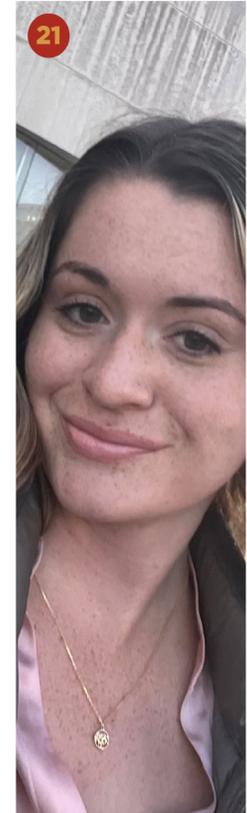
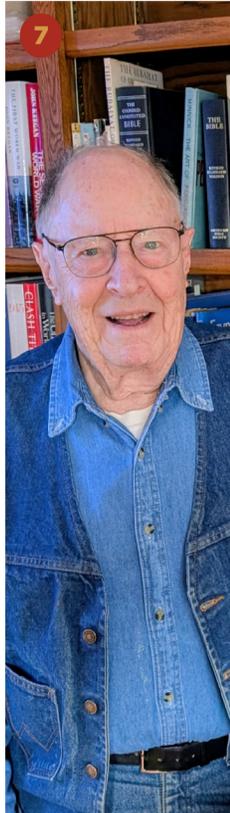


COURIER

— SPRING 2026 —



COE COLLEGE



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COVER

Kohawks take their education on the road every year. Some study in places of solitude, like the Boundary Waters Canoe Area near the Wilderness Field Station pictured on the cover. Others travel to landmarks visited by thousands each day. Check in on their adventures on page 21.



Greetings from Coe College,

As we stand on the threshold of our 175th anniversary, I find myself reflecting on the extraordinary Coe tapestry we have woven together. For nearly two centuries, our history has been shaped by individual threads — the unique stories, passions and achievements of our students, faculty and alumni that create a vibrant and resilient whole.

In this issue, we celebrate those who have added rich color to our shared fabric. **Hugo Kann '70** exemplifies the enduring value of a liberal arts education; his long-standing support of the Thursday Forum and the Steve Feller Endowed Chair in Physics has ensured that intellectual curiosity remains a cornerstone of the Coe experience. It is particularly meaningful to honor the legacy of Dr. Steve Feller in these pages, as we see his decades of mentorship reflected in graduates like Professor of Physics **Mario Affatigato '89**, who is now serving as president of the American Ceramic Society.

Our students continue to weave their own threads across the globe through experiential learning. From Kohawk travels in Japan and Greece to student-athletes competing in football and volleyball playoffs, the strength of our community is visible everywhere. Even as we honor our heritage and celebrate remarkable milestones, new patterns are taking flight — quite literally — as our aviation management students complete their first solo flights.

To ensure our tapestry remains resilient for another 175 years, I am thrilled to welcome our newest board members, **Kathy Steffensmeier Jasper '90** and **Toby Lister '24**. As they bring their unique perspectives to guide our strategic path, we are reminded that the enduring strength of the Coe story relies on the collective commitment of our entire Kohawk family. Your partnership and support, whether through planned giving, our upcoming Day of Giving or by saving the date to join us for Homecoming 2026, ensures that the Coe tapestry remains vibrant for the next 175 years.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Coe fabric.

Alma mater, hail, hail, hail.

David Hayes '93
President

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

2026 K. Raymond Clark
Contemporary Issues Forum:

COL. NICOLE MALACHOWSKI, USAF (RET.)



“ I will tell you, there is no greater honor in life, in my opinion, than teaching somebody how to do something they never thought was possible. ”

Col. Nicole Malachowski, USAF (Ret.)

CIF SPEAKER TO KOHAWKS:

Don't write yourself out of your script

“No one wants to lead a scripted life.”

For 2026 K. Raymond Clark Contemporary Issues Forum guest speaker Col. Nicole Malachowski, USAF (Ret.), this perspective has helped define her journey. Her path has been shaped less by certainty and more by moments of self-doubt, persistent questions of “what if” and the deliberate choice to believe in her abilities. Rather than waiting for a perfectly charted course, she moved forward with purpose — recognizing that growth and leadership often emerge from stepping into the unknown.

Malachowski is the first woman pilot on the United States Air Force Thunderbirds Air Demonstration Squadron, a White House Fellow and an inductee into both the National Women Hall of Fame and the Women in Aviation International Pioneer Hall of Fame. She has also dealt with abrupt shifts and setbacks in her life.

Her time on campus was spent discussing change and how it's a shared experience that's constant in our lives. Throughout the day, Malachowski shared stories from her own experiences to provide a fresh perspective on the challenges of change and how embracing those moments in our lives can create resilience and be harnessed into progress.

Malachowski met with members of the student body, including aviation management & flight operations students, before her appearance on the Sinclair Auditorium stage. Across both venues, she shared how she started down the path to being a pioneer in the Air Force, but let the captivated students and audience members know there is more than one path to success.

There were two primary origin points for Malachowski's aviation pursuits: She grew up near an air force base in Nevada and then had a memorable air show encounter during her childhood. She distinctly remembers an F-4 Phantom jet flying low and fast over her head — the physical experience quickly lodged in her brain like an afterburner straight to her memory.

“I remember covering my ears because it was so loud and like my whole body rumbling with the engine noise. And I just got really excited and I thought, you know what? I think I want to do that someday,” Malachowski recalled.

In connecting that singular experience to the aviation world now, Malachowski noted the breadth of the industry should have so much appeal for students. There are possibilities in air traffic control and airport management, for example, beyond piloting and Malachowski said you just have to have the courage to take one step forward and you don't have to have your entire career path planned out.

The key is an open mind and exposure to all aspects of the industry.

“I think that's the beauty of a place like Coe College. You offer these aviation programs, and you're willing to walk alongside your students on that journey,” Malachowski said.

Coe's aviation management & flight operations program launched in the fall term of 2025, and in addition to a flight school, students can prepare for non-flying careers across the aviation industry.

Regardless of students' potential paths, the amount of discipline and dedication Malachowski has displayed is an inspiration. She said the highlight of her career was not with the Thunderbirds or working in the White House, but as commander of the 333rd Fighter Squadron, based out of North Carolina. Malachowski led 50 permanently assigned air crew and helped teach young lieutenants to fly \$65 million F-15Es. The training was rigorous and rewarding.

“When you consider what we're asked to do around the world serving in our military, serving in combat, you don't want the training for that to be easy. It needs to be hard. And it does take a certain level of commitment, a certain level of discipline and I think a very high level of resilience. I don't think anybody becomes a fighter pilot easily. We all have mistakes and failures,” Malachowski said.

“I will tell you, there is no greater honor in life, in my opinion, than teaching somebody how to do something they never thought was possible,” Malachowski added.

That inkling of self-doubt is a feeling Malachowski is familiar with: She almost never became a Thunderbird pilot at all. She withdrew her application after a wave of doubt created a level of imposter syndrome and challenge in her own mind.

She re-applied, though, after a chance encounter with a lifelong mentor who looked her in the eye and said, “Nicole, nobody wants to lead a scripted life.”

It was a poignant lesson. There is no set path to follow, you get to create your own. Just have the courage to embrace the unknown and try your best.

“You are the only person that gets to define success for yourself. And I always followed opportunities whenever I would get little nervous butterflies in my stomach. I always took that as a sign that that’s an opportunity you should jump on, even if you’re a little bit scared of it. Even if those butterflies are nervous butterflies, that’s a signal to you that that’s the right opportunity to seize,” Malachowski said.

Malachowski lauded Coe for creating those types of opportunities for Kohawks to seize, and for embracing the liberal arts mindset.

“I think the most important aspect of education, regardless of degree, is the ability to critically think, the ability to challenge your own ideas, the ability to challenge others ideas in a way that’s respectful and thoughtful. I think more people nowadays need to hone in on their critical-thinking skills. I think it’s something that our country could absolutely use, Malachowski said.

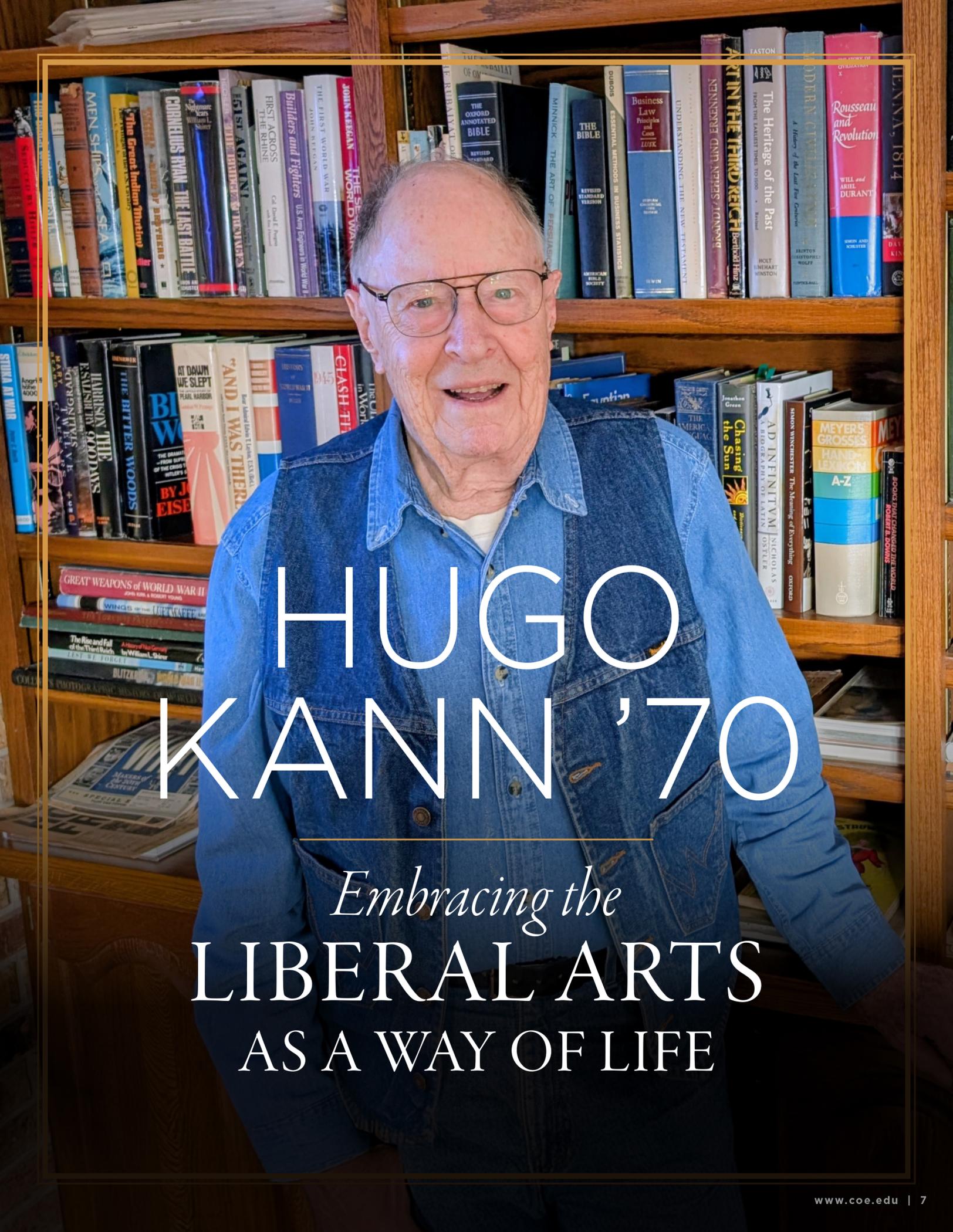
“Isn’t that the point of coming to a wonderful college like Coe College — being exposed to over 60 different degree paths and all the different instructors and mentors here that want to answer your questions? Come here with an open mind, come with an open heart and be willing to do the work.” ■



