

Viewpoint

magazine



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CREATORS OF INCREDIBLE FUTURES

cottey.edu

Letters to the Editor

Dear Steve,

I read the Cottey Spring/Summer *Viewpoint* with interest. I was eager to learn how Cottey handled the Covid-19 outbreak, and how the College and its faculty and students responded to the Black Lives Matter movement and other social justice protests these past few months.

I was pleased to see the photo showing collecting masks to be donated to area medical personnel. But why didn't you show anyone wearing a mask? That seems very strange to me. Why not at least show the young woman on the cover wearing a mask.

I was very disappointed to find nothing about Black Lives Matter or any of the other social justice movements in the whole magazine. In reaction to George Floyd's death and that of many others, individuals and institutions around the country are reassessing their actions and philosophy. That includes me, and I would hope it includes Cottey College.

I look forward to reading about programs and initiatives at Cottey to combat systemic racism.

Dorothy McLaughlin Barker
Cottey College 1954

Dear Dorothy McLaughlin Barker,

First, thank you for being a *Viewpoint* reader! It's always gratifying to find others who are interested in hearing what the College has to say. Next, thanks for your thoughtful email of August 6. I always appreciate feedback from our readers; it's the best way to learn what does and doesn't interest them.

You've asked questions on two very important topics of the year: racial justice and the pandemic. In particular, you asked questions on Cottey's specific responses to both of those. I am pleased to answer your questions to the best of my ability.

In relation to both topics, one thing you need to know about the *Viewpoint* magazine is that all of the writing for the summer issue is completed by Memorial Day weekend. The next two weeks are for proofreading and design, and then the magazine goes off to the printer. The printer needs two weeks for printing, folding, collating, stitching, trimming and addressing the individual issues that go into the postal system at the end of June.

George Floyd's death was on May 25, Memorial Day. His death and the subsequent calls for justice occurred after the deadline for *Viewpoint*. However, the College has responded to current events.

In early June, the College posted the following graphic to its social media platforms.

Cottey College is saddened by the recent heartbreaking events that have taken place across the United States. The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and countless others who have been tragically killed show that our country has a long way to go in the fight against racism and injustice.

We stand with and support the rights and freedoms of all of our students, faculty, and staff. We are committed to promoting inclusion and diversity in all of our students and employees and see it as part of our responsibility to educate and prepare future generations. We stand in opposition to racism of any form and will never tolerate it.

We mourn with those who mourn, support those who are oppressed, stand up to those who persecute, and hope for a day when people of all races can stand in unity and peace.

Cottey faculty and staff take equity and justice very seriously and it is integrated in student organizations, campus events, and academic courses. Student organizations include African Student Organization, International Friendship Circle, and Global Citizens. Campus events include Peace Week, the Multicultural Festival, and Martin Luther King Day of Service.

In conjunction with the First-Year Writing Seminar (FWS), the Serenbetz Institute sponsors two events each fall – Women Who Wow and Films for Changemakers. These events are required for FWS students and the Women who Wow event is open to all students, faculty, staff, and the community.

Women Who Wow is an event that features 4-6 panelists who discuss their experience with leading and being a part of social change. Films for Changemakers is an event where students view documentary films relevant to women's leadership, social responsibility, and/or global awareness. Faculty and staff members lead discussions with small groups of students. In the fall, our common reader for all first-year students was *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson.

The following academic courses offered at Cottey reflect our educational commitment to equity and justice:

ANTHROPOLOGY: Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective

CRIMINOLOGY: Violence Towards Women

ENGLISH: Studies in Ethnic Literature

ENGLISH: African American Literature

ENGLISH: Ethnic Women Writers

ENGLISH: Poetry as Protest

HISTORY: Native American History

HISTORY: Asian Civilization

HISTORY: History of Women in the US

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES:

Introduction to African Studies

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: Poverty and Inequality

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP:

Leadership for Social Change

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP:

Leadership and Culture

PSYCHOLOGY: Cross-Cultural

Psychology

PSYCHOLOGY: Diversity: Inclusion, Equality and Equity (Special Topics course)

SOCIOLOGY: Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality

SPANISH: Hispanic Culture and Civilization

SPANISH: The Chicano Experience

SPANISH: Afro-Latina Women Writers

WOMEN, GENDER AND SEXUALITY

STUDIES: Social Justice and Civic Engagement

WOMEN, GENDER AND SEXUALITY

STUDIES: Transnational Feminism

Also due to the *Viewpoint* deadline, the magazine reflected the recommendations of our local health authorities at that time. Although members of the Cottey community now wear masks – as do all campus visitors – at that time it was neither mandated nor recommended. Cottey has consistently complied with health recommendations. To get the most current guidelines on Cottey's COVID-19 plans and regulations, please go the Cottey website and click on the COVID-19 Information and Updates banner or visit <https://cottey.edu/covid-19/>.

Thank you so much for your thoughtful inquiry. Steve

As always, you are welcome to contact me at sreed@cottey.edu.



message from the PRESIDENT

Navigating Successfully

Dear Alumnae,

The fall 2020 term at Cottey College has consisted of many high points, as you will read in this issue of the *Viewpoint*. We have increased enrollment, received recognition from national organizations, modernized and added new amenities to our campus, and demonstrated the ingenuity and creativity for which Cottey is known.

Layered on top of the hustle-bustle of activity that typically occurs on Cottey's campus—the classes; the clubs, organizations, arts and athletics; the excursions; the performances; the social events; and, of course, suite life—was the COVID-19 pandemic and the stress, fears, and anxiety that came along with it for many, as well as the resulting changes brought forth as we strove to keep our students, our employees, and our campus community safe.

In October, I shared a letter that outlined the many steps taken by Cottey to guard the health of all of our campus constituents as we worked as a team to meet the personal and educational needs of our students. I discussed the mask mandate on campus; the daily health assessments required of all employees and students; the changes made to campus to facilitate social distancing; the altered procedures in classrooms, meeting spaces, and Raney Dining Room; and the restructuring within the residence halls to allow space for isolation and quarantine when needed. I discussed the testing that Cottey made available for students, faculty and staff at no cost to them as well as the changes made to the academic calendar.

We've worked hard this semester. Countless hours were spent thinking proactively about what was to come and also innovating and leading the way. At the end of the day, we are grateful. We are grateful for our fellow students, faculty, and staff, who have truly banded together, each doing their part to keep each other safe and care for one another. Despite social distancing, in many ways, we have come closer together as a campus. We are also extremely grateful for the support we have received from so many who are invested in the success of our students and our College. And, when we receive messages like the ones below, we know we have been doing the right things.

From a Board of Trustee member:

This letter brought tears of pride and excitement to my eyes!! THANK YOU for the tenacity, patience, innovation and forward-thinking and loving care at Cottey College! I am proud to serve on Cottey's Board of Trustees!!

From an alumna:

What a wonderful, informative update on Cottey. The faculty, staff and students are to be commended on the way they have handled the pandemic. Cottey should be a model for other institutions. I am so proud to have such forward-thinking individuals at the helm of our college.

From a friend of the College:

What has been accomplished by everyone at Cottey is worth recognition. When these times bring the Cottey Campus the "impossible," everyone working together makes the impossible POSSIBLE.

From a parent:

Thank you, Cottey, for taking such good care of my daughter. I worried about sending her away from home during these trying times; but I know Cottey and I knew she would be safe and well cared for.

From a student:

To the Cottey administration: Thank you! As a junior, I knew Cottey before and after this term. I was worried about my health and I was afraid that I would be bored, with nothing to do. How wrong I was! I think I've been more busy (while also masked and social distancing) than I have ever been! I look forward to returning for the spring term!

Rest assured, dear alumnae, that we are working to care for your alma mater and all of the students and employees. If you would like to read more about the safety measures we have put into place or follow our COVID dashboard (updated twice a week), please go to Cottey.edu and look for the blue banner at the top of the homepage: COVID-19 Information and Updates. I also encourage you to connect with us through our Facebook and Instagram pages for the most up-to-date information.

Best wishes for a glorious 2021.

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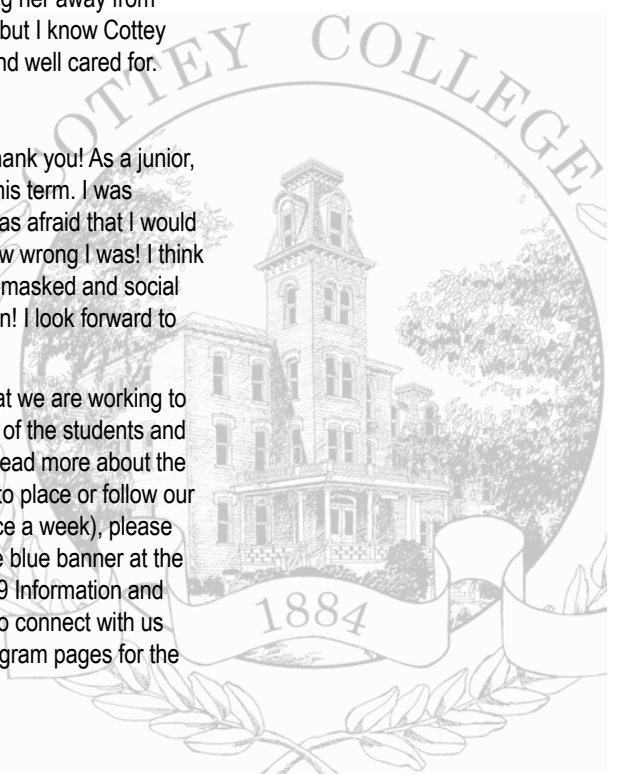
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Innovation, Planning,

One year ago, we first heard about a virus in China, but little did the majority of us know how that would affect all of us. We made our holiday plans; students took finals and returned home; faculty took a break from spring class planning. Cottey continued to plan for the next year and work toward some ambitious goals.

