

Viewpoint

magazine

A Publication of Cottey College:
For Women, By Women, About Women

highlights

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She
Believed
She Could
So She
Did

To Be Her

Letters to the Editor

Dr. Jann Weitzel, president of the College, received the following letter from Jane Goodman Suggs '53.

I couldn't believe it when I turned to page 15 and saw the picture of two of my closest friends and Rosemary Hall dorm-mates during my two years at Cottey! Norma's last name is misspelled (should be Vandeven) and you didn't mention Mary Oberzan Pulkowniks but she is the other gal in the picture and we still, after all these years, keep in touch by phone and "snail mail."

Because I spent the happiest two years of my life and made the most meaningful and long-lasting relationships at Cottey, it was fun to

read the story about Betty Daily and the Duck Jacket. Betty was president of Rosemary Hall my junior year and I went on to hold that job during my senior year.

Speaking of Rosemary Hall – which I'm sure today's students don't even know existed – the following details outline what it was like to live there between 1951 and 1953.

We had only two suites each on the second and third floor and below them on the 1st floor was the only auditorium on campus. As a result, whenever guest speakers, music and dance productions were being presented, those of us living upstairs had to tip-toe across the floors, turn off our radios, etc.

Rosemary was connected to Main Hall by a fairly narrow enclosed walkway (hallway) and we loved that because all classes were held in Main, and thus we didn't have to go outside during inclement weather AND we could quickly get to the faculty lounge (a small room in the Main Hall tower) for a conversation and/or a smoke since there was no "Rec Room" in our dorm.

We also used the walkway, because there were no kitchens in our suites, to sneak down late at night to the Dining Room in the basement of Old Main in order to partake of a few left-over donuts and cupcakes.

The living rooms of the suites had sofas, chairs and lamps and also all

around the sides of the walls were these huge storage benches, which because of what they looked like, we called "Cadaver Boxes."

You may have noticed in the picture that Marg's blue jeans are rolled up – that was the way everyone wore them in the 1950s. I believe that the gals were wither at – or going to – BIL Hill because we were not allowed to wear jeans – at least to classes – during the week. In those days we also were required to wear hats and white gloves into town and on bus trips. Needless to say, hats and gloves came off the minute the bus left town. Lastly, since none of the 3 dorms on campus had

continued on page 1

A Message from the EDITOR

What it means "To Be Her"

The theme of this issue – To Be Her – is a different topic than what we usually select as the arc for our stories. However, when the *Viewpoint* advisory group met in early spring, those words kept coming up. A successful alumna was mentioned and someone at the table said, "I want to be her." When we discussed Elizabeth Walsh, a 103-year-old alumna from the Class of 1932 who still lives in her own home, plays the piano daily and gives occasional concerts, several women around the table exclaimed, "I want to be her!"

We all have heroes we want to emulate, and we hope to exhibit some of their more admirable characteristics someday. There is absolutely nothing

wrong with that. I have favorite writers that inspire me to work harder at my craft and to tell better stories. However, if I'm striving to be the next Donald Miller, I'm missing the opportunity to be the best writer Steve Reed can be.

As we share the idea of "To Be Her," it is also centered on the idea of how you can be "her," the very best version of yourself. Undoubtedly there is someone in your circle of influence who has seen your work, your bravery, your success and has said the words, "I want to be her."

Some of you may scoff at that idea, that there is someone who admires what you have accomplished or are striving to do. Cottey women,

however, have been given the education and strong encouragement to go and do whatever it is they want to go and do. My wife Angie was trying to describe to a friend what that "something" was that sets Cottey alumnae apart. She finally described it this way, "Cottey alums all have a bit of that 'I am woman hear me roar' confidence, and I wish all women had the opportunity to get some of that."

To be her? You **ARE** her.