Scan QR code to view video



1. President **David Hayes '93** and Col. Malachowski | **2.** Col. Malachowski and **Kamryn Stockton '27** | **3.** Col. Malachowski was presented with a Coe College Challenge Coin in recognition of her service and visit to Coe. Challenge coins started as a military tradition to recognize service, achievement or unit membership, and has since been adopted by aviation schools as tokens for first solo flights. | **4.** Eastern Iowa Airport Director Marty Lenss, Col. Malachowski and Coe College Assistant Chief Instructor Tim Busch gather on stage following Malachowski’s presentation.



HUGO KANN '70

Embracing the
LIBERAL ARTS
AS A WAY OF LIFE



By definition, **Hugo Kann '70** was a non-traditional student. For 13 years, he only took night classes at Coe, and it wasn't even until 10 years into taking those classes that he realized he was close to earning a degree.

But formative portions of Kann's life have also been non-traditional, so it makes sense that his education has been a winding — and never-ending — journey as well.

Employed as a lab technician at Collins Radio, Kann was laser-focused on courses in physics and mathematics as he started his studies at Coe. Subjects in the liberal arts eventually captured his attention, albeit with initial reluctance. Now, decades after his first class at Coe, Kann is a fixture at Thursday Forums and can speak with an impressive depth of knowledge across a range of subjects like English history and space travel. He epitomizes the power of the liberal arts.

That's the present, though. The beginning of Kann's Coe story has its origins in Germany during World War II.

+++

Blaring air raid sirens and the thud of bombs are some of the sounds that Kann remembers from his childhood. He was born in the United States as an American citizen, but moved to Germany with his parents before the war broke out. His mother moved them from Cologne to a small town near Austria during the war to distance them from the bombing and fighting.

His education was interrupted during the war and Kann only went to school through eighth grade. Post-war, at age 15, Kann had the option to pursue high school or an apprenticeship. However, at that time in Germany, children from working class families were discouraged to pursue higher education and thus he chose the trades. After completing a three-year apprenticeship, he became a journeyman electrician at age 18.

Looking to return to the United States, Kann joined the United States Armed Forces in Germany. After his service, Kann was honorably discharged to the nearest stateside port, which happened to be New York.

Without family connections, Kann was unable to join the New York unions to work. He was offered a job in New Jersey,

but left on a road trip to meet a friend in Minnesota before he heard the offer.

In Minnesota, Kann began taking classes in Mankato, earned his GED and was able to convince officials at the vocational school he attended to create a curriculum for a lab technician. While there, he met his wife and got a job with a local manufacturer. The company he started with just happened to be a supplier for Collins Radio. He leveraged that connection into an engineering assistant position at Collins and moved to Cedar Rapids in 1955.

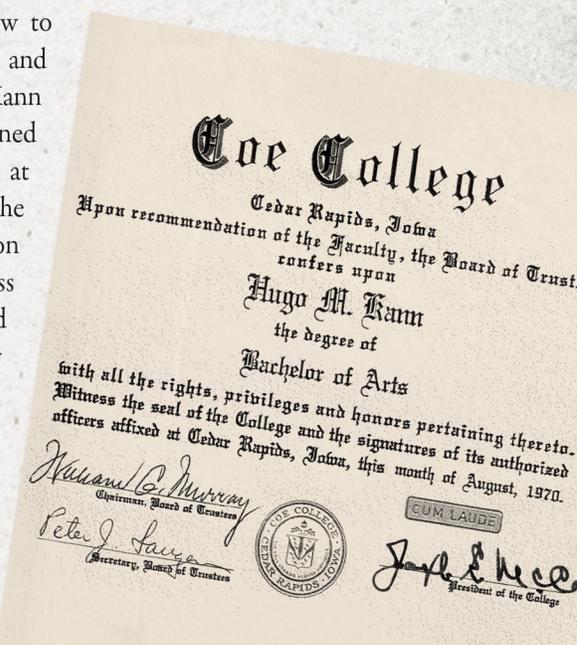
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Within Kann, there was always a drive to learn, but he had never thought about taking college-level courses until two years into his work at Collins. He learned the company sponsored an education program that would reimburse employees a large portion of the tuition for any job-related college courses provided they completed them with a C or better. Kann knew this was the right opportunity for him to continue to advance in his career, but the decision to pursue college came with some hesitancy.

"I signed up with much trepidation for one of the courses because I had no formal education in any of the college's prerequisites," Kann explained. "When, with pleasant surprise, I got a B on my first college level course, I decided to continue. It was a decision I have never regretted."

What Kann had signed up for were night classes at Coe. In the 1950s and 1960s, the college offered evening classes for mostly adult students selected from the regular curriculum.

As his family grew to five with his wife and three children, Kann typically only signed up for one course at a time. Initially, he concentrated on courses solely across mathematics and physics and they tied directly to his work at Collins. The subject matter



“When, with pleasant surprise, I got a B on my first college-level course, I decided to continue. It was a decision I have never regretted.”

Hugo Kann '70

— mechanics, magnetism, electronics and differential and integral calculus — was both challenging and gratifying, but it took quite a bit of effort and discipline to balance studying and family time.

“Every day when the noon-hour bell rang at work, I opened my sack lunch and the text book for whatever course I was taking. Also, on non-school nights I studied at home. The only evenings that I didn’t study was on Saturdays; come Sunday evening, my weekly routine started all over again,” Kann recalled.

+++

This routine went on for 10 years. One day in 1967, Kann received a letter from the Registrar at Coe. It was a surprise, but a good surprise. The letter stated that Kann had accumulated enough credits to be a junior and that in order to keep the college’s files and records up to date, he needed to register as a degree-seeking candidate.

It was a shock for Kann. He was in position to actually earn a full degree. He dove right in and created a plan to take the courses necessary to double major in physics and business administration. There were also liberal arts course requirements across subjects like literature, history, religion and philosophy that he had to meet.

“Those were subjects that up to that time I viewed with some disdain — an attitude that changed considerably for the better,” Kann said.

The change in attitude happened quickly. Kann was hooked after a few lectures and discovered his love for learning knew no bounds.

Deep interests that had been dormant rose to the top of Kann’s mind and new interests appeared as he steamed toward graduation. Kann’s enthusiasm for learning reached its peak.

“Exposure to the spectrum of the liberal arts was one of the best things that ever happened to me. I have well-rounded interests because I took everything there was to take subject-wise,” Kann said.

Kann’s liberal arts studies even affected his work at Collins, as he was able to complement his expertise in mathematics and physics with stronger communication skills. Once he got his degree he was immediately promoted to a full engineer and acted as the project engineer developing radio communications for the Gemini space shuttles.

It so happened that the promotion to engineer came just in time. In 15 years of his working for Collins, he had advanced through the three labor grades for lab technicians and the three labor grades for engineering assistants and that was as far as he could ever have advanced without a college degree.

+++

In 1970, Kann graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Coe 13 years after he started. He had 181.5 credit hours, which was half a credit hour more than what was needed for graduation.

It was a proud moment, but Kann’s Coe connection was only going to strengthen.

In 1990, Kann retired from Collins. The same year he began going to Thursday Forum, and has attended as a regular for 35 years. His love of learning has not diminished.

Kann has been a significant financial supporter of the Thursday Forum series and you’ll be able to find him at the remaining sessions this academic year: www.coe.edu/why-coe/events/thursday-forum.

A lasting force:
REMEMBERING
STEVE "DOC" FELLER



FOR NEARLY 50 YEARS, STEVE “DOC” FELLER

REPRESENTED WHAT WAS POSSIBLE WHEN RIGOROUS
SCHOLARSHIP MET DEEP CARE FOR STUDENTS.

A dedicated teacher, mentor and celebrated scientist, Doc touched the lives of many and his passing is felt deeply across campus and around the world. His legacy of research and mentorship continues to shape students' lives in meaningful ways.

Doc joined the ranks of Coe's faculty in 1979, and from the start, brought a drive for excellence and a clear belief in his students' potential. Known for his steady presence, genuine interest and high expectations, he challenged students to think critically while remaining deeply invested in who they were becoming. His classroom was one of intellectual rigor, but also encouragement. It was a place where students learned not just physics, but confidence.

Doc was a defining force on campus and is often described by former students as a trusted mentor and someone who changed their trajectory. He had a gift for helping students envision the things they could achieve and many alumni credit him with inspiring graduate study, careers in science and education and a lifelong love of learning. Others point to the sense of possibility he instilled as something that carried them far beyond Coe.

One of the clearest measures of Doc's influence is how many of his students went on to teach themselves. From high school classrooms to college campuses and research labs, former students are mentoring the next generation of scientists and educators.

In this way, Doc's reach stretches far beyond Coe's campus, creating an academic family tree that continues to grow, shaped by the same curiosity, care and high standards that he modeled throughout his career.

Doc was a visible and engaged member of the Coe community, invested in students' growth both in and out of the classroom. That sense of care and connection was experienced by so many and will bring alumni back to campus this summer for a physics reunion, taking place Thursday, June 25 through Sunday, June 28. The weekend will offer countless opportunities for reconnecting with classmates and faculty, reflecting on experiences and the chance to honor the professor who helped shape the lives of so many. As part of the reunion weekend, alumni, faculty and friends will come together for a memorial celebrating Doc's life and legacy. Additional details and a registration link for the physics reunion will be made available soon.