February and March came and the world seemed to turn upside down. The international experience for students was cancelled. Students went home for spring break and did not return to campus. Faculty moved all of their courses to online learning. As all of this happened, Cottey continued to work toward some ambitious goals for the next academic year.



A student checks her temperature at the thermal scanner in Raney Dining Room.

In May, Dr. Jann Weitzel, president of the College, announced that Cottey would return to in-person classes for the fall 2020 semester.

"We know that some things will be out of our control and situations might change, but we are currently planning and directing all our efforts to bringing everyone safely back to campus," Dr. Jann Weitzel said in a communication to students, faculty and staff.

"While education can

happen anywhere, we realize that one of our strengths at Cottey College is creating strong relationships among students, faculty and staff and we feel those relationships are best fostered in-person and on-campus."

Concluding that announcement, Dr. Weitzel added, "If this past semester is any indication of the resilience and incredible people we have at Cottey College, then I know some of our best days are ahead of us."

Although this past semester has looked and felt different from others, Cottey has proven that its best days are indeed ahead. In the last months of 2020, Cottey has had some truly notable achievements. Most notable is the #1 College-Midwest Region ranking by U.S. News & World Report announced in September. (see page 5) The College had been consistently ranked as one of the top institutions in the Midwest, but made the leap from #2 to #1 this year.

While many higher education institutions struggled with enrollment due to the pandemic, Cottey had a 10.5 percent increase in enrollment for the fall. (see page 4) Current metrics indicate that Cottey should see an increase again next year.

During those times when students were off campus, the College found opportunities to advance construction and renovation projects ahead of schedule. In August, the Stock Trading Lab and Esports Arena was opened. (see page 11) In August construction on the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Campus Life began, with an anticipated completion date of March 27, Virginia Alice Cottey's birthday. (see page 9) A renovation of the Library was completed in early fall as well. Cottey created its first cadaver lab. Biology students now get experience that they previously may not have gotten before graduate or medical school. (see page 14)

Even with COVID protocols, two new athletic programs began this year. The esports team had its first competitions in the fall and the flag football team takes the field in the spring.

None of this would have been possible without careful planning, innovation, and hard work. Careful planning included coronavirus protocols established over the summer.

"We are very pleased with how the fall semester has unfolded," says Dr. Landon Adams, vice-president for student life. "We were ahead of our peers in some major decisions. We were among the first institutions in the area to commit to a testing program on campus. We were one of the first to commit to a campus-wide mask mandate.

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Persistence, and Success

We were one of the first to formalize Thanksgiving Break plans, and we were possibly the first local institution to make adjustments to its spring academic calendar. By making these decisions early in the process, we were able to work through details and be nimble enough to respond to any unforeseen challenges quickly."

When students return for the spring semester, Cottey will continue to implement a testing program that includes entry testing for all students, as well as free tests for the ongoing needs of students. The testing program is administered by the College's healthcare provider in conjunction with the institution's testing program. As was the case when students arrived for the fall semester, all students will be tested when they return to campus for the spring semester and testing will be available for all interested faculty and staff.

Increased housekeeping and sanitization efforts related to COVID-19 will continue throughout the academic year. The College has prepared comfortable spaces on campus for students who are required to isolate or quarantine. Access for residence halls is restricted to students with a campus-issued ID card. No outside visitors are permitted to visit the residence halls. Each residence hall has non-touch thermometers available for students to monitor their temperature.

Masks are provided for students, faculty, and staff. Face masks or face coverings must be worn by all students and employees working

on campus in the presence of others and in public settings. P.E.O.s, alumnae and other friends of the College made and donated hundreds of masks for students prior to the opening of the College.

Students, faculty and staff are required to complete a daily health assessment. The College purchased a thermal scanner for the entrance of Raney Dining Room. During lunch service, students have their temperature checked when they enter. Students who are above CDC recommendations for temperature (100.4 degrees) are given a carryout option and are monitored for further symptoms.

This year has certainly given all of us challenges we could have never predicted, and the year is not yet over (as of this writing). However, innovative thinking and detailed planning have helped Cottey thrive during a difficult time. When the pandemic is over and life gets back to some sense of "normal," Cottey will be well positioned to grow and succeed.

For a full listing of Cottey's COVID-19 information, visit cottey.edu/covid-19/.

Editor's note: quotes by Dr. Landon Adams were taken from an article in *The Pitch*, written by Chris Ortiz, adjunct assistant professor of art. The full article may be found online at <https://www.thepitchkc.com/small-colleges-are-handling-a-coronavirus-holiday-season-with-multifaceted-approach/>



Students were given masks at Orientation that were made by P.E.O.s from around the world and shipped to Cottey for the opening of school.

Enrollment Up Over 10 Percent

Cottey College announced in September that student enrollment for the fall 2020 semester has increased by 10.5 percent, compared to last fall's enrollment numbers.

"These increased enrollment numbers demonstrate that more students are seeing the benefit of attending a smaller college and choosing Cottey," said Jann Weitzel, Ph.D., President of Cottey College. "Cottey College is proud of the personal education we offer our students. Our College provides students with many opportunities that students attending larger universities might not receive, including an international travel experience, small class sizes that encourage individualized learning, and leadership development so that these students are prepared both academically and professionally when they graduate."

The increase comes from growth in first-year students, an increased effort in retaining students, and more student-athletes. First year class enrollment grew by more than 25 percent. Retention of first time students enrolled at Cottey in 2019 saw an increase of 6.25 percent, for a 75 percent retention rate. The percentage of student-athletes on campus also increased by 5.9 percent; they now make up 29.7 percent of the total student body.

"These enrollment numbers reflect a campus-wide effort to grow the number of excellent students we serve at Cottey," said Weitzel. "Our entire staff and faculty have worked tirelessly to help students become a part of this institution. Cottey has a lot of positive momentum right now, with new offerings for our students including a new Stock Trading lab and esports arena and a newly-renovated Library. The growth in enrollment is just another indicator of the many great things happening here."

"Seeing an increase like this takes everyone believing in a common goal," said Dave Heringer, vice president of enrollment management and marketing. "I am so proud of the work the College, and specifically our enrollment team, has put in to achieve this goal. We plan to continue our aggressive pursuit of new students who would be a great fit at Cottey. We know that Cottey offers an outstanding educational experience at an affordable cost, and we are continuing to broadcast that message everywhere we can."

Cottey's enrollment figures come from the College's tenth-day enrollment report to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Tenth-day enrollment reports are the nationally-accepted standard for tracking university and college enrollments every semester.

Cottey First in Student/Faculty Ratio



In August 2020, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* listed the colleges with the highest ratio of full-time-equivalent student per tenured or tenure-track professor in 2017-18. Cottey College was ranked number one among four-year private nonprofit institutions, ahead of prestigious institutions like Yale University, the California Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins University, and Duke University.

"These numbers reflect the quality academic instruction that students will receive when they attend Cottey. Students at Cottey are more likely to be taught by qualified professors with a terminal degree than at any other private institution in the country. This is a huge learning advantage for Cottey students," said Dr. Jann Weitzel, President of Cottey College. "Many other colleges and universities use large numbers of graduate teaching assistants or adjunct (part-time) faculty to teach their classes."

"This is another measure of the quality of a Cottey education," said David Heringer, vice president for enrollment management. "We're annually ranked highly by *U.S. News & World Report* and other agencies, and this recent announcement confirms what we already know. Students at Cottey College

receive a top-notch academic experience that is personalized to them."

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* article is available online at <https://www.chronicle.com/article/colleges-with-the-fewest-full-time-equivalent-students-per-tenured-or-tenure-track-professor-2017-18>

Cottey is the Best College in the Midwest Region!

In September, *U.S. News & World Report* announced that Cottey College is ranked #1 among its 2021 Best Regional Colleges. In total, 76 colleges were ranked from 12 states comprising the Midwest region.

Cottey was ranked in four additional categories in the Midwest region from *U.S. News & World Report*.

Cottey is ranked #1 among Best Value Schools, #3 in Social Mobility, #4 in Schools with Largest Proportion of International Students, and #6 in Lowest Student Debt Load at Graduation.

"We are again pleased and honored to be recognized by the *U.S. News & World Report* for the outstanding education and opportunities that our College offers to our students. We find it especially noteworthy that Cottey is ranked as a top college in the Midwest for the fifth consecutive year, this year as #1!" said Jann Weitzel, Ph.D., president of Cottey College.

Rankings by respected organizations such as *U.S. News & World Report* can provide college-bound students and their parents with valuable information to compare merits of different education programs. According to their website, *U.S. News & World Report* uses 50 different types of numerical rankings and lists to help students narrow their college search.

Colleges ranked in the Best Regional College category focus almost entirely on the undergraduate experience and offer a broad range of programs in the liberal arts in fields such as business, education, the sciences and humanities. Regional colleges include both public and private institutions.

Colleges ranked in the Best Value College category take into account a college's academic quality based on its *U.S. News Best Colleges* ranking and the 2019-20 net cost of attendance for a student who received the average level of need-based financial aid.

The Lowest Student Debt Load at Graduation ranking indicates the median amount of debt for 2018 baccalaureate graduates. The data includes loans borrowed by students from the federal government.

Cottey's commitment to international diversity (13%) earned the college a #4 ranking as College with the Largest Proportion of International Students.

The Social Mobility ranking is an indication of how well colleges graduated students who received federal Pell Grants.

