COURIER

— FALL 2026 —



COE COLLEGE

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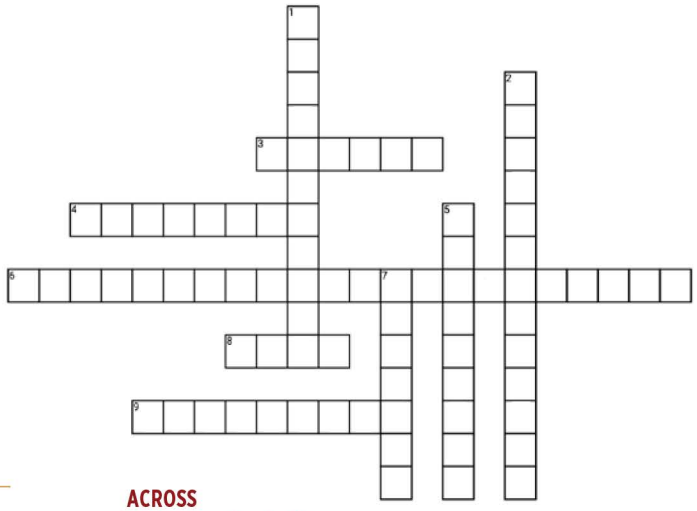
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COVER

The Class of 2025 Senior Class Gift has landed on campus. A life-size statue of Charlie Kohawk will perpetually greet visitors who come into Lower Gage. The gift was dedicated during Homecoming weekend, and is officially Charlie-approved!



ACROSS
3. "Have a nice day!"
4. Classes are canceled for this spring celebration.
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8. One of Coe's signature shades.
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DOWN
1. Kohawks ring it twice.
2. Coe's mascot since 1922.
5. The Catskills farmer who is Coe's namesake.
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings from Coe College,

Happy first year — that is, first year of the next 175 of Coe. As we celebrate our historic demisemiseptcentennial, I invite you to consider not only Coe's storied, successful past but also our bright, distinctive future.

In last year's Fall Courier, we shared with you our three-year strategic framework, Progress with Purpose, an initiative that is now in full swing. As we enter the midpoint of this journey, I'm pleased with the significant progress this community has made over the last several months to effectuate the plan. We've launched and built new programs, enhanced the student lived experience at Coe and shared our Coe story through a number of alumni events and celebrations. Now, at a critical time in Coe's history in which there is more pressure on higher education and the liberal arts than ever before, we must diligently move our energies from building, launching and retooling to sustaining and realizing impact. We will need your continued support and commitment to help Coe keep its momentum rolling.

As we work, we must also celebrate. This edition of the Courier honors our anniversary by carrying you through the past, present and future of our college. Get to know Daniel Coe, the Catskills founder who pledged $1,500 for a coeducational college and became our namesake. Celebrate the Class of 1976 and all the alumni who returned for Homecoming weekend. Learn about recent graduates making their mark on the world in government, STEM, the humanities and more. Travel along the Progress with Purpose tour route and revisit the strategic framework: its purpose, values and initiatives which provide the foundation for our work here at Coe.

Join me in honoring our legacy and shouldering the great opportunity and privilege of building the next 175. Your support makes all our work possible, and every gift translates to opportunity for our students and programs. The first year of Progress with Purpose brought in notable achievements, including new residential academic programs, a new online degree path, Goldwater and Rhodes scholars, recognition from national publications and more, and we will not stop there. Your contributions and continued support strengthen the momentum that will carry us toward many more milestones in the future.

Thank you for making the first, and the next, 175 years possible.

Alma mater, hail, hail, hail.



David Hayes '93
President

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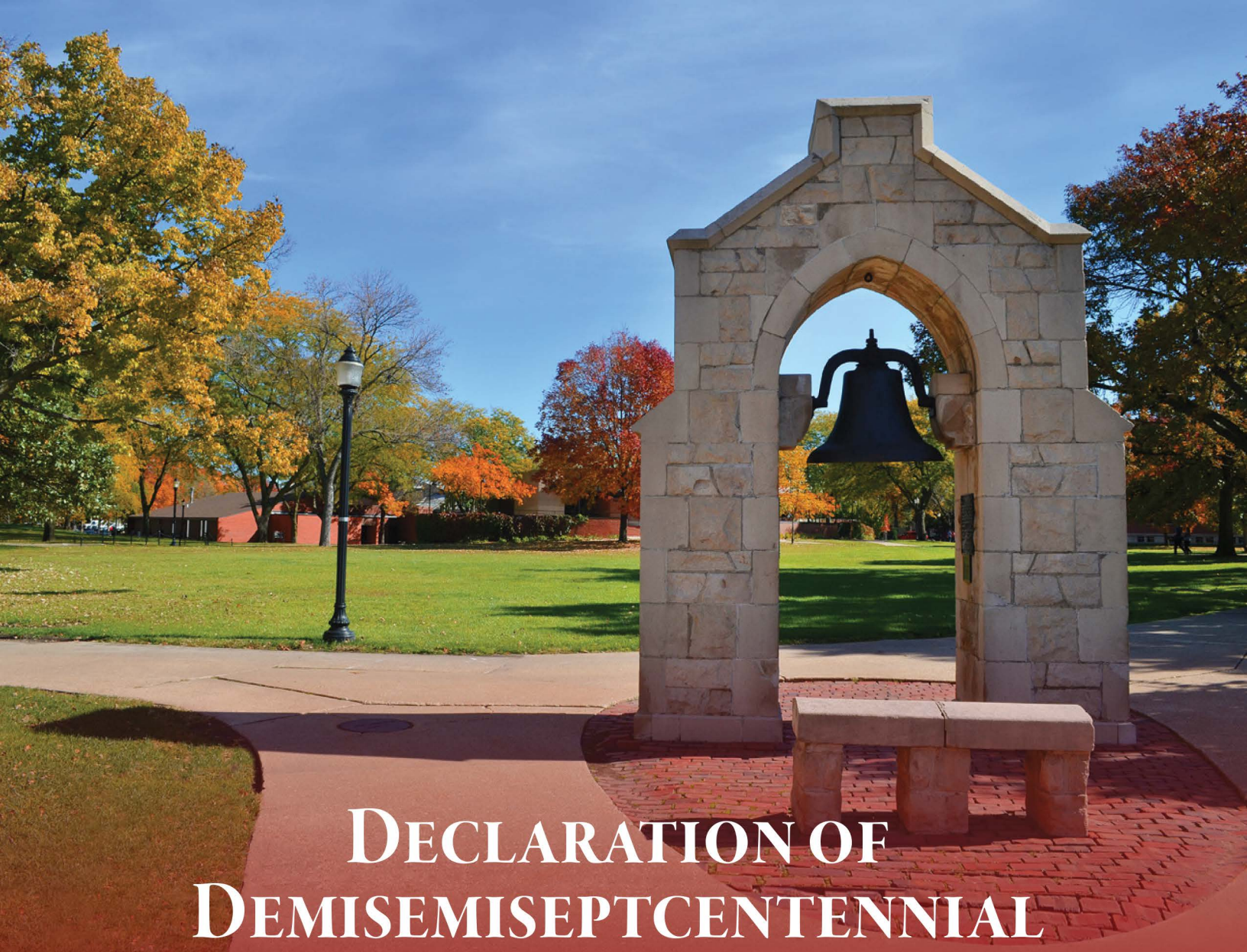
Address changes and inquiries regarding alumni records may be addressed to the Office of Advancement (319.399.8613 or advancementservices@coe.edu).

Information may be submitted online at alumni.coe.edu. Contact the Alumni Office at alumni@coe.edu or 877.KOHAWKS (564.2957).

Questions and comments regarding the Courier can be sent to alumni@coe.edu.

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

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



Declaration of Demisemiseptcentennial

Declared at the Coe College Board of Trustees Spring Meeting | May 30, 2026

The Board of Trustees of Coe College proudly recognizes the college's achievements over one hundred and seventy-five years by proclaiming the 2026–2027 academic year the official observance of Coe's 175th Anniversary. In honor of this historic milestone, the college will engage students, alumni, faculty, staff and the Cedar Rapids/Marion community in a yearlong celebration beginning in August of 2026. Throughout the year, Coe will highlight its legacy to further honor Coe's history and impact. As proud governors of the college, we affirm Coe's enduring traditions while embracing the promise of an even brighter future, all within the spirit of the demisemiseptcentennial anniversary celebration.

Coe College



HOMECOMING 2026

Homecoming 2026 was a weekend full of Kohawk pride, celebration, nostalgia and connection. What better way to honor the college's 175th anniversary than with a Homecoming for the ages?

Campus welcomed a life-size Charlie Kohawk statue, which landed outside lower Gage. The dedication celebration was extra special because of the return of 2025 Senior Class Gift Committee co-chairs **Hailey Meacham '25** and **Molly Baker '25** and their classmate **Reagan Brown '25**. An All-Alumni Demisemiseptcentennial Celebration brought alumni together to honor their milestones with a dinner, a live band and karaoke late into the evening. For the first time, all Homecoming attendees gathered for an All-Kohawk Concert, where nationally touring country artist Spencer Crandall closed out the weekend with a great performance, singing some standouts from his discography and a few covers as well.

The classic events and traditions, as always, provided a nostalgic through line across the weekend. Most of the Alumni Council's silent auction items were Coe-themed, including wood-carved tables, knitted scarves and even a colorful piece of license plate art. Alumni and friends sat in on classes with students, learning about conducting, religion, theatre, art history, anatomy, dinosaur evolution, meteorology and more. They toured campus to see how it has changed — and remained the same — since their time as students. They browsed the George T. Henry College Archives and an alumni art exhibition, attended a happy hour with faculty and staff and cheered on the football team, which earned a 35-14 win over Loras College after a strong shutout in the first half.

Clear blue skies presided over the entire weekend, from early morning brunches to late night concerts. Also clear was the excitement of alumni who refamiliarized themselves with their old stomping grounds while reconnecting with friends and making new ones. Kohawks wore their best Homecoming and 175 T-shirts, carrying Coe spirit with them to each event. It was a demisemiseptcentennial celebration that no one will forget for the next 175 years.

NEW CHARLIE KOHAWK
ON THE BLOCK

Students heading into the "U" are now perpetually greeted by a familiar face: that of Charlie Kohawk, whose likeness was transformed into a new, life-size statue. The Charlie statue is a result of the fundraising efforts of the Class of 2025 as part of the Senior Class Gift project, a tradition that gives each graduating class an opportunity to leave their mark on campus.

"When the Class of 2025 committee chairs first brought me the idea of creating a Charlie Kohawk statue, I will admit that I was a little hesitant," said Mégan Valenta, Development Officer at Coe who then served as Director of Annual Fund. "It was an ambitious project — much larger in scale than a typical senior class gift — and I knew how much fundraising, planning and follow-through it would require."

But the class gift co-chairs, **Hailey Meacham '25** and **Molly Baker '25** and their classmate **Reagan Brown '25**, proved determined, creative and willing to do the work necessary to bring Charlie to life.

"A great deal of work happened behind the scenes to make this statue possible," Baker said. "Our committee reached out to potential sponsors, asked alumni and friends of Coe to support the project and approached the Alumni Council for its partnership. We also organized fundraisers, including give-back nights at local establishments."

Alumni, friends, faculty and staff gathered for a special ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday of Homecoming weekend to officially welcome the Charlie statue to campus and see the efforts of the Class of 2025 take shape. The Kohawk Dance Team provided a spark of cheer, and Charlie himself showed up, appearing surprised — but eventually honored and pleased — with his duplicate.

"It is an incredible honor to know that our class is leaving behind something that will become part of the Coe experience," said Brown. "Charlie will be here for campus visits, Homecoming celebrations, graduation photos and countless everyday moments of generations of Kohawks."

Meacham added, "We are so grateful to everyone who encouraged us and helped turn an ambitious idea into something that will now be part of Coe's campus for years to come."







HONORING
DISTINGUISHED KOHAWKS

Coe College recognizes its students and alumni for their achievements in the classroom, on the field and in their communities. The Alumni Award of Merit is an honor the college bestows on alumni who achieve outstanding success and are game changers in their career fields, the Distinguished Service Award is a lifetime achievement honor for alumni or friends of the college who display exceptional stewardship to Coe through their service and/or financial contributions and the Young Alum Award is given to those who have achieved a high level of success within 15 years of graduation from the college.

ANGELEA PRESTI YODER '12

YOUNG ALUM AWARD

Angelea Presti Yoder has built a career at the intersection of photography, storytelling and advocacy, using her camera and her voice to expand representation, shift the perspective that disability doesn't define a person and provide community and connection.

During her junior year at Coe, Yoder discovered film photography through an elective for her public relations major, a class that would ultimately change the direction of her life. She launched a photography career that has taken her from local brand campaigns and publications to international fashion editorials and key art for some of the most reputable artists in music and entertainment.

