflect on the accomplishments and milestones of the Fall 2024 term, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the continued growth, excellence and vibrancy of our campus. The dedication and achievements of our students, faculty and staff exemplify the strength of the exceptional community we have cultivated together.

This academic year has been characterized by remarkable moments both in and out of the classroom. I invite you to read about **Katie Ameku '25**, who has earned global recognition as a Rhodes Scholar (page 4). Take a peek at the addition of a beautiful mural to the Dows Fine Arts Center by **MayLing Chuong '22** and a collection of students, faculty and staff, inspired by and in honor of Professor Emeritus Robert Kocher (page 6). Revel in the consistent success of our Kohawk football team, which advanced to postseason competition again (page 9). These achievements underscore the breadth of talent across our campus. Whether excelling on the field, curating a stunning work of art or pursuing academic excellence, our Kohawks continue to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to distinction.

The impact of our institution extends well beyond campus through the continued accomplishments of our alumni, who serve as a testament to our institution's success. Coe graduates have long been known for their creativity and innovation, and we remain committed to fostering the next generation of leaders across diverse fields. In this issue, we celebrate the impressive work of **Aaron Parry '94** (page 16), who is making significant contributions in his creative industry. His accomplishments reflect the spirit of ingenuity that defines a Coe education — one that encourages bold ideas, interdisciplinary thinking and real-world impact. This same spirit is at the heart of our Contemporary Issues series, which this year welcomed Dr. Daniel Kraft, a physician-scientist, inventor, entrepreneur and investor. His insights on the future of medicine and the convergence of technologies in reshaping healthcare further reinforce the importance of interdisciplinary learning and forward-thinking leadership (page 10). Together, these stories reaffirm our dedication to providing a dynamic education that prepares students to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

As we celebrate our community's achievements, we also take a moment to honor the life and legacy of an extraordinary member of the Coe family, Dr. W. Kent Herron (page 20). This issue features a tribute to his remarkable 56-year tenure at Coe and the profound influence he had on colleagues, friends and scores of students. His deep commitment to education shaped the lives of thousands of Kohawks, creating connections that transcended time, and that enduring impact was evident when more than 500 alumni returned to campus to celebrate his life — a powerful testament to the lives he touched. His unwavering dedication and passion leave a legacy that will be cherished by all for many years to come.

As we move forward, we remain united in our shared commitment to excellence, growth and community. The achievements highlighted in this issue are a testament to the strength and spirit of the Coe family — past, present and future. I look forward to the continued success of our students, alumni, staff and faculty as we work together to shape an even brighter tomorrow.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for being an essential part of the Coe story.

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.

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

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

AMEKU SELECTED AS COE'S THIRD RHODES SCHOLAR

Every year, only 32 students from the United States are selected for the world's preeminent academic award, the Rhodes Scholarship. In November, Coe's **Katie Ameku '25** joined the revered ranks as a Rhodes Scholar.

The award provides full scholarships and travel expenses to study at the University of Oxford. Nearly 3,000 U.S. students apply to be Rhodes Scholars and committees in 16 districts across the country selected 238 finalists for interviews.

Ameku, who is from Independence, Missouri, is a mathematics and physics major at Coe. She is the youngest elected Democratic Party official in Missouri, organizing election efforts in her home precinct. On campus, she is a senior resident assistant and lobbied for Title IX training for researchers. She has conducted physics academic research and also traveled to the Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Pennsylvania to contribute to research projects as well.

As a Rhodes Scholar, Ameku plans to pursue a philosophy, politics and economics degree at Oxford. It's a signature degree at Oxford and frequently chosen by world leaders.

"Not only am I honored with the opportunity to pursue further education at Oxford, but being able to represent Coe is truly, truly the greatest honor. Having access to a network of changemakers and people that are also like minded is going to further prepare me for my future," Ameku said.

Ameku is Coe's third Rhodes Scholar, joining **Darryl Banks '72** and **Paul Engle '31**. Kohawks pursuing prestigious scholarships and fellowships have a dedicated resource on campus, Associate Professor of English and National Fellowship Advisor Dr. Amber Shaw, who assisted Ameku for six months prior to submitting the Rhodes application.

"When Katie called me to tell me the news, it was one of the professional highlights of my career. Hearing the excitement in her voice and knowing she had just experienced something life changing was really gratifying to me as an advisor," Shaw said.

Across the past decade, Coe has a strong tradition of national academic recognition. Forty three Kohawks have won Truman, Goldwater, Fulbright, Gilman and National Science Foundation scholarships and fellowships. The Rhodes Scholarship for Ameku brings that total to 44.

"This prestigious award is without peer for undergraduate excellence and puts a Kohawk side by-side with future global leaders. Presidents, diplomats, leading academics, renowned scientists, artists and some of the best medical minds are Rhodes Scholars. What an incredible accolade for Katie, and it is an honor for Coe as well," said Coe College President **David Hayes '93**.



◀ *Watch the video*





Colorful, Bold & Unique

A MURAL INSPIRED BY BOB KOCHER



In November, Kohawks came together to help paint a mural on the Dows Fine Arts Center inspired by the work of late Coe faculty member, Marvin D. Cone Professor of Art Emeritus Bob Kocher. Bob

and his wife, Joan, were major contributors to the development and expansion of Coe's art department after they joined the Coe community in 1959. Bob introduced a unique style of painting that was unlike the naturalistic realism people were used to seeing, and his personality was just as vibrant as he was well known for wearing two ties at once.

The mural by artist **MayLing Chuong '22** was inspired by the "colorful, bold and unique" style of Kocher's art, specifically the two pieces he created on display in Dows. Chuong said she created this mural as an homage to Kocher's contributions to arts at Coe, which include pioneering American art history curriculum at Coe and curating the college's art collection.

Student Senate initiated and provided funding for the mural project.



Watch the video



KOHAWK ATHLETIC ALUMNI

PROVE THEY STILL HAVE THEIR COMPETITIVE FIRE

A competitive spirit rarely diminishes, so it's no surprise that Kohawk athletic alumni take "Once a Kohawk, Always a Kohawk" to the next level every so often.

Coe's athletic teams and the Office of Alumni Engagement often collaborate to invite our alumni athletes back to campus for competitions, conversations with current student athletes and time to reconnect with former teammates. Two recent events, the fourth annual Alumni Cross Country & Track and Field Meet and the 2025 Alumni Basketball Games, brought dozens of Kohawks back to compete and build camaraderie with fellow Kohawks, past and present.

XCTF MEET

January 11, 2025

Current and former Coe College Cross Country & Track and Field teammates and family members participated in a variety of events including the shot put, long jump, 60-meter dash, 200-meter dash, 4x400-meter relay, mile, 60-meter kids dash and the 200-meter kids dash. It was an energetic day of friendly competition with more than 20 alumni joining from five different states. The team was able to reach its crowdfunding goal of \$10,000 for a trip to Chicago to allow the current

team a chance to compete, bond and experience something new. After the meet, alumni were invited to join the team for a social gathering at a local restaurant owned by Coe Track & Field alumnus, **Jeff Beer '86**.

"It means a lot to us to see alumni still engaged and invested in the program. It shows the current athletes how many people still care about their success. We hope to see even more at the meet next year," said Head Men's Cross Country and Track and Field Coach Mat Littleton.

ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAMES

January 25, 2025

Later in January, almost 20 basketball alumni competed in our men's and women's alumni games before watching the current Kohawks defeat Buena Vista in each of their regularly scheduled conference games. After the men's and women's varsity games, alumni were invited to a social gathering. Men's Basketball Coach, John Payan said, "It was great to have alumni back at Coe, and for them to interact with our current team. They all left a strong legacy for our program and are strong representatives of Coe in their personal and professional careers!"

Thank you to our alumni athletes who attended these events and continue to support our student athletes day in and day out.





KOHAWK FOOTBALL

CONTINUES ITS WINNING WAYS WITH SECOND CONSECUTIVE PLAYOFF APPEARANCE

Head Coach Tyler Staker '06 passes dad on all-time wins list

This past fall, the Coe football team continued its ascent into the realm of NCAA Division III powerhouse programs, earning its second consecutive appearance in the NCAA playoffs. On the individual side, the program had two All-Americans and the assistant coach of the year.

The Kohawks posted a 9-2 overall record after being bounced from the playoffs in a 31-26 loss to Bethel University in Arden Hills, Minnesota.

The season started on a hot streak as the Kohawks rolled off seven straight wins to open their schedule 7-0. Among those seven wins were two double-overtime victories which was proof of the mettle the veteran team possessed.

In their eighth game, the Kohawks dropped a nailbiter to Wartburg 14-7, but roared back with two consecutive wins to end the season and secure an at-large bid to the playoffs.



Within that winning streak to open the season, Head Coach **Tyler Staker '06** tied his father (Steve Staker) on the all-time coaching wins list with 55 wins after a Homecoming victory over the University of Dubuque. Staker passed his dad the next week, beating Loras College on their field in Dubuque.

"Surpassing my dad's record for total wins is truly humbling. He was a legendary coach, mentor and a beloved friend to so many throughout his 52 years in this profession. His influence on my life and coaching career is immeasurable. I am incredibly proud to uphold the rich

tradition of Coe College football and to carry forward the legacy of the many great coaches who have come before me," Staker said

Staker is now third on the all-time wins list with 60 victories as head coach, trailing Moray Eby (131 wins) and D.J. Leroy (79 wins).