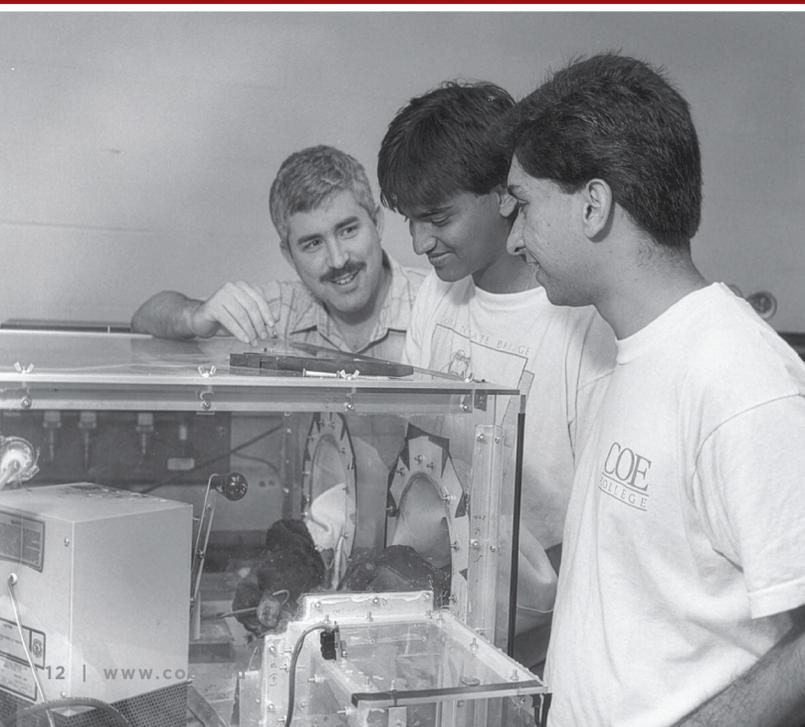
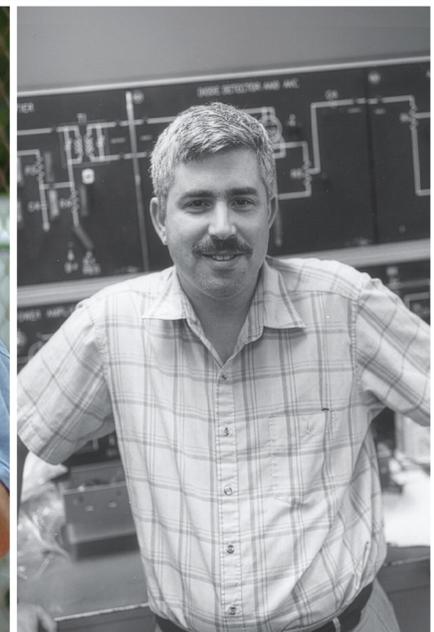
Doc was a firm believer in and advocate for the physics reunions. He enjoyed seeing alumni come together to learn, support one another and discover new opportunities. His legacy lives on, not only in the strength of Coe's physics program, but in the classrooms, laboratories and communities that are now being shaped by those he taught. Carried forward by generations of students, Doc Feller's influence is still unfolding.

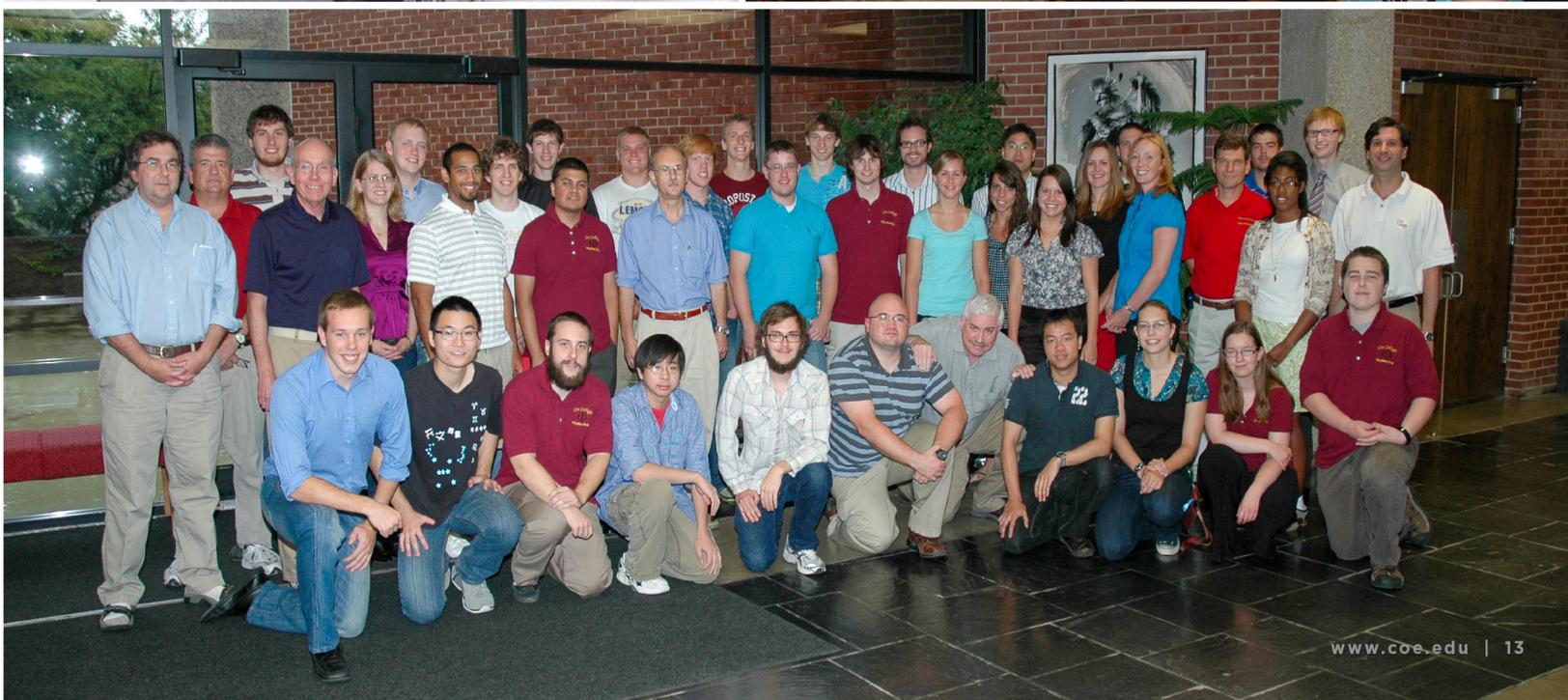
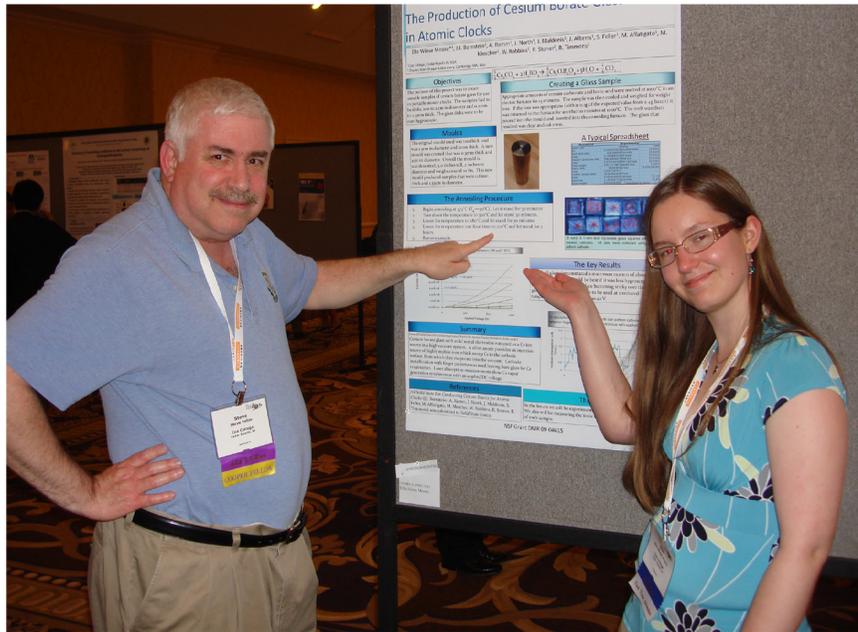
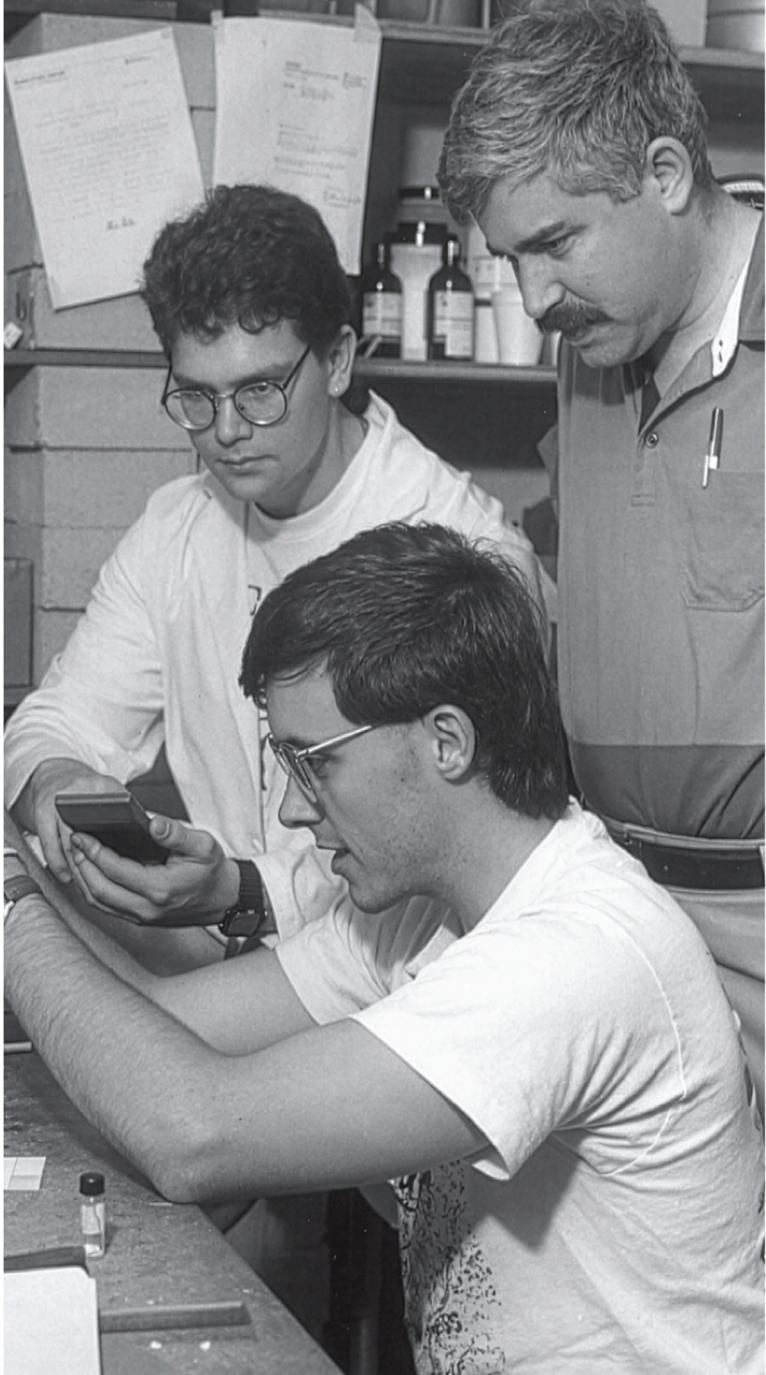


Dedicated to excellence, Doc Feller guides students through experiments in the laboratory he called home for nearly 50 years.