These students typically come from households whose family incomes are less than \$50,000 annually, though most Pell Grant money goes to students with a total family income below \$20,000. For the reporting period, 64% of Cottey's entering class were Pell Grant recipients. Rankings assist students and their parents/guardians in differentiating among colleges by providing information about institutional quality," said Dr. Weitzel. "Our institution's commitment to student success is illustrated by these measurements that include small class sizes, strong retention and graduation rates, a low student to faculty ratio, and the percentage of full-time, terminally-qualified faculty leading students in the classroom. These critical markers, and others, are part of students' decision processes when choosing the college that will best meet their academic needs as they plan toward their future."

"In addition, the rankings help with name recognition. There are people who will see these rankings who might not have heard of Cottey otherwise," Dr. Weitzel added.

Cottey is one of five schools in Missouri to be ranked in the top 50 as a Best Regional College and the only women's college included in the Midwest rankings. The rankings are available online at usnews.com/colleges.

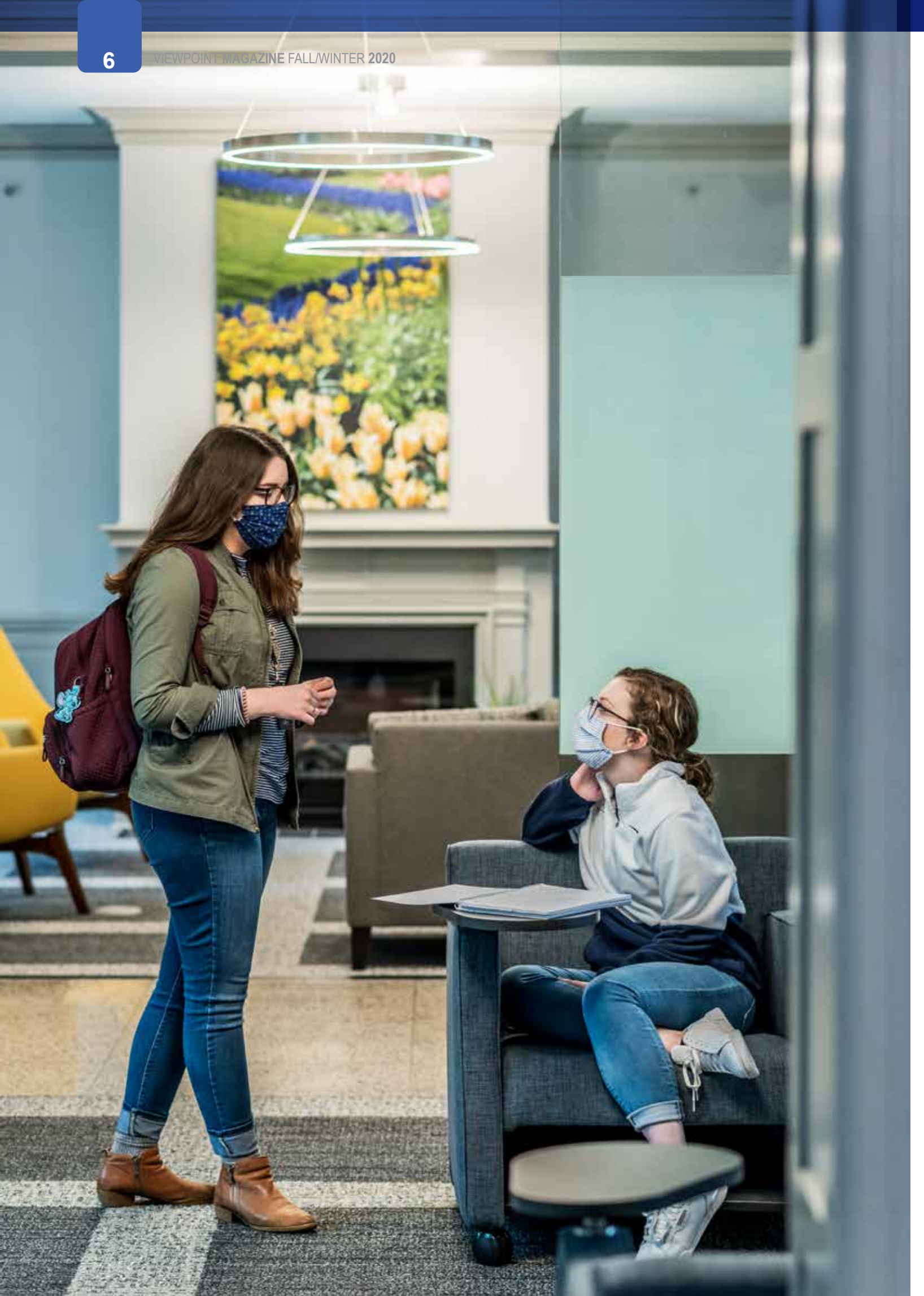
Among the criteria on which *U.S. News & World Report* bases its rankings are the following: retention, assessment by peers and counselors, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, graduation rate performance, and alumni giving rate.

"I am extremely proud of our College, our talented students, and our outstanding faculty and staff members," said Dr. Weitzel. "These rankings are a testament to the dedication and hard work of our faculty and staff who guide our students as they create their incredible futures."

**YOU MAKE
INCREDIBLE
POSSIBLE!**

- #1 College in the Midwest
- 10% enrollment growth
- New construction projects





Stories matter

Writing Our Own Stories

by Steve Reed
Editor

Long-time readers of the *Viewpoint* know Donald Miller is one of my favorite authors. Miller's best-sellers *Blue Like Jazz*, *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years*, and *Scary Close* resonate with me. I follow him on social media and receive his emails offering various programs for sale. Today (mid-November) I received an email that opened with these words.

"Nearly three decades ago I stood in front of a mirror and realized my life was out of control. I was ridiculously overweight, poor as a piggy bank and hadn't had a girlfriend in years.

I'd lost the plot of my own story.

I'd made the mistake of thinking that fate had dealt me a bad hand, and I was stuck with it.

*I didn't know then what I know now:
Fate is a terrible writer.*

Fate provides the elements of a story. Some are good. Some, not so much. But fate doesn't write the story for you. Asking fate to write your story is like asking a windstorm to build a house.

We each have to write our own stories."

Fate deals us some terrible hands, like a global pandemic, and Fate **IS** a terrible author. Cottey, like every other higher education institution in the country—if not the world—had to come to terms with the lousy hand Fate had dealt. Fortunately, the faculty, staff, and administration at Cottey College chose to take authorship of the story.

Creativity, innovation, and good old-fashioned perseverance have led Cottey to an amazingly successful start to the academic year, despite the obstacles Fate has put in the path. If you

hadn't heard, Cottey was named the #1 College in the Midwest Region by *U.S. News & World Report*. Cottey was also ranked #1 in Best Value Colleges, #3 in Social Mobility, #4 in Schools with Largest Proportion of International Students, and #6 in Lowest Student Debt Load at Graduation.

Cottey was also ranked number one among four-year private nonprofit institutions with the highest ratio of full-time-equivalent student per tenured or tenure-track professor in 2017-18 by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

That alone is worth celebrating, but in a year when many colleges and universities are struggling to meet enrollment, Cottey saw a 10 percent increase in enrollment this year, and metrics for the next academic year indicate Cottey is on track for growth next fall as well.

"Fate is like a strange, unpopular restaurant filled with odd little waiters who bring you things you never asked for and don't always like."

— Lemony Snicket

The College has an innovation fund that allows faculty to be creative in offering new courses to enhance their programs. The innovation fund allowed Dr. Jason Librande, visiting assistant professor of biology, to create a cadaver lab on campus for anatomy and physiology students to do work they may not have encountered outside of graduate or medical school had they not chosen to attend Cottey. This lab provides a great opportunity for students interested in the biomedical and health sciences field.

The Stock Trading Lab opened in August and the library first floor renovation was completed. Both are marvelous spaces that enhance the academic program of the College. And, of course, work continues apace on the Susan Bulkeley Butler

Center for Campus Life in the lower level of the Chapel. This project will connect the Spirit Shop (currently known as the Bookstore), the Chellie Club, and gathering spaces into one central location. This will make our beautiful campus even more appealing to current and prospective students. By adding air conditioning to the upper level, Cottey will now be able to offer additional programming in the Chapel and perhaps become a wedding destination for Cottey alumnae!

As part of the property purchase, announced in the summer issue of the *Viewpoint*, townhomes are now used as housing by third- and fourth-year students. By next semester the new Health and Wellness Center will be open on the west end of campus.

Our esports team began competition this fall, and the flag football team takes the field in the spring semester.

None of these "stories" were written by Fate. They were all crafted by people at Cottey College who believe in the mission and vision of the institution. These stories came to life because of alumnae and friends like you who supported the mission and vision with your gifts.

The pandemic is terrible and we all mourn our own losses this past year. But in this season of thanks, at Cottey we remember the indomitable spirit of Virginia Alice Cottey and how that same drive lives in the people at the College who refuse to let Fate be this institution's author. As you read the stories in this issue, I hope you share the same sense of pride in this institution that I have.

Dear friends, stay well and courageous. We will see each other in the New Year and author even grander stories.

Top photo by Suzy Hazelwood from Pexels



A Groundbreaking Year!

By Christi Fulton Ellis, '96
Director of Advancement and Alumnae Relations

It was a day that was 18 months in the making. In early 2019, a cadre of BILs, P.E.O.s, alumnae, and staff joined forces in an initiative to create a new student center on the campus of Cottey College. The fruits of their labor were on display on August 18 when the Cottey community came together to celebrate groundbreaking of the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Campus Life! Faculty, staff, and students who were back on campus to begin the fall semester were able to witness Cottey president Dr. Jann Weitzel demonstrate her skills on the excavator. Dr. Weitzel was later joined by Cottey trustee and BIL Co-Chair, Jim Bickel; Cottey staff members, Sherri Taylor and Christi Ellis from the Office of Institutional Advancement; TJ Tubbs, vice president for administration and finance; and architect and Cottey alumna, Amy Eckhoff, in the traditional gold shovel dig.

