

Viewpoint

magazine



You just graduated from Cottey College
what
are you going
to do next?
I'M GOING TO
DISNEY WORLD

Traditions: Graduation, Ducks, and Chellie Shakes

VOL. 8, NO. 1
SPRING/SUMMER 2021

A Publication of Cottey College
CREATORS OF INCREDIBLE FUTURES

cottey.edu

Preparing for the 2021-22 Academic Year

Throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, Cottey leadership worked diligently to balance the need to exercise caution while maintaining an enriching environment on campus. The Cottey administration is pleased to report that these efforts were successful, and would like to thank the campus community for its patience and flexibility throughout the year. They would also like to thank the greater Cottey community for its support throughout the pandemic.



As more students and others are vaccinated, the campus should return to some sense of normalcy in the coming year. **NOTE:** Both the patient and the practitioner agreed to this photo being taken. The patient's face is not shown to protect her privacy.

In May, the CDC announced that those who are 12 years of age and older are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. While Cottey is not requiring the vaccine for the 2021-2022 academic year, the College is encouraging all members of the campus community to consider receiving a vaccine.

The widespread availability of the vaccine gives each person a way to protect themselves against the coronavirus. Because vaccination rates are increasing, Cottey leadership has had the opportunity to evaluate COVID-19 prevention protocols and make changes to guidelines when appropriate. At the same time, the College will work to accommodate any individual who feels uncomfortable with any changes made.

The College is taking steps to return closer to pre-pandemic operations in its classrooms, common spaces, and athletic facilities. Fall semester classes will be held primarily in-person, with exceptions only for those classes that are designed to be hybrid or online. As with other contagious illnesses, Cottey will follow the recommendations of local health officials in the event that an intervention related to COVID-19 becomes necessary.

Plans are underway to welcome students back to campus for a safe, healthy, and successful fall semester. Those who wish to read the most up-to-date information on the College's plans are encouraged to visit the website at <https://cottey.edu/covid-19>.

A Message from the EDITOR

COVID-19 and the *Viewpoint*

I've joked that the epitaph on my tombstone should probably read "Well, that didn't go as planned." I would suspect most would agree that could also be the motto for the year 2020. If I never hear the word "pivot" as part of any business strategy session again, I'll be just fine with that as well.

In many ways, this academic year was the same with students on campus, classes, professors, Raney food, and suite living. In other ways, there was no other year like this, with quarantine suites, masks, remote learning, and social distancing. We all hope those elements are behind us.

I received an email from an alumna questioning why the last *Viewpoint* showed students wearing masks. This alumna, like many of us, wanted to see the smiling faces

of students as they interacted on campus.

Reporting on the happenings of Cottey College in the pages of the *Viewpoint* is my job as the editor.

To show current photos of on-campus students and events, those people featured had to wear a mask. It would be disingenuous of me to use older images and pretend they were from the recent semester. Also, it would be irresponsible of me to ask students, faculty, and staff to violate the mask mandate for the sake of a photo.

Although we may not want to remember the pandemic, our printed publications serve as an archival record of the happenings at Cottey College. Future Cottey history students and researchers may find this

resource useful as they look back on this very strange and unique year. I believe this magazine serves a purpose not just to inform our audience today, but in the future as well.

I also believe this is the last issue we will need to use photos of masked students and faculty. For the latest on Cottey's COVID protocols, see the article above. The most up-to-date information is online at cottey.edu/covid-19.

As always you are encouraged to write me at sreed@cottey.edu.

Sincerely,
Steve Reed, editor





message from the PRESIDENT

Cottey IS Tradition

Almost immediately upon arriving at Cottey in 2015, I became aware of the many cherished traditions across campus. I had not attended a smaller college or a women's college nor had I been a member of a sorority, so I had not personally taken part in the types of traditions one might see at such institutions. However, I had been a faculty member and an administrator at an institution that had formerly been a women's college; thus, I'd had the opportunity to learn from those alumnae about the importance of shared practices and memories that result from campus traditions.

While interviewing at Cottey, I had the chance to share dinner with students, and during the conversation, they expressed how important the Cottey traditions were to them. The students talked about the many events around Christmas and Commencement of which I would be a part... and then they smiled at each other as they hinted at traditions that would not include the President of the College. And of course, they sang some of the traditional songs.

Traditions serve many purposes—identifying shared values, offering feelings of comfort and belonging, and creating a shared identity, all resulting in a means by which to bond current students with each other, with alumnae, and with students yet to discover Cottey.

One of the first traditions in which Cottey students participate is the Signing of the Cottey Book during the Opening Convocation ceremony. As students walk across the stage to add their names to a ledger that contains all of the names of those who came before, they are pledging to uphold Cottey's honor

code, thus emphasizing the importance of shared values—trust, honesty, and integrity.

Over the days that follow Convocation, as students meet their suitemates, traditions offer a sense of comfort and belonging to those who arrive on campus not knowing any other student and who may have traveled hundreds of miles or from other countries to attend Cottey. As the weeks and months progress, those traditions offer students an emotional connection to other students

who can offer support during times of stress or when homesickness might sneak in.

Traditions also serve as a sense of identity. When a person meets another Cottey graduate certain memories are shared, and sometimes just a look and a smile can convey mutual experiences related to suite life, societies, Raney Dining Room, and, of course, singing!

As I speak with alumnae returning for Founder's Day or Vacation College with their former suitemates and classmates who became their lifelong friends or sharing their Cottey with a prospective student, I am continuously reminded how very fortunate Cottey graduates are to have such treasured shared experiences and traditions- and songs!!

Jann R. Weitzel

Viewpoint
magazine

A publication of Cottey College in connection with its educational mission

PUBLISHER
Cottey College

EDITORIAL
Editor: Steve Reed
Phone: 417-667-8181, ext. 2140
Fax: 417-667-8103
Email: sreedy@cottey.edu

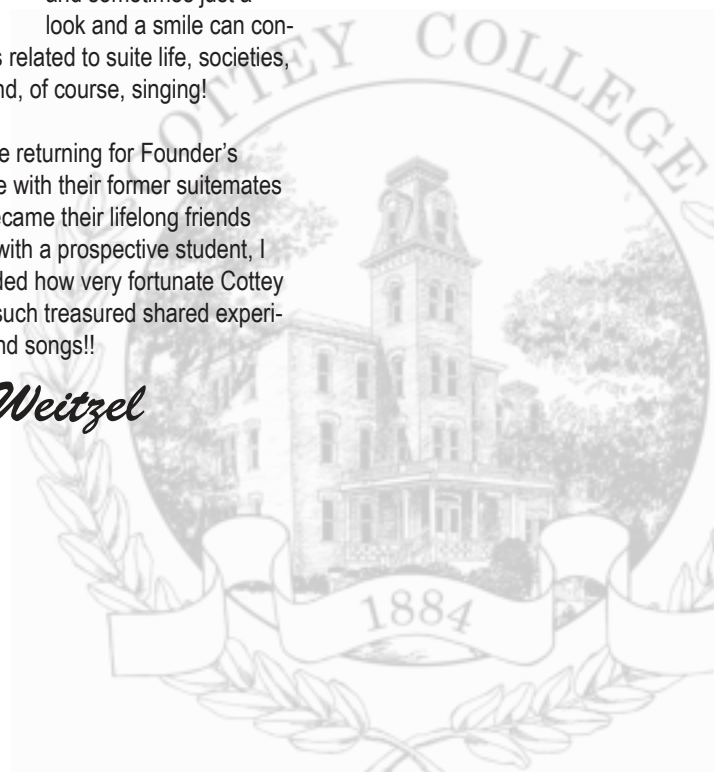
DESIGNERS
Steve Reed and Nell Tebbetts

PHOTOGRAPHY
All photos copyright of Cottey College unless otherwise noted.

ENVIRONMENTAL
Viewpoint Magazine is printed using soy-based vegetable inks, which have replaced petroleum-based inks.

COPYRIGHT
All material appearing in Viewpoint Magazine is copyright unless otherwise stated. Viewpoint Magazine takes all care to ensure information is correct at time of printing.

ADVISORY GROUP
Members of the Viewpoint Advisory Group include Steve Reed, Dr. Joann Bangs, Christi Fulton Ellis '96, Margaret Haverstick, Nancy Kerbs '79, Randon Coffey, and Dr. Kathy Pivak.



Cotley Students Little and Wangmo Named Second Team All-Missouri Academic Recipients

Congratulations to Erica Little and Choney Wangmo who were both named Second Team All-Missouri Academic recipients by Phi Theta Kappa (PTK). Both of these students worked hard on their scholarship applications in this challenging year and we as a college are very proud of them. They were honored at a virtual ceremony of the PTK Student Leadership Award ceremony on Wednesday, April 21, 2021.

Erica Little is a second-year student who has been dedicated to personal development, community involvement, and academic success. She is a certified Guardian ad Litem, where she volunteers and remains on-call while pursuing her studies. Additionally, she is a member of the *Retrospect* yearbook and *Image Tree* student-publication creative teams, Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Kappa Delta, and Alpha Mu Gamma (where she currently serves as chapter president). She has been recognized on the President's List and Top 10 Class both years at Cotley. She has also recently

completed a capstone campus service project for Leadership, Experiences, Opportunity (LEO) certification— her project was an event she designed to foster student connection and mentorship. Little graduated with her associate degree last month and will be transferring to a university where she will pursue a degree in journalism. She is honored to make the 2021 Phi Theta Kappa All-Missouri Academic Team.