A few other Kohawks achieved significant individual success during the 2024 season:

- Coe College Associate Head Coach & Defensive Coordinator Cody Baethke was named the American Football Coaches Association DIII Assistant Coach of the Year.
- Coe College senior running back **Trenton Barnes '25** picked up a major postseason honor, being selected second team All-American by the American Football Coaches Association.
- Fifth-year defensive end **Alex Aitchison '25** picked up his second career academic All-America selection, being named a member of the second team by College Sports Communicators; Aitchison was also selected as a second team Associated Press All-American.

As a program, Coe has long been on an upward trajectory. Overall, the Kohawks have earned 652 wins overall, which is 16th in the nation, and have 26 conference titles and 11 playoff berths. The team also owns a 70% winning percentage over the last 30 years. In the last 10 years, 105 Kohawks have been named All-Conference players, and the program boasts 68 All-Americans overall.



2025 K. Raymond Clark
Contemporary Issues Forum:

DR. DANIEL KRAFT

delivers a 'mad dash' through the quickly evolving
convergence of health, medicine and technology



On our wrists, we potentially wear more computing power than what accompanied the Apollo space missions to the moon.

A smart watch and its health benefits is just the start of the recent advances Dr. Daniel Kraft dissected as part of the convergence of health care and technology during the 21st Contemporary Issues Forum February 18 in Sinclair Auditorium. Prior to the Contemporary Issues Forum, Coe was a sponsor of Dr. Kraft's keynote appearance at the Corridor Business Journal's Health Care Symposium.

Kraft's on-campus address, titled "The Future of Health and Medicine: Where Can Technology Take Us?" cascaded across the spectrum of wearable technology, artificial intelligence (AI), data collection, virtual wellness, genomics and nanotech in health. A proponent of the integration of AI into the medical sphere, Kraft urged the audience to be receptive to new technology and think of AI as "augmented intelligence" and a way to upscale your thinking.

An early adopter of many of the emerging technologies, Kraft displayed his smart watch, bracelet and ring on stage and played a clip of an AI-generated version of himself addressing the audience. Throughout the day, Kraft never shied away from bringing real examples into the conversation. He met with a group of students for a roundtable discussion earlier in the day, toured campus and participated in a conversation moderated by retired President & CEO of Cedar Rapids Mercy Medical Center Tim Charles and Coe College President **David Hayes '93** immediately following his presentation.

In all of Kraft's interactions, his message consistently circled back to key points. Kraft encouraged everyone to embrace technology to be proactive in your own wellness, he believes AI can provide a jolt to move the country from a sick care model to a health care model and he reiterated the need for critical thinkers to help guide the implementation of new technologies.

Speaking about today's undergraduate students, Kraft lauded the liberal arts approach that Coe



embraces and remarked that today's students have possibilities at their fingertips that didn't even exist three years ago before the advent of open-AI like ChatGPT.

"The liberal arts education is becoming more and more important because you become a super critical thinker," Kraft said. "The future is going to be built by people who can cross disciplines, understand a challenge from different perspectives and work to solve it."

Diving further into the opportunities today's students have, Kraft posited that they have the capability to start a company or develop an app right in their residence hall with the assistance of available resources and technologies like AI. He believes students could build a solution in months or even days that would have taken millions of dollars a decade ago. The most valuable asset students have in his mind, though, is their "beginner's minds."

Students can see a problem that experts or specialists might not be able to see because they know "how it's been done." Kraft urged everyone to be nimble and open to continuous learning — because you can't count on a traditional career path in the future. An open mind will be an individual's greatest asset in the evolving new age.

"The liberal arts education is becoming more and more important because you become a super critical thinker."

— Dr. Daniel Kraft

“Beginner’s mind means bringing your other experiences and mindsets into new environments and seeing where the pain points are and having solutions not influenced by prior knowledge,” Kraft explained.

Kraft underscored that message at the conclusion of the student roundtable, telling Kohawks that they get to create the future and the best way to do so is to take advantage of their beginner’s mind.

At the forum in the evening, the most prominent theme was the future of health care as it converges with the continued development of technology, particularly AI. He promised it would be a “mad dash” through the convergence of technology and medicine and he delivered. Some of the examples were staggering.

Nano ingestibles that can be swallowed and submit data regarding gut health from inside the stomach. Hearing devices for dementia patients that not only enhance hearing, but can remind the individual of their personal information when needed. A portable EKG the size of a credit card.

It’s important, Kraft noted, to understand that new tech and AI will not replace the human touch. He pointed out that technology by itself isn’t helpful, it needs to fit into needs and workflows within society. We can collect an extraordinary amount of data, but we still need people who can help make sense of it all, connect dots and deliver the data as digestible and actionable information.

“Everyone here has an opportunity to reimagine the future and think about where we are now and what are the challenges, and then turn that on its head and ask ‘where do we want to be?’,” Kraft said.

“Hopefully the future is more intelligent, data-driven, personalized and precise,” he added.

During his time on campus, Kraft was able to tour the David and Janice McNally Center for Health & Society (CHS). He enjoyed learning more about the CHS concept and was excited about its mission, reaffirming that health care isn’t built solely on primary care as it’s integrated everywhere. The collaboration necessary to bring about the future of health care will happen faster with dedicated spaces like the CHS.

“Health and society are tightly intertwined. It needs to be baked into curriculums, like you at Coe are already doing, that everyone can play a role in improving health and society,” Kraft said.

He continually drew on that sentiment throughout the day, reiterating that social determinants — like

education, internet access, social interactions, access to recreation — drive most of our societal health.

Technology and AI can help overcome some of those barriers, and Kraft is impressed with the progress he’s witnessed pertaining to access to health and medicine. In his eyes, the most exciting facet of the future of health care is the shift to a proactive, self-care model.

For the most part, Kraft noted, primary care physicians are responsible for your health and well-being. Now, there are a plethora of tools to be proactive to establish personal health baselines which can lead to hyper-personalized care. He said everyone can collect a picture of who they are via their own health data gathered by emerging technologies and, with the assistance of AI, understand where they are in their health journey.

“We’re empowered now as consumers and as patients to leverage technology and own our own health,” Kraft said. He recommends taking personal health data generated by tech like smart watches to any appointment with a physician.

While it can seem overwhelming to procure this tech and use it, Kraft left the audience with a similar message he delivered to Kohawks earlier in the day.

“There’s an opportunity now to go out and build a future regardless of your age, and a big part of that is trying new things and collaborating, being bold and not afraid,” he said.



Watch the video

CAPTIONS

- 1. Coe College President David Hayes '93, Dr. Daniel Kraft and retired President & CEO of Cedar Rapids Mercy Medical Center Tim Charles pose for a photo after their moderated conversation.**
- 2. Students gathered for a small roundtable session with Dr. Daniel Kraft preceding the evening's Contemporary Issues Forum. Kraft fielded questions regarding nursing, aging and artificial intelligence as Kohawks took advantage of Kraft's experience to get his input on their ideas.**
- 3. Coe nursing faculty past and present were in attendance, as Associate Professor of Nursing and Faculty Co-Director of the Center for Health & Society Sharon Guthrie and Associate Professor of Nursing Emerita Heide Bursch enjoyed the forum.**
- 4. Coe College students from across disciplines were eager to talk with Dr. Daniel Kraft after the forum in Sinclair Auditorium.**



Achieve your personal, financial and philanthropic goals with **CHARITABLE GIVING**

This is the first article in a three-part series designed to introduce basic but helpful concepts of gift planning.

When most people think of charitable giving, they think of cash gifts, appeals they receive in the mail or perhaps special events. However, planned gifts can offer many options with benefits now and in the future. A planned gift refers to making plans now for a gift that generally occurs in the future.

Common types of planned gifts include charitable bequests, beneficiary designations, charitable gift annuities, gifts from your IRA and charitable remainder trusts. Some planned gifts create new income streams that pay you or your loved ones for life. Many planned gifts create tax benefits that may reduce, or in some cases eliminate, income tax, capital gains taxes and estate taxes.

CHARITABLE BEQUEST

A charitable bequest is a promise in your will, living trust or codicil to make a gift when you pass away. It usually takes less than a paragraph, often a sentence or two.

A bequest is one of the easiest ways to leave a gift because it costs you nothing now. However, it provides you with a way to create or grow your legacy while supporting Coe College and other causes important to you. The key is to use our proper name, contact information and tax ID number so your estate administrator knows and can follow your wishes.

A charitable bequest gives you:

FLEXIBILITY

You can give a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate or even a specific asset, like your retirement account for example. You can also leave a remainder for anything you did not give elsewhere.

STRATEGY

You can include options and different scenarios in your plans. For example, you can make a charitable gift only if certain other circumstances have occurred.

POWER

You retain full ownership and control of your assets throughout your life. You can use your assets as you want, and you can always change your mind.

SAVINGS

If your estate will be subject to estate taxes, a charitable bequest may reduce your estate's taxes by creating a charitable estate tax deduction.

OBJECTIVE

You want to make a future gift to Coe College that provides you with flexibility if your needs change.

SOLUTION

Establish a gift in your estate plan today while preserving your savings for tomorrow.

BENEFITS

Support the causes you care about while saving potential estate taxes and retaining assets to meet your future needs.



BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION

A beneficiary designation, or payable-on-death directive, is a form you complete for your checking, savings, cash deposit, investment or other accounts. It tells your account administrator what to do with the funds when you pass away. The administrator sends the funds to the people and/or charities you choose.

The administrator provides this form to you, often online. It usually only takes a couple of minutes to complete. As with a bequest, it is important for you to have our proper name, contact information and tax ID.

You can do this for almost any type of financial account, including retirement accounts. Its benefits are fantastic, especially considering how easy it is to complete.

A beneficiary designation gives you:

SIMPLICITY

You fill out a straightforward form your financial institution gives you.

FLEXIBILITY

You can change your mind as often as you want by changing the form.

EASE

You can complete this form by yourself without the complexities of creating or changing your will.

TIMING

Since most of us hold many of our assets in these types of accounts, this can be a major feature of your overall strategic plan.

OBJECTIVE

You want simplicity and the ability to change your mind about who will receive your funds when you pass away.

SOLUTION

Complete your beneficiary designation form naming the people or charities you wish to receive funds in your account when you no longer need them.

BENEFITS

You can change the form as often as you might change your mind. Since the funds only transfer upon your passing, you maintain full ownership and use of the funds without any obligations.


This article provides only a glimpse of the possibilities and the potential you can achieve with a little planning. Call or email Debbie Green (dgreen@coe.edu or 319-399-8592) or Katie Dostal (kdostal@coe.edu or 319-399-8612) to learn how these and other types of planned gifts can help you accomplish your philanthropic goals while also serving you and your family.

At Coe, he learned to
“think right”
and reach for his goals.

Now,

**AARON
PARRY '92**
is a Hollywood wizard.





For **Aaron Parry '92**, tenacious determination has opened doors his whole life. The 1992 Coe graduate is a testament to how much a strong work ethic can maximize creative talent and imagination. Today, he is the head of SDFX Studios, a global special effects company that has created effects and 3D versions for some of Hollywood's most popular movies like "Deadpool and Wolverine" and "Wicked." Parry is also a movie producer, releasing his first full feature film, "Girl Haunts Boy," this past fall on Netflix to critical acclaim.

Before all this, he was pushing boundaries as a music composition and theory and vocal performance double major and art minor at Coe, initially intending to pursue a career as a conductor. What delighted him most about being a Kohawk was that those around him accommodated his ideas — he heard "let's try it" far more often than "no, that won't work."

"The thing I most often associate with Coe is opportunity," Parry said.

As a Cedar Rapids native, he knew Coe had a strong curriculum and academic reputation, and Parry had even participated in one of Coe's summer music programs. He initially chose another school to start his college education, but transferred to Coe to finish his degrees. On campus, it was apparent there was a deeper personal element to the educational approach.

"Faculty and staff took the time to listen and learn about what your goals were and then they helped design a path for your goals," Parry said.

That dedication to the individual student started before Parry even enrolled. He had shared some of his music with Alma A. Turechek Professor of Music Emeritus Jerry Owen, who recognized Parry's talent and started driving to meet Parry every two weeks to teach him music composition.

After he enrolled at Coe, Parry found support from across the faculty. The late music professor Richard Hoffman pushed him past his comfort zone and taught him

not to settle for mediocrity. Professor of Music Bill Carson provided guidance and support for instrumentalists to bring his compositions to life. Music faculty even let him book Sinclair Auditorium for two straight nights to perform a musical he wrote, which was one of the few times he was met with initial skepticism. Parry packed the house.

"So often in an educational setting, faculty do what they know. I really feel like at Coe there was a philosophy of the faculty not setting limits for their students, but instead letting students set their own limits," Parry said.

"So often in an educational setting, faculty do what they know. I really feel like at Coe there was a philosophy of the faculty not setting limits for their students, but instead letting students set their own limits."

— Aaron Parry '92

A guest booking at Coe was the spark that started Parry down the path to realizing just how high his limits were. Music from an ensemble from the University of Southern California inspired Parry to check out their internationally renowned graduate music program. On spring break, Parry drove his tiny Geo Metro all the way to L.A. There, he was able to meet with program director Buddy Baker who was the music director at the Walt Disney Company for 27 years. Parry's drive — literally and figuratively — left an impression.

"He told me 'You have to be willing to go further and farther than anyone else'," Parry recalled.

That experience, and the confidence it instilled within Parry, set the stage for years of upcoming successes.

“Coe has a special place in my heart. It was an incredibly supportive school and my mentors there helped me rally and fulfill my dreams.”

— Aaron Parry '92

Parry did submit musical compositions for the prestigious grad program and was accepted. After the program, it was quickly apparent that musical work was not going to be available, so he shifted creative mindsets. He tapped into his visual arts side and passion for working with creative people and used his network to land a position working for the president of Disney Feature Animation.

His foot was in the door in the Hollywood movie scene and if you fast forward through years of hard work, he now has both feet firmly planted. Through his work with SDFX, Parry has sat next to some of the biggest directors in the industry, including collaborating with Steven Spielberg multiple times.

Beyond “Deadpool and Wolverine” and “Wicked,” Parry and his worldwide team of over 1,000 artists and support staff at SDFX have recently provided effects and animation for franchises and titles like “Transformers,” “Kung Fu Panda,” “The Wild Robot” and “Agatha All Along.”

Now that he has established SDFX as a leader in visual special effects, animation and immersive, dimensional experiences, Parry and his team are delving into the future of entertainment. He believes enhanced personal entertainment is the future, and his team is figuring out more immersive, 360 degree experiences in your personal space.

It’s that level of foresight, combined with Parry’s creative approach, critical thinking and work ethic that has elevated his profile. He’s heard from mentors and colleagues that he stands out because he “thinks right.” Parry ties that back directly to his time at Coe.

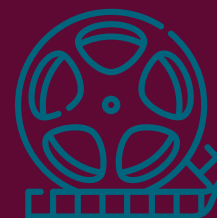
“That liberal arts upbringing has definitely been a big part of my career out here. You realize that any challenge is surmountable with the proper amount of dedication and effort and you know how to look at problems holistically and embrace all the forces at play,” Parry said.

Coe consistently remains on Parry’s mind. He has hosted Kohawks for internships and has been available as a mentor for Coe graduates who are looking to make it in a creative role.

“I love and am passionate about working with amazing creative people and helping young people get their career going,” Parry said. “Nothing pleases me more than when someone I’ve helped reaches a level of success.”

Parry will forever remember his time as a student and the support he had, which is why he’ll always look for ways to pay it forward.

“Coe has a special place in my heart. It was an incredibly supportive school and my mentors there helped me rally and fulfill my dreams,” Parry said.



Deadpool & Wolverine

Wicked

Transformers

Kung Fu Panda

The Wild Robot

Agatha All Along

Star Wars: Episode IX -
The Rise of Skywalker

Avengers: Endgame

They Shall Not
Grow Old

Fantastic Beasts and
Where to Find Them

Coe Sweethearts

Reconnecting after 50 Years

In the fall of 1968, a new class of excited young men and women from across the country moved to Coe College's campus, ready to start a new adventure. With a new place comes new people and opportunities to find love.

One of the new Kohawks, **Marcy Trach '72** from Pennsylvania, kept her family updated with letters, sharing stories about her new experiences and the friends she was making. In one of those letters, she mentioned working on a Homecoming float with a young man from Nebraska named **Bob Poretti '72**. While Poretti likely wasn't mentioned in another letter home due to different majors and interests, they recall seeing one another in passing and would exchange friendly greetings, but did not fraternize beyond that. After graduation, Marcy moved back to Pennsylvania and Bob moved to Minnesota.

Fast forward a few decades. Marcy got her master's in education and became an accomplished elementary school teacher. Bob worked as a technical writer at Honeywell, married and raised two children.

In 2022, the two alumni returned to campus for the Class of 1972 50th reunion. Marcy and Bob ran into each other at the registration table among other classmates. They caught up as they walked to the Golden Reunion dinner, where, unbeknownst to Marcy, Bob secretly swapped seats with someone so he could sit next to her. That Homecoming weekend, they found themselves spending a lot of time



together and exchanged email addresses with the promise to stay in touch. By the time Marcy returned home, she had an email waiting for her from Bob.

Over the next couple of years, the two emailed and spent time on the phone, sharing the details of their lives and making plans to visit each other. In September 2024, they both returned to Coe for a visit. They found themselves crossing campus in a golf cart driven by Kris Hale, Coe's advancement assistant and special projects coordinator. Marcy relayed an old Coe tradition where a freshman girl wasn't considered a "true Coe-ed" until she'd been kissed under the Victory Bell. Having never kissed as freshmen, Marcy and Bob hoped Kris might take them to the bell to make their relationship official. Kris, being all for it, drove them over and even snapped a couple of photos to capture the moment.

Marcy and Bob have continued their long-distance relationship, but that's about to change. Bob is selling his home and the Coe sweethearts will be together at last in Pennsylvania within the year.

Celebrating
DR. W. KENT
“DOC” HERRON





For over five decades, Dr. W. Kent “Doc” Herron was a cornerstone of the college, distinguished not only as a respected academic but also as a mentor, devoted football fan and cherished friend to generations of students and faculty. His

story is one woven with passion, dedication and an unwavering love for both education and the game — whether in the classroom or on the sidelines of Clark Field. His 56 years of service stand as a testament to his commitment to education, his steadfast support of student-athletes and his deep connection to the Coe community.

