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Thank you for your steadfast support of and interest in Coe College. The power of a Coe education lies not in any single course, faculty member or activity but in the totality of the experience. For more than a century Coe has shaped graduates of character and success by providing a rigorous academic foundation, close faculty mentorship and abundant opportunities to lead, serve and discover. This distinctive blend continues to prepare our students for meaningful lives and purposeful careers in a world of rapid change.

It is my privilege to introduce one such student — Coe's third Rhodes Scholar, Katie Ameku — who has generously offered to share her story with you. The Rhodes is widely regarded as the most prestigious international award for undergraduates, an external validation of the excellence of Coe's academic experience and the caliber of students we prepare for leadership on a global stage.

This is Katie's story...

"Why Coe College?" It's a common question that I have been asked by family, friends, peers, fellow committee members and other Rhodes Scholars. As someone who was firmly invested in my community, it was hard to imagine why I would choose a college that was outside of Missouri and five hours away from home. I am a second-generation college student. While I am privileged to have parents who knew how to navigate the system, they were saddled with their own college debt and had two other kids at home; thus, I always knew I would be responsible for financing my own education through loans or scholarships. I applied to 17 different schools to find something financially feasible. Coe College stood out among that list because of its dedication to connection and communication. So, I applied for the Williston Jones Leadership Scholarship. After the interview process and receiving the Williston Jones, I graciously accepted my admission to Coe.



Katie Ameku with advisor, Dr. Amber Shaw

Receiving the Williston Jones Scholarship, and later the Clark Merit Scholarship, changed my life. Due to the generosity of the donors of the endowed scholarship fund, I was able to pay for the rest of my education myself and pursue opportunities of a lifetime. That same generosity had ripple effects as the financial security enabled me to pursue cutting-edge research opportunities at the University of Pennsylvania and Georgia Tech, instead of working to cover the cost of tuition. During the academic terms, I was able to travel to Jefferson City for my Missouri Democratic State Party Committee meetings and participate in

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numismatic or glass science research trips — all of which were experiences that set me apart and made me a competitive Rhodes Scholarship applicant.

Of course, I cannot speak about my college experience without mentioning Coe's wonderful faculty. Dr. Brittney Miller and the other mathematics and computer science faculty supported my pursuit of a truly liberal arts education and experience, encouraging my political and academic pursuits at all times. Dr. Steve Feller and Dr. Mario Affatigato were the first to offer me a research position and were central to my scientific success. Dr. Amber Shaw persistently encouraged me to push myself, explore my intellectual curiosities and discover my narrative. If I listed everyone at Coe who has made an impact on the way I think, this letter would be a novel. I want to emphasize that I am a product of the amazing instruction and conversations I had at Coe, which could not have been emulated anywhere else. As I embark on my new journey at the University of Oxford as a proud Kohawk and Rhodes Scholar, I will always be grateful to everyone at Coe, which includes you as a supporter of future generations of scholars, for all you have done to help me achieve my goals.

Katie's experience is a vivid reminder that the transformative impact of Coe is not accidental. It has taken decades of generous investment to build and sustain the capacity of this college to serve students of great promise and potential. The scholarships, faculty mentorship and opportunities that shaped Katie's journey were made possible by the dedication of alumni and friends who believed in this mission before her.

Now it is our shared responsibility to ensure that this investment continues. With your support today Coe can remain a place where bright, determined students flourish for generations to come carrying forward the proud Kohawk tradition of leadership and achievement.

Thank you for your commitment to Coe and to the lives we shape together.

Alma mater, hail hail hail.

With gratitude,



David Hayes '93
President

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