

COURIER

— SUMMER 2025 —



COE COLLEGE®



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Mary Ann Kucera '58 wore a special piece of jewelry during graduation weekend — an engagement ring that has been worn to 100 consecutive Commencements. *Read all about Commencement and Mary Ann's ring on page 11.*



Greetings from Coe College,

On Sunday, May 4 our campus was alive with joy, pride and a profound sense of purpose as we gathered to celebrate the Class of 2025 on what can only be described as a truly extraordinary Commencement day.

Beneath clear skies and among blooming tulips, graduates were surrounded by the steadfast support of family, friends and mentors. The entire weekend embodied the essence of the Coe experience through the strength of our close-knit community, our pursuit of rigorous academics and an enduring commitment to lives of impact and service beyond our campus.

Among the most memorable moments of the weekend was the powerful pairing of our two Commencement speakers, **Forest Brown '90** and **Celestte Panduro-Orellana '25**. Though each brought a unique voice and distinct perspective to the podium, their remarks resonated in beautiful harmony. Forest spoke to the ethos of Coe, reminding us that Kohawks are doers, saying "Go. Build. Create... It's time to take on the world and make it better." In turn, Celestte encouraged her fellow graduates to embrace the uncertainty of what lies ahead with boldness, grace and resolve, recognizing the power each person holds in the potential of their everyday actions. Together, their words offered more than inspiration; they became a shared call to action, urging each of us to make a difference each and every day by leading with heart, conviction and courage.

As our newest alumni prepare to chart their individual paths and leave their mark on the world, I am filled with immense pride and confidence. They leave our nest not only equipped with knowledge and skill, but also grounded in values and guided by vision, prepared to lead lives of meaning and consequence.

My sincerest and deepest thanks to all who continue to help shape this extraordinary community of students, alumni, faculty, staff, families and friends. You are the heart of what it means to be a Kohawk.

Alma mater, hail, hail, hail.

David Hayes '93

President

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

TYLER SALRIN '25 CAPS HIS KOHAWK CAREER WITH A NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

Prayer and dedication is a powerful combination for a student, and when you add in a network of knowledgeable, passionate and approachable academic experts, possibilities quickly turn into realities.

Coe College's newest National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellow, **Tyler Salrin '25**, has been able to rely on all three. His unwavering faith and hard work have opened doors to colleagues and opportunities that have allowed him to explore the world of material science and earn some impressive accolades along the way.

Joining the NSF's Graduate Research Fellowship Program is the latest achievement, which included a Goldwater Scholarship in 2024. The fellowship will cover financial costs for three years of Salrin's five-year graduate study, which he will begin this fall within the material science and engineering graduate program at the University of Illinois after a second summer internship with SpaceX.

This was something to work toward during my academic career at Coe. When the time came to apply, I was encouraged by mentors, my advisor and peers who believed in my readiness, Salrin said.

While conducting research at Coe, Salrin quickly built competencies in a myriad of research methods. With guidance from faculty, Salrin connected with Kohawk Dr. **Rebecca Welch '20** early in his first year on campus. Welch is also a NSF graduate research fellow, and at the time, was conducting

graduate research at Penn State University, and she brought Salrin in to assist.

Still in his first year at Coe, Salrin was already learning how to use computational techniques to complete complex research. Salrin assisted Welch and completed other research on campus for three years. He describes the mentorship and experience as priceless.

In the summer after his sophomore year, Salrin also researched at Alfred University in New York under the supervision of Coe alum Dr. **Collin Wilkinson '18**. He was able to expand his knowledge of machine learning methods, which led to an ultimate opportunity — SpaceX.

Drs. Wilkinson and Welch became aware of an upcoming opportunity at SpaceX for a student, which would require materials science expertise. They wholeheartedly recommended Salrin.

"Imagine my amazement when I received that call ... I was in complete disbelief," Salrin recalled.

The internship went so well, Salrin returned to SpaceX this summer.

In four years, Salrin experienced growth as a student and researcher and will leave his own legacy at Coe. He thanks God, his high school experience and the Coe faculty for the guidance.





Latest Kohawk to earn Gilman scholarship seeks out the best in every person and every culture

Already equipped with a mature perspective, **Katherine Davis '27** is seeking to gain even more understanding in their upcoming studies abroad as Coe's newest Gilman scholar.

This past spring, Davis was awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, which is sponsored by the United States Department of State. The scholarship provides financial assistance to students, facilitating opportunities to participate in study abroad programs and international internships. Davis is Coe's sixth Gilman recipient in the past five years, which is particularly impressive considering there were 17,000 applicants and only 3,500 recipients this year.

In the fall, Davis will depart for Japan, where they will be immersed in the culture hoping to create connections and build new relationships. The Chicago native has always wanted to study abroad and will bring a developed way of looking at the world.

"I have a deep love and appreciation for every person and country that has dealt with struggles and yet still have pride in their culture. In the world we live in, we have a very limited perspective of others and I want to seek out the joy and love from each person because those things have no barrier," Davis said.

While at Coe, Davis is pursuing majors in international studies, French & Francophone studies and Asian studies. They have been studying both French and Japanese languages while juggling other academic responsibilities with two off-campus jobs.

With that busy schedule, Davis said they haven't been able to experience the joy in learning new subject matter as often as they like. The Gilman scholarship will help with that while easing the financial barriers of spending a term abroad.

"The Gilman has created an opportunity for me to have a moment in my life to take a breath and enjoy the work I've put in as a student. I am so excited to gain more knowledge of the culture and, most importantly, make friends and build relationships," Davis said.

The journey to becoming a Gilman scholar is not one Davis undertook alone. In the weeks it takes to create and compile the essays and materials needed to complete the Gilman application, Davis said their advisor, Director of Off-Campus Study John Chaimov, and Coe's world language faculty were instrumental in their success.

Spring seasons produce a

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

AND A BUSHEL OF ALL-AMERICANS

As spring flowers were sprouting from the soil, Kohawk athletes were rising above the fray, too, bringing home an impressive array of accolades.



NATIONAL CHAMPS

The Coe College bowling programs turned in a historic effort at the Collegiate Club National Championships in late March as the women's program brought home the team's first-ever national title while the men posted a strong seventh-place finish.

Head Coach Randy Dodge noted the women really ramped up their intensity level leading into the tournament and stepped up for each other.

"Bringing home this national title is so good for our program, especially since we just started five years ago. This elevates our status not only on the women's side, but the men's too, because we really try to be a full team all the way around. Our guys support the women and vice

versa — I believe it just shows that it takes a full team to accomplish this," Dodge said.

The camaraderie led to an impressive run to the national title, with the women finishing first in the qualifying standings with a total of 3,677 pins, earning a top seed in the bracket play. Coe swept the championship match against Purdue three games to none. **Whittney Morse '25** was named the Collegiate Club Player of the Year following the tournament while **Lauren Bodman '25** and **Katrina Kendle '25** joined her as All-American honorees. Dodge also picked up major honors for the Coe program, being named the Coach of the Year.

The Kohawk men defeated Wartburg, Ohio State and Nebraska in rounds three, four and five before falling to Marian in the Contenders Bracket quarterfinals.

4 ALL-AMERICANS, 1 HALL OF FAME COACH

Coe wrestling was well-represented at the NCAA DIII Championships in Providence, Rhode Island. The Kohawks placed four wrestlers on the All-American podium on their way to a tie for sixth place as a team.

Bryce Parke '25 led the way with a national runner-up finish at 141 pounds. Other Kohawk All-Americans included **Brayden Parke '28** as the fifth-place finisher at 125 pounds, **LJ Richardson '25** finished sixth at 174 pounds and **Jared Voss '25** earned a seventh-place medal at 184 pounds.

In addition, wrestlers **Dresden Grimm '27** and **Kael Kurtz '28** joined Voss as Scholar All-Americans as named by the National Wrestling Coaches Association.



"The real measure of success has always been the growth of our student-athletes — on the mat, in the classroom and beyond. Watching them become champions in life as well as in wrestling has been the most rewarding part of coaching at Coe," said

Coe College Wrestling Head Coach John Oostendorp.