Doc had a passion for traveling, research and baseball, but most all, his students. The photos on these pages encompass just a sliver of the lives he touched.







DR. MARIO AFFATIGATO '89

named president of the American Ceramic Society

Coe College Fran Allison and Francis Halpin Professor of Physics Dr. **Mario Affatigato '89** was named president of the American Ceramic Society (ACerS), a leading international organization dedicated to the advancement of ceramic materials and technologies.

Affatigato was officially appointed during the ACerS annual meeting September 29. His achievement reflects both his personal contributions to the field and Coe's commitment to scientific excellence and innovation.

A nationally recognized physicist and longtime faculty member at Coe, Affatigato brings decades of research expertise and leadership to this appointment. His work in glass science has earned international acclaim, and his dedication to student mentorship exemplifies the college's values.

At Coe, Affatigato leads the internationally renowned physics department. Physics faculty have taken students to research labs and conferences across the

United States and in Europe and Asia, with more than 300 students presenting research. Since 1986, the department has received continuous research grants from the National Science Foundation, with additional funding from NASA and Fortune 500 companies including Corning, Inc. Additionally, no student who has applied to graduate school and been accepted has had to pay for their advanced education since 1979.

"Mario's American Ceramic Society presidency is a testament to his compelling work in glass science and his dedication to mentoring the next generation of scientists," said Coe College President **David Hayes '93**. "We're thrilled to see his leadership recognized on a global stage."

As President of ACerS, Affatigato will guide the society's strategic initiatives, foster international collaboration and advocate for the role of ceramics in solving global challenges — from sustainable energy to advanced manufacturing.

PROGRESS WITH PURPOSE

PRESIDENTIAL TOUR WITH DAVID HAYES '93



The Progress with Purpose Presidential Tour is officially underway, with President **David Hayes '93** traveling across the country to engage with alumni about the strategic framework that will guide Coe through 2028.

These gatherings offer a casual environment for the Kohawk community to reconnect, hear directly from college leadership and discuss Coe's path forward.

The tour launched on January 29 at Biaggi's in West Des Moines, where a vibrant crowd of local alumni gathered to set the initiative in motion. The atmosphere was casual and celebratory, providing a space where college staff, President Hayes and alumni could discuss the strategic framework, share stories and look ahead to the college's 175th year.

The momentum then returned home to Cedar Rapids on February 20 at the Pickle Palace. This stop was especially meaningful as it coincided with the Board of Trustees meeting, resulting in a large number of trustees and local leaders in attendance alongside

an impressive showing of area alumni. President Hayes, Board of Trustees Chair **Hank Taylor '75** and past president of the Alumni Council **Lauren DuBay Gilbertson '13** shared the strategic framework and celebrated the momentum of Coe. The room was filled with Coe spirit, allowing for unique, high-level conversations and one-on-one connections between those who guide the college's vision and the alumni who live it out every day.

Most recently, on March 5, the tour headed south to Sixty Vines in Plano, Texas. Greater Dallas area alumni ranging from the Class of 1970 through the Class of 2022 enjoyed an evening of conversation and connection with President Hayes, proving that the bond of the Kohawk community remains strong no matter how far from First Avenue they may be.

Each of these first three stops in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids and the Dallas area have been defined by a fantastic turnout and high energy, fostering the kind of deep connection that defines the Kohawk family. These early stops have surpassed the goal of creating a collaborative environment where the Coe community can learn about and discuss the college's strategic framework and the potential for our collective impact.



1 Board of Trustees member **Tim Sagers '97**, Erin Altheide, Alumni Council member **Sally Roegner Brause '88** and Laura Sagers are all smiles at the Cedar Rapids Progress with Purpose event.

2 Board of Trustees Chair **Hank Taylor '75** and Past Alumni Council President **Lauren DuBay Gilbertson '13** pose for a photo at Pickle Palace.

3 Dean of Student Life & Co-Curricular Programs Jason Chapman, Assistant to the President Kim Pribyl and Alumni Council President **Pat Steele '75** gather for a photo at Pickle Palace.

LOOKING AHEAD: THE ROAD to SUMMER

There are many more opportunities to join the conversation. The Progress with Purpose tour will continue throughout the spring and summer, and all Kohawks are encouraged to bring their spirit to a gathering near them:

MAY 20
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

MAY 21
Chicago, Illinois

JUNE 9
Denver, Colorado

JUNE 11
Washington, D.C.

JULY 9
Twin Cities, Minnesota

Each event is free to attend, with full details such as specific location and timing available closer to the event date. Whether you are a recent graduate or a long-time supporter, we hope to see you on the road as we evolve and thrive together! Scan the QR code or visit alumni.coe.edu/events to register for an upcoming tour stop near you.



To review the Progress with Purpose Strategic Framework, visit

www.coe.edu/why-coe/progress-purpose, or find it in the Fall 2025 edition of the Courier.



STRONG SEASON FROM THE KOHAWKS CULMINATES IN THE FIRST NCAA FOOTBALL PLAYOFF WIN IN 10 YEARS

The 2025 Coe College football season proved to be one of the most exciting in recent program history, highlighted by the program's first NCAA playoff win since 2016. Overall, the Kohawks finished the season with a 9-3 record, including a strong 7-1 showing in the American Rivers Conference (A-R-C), and one of the team's losses was to the eventual national champion.

The Kohawks opened the season with a statement win, defeating Cornell College 62-6 in the annual Bremner Cup game while extending their winning streak to 25 in the oldest college football rivalry west of the Mississippi. Coe continued its season of successes with the program's third consecutive NCAA Division III playoff berth and a dominant 44-7 first round playoff win.



"I am extremely proud of our 2025 team and all that our players and coaches accomplished. Our team demonstrated outstanding leadership, competed at a high level and embraced an 'earn-it' mentality throughout the season. They represented Coe College with class and left a lasting legacy within the Kohawk football program," said Head Football Coach **Tyler Staker '06**.

Several Kohawks earned postseason honors. **Luke Schumacher '26** earned American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) second team All-American honors. Additionally, Schumacher was named to the AP DIII All-America third team. Teammates **Kyle Cole '26**, **Henry Ryan '27** and **Noah Tolbert '28**, along with Schumacher, were named to the D3football.com 2025 All-Region 5 Team.

Brady Kelly '27 emerged as one of the conference's premier players, delivering a record-setting season that earned him A-R-C Offensive Most Valuable Player. He is the second straight Kohawk to earn the award, joining **Trenton Barnes '25** who was honored last season. Kelly broke the single season record for touchdown passes with 32. Overall, Coe landed four first-team players (Cole, Tolbert, Kelly and Schumacher), seven second-team players (**Jase Barksdale '26**, **Braiden Damhof '27**, **Quincy Drummer '28**, **Jack Clarahan '27**, **Stone Cummins '26**, **Henry Ryan '27** and **Brant Tedrow '26**), and three honorable mention players (**CJ Johnson '27**, **Cameron Lavette '28** and **Jeron Senters '27**) on the all A-R-C teams.

There were also 15 Kohawks named to the A-R-C Fall all-academic team. Members reported at least a 3.50 cumulative GPA, were at least a sophomore in academic standing and have had at least one year in residence at Coe.

The football accolades continued outside the season as well, as former Kohawk **Alex Aitchison '25** was named an A-R-C Scholar Athlete of the Year finalist. A successful football student-athlete for the Kohawks, he earned AP and D3football.com All-American honors, as well as being a four-time all-conference performer. In the classroom, Aitchison maintained a 3.897 cumulative grade point average while majoring in kinesiology and minoring in education. He earned College Sports Communicators Academic All-American honors twice during his career after being named an All-District performer on three occasions. He earned American Rivers All-Academic honors four times during his career.

KOHAWK VOLLEYBALL

PLAYS ITS WAY BACK INTO THE NCAA TOURNAMENT WITH A FAMILIAR FACE AT THE HELM



The Coe College volleyball team concluded their 2025 season with an impressive 21-10 record, led by head coach **April Elsbernd '03**, in her first year guiding the Kohawk program. Coe went 7-1 in A-R-C play to finish second in the regular season, and

took the A-R-C tournament championship after upsetting the #1 seed, which qualified the Kohawks for an automatic bid into the NCAA DIII national tournament.

The Kohawks faced a competitive schedule, composed of multiple nationally ranked teams with 13 games on the road, traveling to Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and Nebraska.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to coach this extremely talented and hard-working group this past fall. It was clear from the beginning that they had big goals, and it was a lot of fun to help them realize their goal of making the NCAA regional tournament by winning the conference tournament championship," Elsbernd said.

"There are still moments when I can't believe I get to be a part of this institution that influenced who I am today. Every day, I'm gratified to recruit, retain and coach young people at the place that means so much to me," Elsbernd added.

Maddy Maahs '26 and **Maggie Furlong '26** were named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American

honorable mention list. This is Maahs' fourth All-American honor and Furlong's first of her career. **Avery Beckett '26**, Furlong and Maahs were recognized for earning Region 9 all-region honors. Furlong and Maahs were selected first-team honorees while Beckett secured honorable mention status. It marks the fifth consecutive season in which numerous Kohawks have earned all-region honors and brings Coe's all-region total to 10 since the 2021 season.

The Kohawks had five seniors recognized in the A-R-C postseason awards release. Beckett, Furlong and Maahs were named all-conference honorees while **Kelsey Hansel '26** and **Maddie Harris '26** landed spots on the honorable mention team. Maahs was honored with her fourth consecutive all-conference award, and Furlong and Hansel earned conference honors for the second straight season. Beckett and Harris earned their first conference award of their career.

Maahs — one of Coe's most decorated volleyball players — completed her senior season second on Coe's all-time career assist list with 4,841 and was named the 2025 Barron Bremner Outstanding athlete.

