



THE

COSMOS

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CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

In honor of

Dr. Dan Lehn



*Coe College
Professor of
Psychology*

1957-2016

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MEMORIAL
EDITION*

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Letter from the Editor

Lisa McDonald
Editor-in-chief

On the morning of July 19, 2016, the Coe community received an email from Coe College President David McNally:

“It is with a very heavy heart that I share with you that Professor Dan Lehn passed away this morning following a bicycle/vehicle accident.”

It was with this weight on our hearts we returned last week, missing a beloved member of our Coe family.

Dr. Dan Lehn joined the Coe family in 1993. He told students and friends

teaching psychology was a much more exciting job than chemical engineering.

Though we are unable to change the past, we can remember it. This special edition of the *Cosmos* was created with your help.

Just a few of the many touching and wonderful memories contributed to the memorial website, danlehn.weebly.com, are featured on the next page.

The memorial website will remain open for those who want to read more or add to the collection of memories. If you would like to leave a memory via audio recording, contact

me at lamcdonald@coe.edu.

We at the *Cosmos* know people grieve in many different ways, and at their own pace. Remember, it can be a very healthy thing to ask for help.

If you feel like you could use someone to talk to, or know somebody who does, please contact Assistant Director and Counselor Emily Barnard at ebarnard@coe.edu. She can put you in touch with St. Luke’s Counseling Center.

As President McNally said, Lehn was our “brightest light.” You’ll be missed, Dr. Lehn.



Dr. Dan Lehn attends graduation during his early years at Coe.

Photo courtesy of Jake Vitense.

Dr. Dan Lehn attends graduation with the current psychology faculty, from left, Nükhet Yarbrough, Dan Lehn, Sara Farrell, Michael Baker and Thomas Moye.

Photo courtesy of Jake Vitense.



Facebook responds

Kate Bruner
6 hrs · 🌐

I believe I spent most of the day in shock and disbelief. Almost three years ago I walked into Intro to Psych with no intentions of majoring in psychology. That quickly changed because of Dr. Dan Lehn. Like many other Kohawks have said, Lehn was so much more than a professor and advisor. I can honestly say I would not be the student or person I am today if it was not for the impact Lehn had on my life. His memory will never die and his light will continue on throughout campus. Heaven gained one hell of an angel. Kohawks fly together.



Dr. Dan Lehn and the psychology faculty pose for a group photo.

Photo courtesy of Jake Vitense.



"[Dan] was the most kind, gentle, dedicated, and joy-filled colleague."

-Coe President David McInally

Photo courtesy of Jake Vitense.

Emmy Laing
July 19 at 8:36pm · 🌐

"I have no idea who you are, so you must be Emmy."

This is what Dr. Lehn first said to me when we finally ran into each other in the Psychology suite. He was quick to ask me questions and get to know me personally. Ever since that day, every time I would see him in the hall or around campus, he would stop and say hello and ask how my day was going. If he was too far away for me to hear, he would send an email like the one below. There were several times he would honk and wave from his car if he drove past while I was walking back to my apartment.

Just last week, he came in and interrupted our research meeting to describe to us the slip and slide he spent all weekend building for his young grandson. He told us every detail. He was laughing because after he had it all set up, he realized there was no slope in his yard and the slip and slide was a complete and total failure.

The news of the tragic loss of Dr. Lehn today greatly saddens me and countless other students in the Coe community. Those who knew him respected him. Those who knew him know just how deeply he cared for his family, his colleagues, the department, the community, and his students. Those who knew him will never forget his jokes, his wit, his kindness, and his heart. Dr. Lehn was an encourager, a teacher, and a friend to many.

I say all of this, never even having a class with him. The fact that I can say these things based solely on our interactions outside of a classroom speak volumes about who he was as a person and a professor, and how big of an impact he left at Coe. I can't even imagine the pain of those who knew him better than I. Please join me in praying for his family. Here's to you, Dr. Lehn. We'll miss you.