The food, music, and yard games provided a hint of the fun and fellowship that will be the norm when the Center opens in spring 2021. When students left for spring break in March, no one knew

it would be six months before we would be together again. The festivities of the day, the laughter and the joy of those in attendance (all while masked and socially distanced), confirmed the importance of the incredible connections that are the very foundation of a Cottey experience.

Since the groundbreaking, the sounds of construction can be heard daily and this new space is quickly taking shape. As of press time, the lower level of the basement has been gutted and reframed, and drywall has been hung. The spaces for the Spirit Shop and the Chellie Club are defined as electrical and plumbing are almost complete. The concrete floors are being polished in preparation for finish work.

Outside the Chapel, a lot of ground has been moved and a lot of concrete has been poured as the construction and landscaping for the terraces on the east side and the patio on the west side are underway. These outdoor spaces will not only create wonderful gathering spaces, but when completed, they will make the lower level of the Chapel accessible to all.

See Student Center, page 10



Dr. Jann Weitzel, president of the College, shows her skill with an excavator as she kicks off the construction of the campus center.



Student Center, from page 9

Excitement on campus is building and plans for the official dedication are underway. Mark your calendars; the dedication will take place on Virginia Alice Cottey's birthday, March 27, 2021, during Founder's Day activities. Due to COVID and out of concern for the health and safety of alumnae and donors, as well as the campus community, the format of the big celebration is shifting. Though all the details are not yet finalized, plans will include virtual options that will allow everyone who has supported this initiative to participate in the festivities! Keep your eyes on social media and your inbox for the invitation to celebrate the dedication of the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Campus Life virtually.

With construction funds in place, efforts are now underway to raise an additional \$300,000 for an endowment to maintain this beautiful facility. To make your gift online, visit the website at cottey.edu/connect; email the Office of Institutional Advancement at advancement@cottey.edu; or call the office 417-667-8181, ext. 2120.



Top left: The East Patio concrete work is substantially finished in this image. This photo is from December 22, 2020.

Photo left: The West Terraces have the drainage, base, and retaining wall in place. This photo is from December 22, 2020.

Below: The Spirit Shop (formerly known as the Bookstore) is framed, drywalled and has much of the electrical work completed as well. This photo is from late December 2020.



Stock Trading Lab Opens Strong

by **Randon Coffey**
Director of Marketing

This fall marked the first semester of Cottey students being able to utilize the new Stock Trading Lab on campus. With its opening, Cottey became the first women's college in the country to feature such a space. The room houses 16 state-of-the-art computer stations, an LED stock ticker tape, and large monitors for use by students and faculty.

give reasoning and do research on the organizations before they purchase stocks... then they are able to see those funds compared to each other and evaluate results." Currently the group has eleven students meeting up at 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday nights.

While the space is used for business classes, it also doubles as the esports arena, causing it to be one of the most used spaces on campus. "We had to post a wall calendar for scheduling the space, because between esports students and students using it for



Prior to the creation of this lab business students didn't have a place that they could call their own. "I feel like they have ownership of this space," said Dr. Tammy Ogren, assistant professor of business-management. "I also was pleasantly surprised at the large number of students interested in actually investing and asking when they will be able to start using this space for investment purposes."

This semester a group of students began meeting in the space outside of class time and doing research on investment opportunities. "They are not all business students and some of those who are business students haven't yet taken financial management courses," said Dr. Ogren "The students have accounts through simulated software with funds of \$50,000 each. They have to

investment trading it was very busy," said Dr. Ogren. "Both groups of students feel ownership and pride in that space."

Looking ahead, Dr. Ogren is very excited for the future of the lab and growing the business department offerings. In the coming months, the department is planning to launch a finance minor and a business minor that students from any discipline can pursue. "Every industry involves an organization that has a revenue model," said Dr. Ogren. "All of those very basic functional areas of business apply, no matter where you're working when you leave college, whether it's a small business you started yourself, a large corporation, or a nonprofit organization. A business minor is an added benefit for anybody in any industry."

On the Grand Opening of the Stock Trading Lab

By Dominica Chavez
Senior Business-Management Major

Every day, millions of students walk through the doors of an educational institution. Many of these students will easily go on to fulfill their childhood dreams and earn a degree, often made



Dominica Chavez

possible by an opportunity to become more either by choice, or by chance. However, some students will finish their degree and leave without the necessary skills and experience to excel. They could advance through college without ever being noticed, discovered, or recreated by the education that they seek.

This is not true for students of Cottey College. The strength and power of a Cottey education comes about from the unique, unmatched, and learned experiences that allow for self-discovery, growth, and adequate preparation. There's no denying that here at Cottey, the faculty know your name and are committed to ensuring that you leave prepared to tackle any challenge that you may face. As a former Project Lead of Chellie Club: An Entrepreneurial Lab, I can confirm the invaluable real-world business experience I gained by having the opportunity to learn first-hand what it takes to run and manage a business. Instead of being just an average student, I was discovered through an opportunity that has helped prepare me to bring real business ideas to life.

The introduction of the stock trading lab and e-sports arena is undeniably historic. This facility has just opened the door for future traders, financial analysts, and investment bankers. I can't help but wonder, who it will impact and who it will discover?

Employment statistics suggest that only 28 percent of American women invest in the stock market and the representation of women in trading roles is even fewer than that at 12 percent. Today, this new teaching and learning facility confirms that we are ready to transform this representation and most importantly, aid in self-discovery. From this moment forward, a Cottey business student will not only be prepared, but will possess the necessary skills to be competitive in the global workforce.

Student Investment Group Formed

Ten women participated in "Her Investment House" this fall, investing \$50,000 each in a simulated environment. They compare results from their individual funds and a group fund they collaborate to invest. Rimsa Upreti, a third-year student, finished an internship to research the software, recruit students, and develop a program to start using the stock trading lab this fall. The focus has been on learning various investment philosophies and making research-based decisions. They met weekly Tuesdays at 9 p.m. and will continue monitoring their portfolios over break and through the spring. Participants include Eden Bisetegn, Chido Shamuyarira, Lucy Wambua, Georgia Phillips, Magdalene Asare, Maria Olvera, Evelyn Munufieh, Emma Notick, Rocio Chuta, and Rimsa Upreti.



First Semester of Esports

by **Randon Coffey**
Director of Marketing

It has been one year since the esports program was officially launched at Cottey College. In that time the program has hired a full time coach, built a dedicated esports gaming facility, recruited student athletes, practiced, and competed against colleges from across the country—all in the midst of a pandemic. We sat down with Head Coach Bovey Zhang for a conversation about what this past year has been like for him and the program and what the future holds.

Q: Describe the past year and the process of building this program?

A: It's been fun. Just seeing so many students jumping in and wanting to be involved. Building something from scratch and seeing where it is now has been a surreal experience. It's been hard, it's been fun and it's now progressing towards an exciting future.

Q: What are some of the challenges that you've had to overcome to get to this point?

A: The biggest thing is teaching students. I am teaching them how to game. I had to figure out for those athletes who are beginning their gaming careers, how to teach them to excel at playing these games. I also had to overcome people not familiar with the specific games in which we are competing, or coming to a PC from a video game console. But these students are so smart, and they were able to pick things up quickly and really enjoy it.

Q: What are you most proud of so far?

A: I'm most proud that students are becoming so passionate about esports in general. Last week, we didn't even talk about the games themselves. We talked about esports and the business side of it. It's exciting to see so many students say, "This is something that I really want to do. This is something I can see myself wanting to do in the future." I love seeing where the students are coming from and where they are wanting to go in this industry. I think it's just awesome.

Q: You have an incredible arena in which to play and practice. How important is the facility for the program?

A: The students really love this facility. Every single day there's a student here either playing a game or bringing in some friends to teach them about esports and talk about becoming part of the team. We've actually had a few students join and get involved through word of mouth. Compared to most of our competitors this facility is really strong. I've heard a lot of schools say they have

some old computers they play on. With this facility we are able to bring in new students and show them that not only is our program and College great, but we also have an amazing arena to play in.



Q: The team has competed quite a bit already and won some matches. How would you describe those early competitions for the team?

A: At first, it was very nerve-racking. We had only practiced for about a week before our first competition. So it was a little overwhelming for the team, but once we started doing it the students learned quickly. They started to get better and better and eventually felt more prepared and ready to compete. After that I think it got more fun for everyone. One cool aspect in forming a new team is seeing the leaders rise up from the group. To watch those students start motivating their teammates saying, "Hey, we can do this, we got this." That experience has been special for the students and for me.

Q: What do the next few months and beyond hold for the team?

A: Long-term I'd like to build a JV program. There are a lot of students out there who want to learn about gaming and esports, but don't really have a high enough skill level where they can compete at the college level right now. So I'd like to build a program where we can teach people how to play games, teach them about the industry, and teach them about all the gaming in esports. Then we could continue to build the varsity program where students can begin focusing on one game and being able to compete under the College's name.

Cottey Cadaver Lab Provides

by **Steve Reed**
Editor

When colleges talk of innovation, often that discussion is focused on new technology such as faster computers, distance learning, or holographic optics. Sometimes, however, innovation is introducing students to an older practice to which they might not currently have access. At Cottey, innovation led to the creation of the College's first cadaver lab. In fact, Cottey's Innovation Fund helped fund this new space. (see sidebar)

Dr. Jason Librande, visiting assistant professor of biology, was the faculty member who proposed the cadaver lab. What was his motivation?

