

# COURIER

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— FALL 2025 —



COE COLLEGE.



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## COVER

Coe's aviation management & flight operations program is off the ground this fall, as students have started their flight training. Launching the program, however, took a lot of coordination and care. Retrace the steps required on page 4!



Dear Kohawks,

As you turn the pages of this edition of The Courier, I hope you feel the same pride and inspiration I do when reflecting on the excellence that defines Coe College across generations past, present and future.

This issue is filled with stories that showcase the remarkable achievements of our alumni and the extraordinary promise of our current students. From the launch of our aviation management & flight operations program to the national accolades earned by our student-athletes and scholars, the spirit of innovation, leadership and impact is unmistakable. These stories are not just celebrations of individual success, but rather are reflections of the enduring values that have shaped generations of Kohawks.

With these examples of innovation and impact in mind, I invite you to spend time with our new strategic framework, Progress with Purpose, beginning on page 18. I encourage you, in particular, to reflect on the values outlined on page 21. These values — inquiry and discovery, excellence, respect, collaboration and impact, innovation and adaptability — were not chosen lightly. Our planning committee devoted significant time to ensure they represent the heart of Coe. During a time of rapid and significant change in higher education, we felt it was essential to reaffirm what makes Coe distinctive and enduring.

We believe these values are not only timeless, but transformative. They are the same values that guided our alumni to lives of personal and professional success, and they are the compass by which our current and future students will navigate their own paths. My hope is that as you read them, you see the Coe you know and love and further recognize how these principles continue to shape our college's future.

To ensure these values endure, we need your support. Your gifts make it possible for us to provide scholarships, enhance academic programs and create opportunities that empower students to thrive. Every contribution strengthens the foundation upon which Coe's mission is built.

Thank you for being part of this extraordinary community. Together, we will continue to move Coe forward with purpose, pride and the values that unite us.

Alma mater, hail, hail, hail.

David Hayes '93  
President

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# COURIER

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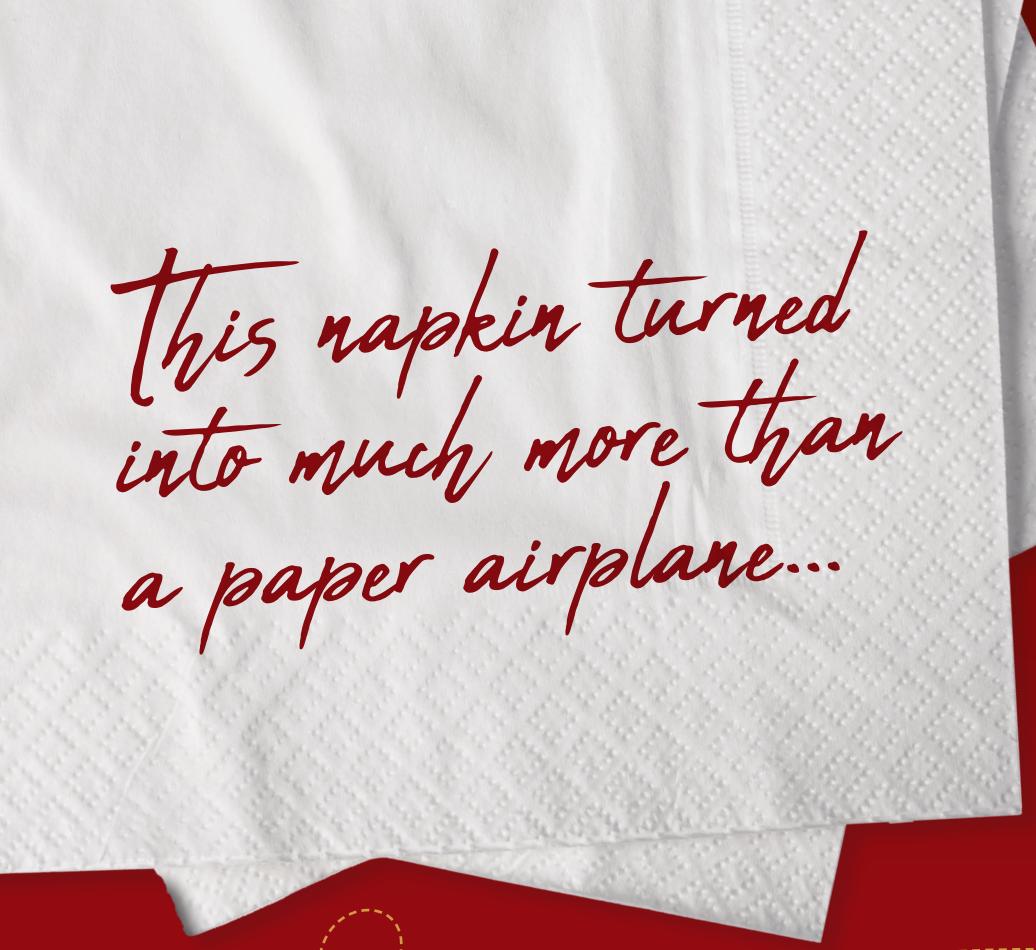
Address changes and inquiries regarding alumni records may be addressed to the Office of Advancement (319.399.8745 or advancementservices@coe.edu).

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

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

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



This napkin turned  
into much more than  
a paper airplane...

*Speaking literally and figuratively, getting an aviation program off the ground from scratch takes a long runway. The logistics don't just fall into place. At a small liberal arts college like Coe, a program with so many technical requirements and mechanical needs is even more unique. It takes foresight and determination to get going, and hard work and perseverance to keep it going.*

***But all that needs to start somewhere.  
In Coe's case it was a napkin...***



**2023**

On a fishing trip in Wisconsin, Eastern Iowa Airport Director Marty Lenss and Coe College President **David Hayes '93** pause telling fishing tales to begin ideation around an aviation program through a partnership.

**FALL 2023**

Officials at Coe College sign on to the idea and begin conversations about how to create a program unlike any other at Coe College. The Eastern Iowa Airport (CID) pledges hangar space for what will become Coe's Aeronautical Field Station at the airport.



**2024**

Lenss and Hayes share their ideas over dinner with aviation enthusiast Duane Smith, and together they sketch out a timeline and next steps plan on a napkin. Smith pledges his financial gift with support from The TrueNorth Legacy Foundation, providing the startup funds needed to move forward with planning. Coe begins the search for a flight school partner.



**AVIATION MANAGEMENT  
& FLIGHT OPERATIONS**

COE COLLEGE

**MAY 22, 2024**

Coe publicly announces its flight school and aviation management program during an event at the Coe College aeronautical field station. Local officials, including Cedar Rapids mayor Tiffany O'Donnell, were in attendance and celebrated the launch.

### JUNE 2024

Coe College begins the rigorous process to earn Part 141 certification from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Part 141 allows students to complete flight training quicker due to the structured FAA-approved curriculum with stringent requirements.

The process started with developing detailed Training Course Outlines for each course to reach compliance with FAA regulations, designed to ensure high standards of safety and training quality. Coe College Provost Angela Ziskowski and Senior Vice President for Enrollment, Marketing and Institutional Effectiveness **Julie Kleis Staker '93** led this effort.



### OCTOBER 30, 2024

Coe introduces a direct entry program for its aviation management & flight operations program, guaranteeing admission to those who meet specific criteria. Qualified students also receive an Early Aviators Award valued at \$500 per year for four years.

### NOVEMBER 9, 2024

Coe hosts its first aviation visit day, held at the aeronautical field station.

### JANUARY 9, 2025

Lenss teaches the first Introduction to Aviation course at Coe, leading a full class in Stuart Hall.

### JULY 22-28, 2024

Representatives from Coe attend EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, the world's largest aviation gathering, held annually at the Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. There, they spread the word about the aviation management & flight operations program and learn from experts in the field of aviation.

### AUGUST 2024

Coe graduate and Associate Director of Admission & Aviation Programs **Anna Dvorak '22** is named the lead recruiter for the aviation program.

### AUGUST 21, 2024

The first aviation student (from Colorado) commits to Coe.





### MARCH 4, 2025

Professor of Business Administration and Economics **Pam Carstens**, Staker and Ziskowski visit one of the nation's most established aviation programs, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, to meet with President P. Barry Butler and other members of the institution.

### JULY 2025

As part of Coe's Part 141 certification process, Mike Massell from the FAA joins college partners on campus for an official visit.

### JULY 8, 2025

Coe announces a partnership with ATD Flight Systems to deliver flight training for the flight operations portion of the program. Based out of Kansas City, ATD has a 20-year history of safely providing Part 141 flight training.

With ATD, Kohawks can also expect shorter wait times for the practical exams and check rides as ATD holds examining authority from the FAA. Less than 60 flight providers in the United States hold both 141 approval and examining authority.

### JULY 21, 2025

The Eastern Iowa Airport launches the Aviation Workforce Development Campus with Coe as a strategic educational partner. The logo was designed by the Coe marketing office in collaboration with teams at the Eastern Iowa Airport and Kirkwood Community College.