Choney Wangmo's dream is to major in International Relations and minor in Organizational Leadership. She is an international student from Bhutan. She engages in campus activities and community services. She has been a student caller in Cotley's annual Phonathon both years that she has been a student at Cotley. Wangmo enjoys the opportunity to visit with alumnae during the Phonathon event. After earning a bachelor's degree in international relations, Wangmo plans to pursue a master's degree in international policy and development.



Erica Little



Choney Wangmo

CONTENTS

Message from the President	1	Grand Opening	9	Alumna Profile	20
PTK All-Missouri Team	2	Founder's Day Traditions	10	Alumnae Deaths	22
Jack Kent Cooke Scholar	3	When You Say Duck...	13	In Memoriam: Dr. Bruce Holman	23
Comets Teams go to Nationals	4	Alumnae Award Recipients	14	Faculty/Staff Notes	24
New AD and Basketball Coach	6	Hawai'ian Days	16	New Trustees	inside back cover
Shared Traditions and Identity	7	Commencement Traditions	18		

Wadzanai Ndambakuwa Named Jack Kent Cooke Scholar

Wadzanai Ndambakuwa, a student at Cottey College, is one of 72 recipients of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's prestigious Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. The highly competitive national scholarship will provide Ndambakuwa with up to \$40,000 a year to complete her bachelor's degree.

Ndambakuwa is a second-year student from Harare, Zimbabwe. Her short-term goal is to pursue undergraduate studies in biochemistry and medical research. Her long-term goal is to study medicine.

"We know how much exponentially harder this past year has been on students. It's an honor to award this group of individuals as they have achieved so much both in the classroom and in their daily lives," said Seppy Basili, executive director of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. "We are proud to welcome this new class of Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholars to our community and are excited to support them."

In addition to financial support, new Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholars will receive comprehensive educational advising. Scholars will additionally receive opportunities for internships, study abroad, and graduate school funding, as well as connection to a thriving network of Cooke Scholars and Alumni.

To date, more than 1,000 students from all over the country have received the Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. Over 1,300 students applied for the 2021 Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. The Foundation evaluated each submission based on students' academic ability and achievement, financial need, persistence, leadership, and service to others.



Lamoi Williston Selected for Jenzabar Internship

Lamoi Williston was selected as a Jenzabar Intern for Cottey College. Williston will have a unique opportunity to work with the academic department and learn the basics of online systems and technologies. She will understand how learning management systems run and how they can be used to create dynamic learning environments. As part of her project, Williston will help Cottey investigate how it can better use eLearning and Jenzabar features, such as forms, to serve students and faculty. Williston was invited to attend the Jenzabar virtual national conference.

Three Comets Teams Qualify

By Steve Reed
Director of Public Information

What a year for three of the Comets athletic teams! The COVID-19 pandemic may have altered schedules and prevented spectators from attending games, but the volleyball and softball teams have broken new ground for future teams. The Comets volleyball team won the Association of Independent Institutions (A.I.I.) conference tournament, becoming the first Comets team to win a conference championship as a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Although the softball team fell one game short of winning its conference championship, the softball Comets also advanced to the national tournament. The flag football team, as an original member of the NAIA's flag football program, was invited to participate in the national playoffs as well. This is the first year any Comets team has ever played in a national tournament—as either a member of the NAIA or the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), Cottey's athletic association when the College was a two-year institution.

Volleyball had a split season this year. Because of the pandemic, the NAIA chose to hold its conference competition in the spring semester. The team played a regular schedule in the fall and then paused until March when the second season began. The conference tournament tipped off on Friday, April 9, when the underdog Comets met Lincoln Christian University. Cottey held off Lincoln by a close score of three games to two. After that, the Comets did not

lose another game in the rest of the tournament and dominated the field on the way to its first championship.

After the championship, head coach Marla Kannady Foreman was named the A.I.I. Coach of the Year, and senior Lily Miller was named the Player of the Year. In addition to those honors players Mackenzie Green, Emily Killion, Briannah Quick and Jocelyn Tidwell were named to the All-Conference list.

The Comets travelled to Fayette, Missouri, to face the Central Methodist College Eagles in the first round where they were defeated 3-0.

Softball was once again a powerhouse with 24 wins in the regular season and one of four teams to be invited to the A.I.I. conference tournament. To win the conference the Comets would have to have beaten the eighth-ranked team in the nation, Georgia Gwinnett College, twice in two days. The Comets defeated Edward Waters College in the first game 2-0, and then surprised the Gwinnett Grizzlies with a 6-3 upset victory. That win guaranteed the Comets would finish no lower than second in the tournament and punched their ticket to the national tournament. Unfortunately, the Grizzlies were ready for the Comets on day two, and defeated the Comets 4-1 and 10-0 to secure the championship.

Despite these losses, the Comets advanced to the national tournament, and a week later were headed back to Georgia for the first



The volleyball Comets won the College's first ever conference championship in the NAIA. Head Coach Marla Kannady Foreman was named the A.I.I. Coach of the Year and senior Lily Miller was named the A.I.I. Player of the Year.

for National Tournaments



The softball Comets cheer as they score again in an upset win over the nationally-ranked Georgia Gwinnett team during the A.I.I. Conference playoffs.

round. The Comets faced Oregon Tech and lost 4-0 which dropped them into the lower bracket. Their season ended the next day with a 5-1 loss at the hands of Coastal Georgia. The Comets finished the season with a final record of 26-8.

Like their volleyball counterparts, the softball team had its share of post-season accolades. Pitcher Lacy Cruz, catcher Lauren Johnson, pitcher/fielder Alyssa Montoya, infielder Caitlyn Morgan, infielder Aryana Palencia, and outfielder Karina Ramirez were named to the A.I.I. All-Conference team.

This was the first year for women's flag football, not just for Cottey, but also for the NAIA. A total of 15 teams were sanctioned for this first year. Although the season did not progress the way the Comets hoped it would, they were one of 10 teams invited to the first national tournament held in Atlanta at Mercedes Benz Stadium, home of the Atlanta Falcons of the National Football League (NFL).

Morgan Shaw Parker, Cottey Class of 1996, is the vice president and chief marketing officer for AMB Sports+ Entertainment, oversees all brand marketing, media group, and creative functions for the Atlanta Falcons and Mercedes-Benz Stadium. As the honored speaker at Cottey's commencement this year, Parker mentioned how special it was to her to see the Comets on the field at Mercedes-Benz stadium.

The inaugural Comets Flag Football team

"One of my greatest joys was watching Cottey College play in the NAIA flag football tournament in Mercedes-Benz Stadium last weekend, home of the Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta United, Julio Jones, and Matt Ryan," she said. "My Cottey sisters stepped on that field and did something that for centuries was literally unthinkable. I wish you could see the smile on my face [she was wearing a mask at Commencement] because I was crying outside earlier today when I was gifted an actual Cottey football that will be the coolest thing in my office."

Congratulations to our Comets on an incredible year!



Dr. Maryann Mitts Hired as Head Basketball Coach and Athletic Director

Cottery College Vice President for Student Life Dr. Landon Adams announced the hire of Dr. Maryann Mitts as the next head basketball coach and athletic director.

"We are very excited to welcome Maryann to Cottery," said Dr. Adams. "Maryann brings a wealth of experience and a winning pedigree to the Comets program. I am confident that under her leadership our basketball program and athletics department will benefit and grow moving forward."

Dr. Mitts, former women's head basketball coach at Missouri Southern State University (MSSU), is the winningest coach in school history. Under Dr. Mitts' guidance, the Lions averaged 19 wins during her 13 years at the helm and finished in the upper echelon of the highly competitive Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association seven of those years. In 17 years as a collegiate head coach, Dr. Mitts amassed an impressive 14 winning seasons. She holds a 272-201 (.575) mark as a collegiate head coach and a career record at MSSU of 189-145 (.566) in 13 seasons.

"I am humbled and thrilled to have this opportunity at Cottery College," Dr. Mitts said. "There is so much potential at Cottery and I see such a bright future for the College as a whole and the athletics department. I can't wait to get to work building something that the campus and community of Nevada can be really proud of."

In addition to serving as the head coach at MSSU from 2000-2013, Dr. Mitts served as the head basketball coach at Rockhurst University from 1995-2000 where she led the transition of the athletic program from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II. Cottery made a similar move recently leaving the two-year National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) for membership in the four-year NAIA.



After leaving coaching, Dr. Mitts taught Kinesiology at MSSU from 2013-2019. She earned a Ph.D. in Kinesiology from the University of Arkansas in 2019 and has been an assistant professor of kinesiology at Missouri State University for the last two years.

Dr. Mitts is also a member of Chapter FI, Joplin, Missouri, of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, the organization that owns and supports Cottery College.

"We are looking forward to the future of our athletics department," said Dr. Jann Weitzel, President of Cottery College. "She is a great fit for this college and I have tremendous confidence in her ability to make our athletics department and basketball program successful."

Comets Postseason Highlights

Senior Rachel Hancock, right, finished ninth in the Association of Independent Institutions (A.I.I.) conference championship golf tournament. She was the highest placing golfer for the Comets.



Two of the three Comets finished in the top half of a loaded A.I.I. Cross Country Conference Championship race! Karina Gchachu ran a 22:39 to lead the Comets finishing 16th! Kiana Garcia was close behind at 22:52 and Deannndria Shields finished with a time of 23:21. Pictured are (left to right): Kiana Garcia, Deannndria Shields, and Karina Gchachu.





Shared Traditions and Our Identity

by Steve Reed
Editor

When you hear the word tradition, what comes to mind? Do you think of family holiday celebrations or perhaps Duck Jackets? Maybe you hear the voice of Tevye from Fiddler on the Roof singing about the traditions in his village.

