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**Translator turned novelist**

**Lisa McDonald**  
News Editor

On Feb. 24, poet and translator Idra Novey spoke in Perrine Gallery about the newest job she's added to her growing list of careers: novelist. Her first novel, "Ways to Disappear," debuted on Feb. 9 and quickly garnered national attention. In the past, Novey has won awards for her books of poetry and translations, but she noticed a disturbing trend in literary circles that spurred her to enter the field of novel writing.

Novey has worked as a Portuguese-to-English translator for several prominent Brazilian writers. However, she has heard criticism lobbied against translators, accusations that they latch on to authors to profit from the authors' fame, unable to produce original works of their own. But Novey says translators don't latch on for profit but to help share stories with a more diverse audience. Books that portray translators in a positive light are difficult to find, so Novey decided to write one of her own.

Originally, Novey didn't inform anyone of

her project. She says even though peer feedback can be useful, a writer is free to take more risks when they write only for themselves. As such, Novey didn't show anyone her writing until it was almost completed, doing most of the edits by herself. Unlike many novelists, Novey said she had no issues deleting sections that didn't push the plot forward, a process she likened to deleting stanzas from her poems. "A lot of innovative writing takes place not only in genres, but in trying new genres," Novey stated.

The fictional novel follows Portuguese-to-English translator Emma Neufeld as she searches for a missing author for whom she frequently translates. After Novey read a section from her book, questions were taken from the audience. One question posed wanted to know if translators ever got to work with the people whose works they translated. Novey



*Idra Novey reads from her recently published novel in the Perrine Gallery of Stewart Memorial Library. Photo by Lisa McDonald.*

said it can depend on the size of the publishing house, with larger companies usually meaning less contact between translator and author. "Or, if [the author] is dead, it's hard to make a date," Novey joked. She said she has been lucky to be able to work closely with some of the authors she's translated.

Following the event, there were copies of Novey's novel for purchase and a book signing. For those unable to obtain a copy at that time, "Ways to Disappear" is available on Amazon and in the Coe bookstore.

**Lower Gage becomes Intercultural Center**

**Gordie Felger**  
Guest Writer

Coe College now offers a newly-renovated space that every student should get to know.

The Intercultural Center, under the direction of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and managed by a student leadership team, opened recently at lower Gage Memorial Union in the former home of the Writing Center. The entrance to the center is next to the Bookstore.

Director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion Kristin Hutson explained over email that the newly furnished and repainted Intercultural Center "will be managed by students from diverse backgrounds, will host gatherings of student organizations [...] and will seek to be a space for critical and sustained dialogue around issues of

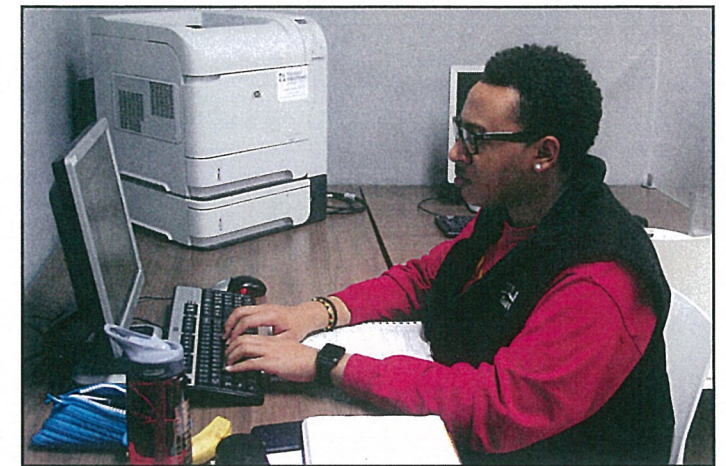
social justice, equity and inclusion."

While a schedule of events has not yet been determined, Hutson imagines the space will host a regular series of cultural, artistic and educational programs.

"This kind of space exists on most campuses, so it was long overdue," Hutson said.

According to Hutson, while the space is open to all students, Coe hopes it will be more than just an all-purpose space. "We really want the folks using it to have this shared vision and focus on diversity, inclusion and internationalization."

Open from 10 a.m. until midnight on weekdays and noon to midnight on weekends, the Intercultural Center includes five public-use computers, a large lounge area, a small study room, an electronic



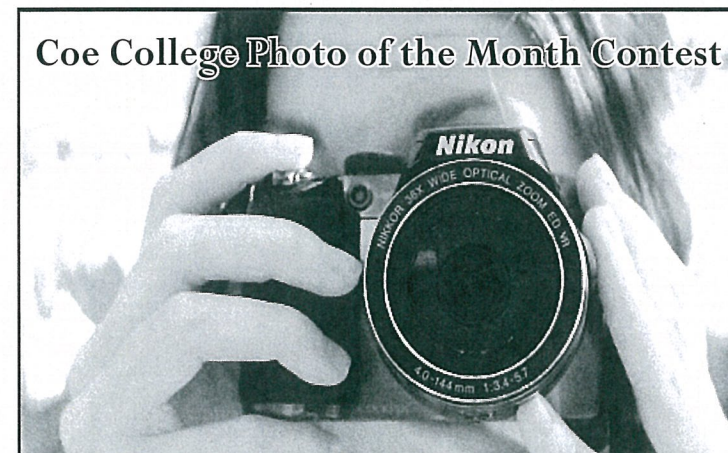
*Tré Cotton works on one of the computers available in the Intercultural Center. Photo by Rachel Deyoe.*

keyboard, and a full kitchen with a dining table. Tré Cotton ('16) has made regular use of the facility since it opened in early March.

"Coming in here, it felt warm, inviting, and it was exciting to be here," he said. "You don't have that feeling that you have to study in this space. You can do more than study. You can watch a movie with your friends, or you

can read a book, or you can come here just to relax. I wish I had this space before. I hope students enjoy it and use it."

The facility may be reserved through the Office of Diversity and Inclusion located in the Student Development suite at Gage Memorial Union. An official grand opening is scheduled for March 23 at 3:30 p.m.



**Coe College Photo of the Month Contest**

One Coe-themed photo will selected from all submissions each month. Multiple submissions accepted. Digital photo resolution minimum of 1800x2400 pixels. Photo must be taken during the month of submission. Submit to ssubanc@coe.edu by the last day of the month. Winning photo will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card and the photo will be printed, framed and hung in the struve Communication Center. Open to current Coe students only.