"The United States has an aging population that will one day need comprehensive medical care," said Librande. "To rise to this occasion, more healthcare professionals need to be trained, and one way this can be accomplished is by inspiring and educating our students at Cottey. The cadaver lab at Cottey College accomplishes both of these aims. This is not to dismiss the tremendous benefit this lab provides to students within biology and other disciplines. The lab enriches the educational experiences of numerous students even if they don't plan to pursue a healthcare career."

Working on cadavers offers many learning opportunities not available through textbooks, videos, or software virtual dissections. A 2016 article in *National Geographic*, *The Secret Lives of Cadavers*, outlined the benefits of cadaver study.

Cadavers allow doctors to practice on patients who don't feel pain. They help surgeons develop new procedures without risking lives. Dentists dissect their heads and torsos, and physical therapists study their musculoskeletal systems. Pharmaceutical companies test drugs on them, and automakers employ them as crash-test dummies. At the University of Tennessee's Forensic Anthropology Center—nicknamed "the Body Farm"—CSI teams learn how corpses decompose over time. But the majority of cadavers teach.¹

Although exact numbers are hard to find, most cadaver labs are attached to universities with medical schools and/or large biology departments, generally not to small baccalaureate institutions.

"Beyond even that, undergraduates participating in the dissection experience is extremely rare," explained Librande. "The cadaver lab at Cottey College brings what is an extremely unique experience directly to our students, [one that] is not obtainable at many comparable institutions. The cadaver lab at Cottey College is truly special."

"As students respond to economic demands, and spots in healthcare programs start becoming even more competitive, this program at Cottey will be one key in differentiating our preparatory coursework. Students can complete biology, chemistry, and other prerequisites at numerous other institutions, but Cottey will be one of the few that allow students to dissect cadavers. In turn, our biology and health science programs will have another point of prestige that makes us

especially suited for preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals."

The classes currently using the cadaver lab are special topic courses BIO 391 and 392 (Cadaver Dissection & Prosecution I and II). Students in the Anatomy and Physiology courses have been invited to view the cadavers. A total of around 20 students have used the lab this semester. Librande sees an expanded use for the lab in spring 2021.

"We will be having students from other disciplines view the cadavers. Music, for example, will be coming to view the larynx ("voice-box") and lungs. Art has also expressed interest in having sculpture and drawing students view the cadavers as well. I am working with many other faculty and disciplines to find ways in which the cadavers can serve to benefit their students and curriculum," said Librande.

Cottey students who are able to learn in the cadaver lab have a definite advantage should they pursue a health care career.

"The human body is the source of enormous amounts of anatomical variation. While we see some of that externally, internally it is equally varied. In turn, no textbook image, anatomical model, computer simulation, or other source of information can quite capture this," said Librande. "Students quickly take to this once they realize what they have learned in other courses does not match up one-to-one with what they see for the cadaver. This is an important lesson to learn as an undergraduate since it brings to light the diversity of life, not just for humans, but for every living creature on earth."

"While education is the most important advantage to undergraduates using cadavers, I cannot deny that it helps to bolster career outlooks. Medical students are often told that the cadaver is their "first patient" as a means to drive home that they should treat the cadaver with respect. At Cottey College, dissection students get their first patient early. This means that as they apply for medical



Dr. Jason Librande

Human Learning Experiences

school and other professional programs they will have something special to write about in their personal statements or to discuss during interviews.”

Student Mariana Middents found the experience invaluable.

“When I heard we were going to have a cadaver lab at Cottey, I knew I couldn’t pass up the opportunity! As a second-year [student], this isn’t the kind of thing I would have the chance to do at a larger school,” said Middents. “Being able to get hands-on experience was so meaningful to me. I learned so much through observation and experience, and I was able to apply my knowledge to my other biology classes. Overall, I cannot understate how grateful I am for the gift of knowledge these donors have given us.”

¹ The Secret Lives of Cadavers, Matt McCall, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2016/07/body-donation-cadavers-anatomy-medical-education/>



Mariana Middents

Be Creative; The Cottey Innovation Fund

“For of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: ‘It might have been.’”

~John Greenleaf Whittier

We’ve all had that moment when a fantastic idea pops into our head. We just KNOW it will be incredible, maybe even a real game changer. We get excited about the idea and draft a couple of sentences about it, maybe we doodle a small sketch if it is for something mechanical, and then show it to a friend or professional colleague.

“Yeah, that’s really cool,” they say. “How the heck are you going to pay for that though? No one is giving away free equipment and software, you know.”

Crestfallen, we take the doodle and the notepad with the couple of sentences, and stick them in a desk drawer never to be seen again. But what if there were a source of funding for really innovative ideas? What if you were encouraged to pursue groundbreaking programs and research?

At Cottey College, no one wants to see good ideas stuck in a drawer, and that is why the Cottey College Board of Trustees created an Innovation Fund to encourage higher thinking and creative engagement for the College.

The purpose of the fund (as stated in the application): is to recognize that “good ideas can come from anywhere, but resources are needed in order to implement them. The Innovation Fund is designed to provide seed money for innovative ideas that will generate lasting benefits for Cottey College in terms of an improved reputation, an enhanced student experience, increased recruitment and retention, long-term efficiencies, or similar outcomes.”

The Innovation Fund can be used for the following:

- New technologies, or new uses for existing technologies
- Pilot projects for untested innovative projects or programs
- Innovative projects or programs that have proved successful at other institutions to be evaluated in the Cottey College environment.
- The projects funded should foster lasting and impactful benefits for the College.

Even better, the fund is not limited to faculty alone. In fact any current faculty, staff or student may submit a proposal for the Innovation Fund. Collaborative efforts are encouraged, and students are encouraged to partner with a faculty or staff member.

At Cottey, good ideas are taken out of the desk drawer and given opportunities to flourish. That in itself is pretty innovative in higher education.

Respect, Dignity and Humanity

by Steve Reed
Editor

Many readers will find the article about Cottey's cadaver lab fascinating and a few may be a little less thrilled with the idea of dead bodies. Most would share a concern, however, about the potential objectification of what once was a living, thinking, feeling person. Cottey has steps in place to make sure that students understand to treat the cadavers with respect.

"Before students even see one of the cadavers, we discuss the nature of dissection. From the first day of class then, it is my duty to help my students maintain respect for the cadaver by following one major tenant: humanization," said Jason Librande, visiting professor of biology.

"One coping mechanism for working with cadavers is to dehumanize and objectify the body; if it is simply an object then we do not have to handle the large questions surrounding death, dying, and mortality. Furthermore, if the experience is objective and apathetic, then one can completely divorce oneself from the dissection. By beginning to talk about these issues the first day, we can start addressing them. For example, we watch a video titled *Donated to Science* that shows the lives of body donors before their passing and the work the medical students do after. This experience starts to create a sense of humanity in my students. We then spend some time observing the cadaver, and eventually decide on a name. While this might appear to some as a derogatory practice, to give someone a name like we do a pet, it ensures, again, that we are treating the cadaver as a human. The alternative would be to use a number which strays further away from the ideal.

"Developing a sense of humanity also includes things that happen before and after the semester. I have purposefully designed the cadaver dissection courses such that there are no exams. Students choose their own dissection project, and these can range from straight-forward to complex. An example of the former may be a dissection of abdominal muscles. And of the latter, could be the removal of the cranium to expose the brain. Both of these were done this fall semester, and demonstrate the range of projects my

students undertook. The end result of this curriculum is that students can choose a project that matches how comfortable they are with the cadaver. There is no demand to memorize 100 different veins and arteries, or every muscle of the forearm. Students can breathe and process their emotions and feelings

rather than resorting to apathy and objectification. Similarly, at the end of spring semester, students from all classes who have used or seen the cadaver will be invited to attend a 'cadaver memorial.'

"Students in the cadaver dissection courses will prepare an art project (e.g. sculpture, poem, song, etc.) as a means to celebrate the cadaver's life, and to thank them for what they have helped us learn. This is really meant to be the final send off and serves as a reminder to all that someone has willingly given up their body to help us learn. In return for this gift, we should (and will) treat them with respect, dignity, and humanity."



Photo by Ashford Marx from Pexels

THE COLLEGE WAS NOTIFIED OF THE FOLLOWING ALUMNAE DEATHS

Georgia Johnson Chandler	1946	Beverly Frazier Faubion	1955
Margaret Hamilton Crisp	1947	Ann Eno Holm	1956
Mary Steele Mastain	1947	Ruby Wanland	1957
Helen Kirkpatrick Latson	1948	Sharon Heimendinger Hines	1958
Donna Duskin Hetherington	1948	Mary Hart Hutchinson	1960
Bobby Knoll James	1948	Judith Williams Ridley	1962
Clara Blodgett Makoski	1949	Pamela Schneckloth Johnson	1964
Barbara Blue	1950	Carol Beemer Schlim	1968
Betty Williams Story	1950	Denise Botteron Bauer	1972
Shirley Stowers Yoder	1951	Ann Pardew Peck	1976
Patricia Orcutt Horton	1951	Shelly Eglund	1979
Jeanne Wunsch June	1953	Natalie Carey	1980
Janice Lindley Templer	1955	Sarah Chase	2008, 2013



Ross Library Gets a Makeover

At the same time construction of the Stock Trading Lab was taking place, the Blanche Skiff Ross Memorial Library was getting a facelift (along with some needed work on the HVAC systems) thanks to a generous estate gift. Left, students enjoy the new welcoming surroundings. Below are two photos of the north side of the main floor taken three months apart. The top photo was taken in June and the bottom photo was taken in September.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SAVE THE DATE!