When I was young, I loved my church's pot-luck dinners. My grandmother's friend, Gladys, knew how much I loved strawberry rhubarb pie, and when she prepared one for a church dinner, she always cut a slice and put it to the side for me. No matter how many people were in line ahead of me, I always knew I had a slice of my favorite pie waiting for me. It was our shared tradition.

If you are or were a member of a social organization such as girl scouts, Rotary, or a sorority, you had particular rituals that were shared in meetings. If you are Jewish, Christian, or Muslim, you have shared traditions not just within your own local congregation, but in the larger world-wide faith. Whether you celebrate Passover, Easter or Ramadan, you are taking part in cultural traditions that allow groups to transmit shared values, stories and goals from one generation to the next.

Why are traditions important? They remind us who we are. They allow groups of people to create and share a collective identity, which in turn serves to shape individual identities.¹ If you have ever said the words, "I am a Cottey girl," you have taken a collective identity

and used it to shape your individual identity. Traditions help us find a space where we feel we belong.

Over the years traditions change. I used to be one of the youngest at family gatherings; now I am often the senior member. My grandparents would probably be appalled to know we now serve wine at Christmas. (And that no one really likes the green bean casserole.) However...I put the pickles and olives on the dish that belonged to my maternal grandmother. I

"Change does not change tradition. It strengthens it. Change is a challenge and an opportunity, not a threat."
~Prince Philip

occasionally break out the china that belonged to my paternal grandmother. One of my sons will send me a box of chocolate covered cherries as a reminder of my beloved grandfather's favorite holiday treat.

Some of the ways we celebrate and the people with whom we celebrate have changed, but there are so many touchstones to our family traditions that remind us from whom and where we came. It's the same with Cottey College. Some of the traditions that alumnae from the 60s and 70s treasured are different

today. Some alumnae may remember when Hermatrude had paper feathers with the name of a student on each feather. The Hermatrude I've been familiar with the last three decades is featherless, but no less loved by today's students. The Chellie Club was once in the basement of Reeves Hall. When I began working at Cottey it was in the basement of Hinkhouse Center. Today it is in the beautiful new Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Campus Life, and a Chellie shake is still a Chellie shake no matter where it is served, and is still delicious!

Prince Phillip of England said, "Change does not change tradition. It strengthens it. Change is a challenge and an opportunity, not a threat."

Years from now, Cottey students will still be pulling Hermatrude along to campus traditions while wearing their Duck Jackets and will enjoy a Chellie shake afterwards. While some things today may not be exactly as you remember them, when alumnae from different generations say "I am a Cottey girl," shared traditions weave all of you together in a wonderful collective identity. "Come on and waddle with us. QUACK!"

1. <https://www.reference.com/world-view/cultural-traditions-important-371702b90743ebec>



Lily Miller serves a delicious mint chocolate chip Chellie Shake from the Chellie Club's new location in the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Campus Life.

From Groundbreaking to Grand Opening

Center for Campus Life Open Seven Months After Project Began

On March 27, Cottey College dedicated the new Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Campus Life. The date is particularly noteworthy as it also celebrated the 173rd anniversary of the birth of the founder, Virginia Alice Cottey, and was held in conjunction with annual Founder's Day events.

The new campus center features gathering, studying, meeting and dining space for students, faculty, staff, and visitors; the Cottey spirit shop; the Chellie Club, a coffee and snack bar; lockers for Cottey's growing commuter student population; new campus meeting spaces; and outdoor terraces with multiple spaces for seating and an amphitheater. In addition to the campus center, the upper level of the Chapel has been revitalized and the entire facility is now air conditioned.

"Our hope with this space is that it really becomes a hub of activity for our students," said Dr. Landon Adams, vice president for student life. "This center is an entirely new amenity that we haven't had in the past and we're excited to see how that enhances the student dynamic on campus. We've moved our spirit shop and Chellie Club to this area to make this a place where students can socialize and collaborate."

"Our Founder designed her college and curriculum to be attuned to the needs of her students, and this campus center ensures that her college continues to address the needs of current students," said Christi Ellis, associate vice president of institutional advancement and alumnae relations. "Many thanks to our donors: alumnae, P.E.O.s, friends of the College, and the BIL Task Force for their tireless work in making this space a reality."

"Having this space in the geographic center of the campus makes it a natural gathering spot for visiting, studying, meeting, and just enjoying the campus environment."

President Jann Weitzel

Fundraising for the \$3 million renovation of the Chapel took approximately two years to complete, but the interior renovations were completed in only seven months from the time ground was broken on August 18, 2020.

"This is an incredible space and a remarkable achievement," said Dr. Jann Weitzel, president of

the College. "To go from a dark, outdated basement, which was underutilized, and turn it into this beautiful center with natural lighting and outdoor gathering spaces is amazing. Having this space in the geographic center of the campus makes it a natural gathering spot for visiting, studying, meeting, and just enjoying the campus environment."



Pictured at the ribbon cutting for the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Campus Life are Christi Fulton Ellis '96, associate vice president for institutional advancement; The Honorable Jim Bickel, member of the Cottey College Board of Trustees and co-chair of the CONNECT initiative; College President Dr. Jann Weitzel; alumna Sheryl Mowry '58, who was present at the original dedication of the Chapel; and Sherri Taylor, senior donor advisor.

#VirtualFounders2021: Celebrating

by the CCAA Executive Board

Virtual Founder's Day Weekend celebrated an unprecedented number of connections with more than 730 alumnae registrants from 46 states and five countries in attendance. During this remarkable weekend alumnae were able to witness the dedication of a new campus space, participate in live events with classmates and Cottey friends, and celebrate Virginia Alice Cottey Stockard's birthday ON the date of her birth. This historic weekend was a blend of long standing traditions of class reunions, serenades, and sharing of Cottey tales with new experiences like a Cottey scavenger hunt, Battle of the Halls trivia contest, and the dedication the new Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Campus Life making this Founder's Day Weekend "virtually" the best!

This year's festivities also inspired a fun new treat. Many alumnae had a 'FUN Box' delivered to their door, and the creative crate included items to bolster each event scheduled, including a holographic Cottey tumbler for Tumbler Time with the CCAA Board, a birthday hat and party duck for Virginia Alice's birthday, and even daisy seeds for us all to plant and grow Cottey love in each of our homes. A special thanks to **Tamara Burkhead '95** who designed the Celebrating Connections logo. The iconic Chapel surrounded by fireworks captured the essence of our weekend where we celebrated all of our Cottey connections while also commemorating our new space.

Zooming in on Class Reunions

Class reunions are always a highlight and this Founder's

Weekend 2021 was no different! One thing that was different was that each class gathered in an on-screen room instead of checking their campus map to find the assigned classroom. The space may have been electronic, but the experiences were tried and true. Classmates swapped life updates, funny memories, and laughed together late into the night. The classes of 1978, 2001, and 2011 held their virtual reunions for three or more hours! Though some Cottey alumnae were far away from their classmates, other Cottey women were in the same house! An alumna from the Class of 2005 got Zoom going in one room for her mom, Class of 1975, before hopping onto her own class reunion.

Heartwarming Homecoming

There was not a gathering in the Haidee and Allen Wild Center for the Arts this year, so attendants didn't form lines in the Auditorium for the homecoming skit tradition. Instead, we gathered online for a watch party where we soaked up memories from each class celebrating a reunion year through the sharing of photographs, memories, and even a daisy or two. During this first ever cyber-Cottey homecoming celebration, every reunion class from 1950-2015 was celebrated. If you did not have a chance to watch this inaugural event, be sure to visit the Founder's Day website at CotteyFoundersDay.com. Grab a tissue for the video from the Class of '76 as they offered the wish "may all of your dreams bloom like daisies in the sun."

Celebrating Cottey Creativity

Many alumnae have spoken about how Cottey inspired their



Old Connections in New Spaces

creativity and helped them to find their voice. **Jamie Gray, '97** discovered her own artistic spirit at Cottey and was able to exhibit her work *Paper Cosmos and Marble Storms* in the P.E.O. Foundation Art Gallery during Founder's Weekend. Other alumnae were also invited to share their inspiration by printing duck and daisy coloring pages to COLOR with Cottey. Sculptors were able to use the pipe-cleaners in the Fun Box to make ducks and daisies to celebrate their Cottey creativity.

Happy Birthday Dear Virginia Alice Cottey



The Daisy Montage

During the Chapel Service at Founder's Day, it is a tradition that those present place a daisy in a basket in honor of the founding of Cottey by Virginia Alice Cottey Stockard in 1884. Those very special daisies are taken to her gravesite where they are reverently placed on her

headstone to connect our founder to all of the students who have attended Cottey. This year, however, we virtually shared daisies and the result was a beautiful montage of daisy selfies that allowed us all to keep the tradition.

New Connections Through New Traditions

Often during Founder's Weekend, Cottey alumnae meet women from other classes and forge new friendships while gathered around the tables in Raney Dining Room. Without a round table this year, the tradition of blending alumnae across generations took place in a new ways: the Cottey Scavenger Hunt and Battle of the Halls Trivia Contest! The novel approach allowed Cottey alumnae to unearth Cottey antiquity both in the form of Cottey memorabilia and Cottey factoids. The highlight of the scavenger hunt included a three-foot-wide daisy, a bathroom with duck decor, and an original wassail recipe. The scavenger hunt even had a few 'future Cottey grads' helping their alumnae grandmothers to find ducks, daisies, and Cottey memories around the house. The Battle of the Halls, however, was competition at its finest. Every hall answered 30 questions in 30 minutes and Reeves Hall won only by a small margin. Though some of the questions stumped most alumnae, the question everyone knew: "In the song *Cottey We Will Give*, what will we give?" The answer of friendship, love and loyalty was happily shouted, added to the chat box, and heart emojis added using Zoom reactions. Even without gathering in the same physical space, these new Founder's activities have sparked new and renewed existing friendships.