### AUGUST 11, 2025

The FAA approves Coe's application to operate the ground portion of its aviation management & flight operations program as a Part 141 approved school.

### AUGUST 13, 2025

Tim Busch announced as assistant chief instructor. Busch has been a ground and flight instructor for nearly 30 years, first operating his own flight school and later successfully rebuilding and leading another college aviation program.

### AUGUST 20, 2025

The inaugural members of Coe's aviation management & flight operations program have their first day of classes.

### SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

The first Part 141 training flight in Kohawk history takes off at the Eastern Iowa Airport!

### PROSPECTIVE AVIATION STUDENT INFORMATION REQUEST





# Go online with Coe Online



**Coe is offering an online business administration degree with concentration in strategic leadership**

## Go online with **Coe ONLINE**



Coe is taking its transformative college education and offering it in an online format in addition to the traditional in person, on-campus experience. The college has started its online program with a single degree.

That degree — a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a strategic leadership concentration — is available through the Stead Department of Business Administration & Economics. The 100% online education will be an affordable route for those looking to improve their career readiness, and is designed specifically to be a flexible option for working students.

Those employed full time or with other responsibilities during typical class hours will be able to earn a bachelor's degree on their own schedule by accessing course materials and recorded lectures on demand. Courses will be available over two eight week terms in the fall, two eight week terms in the spring and one eight week term during summer.

Students pursuing the online business degree will have the same level of access to Coe's nationally recognized student support services as residential students. Academic support services from the Learning Commons, success coaches from the Office of Student Success & Persistence and career specialists from C3: Creativity, Careers, Community will be available online or in person if the student wants to come to campus. The Princeton Review ranks Coe as having the **#11 Best Career Services in the nation** and the **#14 Best Student Support & Counseling Services in the nation**.

"We're taking the personalized approach we know is transformative and extending it to online," said Coe College President **David Hayes '93**. "Our offering will be a signature Coe experience, providing individualized education and career guidance, and one that you can access on your own time."

The college plans to expand its online degree options in the future and will continue to leverage its partnerships within the Corridor to provide engaging opportunities for those enrolled in online programs to apply what they are learning, gain mentorship and expand their professional networks.



**Scan to get more information about Coe's inaugural online degree.**



# HOMECOMING 2025

From the roar of the Kohawk crowd to the laughter echoing through a new All-Alumni Celebration & Reunion venue, Homecoming 2025 was a weekend full of energy, nostalgia and pride. More than 420 alumni and friends returned to campus to reconnect with classmates, celebrate milestones and cheer the Kohawks to a 37-10 football victory over Buena Vista and root for the soccer teams against Central.

The weekend brimmed with opportunities to relive favorite Coe moments — from open seats in academic classes and tours of the campus to the vibrant Friday night celebration that brought generations of Kohawks together under one roof. One of the highlights of the weekend was the 25th anniversary of Alpha Sigma Alpha at Coe. Members past and present came together to honor a quarter-century of sisterhood, service and connection — a proud reminder of

the ways student life and lifelong friendships continue to thrive at Coe. Homecoming also presented the chance to recognize Kohawks who exemplify excellence in their fields and enduring commitment to Coe through the All-Alumni Award and Athletic Hall of Fame programs.

As Homecoming 2025 came to a close, one theme stood out: the enduring strength of the Coe connection. Whether through decades-old friendships, a milestone sorority anniversary or new memories made on a hot fall weekend, Kohawks once again showed that Coe's spirit never fades.

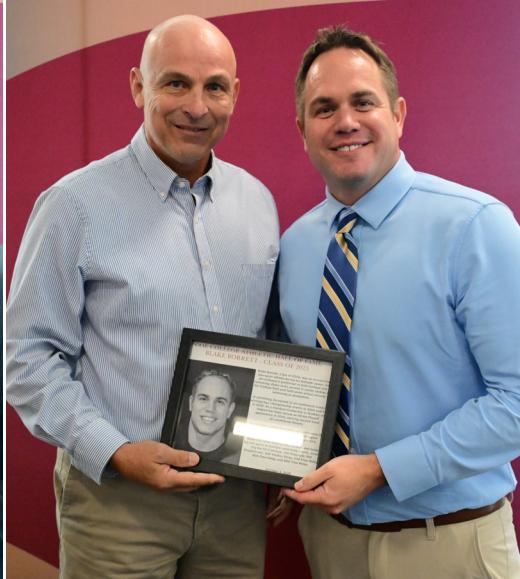
That spirit will take center stage again soon — when the Coe community gathers in 2026 to celebrate an extraordinary milestone: **175 years of Coe College.**

## CELEBRATING ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

Four remarkable athletes joined the Coe College Athletic Hall of Fame, representing the best of Coe's tradition of competitive spirit and character.

**Blake Borrett '05** earned all-conference honors in both football and swimming, setting seven school records in the pool and ranking second in

career tackles on the football field. A true dual-sport standout, he helped lead the Kohawks to an NCAA football playoff and earned 12 all-conference honors in swimming, winning four championship events in 2004 and five in 2005. He continues to hold top-10 spots in multiple swimming events.



*Top Left:* Coe College Athletic Hall of Fame members inducted during Homecoming are (left to right) **Chad Kramer '06**, **Andrea Schupbach Schmit '10**, **Blake Borrett '05** and **Kayla Waskow '13**. *Top Middle:* Steve Cook presenting at the Athletic HOF. *Top Right:* **Andrea Schupbach Schmit '10** and award presenter Eric Rodgers. *Bottom Left:* Inductee **Chad Kramer '06** and award presenter Steve Cook. *Bottom Middle:* Larry Atwater '82 presents **Blake Borrett '05** with his award. *Bottom Right:* **Sarah Waskow '12** and **Kayla Waskow '13**. Sarah was Kayla's presenter.

**Chad Kramer '06** made his mark on Coe baseball history as the program's first All-American in nearly 30 years. Appearing 31 times in the Kohawk record book, Kramer ranks second in career RBIs and doubles, third in batting average, fifth in hits, eighth in runs and 10th in home runs. His leadership helped propel the team to one of its winningest eras.

**Andrea Schupbach Schmit '10** remains one of only two All-American women's tennis players in Coe history. Her 2009 NCAA DIII Doubles Championship run with fellow Hall of Famer

**Molly Fiala Garber '10** secured their place in program lore. Throughout her career, Schmit contributed to three IIAC championship teams and secured the individual IIAC Flight A Doubles title in both 2008 and 2010. She continues to rank among the top 10 in all major statistical

categories at Coe, holding the fifth position for total career wins and individual doubles wins, while ranking seventh in career singles wins.

**Kayla Waskow '13** helped shape one of the most successful stretches in Coe women's basketball history. A four-time first-team All-IIAC honoree and the program's all-time leader in points and rebounds, Waskow guided the Kohawks to two NCAA Tournament appearances — including the only postseason wins in team history. Today, she leads the next generation of athletes as Coe's head women's basketball coach.



**Scan to read more about the 2025 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees.**

# HONORING DISTINGUISHED KOHAWKS

In addition to athletic achievements, Kohawks also celebrated four alumni whose leadership, service and impact continue to elevate Coe's legacy.

**Whitney Hu '13** received the Young Alum Award for her visionary leadership and tireless advocacy in New York City. A community organizer and strategist, Hu has championed anti-gentrification efforts, immigrant rights and mutual aid initiatives. She co-founded South Brooklyn Sanctuary, a legal clinic empowering thousands of immigrants, and serves as director of civic engagement and research at Churches United for Fair Housing. Her work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Teen Vogue* and NPR, reflecting the lasting impact of her Coe roots and her deep commitment to justice and community.

**Tim Johnson '76**, recipient of the Alumni Award of Merit, has spent more than four decades inspiring leaders in athletics, business and ministry — and is known nationwide as “the voice of college wrestling.” A longtime ESPN broadcaster and National Wrestling Hall of Fame inductee, Johnson has combined his love of sport with his passion for faith and mentorship, leading the Fellowship of Christian Athletes across the Midwest and empowering others through service and encouragement.

**Douglas “Dougie” Peters '81** was honored with the Distinguished Service Award for a lifetime of devotion to Coe. For more than 40 years, Peters served as athletics equipment manager, infusing every game and team with his enthusiasm, generosity and care. From his trademark Dougie Send Offs, to his philanthropy and mentorship, he continues to embody the heart of the Coe community — reminding generations of Kohawks what it means to serve with joy and pride.

**Bill Schalk '65**, also a Distinguished Service Award recipient, has dedicated his life to leadership and service in every arena — from the skies of Vietnam to his local community and alma mater. A retired Navy commander, attorney and civic leader, Schalk has given more than six decades of steady support to Coe through volunteerism, philanthropy and board service. His life stands as a testament to commitment, integrity and the enduring power of a Coe education.