It's Founder's For All! March 26-28, 2021

Thank you to those who responded to our survey. Your opinions were extremely valuable and were considered thoughtfully in making the decision to celebrate Founder's Day Weekend virtually. Stay tuned for how you can get involved and celebrate our founder, Virginia Alice Cottey Stockard, connect with alumnae across the globe, and view the dedication of the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Campus Life LIVE!

Registration will open, Wednesday January 13- Registration is **FREE!**

Why register? It will help streamline the communication for those who want to participate, rather than sending out multiple email blasts to those who have already registered.

The first 300 early bird registrants will have the opportunity to purchase a Founder's Fun box, full of Cottey swag and activities designed to enhance the virtual Founder's experience. Early bird registration will close February 24.

Activities include

- Class reunions
- Chapel service
- Walk/Run
- Alumnae awards
- Residence hall tours
- Campus tour
- Cottey trivia
- Cottey at home scavenger hunt
- Campus Center dedication
- Pop-up shop, and more!

Some activities will be live and will be recorded to view later; others will be pre-recorded. Announcements will be made on social media, the Cottey website, and email as more details are determined. For questions, or to register by phone, contact the Office of Alumnae Relations at 417-667-8181, ext. 2122.



Founder's 2021 logo designed by **Tamara Burkhead '95**

The Alumnae Referral Challenge is On!

By Randi LeGendre Turk, '68
CCAA Secretary

Chances are . . . somebody told you about Cottey.
Chances are . . . your first thought was, "A girl's school? Me?"
Chances are . . . that somebody said, "Give it a look," and started talking to you about all the possibilities Cottey had to offer you.

Now it's your turn to be that somebody.

As a high school teacher, now retired, I had the luxury of being that somebody for girls I knew would love Cottey. But my biggest "Ah ha!" moment happened serendipitously, when at lunch I sat next to one of my school's counselors. "Tell me about Cottey. One of your students came by my office looking for information."

Let me tell you about Cottey.

By the time the bell rang, I had sold a high school counselor on the

value of Cottey. As the year progressed, girls I didn't know came by my room saying, "My counselor told me to talk to you about Cottey."

Chances are . . . you may not know a high school girl or counselor, but you know someone who does. Talk about Cottey, find that young woman, and be the somebody who introduces her to all that Cottey has to offer.

Not sure if she's interested in a women's college? Don't make that decision for her. Tell her to check out Cottey's website, and Cottey on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, and Pinterest. Cottey is everywhere she is.

Chances are . . . if you become that somebody, you will change a young woman's life.

To refer a young woman, go to cottey.edu/referralchallenge

The Challenge is on!

For each prospective student you as an alumna refer to Cottey, you will be entered to win a \$100 gift certificate to the Cottey Bookstore. The more referrals you submit, the more chances you will have to win. Students must be in the 9th grade or higher during the current academic year and genuinely interested in learning more about Cottey. Alumnae should submit their referrals online at www.cottey.edu/referstudent and be sure to include their class year. The challenge runs from October 1–March 20, 2021.

The winner will be announced on Virginia Alice Cottey's birthday, March 27, at Founder's Weekend during the homecoming celebration and via Facebook. The Cottey class with the most referrals will win the right to own the Golden Duck for a year.

Right: Izzabella from Washington state shared her excitement on being accepted to Cottey College. You can help more students like Izzabella learn about Cottey College.



Cottey College Alumnae Clubs



Cottey College Alumnae Clubs offer alumnae an incredible and meaningful way to stay connected with their dear old Cottey C where they live. Through these clubs, alumnae join together locally to renew friendships and support Cottey's mission, as well as its current and prospective students. Celebrate "Cotteyhood," the special world inhabited by Cottey alumnae, in your back yard or nearest Zoom screen with Cottey College Alumnae Club members in your area.

READY TO START A COTTEY COLLEGE ALUMNAE CLUB IN YOUR AREA?

Send an email to alumnae@cottey.edu, cc'ing Mary Beaty Edelen '65, Cottey College Alumnae Club Chair, at medelen44@hotmail.com. Identify your preferred geographical location and a co-lead, if you have one in mind.

ALREADY A COTTEY COLLEGE ALUMNAE CLUB MEMBER?

Share a summary and pictures of a recent event on the Cottey College Alumnae Facebook page.

WANT TO CONNECT TO AN EXISTING COTTEY COLLEGE ALUMNAE CLUB?

Send an email to alumnae@cottey.edu mentioning your preferred geographical location.

FLEX ~ CONNECT ~ INCLUDE

By The CCAA Board of Directors

You know the adage: if the plan doesn't work, change the plan, but never the goal. Even before the fiscal year began, the Cottey College Alumnae Association (CCAA) Board of Directors made a plan (A), changed the plan and made a new plan (B), then changed that new plan to make a new, new plan (C). But, the CCAA Board of Directors never changed its goal; to facilitate and promote activities and events that will encourage the interests of Cottey College, its students, and its alumnae.

It was at this time the Board's theme for 2020-2021 was born: **FLEX ~ CONNECT ~INCLUDE**. We deftly pivoted, but, at the time, could not have imagined the riches our change of tack would uncover. This one "**FLEX**" allowed the Board of Directors to reach a key constituency, current Cottey students, in key new ways.

Welcome Letters

What started as an alumna welcome letter to a Cottey student has blossomed into an e-sisterhood! **Mallori DeSalle '99** and first-year student **Chloe Bollin** met via the CCAA's Welcome-a-Student **CONNECT**ion campaign where alumnae were invited to write letters to welcome each and every Cottey student. The communication didn't stop with the one-way mail. Instead, in many cases the letter sparked a connection that is developing into a lasting friendship. "We email about classes, about suite life and about real life," shares DeSalle. The 'big-sister' relationship has encouraged Mallori to offer resources for talking with suitemates, traditions, and Sunday dinner ideas. "I feel connected to Cottey and humbled by the chance to be one more person in Chloe's corner to ensure that her experience at Cottey is successful."

Taking an innovative approach to the welcome letter, Cottey alumna **Kathie Burson '77**, composed six letters describing her long lasting friendship with her suitemates while attending Cottey. Each of the six letters contained a bracelet and each bracelet had the first initial of one of her suitemates. The intention is for the six



current Cottey students to find each other by wearing the bracelets and make five new Cottey **CONNECTION**s.

Step Sing

While on campus we were able to **CONNECT** with current students during a pivotal event at the start of the year: Step Sing. But, we didn't simply attend as spectators, students graciously **INCLUDED** us and we took their gracious invitation very seriously.

Cottey students **INCLUDED** us and we on the CCAA Board of Directors **INCLUDED** you, alumnae. Alumnae sent over 450 baby and navy blue pass down masks for students to use during traditions. Imagine the conversation between a freshman and a senior a generation from now when they find a mask in the pocket of their DJ!

Mask Today

Lyrics by **Randi LeGendre Turk '68**
sung to *Yesterday* by the Beatles

Mask today
COVID-19 will stay far away
If we're sure to wear our masks all day
Oh, we will wear our masks today.

Why this virus had to come
Fauci couldn't say
We're not sure
But we'll do what the doctors say.

Mask today
COVID-19 will stay far away
If we're sure to wear our masks all day
At least it's not
Our bras all day.]

In preparation, the CCAA Board of Directors spent their quarantine time making DJ's! The CCAA decided it was time to create board pass down DJ's that they will wear on campus and pass down to incoming board members. The DJ's made their debut on campus during their fall board meeting and even got to be broken in during Step Sing. And, as if that were not enough, the DJ's were accessorized with yellow duck masks created by the very talented board member, **Chris Renner, '77**. The board members who were on campus even sang a new song to the students. Mask Today, sung to the tune of *Yesterday* by the Beatles, was an instant classic and won't soon be forgotten (no bras were hurt in its making).

The CCAA Board of Directors will continue to **FLEX ~CONNECT ~INCLUDE** and invite you to continue join in the fun throughout the rest of the year.

Connecting the Dots in a Purposeful Life

Alumna Tamara Sandberg '92 Named U.S. Food Security and Nutrition Advisor for Save the Children

"It's a science looking back. It's a mystery going forward. But all of the dots add up to this exact moment with every moment we live."
Matthew McConaughey¹

Most of us dream and plan and work hard, and end up somewhere we didn't anticipate. But in retrospect, we can often see how all of those dreams, plans and work led us exactly to the place we needed to be. For **Tamara Scott Sandberg '92**, on looking at her career, it seems as though everything she has accomplished has led her to and prepared her for her newest position as the first ever U.S. Food Security and Nutrition Advisor for Save the Children.

One of the first dots that led Sandberg to her position started at Cottey. As many students before, Sandberg came to Cottey because of a P.E.O. connection.

"Both my grandmothers and mother were P.E.O.s. I heard about Cottey at a very early age and even toured the campus when I was in elementary school," Sandberg said in a recent interview. "My brothers joked that Cottey was the school that Tamara had to go to. It wasn't true, but every other campus I visited after that couldn't compare with what Cottey had to offer."

In the early 90's, Cottey was a two-year college and did not offer majors, but even then, Sandberg knew what major she wished she could have declared. "It was definitely International Studies," she said without hesitation. "I had a Japanese suitemate and **Chao Mwachofi '92** from Kenya was one of my best friends. Cottey instilled in me the desire to learn more about the world and other cultures."

An R.A. in Robertson Hall and an active participant in InterVarsity and the International Friendship Circle, Sandberg

credits the late Dr. Charles Nash with influencing her. She noted that she was not an English major, but ended up taking a lot of English classes because of him. Another Cottey influence was the late Dr. Nancy Haynes, professor of theatre.

"I took an independent study class with her researching the Gettysburg address," said Sandberg. "I memorized the address and researched it and had to present it. Dr. Haynes rounded up some faculty members for me to present to."