As a disability and VACTERL advocate, she founded LET THEM STARE, a photography and storytelling project created to celebrate both visible and invisible differences, challenge perceptions of disability and confront ableism. Through her work, she highlights the strength, individuality and resilience of those often overlooked. She is also the self-published author of "Look at Me, Look What I Can Do!," a children's book inspired by her commitment to helping young people see disability through a different lens. From discovering photography in a Coe classroom to building a career that uses photography to help others be seen, Yoder has turned her creativity, courage and compassion into a powerful force for representation and connection.

WENDY ANDREWS NIELSEN '01

ALUMNI AWARD OF MERIT

Wendy Andrews Nielsen has built a career spanning relationship banking, strategic marketing, employee experience and community engagement since joining Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust in 2001. As senior vice president, director of marketing and experience and a member of CRBT's leadership team, she leads marketing and brand strategy to help drive the bank's overall strategic goals, while also helping strengthen the bank's internal culture through values alignment, employee engagement and mission-driven communication.

Nielsen is also a graduate of the Leadership for Five Seasons program and a Corridor Business Journal Forty Under 40 honoree. She has received a Waypoint Woman of Achievement award, been named Chief Marketing Officer of the Year by the Corridor Business Journal and received the 2021 Governor's Volunteer award for her engagement with women, children and Cedar Rapids community initiatives. Most recently, she co-chaired the 2025 United Way Campaign alongside her husband **Nick Nielsen '01** and served on the leadership team to raise funds for Waypoint's Madge Phillips Apartment capital campaign.

Wendy and Nick live in Marion, Iowa with their sons, Roman and Connor, and their favorite five-pound Yorkie named Tito.

TOM HAZELTON '77

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Tom Hazelton is a Cedar Rapids native and a 1973 graduate of Kennedy High School. He is married to Lisa Hazelton and has three children and five grandchildren. He entered Coe in the fall of 1973 in pursuit of a business major, and by the end of his first term, he had swerved to pursue a biology major.

A spring term internship with Linn County produced a 35-year career as park ranger & community outreach specialist. During this time, Hazelton pioneered numerous innovations: the County Conservation Peace Officers Association, the Association for Integrated Roadside Management, the MyCountyParks.com website, the Winterfest Conference for all 700+ county conservation employees and numerous other expansions. Along the way Hazelton received awards and recognitions from Iowa Tourism, the National Association of Counties, the Iowa Academy of Science and more.

Hazelton joined the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity in the fall of 1973. The fraternity introduced him to Special Olympics in 1973, a passion which he has carried throughout his life. In 2027, he will orchestrate his 54th consecutive East Central Iowa Spring Games at Coe. The core of his 45+ person cadre of volunteer officials are

primarily Coe alumni and generations of their families. Most agree with Hazelton that it is one of the "bestest days" each and every year. He is also very proud that Coe has continued to host and support "Special O's" for over five decades.

NANCY HAMBLIN EVANS **'71**

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Nancy Hamblin Evans earned her J.D. with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1974 after graduating from Coe. That same year, she began a career dedicated to law, education, civic leadership and service to her community. Evans served as an assistant county attorney from 1974 to 1976, becoming the first woman hired for the position. She went on to spend more than four decades teaching at Coe, where she was an assistant professor of business and political science from 1975 to 1997 and later served as adjunct faculty from 2000 to 2015.

Her commitment to public service led her to elected office. From 1996 to 2000, Evans served as public safety commissioner for the City of Cedar Rapids and as a full-time member of the city council, the only woman ever to hold the public safety commissioner position. She currently serves as chair of the City of Cedar Rapids Civil Service Commission.

Her community leadership has included serving as president of Junior League of Cedar Rapids, vice-chair of the 6th District Department of Correctional Services, chair of the Community Corrections Improvement Association and chair of Alternative Services, as well as board service with the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation, St. Luke's Hospital, Guaranty Bank & Trust, Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust, Diamond V Mills, YWCA/ Waypoint and Iowa Finance Authority. Evans has been recognized with the 2010 Woman of Influence Award, the 1996 Women's Equality Day Award and the YWCA Tribute to Women in Business and Industry.

Scan to read more about the Alumni Awards or nominate a Kohawk who deserves to be recognized!



From back left to front right: **Kurt Tjelmeland '84**, **Nick Nielsen '01**, President **David Hayes '93**, Lucy Goodson, **Jack Evans '70**, **Tom Hazelton '77**, **Wendy Andrews** Nielsen **'01**, **Angelea Presti** Yoder **'12**, **Nancy Hamblin** Evans **'71**



CELEBRATING
ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

The Coe College Athletic Hall of Fame was established to recognize and honor Coe letterwinners, athletic coaches and athletic staff members who have made outstanding performances and achievements in their sports. This year's four winners appear in the college's record books across softball, women's basketball, men's basketball, volleyball and men's track and field.

KEVIN WELU '86 is a six-time individual conference champion and one of the best pole vaulters in Coe track & field history. Welu set the school record in the indoor pole vault by clearing 14'10.5. An individual All-American performance in 1985 highlighted his Kohawk career, as he placed sixth at the national meet. Welu still ranks second all-time in the indoor pole vault and third in the outdoor pole vault, and he helped the Kohawk men to three indoor Midwest Conference Championships and two outdoor Midwest Conference Championships. Today, Welu is a principal with CliftonLarsonAllen Wealth Advisors and has been in the wealth management business for over 39 years. He lives in Cedar Rapids with his wife **Caitlin Hartman** Welu **'09**.

JAMIE DALBEY SCHADT **'02** was a major contributor for Coe basketball and softball in her time as a Kohawk. A three-time all-conference performer on the diamond, Schadt graduated as the career leader in hits, total bases and stolen bases while ranking in the top three for batting average, slugging percentage, on-base percentage and home runs. On the hardwood, Schadt finished her Kohawk career as the leader in assists, steals, minutes and free throws, while ranking sixth in total scoring. Named the 2002 Barron Bremner Outstanding Female Athlete, Schadt still ranks in the top-10 in assists, steals, free throws and minutes. Schadt is a district sales representative at Martin Brothers Distributing Co. and lives in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa with her husband **Jesse Schadt '02** and three children: Kaden, Hailey and Maddie.

MIKE KILBURG '07 was a key figure in Coe men's basketball's first conference title in 30 years as he was named the league MVP after his first year with the Kohawks. Kilburg led Coe to a 12-4 conference record in 2005-06, averaging 16.8 points and 5.8 rebounds per game with the second-best single-season shooting percentage effort in school history. Kilburg was also named NABC All-Region after posting the ninth-most points in a single season with 431. He picked up another first-team Iowa Conference postseason selection following the 2006-07 season, where he totaled a personal best 441 points, the sixth most in a single season at the time of graduation. Kilburg owns four of the top-10 single-game shooting performances in school history. Mike is a director with TekWissen, a Contingent Workforce Solution Company, and lives in Plymouth, Michigan with his wife Jaime, daughter Annabelle and two sons Dominic and Quinton.

KRISTY UPAH STAKER **'08** is one of five Kohawks to earn the conference Scholar Athlete of the Year award and led the Coe volleyball team to its first NCAA Regional appearance in 2006. Staker owns both major assist career records with 5,090 total assists and 10.25 assists per set while earning a pair of first-team all-conference honors in her junior and senior seasons. Staker totaled 1,589 assists in 2007 and has the top eight single-game set performances in Kohawk history with a school record 79 in a match against Capital in 2006. Staker ranks fifth in total sets played, ninth in service aces and 11th in digs. Staker currently lives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa with her husband **Tyler Staker '06** and their four children: Avery, Cade, Ellie Mae and Olivia Charlotte.


HOMECOMING
















KOHAWKS


HOMECOMING
COE COLLEGE







1851-2026

175 YEARS

Happy 175th Birthday, Coe!

Throughout Homecoming weekend, alumni, friends, faculty and staff sought out ways to honor the milestone defining the 2026-27 academic year.

On Friday, Common Hour highlighted the Homecoming schedule with a unique presentation by William P. and Gayle S. Whipple Professor of History Brie Swenson Arnold and Henrietta Arnold Professor of History, Chair Bethany Keenan. After many, many trips to the George T. Henry College Archives, the two history professors compiled a slideshow to celebrate "Great Coe-ments" in the history of the college. Available to guests was a culinary tradition known to many Kohawks: Mrs. Nellie Turner Hickok's sponge cake, made exactly from her historic recipe. The Hickoks often served the famous cake to faculty, staff and students on special occasions; this Common Hour presentation certainly qualified.

Later that evening the All-Alumni Demisemiseptcentennial Celebration brought together alumni celebrating reunions. Kohawks in their 10th, 15th, 25th, 40th and 50th reunions enjoyed walking tacos, perused the Alumni Council auction, chatted with old and new friends and sang karaoke with a live band, Asking for a Friend.

Saturday concluded with a new event that brought current students into the mix: an All-Kohawk Homecoming Concert, headlined by Nashville-based country artist Spencer Crandall. Performing songs from his own catalogue and a few fan-favorite covers, Crandall kept up the energy for alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students alike. If this year is the first of the next 175, it was a great Kohawk kickoff.

A Founder's Story:

Daniel Coe and an Enduring Vision for Coe College

Brie Swenson Arnold, William P. & Gayle S. Whipple Professor of History at Coe



From all indications, Daniel Coe never saw the college that bears his name. He doesn't seem to have ever been to Iowa; indeed, he spent almost all of his nearly 80 years living in the same corner of rural New York state where he was born. He never attended college; in fact, he had little formal education of any kind. He wasn't rich, famous or well-connected, the typical hallmarks of namesakes and benefactors. Instead, for 70 years he worked the same unassuming family farm in the Catskills Mountains. Yet, for some reason, in the early 1850s Daniel Coe donated $1,500 to help establish a small college in a fledgling town in a brand-new state a thousand miles to the west of his New York home.

Why? That question has captivated me since first encountering the few surviving historical documents we have from Daniel Coe in the George T. Henry Coe College Archives in Stewart Memorial Library. I vividly remember a class visit to the archives over a decade ago when our wonderful archivist had pulled Civil War-era items from the vault, including a single surviving letter written in Daniel Coe's hand and dated "Talladega, Alabama, 1870." Our class was shocked and intrigued. Alabama? Wasn't our college's namesake from New York? Why was he in the South during the volatile post-Civil War period known as Reconstruction? What dots connected his 1850s donation and 1870s letter? And what might all of this say about our college, one that endures far beyond Daniel Coe's time?

The occasion of Coe College's 175th anniversary offers an opportunity to share new research about the life of our namesake and the innovative beliefs he championed that have shaped our college across the generations. Throughout his life, Daniel Coe demonstrated a remarkable commitment to expanding education to all, regardless of factors like class, gender or race, an outlook that was rare and not widely accepted in his day and that took a long time to become the



Coe College campus, circa 1895. Coe College Archives.

norm in American education. This commitment makes Daniel Coe and the college he helped found quite notable. His story provides a touchstone for Coe College past, present and future, highlighting as it does our college's foundational and enduring commitment to education for all.

Daniel Coe was born in 1794 near the rural village of Durham, New York. From youth through old age, farming and manual labor dictated the contours of his life. As a child, Daniel was mostly "kept at home at work," though he briefly attended a school "just over the mountain from the Coe homestead." New York and other northern states were early adopters of public primary-level education, seen as an essential ingredient in the new experiment of American democracy for its role in creating an informed citizenry, more societal equity and opportunities for individual advancement. Daniel Coe recognized this power and potential of education from early on, even as his own education was cut short. At age 11, he had to leave school permanently in order to work the family farm. A voracious reader with a curious mind, Daniel convinced his father to let him keep a little cash earned from working "off farm" to purchase school books that he "studied during the long evenings." The fact that Daniel's own formal education was limited fueled a lifelong commitment to furthering it for others.

Though his father and other family members had not been especially well-off, Daniel managed to become a prosperous farmer. As a 19th-century book about Durham put it, Daniel Coe "had means." While some thought him penurious, Daniel purportedly responded that "it is never stingy to be saving if you save to give away." He would eventually give away nearly all of his resources.

Daniel was twice married and twice widowered. He raised four children, attending equally to the education of his sons and daughters. Two of his children achieved advanced educations, a rarity for the time. This was especially true for daughter Sarah, who graduated from Mount Holyoke, one of the first US institutions to educate women at higher levels. Daniel also saved funds for his younger daughter May's college training.



Elizabeth Shearer Jones & Williston Jones, carte de visite, circa 1860. Coe College Archives.

This support for his daughters' education was notable in a time when most Americans viewed "female education" as problematic or unnecessary.

Daniel was also committed to his family's religious and moral instruction. He was a devoted member and deacon of Durham's Second Presbyterian Church and remained religiously devout throughout his life. He saw to it that each of his children belonged and donated to religious and charitable societies, as did he. Daniel particularly supported religiously affiliated organizations that focused on expanding education. In the years before the Civil War, such groups established an unprecedented number of colleges and often opened them to a wider array of students than ever before through new practices like coeducation, interracial education and admittance of non-elite students. Before the war, almost all of those innovative new colleges were located in the Midwest.