"From the very beginning at Coe, Kohawk volleyball pushed me to grow through hard work, resilience and every challenge that came my way. I'm forever grateful for the people and moments that made these years so special and the foundation that will stay with me for a lifetime, Maahs said.





BOWLING & CLAY TARGET TEAMS

CONTINUE TO QUICKLY ESTABLISH A NATIONAL TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS

The Coe College bowling program continues to establish itself as a growing presence, even as one of the newest teams at Coe. Competing at the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) level, the men's and women's teams travel throughout the Midwest each season with varsity and junior varsity squads, gaining experience and steadily building depth across the program.



Founded during the 2020-21 season, Coe bowling made an immediate impression, with the men's team advancing to postseason competition in its first year. Since then, the program has expanded both in participation and in competitive consistency under the leadership of head coach

Randy Dodge. What began with just a handful of student-athletes has developed into a program capable of fielding multiple teams at tournaments, while also placing a strong emphasis on shared purpose and team identity.

"Our college team has evolved quite a lot over these last five and a half years," Dodge said. "We started with only six to seven players on each of the men's and women's teams. We now have more than 20 on each team and we're able to run one varsity and two JV teams at many of our tournaments. The team culture has evolved from everybody on their own when they first came into a true team atmosphere that we have now. It has been so much fun watching our players improve as bowlers and as individuals."

One of the most significant milestones in the program's young history came in 2025, when the Coe women's bowling team captured the Collegiate Club National Championship. For Dodge, the achievement represented far more than a single tournament victory.

"There have been so many memorable moments," he said. "It is hard to narrow it down, but seeing our ladies win the Collegiate Club National Championship stands out. It wasn't just about winning — it was seeing them get better and battle for five years to achieve one of the highest goals on our list. It was truly amazing, and I could not be more proud of our entire team."

While Coe bowling highlights the impact of growth, culture and competitive opportunity within a young program, similar themes

are taking shape in other areas of Kohawk athletics. Take the continued development of the Coe College clay target team, for example.

The clay target team has grown from a small, passion-driven program into a steadily developing force. Through consistent competitive improvement and a clear commitment to personal growth, the team has built a positive presence within Coe athletics and across the campus community.



Competing in collegiate clay target events across the nation, the Kohawks have steadily built a reputation for excellence. The team earned its first sporting clays team trophy in 2021, a milestone that still holds special meaning for head coach Patrick Cory.

"It's hard to pick just a single memorable experience," Cory said. "Our first team sporting clay trophy in 2021 was pretty special, as it had two charter members on it."

That early success laid the groundwork for even bigger moments. Coe shooters have reached the podium at national competitions, including multiple High Overall Team podium finishes over the last four years and a national championship season in 2023. Individual accomplishments have followed as well, with two women earning podium finishes at nationals, and **Gregory Stewart '28** earning the program's first-ever regional title.

Yet for Cory, the most meaningful victories aren't measured in hardware.

"I would have to say the most memorable experience has been watching our freshmen grow into really fine young adults, students, and leaders," he said.

Since its early days, the clay target team has expanded significantly in both size and skill, but its foundation has remained unchanged. Cory points to three guiding principles that define the program: "Be a good person. Be a good student. Be a varsity athlete and teammate for Coe College."



STRUKEL EXCITED TO SERVE A-R-C ATHLETES ON A NATIONAL LEVEL



Carson Strukel '27 has been selected to serve as the American Rivers Conference (A-R-C) Representative on the NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), a role that places him at the national table advocating for Division III student-athletes across the country.

A business administration and political science double major, Strukel competes for the Kohawks in cross country and track & field. Now, he brings that same dedication beyond Coe College, representing the voices of A-R-C student-athletes at the national level.

"I am excited about having the opportunity to amplify the student-athlete voice as well as continue to learn from student-athletes at Coe, within the American Rivers Conference and the nation," Strukel said.

As the A-R-C representative, Strukel serves as a conduit between conference institutions and NCAA Division III leadership. He approaches this responsibility with intention, especially during a time of significant change in college athletics.

"It is a unique time to be in college athletics," Strukel explained. "There has been great change within the NCAA landscape within the last 10 years, and I hope to be able to stand up for the Division III experience.

That advocacy is shaped by his own experience as a Kohawk.

"I love what Division III athletics has to offer," Strukel said. "I have been able to grow academically, athletically and personally in my time as a Kohawk, and I believe that the Division III student-athlete experience has contributed to that.

Through SAAC, he hopes to ensure that future student-athletes continue to benefit from that same balance, and representing the American Rivers Conference nationally is a role Strukel considers both an honor and a privilege.

"Since day one as a Kohawk, I have been astonished by the success of the A-R-C on the national level," he said. "A-R-C athletes excel in competitions as well as in the classroom.

Having been selected to represent those peers, he added, is something he does not take lightly.

"The part of SAAC's mission that matters most to me is fostering a positive student-athlete experience and protecting the student-athlete experience," Strukel said.

He believes Division III provides unparalleled opportunities for growth during college and beyond, offering student-athletes the chance to thrive academically while competing at a high level.

Strukel also views the position as an opportunity to grow as a leader.

"I am so eager to learn from other student-athletes from around the country and hear their perspectives," he said. "I know that this experience will broaden my perspectives and strengthen my collaboration and communication skills.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDIES TAKE KOHAWKS EVERYWHERE

FROM OFF THE GRID TO IN THE MIDDLE OF MILLIONS

Kohawks take their education on the road every year. Some study in places of solitude. Others travel to landmarks visited by thousands each day.

Regardless of destination, studying off campus has been a treasured tradition for generations. Going out into the world solo or with a small group fosters an independent spirit and creates avenues for applying what you've learned in the comfort of the classroom out in the world.

While campus is the heart of Coe, Kohawks have created memories across the globe for decades. You'll see that students still have the same sense of adventure...



Students in the Animal Behaviors class paddled throughout the Boundary Waters Canoe Area wilderness to conduct field work.



1

WILDERNESS FIELD STATION

-----ELY, MINNESOTA-----

You wake up to a sunrise filtering through tall trees, and just beyond the zipped-down flap of your tent is pristine water bordered by mossy rocks. It's your lab for the day.

The Wilderness Field Station sets the stage for a team learning and living experience in near isolation of the Superior National Forest and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. The togetherness in solitude and adventure remains many Kohawks' favorite memories.

For the Kohawks who embarked on their Animal Behavior course this past summer, the memories are fresh!

■ **Kennedy Gordon '25** fishes and watches while other students of *Animal Behavior 2025* take advantage of the clear waters of Knife Lake to practice their crayfish sampling skills. Simply learning how to

capture a large invertebrate is an exercise in understanding animal behaviors in itself! Students implicitly learn about how crayfish defend themselves, reduce chances at predation and escape if they are flushed out.

2 *Sunset on Lake Three facing the Pagami Creek Burn. Day 1 of Animal Behavior 2025's eight day trip into the Boundary Waters examining animal behaviors in the field.*

3 *On their first day camping out from the Wilderness Field Station, the main goals are to get shelters up and learn best practices for working as a group.*

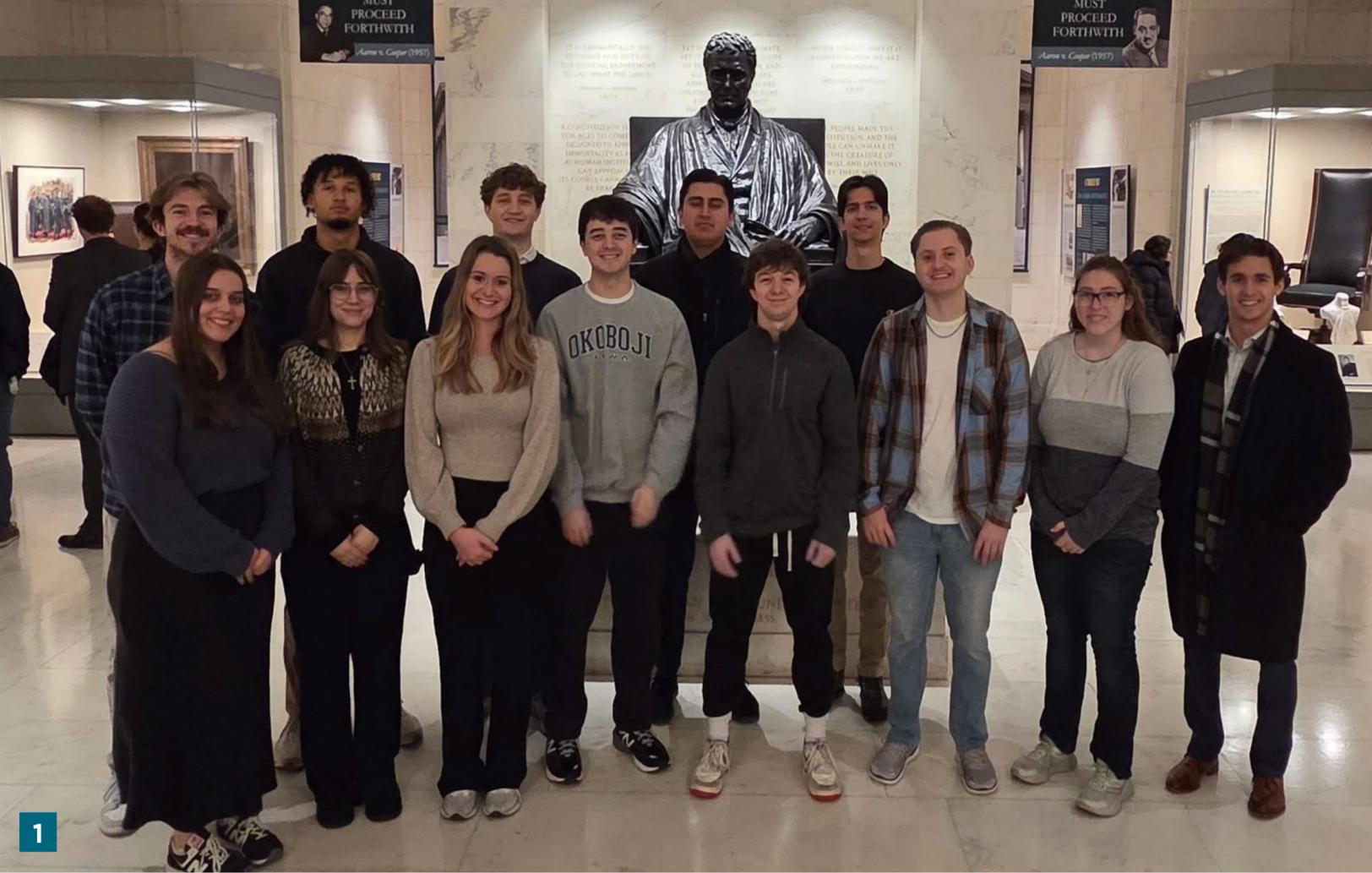
Photos courtesy of Wilderness Field Station Director Jesse Ellis.