**Scan to read more about the All-Alumni Awards.**



From back left to front right: Alumni Council President **Pat Steele '75**; **Tim Johnson '76**, Alumni Award of Merit recipient; Coe College President **David Hayes '93**; **Whitney Hu '13**, Young Alum Award recipient; **Dougie Peters '81**, Distinguished Service Award recipient; **Bill Schalk '65**, Distinguished Service Award recipient



1. The Kohawk sideline reacts to a near touchdown early in the first half — there were plenty to come, though, as Coe triumphed 37-10.
2. The Coe College Homecoming court was introduced at halftime of the football game. **Michellel Jones '26** and **Lily Mayo '26** were named Homecoming royalty.
3. A Homecoming-themed beer was provided by Lion Bridge Brewing in Cedar Rapids, and the can was designed by IMS Branded Solutions.
4. A picture perfect day at Clark Field included full stands and plenty of Kohawk spirit.
5. Alpha Sigma Alpha hosted a brunch in honor of their 25th year on Coe's campus, bringing together alumni and current Kohawks for a time of connection and celebration.
6. Charlie Kohawk and **Dougie Peters '81** before the annual Heritage Club Dinner at the Cedar Rapids Country Club.
7. Left to right: **Emily Reis '15**, **Tiffany Priddy '15**, Charlie Kohawk, **Abbey Benzine '15**, **Felicia Owens '15**.
8. Coe Alumni Council President **Pat Steele '75** and his wife Maria Steele at Brat'n'Bev.

6



7



8



# KOHAWK

## ATHLETIC DAY OF GIVING

— ONE TEAM. ONE GOAL. —



### A NEW TRADITION BEGINS: CELEBRATING KOHAWK ATHLETICS

Total Raised

**\$254,084**

Total Number  
of Gifts

**607**

States  
Represented

**31**

Social Media  
Impressions

**109,185**

Student-Athletes  
Supported

**702**

New  
Donors

**260**

Team with the Most  
Gifts Raised

**WOMEN'S  
TENNIS**

Team with the Most  
Money Raised

**MEN'S  
TENNIS**

International  
Donors

**12**





**ANNOUNCING THE KOHAWK ATHLETES OF THE YEAR**  
**MADDY MAAHS '26 AND BRYCE PARKE '25**  
**ARE THE 2024-25 BARRON BREMNER OUTSTANDING ATHLETES**

In her junior season, Maahs continued her impressive Kohawk volleyball career with another accolade-filled campaign. She helped Coe to the A-R-C regular season title and was a two-time A-R-C Volleyball Offensive Player of the Week honoree. Maahs averaged 10.29 assists, .41 service aces, .81 kills, 1.44 points, 2.49 digs and .35 blocks per set while finishing the year ranked fifth in DIII in total assists and 16th in assists per set. Following the season, Maahs was named the A-R-C Most Valuable Player and later picked up AVCA First Team All-Region and AVCA Honorable Mention All-American honors.

Parke had an incredible run in his final season as a Kohawk wrestler, reaching the national final match at 133 pounds before suffering a defeat to the top seed. The national runner-up, Parke claimed the NCAA Region IV Championship and posted a 26-5 record during the season. He posted nine falls, eight tech falls and three major decisions during his season including two falls at the NCAA tournament.

Following the conclusion of the 2024-25 athletic calendar, all head athletic coaches of the college nominate candidates for the award. A committee votes to select the outstanding male and female athlete.

The awards, which have been made possible by Life Trustee **John Strohm '79** and Mary Pat Link, annually honor the top three female athletes and the top three male athletes. The award was renamed after Barron Bremner in honor of his many years of outstanding service to the college, its students and the community as a beloved coach and athletic director.

Maahs and Parke were named this year's outstanding athletes during a ceremony Homecoming weekend at the Clark Alumni House on Sunday, October 5. Other finalists were:

**CHRIS BAKER '25 | TRACK AND FIELD**

Baker capped a historic throwing career with a stellar senior season, earning a pair of NCAA Championship bids. Coe's first conference champion since 2017, Baker claimed the league title in the hammer throw

and earned all-league honors in the weight throw with a third place finish at the 2025 championships. At the national championships, Baker earned two second-team All-American awards. During the outdoor season, Baker set a new school record in the weight throw with a massive toss of 19.37m.

**TRENTON BARNES '25 | FOOTBALL**

Barnes was a key part of the 2024 Kohawk football team reaching the NCAA Playoffs for the second straight season. A senior running back, Barnes took on an expanded role, rushing for 1,264 yards and 15 touchdowns. He ranked 12th in DIII in rushing yards and 17th in rushing touchdowns en route to the program's first A-R-C Offensive MVP honor since 2016. Following his outstanding campaign, Barnes was named a second-team AFCA All-American.

**TAYLOR BRUNSON '27 | WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

Brunson put together one of the best individual single seasons in Coe history, setting the school record for single-season points with 550. Brunson averaged 21.2 points, 6.3 rebounds, 2.9 steals, 1.8 assists and 0.5 blocks per game, making an impact on both sides of the floor. She helped Coe to its second straight 20-win season and was later named first team all-conference, first team all-region and the American Rivers Conference MVP. Brunson had six 30-plus point performances during the season and hit the 20-point mark in 13 games.

**SOPHIA FAIN '27 | WOMEN'S TENNIS**

Fain helped the Kohawk women's tennis program return to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2018, leading from the top as Coe's number one singles player. She posted a total record of 17-5 during her sophomore season and was a perfect 8-0 in conference matches en route to earning the league's MVP award. A two-time A-R-C Female Tennis Athlete of the Week, Fain won seven of her eight conference matches in straight sets. Additionally, Fain claimed the top flight title at the fall individual championships.



# HONORING A COE LEGEND

## UPGRADES TO CLARK FIELD CELEBRATE THE LEGACY OF DR. W. KENT "DOC" HERRON

A testament to the generosity and community spirit of its namesake, **K. Raymond Clark '30**, Clark Field was constructed in 1989 and featured a natural grass playing surface until 2007, when field turf was first installed. The field's turf has since been maintained thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends, with refreshes in 2012 and 2016 while under warranty. This year, the turf was replaced entirely with FieldTurf's premier line. This top-of-the-line playing surface has already provided high-level playability for both football and soccer.



**“With the installation of our new field turf, we’re not just upgrading our playing surface; we’re investing in the future of our program(s) and honoring the legacy of everyone who’s been a part of it. This project is a direct result of the incredible support from our alumni and donors, and it represents our commitment to excellence. Together, we’re creating an elite playing surface where our athletes can thrive and perform at a championship level.”**

*– Football Head Coach Tyler Staker*

The \$600,000+ turf replacement project benefits athletes and fans alike — all while honoring one of the college's most beloved figures, Dr. W. Kent "Doc" Herron. Known for his unwavering

support of students, the TKE fraternity and especially Kohawk football, Doc Herron was a constant presence at Clark Field — always cheering from his favorite sideline spot.

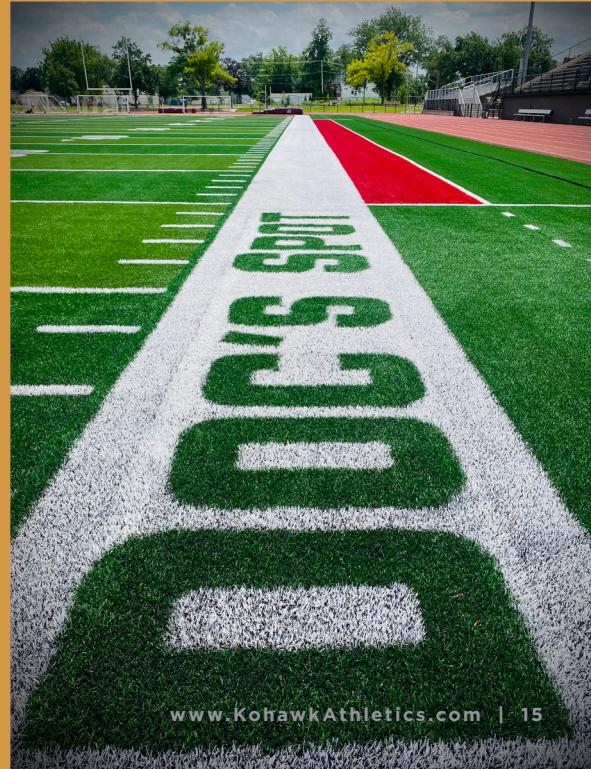
In tribute to his enduring legacy, the college has dedicated "Doc's Spot" on the field with a permanent logo on the newly installed turf. An important piece of this project, this small yet powerful symbol will reflect the passion and dedication of Doc Herron, whose 56 years of service left an indelible mark on the Coe community and serve as a lasting reminder of his spirit, his service and his love for Kohawk athletics.

This project would not be possible without the collective effort of the Coe community. The college invites alumni, friends and supporters to join in honoring Doc Herron and investing in the future of Kohawk athletes by contributing to the Football/Soccer Turf project.