After her graduation from Cottey, Sandberg transferred to the University of Wyoming where she earned an undergraduate degree in Cultural Anthropology and a master's in Child and Family studies in the College of Agriculture.

While in graduate school, Sandberg had the opportunity to work overseas in South Africa.

"In South Africa I worked on a research project for a faculty advisor while in graduate school at the University of Wyoming; we were there because my husband was doing research for his MPA program at University of Wyoming."

Sandberg was also an English teacher for the JET program (Japan Exchange and Teaching Program). Perhaps a subtle influence from Dr. Nash?

Back in the States, Sandberg's first job was at a local Head Start program in Wyoming.

"I was there about three years as a family support specialist," she said. "I got to go on home visits and meet the kiddos. I had small children of my own at that time. This current position is bringing me back around to my love for children."

That position with Head Start reaffirmed for Sandberg that her future was in non-profit work.

"I've always been interested in non-profit," she explained. "It's always been about kids and making sure they have the same opportunities for success. I've always had a sense of injustice as to why do I have so many privileges and others do not? Everyone should have the same access to food regardless of what their family life is like."

Non-profit work has its own unique set of challenges and people like Sandberg have to work hard to overcome them.

"My last position was at very small non-profit where I was the only employee. The biggest challenge is funding. You sort of feel like a professional beggar at times," said Sandberg. "Raising money is a big challenge but also a very rewarding part of the job. It's finding the people who share your passion and want to help with your mission."



Save the Children



Tamara Scott Sandberg '92

Sandberg's last position was the stepping stone to her new job with Save the Children. She developed Kentucky's first Farm to Food Bank program (<https://feedingky.org/farms-to-food-banks/>) with Feeding Kentucky.

"In Kentucky we were hearing from farmers that had wonderful but imperfect fresh produce that was being rejected by retailers because of minor blemishes or size discrepancies. At the same time, 1 in 7 Kentuckians was struggling to keep enough nourishing food on the table," said Sandberg. "The Farms to Food Banks program helps offset farmers' cost of donating their imperfect produce to a food bank. Grant funds are used to cover the cost of picking, packing and transporting agricultural products from the field to a food bank. So rather than getting disked under in the field, the nourishing food would go to the tables of struggling Kentuckians. Since 2011 the program has resulted in fresh produce for 36 million meals; it is food that would otherwise have gone to waste.

In the for-profit world, the metrics for measuring success are pretty obvious in most cases. How do non-profits measure success?

"That is the golden question," Sandberg said. "Especially in the non-profit community. It can be very discouraging at times. We are working on this large intractable problem. People would say to me, 'Why are you taking on hunger? There are always going to be hungry people!' But, if we look at different metrics, we were making progress in decreasing food insecurity, according to the USDA. The pandemic has erased some of the gains, however."

Looking back at the dots that connected her career, Sandberg is quick to credit Cottey College.

"I believe the time I spent at Cottey College was foundational in the path I'm on now. Access to the faculty, building up my confidence and leadership skills. I'm really incredibly grateful for the opportunities I had there."

Current students interested in non-profit work should take advantage of the assets Cottey can provide.

"I would advise her to make the best use of the connections that Cottey faculty can give you," she said. "Ask for an internship in a place you would like to work. Just like the for-profit world, we're looking for interns who want to learn what we do. Use the wonderful connections you have to reach out. Many colleges don't have the great student/faculty ratio that we have at Cottey, so students need to take advantage of that access."

About Save the Children

Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. Since their founding more than 100 years ago, they have changed the lives of more than 1 billion children. In the United States and around the world, they give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn, and protection from harm. Save the Children does whatever it takes for children – every day and in times of crisis – transforming their lives and the future we share.

¹ Building a Story Brand podcast #228, November 23, 2020

In Memoriam: Bev Faubion '55

By Christi Fulton Ellis '96
Director of Advancement and Alumnae Relations

One of my favorite things about the holiday season are the cards I receive from alumnae that include the traditional yearly recap letter. In 2017, I received a card from Bev Faubion, Class of 1955. Instead of sending her usual holiday update she wrote, "This year I've decided to do something different for my Christmas letter. With all the tragedy turmoil and conflict 2017 has witnessed, instead of focusing on me/family, I wrote this prayer-poem- I hope it touches your heart and mind."

Boy did it ever as 2017 was the hardest year for me. I was newly married; my mother nearly died of an aneurysm; my husband was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive cancer; and I was new to this position. Contained within the letter was a P.S. Her son Chuck reconnected with his sweetheart Gwen and they got married. Coincidentally, my parents' names are Chuck and Gwen! What a connection I felt to Bev. I emailed and thanked her for the letter and remarked on our connections.

Bev and I continued our email exchanges often. She kept me in the loop about the "newlyweds" and her grandchildren, and was always happy to report she was "just ducky!" We tried to meet a couple of times when I was traveling to Arizona but the stars never aligned. This year we were determined to meet in October when I would be in Arizona for my best friend's wedding, but the wedding was cancelled due to COVID. I so regret not being able to meet her in person, and finally hug my Cottey sister whose poem brings me great comfort and peace. Whenever we emailed I would always first scroll to the end of her email since she always ended it with a chuckle for the day. Her last chuckle for me was **"Have you ever wondered if Popeye's chicken is fried in Olive Oil?"**

I keep her letter displayed on my bulletin board next to my desk and read the prayer often; it got me through that difficult year. My mom

survived and is healthy and my husband is in remission. Prayer is a powerful thing. 2020 has been another hard year, and I've glanced over to Bev's letter and quietly recited her prayer often. I think she'd be happy to share it with all our *Viewpoint* readers too.

One of Bev's final requests was to have her obituary printed in the *Viewpoint*. Below are highlights from this extraordinary woman's life.

Beverly June "Bev" Frazier Faubion was born January 2, 1935, in the small rural Western Kansas town of Oakley. Despite being born during the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl, Beverly grew up happy. She was involved in countless community, church and school activities and was valedictorian of her class. "Bev" as she became known, attended Cottey College for a year, then Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas.

While Bev was in college, her parents moved to Hays, Kansas, where they owned and operated a motel. Bev worked at the motel the summer of 1954 and she met Roger Faubion that August. While it wasn't quite love at first sight, it was close; they married on March 5, 1955. They had three sons.

Bev stayed in Hays with her sons while Roger commuted from wherever his job location took him. These stay-at-home years gave Bev the opportunity to work for the local radio/TV station KAYS at a variety of jobs. Her most memorable jobs there were as host of daily weekday radio programs "Bev's Party Line" and "Women's Page."

In 1973 the family moved to Arizona. It wasn't long before Bev decided to get back in the work force ending up with the Arizona Department of Public Safety as a supervisor in the CIS Division. After the boys were in college, Bev quit her job to travel with Roger on construction projects.

In 1989 Roger and Bev settled in Scottsdale. Bev again went back to work, this time with Rural/Metro Corporation, a fire and ambulance company with nationwide operations. She had progressed to the position of executive assistant in the Finance Department when she retired in 2000. In the meantime, Roger had established his own business and Bev managed those office duties as well. When Roger retired in 2002, they moved to an active adult community in Chandler Arizona.

At the age of 71, Bev's right leg was amputated above the knee. It was a bit of a set-back, or course, but Bev took it all in stride (pun intended) and never let it get her down. She named her stump LTH (Less Than Half), her prosthesis Lena (get it?) and her walker Nessy (short for necessary). Also, hand controls were installed on the car so she could continue to drive.

At home with her loved ones, Bev passed away peacefully on October 27, 2020. She chose to do a full-body donation to scientific research, followed by cremation. In lieu of flowers, Bev requested that any gesture of remembrance be given to your favorite charity in her name – with special thanks and heartfelt appreciation from Bev and her family.

Bev served and impacted countless people during her lifetime with fun and an ever-present positive attitude. She is dearly missed and will never be forgotten.

MERRY CHRISTMAS A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear Lord. Hi it's me. Thank-you for giving us this day.
I hope you can spare some time now to listen as I pray.

Help us greet each brand-new day with eagerness to start.
Give us reasons to smile and sing, and have a happy heart.

Please bless us all and help us be the person you teach and tell.
Please forgive us when we're not, and help us be forgiving as well.

As we put ourselves in your loving hands, we want to prove our worth.
Please help us fulfill your purpose for putting us here on earth.

When we suffer, ease our pain, and help us to be strong.
Give us courage to go forward, faith to keep moving along.

Help us put aside our differences- though seeming at opposite poles-
Then help us work together to reach our common goals.

And now that it's almost Christmas, please help us to remember
The birth of our Dear Lord Jesus is why we celebrate December!

Thank you for all our blessings. Soon I'll talk to you again.
Please give us peace in the coming New Year.
In the name of our Savior, amen.



Class Notes

Congratulations to two members of the Cottey Class of 1999! Sarah Adams-Cornell was selected as the 2020 Oklahoma Indian Educator of the Year. Mallori DeSalle was recognized as the 2020 Mental Health Professional of the Year by Mental Health America of Indiana.



Sarah Adams Cornell

Sarah Adams-Cornell is an advocate for Native American culture, education and rights. She is a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and serves on the Board of Directors for Sovereign Community School where she focuses on community engagement. Sarah co-created an intertribal, empowerment organization called Matriarch that serves indigenous women in central and NE Oklahoma. Sarah is the President of the Board of Directors for the ACLU of Oklahoma. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Live Indigenous OK and worked alongside other Native advocates to see Indigenous Peoples' Day recognized in OKC. Sarah is a board member of The Auntie Project, Not Your Mascot, proud ally member of Central Oklahoma Two Spirit Society, serves on the OKC Citizens Committee for Community Development and was Activist in Residence at the University of Oklahoma.