Prior to the national tournament, Oostendorp was announced as a member of the 2025 National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) DIII Hall of Fame.

Known as "Coach O" since taking over at Coe in 2001, Oostendorp has earned three conference coach of the year awards and was recognized as the NWCA National Coach of the Year in 2009. His teams have earned multiple top-10 finishes at the NCAA Championships. A former All-American himself, Oostendorp has dedicated his career to developing student-athletes both on and off the mat. Coach O and the Hall of Fame class will be inducted

Friday, August 1, during a ceremony at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

"Being inducted into the NWCA Hall of Fame is one of the greatest honors of my career — not just because of what it represents personally, but because it reflects the legacy built alongside every athlete, coach and supporter who believed in this program. It's a testament to years of shared purpose, perseverance and passion for the sport," Oostendorp said.

Oostendorp had a decorated prep wrestling career, winning an Iowa state championship at West Liberty High School before winning 100+ Big Ten matches and competing at the world championships.



AN ALL-AMERICAN 25 YEARS IN THE MAKING



Coe College men's track & field thrower **Chris Baker '25** picked up the program's first indoor All-American honor in over 25 years in March, placing ninth in the weight throw competition at the DIII Indoor Track & Field National Championships. Baker capped off his indoor season in style, recording the second and third best throws of his career at the national championships. His ninth-place mark was 18.65m, earning him a second team All-American

honor. It was the first All-American indoor honor for the men's program since 1999.

In March, Baker set a new school record in the weight throw with his best throw, recording a mark of 19.37m. His throw is the first in school history over 19 meters and was the longest among all A-R-C competitors. In May, he won the A-R-C outdoor conference championship.

"Chris Baker embodies everything we strive for at Coe — discipline, resilience and a relentless drive to improve. Qualifying for two NCAA Championships and earning all-conference honors is no small feat, but what truly sets Chris apart is his leadership and the way he elevates those around him. He's left a legacy that goes far beyond the throwing circle. His determined mindset has defined his career — and it's the kind of legacy that will inspire our team long after he graduates," said Head Men's Track & Field Coach Mat Littleton.

A RETURN A LONG TIME COMING:

ELSBERND BACK TO LEAD VOLLEYBALL



The first move to Coe felt like bringing home a new couch. Looks great. Feels like the right choice. Needs to be worn in. The second move was like sinking into the cushions. You plop down, exhale and you're enveloped in something that's familiar... and still sturdy.

This past spring, Coe welcomed back **April Elsbernd '03** as head volleyball coach. To her, the return feels as familiar as coming home from a long trip and settling into your favorite seat to take a load off. Her first arrival at Coe was as a student, and now as a coach, but each time has been marked with an overwhelming sense of pride.



"It's been a seamless move back," Elsbernd said. "There's so many memories. Every time I walk across campus, I remember concerts in the quad or my friends making each other laugh by the library. So much nostalgia."

As a three-sport star at South Winneshiek High School in Northeast Iowa, Elsbernd came to Coe to play softball and volleyball, winning letters in both. She was a sociology, public relations

and communication studies triple major and a Clark Merit Scholar her senior year.

Elsbernd is taking the helm of a program with a strong foundation, as the Kohawks have won the A-R-C conference championship and made the NCAA DIII tournament in two of the past three years. She won't just be plopping down on a couch everyday, though — the idea is to continue to build — beginning with culture.

She hopes to use some of her favorite memories as a Kohawk, and extrapolate them into her coaching and mentoring approach.

"When I was here as a student, being a student-athlete was really important to me and Coe felt like the place where I could grow and learn about myself while playing at a high level," Elsbernd recalled. "Some of my favorite moments were the volleyball van rides, choosing which mixed CDs to play and the conversations we had and the closeness that followed — I really try to bring that into my coaching."

Elsbernd knows it's the relationships with teammates and the moments in the locker room that will stick with her players long into the future. She is leaning into building bonds, and says that if coaching were just about winning and losing, she would have been out a long time ago. What she loves is creating an atmosphere of excellence built on trust, belonging and joy. She's confident the results on the court will follow.

Throughout the spring term, Elsbernd got to know her team. She had 1-1 meetings, group team building, weight sessions and 3-on-3 "for fun" tournaments. It's apparent to her that she has a resilient, veteran squad — and a team that has some of the best athletes she's ever coached.

One of the consistencies she's noted since her return is the level of investment Coe makes in its athletes, including facilities. Elsbernd has been impressed with the team's off-season work ethic and has seen them utilize the tools they have in the Athletics & Recreation Complex to get faster and stronger.

"It's hard to do all the little things every day that add up to winning, but I couldn't have asked for it to go any better than it has so far," she said.

Now, it's just about building comfort, like inviting someone to settle in next to you on your favorite seat.

“ When I was here as a student, being a student-athlete was really important to me and Coe felt like the place where I could grow and learn about myself while playing at a high level. ”

APRIL ELSBERND '03



KOHAWK

ATHLETIC DAY OF GIVING

— ONE TEAM. ONE GOAL. —

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025

A NEW TRADITION BEGINS: CELEBRATING KOHAWK ATHLETICS

This August, we're kicking off the fall season with a powerful new tradition: the inaugural Kohawk Athletic Day of Giving. On Thursday, August 14, alumni, fans, families and friends will rally together to celebrate and support the 26 varsity sports that represent the spirit and strength of Coe College.

Timed to coincide with the start of the 2025–26 athletic season and fall move-in, this special day invites you to give back, gear up and get loud for Kohawk Nation.

Your support helps us start strong — providing travel support, uniforms, equipment and more. You can choose to support Kohawk athletics overall or designate your gift to support the athletic team that means the most to you.

JOIN THE TEAM

To sponsor or learn more about our inaugural Athletic Day of Giving, visit alumni.coe.edu/g/coe-college-athletic-day-of-giving-2025.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact assistant directors of annual fund & athletic development:

Dawn Kaiser | 319.399.8507 or dkaiser@coe.edu

Jon Michael Lafayette | 319.399.8614 or jlafayette@coe.edu



Our student-athletes embody the values of resilience, competitiveness and excellence — not only in their athletic endeavors but also in the classroom and in life. Their dedication and hard work set a standard of excellence that inspires us all, and your support plays a crucial role in their success.

Steve Cook | Athletic Director

43RD ANNUAL GOLF OUTING & FUNDRAISER



TEEING UP the next generation of Kohawks

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



The **Coe Athletic Golf Outing & Fundraiser** proudly supports Coe's 26 men's and women's varsity sports competing in the American Rivers Conference.

Now in its 43rd year, this annual event has made a lasting impact on Coe Athletics thanks to the generosity of our incredible community of golfers, sponsors, alumni, family and friends. Your support helps provide essential resources for student-athletes, including updated equipment, uniforms and travel opportunities.

More than just a fundraiser, this event is a celebration of all things Kohawk. It's a day filled with camaraderie, connection and support for the next generation of Coe athletes. Whether you're joining us on the course or as a sponsor, your participation helps Coe athletes soar.

JOIN US!

GOLF SPONSORSHIP PROSPECTUS

Visit our registration site for an outline of this year's golf sponsorship offerings.

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

To sponsor or register to play golf, visit alumni.coe.edu.

For more information, please contact assistant directors of annual fund & athletic development:

Dawn Kaiser | 319.399.8507 or dkaiser@coe.edu

Jon Michael Lafayette | 319.399.8614 or jlafayette@coe.edu

**REGISTER
HERE!** →





“Ordinary Kohawks do extraordinary things”

After Commencement concludes, graduates process from their seats toward Marquis Hall on the Stewart Memorial Library quad. Waiting for them is a frenzy of family and friends. There are hugs, tears, general joy and fond farewells.

It is the apex of the day as members of the Class of 2025, with diplomas finally in hand, are able to embrace the loved ones in attendance who have supported them in pursuit of their degree. It's a culmination of four years at Coe, but for many, more than two decades of love, guidance and patience.

Then, a strange moment happens. The post ceremony chaos stops. People begin to peel off and head their separate ways. The quad is quiet. It's over. Graduates who began their day as college students, end it in a different bed with the rest of their lives yet to begin.