Together, we celebrate the past while laying a stronger foundation for generations to come.



*To watch a video about the turf replacement, [scan here](#).*





# **THE TIME IS NOW: COE COLLEGE IS “ALL IN” ON WOMEN’S WRESTLING**

***Kohawks, you have a new sport to root for!***

Coe College Director of Athletics & Recreation Steve Cook announced the addition of women’s wrestling as an NCAA sport on July 30.

“With women’s wrestling, there’s a lot of momentum state and nationwide, and just seeing how much fire it’s caught in Eastern Iowa — there’s just a lot of excitement about the sport. The time is now to welcome it with open arms,” Cook said.

Since 2013, the number of participants in women’s wrestling has quintupled at the high school level, and was announced as an emerging sport by the NCAA in 2020. The first official NCAA championship will occur in 2026, and the Coe team will begin competing in the next year for the 2026-27 season.

The women’s program at Coe will be the college’s 23rd NCAA sport, and its establishment opens the doors for new student-athletes to join a successful wrestling tradition.

The men’s wrestling team is a perennial contender at the NCAA Division III national tournament and has crowned four individual NCAA champions with 99 wrestlers earning All-American status. The women’s team will train in the J. Barron Bremner Wrestling Room and the **Joan Claassen Wallick ’52** and **Wallace Ford ’52** Strength and Conditioning Room.



From within that winning tradition comes the women’s first head coach: **Kaleb Reeves ’23**. As a Kohawk wrestler, Reeves earned NCAA All-American status three times and graduated from Coe with an overall record of 103-22. The Sigourney, Iowa native is the career falls leader for the Kohawk men, a Bremner Outstanding Athlete Award winner and two-time NWCA Scholar All-American.

As a coach, Reeves will bring a diverse array of experiences with a wrestling background in folkstyle, freestyle and Greco wrestling, but most importantly, he understands the significance of helping his wrestlers develop as people.

“My goal is to create a women’s program that’s top notch,” said Reeves. “The foundation for a winning culture is already started because Coe offers student athletes the opportunity to wrestle at the highest level and also have an education at the highest level.”

Reeves has already begun recruiting future wrestlers, spearheading the efforts to build the program for a year before competition begins.

“Women’s wrestling has arrived and now it’s at Coe College. We’re all in,” said Cook.

**MEET  
Coach Reeves**



**WOMEN’S  
Wrestling**



**RECRUITING  
Questionnaire**



# MEET THE CLARK MERIT SCHOLARS

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## 2025-2026

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### CONRAD HOFFMAN '27 | PHYSICS AND MATHEMATICS

A physics and mathematics major, Conrad Hoffman has uncovered his passion for aerospace engineering through his extensive involvement on campus. From Student Senate to jazz ensemble, tutoring to being a club executive, Hoffman has taken advantage of the opportunities at Coe. His next steps include plans to run for student body president and continue working towards his aerospace engineering goals as the industry rapidly expands.



### ANKITA KANDEL '26 | PSYCHOLOGY AND NEUROSCIENCE

A passion for mental health advocacy reaches beyond the classroom for Ankita Kandel, a psychology and neuroscience major. Last summer, Kandel interned as a behavior therapist for children on the autism spectrum at Progressive Behaviour Solutions. Her time on campus has been spent as a marketing assistant, using her unique perspective as a first-generation student to create authentic social media content. After graduating, Kandel plans to pursue a PhD in clinical psychology and eventually change mental health awareness through policies.



### LILY MAYO '26 | BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND PSYCHOLOGY

For Lily Mayo, helping others has always been the goal, but it wasn't until she stepped onto Coe's campus that she knew how to put it into action. A double major in business administration and psychology, CAP leader, podcaster, sorority member and athlete, Mayo knows a thing or two about leadership. Through her podcast, The Green Frog, Mayo shares helpful advice and guidance from her college experiences, hoping to reach and empower others in need. After Coe, she plans to start her own business.



### LAURA NEUMARK '26 | POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY

Coe senior Laura Neumark has delved into her community both on a local and national level to advocate for the needs of others. As a political science and philosophy double major, she has served as the chairperson of Student Senate and president and public relations officer of Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity. Last fall, while volunteering with local senior citizens, Neumark's passion for public policy was sparked. She interned in Washington, D.C. with the Capitol Hill Internship Program, where she connected with elected officials and their constituents. Moving forward, Neumark plans to become involved in public policy.



### GRACEY SWANSON '26 | SOCIAL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND SOCIOLOGY

As the first Kohawk to intern inside a prison, Gracey Swanson's commitment to helping incarcerated individuals was ignited. Double majoring in social and criminal justice and sociology, Swanson has participated in several justice initiatives at Coe. She volunteered with RISE — the Reintegration Initiative for Safety & Empowerment — where she built relationships with people who have experienced incarceration. That experience led her to intern at the Anamosa State Penitentiary, where she became a certified correctional officer. As she moves into her career, Swanson hopes to prioritize rehabilitation over punishment for incarcerated individuals and help give them access to reintegrate into society after their release.

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**The Clark Merit Award provides a scholarship equal to one year's tuition for each recipient.** These students have been selected by a committee of faculty members and a member of the Board of Trustees based on their integrity, intellect, leadership and social responsibility. The Clark Merit Awards are funded by an endowment created in 1995 by the late Coe alumnus **K. Raymond Clark '30**.

# PROGRESS WITH PURPOSE

COE COLLEGE  
STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK  
2025-2028



COE COLLEGE

**Dear Friends,**

I hope this message finds you well and as inspired as I am by the possibilities before Coe College. As we look to the future together, I want to share how our community has been engaged in a thoughtful process of planning and reflection. This effort has not only sharpened our sense of direction but also renewed our conviction in what makes a Coe education distinctive and transformative.

Strategic planning is a practice that strong organizations embrace because it provides clarity, alignment and focus. In times of rapid change and uncertainty — as we are experiencing across higher education today — it is all the more essential. A well-framed strategic plan serves as both anchor and compass: grounding us in our mission and values while guiding us toward a preferred future. It enables us to make wise choices today while preparing for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

With this in mind, our planning team dedicated significant time to articulating the enduring purpose of a Coe education and the values that define us. We cannot allow these values to only exist on paper but must work to ensure they collectively serve as the college's North Star of our mission, tested and reaffirmed across generations. They remind us that a Coe experience is about more than earning a degree. It is about inquiry and discovery, excellence, respect and a commitment to the common good. Even as we adapt to a fast-changing environment, these values remain our constant guide.

The result of this process is **Progress with Purpose**, a three-year strategic framework that reflects the voices of faculty, staff, students, alumni, business leaders and trustees. It builds upon the momentum of A Bolder Coe and positions us to innovate while remaining faithful to who we are. What follows in the enclosed document is more than a roadmap; it is a commitment. The framework is aligned with our budgets, backed by metrics to hold ourselves accountable and focused on areas of greatest promise. Together, these steps will secure a vibrant and sustainable future for Coe while honoring the heritage of more than 170 years.

*Alma mater, hail hail hail!*



David Hayes '93  
President

# PURPOSE

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At Coe we are committed to delivering upon our promise to provide each student with a singular experience through a dynamic blend of academics, mentoring, community and career integration. This personalized education is transformative, helping students reach dreams they never imagined as possible.

Coe is an evolving, student-centered institution dedicated to innovative education while staying true to its core values and mission. In both residential and online environments, the college offers an accessible, career-connected liberal arts education responsive to emerging opportunities. Coe prepares and empowers students to design their futures, launch their careers and lead lives of purpose.

# VALUES

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These values, carefully synthesized from our mission statement and related guiding principles, serve as both a foundation and a touchstone for the plan. They reflect our commitment to fostering inquiry, excellence, respect, collaboration and innovation, ensuring that our evolving and thriving institution remains true to its core character. The Coe envisioned by this framework is not only one of adaptation and growth but also one that strengthens and reinforces these values in every aspect of our work.

By anchoring our vision in these shared principles, we affirm that the transformative, student-centered education we provide will remain deeply rooted in the traditions and qualities that make Coe exceptional.

## WE VALUE:

**INQUIRY AND DISCOVERY...** by coupling the spirit of curiosity with critical and creative thinking as well as the ability to effectively communicate, we prepare our students not only for successful careers, but also to be innovators and leaders.

**EXCELLENCE...** by setting high standards and striving for unmatched quality in all our endeavors, we develop leaders on campus and in the world.

**RESPECT...** by cultivating a desire to understand and appreciate the dignity of each person, we embrace civil discourse and model how to be engaged members of a diverse, global and inclusive community.

**COLLABORATION AND IMPACT...** by collaboration and leadership, our skills are honed in our Coe environment to serve our greater communities, local and global.

**INNOVATION AND ADAPTABILITY...** by embracing change and continually seeking new ways to enhance learning, teaching and community impact.