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

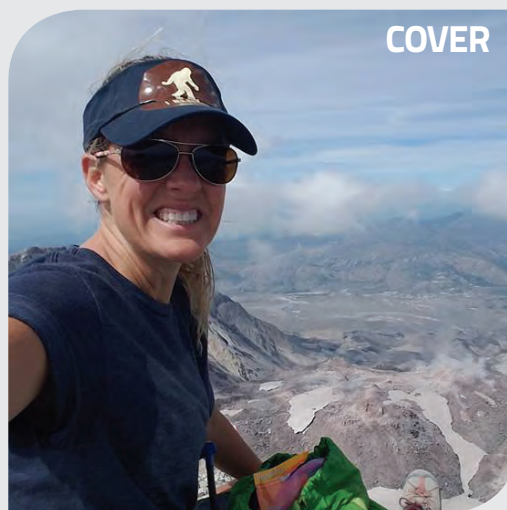
Sincerely,
Steve Reed, editor





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On the cover:

"She Believed She Could So She Did." This may be the unofficial motto of every woman featured in this issue, and possibly for every Cottey alumna. Pictured on the cover is **Michele Strawn Hart '98** on the summit of Mt. St. Helens. Hart climbed this mountain in fall 2016 and epitomizes Cottey women who don't stop until they are on the mountaintop.

Have you ever wanted to write for the Viewpoint? We had several contributors to this issue and would love to have others add to the conversation in future issues. If you have some expertise in a particular area and would be willing to write an article, email sreed@cottey.edu and use the subject line "Author." In the body of your email tell us who you are and in what subject areas you have expertise to share with our readers. Maybe your byline will be in the next issue!

Letters to the Editor continued

clothes washers and dryers we carried our laundry bags down the street to Mrs. Henry's and returned for our clean clothes a few days later.

Well, sorry I get carried away by my memories, but I do want

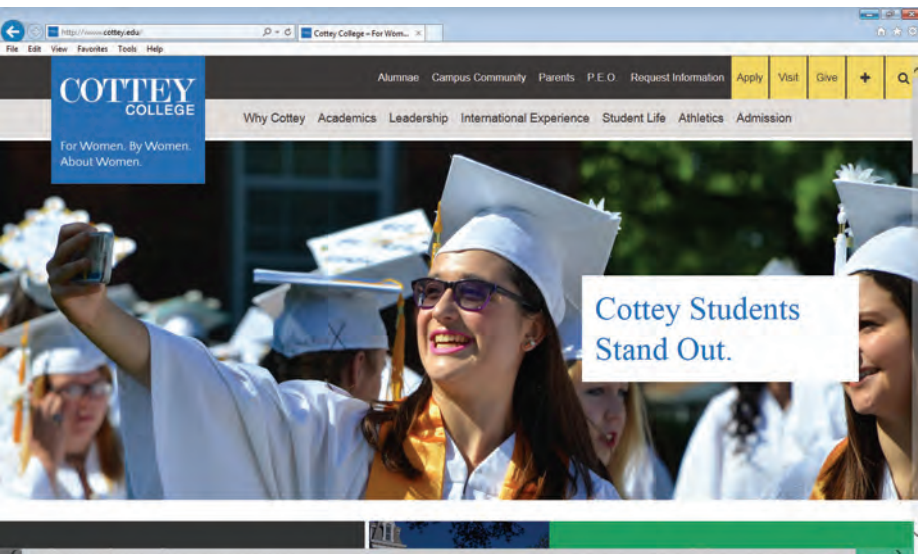
to thank you again for your article that brought back so many memories to an aging and loyal Alum!

Jane A. Suggs '53

Take A Look At Us !

By Carla Farmer
Vice President for Marketing and Strategic Communication

MODERNIZE. STREAMLINE. ENGAGE. Based on site evaluations and feedback from prospective students, alumnae, donors and P.E.O.s, these



Large photos and bright colors engage visitors to the new site.

words describe what today's audience wants in a website. It was time to take action to address an aging website in need of a "refresh." With a generous gift from the P.E.O. Foundation, the Marketing and Strategic Communication Department eagerly embraced the project.

Since the last website update in 2010, technology and "best practices" for websites have advanced. Site users want a website that is easy to navigate; information that is easily consumable (no long blocks of text); and a design that is appealing to prospective students. We set our sights on creating a student-focused website that is sophisticated, savvy, and dynamic.