Hail to Thee Our Alma Mater

One favorite part of this annual alumnae weekend is the singing and the serenades. Unfortunately, singing on Zoom is not exactly like having a cyber-choir in your living room; so, this year, the serenade had a new spin, a sing-a-long! Luckily, however, many classes have produced beautiful recordings and having both accompaniment with lyrics meant everyone could sing along in the same key! The last song of the serenade was the song we all learn as incoming students *Hail to Thee Our Alma Mater*. This traditional song has reminded many generations of Cottey graduates about our dear old Cottey C. And, whether gathering online, outside of Main Hall, or in the new campus spaces, we will always have the connections that we celebrate because of Cottey.



And the winner is . . . **Laura Archazki Pacter, Class of 1992!**

Not only did Laura win the individual challenge and a \$100 gift certificate to the Cottey Spirit Shop, but her classmates sent in the most student referrals and won the rights to have their year inscribed on the Golden Duck. Laura referred five students to Cottey. When asked how she did it, she replied, "My secret is talking to people, and getting to know all about them more. Sometimes, they mention they have a daughter, niece, granddaughter, or a step daughter, and then I mention Cottey, and what a special college it is, and I ask if they want to learn more about it."

The Alumnae Referral challenge runs October 1 – Founder's Day (April 1-3, 2022), but anyone can refer a student anytime on the alumnae tab of the Cottey website.

Keeping with Tradition...It's Time to Submit CCAA Alumnae Awardee Nominations

Founder's Day Weekend 2022 will be here before we know it! The Cottey College Alumnae Association (CCAA) Executive Board is again accepting nominations for alumnae awards.

Celebrate your accomplishments or those of a classmate or colleague by nominating a Cottey alumna/friend for one of the following award categories:

- **Distinguished Alumna:** Awarded to Cottey alumnae whose accomplishments in professional or human services have brought distinction to the name of Cottey College
- **Alumna Service:** Awarded to Cottey alumnae who have contributed significant service and dedication to the College and/or the CCAA
- **Outstanding Young Alumna:** Awarded to Cottey alumnae who have graduated 15 years ago or fewer, and who have achieved recognition in a career, displayed exemplary community service, or offered significant service to the College

- **Friend of the College:** Awarded to individuals who are not Cottey alumnae, but who have contributed specific and meritorious service toward the advancement of the College and/or the CCAA

- **Honorary Alumna:** Awarded to individuals who are not Cottey alumnae, but who have contributed significant service to the College and its alumnae over a period of time

Nominate an INCREDIBLE person for an award via the nomination form on the alumnae website: <http://community.cottey.edu/nominate>.

Nominations are due by July 31, 2021.

Save-the-Date
#CotteyFounders2022
April 1-3, 2022

Reunion year for class years
ending in 2 or 7

Hijinks with Hermatrude

Let us set the scene: It is March 2021 and the CCAA Board has returned to campus for the spring board meeting and to "woman" the 2nd Virtual Founder's Day Weekend. While enjoying lunch in Raney Dining Room, she is spotted—off in a far corner sits Hermatrude. It seems that our beloved feathered friend was begging to be relocated! Although watchful eyes of students halted the first attempt, another plan quickly hatched.

A lull created the perfect time to borrow a table cloth and stroll out of the dining room undetected to the waiting car of CCAA board member **Mandi Jordan '01**. Success!!

Where to hide Hermatrude and how to keep the duck game going? The most apropos place was chosen and this note, composed by **Randi Turk** (Class of '68) was left behind:

*Oh CSC you've looked in here
 fretted some, and wandered there
 but there's a place you can't exclude
 while searching for your Hermatrude.*

*A steeple tall, a club below
 She waits for those who may not know
 How much she misses her seniors dear
 So find her soon, or she'll shed a tear*

*She sits upon a lofty perch
 Waiting for those who always search
 A mascot true, she's really lonely
 Find her in a chapel balcony...*

Before the end of Virtual Founder's Weekend, Hermatrude was found. But, remember, nobody leaves Hermatrude in the corner.



When You Say Duck, You've Started a Conversation

On Facebook, we asked for history of the Hermatrude mascot most of us know and love (see photo top of page 7). We received this answer from **Kristin Heinbaugh Desborough '87**. In the spring of 1986, Hermatrude disappeared. If I remember correctly, she'd been left on the Chapel steps,



The first senior duck? This antique waterfowl is on display in the parlor of Main Hall.

and when **Jackie Tomlinson** the '86 VP went to get her, she wasn't there. Obviously the seniors thought it was a freshman prank, but as far as anyone knows that wasn't the case. (I have fairly solid information from a local source as to what probably happened, but I'm not going to go into it here.) At any rate, when the Class of '87 got back to campus in the fall, we didn't have a Hermatrude. With Step Sing rapidly approaching, my suitemate **Erin Metcalf** made the version that's still in use today. She was

a little bigger and bulkier than the previous model, so we started pulling her around in the red wagon, which was passed down to me from our senior **Jennifer Gadsen Carpenter**, to make transporting her a bit easier. Prior to that South Dakota/Wheatlake suite primarily used the wagon to haul laundry over to Reeves as Robbie didn't have laundry facilities. Freshmen who used it for that purpose had to wear gloves, and it was a two-person job getting it from the third floor down to the parlor.

Prior to this iteration of our famous spokesduck, Hermatrude wore paper feathers with each feather sporting the name of a current senior. The photo right was contributed by **Belinda Hargrove '81** showing a feathered Hermatrude along with her sidekick Mergatroid.

A couple of alumnae from the 60s recall having ducks, but don't remember having a Hermatrude on campus. The first reference to the senior duck was sent to us by **Christine Renner '77**. The following is copied from the Cottey College Newspaper - Issue Four - CoCo Comments - January 14, 1937.

Senior Duck, Sr, hatched as a brain child of Ruth Chamberlain sometime during the fall of 1933. His foster-mother Miss Chamberlain, president of the student body that year, was intensely interested in collecting Scotty dogs at the time and no doubt the arrival of such a strange little fellow as Senior was quite a surprise. But determined he should not suffer the tragic fate as an ugly duckling, she took him the day he was hatched before the Senior girls

of her school and beseeched them to act as godmothers to him. From that day forward he was pampered, petted, and spoiled to a formerly unheard of extreme.

As he grew older he became more aristocratic. By the spring of his first year he demanded that he be allowed to sit at the dinner table with his godmothers. To comply with his wishes the Seniors made up a class table and placed him in the center of it. And he sat there cocking his head on which sat his beloved green hat with an orange feather (he refused to take it off, even at meals) and preening his yellow feathers proudly. The only check of his terrible conceit was the taunts of the disgusted Junior class who made the dining hall ring to the tune of, "Who's afraid of the Senior Duck, Senior Duck, Senior Duck". But even this did not have much effect on him, for his doting guardians invariably soothed him afterwards.

Shortly before his death, Senior Duck was sitting in the music suite enjoying the soothing effect of the combination of voice, violin and piano music. As he sat there a strong wind blew in through the window knocking him over and sending him flying across the floor towards Miss Farley's studio, where he caught his leg in the slamming door. Quite a ceremony was given in honor of placing a splint on his broken leg. In 1934, Mr. Duck dies of old age (and probably, in this author's opinion, of bad temper).

Immediately following his decease, Barbara Allan, an art major, produced Senior Duck, Jr. an incubator duck. Senior, Jr. takes after his father in almost every respect. There is a striking resemblance, and Junior even wears his father's beloved hat which was handed down to him. His temper is irascible, his hunger for power is never appeased.

Last year, 1937, the Junior class kidnapped Senior Duck, Jr. The Seniors relieved of the responsibility for a short time and sure that he would be returned shortly did not ask for his return. And within a very short time this Juniors finding him ungovernable, held a clever little ceremony at which time they brought Senior, Jr. back to his guardians, singing, "Here comes the duck, we fear we must give him up" to the strains of, "Here comes the bride".

Poor Senior, Jr. is aging rapidly. It is feared that his will be a short reign. But then, there are always ducks to succeed him. Until then, carry on, Senior Duck.



Founder's Day Service

Outstanding Young Alumna

Sarah Gage '16

Sarah, originally from Florissant, Colorado, is a Cottey legacy as both her mother and aunt were Cottey women! She grew up hearing about Cottey, singing the songs, and attending numerous Founder's Weekends. Upon graduating from Cottey in 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and minor in history, Sarah flew to a remote town in Alaska where she began her public history career working for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service while living in a cabin with no running water or electricity. This experience led to more opportunities within the Department of the Interior, and she spent time working seasonally at National Park Service sites in North Dakota and Ohio. This spring, she will complete her Master of Arts degree in Public History, and she currently serves as the advancement manager for the National First Ladies' Library in Canton, Ohio, where she preserves, promotes, and educates about the lives and legacies of our nation's First Ladies. She serves as a volunteer at two local museums and is an active member of P.E.O. Chapter BB, Ohio.

Distinguished Alumna

Morgan Shaw Parker '96

Morgan serves as vice president and chief marketing officer for AMB Sports + Entertainment, overseeing all brand marketing, media group (brand communications, broadcast, digital and social media) and creative design functions for the Atlanta Falcons and Mercedes-Benz Stadium. She is responsible for building and driving integrated strategies to support the brand, stadium and football team.

Hired in 2016 as vice president, football communications, Morgan has also assumed leadership of digital and social media, UI/UX as well as the brand strategy, brand communications and creative design teams. Over the past five years, she has worked to fully integrate all brand marketing disciplines for the first time in team history. Under her leadership, the Falcons have earned three platinum and two gold AVA Digital Awards, two

Webby Awards, nine regional Emmy Awards, 19 regional Emmy nominations and one Hashtag Sports Award.