Born on June 24, 1940 in Sioux City, Iowa, Doc was the son of William and Virginia Herron and was welcomed into the world by his older sister, Virginia. He completed his early education in Dubuque, later graduating from Dubuque Senior High School. He went on to earn his undergraduate degree from the University of Dubuque before pursuing both a master's degree and Ph.D. in mathematics, earning the prestigious Danforth Fellowship at the University of Iowa, where he also served as a teaching assistant.

After graduating from his doctoral program, Herron arrived at Coe in 1968, expecting only a one-year tenure as a mathematics professor. Instead, he went on to spend more than half a century shaping the academic journey of countless students. His impact extended far beyond the classroom, exemplified by his near-constant role in the First-Year Seminar program, which he taught with rare exception since its inception in 1970. This long-standing involvement allowed him to influence students across disciplines, leaving an indelible mark on the college. Throughout his career, Doc received numerous honors, including

the Kesler Outstanding Service Award (2011) and the Distinguished Service Award (2017). In 1997, an endowed chair was established in his name, followed by the dedication of an office within the Athletic & Recreation Complex and the significant addition to and renovation of Hickok Hall in 2017 — a building where Doc taught for 48 years. These tributes stand as enduring testaments to his legacy within the Coe community.

Doc's contributions to Coe extended well beyond his role as a distinguished educator. In 1972, he began his tenure as advisor to Coe's chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon, a position he held with great enthusiasm and dedication throughout his life. From 1977 to 2003, Doc led January Term trips to Aspen, teaching students the art of skiing and fostering connections among alumni, culminating in a 2022 reunion attended by nearly 60 former participants. He also worked as a painter during the summers, employing numerous students on paint crews. He took pride in having painted most of the residence halls and campus houses at least once. His zeal for Coe's success was also reflected in his persistent support of students in their athletic endeavors. Herron served as a faculty representative to Coe's athletic conference, playing a key role in overseeing Coe's transition from the Midwest Conference to the Iowa Conference during the 1997-1998 school year. He was a faithful, nervous fan of Kohawk athletics and could frequently be found on the football sidelines, cheering on the Kohawks from his iconic spot. As part of an ongoing fundraising project for new turf at K. Raymond Clark Field, Coe will honor him with a permanent marker on the turf declaring “Doc's Spot” (see pages 24-25 for more details).

Doc's impact not only extended beyond the classroom, but beyond Coe's campus. His summers were spent teaching invaluable life lessons — whether on

“Well, Coe means everything to me ... If I think of the many, many good friends that I have in my life — and I'm lucky to have maybe more than my fair share they're virtually all Coe alumni or spouses of Coe alumni.”

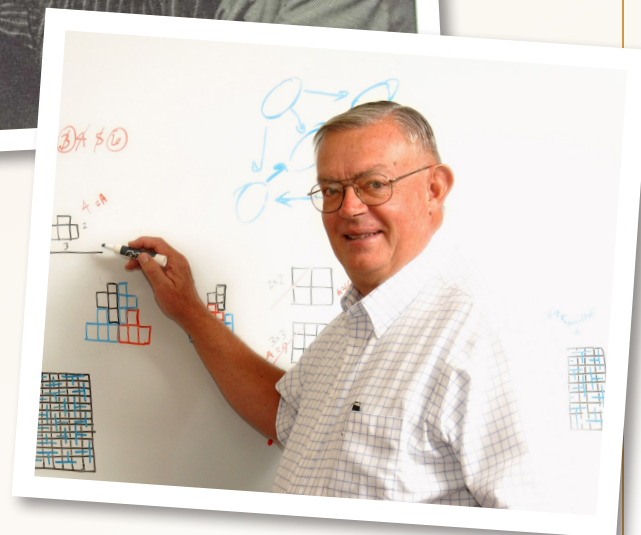
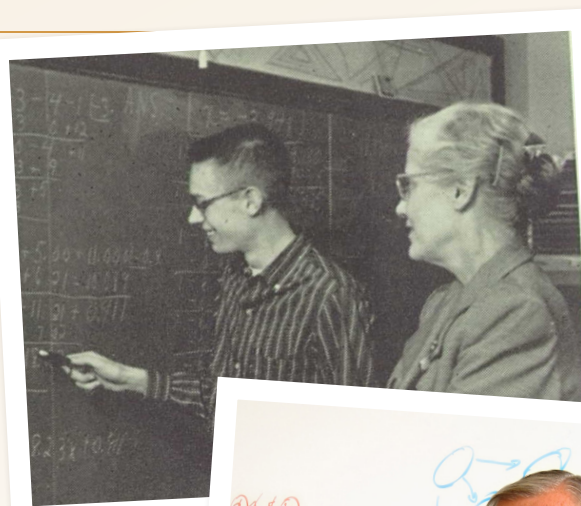
cross-country motorcycle trips, global adventures or while leading student painting crews. The owner of three motorcycles, Herron taught dozens of Coe students how to drive. On three occasions, he made the 9,000-mile round trip journey to Alaska on motorcycle. He also traveled internationally with students, visiting Europe every year. All who traveled with Doc brought a piece of wisdom back with them.

Reflecting on his profound connection to Coe, Doc once shared:

“Well, Coe means everything to me ... If I think of the many, many good friends that I have in my life — and I’m lucky to have maybe more than my fair share — they’re virtually all Coe alumni or spouses of Coe alumni. So Coe is, in a real sense, my family. I have my own wonderful family, too, but the Coe family that I have is absolutely central to my being.”

Doc passed away peacefully on December 2, leaving a void on campus but also an inspiring legacy that brought over 500 alumni and friends back to campus on February 1 to commemorate the life of Coe’s beloved professor, mentor and friend.

After the Celebration of Life service in Sinclair, attendees gathered in Stewart Memorial Library, where they had the opportunity to share memories of Doc and look through memories of his many adventures, and later at The Olympic where those who



were impacted by Doc raised their glasses early and often to a mentor many consider a legend. A major highlight of the event was the announcement of a remarkable gift — a nearly \$4 million gift from Dr. Herron’s estate, which will endow a faculty chair and advance Coe’s academic mission through scholarships. With this gift, Doc’s legacy will continue to inspire and support students, faculty and staff for many years to come.





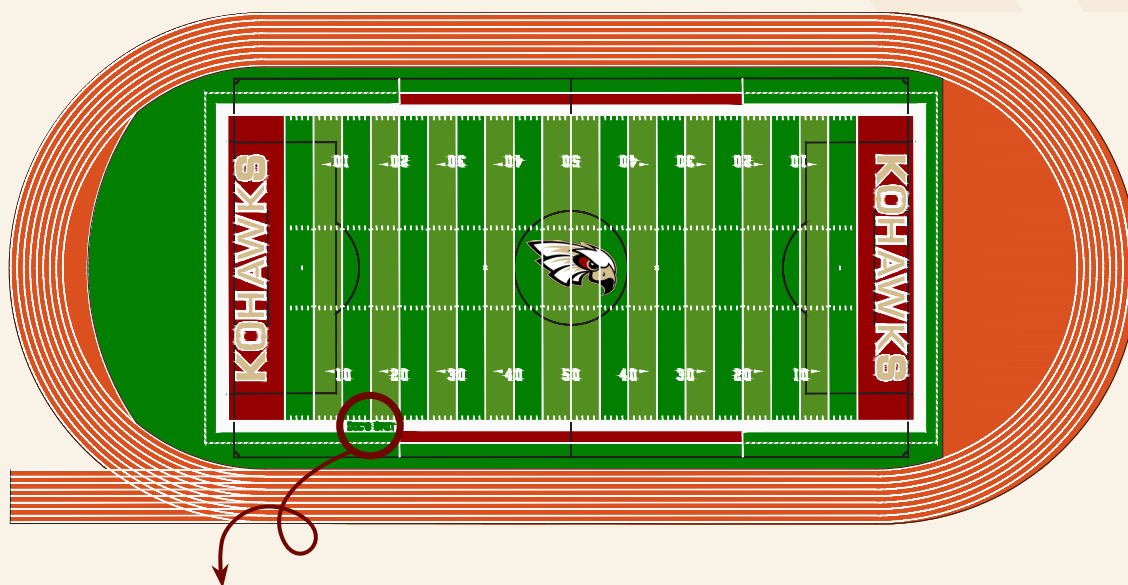
Dr. Kent Herron's Celebration of Life included iconic symbols of the full life Doc led. His motorcycle and ski jacket were on display in the library, and even the smaller indulgences that defined Doc, like crackers and cheese, or red Solo cups, brought out smiles and a few tears as the Coe community honored one of its legends.



— HONORING —
DR. W. KENT “DOC” HERRON
WITH THE
**CLARK FIELD
TURF PROJECT**

Watch the video >





DOC'S SPOT

About the Project

After its construction in 1989, K. Raymond Clark Field featured a natural grass playing surface. Field turf was installed in 2007, only possible thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends. We have completed two refreshes under warranty in 2012 and 2016, but with almost 20 years of wear and tear, it is time to replace the field turf entirely. Coe will be working once again with the company FieldTurf, who completed the original installation. We have chosen FieldTurf's premier line for this upcoming project, which is a top-of-the-line industry-standard playing surface. It is important that the field's surface provides high-level playability for both football and soccer, and specifically includes a combination blend in its fibers optimal for multisport use. FieldTurf will recycle some of the old product by reusing the infill of sand and rubber, thus increasing the environmental friendliness of the project.