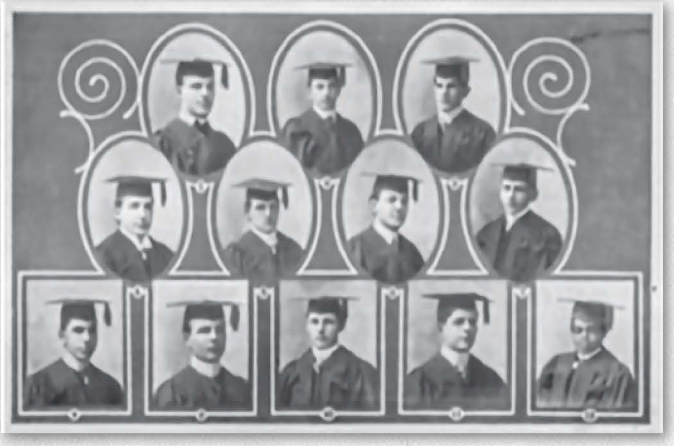
Coe College became part of that groundbreaking group of colleges. In 1853, Daniel Coe took bold action to advance his belief that everyone should have access to education. After hearing an appeal from a Presbyterian minister visiting from Iowa, Daniel was moved to make an extraordinary donation of $1,500, a quarter of everything he owned, to help establish

"It is my strong desire that this Institute should be made available for the education of Females as well as Males"

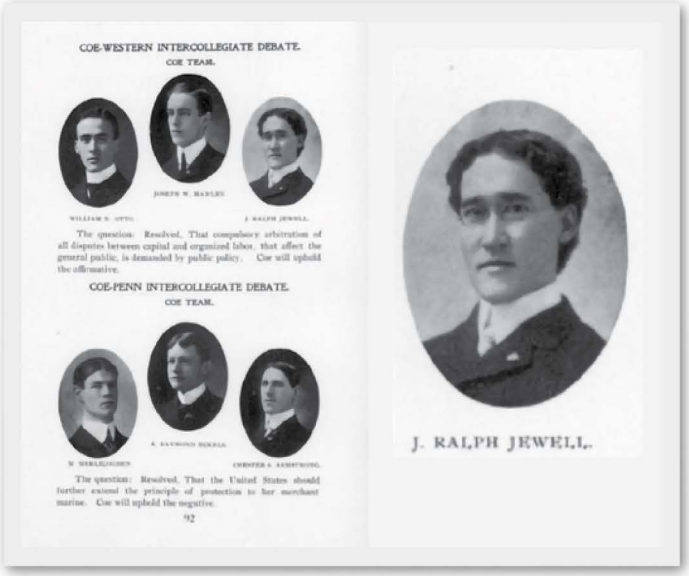
Daniel Coe, "Conditional Donation [to establish a college in Cedar Rapids, Iowa]," 1853

"a permanent Institution of learning" in Cedar Rapids. That minister was Reverend Williston Jones. Two years earlier in 1851, Reverend Jones and his wife Elizabeth had started a small institute of learning in Cedar Rapids that would eventually grow into Coe College. To raise funds for those educational efforts, Reverend Jones spoke at churches across New York, including Durham's Second Presbyterian. Daniel's daughter May recalled "how her father looked as he sat in the afternoon sunshine...with his elbow on the arm of the pew and his head resting thoughtfully in his hand" as he listened to Jones' appeal. Daniel conferred with Jones and outlined the terms of his $1,500 donation in a document that became the founding charter and endowing gift for Coe College.

In his 1853 "conditional donation," Daniel Coe included two extraordinary provisions that would forever shape the character and student population of our college and that would broadly contribute to expanding access to higher education. First, Daniel specified that the new college in Cedar Rapids should allow "students as may need to assist themselves" — that is, students not from wealthy backgrounds — the "benefit" of paying their tuition by working on campus. Daniel wanted the college to provide opportunities for students to "work as they studied and study as they worked, so getting an education largely thru their own efforts." "Young men and women," he explained, "should be enabled to pay a large part of the expense of their college course by working" on campus. This progressive idea asserted that everyone, regardless of family means or status, should have the opportunity to get a college education. This has been fundamental to the mission of Coe College for 175 years and counting.



Coe yearbook 1903, showing some of the Class of 1902, including William Lowery, Coe's first African American graduate, who attended Coe at the same time as Ralph Jewell.



Ralph Jewell, Class of 1903, in the Coe College yearbook (1904).

Second, Daniel stipulated in the donation that it was his "strong desire" that the new "Institute should be made available for the Education of Females as well as Males." In other words, it would be coeducational, offering the same opportunities to women as well as men. This was an unusual and controversial idea in 1853. Only a handful of colleges nationwide were coed, all of which were situated in the Midwest, and it would take well over a century for coeducation to become standard. Daniel Coe and the college he endowed unquestionably led the way in this.

But Daniel didn't stop there. He continued to take bold action to advance his belief in education for all. In 1869, 75-year-old Daniel left Durham, the only home he'd ever known, and permanently relocated to Talladega, Alabama — the place listed on the letter my students and I encountered in the archives. This remarkable postscript to his 1850s actions tells us even more about Daniel Coe's deep commitment to expanding equal access to education.

Soon after the Civil War, Daniel, his daughter May, her new husband J.E. Jewell and their baby son moved to the South to contribute to establishing another remarkable college. Like Coe College, Alabama's Talladega College was always open to all regardless of race, class or gender.

Founded in 1865 by formerly enslaved people, Talladega became part of a network of elementary through collegiate schools established across the South after the Civil War. Newly liberated African Americans often partnered with northern groups like the American Missionary Association (AMA)

to fund and expand those schools, many of which still exist as historically Black colleges and universities. The AMA sponsored hundreds of Black and white northerners, including the Coe-Jewells, who moved south to staff and support the schools. In the sole surviving letter yet found from Daniel Coe, he explained that his family was deeply committed to the "great work going on" at Talladega, a school, like the one in Iowa Daniel had endowed, that was quickly "working its way up to a college."

But efforts to expand education and other rights to Black people were often met with fierce resistance during Reconstruction. This opposition widely took the form of violence, including attacks carried out by the infamous terrorist group the Ku Klux Klan against students and staff at schools like Talladega. Newly discovered letters found in the AMA archives show that this violence directly touched the Coe-Jewell family. In 1870, their property was "intentionally" burned by "Kuklux," a devastating financial loss that left them nearly destitute. But the family remained steadfast in their commitment to the educational efforts at Talladega. May and J.E. continued on as teachers while Daniel "did much good about the premises" and in "the Sunday School."

Additional hardships soon hit the Coe-Jewell family, especially the deaths of their young son and also Daniel, who died "quietly and peacefully" in Talladega on a "Sabbath Evening" in the spring of 1872. May, J.E. and a new baby they named Walter Coe Jewell left Alabama not long after Daniel's death. Others would continue the important work at Talladega College, including, remarkably, members of the Hickok family, who also had a lasting impact on Coe College.

After Alabama, May, J.E., Walter and another new son named James Ralph Jewell, settled in the Midwest. Ralph would go on to have a long and distinguished career in higher education, one that started following his graduation from Coe College in 1903. It had taken a few decades for the institution his grandfather endowed in 1853 to grow into the college we know today. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, its campus, academic programs and student body steadily expanded. Also, after years of going by other names, it was renamed "Coe College," thus firmly linking it to Daniel Coe's legacy.

Like many Coe students, Daniel Coe's grandson worked multiple jobs on and off campus to pay his way. As Ralph put it, while "my grandfather founded the college, I worked my way through it." During his time at Coe, Ralph attended alongside an equal number of women students, who had been evenly represented at the college from the beginning. He also attended classes and participated in activities alongside international students and Coe's first African American graduates. Though he never met his grandfather, Ralph counted himself lucky to be among the many generations of Coe College students who benefited from Daniel Coe's vision of education for all.

For 175 years, Coe College has embraced and advanced a foundational commitment to education for all. This enduring throughline stretches across our college's history from Daniel Coe's day to our own. The tradition, mission and spirit is a touchstone connecting generations of Kohawks past, present and future. From our earliest days, Coe College has promoted and taken pride in a diverse study body and a commitment to equal access to education. Daniel Coe may never have seen the college he helped found, but we can be sure he would be proud of how it has continued to fulfill his vision.

SOURCES

Coe College Archives: "Founding Papers, Box 2"; "Presidents: Administrative Papers; Coe History"; Eriksson, *Cedar Rapids Collegiate Institute and Its Founders, 1853-1866* (1928); Laugen & Winkler, Coe at 125 (1976); JR Jewell, "Founder's Day Appropriately Observed," *Coe College Courier* (Dec. 1912); Mullen, *An Arkansas Childhood* (1989); Roby Hickok Kesler, *Charles T. Hickok: His Love Affair with Coe* (1980); Coe College yearbooks 1903 & 1904. **Other primary sources:** "Daniel Coe," *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette,* 11 Dec. 1912; JG Borthwick, *History of Greene County, New York* (1884); Federal census, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880; New York State census, 1855, 1865; "Rev. James Jewell, 1825," *Probate Records, Greene Co., New York;* Bartlett, *Robert Coe; His Ancestors & Descendants* (1911); *Massachusetts Town & Vital Records, 1620-1988,* Ancestry.com; Calvin Cowles, *Genealogy of the Cowles families in America* (1929); "Mary Rebecca Coe," www.edwarddoty.org; Mary Rebecca Coe & James Ralph Jewell birth records, *Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1907,* Ancestry.com; "Daniel Coe," "Mercy Cowles Coe," and "Mary Rebecca 'May' Coe Jewell," www.findagrave.com; *Catalogue of… Mount Holyoke Female Seminary* (1843); *Catalogue of… Talladega College, 1871-'72;* Brie Swenson Arnold & Talladega College archivist Perry Trice, email correspondence (2021); "Alabama" Microfilm Rolls 1 & 2, American Missionary Association Archives, Tulane University; "James E. Jewell," *History of Allen & Woodson Counties, Kansas* (1901); "Walter Coe Jewell," Peebles family tree, Ancestry.com. **Secondary sources:** Folts, *History of the University of the State of New York and the State Education Department* (1996); Malkmus, "Origins of Coeducation in Antebellum Iowa," *Annals of Iowa* (1999); Lucas, *American Higher Education: A History* (1994); Wheeler, *Higher Education and the Making of the American Midwest* (2011); Mapel Bloomberg, "Midwestern Women's Early Coeducation," *Middle West Review* (2021); Drewry & Doerman, *Stand and Prosper: Private Black Colleges* (2001); "Talladega College History," www.talladega.edu/history; Jones & Richardson, *Talladega College: The First Century* (1990); Schweninger, "American Missionary Association and Northern Philanthropy in Reconstruction Alabama," *Alabama Historical Quarterly* (1970).

COE REDUCES TUITION 45 PERCENT

The Clearly Coe initiative is helping students and families compare college options and make informed, confident choices

Coe College will reduce its tuition by 45 percent for the 2027-28 academic year.

The move is the centerpiece of Clearly Coe, an initiative announced September 9 to help prospective students and their families understand the value of a Coe education and apply to the college with a more realistic idea of what they might pay.

"We want to eliminate friction from the college decision," said Coe College President **David Hayes '93**. "We are empowering students and families to prioritize factors like excellence, opportunity and career success rather than price tags."

The new pricing model effectively reduces Coe's "sticker price." Traditionally, many private colleges have set tuition high and offset costs with grants and scholarships awarded throughout the financial aid process. Students and families then do not know how much a college will cost until they've filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

To help reduce some of the uncertainty, Coe will offer both new and returning students a more affordable starting point. Students will still complete the FAFSA, and many will receive merit scholarships or need-based aid that cut their costs even further.

Clearly Coe will help students and families more accurately compare Coe to other colleges, but just as importantly, create an opportunity for deeper exploration of what makes Coe special, including a defined college-to-career success path.

"We want to help students focus on the factors that set Coe apart," said Josh Kite, Coe's interim vice president for enrollment. "Guaranteed hands-on experiences, one-on-one faculty connections and comprehensive student support make Coe a great value."

The announcement has generated both local and national attention, as news outlets from the Gazette and KCRG-TV9 in Cedar Rapids to Forbes and the Wall Street Journal covered the announcement.

The focus, though, remains on doing what's best for students on campus.

"Clearly Coe isn't just about bringing clarity and confidence to the college decision process," Hayes said. "It's also about ensuring your investment yields the highest potential return."

Students who want to discover what Coe can mean for their goals are invited to visit campus and experience the college firsthand. For more information about Clearly Coe, visit **www.coe.edu/clearly-coe**.



Coe College continues to earn impressive rankings

from multiple national publications

This fall, national higher education publications have once again confirmed what our alumni community has long known: Coe College offers an exceptional, high-value and supportive educational environment.

Recently released rankings from The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report and Washington Monthly highlight Coe's standing as a premier national institution focused on student success, academic rigor and post-graduation outcomes.

Top recognition from The Princeton Review

In the 2026 edition of The Princeton Review's annual college guide, Coe earned outstanding Top 20 placements in two categories. Recognized among the Best 392 Colleges and Universities — placing Coe in the top 15% of four-year institutions nationwide — the college secured prominent national rankings in key support areas:

- **#16 Best Career Services**
- **#18 Best-Run College**

These honors reflect the hands-on mentorship of Coe's faculty and the dedicated work of the C3: Creativity, Careers, Community center. Driven by these comprehensive support systems, nearly 100% of reporting Coe graduates consistently secure employment, enter graduate school or engage in full-time service within nine months of graduation.