Alexandria Muldrew added 6 new photos.
4 hrs - Fort Worth, TX · 🌐

I'm grateful for the time we shared together and the lessons you taught me over the past 6 months. I can't believe I'm forced to say goodbye to my thesis advisor, professor, and friend all in one day. I pray for Henry who lost his grandfather, your children who lost their father, and your wife who lost her husband. May they find peace that goes beyond all understanding and joy that you brought into all of our lives 😊💕🙏 R.I.P. Dr. Lehn

Claire Tollefsrud
2 hrs · 🌐

I hope Dan Lehn will always be remembered for his good humor and kindness. He was one of my favorite professors at Coe, and his loss is raw.

I thought I'd share one of my favorite memories of him here: it was during Statistical measures and data analysis, taught by Tallman, and we were discussing the final, to be taken at 8 am in the near future (we were not happy). Tallman, however, always a cool guy, promised to bring us oreos and milk, and suddenly Dan Lehn poked his head in with a wild grin on his face, and said, "Oreos!?"

Somehow he had heard us talking as he passed in the hall.

"Not right now," Tallman explained, laughing. "During their final on Saturday."

"Oh. Well I'll just have to come then!" Dr. Lehn said, looking lighthearted as ever.

"It's at 8 am" one of the students confided.

Dan winced. "Gross. On the other hand, maybe not. Good luck!" he said, smiled widely at all of us, and carried on his way.

Dr. Dan Lehn with his grandson, Henry.

Photo courtesy of Jake Vitense.



Obituary

The following is an excerpt from the Cedar Memorial webpage. A full copy can be read on that site.

Daniel Allan Lehn, 58, of North Liberty passed away Tuesday, July 19, 2016 from injuries sustained in a bicycle-automobile accident.

Dan was born in Cincinnati, OH, where he began a lifelong love affair with the Cincinnati Reds.

Dan graduated from Notre Dame Catholic High School in Fairfield and obtained an undergraduate degree in Chemical Engineering

from the University of Connecticut.

Dan worked for a short time as a chemical engineer before he decided to take a pay cut and move into teaching.

Dan worked briefly as a high school math teacher, finding joy in teaching and helping people, but he found his true academic passion when he decided to pursue a Ph.D. in Experimental Social Psychology at Dartmouth College.

Dan proudly wore the Dartmouth gown and floppy befeater headgear at every Coe College graduation ceremony after he was of-

fered a position there as a Professor of Psychology. Dan also recently served as the Associate Dean of Faculty at Coe.

Dan was known to take an interest in those around him, especially his students. Dan was widely regarded as an excellent teacher who invested his time and talent in young people. Dan loved others in a way that was truly remarkable to those who knew him.

Dan loved to stay active and especially enjoyed cycling. Dan died doing an activity he loved.

Dan is survived by his loving wife, Lauri;

children, Jake (Tonya) Vitense and Kelsey Vitense; and was the super proud grandfather of Henry Vitense. Dan is also survived by his mother, Barbara Lehn, and his five brothers, Stephan (Pam) Lehn, David (Jane) Lehn, Gregory (Lori) Lehn, Randolph (Beth) Lehn, and Matthew Lehn.

The bicycle-automobile accident occurred around 6:30 a.m. July 19 on Highway 965 in Johnson County.

As of Wednesday, Iowa State Patrol secretary Molly Kauzlarich said the crash remains under investigation.

Coe resources

A Celebration of Life service is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 30 at 3 p.m. in Sinclair Auditorium.

A reception will follow in Clark Alumni House.

A bulletin board on the Stuart first floor hallway is open for everyone wanting to share a memory. There are notecards, pens and a drop box on the bookcase in the psychology suite.

You can share memories digitally on the

memorial webpage: danlehn.weebly.com

There are campus resources available for anyone looking for additional assistance.

Contact Assistant Director and Counselor Emily Barnard at ebarnard@coe.edu or 319-399-8547, or stop by the Student Development Office in upper Gage. They can put you in contact with St. Luke's Counseling Center.



Dr. Dan Lehn teaches a high school math class.

Photo courtesy of Jake Vitense.