K. Raymond Clark Field is home for the Kohawks in track and field, football, soccer and softball. The field includes a 400-meter all-weather track and playing fields for football, soccer and softball. There is also a practice field located on the east side of Clark Field. The stadium, with seating for 2,200, also includes concessions and locker rooms. Clark Field is named in honor of the late **K. Raymond Clark '30**, who became the college's preeminent benefactor.

The installation of the new turf also gives us the opportunity to honor the legacy of Dr. W. Kent "Doc" Herron. Throughout Doc's 56 years of service to Coe, nothing made him happier than helping a student, supporting the TKE fraternity or cheering on the Kohawks. A fierce supporter of the Coe football team, Doc could be seen cheering from the sidelines, thus Coe will mark his spot with a permanent logo on the new turf to commemorate and honor Doc's legacy on campus.

The project will require approximately \$600,000 in fundraising and will require participation from our entire community to achieve. We hope you will join us in our efforts to provide a new and improved field for future generations of Kohawk athletes.

How to Give

Please help us achieve this by supporting the Football/Soccer Turf project with your gift today. In gratitude for your gift, the college will recognize all gifts of \$1,500 or more with a permanent plaque at the stadium. The plaque will celebrate Doc's spot and your contribution to making the new turf a reality. To make your contribution, go to **support.coe.edu/turfproject**, or use this QR code:

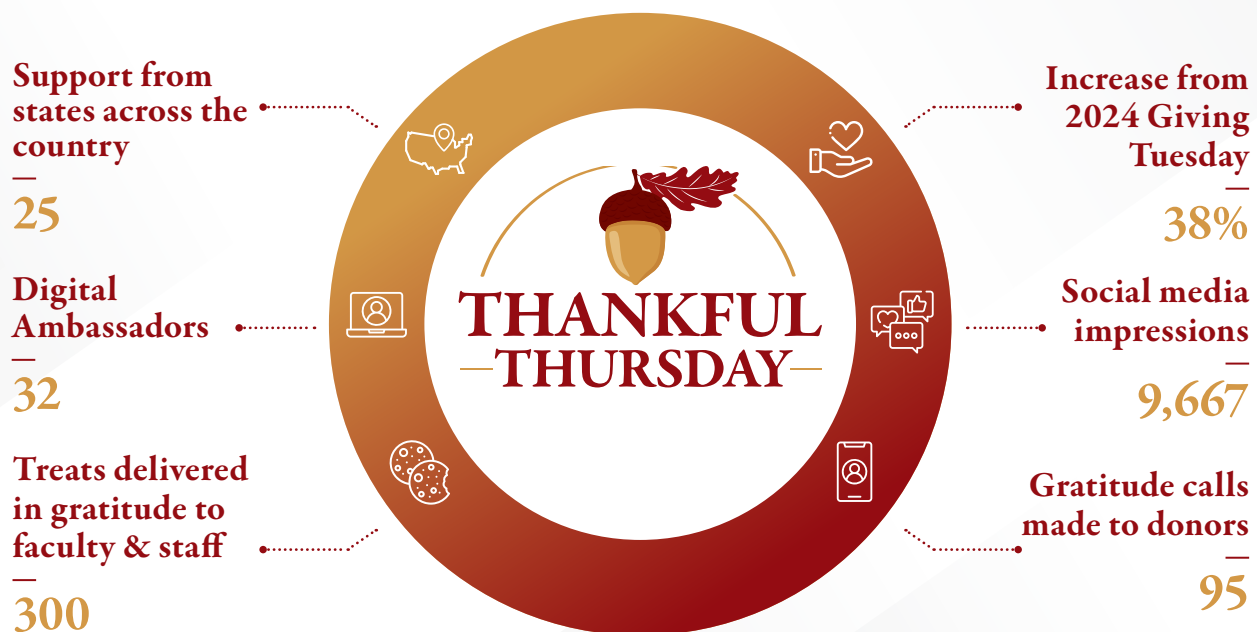


THANKFUL THURSDAY:

A new tradition of gratitude and giving

At Coe, we believe generosity shapes the future, and this year, our Kohawk community proved just that. On **November 21, 2024**, we launched our first-ever **Thankful Thursday: Giving Back to Move Forward**, a new giving tradition dedicated to celebrating gratitude and ensuring future generations of Kohawks continue to thrive.

Transitioning from Giving Tuesday, Thankful Thursday provided a special opportunity to reflect on the impact of Coe and to give back in a way that strengthens the college for years to come. The response from alumni, parents and friends was nothing short of inspiring!



The enthusiasm and generosity of our community demonstrated the deep connection that so many share with Coe. Whether through a financial gift, a message of thanks or a social media share, every action helped make a difference in the lives of our students.

Thank you to all who took part in this first Thankful Thursday. Your support is more than a gift — it's a legacy of opportunity for future Kohawks. We look forward to seeing this tradition continue to grow in the years ahead!

**TOTAL NUMBER
OF GIFTS:**
95

**TOTAL PLEDGED
AND RAISED:**
\$98,665.91



Once a Kohawk, always a Kohawk.

If you proudly embrace and believe in those words, you already know the impact of a Coe College education.

The lessons learned. The smiles shared. The futures founded.

The best way to honor that legacy is to pay it forward. If you know any high school-age students exploring colleges or transfer-ready college students, you can recommend them to Coe by completing a short form:

[*www.coe.edu/recommend_a_student*](http://www.coe.edu/recommend_a_student)



We'll do all the outreach, you just need to let us know who to contact and how to get in touch with them. After all, *always a Kohawk* keeps going for generations.

CLASS NOTES

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

1960s

'64 George Opsahl of Lake Oswego, Oregon, has advanced to a Ph.D. candidate at Portland State University in the electrical and computer engineering department. The focus of his Ph.D. dissertation research is improving superconducting quantum computers without clique connectivity.

1970s

'75 Retired Capt. David McClurkin of Norman, Oklahoma, was awarded the Federal Aviation Administration Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. This award recognizes individuals who have been a pilot and/or supported military aviation operations for 50 years. Dave first soloed at the Marion, Iowa airport in 1974 during his senior year at Coe as an Air Force ROTC cadet. After graduation he served 21 years as a weather officer in the Air Force supporting a wide variety of Air Force and Army aviation operations. This included duty as an Aerial Reconnaissance Weather Officer in which he logged 75 typhoon penetrations and 1,000+ flight hours in WC-130 aircraft. After retiring from the Air Force Dave began employment with the University of Oklahoma School of Aviation. For the last 27 years he has served the school as a flight instructor, chief flight instructor and FAA airman certification representative. Dave also flies his personal airplane as a volunteer pilot with Angel Flight — an organization which flies patients to and from medical appointments. He has accrued over 12,500 flight hours in general aviation aircraft. Over 8,000 hours of this time was spent providing instruction and evaluation of flight students.

1980s

'80 Dr. James Hollenbeck of Jeffersonville, Indiana, professor of science education, coordinator of secondary education at Indiana University Southeast, started a new international research partnership.

'84 Ricardo Torres is honored to have been selected as a Fulbright Scholar, where he spent a four-month teaching appointment in the Dominican Republic, focused on public health. As part of this experience, he also dedicated two weeks in El Salvador working

on a tertiary violence prevention project, applying public health interventions. This opportunity allowed him to share his expertise and collaborate with local communities, aiming to develop sustainable public health solutions.

1990s



'92 Rick Miller changed career paths at the beginning of 2024. After managing furniture stores for the past 25 years in North Florida, Rick is now a licensed realtor primarily focused on the Panama City and Panama City Beach areas in Florida. If you're thinking about a vacation or investment property

along the world's most beautiful beaches, he would be happy to help.

2000s

'01 Chris Leyva of Columbus, Ohio, was chosen as one of 10 fellows for the National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC) 2024 Series Scriptwriters Program. For more than 20 years, NHMC has cemented the Series Scriptwriters Program as one of the leading writers' labs in the entertainment industry. The unique eight-week intense writers lab accepts nationwide applications and ten Latine writers from diverse backgrounds are selected to participate. Participants work closely with mentors, meet seasoned writers in the industry, join a community of alum Latine writers and have the opportunity to connect with agents, managers and executives in the entertainment industry. By the end of the program, participants will have developed a half-hour or hour-long original series pilot with the opportunity to pitch network executives in NHMC's network of partners including The Walt Disney Company, NBCUniversal and Netflix.

'01 Amy Nyert Duru of Kewanee, Illinois, is pursuing a Masters in Art in Teaching (MAT) at Northern Illinois University. This will be her third master's degree. She is teaching while she pursues these studies.

'08 Matt Schuling of Council Bluffs, Iowa, is appointed as a district associate judge in Judicial District 4. Schuling fills a vacancy created following the resignation of the Hon. Donna Bothwell, having been selected previously as a District Judge in District 4. Judicial District 4 includes Audubon, Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie and Shelby counties.



'08 Jessica Fraghia Wachniak of Des Plaines, Illinois, has decided to go back to the construction industry after five years of working in finance, law and title. In January 2024, she joined Richard Group as their compliance

coordinator. Richard Group is a veteran-owned general contractor known for working on federal projects. Her role is responsible for reviewing insurance needed for their jobs sites and verifying certified payroll reports for all of their federal projects.