Morgan has 25 years of experience and a proven track record in sport business and innovation across the NFL, NCAA, media, corporate brand and agency. Prior to joining AMBSE, Shaw Parker spent more than 10 years at NIKE, Inc. where she served as director within the brand's North America Communications function. In that role, she set the strategic and tactical communications direction for multiple Nike brand categories, including Football (NFL and NCAA) where she led the 2012 media launch for Nike's NFL partnership.

Morgan spent five seasons (1999-2004) with the Kansas City Chiefs as a manager of Public Relations, including Corporate Affairs and Community Relations. While on the Chiefs PR team, she served as an on-air feature reporter for the Chiefs Gameday Show with Metro Sports and was a member of the NFL's Super Bowl PR team for over a decade. In addition, she spent time with two sports marketing agencies working with national brands and clients including the NFL, MLB, NBA, USOC, and NASCAR. Throughout her career, Morgan has been committed to advancing opportunities for girls and women in sports with her work with WINforKC, the Kansas City Sports Commission, Rising Media Stars and various other organizations. She was recently honored as one of Adweek's 2020 Most Powerful Women in Sports and was also named a 2018 Gamechanger by the Sports Business Journal – an award given to women who are making an impact in sports business.

Morgan holds a B.S. in Business Administration and Marketing from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a M.S. of Education in Sport Management from the University of Kansas. She resides in Suwanee, Georgia, with her husband and two sons.

Award recipients (left to right)
Sarah Gage '16, Morgan Shaw
Parker '96, Kathy Leffler '64,
Tricia Bobbett.



Award Recipients 2021

Alumna Service Award

Kathy Peyton Leffler '64

Kathy Leffler of Scottsdale, Arizona, was appointed to the Cottey College Board of Trustees in 2010. She considers this experience a highlight of her fifty-plus years in P.E.O. Prior to that she served on the Communications Committee of The Defining Moment Campaign.

Kathy and her husband, Albert, have lived in Arizona for the past 40 years. A native of El Paso, Texas, Kathy is a 1964 graduate of Cottey College and earned her B.S. in elementary education with a minor in political science from the University of Texas-Austin. Her daughters Ambre and Holly also followed her to Cottey. Ambre is a 1994 alumna and Holly graduated in 1997. P.E.O. has been a family affair for Kathy. She joined her mother, Evelyn Peyton, when she was initiated into Chapter BP, El Paso, in 1968. Kathy later joined her mother-in-law, LaVerne Leffler, when she dimitted to Chapter AM in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Today, Kathy and both of her daughters are members of Chapter BA, Scottsdale, Arizona. She currently serves on the board of directors of the Grammy award-winning Phoenix Chorale. Kathy has worked in various aspects of the writing business, including newspapers and magazines through her home-based freelance company called Words to Go, Inc.

It is often said that students at Cottey "find their voices," which is also true for Tricia. She came to Cottey as a young professional, and like our students, found a safe environment where she was encouraged to "find her voice," and as Dr. Weitzel often says about our students, "to use her voice." Tricia has watched the power of Cottey in the lives of students, and she believes in the incredible liberal arts and science education offered by the College. As a proud Cottey Mom, she watched up close and personal the impact of a Cottey education through her daughter, **Tiffany Crawford**, Class of 2001. She is a member of P.E.O. Chapter EZ, Missouri.

Friend of the College

Volunteer Team for the CONNECT Initiative

Cottey has always been a student-centered campus, but without a student center. With the creation of the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Campus Life, the building at the center of campus has become the heartbeat of the College, serving students, faculty, staff, alumnae and visitors. As a student-focused institution, Cottey is committed to directing all tuition and fees paid by students into their education. Therefore, campus improvements, such as this project, are made possible by the generous support of Cottey alumnae, the P.E.O. Sisterhood, BILs and friends of the College.

Fundraising for the CONNECT initiative was led by a BIL task force and area leaders consisting of Jim Atchison, Chuck and Sue Baker, Gary Barch, Jim Bickel, Richard and Karen Blair, Tom and Diane Bond, Al and Karen Brooks, Tom and Betsy Cornwall, David and Cheryl Denslow, Chuck and Denise Lenk, Albert and Kathy Leffler, Donna and Gary Steinfert, Jack Weitzel, Cottey administrative staff members Sherri Taylor and Christi Ellis. From hosting awareness events, to writing letters, to making phone calls, and being present in the Cottey room at P.E.O. Convention of International Chapter, these volunteers were instrumental in the success of bringing a place to CONNECT to Cottey's campus.

Honorary Alumna

Tricia Bobbett

Tricia joined Cottey in 1987. She served as the executive assistant to the president and secretary to the board, and after 33 years, she retired in December 2020. In addition to working with President Dr. Jann Weitzel, she had the privilege of working with President Emerita Dr. Helen Washburn and President Emerita Dr. Judy Rogers. Tricia was a member of the National Association for Presidential Assistants in Higher Education and the Board Professionals Network with the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.



International Experience Goes Hawaiian

Editor's Note: the International Experience for 2021 was originally planned to be a trip to Greece, but international COVID-19 restrictions prevented Cottey students and staff from entering another country. Instead of cancelling the trip, Cottey found an alternative location, Hawai'i. The Hawaiian Islands, once its own country, and now the 50th state in the U.S., provided a rich cultural experience different from that of a typical Cottey student. Stephanie Grgurich attended the trip and provided the photo and commentary below.

By Stephanie Grgurich
Enrollment Outreach Counselor

The Hawaii experience was simply incredible! In a year full of challenges for Cottey and our students, this trip to the Aloha State exceeded all expectations. Our students were immediately immersed into Hawaiian culture through hands-on experiences, like caring for the land ('āina) at Mālama Loko Ea Ancient Hawaiian Fishpond), and expanding their sense of social responsibility, as they did at Nā Mea Kūpono, a sustainable wetland taro farm.

They swam, kayaked, snorkeled, explored, and discovered. Students learned of Hawaii's unique history in places like historic Chinatown, the 'Iolani Palace, and Pearl Harbor. They challenged themselves by climbing Diamond Head.

Overall, the trip to O'ahu delivered on every metric of the International Experience, even in such an unlikely location as within our own shores! (What I really want to say here is that we made the best of COVID circumstances!)

The schedule for the week is listed below.

- Day 1: Arrive & explore Waikiki
- Day 2: Mālama Loko Ea fishpond
 Explore Hale'iwa (North shore town for lunch)
 Green World Coffee Farm (just a pit stop – no activities)
 Na Mea Kūpono taro farm
- Day 3: Chinatown tour
 'Iolani Palace tour
- Day 4: He'eia State Park (kayaking & snorkeling)
 21 Degrees Estate (cacao farm)
 Byodo-In Buddhist Temple (no tour- just exploring)
- Day 5: Diamond Head State Monument
 Catamaran tour – snorkeling, sailing
 Germaine's Luau – luau food, and a show (think Dixie Stampede; No Dolly but Polynesian and awesome)
- Day 6: Pearl Harbor:
 Ford Island
 Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum
 USS Arizona Memorial
 USS Bowfin museum & submariner museum
- Day 7: Free day
 Farewell Dinner at hotel
- Day 8: Free morning
 Return to Mainland



Alumna Bryson to Direct at Carnegie Hall

How do you get to Carnegie Hall? According to the old joke, "Practice, practice, practice." For alumna **Dr. Amity Bryson '93**, it was a top notch career as music department chair and director



Dr. Amity Bryson

of the Avila Singers and University Singers at Avila University that got her selected to conduct at Carnegie in May 2022.

"Peter Tiboris, the artistic director of Carnegie Hall, approached me—I did not apply for this so it has come as quite a surprise," said Dr. Bryson. "I was informed that I was selected based upon my reputation. I first connected with Peter and the Carnegie team when I took my choir to participate in a Carnegie performance in 2005, but we were invited singers—this is my first invitation to conduct. Since we still face 'the glass baton' this is very exciting. Since 2005 my choirs have performed in the Festival Internationale di Roma twice (2009 and 2016). We were awarded the

Outstanding Ensemble of the Paris Choral Festival in 2019 after singing the final performance of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy. I have taken my choir to the Hilton Head Choral Festival and other events over the last 15 years. We were invited to the Interfolk Festival de LePuy in 2020 (of course this was postponed), which is an international music festival sponsored by UNESCO.

The performance is May 27, 2022, with a five-day rehearsal period in New York City. Dr. Bryson will be working from October-May to prepare and engage the singers.

"Many conductors simply arrive for the performance; I have committed to work with the singers in order to create a more cohesive, unified ensemble. The singers are selected by the artistic team at Carnegie. I am invited to nominate programs of the highest caliber; I have already nominated Cottey's choral program. I certainly nominated and expect many of my own current singers as well as alumni from my 22-year career at Avila University."

Dr. Bryson will direct Paul Basler's *Missa Brevis*. Paul Basler is a horn professor at the University of Florida who composed *Missa Brevis* for his choral colleague about 15 years ago.

"Singers were labeled 'super spreaders' in March 2020 and we have rehearsed 'socially distanced,'" said Dr. Bryson. "A return to singing together exemplifies the healing demonstrated in Paul Basler's work. I am honored to perform the work in the current climate. I have said to my own students, I have no desire to return to normal—I know we can grow and learn lessons from the pandemic. I am pleased to have the opportunity to share this experience with singers from across the United States."