Sarah has worked alongside other advocates to eliminate Land Run Reenactments and Native mascots in OKC Public Schools and co-created a program called Oklahoma History Day, a diverse and accurate account of Oklahoma history through statehood.

She attended Cottey College and the University of Oklahoma and has two daughters, Bella and Gabbie. Sarah works for her parent's company, RedLand Sheet Metal and lives in Oklahoma City.



Mallori DeSalle

Mallori DeSalle, MA, LMHC, NCC, CMHC, MATS, CPS
Mallori DeSalle is a licensed mental health counselor, nationally certified counselor, medication-assisted treatment specialist and an internationally certified prevention specialist. As a professional speaker and trainer she has sparked curiosity in both the young and young-at-heart. Her passion for creating a lasting impact led her to the public health field and for the past 11 years she has worked at Prevention Insights, a center within the School of Public Health at Indiana University, Bloomington. As a result, Mallori works with people all over the world and even serves on the Board of Directors for the Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor. When she isn't laughing, listening or learning, she is spending time with her husband of nearly 20 years and three children. Her credentials don't impress her family, but occasionally her corny jokes do make them laugh.

FACULTY/STAFF NOTES

Assistant Professor of Art, **Tara Booth**, had a solo exhibition at Kansas City Artist Coalition from October 2-30 in Kansas City, MO.

Dr. Carmen Bourbon, professor of Spanish, attended the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Virtual Convention on November 20-22, 2020. She participated in a series of webinars related to effective language learning practices in times of COVID.

Prof. Jo Byrnes, professor of dance, attended the virtual National Dance Education Organization Conference, DANCE and SOCIETY: Developing Community, Empathy, and Understanding through Dance on October 23-25. On Dec 5-6, Prof. Byrnes completed YogaFit Level 5 teacher training and is now a Registered Yoga Teacher (RYT 200) with the Yoga Alliance!

Dr. Carol Clyde Gallagher, assistant professor of organizational leadership, was recently named the 2021 Membership and Awards Committee Chair for the Woman and Leadership Member Community of the International Leadership Association. Dr. Gallagher is beginning her third year as a member of the Women and Leadership Executive Leadership Team and is also assisting on the planning committee for the 2021 Women and Leadership Colloquium, hosted by Brescia College (Canada's Women's College).

In June, **Dr. Amanda Gilchrist**, associate professor of psychology, graded AP Psychology exam response questions from the comfort of her own room, as rating was remote this year. It was a new experience after doing it in-person in Tampa, Florida, in 2019. This year she graded over 1200 free-response questions. She hopes to grade exams next year—hopefully once again in-person in Tampa.

Todd Hefner accepted the position of Director of Physical Plant. Todd comes to Cottey from Houston, Texas, where he has served as Facility Manager for KIPP Public Schools since 2011. Todd has also served as University Housing Director at Northern State University and Director of Residence life at Lamar University. He brings with him extensive experience working in facilities management, plant operations, and campus housing. Mr. Hefner holds an earned Master of Science degree from Eastern Illinois University and Bachelor of Arts from Sam Houston State University.

Dr. Selena Kohel, associate professor of psychology, presented her research on “What Does It Mean to Be an American?” for students taking a social psychology class at North Central College, November 19. Dr. Kohel also co-facilitated a three week session of the Fusion Course, a course aimed to help faculty incorporate community-based learning in their online

courses, through Campus Compact, October 27-November 13.

Dr. Selena Kohel participated in three diversity, equity and inclusion events in various roles. On October 4, she served as a mentor for the Asian American Psychological Association Convention mentor/mentee session. On October 9, she served as a panelist for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Student Committee Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion webinar. In both roles, she discussed ways in which one might incorporate social justice and advocacy in one's work, including successes and challenges. On October 14, she served as a presenter/facilitator for the Antiracist Dialogues for Action Educator Wellness/Healing session. In this role, she presented/facilitated discussion of ways in which one might incorporate emotional intelligence in one's work, in particular, managing one's emotions.

Dr. Trisha Stubblefield, professor of English, attended the 20th Annual North American Conference for Critical Animal Studies November 7-8, 2020. The online conference featured a wide range of scholars and activists and showcased a variety of intriguing perspectives and resources.

Gallagher Receives Award from International Leadership Association



Dr. Carol Clyde Gallagher, assistant professor of organizational leadership, was selected as the recipient of the 2020 Outstanding Practice With Local Impact Award from the Women and Leadership Member Community within the International Leadership Association (ILA).

The Outstanding Practice With Local Impact award recognizes excellence in the practice of an individual whose advocacy, commitment, or actions in support of women

in leadership has influenced individuals and audiences within the award recipient's organization or community. The recipient is someone who practices leadership — from outside or from within the academic arena — with a focus on women and leadership and has implemented a substantial change, policy, or event that has benefited women within a local sphere.

“It is such an incredible honor, and I truly believe that I owe so much to the Cottey College environment that has allowed me to be successful (particularly in the past few years),” said Dr. Gallagher. “Thanks to Cottey for the work you do to make this campus a place where success is attainable and opportunities abound.”

The ILA was created in 1999 to bring together professionals with a keen interest in the study, practice, and teaching of leadership. Today, ILA is the largest worldwide community committed to leadership scholarship, development, and practice.

Best Wishes on Retirement



Lois Witte

Ms. Lois Witte, bookstore manager, will retire effective January 15, 2021.

Witte began her career at Cottey as a member of the Class of 1971, earning an Associate in Arts degree.

In January 1992 Cottey hired Witte as the receptionist. Her evident

dedication and 'service with a smile' approach brought about a transition in 1994 to the position of bookstore manager. The impact of her service has been felt through the years by both students and staff alike. She has graciously and effortlessly served thousands of students over the last 26 years. She is a dedicated member of the Cottey staff, offering great wisdom and institutional knowledge. Witte worked diligently to bring the bookstore into the technology age. From managing student employees, developing an online spirit shop, transitioning textbook purchases from in-store to online, and so much more; it is no wonder that she was awarded the Staff of the Year in 2019.

Witte will be greatly missed by all at Cottey, on both a personal and professional level.

After over 30 years of dedicated service, **Ms. Tricia Bobbett**, executive assistant to the president and secretary to the board, has announced her retirement.

Bobbett began her service at Cottey in 1987. She worked alongside three Presidents and as a peer to hundreds of staff and faculty members. As executive assistant to the president and secretary to the Cottey College Board of Trustees, Bobbett has staffed two Presidential Search Committees, facilitated retirement celebrations for Dr. Helen Washburn and Dr. Judy Rogers, and coordinated the presidential transition teams and inauguration activities for the two most recent presidents.

Further, she has served on the self-study committees for the Higher Learning Commission and as a member of numerous committees to plan to implement special college events, including commencement, convocation, P.E.O. Seminar, facility dedications,



Tricia Bobbett

and Cottey's role in the Convention of International Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. She also often serves as the liaison with the offices of P.E.O. International and assists with publications sent by the Office of the President. Bobbett is a valuable resource for the Trustees as

they prepare their agendas and arrange their travels; she serves as Secretary to the Board, which includes minutes of all meetings.

Bobbett has been a dedicated member of the President's Council, offering great wisdom and institutional knowledge. She has managed various budgets, participated in two college-led international experiences, planned presidential travel, and most recently, researched and implemented OnBoard, a board solution platform, among so many, many other duties.

Over her years at Cottey, she has held memberships in the National Association of Presidential Assistants in Higher Education and Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) Board Professional Staff, served as a webinar leader for Presidential Searches hosted by the Association of Governing Boards for Board Professional Staff and served on the planning committee for a Board Professional Staff National Conference hosted by the Association of Governing Boards.

Yes, Bobbett has had many responsibilities at Cottey, but her service to our College goes much further. She has served as a mentor to many on campus, offering her insight when asked. She has been a friend to many of us, and in many instances, a trusted confidant.

Tricia Bobbett will be missed by many at Cottey on both a personal and professional level.



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Community Partnership

by **Mandi Jordan '01**
CCAA Board Member

Cottey College has had a long-standing partnership with Nevada Regional Medical Center (NRMC), the local acute care hospital, to provide clinical providers on campus on an ongoing basis through the Student Health Services office. Services available include treatment for minor illnesses and injuries, as well as health counseling and referrals for more acute needs.

"Cottey has for years offered medical services on campus five days a week, so that part wasn't new, but the COVID partnership was absolutely new for our campus and it has definitely paid off," added President Jann Weitzel.

As the summer continued and all became aware that the coronavirus was not going away any time in the near future, Cottey engaged in a partnership with Nevada Regional Medical Center to help prepare the campus for the return of students. NRMC aided with planning and preparation, as well as COVID-19 testing services for faculty, staff, and students.

Prior to the fall semester, Cottey was one of the first institutions in the country to commit to a COVID-19 testing program for campus. When students returned for the spring semester, Cottey continued to implement a testing program that includes entry testing for all students, as well as free tests for the ongoing needs of students. Cottey has also made testing available for faculty and staff at no cost to them. The testing program is administered by NRMC in conjunction with the institution's testing program.

"The testing program is one piece of a larger puzzle and part of that puzzle has been the expertise and the wisdom that we've been able

to get from the Nevada Regional Medical Center during the preparation process for what a fall opening would look like," said Vice President for Student Life Dr. Landon Adams.

NRMC is an important community resource, providing a wide variety of services to Nevada, Vernon County, and the surrounding areas. The hospital has earned recognition as a respected regional medical center for its comprehensive services, skilled and caring employees, and state-of-the-art technology. It is reassuring to know that these healthcare resources are available to Cottey students and staff. While COVID-19 has created much chaos, it has also deepened the collaboration between these two key community entities.

Below: Kris Korb checks temperatures at the beginning of the year.