2



3



1

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The allure of our nation's capital has called to Kohawks for decades. It's where national and global leaders gather, policy is determined and history is made. With the Capitol Hill Internship Program, Kohawks are placed in the middle of the action during the annual Washington, D.C. Term. Internships, networking and exclusive experiences set the course for Kohawks' future.

“It is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students to develop and progress their careers, and what better city to do it in than our nation's capital?”

– **Carlie Miller '27**

All the participants of the Capitol Hill Internship Program were able to visit Washington, D.C. landmarks and receive behind-the-scenes tours and information about places of national significance.

During Fall 2025 Washington, D.C. Term, **Carlie Miller '27** interned with Bruckheim & Patel, a criminal defense law firm. Miller took this photo outside the D.C. Superior Court where she attended court multiple times a week.

Photos courtesy of Carlie Miller '27.



2



GREECE

Coe College Provost Angela Ziskowski takes students to Greece to participate in archaeological fieldwork, uncovering pottery and artifacts over 3,000 years old. Ziskowski has years of experience leading students, and sometimes alumni, to excavations sites in Greece.

Kohawks visit important archaeological sites across the country during a once-in-a-lifetime trip.

Photos courtesy of Coe College Provost Angela Ziskowski.

■ Coe students and faculty stand in front of the Parthenon on the Acropolis in Greece. Left to right they are **Gabby Collins '26**, **Olivia Smith '26**, **Zoie Kleindolph '27**, Provost Angela Ziskowski and **Regyn Buffington '26**.

■ **Olivia Smith '26** and **Gabby Collins '26** work on cataloging and studying pottery in the Isthmia Museum.

JAPAN

Japan is a popular study abroad destination for Kohawks every year. Exchange programs with Japanese universities make it possible to study in the country for a single term or entire year — with cultural immersion at the forefront.

1 Jennifer Hernandez '26 visited one of the most striking features in Nagoya, Japan, the Nagoya castle. The beautiful landmark was constructed in the 17th century.

2 Katie Kerlik '27 visited a shrine dedicated to love at Sanko Inari-jinja in Inuyama, Japan. Here, people came to pray to Inari, the god of agriculture. In modern times, visitors ask for success in business, love, life and other ventures. In this photo, people have left heart shaped rocks with names or messages written on them at the shrine in the hopes that their wishes about love will come true.

3 A highlight for **Katie Kerlik '27** was Nagoya, Japan's Shirotori Gardens in December, with a waterfall and striking red Japanese Maples.

4 At the Tokugawa Museum in Nagoya, Japan, **Katie Kerlik '27** was impressed by this suit of Japanese armor.

5 Upon arrival in Japan, **Jennifer Hernandez '26** was able to experience a traditional Japanese tea ceremony.

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Hernandez '26 and Katie Kerlik '27.





1



2



3

SPAIN & IBIZA

Just because your study abroad opportunity might be based in one place doesn't mean you can't explore more! **Juan Suarez '26** was based in Castellón, Spain, but said the places that most impacted him were Granada, Sevilla and Ibiza.

- 1** *Juan Suarez '26 found this a hidden gem — a cala — in Ibiza. A cala is like a sea entrance surrounded by rocks, so people go there to enjoy the clear seawater without a lot of people.*
- 2** *Sevilla's Cathedral is an impressive architectural structure, said Juan Suarez '26. He added it's rife with religious meaning in its design and also in its art and representation inside the cathedral, from which you can access La Giralda which is the highest point in the Cathedral with views to the whole town.*
- 3** *There was time for a photo for Juan Suarez '26 at La Plaza de España, one of the most iconic places in Sevilla. Suarez said it's an absolute architectural treasure where the coats of arms of every region in Spain are represented with their own area.*

Photos courtesy of Juan Suarez '26.

1851-2026

175
YEARS

 COE COLLEGE

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS



HOMECOMING

Save the Date for Homecoming

October 1-3, 2026

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



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

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

When most people think of charitable giving, they think of cash gifts or appeals they receive in the mail or perhaps special events. Cash gifts include check, credit card, stock transfer or direct debit. A planned gift is when you make plans now for a gift that generally occurs in the future. Common types of planned gifts include charitable bequests, beneficiary designation, charitable gift annuity, gifts from your IRA and charitable remainder trusts.

BLENDED GIFTS: THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

A blended gift combines the power of a current or annual gift with a planned gift. Often, the season of our life and the composition of the assets we own will determine how we give, what we give and when we give. Blended gifts take these into account and allow you to maximize your giving both now and in the future.

Blended gifts use different types of charitable gifting strategies such as outright gifts, planned gifts and estate gifts to accomplish your giving desires. Which combination of these strategies to use depends upon your unique personal situation. Taking into consideration your current and future financial, tax and charitable planning goals, blended gifts can be formulated to help you determine best how to give, what to give and when to give.

A blended gift creates:

CONTROL

You choose what works and gives you the most benefits. You can enhance your financial security and increase the impact of your giving now and in the future.

FLEXIBILITY

Build your plan to provide options based on changing circumstances. A blended gift allows you to mix and match to create a plan and strategy that custom fits your needs and goals.

LEGACY

When you supplement your annual gifts with a bequest or other gifts, you have more impact and your legacy continues the good works you began.

BLENDED GIFT STRATEGIES

A current gift creates the opportunity for you to see the impact of your giving today. Adding a planned gift makes it possible for your giving to make a difference in the future. The charitable bequest is the most popular planned gift. Accordingly, the most common blended gift is a combination of a current gift and a charitable bequest.

If you own an IRA from which you must annually take a required minimum distribution (RMD), make a direct qualified charitable distribution (QCD) to Coe College. You will not have to recognize this distribution as taxable income, and it will qualify toward your annual RMD. Since the IRA is highly taxable when left to heirs, you may also decide to name Coe College as the beneficiary of the IRA's remaining balance at your passing.

If you have already included a bequest in your will or have created a planned gift, you can begin to see the current impact of your giving by adding outright gifts of cash or property today. You can avoid capital gains tax by making a gift of real estate, stock or other appreciated investments.

There are numerous ways to structure blended gifts depending on your unique personal situation. We can help you create a blended gift strategy to achieve your goals while supporting Coe College. Please contact Debbie Green (dgreen@coe.edu or 319-399-8592) or Megan Valenta (mavalenta@coe.edu or 319-399-8569) to learn more.

New BOARD OF TRUSTEES



KATHY STEFFENSMEIER
JASPER '90

Jasper earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and Psychology from Coe College and later completed a Master of Business Administration at St. Ambrose University in 1996. She has built a distinguished career as a results-oriented leader recognized for innovative problem-solving and effective program development across strategic management, human resources and facilitation.

Jasper's professional experience includes serving as an adjunct professor at Coe College as well as a strategic program manager at Rockwell International. In her role at Rockwell, she managed multimillion-dollar budgets and led large-scale marketing initiatives, demonstrating strong organizational leadership, fiscal oversight and collaborative planning skills.

A lifelong community advocate, Jasper has dedicated significant time to volunteer service with organizations including the Family Caregivers Center of Mercy and the Chris and Suzy DeWolf Family Innovation Center for Aging and Dementia. These experiences have shaped her ongoing focus on health, aging and compassionate support for individuals and families navigating complex care needs.

Jasper is a Certified DAWN Dementia Care Specialist and is currently writing a book while pursuing additional certifications in health and wellness coaching and lifestyle medicine coaching. She and her husband, Phil, are the parents of three children, Allison (Daniel), Ryan (Kamryn) and Emily and are proud grandparents to Oliver.



TOBY
LISTER '24

Lister is originally from Plainfield, Illinois, and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Data Science from Coe College, graduating magna cum laude. A first-generation college student, Lister distinguished himself through rigorous coursework, advanced research and sustained campus leadership rooted in service and integrity.

Lister completed an honors thesis titled "A Policy Analysis of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act", which received the Laverne M. Tucker Economics and Business Prize for the best departmental paper. He was also awarded the Harley W. Howell Prize in Business and Economics and named a Spellman Research Fellow. As a Spellman Research Fellow, he conducted an econometric analysis of federal unemployment insurance programs using a difference-in-differences methodology.

Highly engaged in campus life, Lister served as student body president and held leadership roles within the Student Senate. He also participated in Alpha Lambda Delta, served on the Flunk Day Committee, volunteered for the 2023 Campus Race to Zero Waste and worked as an economics teaching assistant. He was recognized as a Crimson Fellow Scholar and Clark Merit Scholar.

Known for his resilience, humility and determination, he continues to pursue work that advances the public interest. Lister is currently an analyst with the United States Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C., where he assesses the efficiency and effectiveness of programs across the federal government.



CLASS NOTES

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

1960s

'62 **Dr. John Havick** of Stone Mountain, Georgia, has a film script, "Turning the Corner," as a semi-finalist in the Creative Screenwriting - Unique Voices contest.



'63 **Thomas "Tom" Mannion** of Stowe, Vermont, is enjoying traveling during retirement. He says 2026 is a good year to travel to Amelia Island, Palm Springs, Scottsdale and Charleston.



'67 **Kevin Kelly** of Oceanside, California, competed in the San Diego Senior Games and won first place in the 1500 meter power walk.

1970s

1 While hiking parts of the Ice Age Trail in Wisconsin, Biology Professor Emeritus Floyd Sandford had an opportunity to rendezvous with **Kirk Ergang '75** and reminisce on times gone by.

'77 **Kimberly "Kim" Wasson** of Arkdale, Wisconsin, marks her 40th anniversary as a professional artist. Her art has received numerous first-place awards over four decades, including Best of Show. Her artwork recently won two first place awards in an art competition in Wisconsin.

1980s

2 '83 **John Claes** of Johnston, Iowa, found his calling as a playwright, composer and lyricist. As a Kohawk, John appeared in two plays on the Dows stage and was part of the Coe vocal show ensemble, Collage, for three years by the time he graduated with a bachelor's in business administration in 1983. After getting established in the non-profit sector in Des Moines, John resumed his interest in theatre and appeared on stages throughout central Iowa until he found his true calling as playwright. Since 2020, John has seen four of his plays produced by the Ankeny Community Theatre. His most recent show — produced in August of 2025 — was his most ambitious to date. John's first musical, a comedy entitled *The Perfect Rendezvous*, saw him serve as playwright, composer, lyricist and director! It was a great success, with all

seven performances sold out. John says, "I love being a playwright — I get to keep my characters guessing, put them in outrageous situations and bail them out in the end. All while challenging them to keep a straight face while the audience cracks up. And as a composer and lyricist of my first musical, they get to show off their singing chops and treat you to some pretty darn good music."