Dr. Bryson mentioned that we still do not have a significant number of women conducting major orchestras. "Why women are not viewed as natural leaders is beyond me," she said, "but I certainly gained leadership experience and skill during my years at Cottey. I am thrilled to earn this opportunity and I will take as many women with me as possible on this journey."

A Little Egg on Our Face

One of the favorite dishes for sit-down dinners at Cottey is the Onion Soufflé. As a result, during Founder's Weekend, the Raney dining staff made the Onion Soufflé and the recipe and instructional video was shared for all alumnae to enjoy at home. But, a key ingredient was missing from the recipe card. Eggsperly spotted, our Cottey alumnae noted that the Raney dining kitchen staff added an egg to the Onion Soufflé recipe. The recipe was originally misprinted in the Cottey cookbook. This is not a funny 'yoke' for those of you who wondered why the soufflé was not fluffy! Luckily, you all cracked the case of the missing egg. The recipe was corrected and reposted on the Cottey Founder's website.

A Welcome Return to an In-person

Commencement Weekend is a time-honored tradition at Cottey abundant with special events. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was the first time the College did not hold a live commencement ceremony. After a year of carefully navigating protocols to best ensure the health and safety of the campus community, the administration of the College determined it was feasible to once again return to the tradition of a live, in-person graduation service in 2021—with a few modifications.

In many ways, Commencement Weekend was very similar to other graduations at the College. In other ways, changes were instituted to accommodate health and safety guidelines that were still in place in mid-May. With family members coming from all over the country to campus, and students traveling to their various hometowns or to Hawaii as part of the international experience following commencement, it was important to minimize the possibility of transmitting COVID-19 to or from a campus gathering.

Many of the familiar elements of past commencement weekends were still in place. On Saturday evening, graduates still stood on the steps of Main Hall and had their mortarboards placed on their heads by people who were important to their journeys. On Sunday, graduates still dressed in their caps and gowns and carried daisies as they processed to Hinkhouse Gymnasium. Faculty processed to the promenade in front of Hinkhouse and formed two lines on either side of the walk. As



This mortarboard reads “Flying high, but remembering where I came from.”

students processed through the lines and into the gym, faculty members applauded the graduates to express their pride. Even though participants were wearing masks, it was easy to see that many students were moved by the presence of and applause by the faculty.



Faculty applaud the associate degree graduates as they process into Hinkhouse.

Commencement Ceremony

For Capping and Commencement, the College separated the associate and baccalaureate ceremonies to allow for social distancing. In addition, each graduate could invite three guests to watch Commencement in person from the gymnasium and a livestream was available for those who could not attend. To create more space in the gymnasium for social distancing, faculty members processed to the front of Hinkhouse, but did not come into the gymnasium.

The ceremony itself followed the typical pattern of remarks and introductions, an address by the honored speaker, the presentation of the graduates, and the awarding of diplomas. **Morgan Shaw Parker '96**, the vice president and chief marketing officer for AMB Sports+ Entertainment, served as the honored speaker. Following the turning of the tassels, graduates recessed to the Alma Mater.

Because of social distancing requirements, the traditional Daisy Chain with undergraduate students was not awaiting the new alumnae as they exited the building. Instead, Cottey faculty again fulfilled a tradition as they held six-foot ribbons and daisies as the graduates recessed onto the campus grounds to gather with friends and family.

Although this year's Commencement might have looked a little different from those of years past, the College was pleased to have the opportunity to honor graduates and their achieve-



Because the softball team would be at the national tournament on Sunday, Cottey held a special graduation ceremony for these six athletes during the Commencement rehearsal on Thursday to ensure they could walk across the stage and accept their diplomas as the other graduates would in three days.

ments in person. And some of the changes, such as faculty applauding the graduates as they processed into Hinkhouse, were perhaps more meaningful after a challenging year.

Here's to the Class of 2021! May all of your dreams bloom like daisies in the sun.



Congratulations to Ed Hyde and Dr. Oindrila Roy!

Ed Hyde, supervisor of maintenance and grounds, received the staff member of the year award. This award was established to acknowledge an outstanding employee and supporter of Cottey College.

Dr. Oindrila Roy, associate professor of international relations, received the Class of 1960 Excellence in Education Award. This award was established by the Class of 1960 to acknowledge and reward excellent teaching.

Alumna Profile: Christi-Anne Beatty

by Steve Reed
Editor

Radio show host Dave Ramsey often tells his listeners they need a “gazelle-like intensity,” to meet their financial goals. In other words, you need to be focused and going at full speed to realize those ambitions. High achievers don’t walk towards the finish line; they sprint!

Gazelle-like intensity could have been coined to describe **Christi-Anne Beatty**, Cottey Class of 2019. She entered Cottey in fall 2015 at the age of 15. You read that correctly, she was 15 years old when she entered Cottey. Today at 21 she has finished her second year of law school, owns income property, and is a clerk in a law firm.

“I was definitely nervous about starting at Cottey and nervous about making friends as every student entering college is, but I was also really excited about the experience and felt comfortable in the Cottey atmosphere,” said Beatty.

Working towards her Bachelor of Arts in Business-Management with a minor in International Relations, Beatty became involved in extracurricular activities. A top runner for the cross-country Comets, she was one of two Cottey runners her final year to be named All-Region 16, and qualified for the national meet. She participated in Model UN, was president of Phi Beta Lambda—the business honor society, and in 2017 was named a Newman Civic Fellow.

“One thing I loved about Cottey was the opportunity to try different areas of interest,” she said. “Cottey helped me find myself. I honestly just had so many interests I didn’t know if I wanted to be a sign language interpreter, an athlete, a teacher, a businessperson, or a lawyer, so trying different extra-curriculars helped me get more exposure to my areas of interest.”

One of those areas of interest was real estate, which she began to investigate her junior year.

New Wellness Center Renovation



Health services, counseling, spiritual life and diversity, the Cottey cupboard and the diversity closet are now relocated to the almost completely renovated building west of Robertson Hall. The staff is excited to host an open house in August when students return and the staff looks forward to sharing Cottey’s new student wellness center with the campus.



"Real estate wasn't even on my radar until my junior year at Cottey. My business classes really started my interests in finance and investing, and real estate was a natural extension of that."

When she moved back to Cincinnati for law school, she got serious about pursuing real estate while working on her J.D.

"I was focusing on finding the cheapest housing possible. House hacking [living in one of the multiple units of your investment property as your primary residence and have renters from the other units pay your mortgage and expenses] came on my radar from a YouTuber I watched. In the process of finding a deal, I learned more about real estate and became heavily interested."

Of course, it takes money to buy income property. How does a law student come up with the funds to purchase real estate? The same way she does everything else, with hard work, grit and determination.

"Christi-Anne was always a very determined and focused student, with a clear picture of where her life was intended to go. I knew she was taking the decision very seriously because she focused in on the best route for her, the best route to move herself toward the future she had envisioned. I'm not at all surprised and also incredibly excited to learn about her success."

Dr. Carol Clyde Gallagher, assistant professor of organizational leadership

"During the winter break of my first year of law school, I worked at FedEx Ground," Beatty explained. "I was going to stay working one day a week, then COVID-19 hit and suddenly all of my classes were P/F [pass/fail] and online, so I stayed at FedEx and worked full-time hours to May and part-time on weekends for the summer. To save money I just walked or ran everywhere until I got a bike as a birthday gift; I joined every local and chain restaurant's free food group; I didn't buy unnecessary stuff, and I funneled my money into stocks."

A few months ago, Beatty and her boyfriend purchased a triplex near campus.

"This didn't happen overnight," Beatty said. "This happened after 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. [days] from 17 years old to pay towards my dreams and saving that money. This happened after working weekly on building my credit since the day of my 18th birthday. This happened after choosing affordable schools, saving half of my already low income, learning how to invest my money, and learning how to analyze a real estate deal."

"Someday I'm going to give this [property] to my child or nephew, and they will never have to worry about housing insecurity," she added. "I'm now a 20-year-old, Black, first-generation homebuyer, multifamily investor, Airbnb host, and I am creating generational wealth."

With her interest in real estate and income property, why not go for an MBA instead of a J.D.? Beatty has a Cottey professor to thank for that guidance.



Christi-Anne Beatty '19

"I talked to Dr. Clyde Gallagher [assistant professor of organizational leadership] about the decision, and I felt that an MBA isn't nearly as directly useful for people starting off in business as a law degree is for people starting off in the legal profession, and a J.D. is as versatile of a degree as an MBA."

This past year, Beatty was named a 2020-2021 Diversity in Law Fellow at the Law and Leadership Institute.

"It was an amazing and invaluable experience," said Beatty. "It's a year-long program starting in the summer where we teach inner-city high schoolers about the college process and law school. We attend workshops where we connect with attorneys across Ohio and with the other fellows, and we get a mentor who teaches us about the legal profession."

"I'm currently clerking for Lerner, Sampson, and Rothfuss, a full-service real estate law firm downtown, and I plan on staying in private practice after law school. I think the skills needed, the mentorship shown at Lerner, and the work-life balance would allow me to continue to grow my real estate business," Beatty said.

With a year left in law school and her first income property purchased, the future looks incredibly bright for this accomplished alumna.

Nina Beth Hensley Gunyon '88

Nina Beth Hensley Gunyon, 53, of Greenfield, Indiana, passed away May 16, 2021. She was born in Marion, Indiana, October 21, 1967, to parents Nina Darlene "Dee" Aguilar and the late Donald Wayne Hensley.

She graduated from Oak Hill High School in 1986. On August 3, 1991, Beth married the love of her life, Eric C. Gunyon. They shared 30 wonderful years together.

A member of the Class of 1988, Beth studied early childhood education at Cottey College. She continued her education at Ball State University and Indiana University, ultimately receiving her master's degree.