2010s

'10 Greg Janssen of Littleton, Colorado, is now a shareholder at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck law firm in Denver, Colorado. Janssen, a member of the firm's Corporate & Business Department, applies his business and tax background in his practice. He assists clients with a broad range of tax and corporate needs, including mergers and acquisitions, tax aspects of real estate transactions, partnership and corporation formation and taxation, tax controversies, tax-exempt organizations, tax lobbying and other tax planning and advice for business entities and individuals.

'17 Chad Moglestad of Windsor Heights, Iowa, is now a licensed architect. As a kid, Chad would spend hours drawing stadiums and skyscrapers — that's how it all started for him. Now in the industry and a licensed architect, he loves getting to know clients and the rewarding feeling to complete a project by making their design dreams a reality. Working on local projects such as the Des Moines Blank Park Zoo, Chad strives to leave the community a better place than

before in everything he does. Chad shares his talent with OPN Architects.

'18 **Dahlia Baker** of Renton, Washington, has graduated with her Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from the University of Colorado-Boulder. She has also moved to Seattle and started work at a startup, Starfish Space, where she works on optical navigation algorithms for spacecraft docking.

1

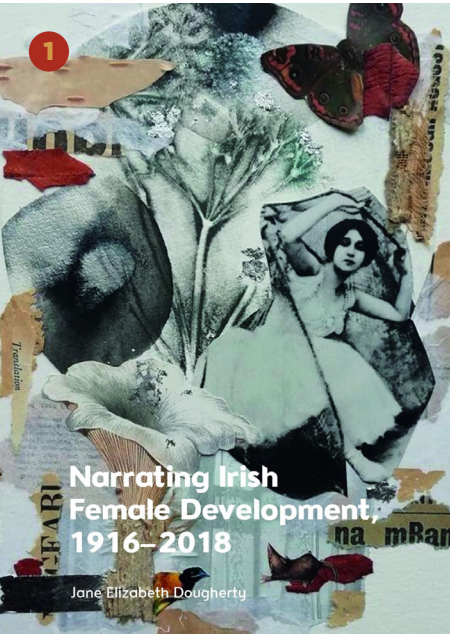
GREATER COLUMBUS ARTS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES 2024 RECIPIENTS OF ARTISTS ELEVATED AWARDS

PRESS RELEASES / OCTOBER 7, 2024



WRITTEN ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COE'S ALUMNI

PUSHA DA PEN

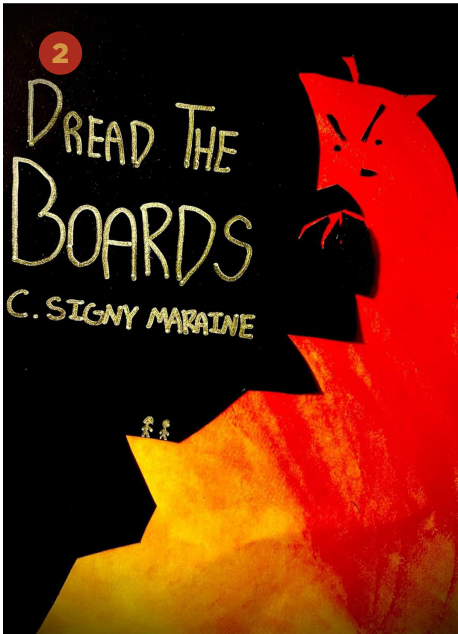


1970s

'79 **J. Malcolm Garcia** of San Diego, California, has published his first novel, "Out of the Rain", which takes us into the growing world of the homeless in the United States, particularly in San Francisco. Read their powerful stories, which examine not just poverty but bottom-of-the-barrel destitution, and in many cases, self-destruction.

1990s

1 '92 **Betsy Dougherty** of Carbondale, Illinois, published "Narrating Irish

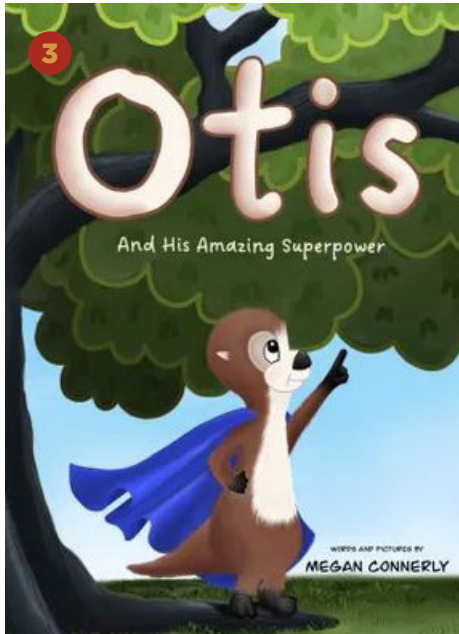


Female Development 1916-2018" in December 2024.

2 '94 **Chris Lumm** of Marion, Iowa published an e-book for young adult readers, entitled "Dread the Boards," written under her pen name — C. Signy Maraine. It is available through Kobo, Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

2000s

3 '05 **Megan Burns** Connerly of Whitinsville, Massachusetts, self-published "Otis and His Amazing Superpower" on October 1, 2024. This children's book explores the challenges



for neurodivergent students. Connerly is a visiting professor of education at Worcester State University and the mother of two neurodivergent children. "This book is close to my heart," she said. It was inspired after she was surprised by the lack of understanding and support her children were receiving at school. Meet Otis, an enthusiastic young child with a fast and brilliant brain. He learns that some of his traits that are viewed as challenges can be his superpower. The book is available on Amazon.

WEDDING BELLS

CONGRATULATIONS, KOHAWKS

1960s

'68 Joyce Dodson Clinite and Richard Clinite of Amana, Iowa, on May 24, 2024.

2010s

'13 Joe Sorensen and Isaac Paul of Des Moines, Iowa, on December 7, 2024.

1 '18 Ben Sagers and Claire Tupper Sagers '18 of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on August 31, 2024. Kohawks in attendance included Eric Tupper '88 and Barb Ernst Tupper '89, Tim Sagers '97, Grant Henning '18 and Mimi Oberbroeckling Henning '18, Dalton Sams '18 and Jamie White Sams '18, Shelby Paradise '18, Brady Anderson '18 and Haley Resnick Anderson '18, Katy Koehler '18, Austin Springsteen '17, Alexandria Hansen '18, Mackenzie Johnson '17, Jordyn Oberbroeckling Riniker '18, Brennan Koerperich '19 and Katelyn Reding Koerperich '18, Andrew Johnson '17 and

Laura Deininger Johnson '18, Caleb Reimer '18, Anthony Worden '18, David Keaton '18, Blake Bailey '18, Constance Schlitter Losch '20, Ryan Baranowski '08, Kevin Baranowski '11, David Hayes '93, Kathy Steffensmeier Jasper '90, Angie Duncalf-Cline '89, Theresa McKinley '15, Mark Otting '90 and Beth Wimmer Otting '90, Matt Aucutt '96, Mo Bayles Moos '89, David Drahn '88 and Audra Fahlgren Drahn '90, David Gehring '89 and Susan Koenig Gehring '89, Dustin Elsbury '15 and Kenzie Drahn Elsbury '16, Susan Flammang Oberbroeckling '90, Jake Van Oort '18 and Marley Patrick Van Oort '19.

2020s

2 '22 Sami Gobeli Heimann and Jason Heimann of Kent, Illinois, on June 4, 2024.



FUTURE ALUMNI

2010s

- 1 '13 **Charles Cotton III** and **Cassie Irwin** Cotton '13, of Plymouth, Michigan, a daughter, Ruthie Cotton, on September 23, 2024.
- 2 '13 **Jordan Graen** and his wife, Alexandra, of Lake Elmo, Minnesota, a son, Emmett William Graen, on August 26, 2024.
- 3 '19 **Daniel Vega** and **Erica Kelly** Vega '19 of Lake Park, Iowa, a son, Emmett Vega, on August 8, 2024.



A KOHAWK'S LIFE

MICHELLEL JONES '26



Hi everyone, my name is Michellel, I am a junior majoring in psychology, minoring in philosophy and I'm from Charles City, Iowa. I'm excited to share a few little insights into my life as a current student!

The spring term has begun, and the memories are piling up. In my friend circle, we've adopted an old point and shoot digital camera (that we call 'digi') to capture these memories. This camera was originally released in 2007, before I was even in kindergarten! I bought this beauty on Facebook Marketplace from a loving grandmother in Cedar Rapids, and the SD card was still full. Seeing the love captured by this tiny device gave me a certain desire to continue its legacy by gathering some of the most treasured moments of my life, some of which are on this page.

1 As a junior, I've realized this year is all about preparation. In this photo, I was working on a letter of purpose for the Clark Merit Scholarship. I wrote about virtue ethics and enlightened egoism. I find myself on this couch in my friends' campus apartment almost every day of the week at 5:00 PM to start my scheduled study time. This term, I am taking Social Psychology, Sports History, Ancient Greek Philosophy, Perception and Sensation and Fencing as a partial credit course. This hefty schedule has kept me busy and on my toes with material to study and homework to turn in. Along with considering what marriage and family counseling programs to apply for post-graduation, I've had quite a lot of things on my mind.

2 Something to keep work and play balanced has been KCOE. This term, I became the president of KCOE as my friend Cameron, the previous president, is attending New York term. Cameron showed me the ropes the past year, and together, we have created a friendship with KCOE being the base. Sharing our love of music with others and creating a space where students can unwind to the music they often keep inside their headphones is so rewarding. We started a sticky note tradition where each of our DJs and their friends draw a photo of themselves and stick it on the walls. It is heartwarming to see how people depict themselves in a cartoony way.