With the guidance of Educational Marketing Group, a leader in website design for higher education institutions, Cottey's website was taken

apart and rebuilt over the course of six months. The refreshed website features large images, bold colors and large headlines along with "teaser" text to motivate visitors to explore more. A priority is to engage the site visitor on the website to learn more about Cottey. To this end, Marketing uses Google Analytic reports to measure the number and timing of visits, the amount of time spent on pages, and the geographic location of site visitors.

Additionally, the responsive design built into the Cottey site means the website can now change to fit the size of the screen and device on which it is displayed. Whether a visitor is using their mobile phone (the preferred choice of students), an iPad, or any myriad of devices, the website still maintains an engaging visual appeal.

You will also find the site easier to navigate and with plenty of options. Pages directed to students have a right-hand call to action and a social sharing invitation.

Bold headlines such as *Cottey Students Stand Out* or *Experience a 360 Degree View of Leadership* on the top tier pages are decidedly welcoming, confident and personal.

The refreshed website went live in late January but the work continues. An interactive campus map, on which you may click on a building to learn what goes on inside that space along with additional interior pictures, is being developed. A regional activity map to show prospective students the many entertainment, cultural, sporting, and shopping venues within an easy drive will be completed in summer 2017.

We invite you to visit the website at www.cottey.edu and to stay awhile, explore, and learn the important information that prospective students need to make key decisions about applying to Cottey.

Marketing invites your feedback ! Send comments to marketingdepartment@cottey.edu.



message from the PRESIDENT

I Want to be YOU!

When Steve began work on this edition of the *Viewpoint*, he suggested that the theme would be "I want to be her!" As I contemplated this topic and considered the thesis of my article, I reflected on two recent events held on campus: Founders Weekend and "C" for Yourself. The first occasion brought together over 300 alumnae and the second invited to campus 100+ prospective students and their guests. When viewed together, I say to you, dear alums, "I want to be you!"

At Founders, I met many alumnae who still hold a love for and commitment to this amazing institution. As they gathered as classes and with their "freshmen" or their "seniors," it was as if they had been separated by mere days, not years. They reminisced, sang, told stories, laughed, and cried. They shared photographs, flipped through yearbooks, and remembered classmates who were unable to attend or who had passed away. And importantly, they discussed the next time they would be together and the great time they would have. I watched in awe as they hugged and kissed goodbye, hesitant to leave each other's side once again.

Then, just a few weeks ago, we welcomed over 100 guests to campus, students who were considering attending Cottey, along with their friends and families. When they first arrived, many of the high school juniors and seniors seemed a little nervous, not quite knowing what to expect and almost glued to the sides of their family members. Visits to classes, conversations with professors, and two nights spent on couches in the suites were events they knew to expect... but they experienced so much more. They talked for hours with members of Golden Key, learning first-hand what it is like to be a Cottey student. They met girls from around

the country and starting creating those bonds for which Cottey is so well known. By the end of the second day, parents and chaperones were standing off to the side and the students were huddled in large and small groups, clearly comfortable with taking this step toward independence.

I shared a similar story with both groups. I shared that I am the product of large institutions. My bachelor's, first master's, and Ph.D. were all earned at large state institutions, and my second master's was bestowed by a large private institution. While I am confident that the education I received was outstanding, I now know what I missed. I missed what you, the alumnae of Cottey College, receive in addition to an exemplary education: the closeness, the comradery, the long-lasting friendships with each other. With the alumnae at Founders I explained that what they have is so very special. To be able to retain strong relationships with classmates not seen or heard from for many years is extraordinarily unique. And with the prospective students I shared what a Cottey education can offer- relationships that will span a lifetime.

Alumnae, Cottey is well known for outstanding women who make a difference in our world, women leaders, women who provide exceptional role models for current students. Cottey alumnae are found across the country and around the world. Cottey alumnae are amazing; equally amazing is that magical quality that permeates life at Cottey, the long-lasting bonds of friendship, something that graduates of larger schools do not always receive. I didn't... and I wish I had what you have. I want to be you!