# THE VISION OF THIS FRAMEWORK IS FOR COE TO EVOLVE AND THRIVE.

## WE WILL EVOLVE BY:

**INNOVATING...** at a pace that matches the emergence of transformative opportunities.

**EMBRACING...** continuous learning and growth for our students, our local community and as an institution.

**CONNECTING...** education with technology and industry insight to deliver programs that are of high need and high interest.

**CREATING...** enhanced learning environments through personalized, face-to-face engagement and common technology.

## WE WILL THRIVE BECAUSE OF:

**MEANINGFUL MEASUREMENT...** our success will only be measured by the success of our graduates.

**DISCIPLINED MANAGEMENT...** we will be financially sound, operationally efficient and operate with a growth mindset.

**OPEN ARMS...** the Coe community will welcome and support every student, faculty and staff member.

**DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES...** a foundational education is rich in diverse body and thought.

## BY 2028, COE WILL:

- Be a comprehensive college attracting total revenue that is the equivalent of 450 new Kohawks per year through residential, transfer, international, online, graduate, credential and pathway students.
- Stabilize first to second year retention and six year graduation rates at 78% and 63%, respectively.
- Generate \$6-8 million per year through fundraising, which is an increase from the current five-year average of \$4-6 million per year.
- Rely on an endowment draw of no more than 5%.

# STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK INITIATIVES

To bring the strategic framework to life, we developed a series of foundational pillars and themes that define the areas of focus critical to Coe's future. Each pillar represents a core priority and theme — **financial sustainability**, **academic experience**, **community engagement and impact**, **positive student experience** and an **improved employee work environment** — that collectively underpin and guide our path forward.



**FINANCIAL  
SUSTAINABILITY**



**ACADEMIC  
EXPERIENCE**



**COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT & IMPACT**



**POSITIVE STUDENT  
EXPERIENCE**



**IMPROVED EMPLOYEE  
WORK ENVIRONMENT**

*These foundational themes ensure that our ensuing initiatives are aligned with Coe's mission and values, reinforcing our commitment to providing a transformative education in an evolving and thriving college. The initiatives that shape this framework follow in this document.*

# INITIATIVE 1

## INCREASE COE'S ENDOWMENT AND TOTAL FUNDRAISING TO ENSURE FUTURE VIBRANCY



- Prioritize student access and success by funding endowed scholarships.
- Fund initiatives that enhance the student experience and career opportunities.
- Support academic and co-curricular innovations.

# INITIATIVE 2

## IMPROVE THE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE IN THE CLASSROOM AND THE COMMUNITY



- Become a more comprehensive institution and expand our academic offerings to attract new types of students.
- Establish an academic program that is forward thinking in skills and competencies taught in all classes and programs and centered on inquiry-based design thinking and real-world problem solving.
- Take the classroom into the community to help students discover who they are, what matters to them and how they might contribute to the world.

# INITIATIVE 3

## ENHANCE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE AND FOSTER CONNECTIVITY



- Create an environment where students can thrive personally, academically, socially and professionally.
- Allocate resources for a comprehensive enhancement of the student residential experience including the integration of wellness design principles into community spaces.
- Invest in intercollegiate athletics for existing athletic programs and the development of new athletic programs.
- Foster an environment where co-curricular activities empower students to develop leadership skills, social awareness and a commitment to community engagement.

# INITIATIVE 4

## DEVELOP A CAMPUS CULTURE OF INNOVATION THAT IS SUPPORTED BY AN AGILE INFRASTRUCTURE



- Equip faculty and staff through leveraging data and technology (including AI) to pursue more efficient decision making and implementation of innovative initiatives.
- Create intentional opportunities within the workday for collaboration, experimentation and refinement.
- Create integrated technology and systems across all campus functions including data analytics tools and resources.
- Prioritize information technology and institutional effectiveness operations and staffing to elevate collegewide functionality and performance.



# *Coe College welcomes the* **CLASS OF 2029**

Coe College welcomed a group of remarkable new Kohawks to campus as part of the Coe College Class of 2029. Nearly 400 students moved into their residence halls and completed New Student Orientation in late August.

The new class is composed of students from 23 states and 10 countries, 33 legacy students and includes the most students from Iowa of any class in the past five years. Within the group are the first members of Coe's aviation management and flight operations program.

"This is the inaugural class that will take flight in a literal sense," said Associate Vice President for Enrollment and Dean of Admission Josh Kite. "Across the board, whether in the skies or in the classroom, this entire class is ready to soar."

The Class of 2029 arrived with an average GPA of 3.6 and an average ACT score of 26.

At Coe, the new Kohawks are benefitting from the No. 11 Best Career Services, No. 14 Best Student Support and Counseling Services and No. 18 Most Accessible Professors. Coe is Iowa's only college or university to be ranked in any of these categories.

"The momentum at Coe right now is evident — it's not only palpable with our national accolades, but in the quick growth of

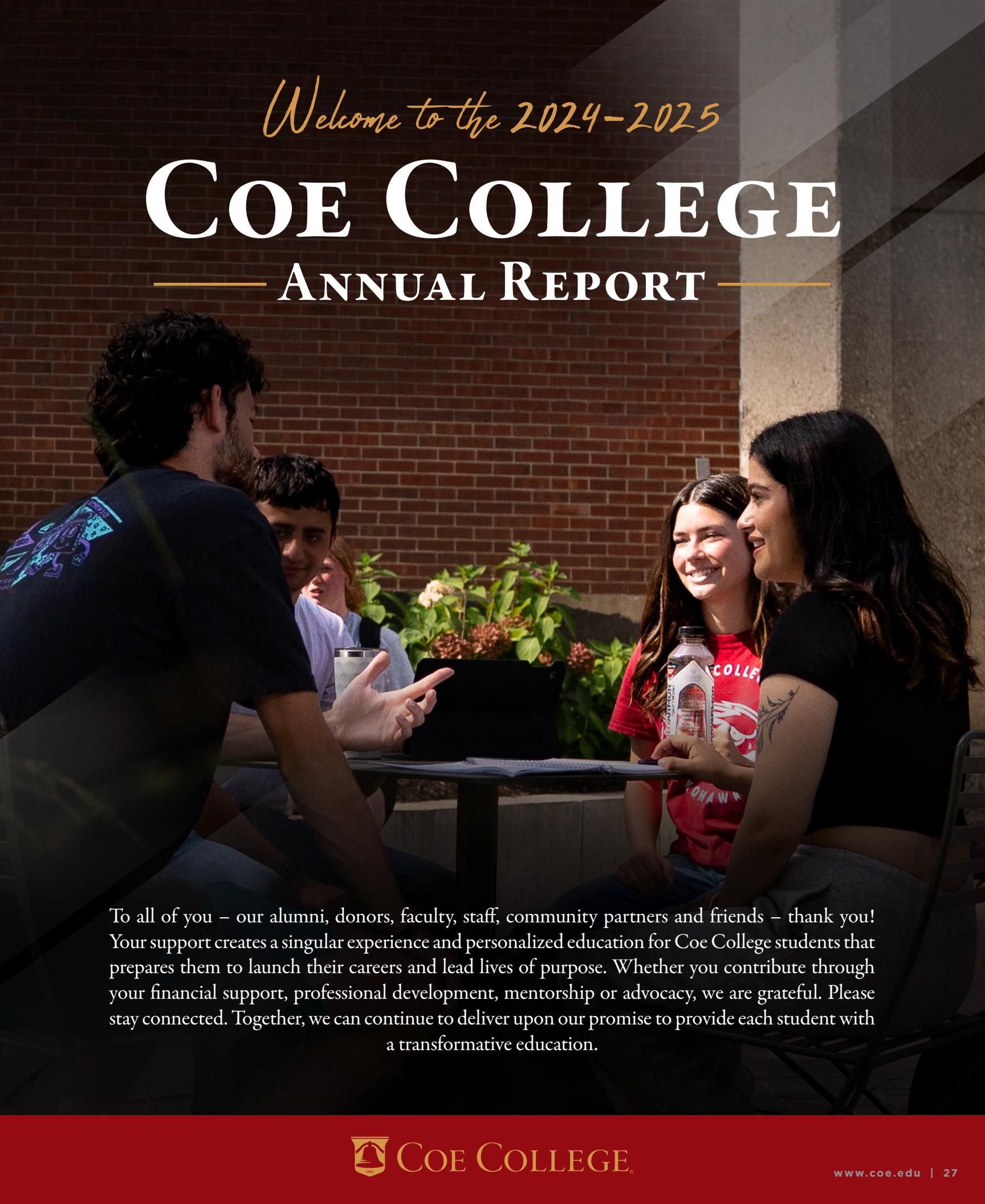
programs designed for in demand fields like aviation, engineering and risk management. It's clear that Coe is delivering on what both students and employers need," said Senior Vice President for Enrollment, Marketing and Institutional Effectiveness **Julie Kleis Staker '93**.

Nearly 100% of reporting graduates find employment, attend graduate school or engage in a service opportunity within nine months of graduation, consistently now for more than a decade.