3 Along with old friends come new friends! With Naomi to my left and Collin to my right, we have a lot of fun days filled with chatter about anything and everything. Before I met Naomi, who we call Nom, I always wanted to be her friend; she had such a cool and nonchalant energy that drew me in. She is a well-decorated mathematics and computer science major and economics minor. Collin is currently doing an internship for his accounting major while he also shoots on the clay target team.

With winter almost over, we only have a few months left of the semester. With so many of my friends looking forward to graduation, every week really matters. Over spring break, a few friends and I will be going to NYC to visit our term friends. After that, the research symposium will be here. Flunk day will be right around the corner, and finals will be following right behind. There are still so many things to do, and having friends and hobbies makes this time so full. I'm looking forward to what is next and all of the precious memories we will capture.



 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.

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

1940s

 **1948 Wilma Schmidt** Shadle, 98, of Marshalltown, Iowa on November 23.

1949 Eugene Brown, 99, of Midwest City, Oklahoma on August 7.

1950s

1950 Irvin Gerks, 92, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on November 26.

Jocelyn Bickel, 94, of Pueblo, Colorado on November 7.

Donald Kline, 99, of Williamsburg, Virginia on August 19.

Robert "Bob" Michael, 92, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on November 14.

Janice "Jan" O'Brien Getten, 88, of Edina, Minnesota on December 7.

Chalene "Char" Parks Bennett, 89, of Winter Haven, Florida on November 22.

Dorothy Weeks Martinek, 95, of Canton, Michigan on October 14.

Shirley White Pearl, 91, of Saint Paul, Minnesota on October 28.

1951 Deloris Ullrich Blaufuss, 95, of Burlington, Iowa on December 23.

1951 Guerin Thompson, 95, of Coralville, Iowa on January 14.



Left **Gil Lehman**, right is **Marv Levy '50**

1 1951 Gilbert "Gil" Lehman, 98, of Wheaton, Illinois on January 16.

1952 Gene Sell, 96, of Marion, Iowa on August 11.

 **1952 Celia "CeCe" Lynch** Van Metre, 84, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on December 14.

1956 Barbara Stubbs Johnson, 90, of Manhattan, Kansas on July 30.

1956 Marily "Alice" Sisco Lindsey, 87, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on October 18.

1957 James "Jim" Rhatigan, 89, of Wichita, Kansas on October 27.

1957 Georgann Paulsen Deutsch, 89, of Hugo, Minnesota on December 25.

1959 Nancy Bros Welch, 87, of Eden Prairie, Minnesota on October 14.

 **1959 Janet "Janice" Robertson** Miller, 87, of Chesterfield, Missouri on November 18.

1959 Stanley Miller, 87, of Chesterfield, Missouri on October 31.

1960s

1960 Mary Jo Lorenc Crull, 86, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on January 11.

Linda Andrews Palmer, 83, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on November 7.

Gordon Rundquist, 80, of Iowa City, Iowa on September 20.


Robert "Bob" Trimpl, 86, of Noblesville, Indiana on October 14.

Karin Swanson Rinaldi, 86, of Chicago, Illinois on November 17.

Thomas "Tom" Shannahan, 77, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on September 13.

Richard Voss, 86, of Des Moines, Iowa on January 4.

1961 Ronald "Ron" Thenhaus, 89, of Temecula, California on August 24.

 **Charles Miller**, 87, of Osprey, Florida on September 30.

Gail Rosene Turner, 85, of Littleton, Colorado on December 1.

Gail "Gay" Rothgeb Bostock Soltis, 85, of Hopkins, Minnesota on November 6.

1962 Wilma "Leone" Guyer Geary, 94, of Maquoketa, Iowa on September 22.

Larry Wandling, 84, of Lawrenceville, Georgia on October 17.

1963 John Tone, 84, of Center Point, Iowa on September 14.

1965 John Carlson, 82, of Des Moines, Iowa

on August 25.

Retired Colonel Jeffrey "Jeff" Harrington, 81, of New York City, New York on October 13.

 **Susan Nelson** Dietz, 81, of Knoxville, Tennessee on October 26.

Linda "Lyn" Ward, 81, of Chicago, Illinois on December 27.

1967 Jane "Janice" Conkey, 79, of Falls Church, Virginia, on September 20.

Mary Wilson Rodman, 92, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota on November 24.

Larry Martwig, 79, of Del Rio, Texas on January 7.

1968 Robert "Jerry" Cowan, 81, of Nicholasville, Kentucky on December 2.

1970s

1970 Alan Benewitz, 73, of New York, New York on September 16.

Craig Gingrich, 76, of Cedar Falls, Iowa on September 2.

Nylene Potter Awbrey, 97, of Orlando, Florida on November 18.

Douglas "Bob" Lindstrom, 76, of Galesburg, Illinois on December 25.

Andrew "Andy" Rowe, 71, of Overland Park, Kansas on November 19.

Robert "Bob" Trantin, 71, of Odenton, Maryland on April 7.

1971 Robert "Bob" Schroder, 76, of Naperville, Illinois on December 27.

1973 Theresa Dickson Pirog, 73, of Des Moines, Iowa on November 5.

1974 Deborah Engel Hoopes, 73, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on November 14.

1975 Reverend Robert "Rob" Matheus, 71, of Columbus, Ohio on September 9.

Margaret "Meg" Shanahan Overreuter, 71, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on November 5.

1980s

Ross Shepard, 65, of Deerfield, Illinois on December 2.

1984 Bruce Ralston, 64, of Natchitoches, Louisiana on August 14.

1985 Constance "Connie" Hauser O'Brien, 84, of Manchester, Iowa on August 23.

1987 Keith Griem, 88, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on October 22.

1989 Michael Moellers, 72, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on December 15.

Carl Bloom, 57, of Gresham, Oregon on January 2.

1990s

1991 Linda Kabela Noll, 69, of Lisbon, Iowa

on October 11.

William "Bill" Mason, 57, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on November 24.

2000s

2005 Robert "Bob" Meisterling, 42, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on October 15.

FACULTY/STAFF

Dr. Stanley Read Watkins, 95, passed away on September 7, 2024, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa with his family at his side. He was born on June 22, 1929, in Las Cruces, New Mexico to Esther Blickenstaff Watkins and Wilber Ellis Watkins.

He attended McPherson College in Kansas where he met his wife, Marilue. He completed his B.S. degree in chemistry in 1951 at New Mexico State University. Stan was active in varsity tennis, a member of the TKE fraternity and the Student Christian Association.

Upon graduation, he was employed by du Pont in their Atomic Energy Division at the Savannah River Plant as a chemist and shift supervisor. He married Marilue Bowman, his Kansas sweetheart on June 6, 1952. After three years with du Pont, he entered graduate school at the University of Colorado, Boulder, earning a Ph.D in Analytical Chemistry in 1958.

Following graduation, he was hired as an Assistant Professor at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In the following years, he studied and did research at the University of Iowa, Michigan State University, and the University of North Carolina. In addition to his teaching duties, he was elected to serve on numerous significant faculty committees at Coe before retiring after 34 dedicated years.

He supported student research projects on trace elements in the environment and the structure of metal complexes with biological components in serum resulting in five scientific publications. Stan directed several National Science Foundation (NSF) programs for high ability high school students, several Undergraduate Research Participation programs and was a faculty advisor for an NSF program of student originated studies and NSF Scientific Equipment grants.

During his career in Cedar Rapids, he and Marilue raised two children, Kendall and

Lynn. The family was active in church outreach endeavors, music activities, and travel both domestic and foreign. Tennis and sailing were his special pursuits. He enjoyed taking family, friends, and students in his boat at Lake Macbride. He served on community committees including the Cedar Rapids Hospital Council, the Human Services Planning Committee of the United Way, the Finance and Stewardship Committees of the First Presbyterian Church of Cedar Rapids and the Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church.



Janice Scharra McNally, 61, of Urbandale, IA, passed away on October 5, 2024. Janice was born on September 20, 1963 to Patricia and Joseph Scharra in Akron, OH. She

was a graduate of the University of Akron, where she met her devoted husband Dave and was active in Alpha Gamma Delta sorority (serving as President), the Panhellenic Council, and many other aspects of student life.

In 2013, Janice and Dave moved to Cedar Rapids, IA, where she served as the "First Spouse" of Coe College. Janice made the role her own, dedicating herself to many forms of service to Coe and the local community, serving countless local organizations and bringing joy wherever she went. In recognition of her constant and cheerful devotion, the Coe College Center for Health and Society bears her name. Upon retirement, she and Dave relocated to Urbandale to be near family, including their first grandchild, Nathaniel. They became active in Heartland Presbyterian Church, a loving and welcoming community perfectly suited to Janice's generous spirit.

All who knew Janice describe her as joyful, kind, and optimistic. She believed in being a strong leader through selflessness, warmth, a positive spirit, and especially happiness. She opened her home and her heart to everyone. Her joy shone brightly in all times and all places. And when it was time to rest, she treasured the simple things: a cozy home, needlecraft, baking cookies, and above all, being with her family.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that those who wish to make gifts in honor of Janice consider Heartland Presbyterian Church (hpcusa.org), Coe College (coe.edu), or another organization of your choice dedicated to serving others in a spirit of love, happiness, and community. That's what Janice did. May our families and world be filled with hearts as pure as hers.