For some, the very next day brings the start of a new job. In

the days, weeks and months following, other Kohawks also begin their careers or the next phase of their education.

Life will take on a new rhythm as grads settle in, and soon the new routine might even seem ordinary.

The 2025 Commencement speakers encouraged graduates to embrace some of the ordinary aspects of life, with one critical caveat — telling the Class of 2025 there will be times when they need to be extraordinary. Fortunately, because of the experiences and education at Coe, these Kohawks are equipped to rise to the occasion.

Coe College President **David Hayes '93** reminded the graduates gathered of this fact as he welcomed them in his opening remarks of Commencement.

“Coe has prepared you and you can go with confidence into this world,” Hayes said.

The next step is to fulfill your potential, Hayes added.

“As you cross this stage and take your place among the generations of Kohawks who have come before, know this: you carry with you the strength of tradition, the love of this community and the promise of a future only you can write,” he said.

Student speaker, **Celeste Panduro-Orellana ’25**, reminded her classmates that, they hold immense power. She said to wield that power, they must live with courage — in their everyday lives and within the moments that call for more.

“There will be moments in our futures where we will have the opportunity to stand up and have courage and do what’s right and good. Be ready,” she said.

In her address, Panduro-Orellana used a story from the women’s suffrage movement to illustrate how small acts can be the tipping point for much larger events.

“History was written by average people like you and I. Great world movements are the result of us, banding together to radically create change – everyday people writing letters, people calling their loved ones, people taking to the streets in action; people choosing kindness. People choosing goodness. People choosing compassion. People choosing to take the responsibility of their community’s well-being into their own hands,” she said.

As she continued she said taking responsibility now also includes acknowledging that a college education is a privilege and that you need to use that power to pioneer change.

“Here’s to us, ordinary people, who are on the cusp of doing extraordinary things,” Panduro-Orellana said in closing.

The guest speaker at Commencement, **Forest Brown ’90**, built on that inspirational message by adding some practical tips.

He began by introducing himself as “a Kohawk ... an ordinary Kohawk at best, but a Kohawk through and

through.” With his daughter **Reagan Brown ’25** seated in the audience as a member of the graduating class, Brown told the graduates he had three lessons for them: How to have perspective in your life, what it takes to “go pro” and how to be a Kohawk.

For his lesson on perspective, Brown recounted a catastrophic accident he had 20 years ago – a fall from his motocross bike left him with multiple fractures and near-death complications. A former collegiate athlete having played football at Coe, Brown suddenly found his ability to move and to enjoy his life as he knew it hindered.

“Think of the blessings you have and keep that perspective with you,” Brown said as he pivoted into professional advice for graduates transitioning into a career.

He implored the Class of 2025 to always pay attention and that details matter. Making a good first impression is truly important and you should choose good people to work with. He reminded students that they can be leaders from any position, even as new hires, noting the graduates have an advantage as “Kohawks are natural leaders.”

Speaking of Kohawks, Brown concluded his remarks by reflecting on what it means to be a Kohawk.

To Brown, the core of a Kohawk is proud, empathetic and productive. He urged the graduates to be the type of Kohawk that takes experiences and knowledge and applies them,

and once you rise to the top, be sure to extend your hands out to help lift up others around you.

Looking out over the Class of 2025, Brown earnestly told everyone that they have the ability to make the world better.

“Ordinary Kohawks do extraordinary things,” he said. “Take flight, Kohawks. The world is waiting and it needs you.”

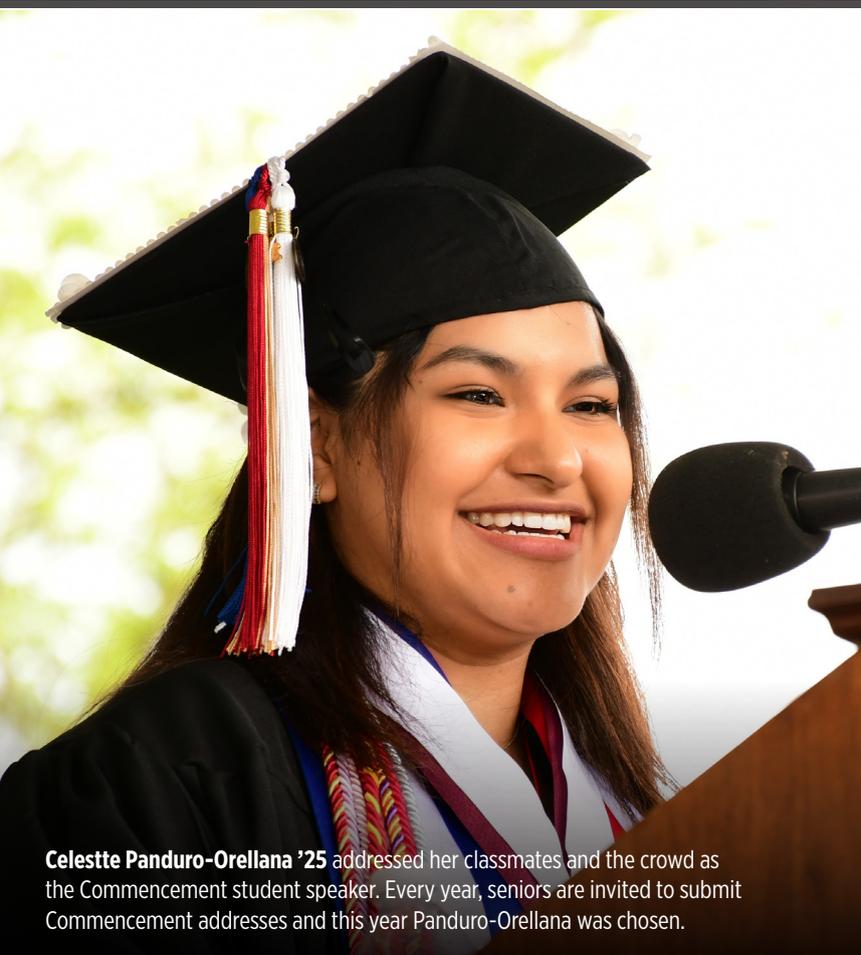
Less than 60 minutes later, Kohawks were filtering off the quad to go into that waiting world. Each graduate walked with purpose, prepared with the courage to be extraordinary when the moment comes.

*“Take flight,
Kohawks.
The world is
waiting and it
needs you.”*

FOREST BROWN ’90



Mary Ann Kucera '58 wore a special piece of jewelry to Commencement — an engagement ring that has been worn to 100 consecutive Commencements.



Celeste Panduro-Orellana '25 addressed her classmates and the crowd as the Commencement student speaker. Every year, seniors are invited to submit Commencement addresses and this year Panduro-Orellana was chosen.

In the past four years, she has been the student body president, earned a Clark Merit Scholarship, was named a 2024 Gilman Scholar by the United States Department of State and spent this past term studying in Washington, D.C. — all while triple majoring.



100 YEARS of *graduation sparkle*

*A unique milestone occurred during the 2025 Commencement.
An excerpt from President Hayes' welcome:*

Today is a day that reminds us of the power of tradition – the quiet strength of continuity in a world that changes so quickly.

I have the honor of sharing a story about a remarkable legacy, connection, fidelity to this institution and how family is integral to this community of Coe.

We are joined today by **Mary Ann Kucera '58** who is a 1958 Coe alum, and the granddaughter of Charles Hickok – a legendary professor and leader whose influence still echoes on this campus. A century ago, in 1925, Dr. Hickok gave his wife an engagement ring and she wore it to her first Commencement and to every Commencement that followed.

Like many cherished heirlooms, that ring became more than a piece of jewelry. It became a symbol of love, memory and enduring connection to this college. It was next passed to **Eliza "Roby" Hickok Kesler '31** – one of Coe's most beloved and devoted alumni, whose deep affection for this institution still inspires us. Roby never missed a graduation in her lifetime and neither did the ring.