The new Kohawks officially began their paths to success with New Student Orientation. Members of the incoming class were paired with success coaches within the Office of Student Success & Persistence to jumpstart their transition to Coe and into college life. The coaches work individually with students to develop positive academic habits and introduce them to the multitude of resources available on campus like tutoring, the writing center and career services.

*If you know a high school student  
who would benefit from Coe's unique  
opportunities, let us know!*





Welcome to the 2024-2025

# COE COLLEGE

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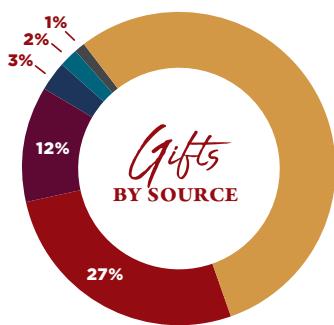
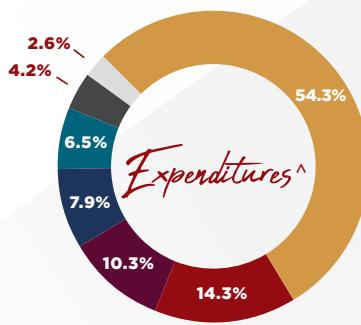
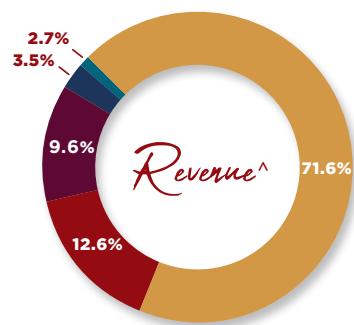
## ANNUAL REPORT

To all of you – our alumni, donors, faculty, staff, community partners and friends – thank you! Your support creates a singular experience and personalized education for Coe College students that prepares them to launch their careers and lead lives of purpose. Whether you contribute through your financial support, professional development, mentorship or advocacy, we are grateful. Please stay connected. Together, we can continue to deliver upon our promise to provide each student with a transformative education.



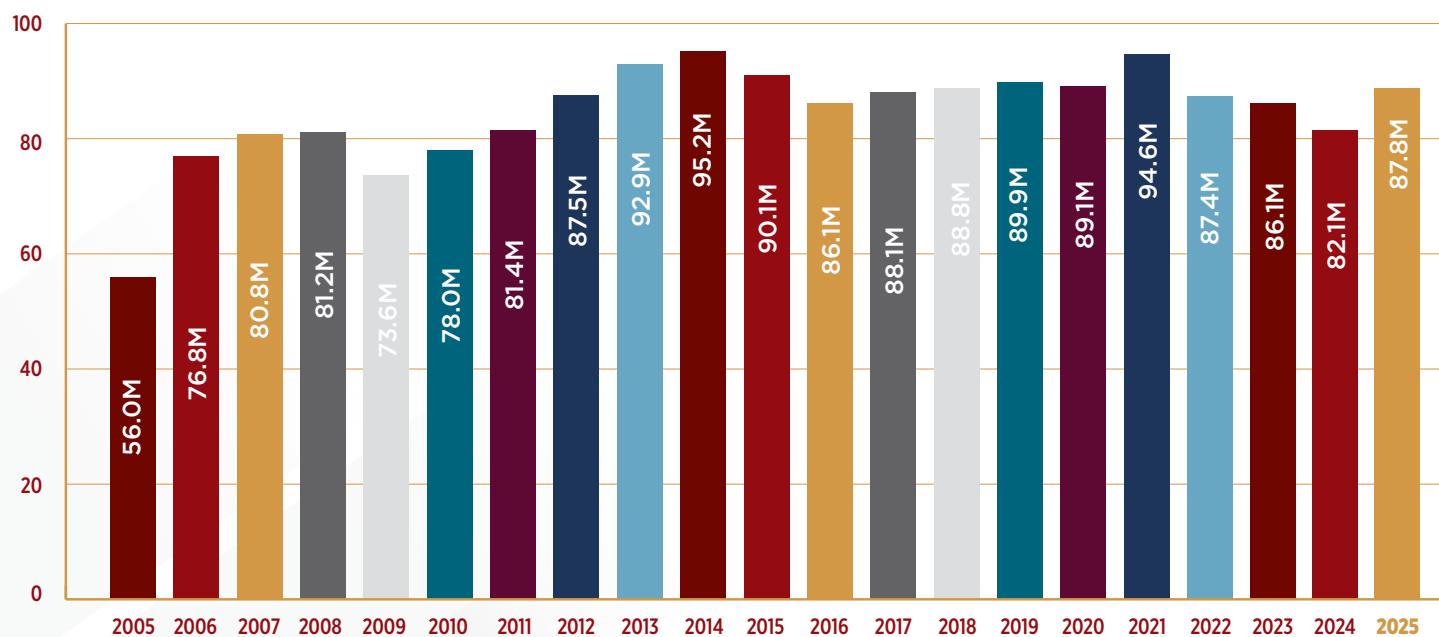
COE COLLEGE®

<sup>^</sup>numbers are  
unaudited



## Endowment - Total Assets Market History

FISCAL YEARS ENDING JUNE 30



*Total Amount Raised*  
**\$7,939,301**

# Your support

## LEAVES AN IMPACT TODAY, TOMORROW AND FOREVER.

Each aspect of the Coe experience, from what the college offers students to what it means to be a Kohawk, is defined by the support we receive from Coe alumni, partners and friends.

### INAUGURAL THANKFUL THURSDAY WAS A SUCCESS!

Coe College's first annual Thankful Thursday campaign, replacing Giving Tuesday, was an incredible success, showcasing the power of gratitude and generosity within our Kohawk community. Thanks to the support of alumni and friends, we grew the day by 38 percent compared to last year's Giving Tuesday.

### ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING: ROOTED IN GRATITUDE, GROWING IN GENEROSITY

April 3, 2025 was dedicated to celebrating the impact of Coe College with the college's 11th annual Day of Giving. With 410 gifts coming in from around the United States to support students as they pursue their Coe education and the opportunities that come with it, the college met, and surpassed, its goal!

### COE'S C3: CREATIVITY, CAREERS, COMMUNITY HOSTS FIRESIDE CHATS

The C3: Creativity, Careers, Community team hosted its inaugural Fireside Chat series this past year. Our Fireside Chat series speakers delivered compelling stories about their time on campus, their passion for our shared college and where their journey's path led them after Coe. **Cameron Lay '25**, senior economics and business administration major, attended all three chats. "Fireside chats have influenced me to dig deeper into what it means to graduate and then succeed as a Kohawk. Thank you to all who conversed with us! These are impactful lessons I've taken to heart as I search for early career development programs."

### STUDENT RESEARCH & DISCOVERY SYMPOSIUM

Every spring term, Coe holds its annual Student Research & Discovery Symposium. Students from all majors discuss their original work, perform compositions and creative writings, display their art and research posters and share oral presentations about academic work. All students are guaranteed an internship, research or off-campus study experience. The Research & Discovery Symposium is an opportunity for Kohawks to share their success and passions with the rest of campus.

## WHEN YOU GIVE TO COE, *you give to students...*

With your support, this year has been one of momentum, opportunity and meaningful success for Coe students. Thank you for your generosity – your support has made a true and lasting impact.

*"Coe has taught me how to balance a workload, especially during finals week. I also had the opportunity to create code and work with applications that are used at companies like GitHub or VSCode."*

Max Higgins '26

*"I think that Coe prepared me for life beyond by having a lot of opportunities to connect with those who can give us practical experience. I was encouraged to explore internships, research and community involvement — all of which gave me real-world insight."*

Ashari Melvin '25

*"I can tell that my career counselor really cares about my success and is actively trying to help me gain experience."*

Kanyon Bryte '28

*When you give to the college,*  
**it is your way of saying your  
 Coe experience was meaningful.**

Plus, a higher participation rate makes Coe more appealing to prospective students and grant-awarding foundations. The more alumni who support the college, the more valuable a Coe degree becomes. In this way, every gift makes a difference.