She worked as the Director of East Street Station, a childcare center for Bright Horizons Family Solutions for many years, a job she excelled at and enjoyed.

Beth was a loving, compassionate woman, who never met a stranger. She was a valued member of Cumberland Methodist Church. Beth was also a very active, longtime member of P.E.O. Over the years, she enjoyed participating in the Marion Easter Pageant. In her spare time, Beth loved crafting, making greeting cards, scrapbooking, and knitting. She was a devoted wife, daughter, sister, and friend. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Beth is survived by her husband Eric C. Gunyon, her mother Nina Darlene "Dee" Aguilar, siblings Pamela "Pam" Ramsey, Carolyn Earnest, Cathy Ezra, Carla Aguilar, Manuel Aguilar, and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her father Donald Wayne Hensley and her stepfather Everardo "Eddie" Aguilar.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Nina



Beth Gunyon and her husband Eric at an alumnae gathering at Convention of International Chapter in 2019.

Beth Gunyon Memorial Scholarship for students of Cottey College. Checks can be made payable to Cottey College and mailed to Cottey College, c/o Institutional Advancement, 1000 W Austin Blvd., Nevada, MO 64772.

Editor's note: About those shirts seen above...Alumnae from the Class of 2001 who resided in New Mexico Suite in Reeves Hall created the "My Hottie Went to Cottey" t-shirts. The New Mexico alumnae gave them away as gifts to the grooms of Cottey alumnae (including their own spouses, of course). A website was up for a couple of years so others could purchase these shirts, but the site expired some time ago. **Caroline Fitzgerald Seavey '01**, one of the New Mexico alumnae responsible for the t-shirts, noted that she still has several in her garage. If interested, you may direct message Caroline through Facebook.

THE COLLEGE WAS NOTIFIED OF THE FOLLOWING ALUMNAE DEATHS

Marilyn Snavelly Maxey	1951	Carol Childers Johnson	1967
Jean Vogel Nielson	1953	Opal Montague Swanson	1946
Katherine Garland Landgraf	1953	Marimatha Ritter Roper	1950
Norma Jean Benshoof Stephens	1954	Patricia Boles Martin	1956
Wanda Theriac Groce	1945	Nedra Isbell Smith	1966
Eleanor Young Brockett	1948	Nina Beth Hensley Gunyon	1988
Mary Ayers Burnett	1968		
Lynn Kelley Frady	1960		
Nancy Gravette	1958		

In Memoriam, Dr. Bruce Holman

We are saddened to report that Dr. L. Bruce Holman, professor emeritus of art, passed away. Dr. Holman joined Cottey College in 1983 and taught until his retirement in 2015. He taught courses in photography, drawing, printmaking and painting. A talented artist in his own right, many of Dr. Holman's paintings are displayed on campus. Most noteworthy is the seven-paneled mural of the fine arts at Cottey hanging in the foyer of the Haidee and Allen Wild Center for the Arts.

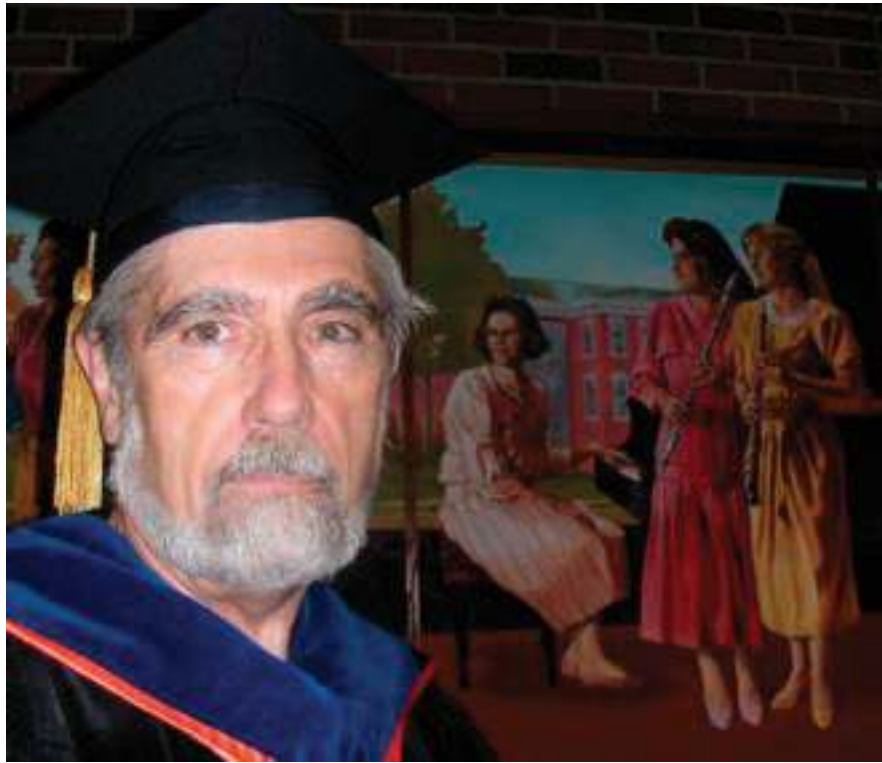
Dr. Holman earned a B.A. in applied art from the University of Missouri-Kansas City; and an M.A. in instructional communications, a Ph.D. in instructional technology, and an M.F.A. in illustration from Syracuse University.

In addition to teaching art, Dr. Holman was a feature cartoonist for *The Mother Earth News* magazine, creating a regular strip "Down on The Farm" that ran from 1975-1985. His work was compiled into a book, *Holman's Harvest from Down on the Farm*, in 1982.

Dr. Holman was also a cinematographer and directed and shot several of his own films. In particular, he produced motion pictures, slide sets, and audio recordings concerning urban and rural life in India for use in U.S. schools in 1971 and 1972. He was the technical director for the cinema department at the State University of New York-Binghamton and also taught courses in film animation and advanced film production at SUNY-Binghamton. In the mid-1970s, he published *Cinema Equipment You Can Build*.

A man of many interests, Dr. Holman enjoyed the experience and adventure of travel. He was a filmmaker, a cartoonist, an author, a woodworker, a scout master, a weightlifter, a pilot, a lover of animals, a tinkerer, and a builder of things.

He is survived by his brother Dave, his wife Barbara, his son Alex and daughter-in-law Emily, and two grandchildren, nieces and nephews.



Dr. Bruce Holman

- **Amy Goins Thornton** He was such an amazing teacher and artist. We were so lucky to have him at Cottey!
- **Jessica Williams** I learned a lot from him about my style of painting and how to bring the best out of it.
- **Kaylen Snow** He was such a wonderful professor who really cared about his students!
- **Kayloni Triplett** He helped me to believe in myself and as a photographer.
- **Christy Carlton** He was a great professor and went to bat for me. I took three or more of his classes and learned a lot.

Bruce Holman: Mentor, Friend Colleague

by Brianne Fulton Miller '99

If you found yourself in Neale Hall making art at Cottey College, you most certainly became acquainted with Bruce Holman during your time there. His background in drawing, painting and photography greatly benefitted his students, as did his many stories from his life of travel and adventure.

Bruce taught me and I later worked as his colleague within the department. I was always impressed with his calm demeanor (which led some students to call him Cottey's Bob Ross) and by his generosity. When I was a student, he gave our small Drawing 2 class extra opportunities to learn about life and culture. He had built a Japanese tea house in his yard and invited us to participate in a short segment of a tea ceremony. We also drew with his own Sumi ink sets that day. Later, he and his wife invited our small class to

his lake house where we helped one of our Japanese classmates make tempura and other Japanese dishes as a thank you for the day in the tea house. These experiences were always a welcome break from the normal routine and served as a sort of mini travels in a time before Cottey commenced the International Experiences that students participate in today.

I also distinctly remember Bruce giving me his own tube of Cadmium Red oil paint to keep during his Painting I class when I couldn't achieve a warm red from my existing palette. Paints were, and are still, quite expensive. I appreciated the gesture very much. During my time as his colleague, he often brought by books or tools that he thought could be of use in my classroom. Today, I often lend out or give students my own materials or tools, and I like to think that this habit is me passing on a little bit of Bruce's goodwill to new generations.

FACULTY/STAFF NOTES

Jo Byrnes, professor of dance, participated in an online Dance & Body Science Workshop presented by the American College Dance Association. She also attended a one-day virtual training, "YogaFit YogaBarre."

Carol Clyde Gallagher, assistant professor of organizational leadership with colleagues from Austin College, Drake University and the University of Southern Maine, received final approval of their chapter in the upcoming book *Complexities in Leadership* which will be the newest volume in the series *Contemporary Perspectives on Leadership Learning*. Gallagher is a featured presenter at the upcoming "PIVOT 2.0 Another Shift is Coming" – a virtual women's summit. She will be focusing her remarks on how women leaders can best "Pivot to Intentionality" as women, professionals and community leaders.

On April 1, **Christi Ellis** assumed the role of Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

"Nanostructured Nickle-Cobalt Oxide and Sulfide for Applications in Supercapacitors and Green Energy Production using Waste Water," an article co-authored by Cottey student Wadzanai Ndambakuwa, Cottey alumna Yustinah Ndamakuwa, and **Dr. Ganga Fernando**, professor of chemistry, has been accepted for publication in the journal *Surface Coating and Technology*.

Dr. Selena Kohel, associate professor of psychology, attended the virtual Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association. Kohel presented a workshop titled "Decolonizing the Classroom: Turning the Page." Kohel also presented "Equalizing Online Learning" for Campus Compact's Fusion Webinar Series. The session focused on strategies for addressing challenges in remote teaching and learning. Kohel attended the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention and presented "Diversifying the Classroom: An Opportunity for Increasing Creativity, Productivity, and Equality" at the Society for the Teaching of Psychology Pre-Conference.