Rising Strong in U.S. News & World Report

The Fall 2026 rankings from U.S. News & World Report further underscore Coe's reputation for academic quality and social mobility:

- **#119 National Liberal Arts College**
- **#92 in Social Mobility**

The liberal arts college ranking is a rise of seven spots from 2025, and Coe's Top 100 rank in social mobility emphasizes the college's commitment to providing transformational educational opportunities for economically diverse students, ensuring that a Coe degree remains an engine for lifelong achievement.

Exceptional Value in Washington Monthly

In Washington Monthly's annual college rankings, which evaluate institutions based on what they do for the public good, Coe stood out for affordability and return on investment, and was listed as a Best College for Your Tuition (and Tax Dollars).

*"While national rankings are a wonderful validation of our momentum, these honors truly belong to our dedicated faculty and staff," said President **David Hayes '93**. "Every recognition we receive is a direct result of their everyday commitment to our students — whether that means offering extra mentorship after class, guiding career discovery or ensuring campus feels like home. I am deeply grateful for their tirelessness and heart, which make the Coe experience truly special."*

#16
BEST CAREER SERVICES
The Princeton Review

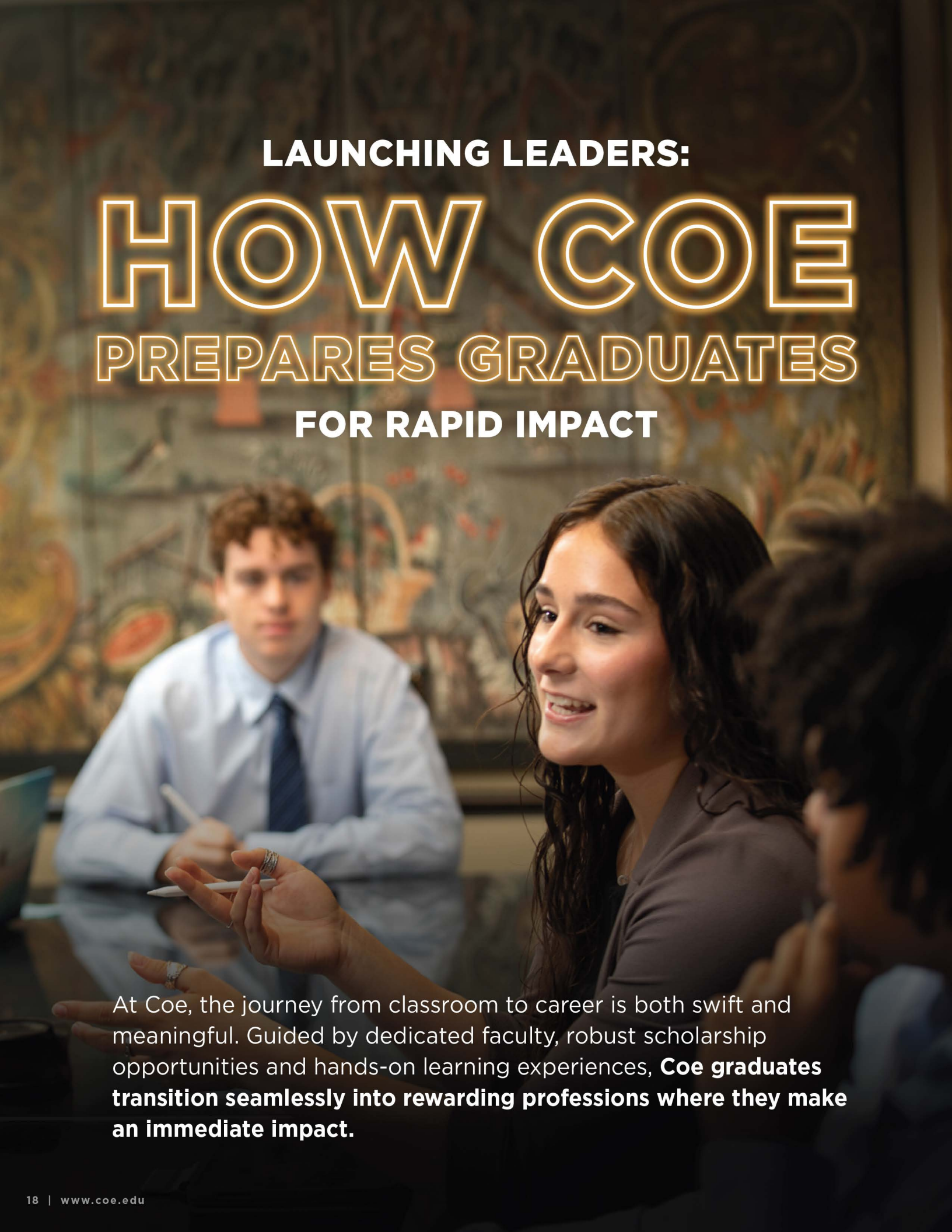
#18
BEST-RUN COLLEGE
The Princeton Review

Coe placed in the
TOP 15%
OF FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS NATIONWIDE
The Princeton Review

#119
NATIONAL LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE
U.S. News & World Report

#92
IN SOCIAL MOBILITY
U.S. News & World Report

Listed as a
BEST COLLEGE FOR YOUR TUITION
(and Tax Dollars)
Washington Monthly



LAUNCHING LEADERS:
HOW COE PREPARES GRADUATES FOR RAPID IMPACT

At Coe, the journey from classroom to career is both swift and meaningful. Guided by dedicated faculty, robust scholarship opportunities and hands-on learning experiences, **Coe graduates transition seamlessly into rewarding professions where they make an immediate impact.**

The following alumni illustrate how a **COE EDUCATION EQUIPS STUDENTS TO EXCEL ACROSS INDUSTRIES** — from publishing and public policy to legal advocacy.



MARISSA ARRIGONI '22 / *ENGLISH AND CREATIVE WRITING*

As an associate acquisitions editor for Hachette Book Group imprints Apiary and FaithWords, Marissa Arrigoni spends her days working closely with authors to shape compelling manuscripts. For Marissa, nothing is more rewarding than helping writers craft books that educate, empower, entertain and make authors feel seen. Her path to publishing was shaped by Coe's supportive community and financial resources. Receiving the Williston Jones scholarship allowed her to graduate debt-free, opening up expanded possibilities for her post-grad career. Mentorship from faculty like Professor Kate Aspengren gave her the confidence and critical skills needed to succeed in editorial work.

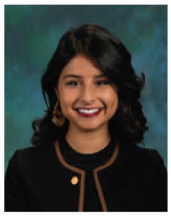
"I'm supremely grateful that Coe offers those kinds of scholarships, because it's changed my post-grad options. I'm also so grateful for all my professors who believed in me, encouraged me and challenged me to write better! Professor Kate Aspengren told me that my notes to my peers on their creative work were gifts to them, and it gave me confidence that I had the skills to be an editor."



FIONA KILGORE '23 / *ECONOMICS AND PUBLIC POLICY*

Working as a budget and policy analyst at the State Budget Office of Michigan, Fiona Kilgore plays a key role in allocating state funding to critical programs. Her daily work supports public health initiatives, aging populations, minority communities and children with rare diseases. Fiona credits her professional readiness to the close faculty connections she built at Coe, particularly through the Spellman Fellowship in the economics department. The analytical rigor of the fellowship, paired with strong faculty recommendations for graduate school, directly prepared her to secure a high-impact position shaping public policy.

"The faculty connections I made helped me develop the skills and competencies I need to be successful in the policy work I was looking to do. My professors also wrote me amazing letters of recommendation for graduate school, which helped me get my current position."



LARRISA ALIRE '20 / *POLITICAL SCIENCE (WITH DEPARTMENTAL DISTINCTION)*

As a criminal defense attorney with the Johnson County Public Defenders Office in Iowa City, Larrisa Alire serves as a dedicated advocate for vulnerable community members while defending their constitutional rights. As the county's only Latina criminal defense attorney, Larrisa takes immense pride in bringing her background as a first-generation college student into her legal career. Supported by the Williston Jones Diversity and Leadership Scholarship, as well as her selection as a 2019 Truman Scholar, Larrisa was able to complete law school with minimal loans, enabling her to pursue her dream of public service immediately.

"I get to be an advocate and sometimes the only advocate for some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Every day I show up to work and get to use my law degree to help others and defend their constitutional rights and liberties."



AARON PHILLIPS '24 / *PHYSICS AND ECONOMICS*

As a graduate student pursuing his PhD in mechanical engineering, Aaron Phillips works to advance sustainable transportation technologies. His work focuses on improving the longevity of combustion-based systems while capturing atmospheric carbon dioxide, aiming to minimize fossil fuel reliance and bolster energy independence. Beyond his research, Aaron mentors aspiring engineers and contributes to a student-led team designing and building open-wheel racecars to compete nationally and internationally. He credits Coe's rigorous coursework and research opportunities in physics and economics with equipping him with the problem-solving skills necessary to address complex, real-world engineering challenges cost-effectively.

"Coe helped contribute to my success by enabling me to develop critical thinking skills from my coursework and research in physics and economics that has been incredibly useful. Every day I am presented with new challenges that require a deep understanding of how physical, electrical and chemical systems work."

Help Build the Next Generation of Kohawks

These success stories demonstrate what is possible when talented students are paired with Coe's signature scholarships, academic supports and career networks. Offices like C3: Creativity, Careers, Community ensure every student has access to internships, alumni connections and hands-on professional planning to launch their careers with confidence. If you know a prospective student who would thrive in Coe's supportive, high-achieving environment, encourage them to explore Coe College today.

Coe Roots

While everyone's college experience is different, some memories connect every student who attended Coe College. Enjoying Flunk Days in beautiful spring weather (or under heavy rain clouds), ringing the Victory Bell to begin and close out one's academic career, cheering for Kohawks on the field, court, diamond and more: these traditions hold weight for all students. And for some, they serve as opportunities to reminisce with one's family. The phrase "Kohawk family" rings especially true for Coe legacies.

Alumni Council member **Kirk Ergang '75** remembers meeting **Kathy Thompson** Holland **'74** when they were around 11 years old. Their lives have been intertwined ever since: Kathy's roommate at Coe was Kirk's future wife, **Linda Wolf** Ergang **'75**; Kirk and Kathy graduated from Coe one year apart; today, the three of them and Kathy's husband **Gary Holland '74** live in the same zip code and often vacation together, including trips for their children's weddings. Two of the couples' sons — **Nick Ergang '01** and **Scott Holland '01** — attended Coe together and remain friends today.

Gary Holland's legacy story started with his mother, **Marilyn Martin** Holland, who graduated from Coe in 1950. One of Marilyn's memories that she passed down to Gary was her daily chapel attendance.

The two couples married in Deerfield, Illinois, where Kathy, Kirk and Linda went to high school, and went on to have three children each. "We each feel like we're parents of the other couples' three kids," said Gary.

Roots trace even longer through Kirk and Linda's brother-in-law, **Mike Mead '67**. (Mike's wife, **Marjorie Wolf** Mead **'68**, is Linda's sister.) Two of Mike and Marjorie's children attended Coe: **Jessica Mead** Chaon **'97** and **Justin Mead '00**. Jessica married **Chip Chaon, Jr. '97**, and Justin married **Jessica McGill** Mead **'00**. Jessica and Chip's two children, **Elise '26** and **Logan Chaon '30**, are also Kohawks; Logan is currently studying in the aviation studies and flight operations program.

> *I always talked up Coe big time.*
> ***— Mike Mead '67***

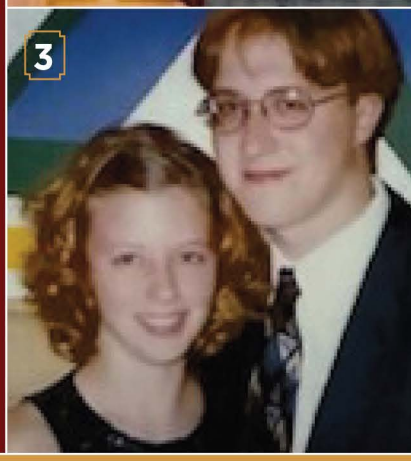
Coe College hit Mike Mead's radar when his pastor's children attended. When Mike arrived on campus, he "fell in love with the place" and "started life all over." Meeting his future wife, Marjorie, was a key moment in his college life: in the cafeteria (which was then in the basement of Voorhees Hall), she bumped into him with a tray, and the rest is history.

Mike became president of the student body, and later, an admissions counselor for Coe and a member of the Alumni Council. As student body president, he considered former president of the college Joseph McCabe a good friend. In fact, he named his Bernese Mountain Dog "McCabe" in the president's honor. He's not surprised his descendants have carried on the tradition of attending Coe. "I always talked up Coe big time," he said.











1 Raymond & **Marilyn Martin** Holland **'50**, who married right after Marilyn graduated.

2 **Gary Holland '74**, son of Raymond and Marilyn, with wife **Kathy Thompson** Holland **'74** at a Chi Omega formal.