Jann R. Weitzel

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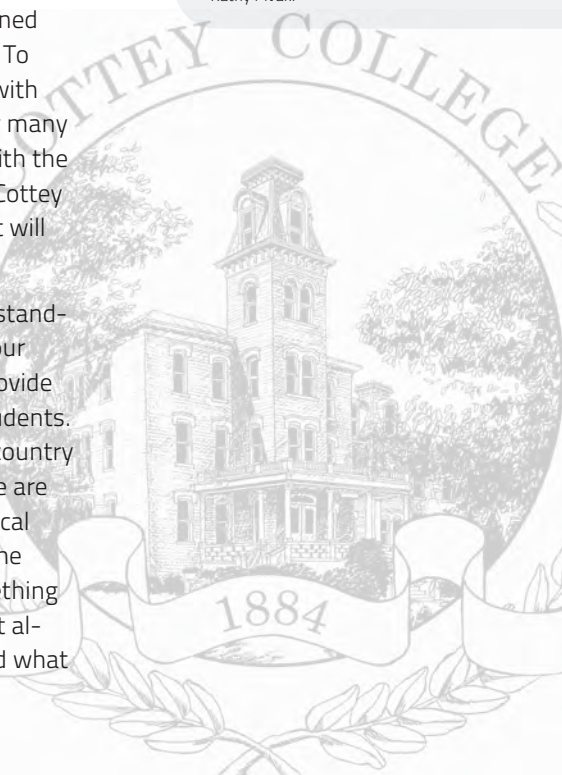
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ADVISORY GROUP
Members of the *Viewpoint* Advisory Group include Steve Reed, Rachel Painter, Carla Farmer, Dr. Chioma Ugochukwu, Dr. Mari Anne Phillips '76, Kristine Anderson Fulton '89, Nancy Kerbs '79, Miranda Wheatley Kassner '09, and Dr. Kathy Pivak.





Cottery College Alumnae Association

Collaborators are HER too!

The Cottery College Alumnae Association (CCAA) exists to sustain a bond between Cottery and its alumnae as well as amongst all alumnae across the globe. This bond does not happen magically; it takes time, passion, personal effort, hard work, good communication, learning to appreciate different opinions and personalities, and sharing common experiences. The CCAA Executive Board members work closely with a variety of key collaborators to achieve its goals.

At this point you have already been introduced to a number of inspirational Cottery women making a difference out in the world; we would like to turn the spotlight to a few aspirational alumnae making a BIG difference in Cottery's successful future by fulfilling one of the following key roles: Class Agent, Regional Group Leader, and Alumnae Award Recipient.

Cottery Class Agent

A Class Agent is the representative from her class who helps connect all classmates through regular communication and networking. This person also helps organize the class fundraising and hosts the class when they come for their reunion at Founder's Day.

The Class of 1967 is chock-full of HERS, including both of their co-class agents. One in particular, Janet (Wil-lis) Weidner, was recently awarded the Nancy Drew Super-Sleuth Award at the Founder's Day class agent meeting. With great passion and dedication she found the great majority of her "lost" classmates and did so in preparation for their 50th reunion. If that were not a significant accomplishment by itself, she diligently documented the various digital tools that aided her effort and graciously shared this documentation and her tips with fellow class agents.

Another accomplishment that exemplifies the HER-ness of Janet is the comprehensive classmate photo directory she created. She used it to create two wonderful gifts for her class. The first was a class video that she presented to her classmates at this year's Founder's. The second was a fabulous custom Founder's Day nametag that included THEN and NOW pictures for each classmate. She went above-and-beyond for her class and for her fellow class agents. Other class agents want to be HER!

The Classes of 1951, 1952, and 1973 are in need of a HER to step us as the class agent. If you would like to learn more or have someone to recommend, email alumnae@cottery.edu. It's time to share the fun and

pass the daisy to another. Join this intergenerational group of fantastic women working to ensure that Cottery continues to be for HER, by HER, about HER.