And so today, as we mark this special moment with you – the Class of 2025 – the ring is here once again, worn now by Mary Ann, who cared for Roby in her later years, and who has faithfully attended every Commencement since Roby's passing.

With today's ceremony, this simple yet extraordinary ring marks its 100th consecutive Coe graduation. In a time when much feels fleeting, this story reminds us that some things endure – not just in memory but in presence.

And so does Coe.

RECOGNITIONS & AWARDS

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



This year's Kesler Award was bestowed upon Assistant Dean of Health & Wellness **Emily Barnard '02**. Barnard is a fixture on campus as she tends to students' well being and ensures a safe and supportive campus environment. As a licensed counselor, she lends an ear and a helping hand to all who are in need, while maintaining an active presence at campus events, oftentimes accompanied by therapy dog, Maverick.

Also honored at Commencement was the Charles J. Lynch Outstanding Teacher Award recipient, **Larry Atwater '82**. The annual recipient is selected by the graduating class. It recognizes quality of teaching, concern for students as individuals and scholars and memorializes the values and service of **C.J. Lynch '26**. Lynch was a prominent Cedar Rapids attorney whose dedication to Coe was reflected, among other ways, by 43 years of service on the Board of Trustees of the college. Above all, C.J. Lynch valued inspirational teaching and sound scholarship.

There were three faculty members recognized for achieving emeritus status:

- **Dr. Paula Sanchini**, professor of biology and environmental science administrative coordinator
- **Dr. Terry Hostetler**, professor of mathematics and computer science
- **Dr. Dennis Barnett**, professor of theatre arts

Two more retiring faculty members were honored for long-standing service to the college:

- **Larry Atwater**, associate professor of kinesiology
- **Dr. Jane Nesmith**, director of the writing center and associate professor of rhetoric



Dr. Paula Sanchini, professor of biology and environmental science administrative coordinator, was recognized as emerita faculty after starting at Coe in 1982.



Dr. Terry Hostetler, professor of mathematics and computer science, was recognized as emeritus faculty after starting at Coe in 1991.



Dr. Dennis Barnett, professor of theatre arts, was recognized as emeritus faculty after starting at Coe in 2002.



Larry Atwater '82 was recognized as a long-standing faculty member, having started at Coe in 1990. Atwater was also named the recipient of the CJ Lynch Award, which goes to an outstanding member of the faculty as voted on by the senior class.



Dr. Jane Nesmith, director of the writing center and associate professor of rhetoric, was recognized as a long-standing faculty member, having started at Coe in 1990.



FOREST BROWN '90

was this year's Commencement guest speaker.

After graduating from Coe with a degree in business administration, Brown went to work in the automotive industry, successfully leading a family of automotive dealerships across Eastern Iowa. As his professional portfolio grew, so has his level of involvement with the communities he does business within. He is president of a non-profit focused on giving back to the areas his dealerships serve. He has also accepted roles as president of the Guttenberg Chamber of Commerce, vice chair for a local living center and president of his church council. Brown is a current member of the President's Advisory Council at Coe.

His daughter, Reagan Brown '25, received her diploma as a member of the graduating class.

KEENAN WILSON

is building new worlds for himself and others

Special and unique moments marked Commencement, from the 100th consecutive year of the Hickok engagement ring, to Forest Brown, the Commencement speaker, getting to hand his daughter her diploma as she crossed the stage. It was an equally memorable day for Coe College Registrar Keenan Wilson, as it marked both his first year as registrar as well as the completion of his second degree from Coe.

Wilson first became a Coe alumnus in 2015, earning a Bachelor of Music in Education before returning to Coe to pursue another degree, this time collaborating with faculty to create a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Linguistic & Narrative Game Design. This decision was inspired by his passion for writing and creating worlds that others can experience for themselves through books and games.

"The courses I selected for this degree taught me how to design constructed languages, increase and organize the depth of my world building and create effective narratives and characters," he said.

As registrar, Wilson handed President David Hayes diplomas during Commencement. It was an "amazing moment" when the roles reversed and Hayes handed him his second diploma.

"This was my first year as the registrar so having this be both the first time I was conferring degrees and receiving my second was exciting," he says.

Of course, attaining a second degree while working full time was not easy. Wilson says he spent many weeknights and weekends catching up on homework in order to balance the course load, but it was all worth it to make his personal project a reality.

"I want to thank all the faculty and staff who were willing to work with me on this unconventional path. The support I received made this possible, and I am grateful to them for allowing me to pursue my passion," Wilson said.



Stories from the Coe CLASS OF 2025

Four years of growth, guidance, opportunity, laughter and building friendships that turn into forever friends ... familiar stories for all of us that have called Coe home. Relive some of those fond memories through a few members of the Coe College Class of 2025 who were gracious enough to share their experiences. Scan the QR codes to watch their video interviews.



HALLIE ATZ

Music

Hallie came to Coe along with her twin brother from Freeport, Illinois. She has thrived under the personal tutelage of her instructors.



ANGIE GUEVARA

Biology and neuroscience

Angie came to Coe from Fort Smith, Arkansas after learning about the strength of Coe's academic programs. The future neurologist embraced all the experiences and opportunities presented to her.



GAVIN GUNS

Business administration and sports management

Gavin came to Coe from Dubuque, Iowa and quickly realized Coe felt like home. Over four years, he grew as a person, challenging himself to try new classes and meet new people.



KYLIE HOY

English and business administration

Kylie came to Coe from Aurora, Colorado and her four years went by in the blink of an eye. She has embraced the people and experiences from her time at Coe, and a term in New York City has inspired her to pursue a publishing career.



GRAHAM PETERSON

Business administration

Graham came to Coe from Lincoln, Nebraska and spent four years as a sponge absorbing every facet of college life. He graduated knowing he had a job in Seattle locked up after the fastest four years of his life.



GRACIE URBATSCH

Business administration and economics

Gracie came to Coe from Grafton, Iowa and started out laser focused on volleyball and classes. She's gained confidence and expanded her horizons into thinking about her future career as she starts a new position in Cedar Rapids.



JARED VOSS

Business administration

Jared came to Coe from Ryan, Iowa following in his brother's footsteps. He balanced life as a student athlete, earning All American and Academic All American honors as a wrestler.



The Coe College Concert Band directed by Dr. William Carson provided the soundtrack for the day, including a special Star Wars medley as a nod to the Commencement day, May the Fourth.



Graduates who transferred from Iowa Wesleyan University wore purple cords to acknowledge their time at IWU, which shuttered in 2023. Twenty-nine Wesleyan students transferred to Coe.



As Commencement began, President Hayes acknowledged the loss of two distinguished members of Coe's faculty, Dr. Kent Herron and Dr. Sherif Ibrahim. They were honored with markers on their chairs: in Doc's case, his academic regalia. A single rose was placed on Dr. Ibrahim's chair.



Coe College President **David Hayes '93** welcomed graduates, families and friends to the library quad to kick off Commencement.



Kohawks supporting Kohawks

Explore our alumni-owned business directory and show your support for fellow Kohawks making an impact. Are you an alum with a business of your own? Scan the QR code below and add it to the directory by clicking the plus sign at the top of the page. Let's grow together, one connection at a time.



alumni.coe.edu/d/alumni-owned-businesses

These alumni-owned businesses are a testament to the *passion, innovation and determination* that define our Kohawk community. When you choose to support alumni-owned businesses, you're not just buying a product or service — you help strengthen connections, expand Coe's network and create a ripple effect of success that benefits the entire Coe community.