3 **Scott Holland '01**, son of Gary and Kathy, and his wife **Kristie Workman** Holland **'02** at a Lambda Chi formal. All three women lived in Voorhees while at Coe.

4 **Kirk Ergang '75, Linda Wolf** Ergang **'75, Nick Ergang '01, Kathy Thompson** Holland **'74, Scott Holland '01, Marilyn Martin** Holland **'50** and **Gary Holland '74**.



A legacy story that may sound familiar is that of **Mary Ann Turnbull** Kucera **'58**, whose Coe roots start with her grandfather, Charles Thomas Hickok. Charles and Mary Ann's aunt, **Eliza (Roby) Hickok** Kesler **'31** (pictured left) raised Mary Ann, who spent much of her childhood on Coe's campus. She and her family went above and beyond in leaving their mark on Coe College. Charles taught at Coe for 40 years, and Roby founded Thursday Forum, a program for older adults who want to expand their knowledge in an academic setting. (Thursday Forum is held, naturally, in Hickok Hall's Kesler Auditorium, locations named for Charles and Roby.)

I promote Coe everywhere I go for what it provided my family and myself.

— Mary Ann Kucera '58

Mary Ann supports her family's legacy through the Hickok International May Term Travel Fund and the Howard Kucera Physics Scholarship, which was established after the passing of her husband, **Howard Kucera '58**. In a previous story written on her Coe roots, Mary Ann said, "I promote Coe everywhere I go for what it provided my family and myself. Coe's given a wonderful education for so many people. I want these opportunities to be available for future students."

The thread didn't stop with Mary Ann — more Coe alumni in her family include her daughter **Beth Kucera '81** and granddaughters, **Alex Fangman '14** and **Maddy Fangman** Taylor **'15**. Alex recently had a daughter whom she named Roby in a tribute to her relative. And there's more: Mary Ann's mother, father, aunt and sister are all Coe alumni.

A more distant example of a Coe legacy is the Morris family, whose story begins with Owen Lloyd Morris' arrival in Cedar Rapids in 1919 to serve as vice president of financial development at the college. His son **Merlin Morris**, a future 1936 graduate, was five years old. "He grew up at Coe," his daughter later said. Beyond his father, Merlin's immediate family was full of Coe graduates: his brother **Morgan Morris '26**, sister **Marion Morris** Day Fair **'26**, wife **Mary Jeannette Focht '38** and daughter **Martha Morris** Nash **'68**. Marion's son and Mary Jeannette's sister were also alumni.

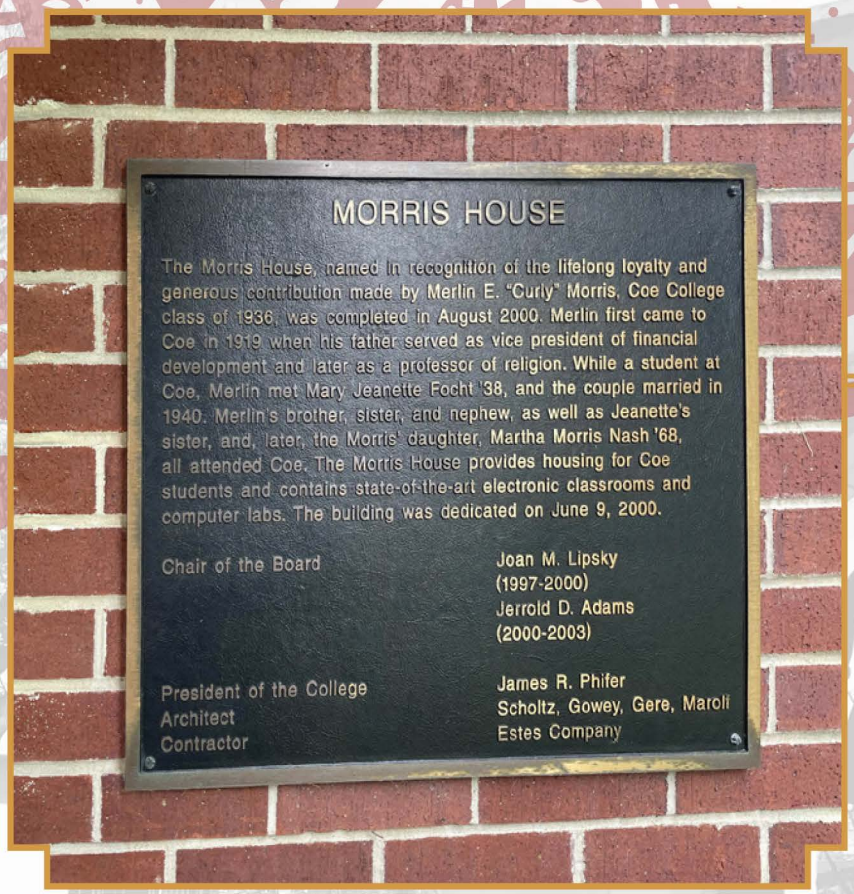
When Merlin dedicated a $500,000 gift to Coe, former president Jim Phifer said, "This is a wonderful gift from someone whose whole life has been intertwined with the institution. The Morrises have been part of Coe for generations, and now Merlin has chosen to step forward and support his alma mater in a very significant way." Morris House, an on-campus apartment, is named after Merlin.

The good feelings toward Coe shared by Merlin Morris, Mary Ann Kucera, Mike Mead and Gary Holland speak to the value of a Coe education throughout its 175-year history. "Small colleges have a unique ability to allow students to thrive in multiple areas," said Kirk Ergang. At a liberal arts college such as Coe, he continued, one learns "how to learn, how to reason and how to argue effectively." It's an honor that this sentiment has been recognized by so many families who consider Coe a strong connection.

Today, the Office of Alumni Engagement encounters many legacy stories in the making. Each time an alum visits on a college tour with their future Kohawk, they leave with a gift bag and well wishes from the Advancement office in McCabe Hall. Always, the hope is that there are many more legacy stories to tell in the future.

Are you a Coe legacy?

Share your story with alumni@coe.edu.





Curley Morris and his future wife, Jeanette Focht, were pictured on the front of a 1935 admissions publication for the college.





Mary Ann Turnbull Kucera **'58** and **Beth Kucera '81** with Charlie

Alexandra Fangman '14 (left) holding a portrait of her great-great Aunt **Eliza "Roby" Hickok** Kesler **'31** and **Maddy Fangman** Taylor **'15** (right) holding a portrait of her great grandmother **Mary Louise Hickok** Turnbull **'26**.



CAYDEE KIRKHAM '26 AND JACK WALSH '27

ARE THE 2025-26 BARRON BREMNER OUTSTANDING ATHLETES

In her senior season, Kirkham put together an extraordinary campaign for the Kohawk women's basketball team. She earned WBCA Honorable Mention All-American, D3hoops.com Third Team All-American and American Rivers Conference Player of the Year honors while leading Coe to its first NCAA Tournament berth and tournament win since 2012. A six-time A-R-C Player of the Week selection, Kirkham recorded the program's first triple-double since 2009 and ranked fifth nationally in assists while averaging 18.9 points, 5.6 rebounds, 5.4 assists and 1.6 steals per game.

Walsh delivered a historic junior season on the mound for the Kohawk baseball team. Named a Second Team ABCA All-American, Third Team D3baseball.com All-American and the ABCA Region 9 Pitcher of the Year, Walsh set Coe's single-season strikeout record with 102 punchouts. He also earned an ABCA DIII Gold Glove Award and CSC Academic All-American recognition, finishing the season with a 9-2 record, a 2.77 ERA, a 1.03 WHIP and ranking fifth nationally in strikeout-to-walk ratio.

Following the conclusion of the athletic calendar, head coaches across Coe's varsity programs nominate candidates for the award. A committee then votes to select the top male and female student-athlete.

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

Kirkham and Walsh were honored during a ceremony Homecoming weekend at the Clark Alumni House.

OTHER FINALISTS INCLUDED:

MADDIE HARRIS '26 | VOLLEYBALL AND SOFTBALL

A two-sport stand-out, Harris earned NFCA Third Team All-Region and Second Team All-Conference honors in softball after batting .423 with 58 hits, 16 doubles and five triples. In volleyball, she played in all 31 matches, earning Honorable Mention All-Conference honors and helping Coe capture the A-R-C postseason title and an NCAA Tournament appearance.

SOPHIA FAIN '27 | WOMEN'S TENNIS

Named the A-R-C Most Valuable Player, Fain claimed the top flight singles title at the A-R-C Individual Championships and was an All-Conference selection in both singles and doubles. Serving as Coe's #1 singles player, she posted a 21-10 overall singles record (7-1 in conference) and added 17 doubles victories.

BRAYDEN PARKE '28 | WRESTLING

Parke reached the national championship match at 125 pounds to finish as the NCAA National Runner-Up and an All-American. He claimed NCAA Region VI Runner-Up honors, compiled a 24-6 overall record, earned All-Conference accolades and recorded 10 falls, six tech falls and five major decisions during his sophomore campaign.

LUKE SCHUMACHER '26 | FOOTBALL

An AP Third Team All-American, AFCA Second Team All-American and First Team All-Conference selection, Schumacher anchored the line for a Kohawk team that reached the NCAA Playoffs for the third consecutive season. He led Coe to its first NCAA Playoff victory since 2016 while also earning CSC Academic All-American honors.

CONGRATULATIONS, KOHAWKS! TALONS OUT!

KOHAWK ATHLETIC DAY OF GIVING

thank you!

ONE TEAM. ONE GOAL.

Total Raised

$307,014

866 TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS

625+ STUDENT-ATHLETES SUPPORTED

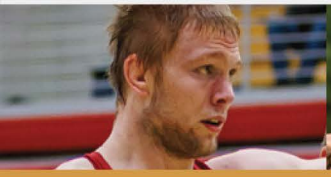
5 COUNTRIES | **36** STATES | **1** TERRITORY — AREAS REPRESENTED

124,000+ SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS

MEN'S SOCCER
Team with the Most Gifts Raised

MEN'S TENNIS
Team with the Most Money Raised

BUILDING A STANDARD | LEAVING A LEGACY.







COE COLLEGE



Mapping the first year of *Progress with* PURPOSE

The Progress with Purpose presidential tour set the tone for Coe's 175th year and began building momentum for the next 175. Led by President **David Hayes '93,** each tour stop also featured representatives from the Office of Alumni Engagement and members of the Board of Trustees.

The tour kicked off in Des Moines at an event that set the stage for those to come. Cedar Rapids then saw the largest crowd, with Board of Trustees Chair **Hank Taylor '75** and Past Alumni Council President **Lauren DuBay** Gilbertson **'13** joining President Hayes for remarks. Dallas-area Kohawks gathered in Plano, Texas, then the team hit two cities in two days with Milwaukee and Chicago. Stops in Denver and Minneapolis garnered great attendance, and special venues like The Army and Navy Club in Washington, D.C. and the home of **Damien '99** and Anne **Meyer** in Scottsdale, Arizona allowed Kohawks to connect in unique ways.

These gatherings were opportunities to hear directly from President Hayes about the strategic framework. After dinner, conversation and connection, he presented the purpose, values and initiatives of Progress with Purpose, highlighting the accomplishments that have sprung from putting this work into action.

At each event, President Hayes proposed three ways to stay connected with Coe and its mission:

Cheerlead. Being a cheerleader for Coe means proudly supporting Coe's story — what is written and what continues to be drafted as we evolve and thrive by the terms of the strategic framework. Read the Courier and E-News, attend events and share your connection to Coe, whether that is by pointing the high school students in your life in the direction of First Avenue or sharing a college memory on social media.

Connect. The Progress with Purpose tour proves that near or far, the Coe community remains strongly connected. Stay in touch with the Kohawk family no matter how near you are to campus by connecting with fellow alumni and friends of the college.

Give. Help us secure a legacy of innovation, impact and excellence. As Coe celebrates its 175th anniversary, this year is the first year of the next 175. Your time, talent and treasure are valuable to the work we do at Coe, and we couldn't make such successful strides without the support we receive from our alumni, parents and friends.

Kohawks provided examples of these goals throughout the tour. Damien and Anne Meyer served as great cheerleaders for Coe by hosting an intimate stop in their Scottsdale home. Many attendees expressed their excitement to travel back to Coe for Homecoming, which took place one month later.

A Coe connection created the opportunity to host the Washington, D.C. event at The Army and Navy



Almost 4,700 Miles

Nearly 300 Alumni

Nine Cities Across the Country

One strategic framework guiding Coe's future.



Club. The evening was sponsored by **Cynthia Runner** Heidt **'75,** a member of the club who began her career as a nurse in the U.S. Navy.

In Dallas, Board of Trustees member **Stephanie Kroger '88** announced she would match gifts made to Coe from the Dallas area up to $10,000 annually for the next three years. **Tom '82** and **Patti Bridenstine** Buchardt **'83** jumped in to announce they would do the same. Their support was an incredible boost just one month before what would turn out to be a successful Day of Giving in April.