3 '85 **Colleen Fisher** Prophet of Evanston, Illinois, is living her dream. She began ballroom dancing nearly 20 years ago, but stopped when family priorities required the majority of her time. Last year a former dance colleague asked Colleen to dance at her studio. In the summer of 2025, Colleen began teaching and loves her job.

1990s



'94 **Russell "Russ" Schultz** of Archer, Florida, is set to appear in the feature film *A Great Awakening* from Sight and Sound Films in April 2026. The film tells the story of

the unlikely friendship between George Whitfield and Benjamin Franklin in colonial America. Russell will portray George Washington in the film, which is set for theatrical release over Easter weekend.

2000s

4 '02 **Eric Carroll** of Asheville, North Carolina, was chosen by the curators of the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, North Carolina to create a large-scale installation for the museum. The resulting work, "Natural Time," was created on the museum grounds and is installed in the museum's West Building through this summer.

2010s

'12 **Sarah Henderson** Otton of South Korea, completed her graduate degree in organizational leadership through Bellevue University.



5 '22 **Natalie Hansen** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and her teammates **Zac Simon '22**, Kyle Kleman, **Ethan Krueger '22**, Clayton Leipold, Scott Wheeler, **Evan Ellis '21**, **Natalie Blank '22**, **Skylar Stookey '23**, Laura Halford and **Marley Carviou '22** succeed in slowpitch softball. In fall of 2022 a group composed entirely of Coe alumni started playing together in the Cedar Rapids Park and

Recreation slowpitch softball Sunday league. Since then, the group has continued to play in both the summer and fall sessions of the league, competing in the upper division. While some of the players have changed over the years due to life changes, moves and pregnancies, a core group of six alumni still play together. This year they went on to become repeat champions in both the summer and fall sessions of the league.

A FACULTY AND STAFF TRADITION RETURNS TO START THE SPRING TERM

Faculty and staff launched the Spring academic term with a new joint gathering coordinated by the Staff Advisory Group and Faculty Executive Committee. The event provided the college's employees an opportunity to align on goals and celebrate milestones entering the new term as President **David Hayes '93** welcomed everyone in Cherry Auditorium. Director of Campus Engagement Jill Kuhlers emceed the event.

At the center of the gathering was a renewed years of service recognition.

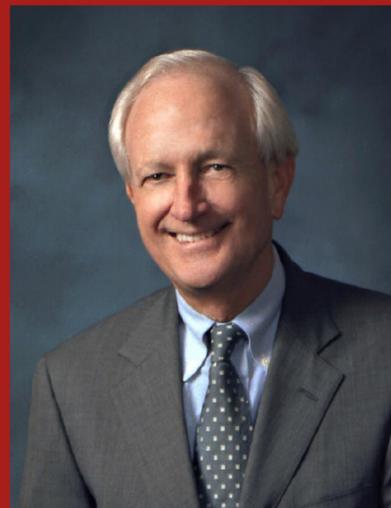
In all, more than 175 staff and faculty members were recognized for their ongoing commitment to the college and its students. Everyone who has been with the college for five years or longer was recognized, but three Kohawks were celebrated for more than 40 years of service: Director of Physical Plant Lisa Ciha (41 years), Custodian **Bernard Clayton '80** (48 years) and Music Instructor Richard Adkins (50 years).



Top: Senior Vice President for Enrollment, Marketing & Institutional Effectiveness **Julie Kleis Staker '93** presents Director of Campus Engagement Jill Kuhlers with her certificate of service.

Bottom: Executive Assistant to the Office of the Provost Tammie Wodnik, Associate Dean of Faculty Development and Associate Professor of Economics **Drew Westberg '05** and Provost and Dean of the Faculty Angela Ziskowski are all smiles at the employee recognition event.

Life Trustee Receives Citizenship Award



Terry Abernathy '70 was presented the Citizenship Award by the Linn County Bar Association (LCBA). The award is granted annually to a single member of the LCBA in recognition of meaningful contributions to the community.

Steve Howes '83 was one of the LCBA members who nominated Abernathy, and in his nomination letter noted that both the legal profession and the greater Cedar Rapids community are better off due to his efforts.

Abernathy has served the local legal community for years as a dedicated member of professional organizations, and has significantly supported the performing arts locally and across that state.

"By modeling engagement and supporting others to get involved, he has helped foster a culture of service to the profession that extends well beyond his own individual contributions. Terry has served as a mentor to younger lawyers, both in how they research and analyze a case, and maybe more importantly, how they conduct themselves in the profession," Howes wrote.

WEDDING BELLS

CONGRATULATIONS, KOHAWKS

FUTURE ALUMNI

2010s

'15 **Erica Pinkus** and **Marcin Welninski '15**, of Harwood Heights, Illinois, married on August 1, 2025.

2020s

1 '22 **Everett Goist** Atlas and Lauren Tabor, of Chicago, Illinois, married on September 23, 2024.



2020s

'21 **Keaton Mullins** and **Cassandra Buhr Mullins '21**, of Johnston, Iowa, Boden Mullins, on July 21, 2025.



ALUMNI COUNCIL *Update*

Dear Kohawks,

It's always a great day to be part of the Coe College community. Whether you graduated recently or decades ago, the bonds we share as Kohawks continue to connect us across generations. This spring is an especially exciting time for Coe as we celebrate our momentum today while looking ahead to an extraordinary milestone: the 2026-27 academic year will mark Coe's 175th anniversary.

As this edition of the Courier arrives, campus is buzzing with anticipation. Spring break and Flunk Day season are just around the corner, and conversations sparked by the President's tour are still fresh, following several recent stops with alumni and friends. These gatherings remind us that Coe's strength has always come from the people who care deeply about its future.

As alumni, we play a vital role in shaping that future. Whether through mentoring students, attending alumni events, sharing Coe stories or supporting scholarships and programs, your involvement helps build Coe's legacy and leaves a lasting mark on the lives of today's students.

On April 9, we will come together once again for Coe's annual Day of Giving, with this year's theme: "Building Coe's Legacy, Leaving Your Mark." This special day is a celebration of collective generosity and shared purpose, demonstrating how even small acts of support can create a powerful impact when we come together as a community.

I encourage you to stay engaged this spring — connect with fellow Kohawks, follow campus happenings and consider making a gift on Day of Giving. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps ensure that Coe continues to provide a transformative education and prepares future generations of students to lead, serve and succeed.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Coe College and for being part of a legacy that is 175 years strong and still growing.



Go Kohawks!
Pat Steele '75 | Alumni Council President

Share your news!

Information compiled in "Class Notes" comes from a variety of sources, including direct correspondence from alumni, clipping services and news releases. The college received these class notes by December 1. **The deadline for the Summer 2026 issue is April 1.** Announcements older than one year at the time they are submitted will not be published.

Please follow these basic guidelines when submitting information:

NEWS

At least the following basic information should be provided with any submission: name and

class year, spouse name and class year if Coe alum, city and state of residence and your news. Please spell out acronyms. Milestones (anniversaries, birthdays, etc.) will be noted only in five year increments (25th, 30th, etc.).

MARRIAGES & ANNIVERSARIES

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

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

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

DEATHS

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

PHOTOS

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

Submit information via email to 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.

 Indicates decedent was a member of the Coe College Heritage Club

 Served on the Alumni Council

For information, contact Director of Planned Giving Debbie Green at 319.399.8592 or dgreen@coe.edu.

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

1940s

 **1945 Mary Ann Blakemore** Farrington, 102, of Boulder, Colorado on December 6.

1948 Virginia "Ginny" Repass Jungman, 99, of Mount Vernon, Iowa on November 11.

1949 Carol Yue Kim, 98, of Honolulu, Hawaii on July 21.

1950s

1951 Elberta Cousins Grubbs, 95, of Saluda, South Carolina on October 24.

1953 Duane Nesetrlil, 94, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on December 8.

1954 Dana Van Burgh, 92, of Casper, Wyoming on June 7.

1954 Vernon "John" Mueller, 93, of Sandy Springs, Georgia on September 7.

1955 Betty Richey Waters, 93, of Highlands Ranch, Colorado on October 31.

1956 Lt. Col. Bradley "Brad" Ankerstar, 90, of Round Rock, Texas on September 26.

1957 Robert Noyes, 90, of Woodridge, Illinois on November 11.

1957 Richard "Dick" Stauber, 94, of Rochester, Minnesota on November 24.

1958 Ralph Rhiner, Jr., 89, of Phoenix, Arizona on August 30.

1958 Shirley Schwob Schneider, 89, of Wapello, Iowa on December 22.

1959 Walter Homsey, 92, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on October 29.

1959 John Miller, 89, of Anamosa, Iowa on October 3.

1960s

1960 Charlotte Matter Nechanicky, 89, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on January 10.

1960 Ray Turner, 87, of Miami, Florida on September 10.

1961 Robert "Bob" Dutton, 86, of Dallas, Texas on September 21.

1962 Ross Madden, 85, of Dubuque, Iowa on October 30.

 **1962 Robert Sherman**, 85, of Saint Paul, Minnesota on October 3.

 **1965 Donald Decker**, 82, of Beverly Hills, Florida on October 2.

1967 David Sargent, 80, of Amana, Iowa on December 4.

1967 Dr. Ronald "Ron" Schope, 79, of Dubuque, Iowa on October 15.

1970s

1971 Thomas Decker, 75, of Fairport, New York on February 28.

1972 Ronald Wilson, 76, of Toledo City, Philippines on October 28.

1975 Marie Spieler, 86, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on January 8.

1976 Joyce Krambeer Riggie, 88, of Green Bay, Wisconsin on September 12.

1980s

1980 Cindy Van Zuiden LeMoine, 67, of Shell Lake, Wisconsin on July 1.

1982 Sharon Lynch Husak, 65, of Ballwin, Missouri on September 30.

1985 David "Dave" Manternach, 63, of Dubuque, Iowa on January 5.

1987 Mary Ann Bridgeman Roper, 86, of Arlington Heights, Illinois on October 20.

1990s

1990 Tamara "Tami" Ruppel Ryan, 57, of Dubuque, Iowa on November 5.

1995 Curt Hynek, 53, of Swisher, Iowa on September 10.

1997 Gloria Jessip Ritchie, 76, of Solon, Iowa on November 25.

2000s

2000 Terrene "Terri" Cumberlin Nekvinda, 76, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on December 30.

2010s

2013 Benjamin Mourer, 40, of Meadville, Pennsylvania on June 15.

FACULTY/STAFF

Mary Taylor, 71, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on August 25.

Alice Davidson, 90, of Cedar Rapids on November 20.

 **Dr. Steven "Steve" Feller**, 74, of Robins, Iowa on November 19.

Jean Eagle Hermann, 84, of Pleasant Hill, Iowa on November 15.