Kermit E. Postier, 91 of Marion, Iowa, passed away on Friday, October 18, 2024, at the age of 91. He was born on January 1, 1933, in Inman, Kansas, where he spent his early years working on his family's wheat farm. At the age of 18, Kermit joined the U.S. National Guard before transitioning to the U.S. Army, where he served as a cook for a medical unit stationed in Germany during the Korean War.

Following his military service, Kermit moved to Colorado and began a career in drywall, a trade that would define much of his working life. In 1963, he and his wife Rosann relocated to Marion, Iowa, where they later founded Kermit E. Postier Drywall. Kermit quickly established himself as the leading drywall contractor in the Cedar Rapids area, earning a reputation for his artistry and precision in the trade.

FACULTY/STAFF

When the housing market took a downturn in the 1980s, Kermit and Rosann decided to sell their business. Kermit then transitioned to a new role in maintenance at Kirkwood Community College, where he quickly rose through the ranks to management. In 1987, he accepted a position as Director of Physical Plant at Coe College, where he worked until his well-deserved retirement.

Kermit was known for his great sense of humor and his ability to make friends wherever he went. He deeply cared for others and was always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need. Kermit's life was one marked by dedication, hard work, and love for those around him. He will be dearly missed.

 **Dr. W. Kent "Doc" Herron**, 84, of North Liberty, Iowa passed away on December 2. *Read more on pages 20-23.*

Dr. Albert J. Schmidt, former professor of history at Coe, passed away on January 18, 2025.

Schmidt was born in Germantown, Louisville, Kentucky on August 27, 1925. He enlisted in the US Army Air Forces in 1943 and won a Rector Scholarship to DePauw University, where he completed his freshman year before being called to duty. In 1945-46, he served with the 13th Army Air Forces in New Guinea and the Philippines, where he taught emergency communication procedures and engaged in air-sea rescue operations. Schmidt was among the crowd of veterans who returned to college campuses in the autumn of 1946. After graduating from DePauw in 1949, he entered the doctoral program in history at the University of Pennsylvania. He was a Fulbright scholar at the University of London (1952-53), where he did his doctoral research, and received his Ph.D. from Penn in 1953. His specialty was early modern British history.

Schmidt taught history at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa from 1953-65 and at the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut from 1965-90, where he served as the Arnold J. Bernhard Professor of History. Schmidt retired from teaching in 1988 but continued to engage in historical research and scholarship for several more decades. In retirement, he was a dedicated member of the League of Women Voters lobby corps, a docent at the National Portrait Gallery, and a U.S. State Department elections supervisor in Bosnia and Kosovo. He was also a regular attendee of events at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and George Washington University's Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies. He passed peacefully on January 18, 2025, in his 100th year.

ALUMNI COUNCIL *Update*

Dear Kohawks,

It's always a great day to be part of the Coe College community! Whether you graduated last year or decades ago, the spirit of Coe remains strong, connecting us across generations. Coe continues to thrive — providing students with a transformative education, fostering lifelong friendships and preparing future leaders.

As alumni, we play a vital role in supporting Coe's mission. Whether through mentoring students, attending alumni events or contributing to scholarships, our involvement strengthens the legacy of excellence. I encourage you to stay engaged — visit campus, connect with fellow Kohawks and share your Coe pride wherever you go.

On **April 3**, we celebrate **Coe's 11th annual Day of Giving**, with this year's theme: **Rooted in Gratitude, Growing in Generosity**. This day

is a powerful reminder of the impact we can make together. It also marks an opportunity to reflect on the upcoming **fifth anniversary of the derecho** and how the Coe community came together in resilience and generosity to rebuild and move forward.

I invite you to show your support by making a gift to Coe on this special day. Every contribution — no matter the size — helps ensure Coe remains a place where students can dream big, achieve more and build lasting success.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Coe College.

Go Kohawks!



Pat Steele '75
Alumni Council President

Professor of Physics **Ugur Akgun** and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Physics **James Wetzel** presented their research, "RADICAL - Ultracompact, Fast-timing EM Calorimetry" in November at the Coordinating Panel for Advanced Detectors Workshop (CPAD November 2024) in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Adjunct Assistant Professor **Kate Aspengren** was invited to give a talk to the Daphne du Maurier Society of North America.

Assistant Professor of Sociology **Alissa Boguslaw**, Dean of Student Life & Co-Curricular Programs **Jason Chapman**, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing **Jen Ferguson**, Professor of Music **Marc Falk**, John William King Professor of Literature and Creative Writing and Film Studies Coordinator **Gina Hausknecht**, Advancement Assistant and Special Projects Coordinator **Kris Hale**, Assistant Professor of Education **Stacy Haynes-Moore**, Assistant Professor of Psychology **Ellen Lee**, Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education **Luke Lovegood '06**, Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement **Bret Gothe**, Associate Professor of Sociology **Katie Rodgers** and Coordinator of Student Development and Support **Steven Shelby** attended the LGBTQ+ Youth Center Wreath Auction and Luncheon in December 2024 at Camp Tanager.

Assistant Professor of Creative Writing **Jen Ferguson** had her third young adult novel, "A Constellation of Minor Bears," published by Harper-Collins in the fall to strong positive reviews.

Assistant Professor of Education **Stacy Haynes-Moore** presented findings on changing state legislation and its impacts on Iowa teachers' classroom practices at the 2024 National Council of Teachers of English in Boston, state conferences for Iowa Council Teachers of English, Illinois Association of Teachers of English and Maine Council for English Language Arts. She also published "Challenged Teaching and Texts: Are you There God? It's Me, Midwest" with the California English Journal.

Associate Professor of French **Joyce Janca** celebrated The Death Collective of Eastern Iowa becoming an official nonprofit organization in November 2024. It will double its current level of programming and services in 2025. Janca has also been invited as a keynote speaker at the Living Well, Dying Well Conference in Iowa City in May 2025.

Assistant Professor of English **Margaret LeMay** was shortlisted for the Finishing Line Press 2024 New Women's Voices Chapbook Prize,

with acceptance of her poetry collection "SAMPLE.SPRING" for book publication. The collection was prepared with internal grant support from Coe College. She was also shortlisted for the 2024 Iowa Review Prize in Poetry, with acceptance of two poems from her entry for publication in the Spring 2025 issue. In addition, her poetry was published in the February 2025 issue of the LEON Literary Review.

Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education **Luke Lovegood '06** guest-conducted the WAMAC Conference Honor Choir at Grinnell High School. On November 11, Lovegood conducted a group of over 250 high school singers from 12 schools in a festival choir that included an afternoon of rehearsal and an evening concert.

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Director of the Writing Center **Jane Nesmith** wrote the cover story, "Oysters over Iowa" for the February issue of Iowa's independent, alternative news and culture magazine, Little Village.

Assistant Professor of Communication Studies **Oluwadamilola Opayemi** and **Autumn Grnezia '25** had their work on intimate partner violence (IPV) accepted for presentation at the upcoming 75th Annual International Communication Conference in Colorado. This work included gathering the personal narratives of women who experienced the stigmatization associated with IPV, examining the components of memorable stigmatizing messages these women received from their informal support networks and illuminating the profound and often lasting psychological and emotional impacts on their overall well-being.

Henry and Margaret Haegg Associate Professor of English **Amber Shaw** was instrumental in supporting **Katie Ameku's '25** successful application for the Rhodes Scholarship.

Share your news!

Information compiled in "Class Notes" comes from a variety of sources, including direct correspondence from alumni, clipping services and news releases. The college received these class notes by December 1. **The deadline for the Summer 2025 issue is April 1.** Announcements older than one year at the time they are submitted will not be published.

Please follow these basic guidelines when submitting information:

NEWS

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

MARRIAGES & ANNIVERSARIES

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

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

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

DEATHS

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

PHOTOS

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

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



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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.

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.

ROOTED IN GRATITUDE, GROWING IN GENEROSITY: Coe's 11th Annual Day of Giving



Coe College's annual Day of Giving is returning on April 3, 2025, marking its 11th year of celebrating generosity and community spirit. This year's theme, Rooted in Gratitude, Growing in Generosity, reflects both the deep connections within the Coe community and the ever-growing impact of donor support.

This year's event carries special significance as we honor the fifth anniversary of the August 2020 derecho, a storm that left a lasting mark on our campus. In the wake of that challenge, the resilience of the Coe community shone brightly, as alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends came together to restore and strengthen our beloved college. Today, that same spirit continues to drive Coe forward, ensuring students receive an exceptional education and experience.

GROWING COE'S FUTURE

Day of Giving brings Kohawks together to support students, scholarships and campus initiatives. This year, early gifts will have

an even greater impact through the Planting the Seeds Challenge, allowing generosity to grow even before the big day. Supporters can also look forward to favorite traditions, including donor challenges and city celebrations.

GET INVOLVED

Coe is looking for digital ambassadors to help spread the word and encourage participation, as well as event hosts for city celebrations. These volunteers play a vital role in making Day of Giving a success.

Mark your calendar for April 3, 2025, and join us in celebrating Coe's strong roots and bright future. Together we can continue growing in generosity and ensuring Coe College thrives for generations to come.

For more information or to get involved, visit: bit.ly/coedayofgiving2025