Cottery Regional Group Leader

A Regional Group Leader is a representative from her geographical region who seeks to bring area Cottery alumnae together to promote Cottery College within the community through socialization, projects, networking, and programs. We have heard from alumnae scattered across the country who would love to connect with other Cottery alumnae. The cross generational experience is enriching and fun. After all, we have all had a common experience and hold a special place in our hearts for Cottery. A few groups are already gathering, and opportunity exists for more! Working together we can continue to keep our Cottery sisters connected to the College and to each other.

If you would like to be HER, a Regional Group Leader in your area, email alumnae@cottery.edu. Gather at a local restaurant to network/connect with other alumnae in the area and work to increase alumnae giving in the region. Refer students in your region or throw a send-off party for current Cottery students. Utilize the group to network, volunteer in your community, and mentor young alumnae.

CCAA Award Recipient

A CCAA Award Recipient is an alumna or friend of the College who is deemed worthy of special recognition during Founder's Day Weekend. The CCAA has been presenting awards to alumnae for over half a century in five categories:

- **Distinguished Alumna**
Instituted in 1955, the Distinguished Alumna's accomplishments in professional or human services have brought distinction to the name of Cottery College.
- **Outstanding Young Alumna**
Instituted in 1985, the Outstanding Young Alumna has achieved recognition in a career, displayed exemplary community service or offered significant service to the College.
- **Alumna Service**
Instituted in 1977, the Alumna Service Awardee has contributed significant service and dedication to the College and/or the Cottery College Alumnae Association.

continued next page

Founder's Day 2017 Wrap-up

It was a busy three days of singing, eating, reminiscing, and recognizing some of Cottey's best. **Greg Hoffman** received the Friend of the College Award; **Joan Maupin** was recognized as Honorary Alumna; **B. Louise McNelly '47** received the Alumna Service Award; **Dr. Ann Marie Pendergast '77** was awarded the Distinguished Alumna Award; and **Betsy Nunez '07** was the Outstanding Young Alumna. Biographies and photos will be in the August digital-only edition of the *Viewpoint*.



- **Honorary Alumna**
Instituted in 1957, the Honorary Alumna is a non-alumna who has contributed significant service to the College and its alumnae over a period of time.
- **Friend of the College**
Instituted in 1979, the Friend of the College is a non-alumna who has contributed specific and meritorious service toward the advancement of

the College and/or the Cottey College Alumnae Association.

You are HER. You know HER. Now, nominate HER online at <http://community.cottey.edu/nominate>.

The CCAA invites all alumnae to engage with the goals of CCAA to ensure Cottey remains for HER, by HER, about HER. For more information, email alumnae@cottey.edu.

Cottey to Offer Four New Degrees in 2017

Building on the success of Cottey College's Health Sciences baccalaureate degree, Dr. Jann Weitzel, president of Cottey College, is pleased to announce the addition of four more baccalaureate degree programs. The growth of degree programs offered by the College is part of its strategic plan to increase enrollment through offering a wider range of programs for women of all ages.

The new offerings will begin in the fall of 2017 and include degrees in Criminology; Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Organizational Leadership; and Secondary Education.

"This is an exciting time at Cottey. With the announcement of the new degrees, we will be able to open our doors to more women who have expressed an interest in these fields," said Dr. Weitzel. "A careful examination of data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and discussion with students, faculty and staff led us to choose these degrees based on the needs of the region and the positive job outlook for students."

The new degrees will build on the strengths of the current faculty and course offerings.

"Expanding our baccalaureate programs is part of an ongoing initiative to shape Cottey's curriculum in a way that equips students with the competencies they need to lead and to succeed in the workforce," said Dr. Chioma Ugochukwu, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty. "We have been careful to propose programs that align with our mission and elevate the quality of existing degree offerings. Adding to our programs is beneficial to both our current and prospective students as they now have more options from which they may choose a career path."

A criminology degree will prepare students to pursue careers in law enforcement at various levels or work in other governmental agencies (e.g. FBI, CIA, or Homeland Security), community service, or justice organizations. This degree also prepares students to pursue graduate work in a number of fields. Because Cottey is a liberal arts college, the degree will emphasize critical thinking through interdisciplinary perspectives.

A Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies degree is an umbrella program that examines the relationship of race, class, gender, and sexuality in women's lives. The Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies courses focus on the role and issues facing women historically and in contemporary society. This degree will prepare students for careers as a domestic violence shelter director, human rights advocate, government agency staff member, political adviser, victims' advocate, or women's health specialist, as well as in the fields of higher education or public relations.

An Organizational Leadership degree prepares students for careers in a wide variety of fields including community development, human resources, management consulting, military, non-profit management, or project management. This major is designed to provide an opportunity for students to study the theoretical and academic aspects of leadership while developing practical skills through the development of individual leadership skills. Students will have an opportunity to create an individualized Leadership Development Plan that stresses and tracks leadership development within each student.

A Secondary Education degree will offer six certification area options for grades 9-12: biology, chemistry, business education, English, social science, and speech/theatre. This degree will involve a high level of involvement with local youth in area high schools. Students working in high school classrooms will find the experience beneficial as prospective teachers and to the schools and families served in the community.

"This is an exciting time at Cottey. With the announcement of the new degrees, we will be able to open our doors to more women who have expressed an interest in these fields."
-Dr. Jann Weitzel

COTTEY

Sharing Cottey

Whether you are an alumna or friend and supporter of the College, now is the time to share Cottey with a young woman in your life. Use our Refer a Student Form at www.cottey.edu or simply give the Office of Enrollment Management a phone call at 888-526-8839. Cottey is busy planning recruitment events, and who knows? We may be in your area! Start making your plans to change a young woman's life today.

COTTEY COLLEGE

*A place where
young women*

**IMAGINE
BELIEVE
ACHIEVE**

*If you already
made a gift to
the Annual Fund
— THANK YOU!
If you would like
to participate,
there is still
time. Gifts of any
amount will help
today's Cottey
students become
the leaders of
tomorrow.*

*"I am not the same
unsure girl who came to
Cottey last year; I am now a
confident young lady and can
only imagine what I will become
after my four years here."*

— Kundai Matara

Imagine

*"It wasn't until I
came to Cottey that I
started getting involved
in community service. Now,
I'd like to join the Peace Corps
and do some volunteer work in
Latin America. After that, I plan to go
on to graduate school."*

— Kalina Jurkowski

Believe

*"We have all
experienced times
that challenged us and
encouraged us to stretch
our worldview. Throughout
this, we have been surrounded
by people who were dedicated
to seeing us achieve our greatest
potential."*

— Kirsten Bureman '16

Achieve

Comets Are Region Champions!

The Cottey College Comets softball team is the 2017 Region XVI champions after their 9-7 come-from-behind win against St. Louis Community College in the deciding game on Sunday, May 7.



The softball Comets pose with their Region XVI championship plaque.

Cottey College hosted the regional tournament, but few gave the home team much of a chance of winning the title as they were the fourth seed out of four teams in the region. There were a few glimmers of hope, however. First-year coach Mark Skapin had put together the winningest team in Comets' history, with a single season win total that topped the total number of career wins. The team finished with a regular season record of 12-16.

On Saturday, the Comets faced off against St. Louis in an early morning game, squeaking out an extra inning victory, 4-3, in eight innings. Cottey then defeated East Central College 3-1 in the semifinal game to advance to the championship. St. Louis defeated

Mineral Area College in their next game, 7-3, to face Cottey in what could have been the championship game for the Comets. However, the Lady Archers came out of the loser's bracket to defeat Cottey 3-11 and force a second championship game. This would be the third time these two teams would play each other that weekend.

Trailing 6-7 in the seventh and final inning, the Comets pushed three runs across the plate and secured their first regional championship in any sport with a 9-7 win.

Skapin started Marisa Jervis in the deciding game. Jervis gave up a total of ten hits, but only two of the Lady Archers seven runs were earned. Hannah Bridges hit two home runs and Elizabeth 'Izzy' Milligan added a home run of her own.