Considering the success of the presidential tour January through September, the team didn't want the momentum to come to an end. In the next few months, the Progress with Purpose tour will hit the road again with stops in Florida and Illinois. As the strategic framework takes on its second year and Coe takes on its first year of the next 175, this tour provides alumni, friends and staff the opportunity to gather and share their stories of and pride in the college. Keeping our community ties strong will allow Coe to evolve and thrive for another 175 years.

The Progress with Purpose strategic framework can be found in the Fall 2025 Courier or online at https://www.coe.edu/why-coe/progress-purpose.



Meet the Clark Merit Scholars

2026-2027



SOPHIA FAIN '27 | PSYCHOLOGY, COMMUNICATION AND MULTIMEDIA GRAPHIC DESIGN

Triple-major senior Sophia Fain has spent her time on campus blending her love for tennis with her creative curiosity. Sophia is an A-R-C tennis champion and vice president of the Graphic Design Club while also advocating for mental health and participating in choir and musical theatre. She aspires to work as a graphic designer for a professional sports team while pursuing her master's in clinical mental health counseling and sports psychology.

"This award is a meaningful reminder that determination and hard work can take you far in life," Sophia said.



ALLI HAGNESS '27 | CHEMISTRY, BIOCHEMISTRY AND NEUROSCIENCE

A dedicated student in chemistry, biochemistry and neuroscience, Alli Hagness has embraced opportunities to grow as a researcher, mentor and leader at Coe. On campus, Alli serves as a supplemental instructor, tutor, lab assistant and writing center fellow, in addition to competing on the women's tennis team and serving as secretary of Mortar Board. Alli is eager to demonstrate integrity, character, leadership and social responsibility in the professional world.

"To be named a Clark Merit Scholar is a high honor evidencing both my contributions and the work that the Coe community has afforded me," Alli said.



ZACH LINDER '27 | MATHEMATICS

A first generation college student, Zach Linder has delved into the opportunities on campus and beyond through intense research projects and community service. He has conducted research in mathematical modeling and environmental sciences, including summers at Biosphere 2 and the University of Washington. At Coe, Zach serves as president of the Mathematics and Computer Science Club, a volunteer at the Catherine McAuley Center and a student instructor.

"The award recognizes the achievements and sacrifices of all those who have helped me grow, and I am so proud to keep building on and representing our community," Zach said.



MADISON MCDONALD '27 | PSYCHOLOGY AND CREATIVE WRITING

Madison McDonald is passionate about making a difference in her community. Spring of 2025, she interned at Fiver Children's Foundation, focusing on alumni outreach and aiding families in difficult financial situations. She has served as treasurer and president of the Student Alumni Association, board panelist on the Coe College Administrative Conduct Hearing Board, volunteer for the Justice Learning Initiative and senior resident assistant. After Coe, she plans to attend graduate school to research public health and substance abuse.

"The award acknowledges the work I've done as a student, both in and outside of the classroom. It is a recognition of the potential others see in me to do great things now and after graduation," Madison said.



ZACK PEARLMAN '27 | PHYSICS

For Zack Pearlman, this recognition is a reflection of the effort he puts into learning and growing each day. Zack has pursued hands-on research in physics, investigating the molecular structure of glass and presenting his findings at regional and national conferences. On campus, he serves as a STEM tutor and has held leadership roles in the Student Senate and the physics department. Zack hopes to become a professor and continue Doc Feller's legacy.

"It is an honor to be named a Clark Merit Scholar. It sums the effort I put forward to learn and become better each and every day," Zack said.

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**.



Coe College welcomes the

Class of 2030

Coe College welcomed 370 remarkable new Kohawks to campus as part of the Class of 2030. Members of the incoming class officially began their paths to success during New Student Orientation in late August.

The new class comes from all corners of the country, representing 28 states — with the furthest domestic students coming from Washington state. Seven countries are also represented among international first-year students and the class includes 126 students from Iowa. Some of the new Kohawks already have Coe in their blood as there are 15 legacy students in the class, and 219 are ready to bleed crimson and win gold as student-athletes.

In addition to their varied backgrounds, the Class of 2030 is exceptionally well-prepared academically, arriving on campus with an average high school GPA of 3.61 and an average ACT score of nearly 26.

The college is also seeing continued momentum in its aviation offerings, with 38 total students enrolled in the aviation program — 34 in flight operations and four more solely studying aviation studies.

At Coe, the new Kohawks are benefiting from robust support as they transition into college life. Members of the incoming class were paired with both College Adjustment Peers (CAP Leaders) and success coaches within the Office of Student Success & Persistence to jumpstart their journey. The coaches work individually with students to develop positive academic habits and introduce them to the multitude of resources available on campus, including tutoring, the writing center and the #16 Career Services in the nation according to The Princeton Review.



"Across the board, this entire class brings incredible talent and energy to campus, whether they are preparing for career pathways in the classroom, a prestigious grad school placement or taking off in our expanding aviation programs"

Josh Kite - Interim Vice President for Enrollment and Dean of Admission

Welcome to the 2025-2026

Coe College

Annual Report

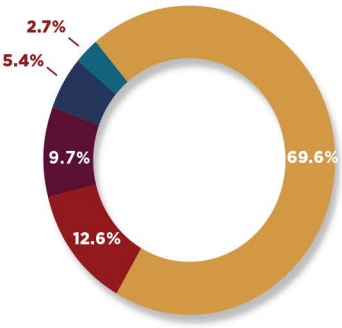
Coe has never been more committed to providing a transformative, student-centered education and to preserving the values that have allowed Coe to flourish for 175 years. A Coe experience is about more than earning a degree. It is about inquiry and discovery, excellence, respect, collaboration and innovation. Even as we evolve and thrive in a fast-changing environment, these values remain our constant guide and serve as both a foundation and a touchstone for the college.

This report recognizes your investment in our mission, values and our students, whether it be through your philanthropy, mentorship or advocacy. Your passion for Coe will define our future for the next 175 years and we thank you for your support!

1851-2026 175 YEARS

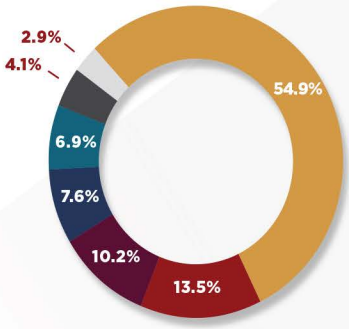
CELEBRATING 175 YEARS
of Coe College

Coe College



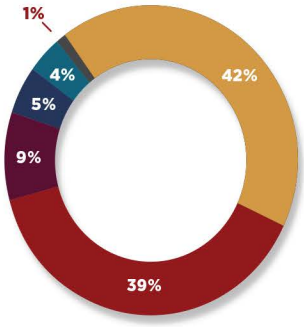
Revenue^

Tuition & Fees: **69.6%**
Residence and Dining Services: **12.6%**
Endowment Support for Operations: **9.7%**
Gifts Supporting Operations: **5.4%**
Other Sources: **2.7%**



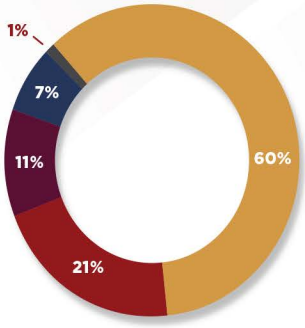
Expenditures^

Financial Aid (Scholarships and Grants): **54.9%**
Academic Programs: **13.5%**
Student Services: **10.2%**
General Administration: **7.6%**
Campus Facilities: **6.9%**
Residence and Dining Services: **4.1%**
Debt Service: **2.9%**



Gifts *by Source*

Alumni: **42% | $2,222,271**
Foundations **39% | $2,057,852**
Other: **9% | $463,390**
Friends: **5% | $260,895**
Parents: **4% | $217,203**
Corporations/Businesses: **1% | $100,097**



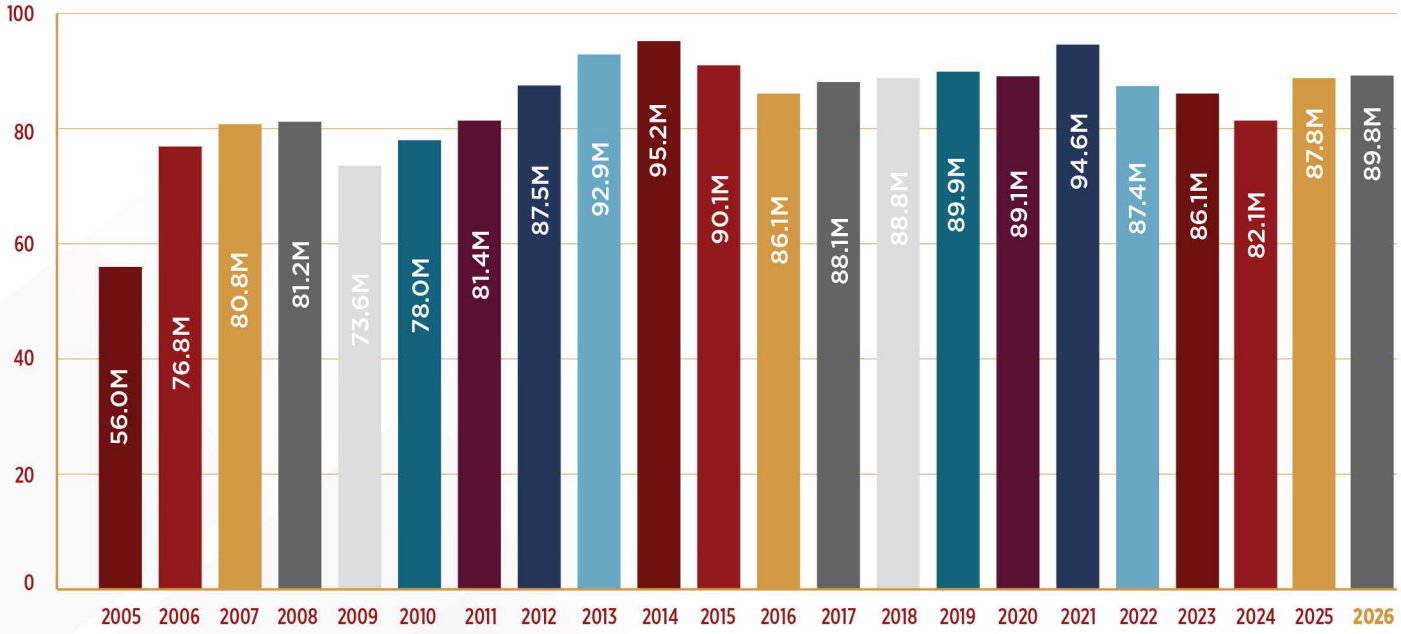
Gifts *by Purpose*

Annual Operational Support: **60% | $3,216,901**
Endowment Support: **21% | $1,098,243**
Special Projects: **11% | $589,853**
Athletics: **7% | $391,548**
Capital Projects: **1% | $25,163**

^numbers are unaudited

Endowment - Total Assets Market History

Fiscal Years Ending June 30



Total Amount Raised

$5,321,708

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 generous support we receive from our donors, alumni and friends.

Inaugural Athletic Day of Giving was a success!

Held on August 14, 2025, the inaugural Athletic Day of Giving was a great success for Kohawk Athletics. The campaign generated over $250,000 through more than 600 individual gifts, rallying alumni, parents, fans and friends around a shared commitment to Kohawk excellence. Every team and athletic support program benefited, marking a powerful start to what promises to be a lasting tradition.

Coe's C3: Creativity, Careers, Community hosts Internship & Career Fair

Coe's C3 hosted its annual Internship & Career Fair on September 23, 2025 and it was another great success. Coe welcomed 58 employers to table in the ARC, offering connections and opportunities for students to engage with a wide range of organizations. With over 275 students in attendance, the fair served as a dynamic platform for Kohawks to engage in meaningful conversations, share their experiences and gain insights into the hiring process. Free professional headshots were also a hit, with a record number of photos taken this year.

Kohawks rise to the occasion with high leverage internships during Washington, D.C. Term

There are powerful experiences at Coe that can simultaneously solidify your career direction and generate lifelong memories. A group of students spending the Fall 2025 term in Washington, D.C. were able to soak in a classic Kohawk trip while making headway in their career choices. In conjunction with the Capitol Hill Internship Program (CHIP), students embark on tours, engage in networking events and complete internships to complement coursework. The internships Kohawks landed this past year were particularly impactful for the students in D.C. The sights, sounds and lessons learned will stick with these Kohawks for years, like they have for many other Coe alumni who have had similar experiences.