DAY OF GIVING

Rooted in Gratitude, Growing in Generosity

Support from
States Across
the Country

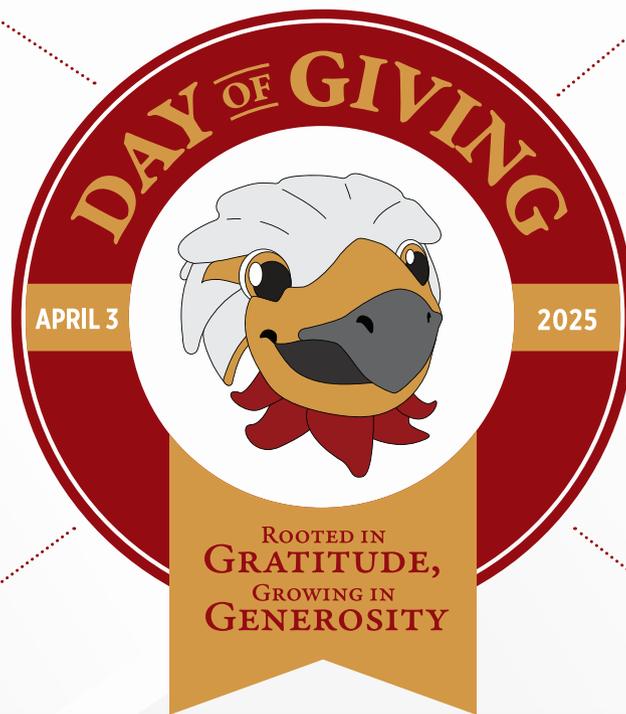
37

Digital
Ambassadors

22

Faculty/
Staff Gifts

81



Decade with
the Most Gifts

1990s

Social Media
Impressions

39,293

Thank You
Cards Written

450

TOTAL NUMBER
OF GIFTS:

410

TOTAL PLEDGED
AND RAISED:

\$276,590.38

Achieve Your Personal, Financial and Philanthropic Goals with **CHARITABLE GIVING**

This is the second article of 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 you many options with benefits now and in the future. A planned gift is when you make plans now for a gift that generally occurs in the future.

Common types of planned gifts include charitable bequests, beneficiary designation, charitable gift annuity, gifts from your IRA and charitable remainder trusts. Some planned gifts create new income streams that pay you, or you and 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 GIFT ANNUITY

A charitable gift annuity (CGA) is a contract between you and Coe College where we agree to pay you, or you and a loved one (or one or two people you choose), for life. A CGA is ideal for someone wanting fixed payments for life, especially if he or she has cash or appreciated property producing little or no income.

When you fund a charitable gift annuity, we pay you for life at fixed, attractive rates. We base our payment rates on the ages of the payment beneficiaries at the time of funding. We use rates established by the American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA).

A charitable gift annuity (CGA) gives you:

COMFORT

Payments continue in the same amount for life. After a lifetime of payments, any remaining funds automatically support Coe College.

PAYOUT RATE

You receive an income tax deduction for part of the funding amount and capital gains benefits when you transfer stock to fund your CGA. Payments are also tax-advantaged.

CHOICES

Begin your payments immediately or defer the first payment at least one year to get a higher payment rate.

OBJECTIVE

You want to receive fixed payments for life while making a gift to charity. Some tax savings would be a nice bonus.

SOLUTION

Start a charitable gift annuity with us.

BENEFITS

Fixed payments for life to one or two individuals. A portion of each payment may be tax free. Receive an income tax deduction for part of the funding amount.



CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST

When you form a charitable remainder trust (CRT), it makes payments to people you choose for life or for a term of years you designate. When it ends, it distributes the remainder to Coe College. A CRT is ideal for someone with cash or appreciated property worth at least \$100,000 who desires income tax and possible capital savings.

You can fund a CRT with cash or appreciated property. The trust then sells or manages those assets while making payments. Within designated limits, you choose the payment rates. It gives you many choices.

A charitable remainder trust (CRT) gives you:

FLEXIBILITY

You choose who receives payments and how long the trust pays them. CRTs also offer options that are great for different types of assets, such as timberland, stock, rental property and more.

FIXED OR VARIED

A charitable remainder annuity trust pays fixed annual amounts. A standard charitable remainder unitrust offers payment amounts that generally vary with the annual value of the trust.

TAXES

The government taxes most payouts to the beneficiary as ordinary income and/or capital gains.

PHILANTHROPY

After the CRT makes all income payments, its remaining assets transfer to Coe to support our work.

OBJECTIVE

You want to use your appreciated property that produces little or no income to start an income stream without paying capital gains tax on the sale of the property.

SOLUTION

You transfer appreciated property to a charitable remainder trust that will sell the property tax-free and make payments to beneficiaries you choose for their lifetimes or a specified term of years. The remainder supports Coe College.

BENEFITS

Bypass Gains: Trust sells property tax free. Income: The trust pays a fixed amount or percentage of its value to trust beneficiaries. Tax Deduction: You receive a charitable income tax deduction when you fund it.

This article provides only a glance at the possibilities and the potential you can achieve with a little planning. Call or email Debbie Green (319.399.8592 or dgreen@coe.edu) to learn how these and other types of planned gifts can help you accomplish your philanthropic goals while also serving you and your family.

KOHAWK ALUMNI

THRIVING *in* NONPROFIT WORLDS

Kohawks stepping into nonprofit careers are becoming powerful forces for change in their communities. In choosing paths that prioritize purpose, these graduates embody the values of service, leadership and community entrenched in a Coe College education. They remind us of the power of channeling education, skills and passion into meaningful work and that success can be defined by the

lives changed through their compassion and commitment to their neighbors.

Whether managing local programs, advocating for change or running outreach campaigns, Coe alumni bring fresh perspectives and a strong sense of mission to the nonprofit world. For many, the decision to work in nonprofits stems from a desire to give back to the places that helped shape them

— transforming gratitude into action. This is true of Coe alums who stayed in Cedar Rapids and found their calling outside of the Eastern Iowa communities.

Their impact also extends beyond their careers. Alumni across all fields frequently engage in mentorship, volunteerism and local initiatives that support youth, improve access to resources and foster societal growth.

INSPIRATIONAL ALUMNI *in* NONPROFIT CAREERS

CHARITY ROBERTS TYLER '96

Executive Director of Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation

Originally from Oklahoma City, Charity Tyler made Cedar Rapids her home after graduating from Coe College

with her bachelor's in English and psychology. In 1996, Charity received the Alumni Association Award for her commitment to

community service during her time at Coe. As a student, Tyler coordinated the Coe Volunteer Clearinghouse (CVC) and



“Being part of an organization and championing an asset of the community that serves everyone is really what led me to this role.”

Charity Roberts Tyler '96

completed a successful internship with United Way of East Central Iowa. Her work as the CVC coordinator connected over 200 Kohawk volunteers with organizations in the community. She hoped to find a position within a non-profit organization upon graduation. After some time gaining experience in the corporate world, she had the opportunity to integrate her professional experience with her passion. In 2015, she was

appointed executive director for the Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation.

“Being part of an organization and championing an asset of the community that serves everyone is really what led me to this role,” Tyler said.

In this role, Tyler transitioned the library foundation from funding capital projects and book purchases to focus on

funding innovative programs and services like Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. She has grown community support through annual giving, advocacy and planned giving. Today, Tyler is leading the charge for the Inspiring Big Dreams Campaign to build a new Westside Library opening in 2026. She is an inspiration to many and a great example of Kohawks growing their community through their careers.



ANNE DUGGER '95

Executive director of Catherine McAuley Center

Dugger is a Cedar Rapids native who has stayed local and dedicated her career to give back to the community through nonprofit work. She earned her bachelor’s in English from Coe College and a Master of Education with a focus on teacher leadership from Mount Mercy University. She has been with the Catherine McAuley Center since 2015 and was recently named executive director of the foundation in January 2025. Dugger’s knowledge, leadership

and passion combine to give back to clients and the community.

The way that Dugger sees it, “Service means connection. For me, our communities will never be better if we aren’t connecting with each other.”

She enjoys serving the Catherine McAuley mission and seeing connections being made every day. While Dugger acknowledges that working in nonprofit organizations can have its

challenges, she argues, “The work is complex, but the work is also joy... I can utilize my privileges to not only lift people up, but sometimes simply support them as they move forward into their community and into connection.”

She encourages others to explore careers in nonprofit work and to never hesitate to feel that their work is meaningful to those around them.