Dr. Malcolm "Mack" Peel, 89, of Oberlin, Ohio on September 9.

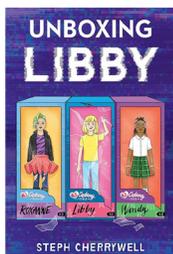
WRITTEN ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COE'S ALUMNI

1990s



John Williams '95 of Denton, Texas, published his first novel of historical fiction, *Blame It on Socrates*. John's pen name is Jack Ryan. John has fond Coe memories and still remembers the wonderful professors

that taught him. He extends kudos to Donald J. Lisio and Glenn J. Janus for having such an impact on him as a student and now as a fellow academic.



Stephen Sandford '02, who now goes by the name of Steph Cherrywell, has had great success writing fiction books for youth. Two recent books have been recognized as the best books of the year in 2025.

Unboxing Libby

- Booklist Editors Choice Books for Youth
- New York Public Library's best middle grade books

2000s



The Ink Witch

- School Library Journal Best Middle Grade books of 2025
- Chicago Public Library's best fiction for 3rd-8th grade readers
- New York Public Library's best middle grade books

Associate Professor of Rhetoric **Allison Carr '05**'s co-edited book, "Revising Moves: Writing Stories of (Re)Making" (2025) received the Outstanding Book Award in the Edited Collection category from the Conference on College Composition and Communication (the world's largest professional organization for researching and teaching composition).

Professor of Philosophy **John Lemos'** "Kane's Final and Revised Theory of Libertarian Free Will" is now available online with the International Journal of Philosophical Studies. It will appear in a future issue of the journal. Lemos also participated in an author-meets-critics symposium devoted to his latest book, "Free Will's Value" (Routledge 2023). That discussion is being published in an upcoming special edition of the journal *Philosophia*. Additionally, he presented a keynote address, "Retributive Justice, Free Will, and Evolutionary Naturalism," at the annual Iowa Philosophical Society meeting at the University of Iowa on Saturday, November 15, 2025.

Coe's Justice Learning Initiative (JLI) completed Coe's first College-in-Prison class at Anamosa State Penitentiary in Spring 2025. Ten incarcerated students earned credit for College Learning Lab.

Assistant Professor of Communication Studies **Oluwadamilola Opayemi** with **Autumn Grzenia '25** published the paper, "'No matter what I did or what decision I decided to make, it just felt like it was wrong': Women's accounts of stigmatizing memorable responses to intimate partner violence from informal support networks."

Provost & Dean of the Faculty; Associate Professor of History **Angela Ziskowski** published the chapter, "Claiming Territory: Kotroni, Kleonai, and the Southern Border of Corinthia."

Professor of History **Brie Swenson Arnold** presented the paper, "Daniel Coe and the Influence of the Midwest on the Expansion of American Higher Education during the Civil War Era.," at the Midwestern History Association Conference, May 2025. She also presented the paper "'Comrade Ousley Entered the Service': William Ousley and African American Civil War Veterans of Cedar Rapids, Iowa," at the Northern Great Plains History Conference, at Minnesota State University-Mankato, September 18, 2025.

Professor of Physics **Ugur Akgun** has been invited to the Entrepreneurially Minded Engineering Resource Group for Educators (EMERGE) Annual Meeting and participated in Engineering Unleashed - Entrepreneurially Minded Learning (EML) & Student Research

(EMRe) Workshop, in Leesburg, Virginia, June 16-19, 2025.

Henry and Margaret Haegg Associate Professor of English **Amber Shaw** participated in a five-person panel at the July 2025 biannual conference of the National Fellowship Advisors Association to discuss encouraging hesitant students to apply for prestigious awards.

Assistant Professor of Nursing **Katie Sandeck** Crockett '18 has been certified as a Nurse Educator- Novice. She is one of only two people in the entire state with this credential.

Assistant Professor of Education **Stacy Haynes-Moore**'s new chapter "The Impacts of Censorship: Voices and Experiences of Classroom Teachers" is hot off the press this November from the National Council Teachers of English.

Professor of English **Gina Hausknecht** has a chapter, "Sea Changes: Hag-Seed, Shakespearean Adaptation, and Prison Representation", in the new volume *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Margaret Atwood* (MLA, 2025).

Associate Professor of Nursing and Faculty Director of Center for Health & Society **Sharon Guthrie** presented, "Difference abilities: Life after traumatic injury" shared at "Wisdom at the Winery" conference sponsored by UnityPoint Health St. Luke's Hospital & LifeGuard Air Ambulance. Additionally, Guthrie revised and authored "Innovation and Change Management" (Chapter 2) in new edition of "Leadership and Nursing Care Management", 8th Ed. (2026) by M. Lindell Joseph & Diane Huber. Publisher Elsevier. She also completed the Amputation Coalition "Certified Peer Visitor" training while at Youth Empowerment Amp Camp at Camp Aranzazu, in Rockport, Texas. Certified Peer Visitor training is required prior to visiting individuals who request a visitor after traumatic or before/after planned amputations. "This is important because I did not know anyone or have anyone to talk to about the amputation experience and I believe being a Certified Peer Visitor will make a difference for others," Guthrie said.

Associate Professor of Economics and Interim Associate Dean for Faculty Development **Drew Westberg '05** along with two of his former students **Dr. Brenna Jungers '17** and **Evan Perry '23** co-authored the chapter, "A Shock to the Commons: Nonprofits and Philanthropy in the Wake of Climate Disaster." in *Understanding Our Philanthropic Commons*, ed. Brenda Bushouse, Brent Never, and Robert K. Christensen. Cambridge University Press & Assessment, forthcoming.

Assistant Professor of Political Science **Rochelle Snyder**'s article "The Partisan Vote: Shared Partisanship and Constituent Service in the U.S. Congress" won the Hahn-Sigelman Prize for the Best Article published in *American Politics Research* in 2024.

Assistant Professor of Creative Writing **Jen Ferguson**'s latest novel, *A Constellation of Minor Bears*, has received numerous honors and recognitions, including: being named a USA Today Bestseller, a Horn Book's Summer Reading Selection, a Winnipeg Free Press Summer Reading Selection, a Canadian Children's Book Center Best Book, Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Book of the Year, an Amy Mathers Teen Book Award Finalist and multiple starred reviews.

Professor of Music **William Carson**'s edition of Percy Grainger's "Spoon River" has been selected to be performed by the Iowa All-State Band later this month.

Assistant Professor of Sociology **Alissa Boguslaw** is a Fulbright Specialist through the Fulbright Specialist Program, which matches U.S. specialists with international institutions for short-term collaborative projects.

Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education **Luke Lovegood '07**, was guest clinician at the Davenport Community All-State Clinic that included 200+ singers in August; he was then guest clinician for the pre All-State Workshop through ICDA for the southeast district in Muscatine with 240 singers in attendance; he was the guest conductor at the Upper Iowa Conference Festival in Fayette at Upper Iowa University on October 13; he hosted an All-State Choir Clinic on campus for October 14 that included seven high schools and 80 singers for the day; and conducted choir clinics at Prairie, Waverly-Shell Rock, West Delaware, North Liberty, Muscatine, Dubuque Hempstead, Cedar Rapids Washington, Central DeWitt, Mt. Vernon and Iowa City City High high schools this fall.

Associate Professor of Anthropology **Julie Fairbanks**, Associate Professor of Social and Criminal Justice **Neal McNabb**, and Associate Professor of Economics and Business Administration **Ryan Baranowski '08** gathered books from Friends of the Library book sales to take on our next trip to Midwest Books to Prisoners. Academic Technologist **Lisa Stroschine** and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Education **Dianna Geers** took a group of six students to Chicago on November 1 to volunteer at Midwest Books to Prisoners.

A KOHAWK'S LIFE

— ADDY LUGRAIN '29 —



I was the first Kohawk to complete my solo flight in the new aviation management & flight operations program.

My experience as the first Coe College aviation student to solo is something I will always carry with me. When I first came to Coe, I was unsure of what to expect with the whole program, nor did I expect to be flying an airplane by myself so soon. Thankfully though, I was given amazing resources and people around me to properly prepare me for this big step in my aviation career.

The preparation process took many steps. First, the endless studying. I was required to know procedures, terminology and safety concepts regarding our aircraft and flying in general. My friends and I spent endless hours studying and preparing, as many other aviation students were close to their first solos as well. I had to learn to trust my judgement to the best of my abilities, considering I would be operating an aircraft alone. It was important for me to ask questions, accept feedback and primarily, trust myself.

Confidence can be a huge struggle in situations like these, but at the same time, an extreme lack of it can turn disastrous in the cockpit. My instructor had made sure I could perform all necessary tasks correctly and confidently, and that I felt the same before I was cleared to solo. On top of preparation with my instructor, the students here are required to do a pre-solo exam, as well as a stage-check with our head

Certified Flying Instructor, which includes a brief oral examination along with a flight where we confirm our skills before we are cleared to solo.

The day of my solo flight was one of the most nervewracking, but also adrenaline-filled of my life. I had been anxious to complete it after it was cancelled for almost two weeks due to weather, but the day had finally come, and I knew I was ready. It didn't feel completely real until my instructor stepped out of the plane and sent me off alone. I took a second to regroup and regulate how I was feeling before starting the plane back up and taxiing away. Although emotions were rushing through my body, I reminded myself to stay focused and confident. I then made my radio calls and proceeded to take off.

Being alone in the air for the first time was truly one of the most exhilarating feelings I have ever experienced; just the thought of 'I am flying a plane by myself right now' was indescribable. As I was in the air I just couldn't keep from smiling. The plane felt noticeably lighter and handled differently with just one person inside. I continued to do three landings and takeoffs in the traffic pattern before coming to a full stop to head back to the hangar.

After I was congratulated by Air Traffic Control is when the feelings all started to rush back. The pure relief and pride in myself for successfully completing that flight is a feeling I will chase for the rest of my life. Although the first solo was a major milestone for the program, it was also a huge turning point for me.



Certiified Flight Instructor Luke Hewitt and **Addy LuGrain '29** are all smiles after LuGrain's first solo flight.



LuGrain performs safety checks as part of her pre-flight routine.



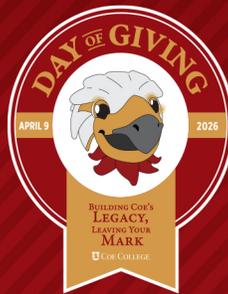
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— MARK YOUR CALENDARS! —

OUR 12TH ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING IS SET FOR APRIL 9, 2026

and we're excited to celebrate and continue the tradition of
"Building Coe's Legacy, Leaving your Mark." Stay tuned
for more details as we shape the future and strengthen
Coe's foundation.