"I cannot express how proud I am of these 12 student athletes," said head coach Mark Skapin. "They worked incredibly hard, persevered through so much, and never stopped believing that they could accomplish something that no one believed was possible. The results of this tournament are a true testament to what a team can do when they play for one another as a family. I am incredibly proud of how far they have come as a group."

Jervis, Milligan, Bridges, and Michala Coffman all received first-team, all-region honors.

Cottey traveled to Danville Area Community College in Illinois for a divisional playoff against Danville Community college. Unfortunately, the Comets luck ran out as they lost both ends of the double-header. Following the divisional losses, the Comets record (regular and post-season) stood at 15-19. Regardless, this Comets team set all kinds of records this season on its way to the regional championship.



COTTEY

TO BE HER

By Steve Reed

Even Virginia Alice Cottey wanted to be “her.” She wrote, *“When I was a small child I read a book about Mary Lyon, the founder of Mount Holyoke College for Women. It gave me a purpose in life and I devoted all my energy to learning and teaching so that if the time ever came when I could found my own school, I would be ready.”*

In high school I had a friend, Don, on the debate team. One evening he came over to my house so we could do research for that year’s topic. During a break, Don noticed my guitar in the corner of my room and asked if he could play it. After a little tuning, Don began playing like a jazz virtuoso, playing tunes from Wes Montgomery, George Benson and Joe Pass as if they themselves had taught him. Even my mom noticed. I saw her standing in the doorway, fascinated that a sophomore could make that kind of music.

Don handed the guitar back to me and asked if I wanted to play something.

“Naw, we should probably finish this,” I said, too embarrassed to strum a few chords from a John Denver song. All I could think the rest of the evening was, “I wish I could play guitar like Don.”

To be fair, Don’s father was an accomplished guitarist, and Don probably grew up holding a guitar after birth. I’m guessing Don had a 10-year head start on me. Another thing I learned is that when Don wasn’t in school or doing chores, he was practicing. He spent hours every day honing his craft while I was doing typical teenage things like watching TV or snacking and stretching out on the sofa.

I was so impressed I took lessons from Don’s father. He was a good teacher and very patient. I even practiced every

evening for about an hour. After a year of lessons, I was a better musician than before, but I was nowhere close to playing like Don.

Once I got into college, the lessons and practice stopped. I had a full schedule with lots of homework and an off-campus job which took a lot of my time. I never took up lessons again, but there are times when I hear a talented player

“Make no little plans.
They have no magic
to stir a man’s blood
and probably will
not themselves be
realized. Aim high in
hope and work.”
~Daniel Burnham

and I think, “I wish I could play guitar like Don.”

Other people have inspired me, and some of those inspirations have led to more lasting achievements. Dr. Paul Reichardt, professor of English, was my advisor in college. I was an English major and he inspired me to learn how good writing is structured in the same way mechanics learn how the parts of a car go together. He gave me, on request, additional grammar work outside of class and taught me how to put words together properly and how to make those words more impactful as well.

Why did I become a better writer and not a better guitarist? One reason was I never really believed I could play like Don. Malcom Forbes said “Too many people underestimate what they are and

overvalue what they are not.” I always underestimated my musical ability, but never doubted my ability to become a better writer.

Second, when it came down to it, I wasn’t really willing to put in the work it would have taken to become a great guitarist. If I’m being honest, an hour (or so) of practice a night is great if I want to sing John Denver songs, but not enough if I want to play a jazz guitar solo. However, when it came to writing I was willing to put in the effort to get better.

The one commonality among the women we’ve featured in this issue is that they are willing to do what it takes to succeed. I was a bit surprised when **Mallori DeSalle** (page 18) told me she works on her comedy routine 20-30 hours a week! This is in addition to having a full-time job and a family. If you want to be *HER*, you’re going to have to put in the work. (That’s the part we so often overlook because amazing women make it look so easy.)

If you’re inspired by *HER* and looking for practical advice on how to turn that inspiration into an action plan, alumnae **Jamie Eslinger** (page 10) and **Lori Trail Martin** (page 15) have shared their professional expertise with *Viewpoint* readers.