Dr. Nancy Kohn, assistant professor of biology, and Jason Librande, visiting assistant professor

of biology, attended the Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R) 2021 Virtual Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Conference. During the conference Dr. Kohn and Professor Librande attended workshops, keynotes and breakout sessions.

Ms. Kris Korb, director of campus activities, accepted the Kansas City Excellence in Patient Centered Care award on behalf of Cottey College. Korb coordinated the campus details for a vaccination clinic on March 12 for area veterans. The clinic, sponsored by the Kansas City VA Medical Center, vaccinated approximately 150 veterans against COVID-19 using the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Dr. Manjira Kumar, assistant professor of biology and chemistry, and students Magdalene Asare, Tsion Shanko, Eden Bisetegn and Geneva Webster attended the Missouri Academy of Science annual conference. Dr. Kumar judged (virtually) the preliminary round of high school presentations in Medicine and Human Health. Asare presented a virtual presentation (Biochemistry, Biomedicine, and Biotechnology section) on "analysis of the molecular effects of acute drug treatments on the aquatic cyanobacteria *Microcystis aeruginosa*." The research was performed by Bisetegn, Shanko, Webster, and Asare in Dr. Kumar's lab.

"The Development of Music Expertise: Applications of the Theories of Deliberate Practice and Deliberate Play," an article by **Dr. Jackie Lordo**, assistant professor of music, was accepted for publication in *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education*.

Chris Ortiz, assistant professor of art, was voted top five best photographers in the "Best of Lawrence 2021" rankings, an annual poll of the citizens of Lawrence, Kansas, to identify what they view as the "best of" in certain categories for the City of Lawrence. Ortiz and his current photographic project "We Are All We Have Tonight," a photo documentary on the punk rock subculture, was featured on the Canadian podcast "The Punk Roquette Show."

Dr. Sarah Polo, assistant professor of English,

presented at the 2021 (virtual) Conference on College Composition and Communication. Her presentation was titled "Power, Vulnerability, and the Unknown Commonplace: Learning to Be a Writing Program Administrator in the Time of COVID-19" and was part of a panel on "Professional Status in the Institution: Working Conditions for WPAs." Polo participated in the following professional development activities: Virtual Workshop on "Helping English Majors Pivot from College to Career," led by Dr. Cathy Day. Virtual Academic Conference on "Racism in the Margins." Webinar on "Linguistic Individualism in English Composition: Towards Antiracist Pedagogies and Labor Rubrics" led Dr. Wonderful Faison.

Theresa Spencer, professor of music, attended the virtual NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) Winter Workshop titled "Moving Forward: Singing, Teaching, and Self-Care during COVID-19". This three-day workshop covered topics such as: Leveraging Your Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual Awareness to Reduce Stress and Enhance Your Holistic Wellbeing; Successful Treatments for Painful Online Pedagogy; An Introduction to Trauma-Informed Voice Care; Addressing the Stigma of Voice Surgery; and Beyond Technique: The Science and Art of Communication.

Dr. Julie Tietz, professor of psychology, attended the annual meeting of the Southwestern Psychological Association. The theme of the conference was Lies, and she attended several virtual sessions focused on topics like how we persuade others, how well we can detect lies (not very!) and the development of lying in children.

Dr. Elizabeth Verklan, assistant professor of women, gender, and sexuality studies, has an article forthcoming in the National Women's Studies Association's journal, *Feminist Formations*. The article "'Dressed Like a Stripper': Visualizing Poverty in Ethical Fashion," will appear in a special issue on poverty and examines liberal discourses of meritocracy, classism and racism in popular representations of poor people in US media.

Cottey recognized and honored the following employees who retired during the past year:

Rusalyn Andrews - Faculty
Tricia Bobbett - President's Office
Jeane Fahle - Enrollment Management
Doyle "Chris" Parker - Physical Plant

Mary Kitsmiller - Housekeeping
JR Raney - Physical Plant
John Shopper - Service Center
Lois Witte - Bookstore

Best wishes on your retirement!

New Members of the Board of Trustees

Ariel Delaney, MA

Ariel Delaney is global health and international development practitioner with over 10 years' experience. Currently, Ariel is the Officer, Strategy, Management and Planning, Office of the President, Global Growth and Opportunity (GGO) Division at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle, Washington. GGO works to catalyze sustainable and transformative socio-economic change. Ariel provides research, analytical support, project/knowledge management and strategic planning to support cross-divisional priorities and initiatives.



In late April 2021, Ariel participated the Women's Economic Empowerment Innovation Challenge for the Financial Services for the Poor Team. Her investment concept, Dada Soko (Sister Market in Kiswahili) won a \$500,000 award. The one-year grant will invest in young Kenyan women entrepreneurs to train and onboard them onto an ecommerce platform which will expand their business and increase their usage of digital financial services.

Previously, she served as a Senior Program Coordinator for the Financial Services for the Poor Team at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where she managed a \$40 million-dollar portfolio of investments aimed to expand the availability of affordable and reliable financial services that serve the needs of all, including the world's poorest.

Ariel is also an industry consultant, currently serving as Deputy Director of Malaria Partners International, an international non-profit that works to eliminate malaria worldwide. She is a member of the Snohomish, WA chapter of the Philanthropic Education Organization, a 150-year organization that provides women scholarships, grants, awards, and loans for students.

Previous to these roles, Ariel led and managed programs at organizations including Grounds for Health, Planned Parenthood, and Adeso. Ariel initiated the Ethiopia and managed the Nicaragua Country Programs for Grounds for Health, has rolled out livelihood and emergency response programs in Somalia, and worked as community health volunteer with the US Peace Corps in Morocco (2008-2010). She has a Master's in Sustainable International Development from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University (2013), and two bachelor's degrees from Castleton University (2007).

Ariel resides in Lake Stevens, Washington, with her husband Travis Warrington and daughter Rainer.

Cathy Moss

After being introduced to P.E.O. by her mother-in-law, Cathy was initiated into Chapter DY, Grand Junction, Colorado, in 1989. When her husband, Lyle, accepted a position with an emergency medicine group in Texas, she transferred to Chapter GT, Austin. She later transferred to Chapter E, Houston. Cathy is now living in Louisville and is a member of Chapter E, Kentucky.



Cathy was elected to the executive board of Texas State Chapter in 2000 where she held all offices except Corresponding Secretary. Cathy presided at the 2006 Convention of Texas State Chapter in El Paso. Her theme was "To Fill Our Hearts With Love." She was appointed to the board of trustees for the P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education in 2006 and served as chairman during the 2009 – 2011 biennium. She served on the Nominating Committee of International Chapter during the 2011 – 2013 biennium and was the chairman of the Celebration of Life at the 2013 Convention of International Chapter in Dallas. Cathy served as the Regional Membership Representative for the Southeast Region during the 2013 – 2015 biennium. She was elected to the executive board of International Chapter at the 2015 Convention of International Chapter in Indianapolis and is currently serving in the office of second vice president.

Cathy grew up on a large farm in western Ohio and graduated with a degree in social science from Ball State University. After graduation, she was a ready-to-wear buyer for L.S. Ayres in Indianapolis.

Cathy feels very fortunate that both of her sons and their families also call Louisville home. Clark is a commercial pilot with Southwest Airlines and Robert is a data scientist for Humana. She has six grandchildren, Paxton, Max, Ava, and identical twin granddaughters, Miya and Meiling, who also share a birthday with Cathy, and three-year old, Kerwin. Johnny Cash, her nine-year old black lab rescue completes her family.

Cathy is an elected elder at Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church, is a member of Lakeside Swim Club, Cherokee Triangle Homeowners, and supports the Louisville Zoo, the Kentucky Science Center, the Speed Museum and the Kentucky Opera. She enjoys a wide range of interests and activities; she is a yoga and fitness enthusiast, a certified ice hockey coach, a Life Master Bridge player, loves art and museums, and is a world traveler.



Inquiries and information should be addressed to:

Office of Public Information
Cottey College
1000 W. Austin
Nevada, MO 64772

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NEVADA, MO
PERMIT NO. 132

Spirit Wear Online 24/7

By Randon Coffey
Director of Marketing

Last year, due to the pandemic, more people turned to online shopping than ever before. According to Statista, a company that specializes in market and consumer data, almost 256 million Americans made an online order in 2020. Whether it is groceries for the week, gifts for a family members, or some new items for the wardrobe, people are turning to the internet more often to make these purchases. As this trend continues, Cottey College saw a huge opportunity to make its web presence more shopper friendly.

This summer Cottey launched a new online retail store, www.shopcottey.com. The shop will feature over 800 Cottey products that can be ordered and shipped all over the world. From traditional t-shirts and sweatshirts to decals and accessories, the online store provides the largest selection of Cottey gear anywhere.

The site is operated by Advanced Online, a Follett Company. Through this partnership Advanced Online provides order fulfillment and customer service for shoppers and gives a portion from each sale back to Cottey. Most of the products on the site will ship within 24 hours of purchasing to help ensure those last-minute Cottey gifts arrive on time. The site will also feature a variety of designs and styles in order to make sure there are looks that appeal to everyone. Throughout the year special sales will be held to give bargain hunters a chance to find deals.

"We are so excited to have this new online store in place," said Spirit Shop Manager Sherry Pennington. "There are so many wonderful Cottey supporters across the globe and having this new online store in place gives them an easy-to-use platform to get the latest Cottey gear whenever and wherever they want."

The new store launched on June 1.