Class Year	Donors	Alumni*	Participation Rate	Class Year	Donors	Alumni*	Participation Rate	Class Year	Donors	Alumni*	Participation Rate
1943-49	1	34	2.94%	1975	17	174	9.77%	2001	16	238	6.72%
1950	0	15	0.00%	1976	23	190	12.11%	2002	21	212	9.91%
1951	1	19	5.26%	1977	19	178	10.67%	2003	8	292	2.74%
1952	2	21	9.52%	1978	13	195	6.67%	2004	13	234	5.56%
1953	3	20	15.00%	1979	20	167	11.98%	2005	13	239	5.44%
1954	0	19	0.00%	1980	12	160	7.50%	2006	21	249	8.43%
1955	0	30	0.00%	1981	21	195	10.77%	2007	11	267	4.12%
1956	4	32	12.50%	1982	18	216	8.33%	2008	14	272	5.15%
1957	10	56	17.86%	1983	15	211	7.11%	2009	9	253	3.56%
1958	3	35	8.57%	1984	11	223	4.93%	2010	15	245	6.12%
1959	5	48	10.42%	1985	10	226	4.42%	2011	17	270	6.30%
1960	7	65	10.77%	1986	13	213	6.10%	2012	18	265	6.79%
1961	9	68	13.24%	1987	19	217	8.76%	2013	25	278	8.99%
1962	14	74	18.92%	1988	21	208	10.10%	2014	7	249	2.81%
1963	14	77	18.18%	1989	15	167	8.98%	2015	9	283	3.18%
1964	10	74	13.51%	1990	22	205	10.73%	2016	1	262	0.38%
1965	26	112	23.21%	1991	16	211	7.58%	2017	10	292	3.42%
1966	23	112	20.54%	1992	8	198	4.04%	2018	9	259	3.47%
1967	16	111	14.41%	1993	22	188	11.70%	2019	11	273	4.03%
1968	23	132	17.42%	1994	21	261	8.05%	2020	11	293	3.75%
1969	14	140	10.00%	1995	16	214	7.48%	2021	6	287	2.09%
1970	18	130	13.85%	1996	22	274	8.03%	2022	8	281	2.85%
1971	19	128	14.84%	1997	14	227	6.17%	2023	6	248	2.42%
1972	19	124	15.32%	1998	13	230	5.65%	2024	12	251	4.78%
1973	28	152	18.42%	1999	23	239	9.62%	2025	26	208	12.50%
1974	42	228	18.42%	2000	7	218	3.21%				

\*The number of solicitable alumni in a given year.

# Volunteer LEADERSHIP

We want to express sincere gratitude to all those who volunteer to assist Coe in countless ways, including classroom speaking and representation, networking with students, serving on a reunion committee, providing experiential learning opportunities to our students and so much more.

## 2024-2025 COE COLLEGE ALUMNI COUNCIL

The Alumni Council is an advisory group of alumni who have demonstrated an ongoing involvement and commitment to Coe College. The council meets twice a year and is administered by the Office of Alumni Engagement. Their mission is connecting students and alumni by celebrating, advocating and advancing the mission of Coe College.

Pat Steele '75, Alumni Council President	Matt Clark '95	Dominic Fails '87	Darcy Ehrmann Moulin '04
Sally Roegner Brause '88	Charles Cotton III '13	Lauren DuBay Gilbertson '13	Troy Orwan '88
Carla Jo Brooks '78	Delaney Cummings '15	Constance Schlitter Losch '20	Verlynn Schmalle '82

## 2024-2025 COE COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

Members of the PAC provide strategic advice and guidance to the President on specific initiatives and priorities of the college, with a particular emphasis on strategic initiatives, community outreach and engagement and philanthropic campaigns undertaken by Coe. PAC meets twice a year and is administered by the Advancement Office.

Forest Brown '90	Jane Ofundem Ebot-Bish '08	Terry Hiebert '76	Kevin O'Donnell '99
Karim Budhwani '93	Jeff Freude '79	Kathy Steffensmeier	Amy Sands '98
Chloe Crain '17	Deborah Lindberg Gertsen '87	Jasper '90	Mike Shepard '94
Jane Michaels Dufoe '92	Sandeep Kumar Giri '04	Hugo Kann '70	Daniel Snyder '09

## 2024-2025 COE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is the governing body for Coe College. While the President of the college, who is hired and evaluated by the Board, is ultimately responsible for managing the college on a daily basis, the Trustees set broad policy and overall direction for Coe. In addition, the Trustees are particularly active in philanthropic support for the college. A number of standing committees regularly review different aspects of the college, with a focus on future opportunities for success.

Wale Adeosun '84	Julie Johnson McLean '78	<b>LIFE TRUSTEES</b>	Gary Schlarbaum '65
Peter Birkey '91	Curt Menefee '87	Terry J. Abernathy '70	Bruce E. Spivey '56
Kevin Buckner '93	Paul Meyer '74	J. David Carson '72	Jerre L. Stead '65
David Gehring '89	Sumit Nijhawan '93	Jack B. Evans '70	John D. Strohm '79
H. Bola George '00	Jon Reiner '09	Christine Kaufmann	Lori Sturdevant '74
Ken Golder '82	Sigrid Strong Reynolds '94	Galloway '73	
Dennis Greenspon '68	Okpara Rice	John Girotto	<b>EX-OFFICIO</b>
Sarah Hemming-Meyer '05	Brett Rule '86	Shirley Hughes '67	David Hayes '93
Gene Henderson '68	Tim Sagers '97	Douglas Hyde '74	Coe College President
Kent Herink '76	Hank Taylor '75	William P. Johnson '53	Pat Steele '75
Mary Cook Jorgenson '80	Carson Veach '74	Steven Kline '76	Alumni Council President
Shion Kabasele '22	Edward Walsh '70	Vincent Martin	
Mary Jeanne Krob '73		David McInally	
Stephanie Kroger '88		Chuck Peters	
Kristin Patterson Lenz '96		James R. Phifer	



# — COE COLLEGE —

## EARNS ACCLAIM FROM NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

You already know Coe delivers one of the best educations and student experiences in the nation, and now your bragging list continues to grow.

New accolades from The Princeton Review, Washington Monthly and Niche have placed Coe near the top of several key categories nationwide.

The Princeton Review named Coe as a Top 20 college in the nation across three crucial student support categories: #11 for Best Career Services, #14 for Best Student Support and Counseling Services and #18 for Most Accessible Professors. Coe is the only college or university in Iowa to earn a ranking in these categories and outpaced several Ivy League institutions as well.

“We want our students to thrive, so it is imperative to provide top-notch resources and support across all facets of a student’s life — their personal well-being, their academic pursuits and their professional outlook after college,” said Coe College President **David Hayes ’93**.

This is the fourth consecutive year the college has been ranked for accessible professors and career services. Coe has also been recognized by The Princeton Review as a Best Private School for Internships in six of the last eight years.

Washington Monthly announced Coe as a top liberal arts college as part of its annual list of colleges with the greatest contributions to the public good. The publication ranks colleges across the country based on four categories: access, affordability, outcomes and promoting public service. Coe ranked #20 in the nation for access, #89 for affordability and #105 for service.

Niche also released updated national rankings and honored Coe as a Top 100 Liberal Arts in America.

U.S. News & World Report ranked Coe as a Best National Liberal Arts College and as a Top Performer in Social Mobility. Coe rose ten spots to #126 in the liberal arts college category and rose four spots to #81 in the social mobility category.

“These recognitions continue to be proof that Coe has some of the finest faculty and staff within higher education,” said Coe College Provost Angela Ziskowski. “Their unwavering dedication to providing reassurance, guidance and feedback at an individual level propels Kohawks forward confidently in a number of different ways.”

A coordinated effort across campus can be credited for the exceptional student experience at Coe. Academic departments, the Office of Student Success & Persistence, the Office of Student Life, the Learning Commons and C3: Creativity, Careers, Community all work together.

“The Coe community focuses our efforts and resources on our students,” said Senior Vice President for Enrollment, Marketing and Institutional Effectiveness **Julie Kleis Staker ’93**. “Every area of the college comes together to support the unique goals and needs of our students, which equips them with the tools to find success upon graduation. For more than a decade, this has played out as nearly 100% of reporting Coe graduates find employment, attend graduate school or engage in a service opportunity within nine months of graduation.”

**#11**

**BEST CAREER SERVICES**

The Princeton Review

**#20**

**FOR ACCESS**

Washington Monthly

**#14**

**BEST STUDENT SUPPORT and COUNSELING SERVICES**

The Princeton Review

**#89**

**FOR AFFORDABILITY**

Washington Monthly

**#18**

**MOST ACCESSIBLE PROFESSORS**

The Princeton Review

**TOP 100**

**LIBERAL ARTS in AMERICA**

Niche

# CLASS NOTES

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

## 1980s

**'88 Paul David Stanko** of Plymouth, Minnesota, released a new anthem, *Affirmation EP* under his stage name, Paul David. The songs in this EP focus on positivity and empowerment.

## 1990s

**'92 Jane "Betsy" Dougherty** of Carbondale, Illinois, was promoted to professor in the School of Literature, Writing & Digital Humanities and affiliate faculty in the School of Africana & Multicultural Studies at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Dougherty also released a book in 2024, "Narrating Irish Female Development 1916-2018," published with Edinburgh University Press.

**'95 Michael O'Nele** of Memphis, Tennessee, released "Fabrication for Theatre and Entertainment: Wood and Fiber Products," the first volume in a series of four reference books, published with Focal Press Imprint of Taylor and Francis.