GREENE HALL RESTROOM RENOVATIONS

nears completion on Coe's campus

Coe enhances student living with modern upgrades, improved accessibility

Coe College is on track to complete a major restroom renovation project in Greene Hall this summer, marking a significant milestone in the campus's ongoing efforts to modernize student housing. Greene Hall, first built in 1938, has not seen a major renovation to its restrooms in nearly 45 years. This fall, Greene residents can anticipate a much cleaner, brighter space. The project, which began summer 2024, includes a complete overhaul of all restroom facilities within the residence hall and is projected to be finished by August 1 — just in time for the arrival of fall term residents.

"We are extremely excited about the updated restrooms in Greene Hall. This project creates more comfortable and accessible spaces that improve students' well-being and their overall living experience," said Dean of Student Life & Co-Curricular Programs Jason Chapman.

Improvements include expanded restroom layouts, modernized appliances and enhanced privacy features. Upgrades also include new flooring and tile work, touchless faucets and hand dryers, improved lighting and ADA-compliant restrooms and showers on each floor. These updates are part of a \$4.2 million renovation project for both Greene and Murray Halls, with \$2 million specifically allocated to upgrade the restrooms in Greene Hall. Coe's campus has been evaluated and

approved for the State of Iowa's Historic Preservation Tax Credit program, which provides a fully refundable and transferable tax credit covering up to 25% of eligible rehabilitation expenses for historic buildings. We are proud to preserve the historic architecture and landscape that define Coe's campus.

Greene Hall is an all-male residence hall and can be home to 247 students of all years. Several of the building's floors are dedicated to housing Coe's national fraternities: Phi Kappa Tau, Tau Kappa Epsilon and Sigma Lambda Beta, Inc.

"Greene Hall, Coe's new dormitory for men, is still an experiment on the Coe campus. But to date, it has given every evidence of being one of the most successful experiments ever entered upon by the College."
- The Coe Courier, September 1938

As construction enters its final stages, the college is preparing for a full reopening of Greene Hall ahead of move-in weekend in August. The renovations were made possible, in part, by contributions from alumni and friends. Coe College continues to evaluate other residential buildings for similar upgrades as part of a broader commitment to student-centered campus improvements.



For more information, or to donate to the project, please contact **Debbie Green** at **319.399.8592** or **dgreen@coe.edu**.

KOHAWKS

around the world

An eye-opening part of the college experience is the opportunity to study abroad in cities and regions across the world. These Kohawks have been taking advantage of this opportunity and have shared their adventures through photos!



*Photo from Alexa Dwelley '25
A walk to the top of Namsan Tower overlooking Seoul.*



Photo from Alexa Dwelley '25
During a tour of Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam, Alexa visited Cần Giuộc, known as 'Monkey Island.'



Photo from Alexa Dwelley '25
At the Oryukdo Skywalk in Busan, Korea. This was Alexa's favorite stop in Busan along with seeing a few small islands and a nearby Naval base!



Photo from Kimberly Contreras '26
While visiting the famous Gamcheon Culture Village in Busan in August, Kimberly got the chance to try on a hanbok, a piece of traditional Korean clothing.



Photo from Kimberly Contreras '26
Kimberly got to participate in a taekwondo class at Sookmyung Women's University! This photo was taken during their final exam.



Photo from Kimberly Contreras '26
The view from the Hongjecheon Stream cafe in Seoul!



Photo from Claudia Bilkey '25
A trip to Peniscola, Spain, with friends made abroad – Karim from Germany and Mark from Netherlands!



Photo from Claudia Bilkey '25
The Charles Bridge in Prague, Czech Republic. This bridge is known for being one of the only connections between Prague Castle and the city's Old Town until 1841, and it remains an iconic piece of Prague history.



Photo from Claudia Bilkey '25
During her time abroad in Spain, Claudia took a trip to Tenerife, part of Spain's Canary Islands. This photo was taken in a small mountain village on the island called Masca.



Photo from Celeste Panduro-Orellana '25
Celeste enjoying a moment among the iconic Washington D.C. cherry blossoms during D.C. term!



Photo from Celeste Panduro-Orellana '25
Coe's D.C. term mixes traditional coursework with extensive first-hand experiences across public and private entities.



Photo from Maggie Nansamba '25
Koi fish in Pattaya, Thailand, a popular city known for its beaches.



Photo from Maggie Nansamba '25
Students of Rangsit University's International College visited Kalanan Riverside Resort for a "Celebration Complete Trip" where they learned about the different eras of Thai clothing and got to try on the traditional clothing of the Rattanakosin Era.

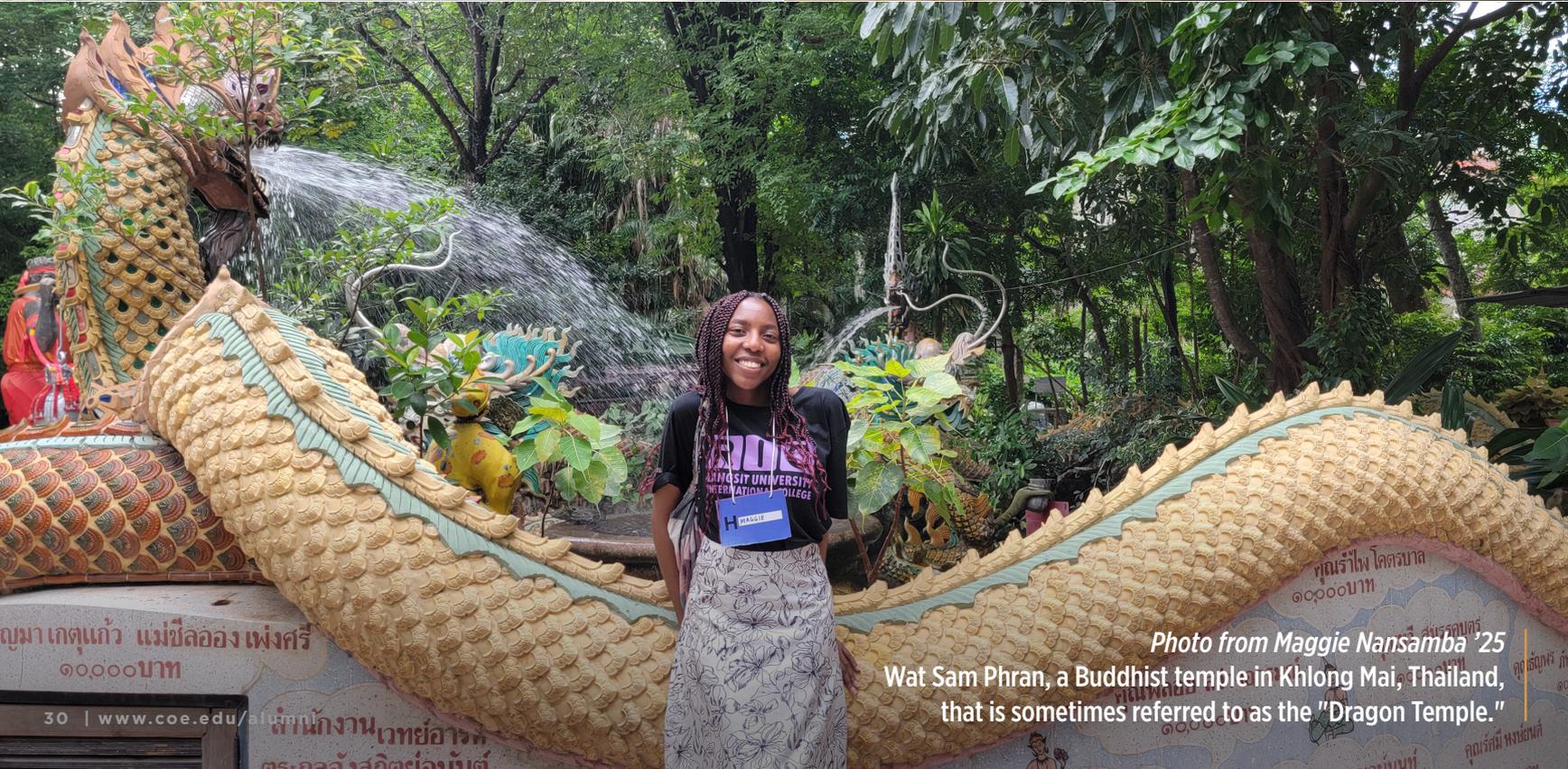


Photo from Maggie Nansamba '25
Wat Sam Phran, a Buddhist temple in Khlong Mai, Thailand, that is sometimes referred to as the "Dragon Temple."