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	Alumni*	Donors	Participation Rate
1953	20	4	20.00%
1954	19	0	0.00%
1955	29	3	10.34%
1956	32	5	15.63%
1957	56	9	16.07%
1958	34	2	5.88%
1959	46	5	10.87%
1960	65	3	4.62%
1961	66	8	12.12%
1962	73	7	9.59%
1963	77	10	12.99%
1964	75	12	16.00%
1965	109	26	23.85%
1966	112	23	20.54%
1967	109	22	20.18%
1968	132	21	15.91%
1969	140	19	13.57%
1970	129	17	13.18%
1971	129	21	16.28%
1972	124	20	16.13%
1973	151	26	17.22%
1974	227	43	18.94%
1975	174	29	16.67%
1976	189	32	16.93%
1977	177	18	10.17%
1978	196	12	6.12%
1979	167	26	15.57%
1980	160	8	5.00%
1981	194	19	9.79%
1982	216	17	7.87%
1983	210	13	6.19%
1984	223	12	5.38%
1985	226	17	7.52%
1986	213	14	6.57%
1987	217	21	9.68%
1988	209	21	10.05%
1989	167	16	9.58%
1990	205	20	9.76%
1991	212	14	6.60%
1992	197	6	3.05%
1993	188	16	8.51%
1994	261	19	7.28%
1995	211	17	8.06%
1996	274	19	6.93%
1997	226	13	5.75%
1998	230	10	4.35%
1999	239	21	8.79%
2000	218	12	5.50%
2001	237	14	5.91%
2002	211	24	11.37%
2003	292	14	4.79%
2004	234	9	3.85%
2005	239	17	7.11%
2006	249	21	8.43%
2007	267	11	4.12%
2008	272	15	5.51%
2009	254	13	5.12%
2010	244	14	5.74%
2011	270	16	5.93%
2012	264	21	7.95%
2013	279	29	10.39%
2014	247	16	6.48%
2015	285	11	3.86%
2016	262	12	4.58%
2017	294	11	3.74%
2018	259	18	6.95%
2019	273	11	4.03%
2020	293	9	3.07%
2021	289	7	2.42%
2022	280	14	5.00%
2023	250	8	3.20%
2024	253	10	3.95%
2025	230	8	3.48%
2026	222	17	7.66%

**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.

2025-2026 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
Sally Roegner Brause '88
Carla Jo Groszkruger Brooks '78
Jay Caughren '11
Matt Clark '95
Charles Cotton III '13
Tara Crosby '24
Amy Nyert Duru '01
Kirk Ergang '75
Dominic Fails '87
Lauren DuBay Gilbertson '13
Constance Schlitter Losch '20
Nick Ludwig '11
Crystal Maldonado '21
Jenny McArdle '08
Darcy Ehrmann Moulin '04
Troy Orwan '88
Verlynn Schmalle '82
Bill Waldie '73

2025-2026 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
Karim Budhwani '93
Chloe Crain '17
Jane Michaels Dufoe '92
Jane Ofundem Ebot-Bish '08
Jeff Freude '79
Deborah Lindberg Gertsen '87
Sandeep Kumar Giri '04
Terry Hiebert '76
Hugo Kann '70
Paula Ginder Lentz '89
Kevin O'Donnell '99
Amy Sands '98
Mike Shepard '94
Daniel Snyder '09
Kevin Welu '86

2025-2026 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
Peter Birkey '91
Kevin Buckner '93
David Gehring '89
Bola George '00
Ken Golder '82
Dennis Greenspon '68
Sarah Hemming-Meyer '05
Gene Henderson '68
Kent Herink '76
Kathy Steffensmeier Jasper '90
Mary Cook Jorgenson '80
Shion Kabasele '22
Mary Jeanne Krob '73
Stephanie Kroger '88
Kristin Patterson Lenz '96
Toby Lister '24
Julie Johnson McLean '78
Curt Menefee '87
Paul Meyer '74
Sumit Nijhawan '93
Jon Reiner '09
Sigrid Reynolds '94
Okpara Rice
Brett Rule '86
Tim Sagers '97
Henry Taylor '75
Carson Veach '74
Edward Walsh '70

LIFE TRUSTEES

Terry J. Abernathy '70
J. David Carson '72
Jack B. Evans '70
Christine Kaufmann Galloway '73
John Girotto
Shirley Hughes '67
Douglas Hyde '74
William P. Johnson '53
Steven Kline '76
Vincent Martin †
David McInallly
Chuck Peters
James R. Phifer
Gary Schlarbaum '65
Bruce E. Spivey '56
Jerre L. Stead '65
John D. Strohm '79
Lori Sturdevant '74

EX-OFFICIO

David Hayes '93
Coe College President

Pat Steele '75
Alumni Council President

† Deceased
Please see pg. 37 for memorial tribute.



CLASS NOTES

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

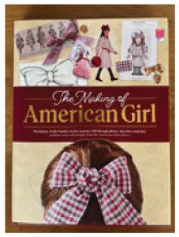
Former Faculty

Former National Fellowship Advisor, Visiting Professor of English and Writer in Residence **Ann Struthers'** memoir of her years in Syria and a collection of her poems are now available online in seven volumes at the Internet Archive. Struthers taught a large number of alums in writing poetry, drama and Middle Eastern literature, and she worked with many distinguished Coe graduates in applying for Fulbright grants.

1960s

'67 Michael Mead is moving back to Iowa to a continuing care community after a couple of decades in northeast Wisconsin ("Packer Country"). "Bettendorf here we come!" said Mead.

1970s



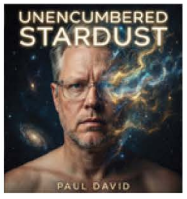
'76 Judy Smith was honored to be contacted by the authors of "The Making of American Girl," a recently published book documenting the history and creative development of the American Girl brand. They had located several of Smith's costume illustrations in the company's archives and asked permission to reproduce them in the book while acknowledging her contribution. During her years with American Girl, long before it became the iconic brand it is today, Smith was part of a small product development team that helped develop historical characters and collections. The book includes several of Smith's illustrations created for the Josefina collection.

1980s

'84 Plato Ghinos attended a FIFA World Cup game, bearing a Kohawk soccer scarf.



'87 Bill Oberfoell retired from Alliant Energy.



'88 Paul David Stanko, a Minnesota-based author, musician and creative entrepreneur, is launching a trio of interconnected projects this year: a debut book, a new podcast and a genre-bending music single — all rooted in the same philosophical question: what does it really mean to be human? At the center of this creative wave is a deceptively simple and humorous idea: what happens when consciousness dissolves back into the universe — and lands on someone else's egg sandwich? That question inspired Stanko's latest single, "Unencumbered Stardust," a track that merges existential reflection with playful absurdity. The song traces its origins back to a very specific meme. For Stanko, the contrast between the infinite and the ordinary became the foundation for something deeper.

2000s

'00 Carrie Dee O'Connor and longtime domestic partner, Lance Neilson, will be wed on September 18, 2027 in Elmhurst, Illinois after 16 years together and an extremely surprising engagement executed by Neilson. Festivities are open to any Kohawk in the area. The couple encourages you to reach out! O'Connor is a manager of clinical operations for IQVIA, INC., a company she has proudly worked for since 2011. Neilson is an accomplished tattoo artist and shop manager for Smart Ink in Bensenville, Illinois.

'06 Mitch Bockenstedt was inducted into the New Ulm Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame after 24 years in amateur baseball.

2010s

'14 Gina Ostrander McConahay accepted a new position as elementary principal for the Monticello Community School District in Monticello, Iowa.

ALUMNI COUNCIL *Update*

Dear Coe College Alumni,

It is the honor of a lifetime to write to you for the first time as your Alumni Council president. As a member of the Class of 2013, I know firsthand how the Coe experience shapes us long after we cross the stage at Commencement, and I'm humbled to help carry that legacy forward on behalf of every Kohawk who came before me and every one still to come.

This is truly a milestone year for our college. Coe is celebrating its 175th anniversary, and this issue is a powerful reminder that the community we all belong to is bigger than any one class year — it's a living tradition built by thousands of alumni choosing, again and again, to stay connected.

What a way to celebrate that tradition with this year's Homecoming! It was truly special to welcome so many Kohawks back to campus this fall, and to see classmates, families and friends reconnecting on the quad, at events and around Cedar Rapids. The energy on campus that weekend was a wonderful reminder of just how much this place means to all of us, no matter how many years have passed since graduation. If you weren't able to join us this year, I hope you'll consider making the trip back next fall — there's nothing quite like being on campus during Homecoming, and we'd love to see you there.

As we mark 175 years, I can't think of a better time to consider giving back — whether that's your time, your talent or your treasure. No gift is too small, and no distance is too far. If you're a local Kohawk who wants to get more involved, or an alum halfway across the country looking for a way to stay connected, please reach out to the Alumni Council. We would love to hear from you.

Thank you for everything you've done, and continue to do, for this remarkable place. Here's to 175 years of Coe College — and to the many more we'll build together.



With warm regards and best wishes,
Charles Cotton III '13 | Alumni Council President

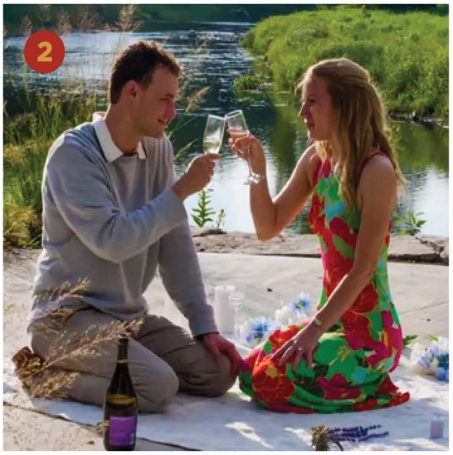
NEWS



'17 Merrill Miller, Manager of Concerts at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, Illinois, managed by the Iowa-based VenuWorks, was named to the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM) 30 Under 30 Class of 2026. The annual program recognizes 30 emerging leaders, aged 30 or younger, who are making contributions to the live events and venue management while demonstrating leadership and a commitment to professional growth. Merrill studied music at Coe and was actively involved with the Student Activities Committee (SAC), where he produced concerts and campus events. That early experience sparked an interest in live event programming that ultimately led to a career in venue management and concert booking. Since joining North Shore in 2021, Merrill has overseen the venue's presented programming by booking nationally available touring concerts and comedy performances. "I'm honored to be selected for the IAVM 30|UNDER|30 Class of 2026," said Merrill. "Live events have been a huge part of my life for as long as I can remember, and I'm incredibly grateful to work in an industry that creates memorable experiences and brings people together." Merrill credited the support of his colleagues at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts and VenuWorks, as well as mentors, artists, agents, friends and family for helping shape his career. The 2026 class was recognized during IAVM's VenueConnect Conference in Indianapolis in August, where members participated in professional development and networking opportunities with venue professionals from across the country.

2020s

2 **'23 Drew Sayers** and **Payton Salsman '23** were engaged on August 23. Fellow Kohawk **Elaine Warner '18** took the couple's engagement photos.



WEDDINGS

CONGRATULATIONS, KOHAWKS





2010s

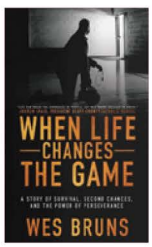
1 **'20 Carmin Robson** and Ryan Galliger of Katy, Texas on March 21, 2026.

2 **'20 TJ Kaufmann** and Maria Napolitano of McKinney, Texas on August 1, 2026. Kohawks in attendance included **Dennis Deutmeyer '85**, **Dick Kaufmann '85**, **Adam McDermott '20**, Bryan Martin, **Dan Oberbroeckling '85**, **Bob Possehl '85**, **Zach Schlabaugh '19** and **Nolan Timp '19**.

PUSHA DA PEN

WRITTEN ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COE'S ALUMNI

1990s

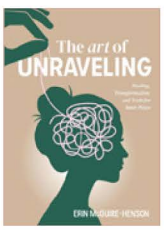


'90 Wes Bruns is a survivor of a carbon monoxide poisoning that took the lives of four of his family members one Christmas night. His new book, "When Life Changes The Game: A Story of Survival, Second Chances, and the Power of Perseverance," details his experience, including the need to carry on and live life in honor of those who cannot.



'95 John P. Williams recently published his second novel, "Early Mornings with Dick" (Woodbridge Publishers, London). This historical fiction work follows a first-year law student who unexpectedly encounters President Richard Nixon at the Lincoln Memorial and becomes entangled in a series of adventures set against the backdrop of the Watergate era. Blending history, humor and political intrigue, the novel offers a unique perspective on one of America's most turbulent decades.

2000s



'03 Erin McGuire-Henson has written her first book, "The Art of Unraveling." It is about her personal journey, and tools and techniques that help people heal from trauma and life's trials and tribulations. According to Erin, "This is more than a memoir. This is your companion to let go of the past and step into a life of clarity, healing and peace." The book may be found on Amazon.

IN MEMORIAM

Indicates decedent was a member of the Coe College Heritage Club

Served on the Alumni Council

For information, contact Associate Vice President of Advancement Debbie Green at 319.399.8592 or dgreen@coe.edu.

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

Former Faculty/Coaches

Jean Newkirk, 81, of Blue Hill, Maine on May 8.

Don Tune, 90, of Freeport, Illinois on May 3.

Chris Woodruff, 96, of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania on July 3.

David Mungello, 82, of Waco, Texas on July 4.