## 2000s

**'08 JoAnna Gorman** Cochenet-Gallastegui of Bremerton, Washington, furthered and

solidified her entrepreneurial spirit by opening a music business in January 2025 with her husband Juan Gallastegui, as directors and founders. The business, 2 Batons Music Enterprises, LLC, is a central house for the two conductors, who continue working as conductors and have begun a Spanish Composers Initiative, among the first for bridging wind band and orchestral music of Spain with music directors and ensembles in the United States. In addition, they have taken their credentials and years of experience to form a music consulting and coaching business, as well as offer a variety of resources for musicians and music lovers.

## FUTURE ALUMNI

### 2000s

**1 '03 Benjamin "Ben" Kudlacek** and Katherine Kudlacek, of Troutman, North Carolina, a son, Alexander Lee Kudlacek, on February 14, 2025.



### 2010s

**2 '13 Kevin Schiroo and Justina Cline** Schiroo '13, of New Hope, Minnesota, a daughter, Esper Mae Schiroo, on April 10, 2025.

### 2020s

**3 '22 Anthony Dixon and Hanna Bieger-Dixon '22**, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Devin Dixon, on February 11, 2025.

## ALUMNI COUNCIL *Update*

Dear Coe College Alumni,

Whether you graduated recently or decades ago, the bond we share as Kohawks connects us to one another and to a college that continues to evolve in meaningful ways. As Alumni Council president, I'm pleased to share some exciting updates, reflections and opportunities to stay involved with Coe.

This fall, Coe welcomed a new class of students, each beginning their own journey of discovery. Every incoming class carries forward the proud traditions of Coe while building on the foundation laid by generations of Kohawks before them.

Coe is also growing in exciting ways. New academic programs include **aviation management & flight operations, risk management/insurance** and an **online bachelor's in business with a strategic leadership concentration** — all

designed to prepare students for emerging fields. Looking ahead, **women's wrestling** will launch in 2026, expanding opportunities for student-athletes.

Earlier this year, Coe hosted its first **Day of Giving dedicated to athletics**, which was a tremendous success thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends. However you choose to give back — whether by sharing your expertise, supporting programs or volunteering your time — your involvement makes a lasting difference for today's students.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to Coe College. Your continued support ensures Coe remains a place where students can discover their potential, grow in community and shape meaningful futures.



With warm regards and best wishes,  
**Pat Steele '75** | Alumni Council President

# A KOHAWK'S LIFE

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## JAMES HUTTON '26

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### MY FOX SPORTS INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE AND ITS IMPACT ON MY COE EDUCATION

This past summer, I had the opportunity to intern with FOX Sports in Los Angeles, and it has been one of the most transformative experiences of my life. From day one, I was immersed in the fast paced world of sports media, gaining hands on experience in everything from creating melt clips and building rundowns for producers to working in post production and assisting on live shows. I quickly realized how much work goes into creating the seamless broadcasts we see on television, and I was inspired by the collaboration, precision and creativity that drives the production process.

The technical skills I learned were valuable, but what stood out even more were the relationships and mentorship I was able to build. Each week, I had the chance to sit down with producers, executives and staff who generously shared their personal career journeys and lessons with me. Whether it was learning about leadership and storytelling from Fran Morrison, gaining insights on reputation and career growth from Bill Richards or hearing directly from Mark Silverman, FOX Sports president & COO, I left each meeting with new perspectives that reshaped the way I view both my career and personal growth. These conversations reinforced the importance of consistency, adaptability and relationship building skills that translate directly into my Coe education and future career path.

Beyond the professional development, the internship also provided unique opportunities that pushed me outside of my comfort zone. I helped with production meetings, shadowed live game broadcasts, assisted talent during shows and even took part in early planning for a future IndyCar/NASCAR seminar. I also learned how departments like creative services, public relations and talent relations operate, sparking new interests in areas of sports media I had never considered before. These experiences opened my eyes to the wide range of career paths in the sports industry, leaving me more open minded about what direction I may pursue after college.

Just as important were the connections I built with my fellow interns. From networking events to runs at Venice Beach and even our first attempts at pickleball, I found myself surrounded by a group of driven, supportive peers who made the summer not just a professional experience but a personal one. Those friendships made my time at FOX even more meaningful, and they reminded me of the importance of teamwork and community something that resonates deeply with my experiences as a student athlete at Coe.

Since returning to campus, I've already started to apply what I learned at FOX. I'm working with C3 to connect with local stations, meeting with Iowa based sports media outlets and looking for opportunities with networks like the Big Ten Network after football season. My time at FOX not only gave

me new skills and confidence, but it also expanded my vision for what's possible. While I still have aspirations in physical therapy, I'm now equally excited about the opportunities that exist in sports media, production and communications.

This internship was truly life changing, and I am grateful for how it has enhanced my Coe education. It pushed me to grow professionally, challenged me personally and gave me a clearer sense of purpose as I think about my future. Most importantly, it showed me the power of taking risks, betting on myself and embracing every opportunity to learn and grow lessons I will carry with me long after graduation.

I am especially thankful to **Curt Menefee '89** for opening the door to this experience and for his support in helping me take this important step in my career.



 Indicates decedent was a member of the Coe College Heritage Club

 Served on the Alumni Council

For information, contact Director of Planned Giving Debbie Green at 319.399.8592 or [dgreen@coe.edu](mailto:dgreen@coe.edu).

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

### 1940s

**1948 Claire "Elaine" Vavrinek** Woodall, 98, of York, Pennsylvania on May 29.

**1948 Jean France** Means, 99, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on June 15.

### 1950s

**1951 William "Bill" Davenport**, 97, of Smyrna, Tennessee on March 19.

**1951 Ann Conklin** Erickson, 94, of Brick, New Jersey on October 3.

**1952 Joan Claassen** Ford Wallick, 94, of Big Horn, Wyoming on June 20.

**1953 Marlye Anderson** Murdoch, 94, of Marion, Iowa on July 15.

**1954 Sally Carringer** Eggleston, 92, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on June 12.

**1955 Joseph "Joe" Nemer**, 94, of Houston, Texas on July 19.

**1957 Alicia Dvorak** Jackson, 90, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on August 20.

**1958 Mariann Feldtang** Stickley, 88, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on July 10.

**1959 Carolyn "Sue" Elscott** Davis, 88, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on May 16.

**1959 Bill Welch, 89**, of Eden Prairie, Minnesota on August 12.

### 1960s

**1961 M. Jerome Sabacky**, 86, of Ballwin, Missouri on August 8.

 **1961 Dr. Jane Earley**, 85, of Mankato, Minnesota on August 1.

**1961 Carol Sammons** Helgens, 85, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on August 21.

**1961 Tom Kolda, 85**, of Westerville, Ohio on August 24.

**1962 Lee Carver**, 85, of La Jolla, California on March 2.

**1964 Kathleen Lonborg** Northrop, 82, of Tiffin, Iowa on July 15.

**1968 Patricia "Pat" Hanlon** Nemmers, 92, of May 25

### 1970s

**1973 Jan Fippling** Torkelson, 73, of Terril, Iowa on July 10.

**1974 John "Krummy" Krumbholz**, 74, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on June 19.

**1974 Darlene Meggers** Nash, 95, of Marion, Iowa on July 21.

**1975 Terry Harris**, 72, of Oak Park, Illinois on July 7.

**1978 James Laskin**, 69, of Albuquerque, New Mexico on May 17.

**1978 Marvin Quaas**, 84, of Cedar Hill, Texas on June 13.

### 1980s

**1981 Diane Greenwood** Muir, 65, of Omaha, Nebraska on June 10.

**1982 Barbara Gulick** Holden, 73, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on July 7.

**1982 Mary Wharff**, 66, of Lawrence, Kansas on July 31.

**1986 Greg Clauson**, 66, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on August 16.

### 1990s

**1994 Mark Olson**, 70, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on August 14.

**1997 Daniel "Dan" Calnon**, 50, of Rockwall, Texas on July 17.

**1999 Jeremy Pigg**, 48, of Omaha, Nebraska on June 1.

### 2020s

**2020 LeeAnn Schminkey** Jones, 41, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on July 14..

### Faculty

**2004-2019 Mary Taylor**, 71, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on August 25.

*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 September 5. **The deadline for the Spring 2026 issue is January 16.** Announcements older than one year at the time they are submitted will not be published.

Please follow these basic guidelines when submitting information:

#### NEWS

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

#### MARRIAGES & ANNIVERSARIES

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

#### BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

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

#### DEATHS

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

#### PHOTOS

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

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



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Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

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# THANKFUL —THURSDAY—

November 20, 2025

## THANKFUL THURSDAY: WEAVING A STRONGER COE

Thankful Thursday is a special day dedicated to celebrating gratitude and support for Coe College. Our alumni, Kohawk supporters and friends make Coe College stronger every year.

Your gifts to the Annual Fund on Thankful Thursday provide scholarships, enrich academics and open doors of opportunity for students who call Coe home. Each act of generosity, large or small, weaves into the fabric of our community and ensures its continued strength.

**Thank you for believing in Coe and the students who carry its legacy forward.**



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