Photo from Will Ratcliffe '25
Will took a trip to the Eiffel Tower during his semester in Valenciennes, France last fall.



Photo from Celestte Panduro-Orellana '25
Celestte took advantage of the short distance to New York City during her off-campus study in D.C.



Photo from Will Ratcliffe '25
Valenciennes, France with new and old friends!

CLASS NOTES

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

1960s

'70 Patrick "Pat" Garinger and **'72 Cynthia Cramer** Garinger of Hardeeville, South Carolina, moved to the Hilton Head Island area in South Carolina where they built a new home.

'71 Elizabeth Brandt Thomas-Starnes of Tucson, Arizona, retired as a CPA from Swanson Graham Russo & Thomas Accountants Inc. in Victorville, California and moved to Tucson, Arizona.



'79 Richard "Rick" Coles of Ripon, Wisconsin, received the Meritorious Service Award from the Midwest Conference. The Meritorious Service Award honors an individual for significant contributions and outstanding service to the Midwest Conference and its member institutions. Coles recently completed his 26th season as an assistant coach for Ripon College's football program, where he most recently served as the associate head coach and the offensive line coach. The 2024 season was his 46th and final campaign as a coach, and his 40th season coaching at

the collegiate level - with all 40 years coming in the Midwest Conference. While at Ripon, he was the offensive coordinator from 2004-19. He spearheaded a Red Hawk offense that finished in the top third of the league in total offense, scoring offense and average yards per play nine times apiece. He also serves as a professor in the exercise science department at the college, the Pieper Family Chair for Servant Leadership and he was the chair of the department for seven years. Though he retired from coaching following the 2024 season, Coles remained an adjunct professor at Ripon in the spring of 2025. Coles has coached at one-third of the current full-time Midwest Conference (MWC) institutions, and four total past and present MWC schools. Before coming to Ripon, he was the head coach of rival Lawrence University from 1993-98, where his offense was consistently ranked among the nation's best. Prior to that, he served as the offensive coordinator at Cornell College, where he helped the Rams win the 1992 MWC Championship with a 10-0 record. He began his collegiate coaching career at Coe College, where he served as an assistant coach for five years. In his first season with the Kohawks, Coles helped the team win the MWC Championship, culminating in an NCAA playoff appearance. He was also the head wrestling coach at Coe from 1985-90, where he won the Midwest Conference championship in 1989. Coles' Midwest Conference roots run back to his collegiate playing days, where he was a first-team All-Midwest Conference offensive lineman at Coe. In addition to his on-campus service, Coles has been an active member of the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) for over 35 years and currently serves as the chair of the AFCA Division III Assistant Coaches Committee. He was inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association (WFCA) Coaches Hall of Fame in 2014 and is also a member of the Athletic Hall of Fame at his alma mater, Linn-Mar (Iowa) High School.

1980s

'83 Joel Barrows of Bettendorf, Iowa, released his book *Deep White Cover* and it's now available as an audiobook on Amazon and through Audible. It will soon be available through Apple Books. Narration is by voice actor Aaron Drews. A brief synopsis: As America struggles to gain control of its borders, extremist anti-immigrant groups and white-supremacists have

begun to combine resources and ideologies. These new hybrids of hate pose a rising threat, not only to the country's immigrants, but also to national security. ATF Special Agent David Ward, undercover as a disgruntled veteran of the Army's Special Forces, works his way into The Nation, befriending its leaders and learning its secrets...or so he thinks. In truth, the organization's reach exceeds anything that the seasoned agent could have possibly imagined, something he will learn only when it seems too late to stop the revolution they seek.

1990s

'97 Elisa Borchert Davies of Omaha, Nebraska, was promoted to Executive Vice President and General Counsel at HDR, Inc., a global architecture and engineering firm. She's the first executive from the legal department in the company's 108-year history.

2000s

'02 Amy Burgin of Ames, Iowa, recently moved back to Iowa after 22 years away. She took a position at Iowa State University as Professor and Chair of Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology Department.

2010s

'13 Anna Hegland of Kenosha, Wisconsin, has been promoted to Director of Carthage College's Brainard Writing Center and Office of Peer Tutoring. Anna also currently serves as part of the Intellectual Foundations faculty. She brings with her a strong academic background in Shakespeare, and medieval and early modern studies cultivated in the United Kingdom. In the Aspire Center, she developed a very strong peer career ambassador program, which built opportunities and competency development for Aspire's career ambassadors. Anna brings a wealth of experience in helping students cultivate their writing and peer helping skills for academic success. She will be an excellent addition to the Writing Center and Peer Tutoring.

 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.

1950s

1950 Rufus “Bud” Colette, Jr., 97, of Anoka, Minnesota on February 10.

1951 Judith “Judy” Jostes Chadima, 95, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on April 14.

1954 Stanley Kosek, 92, of La Grange Park, Illinois on February 14.

1955 Gerald “Jerry” Shott, 91, of Lancaster, California on March 4.

1956 Carol “Ann” Shimerda Netser, 89, of Marion, Iowa on May 3.

1956 John Van Fleet, Jr., 91, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on April 28.

1957 Shirley Lunde Carlson, 90, of Sioux City, Iowa on March 25.

1957 Phillip “Phil” DeWees, 90, of Marion, Iowa on April 1.

1959 John “Jersey” Jermier, 92, of Cedar Falls, Iowa on April 12.

1959 Thomas “Tom” Lapp, 87, of Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina on December 23.

1959 Russell “Russ” Werning, 88, of Newhall, Iowa on April 26.

1960s

1961 Robert “Bob” Gage, 85, of Webster, Minnesota on February 28.

1961 Shirley Graham Martin, 85, of Visalia, California on February 7.

1961 Karen Doms McConkey, 85, of Minneapolis, Minnesota on March 9.

1964 James Orr, 83, of Bettendorf, Iowa on March 21.

1964 Joanne Pavell Paveglio, 82, of Stephens City, Virginia on March 13.

1965 Dale Wulf, 82, of Clinton, Iowa on February 19.

 **1965 John “Chuck” Zimmerman**, 81, of Mesa, Arizona on January 28.

1966 Louis “Lou” Moses, 81, of Leesburg, Virginia on January 30.

1969 Lillian Peterson Frantz, 94, of Austin, Texas on March 25.

1969 Barbara Selzer Hoehnle, 78, of Amana, Iowa on May 10.

1970s

1971 Paul Klotz, 75, of Bend, Oregon on April 2.

1971 Odis Von Blasingame, 76, of New York, New York on January 18.

1973 Ricky Wittenburg, 72, of Tripoli, Iowa on April 25.

1974 Deborah Benning Linville, 72, of Canby, Indiana on May 4.

1976 Thomas “Tom” Luers, 71, of Lincoln, Nebraska on February 13.

1979 John Segriff, 71, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on May 2.

1980s

1980 Darrell Walters, Jr., 66, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on March 24.

1981 Jeanne Howe Rosendahl, 65, of Central City, Iowa on January 22.

1982 Kerry Sanders, 65, of Chicago, Illinois on March 5.

1984 Thomas Tharp, 64, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on February 9.

1987 Randall “Randy” Jacobson, 72, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on April 26.

1989 Terri Youngblut Derflinger, 68, of Stanley, Iowa on February 23.

1989 Shawn Wilkin, 58, of Cedar Falls, Iowa on April 17.

2000s

2002 Judith Mattan, 83, of Williamsburg, Iowa on February 13.

ALUMNI COUNCIL *Update*

Dear Kohawks,

As summer approaches, anticipation is already building for one of the most cherished traditions in the Coe community — Homecoming Weekend. Mark your calendars for October 2–4, when Kohawks from across the generations will return to campus to reconnect, celebrate and create new memories together. It promises to be a weekend full of fun and reminiscing.