1950s

1950 Mary Wolverton, 98, of Marion, Iowa on June 14.

1951 Bill Tramel, 99, of Lincolnshire, Illinois on April 19.

1951 Wally Morgan, 97, of Rancho Cordova, California on December 13.

1952 Donald Tracey, 95, of Tucson, Arizona on April 22.

1953 Verne Eggleston, 96, of Marion, Iowa on June 13.

1954 Lynn Schwandt, 95, of Freeport, Illinois on June 30.

1955 Nancy Holcomb Harrison, 92, of Sioux City, Iowa on July 16.

1955 Nanci Applegate Andrew, 96, of Casper, Wyoming on August 30.

1957 Glenna Platner Whitmarsh, 90, of Tyler, Texas on September 12.

1958 Ben Schneider, 90, of Rocky Mount, Missouri on May 21.

1958 Paul Fornell, 89, of Grand Junction, Colorado on November 5.

1959 Suzanne Smith Griggs, 88, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on July 5.

1960s

1960 Bill Dailey, 87, of Reno, Nevada on March 24.

1960 Carol Hofstetter Swords, 87, of Rutland, Vermont on December 26.

LIFE TRUSTEE



Vince Martin, 87, of Saratoga, California on September 3. A long-time resident of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and more recently of Saratoga, California, Vince was a giant in business, volunteerism, faith, philanthropy and kindness. Deeply invested in his family and in making a difference in the world, he was a gentle man who nurtured relationships, expressed appreciation regularly and was playful and funny. While a successful businessman, his great pride was his contributions to his family and the community. Vince grew up in Santa Ana, California and graduated cum laude from Stanford University in 1960, where he met his beloved wife Jan in the inaugural Stanford in Germany program 1959. With a degree in industrial engineering, Vince was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in 1960 and received his MBA from Harvard Business School in 1963. Early career roles in Alpena, Michigan and Lexington, Kentucky focused on manufacturing at Westinghouse Air Brake, followed by a move to San Jose, California to join FMC Corporation. As Manager of the Machinery Group Planning Department at FMC Headquarters in Chicago, Illinois and later in life as well, Vince was often lauded as an exceptional and humble mentor, always willing to share ideas and credit. He was promoted at age 35 to General Manager of FMC's Crane and Excavator Division (Link Belt Speeder) and moved with his family to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. As President of the Equipment Systems Division and ultimately Group Vice President over several divisions with AMCA International, Vince moved the family to Houston, Texas and subsequently Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Leveraging knowledge, experience and opportunity, he and business partner Mark Train proposed a leveraged buy-out to create Jason, Incorporated, a manufacturing business headquartered in Milwaukee. Vince was the co-founder, CEO and Board Chair of Jason from 1985-2000 and continued as Board Chair through 2004. In addition to his leadership at Jason, Vince held positions on several public and private corporate boards including Crane Equipment and Service, Husco, Modine, Oldenburg Group, RBP Chemical and Swisstech. Vince was committed to both volunteerism and philanthropy, and he exemplified those values in several leadership positions throughout his life. As a young professional, he joined the board of the Indian Creek Nature Center and continued as a trustee for life for Coe College, both in Cedar Rapids. In Milwaukee, Vince established himself as a strong community leader, serving on several non-profit boards and as an elder for many years at Crossroads Presbyterian Church where he spearheaded a substantial capital renovation project. In addition to his tenure as the president of the Harvard Business School Club of Wisconsin, Vince served as board president of The Milwaukee Rep, the United Performing Arts Fund and United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha, valuing the opportunity to impact and shape the local performing arts and social justice landscape. Vince was honored with the United Performing Arts Fund Stiemke Award, the United Way Heller Award, the Business Leader of the Year award from the Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel and Harvard Business School Club of Wisconsin, the United Way Million Dollar Roundtable distinction and the Coe College Founders' Medal. In partnership with his now departed wife Jan, Vince established the Martin Family Foundation in 1993, and continued to support non-profits throughout Milwaukee and beyond. With a philosophy of humble and quiet giving, Vince and Jan contributed their leadership, expertise and personal resources in support of education, gender equity, performing arts and social justice. Through the Martin Family Foundation, Vince and Jan have ensured that this commitment will continue, and their children and grandchildren will proudly steward this legacy. Vince leaves behind his three children (Jenni, Karen and Tim), their spouses (Andrea and Hannah) and six grandchildren (Jocelyn, Aspen, Kiana, Oakley, Felicia and Linden). He is also survived by his brother Stan Martin of Huntsville, Alabama. Vince Martin was an elegant, warm, thoughtful and brilliant husband, dad, grandfather and leader. He was a model of true partnership and love with his wife, Jan, and he taught his children and grandchildren to be curious, compassionate and empathetic. In his last days, as in his life, he was dignified, gentle, funny, appreciative and loving.

IN MEMORIAM

GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

1960 Hal Dorman, 92, of New Port Richey, Florida on January 15.

1960 Nina Nielander Peterson, 87, of Vernon Hills, Illinois in July.

1961 Ross Iwamoto, 87, of Tucson, Arizona on June 19.

1962 Ken Grubb, 86, of Lincolnshire, Illinois on June 27.

1963 Marilyn Colburn Smith, 85, of Palatine, Illinois on April 10.

1963 Karl Pfrommer, 85, of Baltimore, Maryland on June 27.

1964 Anne Swanson Yappen, 83, of Marshall, Texas on July 2.

1965 Richard Sanborn, 84, of Redwood City, California on April 16.

1965 Don Dempsey, 82, of Naperville, Illinois on July 26.

1966 Betsy Quigley Morgan, 81, of Dunedin, Florida on April 25.

1966 Kim Knutsen, 83, of West Saint Paul, Minnesota on July 6.

1966 Herbert Brunkhorst, 81, of Riverside, California on June 26.

1967 Lee Polk, 81, of Wilmette, Iowa on May 19.

1968 Judith O'Neil, 79, of Marlborough, Massachusetts on April 10.

1968 Marjorie Kelley Daft, 94, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on May 6.

1968 Linda Henderson Nicholson, 81, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on June 6.

1968 Ron Manaster, 83, of New Carlisle, Indiana on August 16.

1969 Mary Kay Stevens Hartmann, 79, of Longwood, Florida on May 7.

1969 Margaret Novak Probasco, 98, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on July 7.

1970s

1970 Bruce Marks, 81, of La Mesa, New Mexico on April 27.

1970 Jean Morrison Macenski, 78, of Washington, Iowa on July 26.

1971 Sandra Halverson Brokl, 76, of Pensacola, Florida on December 17.

1971 Carolyn Metier Konfirst, 77, of Indianapolis, Indiana on July 5.

1972 Dennis Peterson, 78, of Gallatin, Missouri on August 4.

1973 Daniel Kidd, 75, of Sun City, Arizona on May 2.

1973 John Brigham, 74, of Asheville, North Carolina on July 10.

1974 Christine Waggoner, 73, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on June 23.

1976 Dale Loth, 71, of Roseville, Minnesota on November 23.

1980s

1980 Vicki Vijay DuMond, 73, of Conway, Arkansas on July 3.

1981 Mary Wilson, 65, of Cosmos, Minnesota on August 11.

1982 Jeffrey Buettner, 66, of Belleville, Illinois on May 13.

1984 John Pohorsky, 66, of Long Beach, California on July 5.

1985 Vincent Overton, 63, of Covington, Kentucky on May 27.

1987 Laura Ege Walsten, 60, of Champaign, Illinois on May 14.

1987 Diana North, 70, of Chaska, Minnesota on June 20.

2000s

2002 Brent Hill, 46, of Minneapolis, Minnesota on June 16.

2007 Michael Marlowe, 43, of Phoenix, Arizona on May 20.

SHARE YOUR *News!*

What do you love most about the Courier? Let us know by emailing o-alumni@coe.edu.

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 August 1. **The deadline for the Spring 2027 Courier is January 15.** 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.

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

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

DEATHS

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

PHOTOS

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

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

FACULTY & STAFF
UPDATES AND ACCOLADES



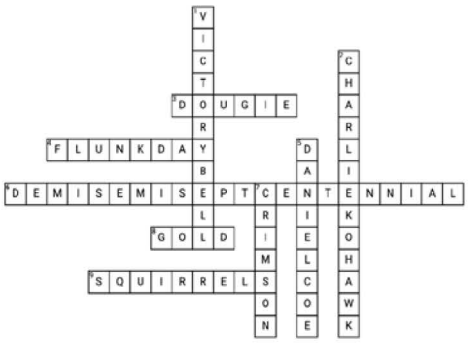
Advancement Communications Coordinator **Erin Gray**, an associate literary agent with The Kepner Agency, sold her first book, "Whittier" by Doyle Johnson, in a pre-empt deal to St. Martin's Press, an imprint of Macmillan Publishers. "Whittier" will be published Fall 2027 and will be followed by a second book one year later.

Associate Professor of Psychology **Ellen Lee**, Head Coach of Women's Volleyball **April Elsbernd '03**, Associate Professor of Sociology **Lisa Barnett** and Assistant Professor of Education **Molly Staeheli** volunteered at the Justice Learning Initiative's Reentry Simulation.



Professor of Philosophy **John Lemos** took students to the Annual Midwest Undergraduate Philosophy Conference at Creighton University. One student presented his own paper, while four others gave critical commentaries on papers presented by other students.

ANSWERS



ACROSS
3. Dougie
4. Flunk Day
6. Demisemiseptcentennial
8. Gold
9. Squirrels

DOWN
1. Victory Bell
2. Charlie Kohawk
5. Daniel Coe
7. Crimson

A KOHAWK'S LIFE
JORGE CRUZ '28

*The changes that come with transitioning from **FIRST YEAR** to **SECOND YEAR** at Coe*



Going to a school out of state can be a nerve-wracking, fingernail-biting and stomach-churning experience for any student. But for me, it was anything but. I decided to take on that challenge head first, with the currents blowing in my face, mainly because I wanted to. I craved and pleaded for freedom, and finally, living on my own would give me that breath of fresh air I desperately needed. Maybe I'm being dramatic but maybe that's just the way I am.

I came to Coe not just because of its distance, believe it or not, but I came for the opportunities. I visited the campus during my first semester of my senior year of high school, and as soon as I locked my eyes in with the campus' architecture, Cedar Rapids' nature and the school's energy, I knew I was in love. But hey, love is a very strong word, let's not get too ahead of ourselves, and let me introduce myself first.

My name is Jorge Cruz, I am a first-generation second year (junior by credits) business administration - marketing student at Coe hailing from Houston, Texas. As a content creator for Coe's Marketing and Admission Office, a consultant for the Writing Center, and the chair for all Writing Center marketing operations, you could say I'm a busy man, which is my absolute truth. But at the end of day, I'm painting a bigger picture, working towards something bigger.

My process began last year during my first year on campus, but the difference when you're a first-year student, is you're just testing the waters. Seeing what things interest you and what don't. By the time you reach your second year you should at least have an idea of what interests you and what doesn't. The hardest part of your first year is always taking the first step. Being the first to raise your hand in class, the first to walk in a room, and for some like me, the first to do it all in your family. Being a first-year student means: constantly conquering nervousness when doing anything for the first time (like college). That, to me, shows courageousness. As a sophomore student, the biggest difference between last year and this year is simply staying motivated to my goals and interests. I've had a whole year here, so I've had time to shake off my jitters and explore what subjects interest me the most.

Next term, I am slated to go on New York Term and have the opportunity to immerse myself in the city while also partaking in an internship. But still, I have work to do in preparation for that term, most importantly, actually finding the internship. All college students understand the grueling experience that comes with finding internships and part-time positions. It can seem endless and draining. I also have four classes this semester, three business courses and one English, with a goal of getting either all A's or B's, another goal that I plan to commit to this term. In addition, you'll also find me at the gym everyday because I want to get more fit and feel more healthy, another goal I've been committing to for almost a year now.

What's the point of working so much, what's the point of trying so hard? As college students, we can easily lose sight of what we are working for, but I stop and imagine the most perfect life and version of myself for the future. I have big plans for the future. After graduation, I hope to move to New York City and work for a marketing agency. I hope to one day have a good paying job that I genuinely enjoy. I hope to one day run my own marketing agency. I hope to one day be an author of my own books. I hope to travel the world, see every corner of the globe with my own two eyes. I hope to one day be able to support my family. And I hope to one day give back. Give back to every underprivileged kid, every person going to bed hungry and every person going to bed without a bed.

I grew up in a home built on love and kindness thanks to my mom, and what I want to do in this world is reflect that love and kindness back. My experiences have shaped who I am today, the good and the bad, and my first-year was definitely not the best. But that era of my life is over. I grew so much, learned so much and gained so much knowledge that will last me a lifetime. And as a second-year student, the biggest difference from then and now, is now I take those lessons I learned and apply them to my life today.

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

THANKFUL THURSDAY

On November 19, 2026, we invite you to be part of Coe College's

Thankful Thursday.

For 175 years, generations of Kohawks have shaped Coe through their experiences, connections and generosity. On this year's Thankful Thursday, we invite you to celebrate those who brought us here and help us build what will come next.

Our Thankful Thursday Challenge Leaders are once again matching every gift, dollar-for-dollar, up to $50,000, which doubles your impact. We hope you will join us in honoring Coe's past and creating its future.

COE COLLEGE | 1851-2026 175 YEARS

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