The Alumni Council is also pleased to welcome three new members this year: **Bill Waldie '73**, **Jay Caughren '11** and **Crystal Maldonado '21**. Their perspectives and commitment will help further the Council's mission of keeping all Kohawks connected to each other and to Coe.

As we look toward the future, we also celebrate the newest members of the Coe alumni family — the **Class of 2025**. This exceptional group of graduates has shown incredible resilience, creativity and leadership during their time on campus. They leave Coe prepared to make their mark on the world, and we look forward to welcoming them into the broader alumni community.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the many alumni who give back to Coe through their time, expertise and financial support. Your generosity helps sustain the high-quality education, vibrant campus life and enduring traditions that make Coe such a special place. Every contribution — large or small — makes a lasting difference in the lives of current and future Kohawks.

Whether you graduated five years ago or fifty, Homecoming is a wonderful time to revisit campus, reflect on shared experiences and see firsthand how the Coe community continues to thrive. Watch your mail and email for registration details and a full schedule of events later this summer — we can't wait to welcome you back to Cedar Rapids this fall!

Go Kohawks!



Pat Steele '75
Alumni Council President

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 2025 issue is August 1.** Announcements older than one year at the time they are submitted will not be published.

Please follow these basic guidelines when submitting information:

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

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

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

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

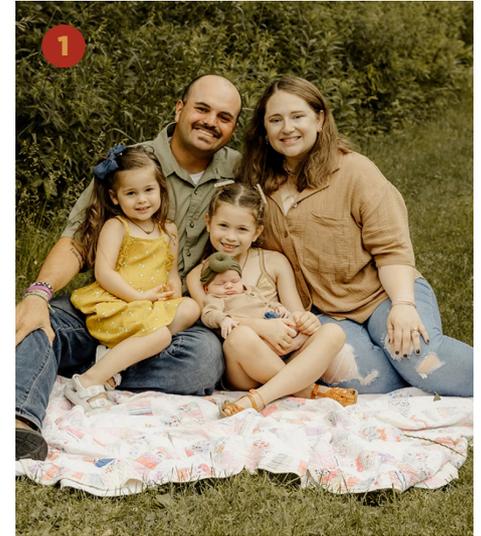
PHOTOS Digital photos must be at least 300 dpi when sized to 3.75 inches wide. Please save the file as a TIFF or JPEG file. We must have the photographer's permission to print a copyrighted photo. Please indicate if you would like prints returned.

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

FUTURE ALUMNI

2010s

- 1 '14 Brenden Drahn and Loxley Grafe** Drahn '15, of Central City, Iowa, a daughter, Baylor Rae Drahn, on May 31, 2024.



FACULTY & STAFF



Michelle Miers presented her well-received talk "Peer Education Leaders: Maximizing the Impact Now of Holistic Student Support Through Peer Mentoring and Leadership" at the Iowa TRIO Conference in Iowa City on April 10, 2025. Michelle's presentation highlighted Coe College's innovative and impactful peer mentoring strategies within the TRIO Student Support Services program. Drawing on both research and programmatic experience, she effectively demonstrated how empowering peer leaders not only supports TRIO participants in navigating the hidden curriculum of higher education but also strengthens the skills and confidence of the peer mentors themselves. Her session was rooted in evidence-based practices and centered on equity, belonging and student empowerment. Attendees left inspired and equipped with actionable ideas to bring back to their campuses. Michelle represented Coe College with professionalism, passion and purpose — truly embodying the spirit of TRIO and holistic student support.



Gina Hausknecht co-edited the essay collection, *Shakespeare in the Age of Mass Incarceration*, published April 15 by Routledge.

Bill Carson, Steve Shanley and Luke Lovegood hosted another successful Jazz Summit on campus. Twenty-five middle school jazz bands performed on Thursday and Friday, February 20 and 21. Twenty-one high school jazz choirs and 50 solo contest entries performed all day on Wednesday, February 26. Seventy-one high school jazz bands performed on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, February 27, 28 and 29! An incredible opportunity to showcase the fine music programs across the state as well as providing an educational, positive and growth-mindset experience for all who attended.



Joyce Janca was invited to the Summer Institute, Buddhist Perspectives on the Natural World in an Age of Global Climate Change, June 15-27, 2025, at the Mangalam Research Center in Berkeley, California as one of the 25 summer scholars.



Amber Shaw was selected as an ACM Mellon Academic Leadership Fellow. This fellowship, supported by a \$1.16 million grant from the Mellon Foundation, aims to develop future faculty leaders in higher education. Dr. Shaw's leadership at Coe College, particularly in work as fellowship advisor and department chair, made her an ideal candidate for this fellowship.

UPDATES AND ACCOLADES

Steve Shanley has been elected to serve as President Elect of the Iowa Bandmasters Association.



Sharon Guthrie presented "Different Abilities: Life after Traumatic Injury" at the Virtual Orthopedic Nursing Conference "Rising to the Challenge: Orthopedic Patient Care."



Derek Buckaloo presented an invited talk at Texas A & M-Texarkana entitled "Changing America: The Spirit and 'The Strands' of Sixties Activism," February 6, 2025.



Buckaloo together with **David Nordmann**, led a roundtable discussion session at the ASIANetwork Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas, entitled "Short-Term Travel Courses to Asia through and after COVID," March 29, 2025.

A KOHAWK'S LIFE

— KYLIE HOY '25 —



1 Hello fellow alumni! My name is Kylie Hoy, I'm a recent 2025 graduate with a B.A. in English and Business Administration. I'm back home enjoying the sunshine and mountain air in Aurora, Colorado. I

always spend the first few weeks of summer reflecting on the past year at Coe but it feels crazy knowing that all four years of Kohawk life are now behind me. In true fashion, I'd like to reflect on my time at Coe, and I'm happy to do it with all of you!

2 My senior year, I started the fall term off strong by leading Alpha Sigma Alpha through formal recruitment. I rushed ASA as a freshman, so seeing my growth in the chapter from a timid new member to the confident, passionate Vice President of Recruitment that I became was the most special way I could have kicked off my last year at Coe. September is my favorite time to be on campus; the trees are still in full bloom, the weather is perfect and everyone — students, faculty and staff alike — is feeling rejuvenated and ready to take on a new academic year. To me, there's no better way to experience that feeling than rush weekend.

I've also made some amazing memories away from Cedar Rapids. My sophomore year, I went on Coe's New York Term, where I went to Broadway shows, the Met, experienced a jazz club for the first time and got to connect with the amazing faculty who taught us in the arts of music, theatre, dance, film and art. I also worked for Dystel, Goderich & Bourret LLC as a literary agent intern, meaning it was my job to read books all semester and learn how to find titles that have publication potential. This experience was my first big step towards building a career in book

publishing. I didn't know what to expect when I moved to Greenwich Village that spring term but I left New York Term knowing that one day, I'll live in New York City. The energy of that city is something I've never forgotten or stopped missing since going on that trip.

3 My junior year, I travelled to Belize to take Professor Paul Storer's marine biology May Term. I've always been terrified of the ocean so I thought that trip would be a good way to challenge myself and do something I've never done before. In addition to snorkeling the beautiful coral reefs around the island, we also took a day excursion to see some Mayan temples, rode in golf carts around San Pedro and ate homemade lionfish ceviche made by one of our snorkel guides, Carlos. I'm definitely still scared of the ocean, but going to Belize proved just how capable I am of trying new things and just how big this Earth of ours is. Coe has taught me to be curious and adventurous, and I hope to travel more now that my time as a student is over.

I got to talk about all of these experiences and more when I gave the opening speech at Admitted Student Day on April 12. I had given the speech as a junior, too, but getting to address members of the incoming freshman class as a senior was extra special. So much about my future feels uncertain right now, but what I know for sure, and what I realized while giving the opening speech, is that Coe has given me the best set of skills and experiences I could have hoped for. I feel confident that my future holds as much success and joy as my four years at Coe held, and what's even more reassuring is knowing that the Kohawk community will stick with me as I make this transition into being a part of the alumni network.





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Reconnect with classmates and celebrate your experiences at Coe.
alumni.coe.edu