In my 25+ years at Cottey, I have been amazed and astounded by the talents and achievements of Cottey students and alumnae. But I know it’s more than just talent that makes a Cottey woman amazing. It’s her firm belief that a Cottey woman can accomplish whatever she puts her mind to doing and then committing to the hard work to make it so. Here’s to these incredible women who make others say, “I want to be her.”

Turning Inspiration into Action

By Jamie Eslinger '94

Inspired Marketer & Promise Coach at The Promise 365

"I want to be HER!"

Have you been there? That moment when you see, meet or hear the most amazing woman in the world. She has "It" and when I say "It" I mean a "BIG IT." Something so desirable you have a visceral reaction to witnessing her life.

She may have achieved something you have always dreamed of (CEO of a startup, speaks twelve languages, stunt doubles on movie sets) or pined for (handmade Italian leather shoes, new bouncing baby, restored vintage car) or didn't even know you wanted in the first place (international non-profit, curly pink hair, impeccable laundry room).

One thing is clear, in that moment of crossing Her path you feel a spark lit inside yourself. You exclaim, "I want to be Her!" And to that I say... Congratulations! You have just experienced a beautiful, life altering moment. It is inspiration.

Inspire

Let's start with the word "inspire." The Old French word is *enspirer* and the Latin root is *inspirare* meaning "breath or blow into." It is also related to the English word "spirit" which comes from the Latin *spiritus*, meaning "breath," but also "spirit, soul, courage, vigor."

Which brings us to this: ***Inspiration is a message from your soul.*** (Or higher self. Or God. Or The Great One. Mother Earth. Goddess... Whatever you connect to as a higher power in your life).

The good news is this -- something way bigger than your daily routine has swooped in and is flying an enormous red flag right in front of your face. It is shouting PAY ATTENTION. This moment is important because it is not an accident. It is a mirror.

The Mirror

Go back to that super woman of incredible strength and vigor. She is not just lighting a fire and fanning the flames of your deepest desire; she is doing something even more important. She is a mirror.

She is reflecting to you something that is important for you to know or understand or dive into deeper. She is giving you an invitation to reflect, grow, or change. It may be a call to adventure or a retreat to the wild woman inside. She is inviting you to conspire with her - to "breathe together" - as you take your next steps into the future.



Now you may ask, "But how? I don't know where to start?" No worries! Below are three steps to get started down an inspiring path. Enjoy the fresh air!

Step 1: Breathe Out Gratitude

Thank or bless the person who inspired you.

This may be as easy as liking her post on Facebook or smiling at her as you pass by in the grocery store. If you have access to actually speak with Her, then share your thanks in person. A simple "thank you" will do. Tackle her with kisses if that is appropriate. No matter how you do it, express sincere gratitude. She has appeared in your life as a reminder of what you wish, want or long for. This is a gift. My Mama Sling taught me that it is always appropriate to send a thank you note after receiving a gift. So do it. In whatever way makes the most sense.

As simple as it seems this is an important step to move forward. It will align you with your next move.

Step 2: Breathe In Clarity

Okay, let's review. You have acknowledged the feeling of inspiration. You have expressed a sincere thank you. Now what? It's your job to get clarity.

Clarity is the act of asking questions and getting to the core of the matter. Clarity may be readily apparent to you upon your first breath of uttering, "I want to be Her!" Or it may not be.

Your reaction may feel a bit murky or something akin to the 'J' word. If that old Gin Blossoms song, *Hey, Jealousy*, is going through your head, don't worry. Jealousy is just a cover up, a costume, a stand in like one of those plastic Halloween masks with the tight strings that left an imprint at your temples. You can't wait to remove the mask after collecting your loot of candy. Well, Cottey Grad, this is the sweet part! I am going to share the Magic Question Exercise that will unlock your extreme clarity!

The Three Magic Questions To Unlock Extreme Clarity.

A trained Medicine Woman taught me this exercise. It is both simple and profound.

You ask these three questions:

1. What do I want?
2. Why do I want it?
3. How will it make me feel?

Then repeat the questions, making your answer to #2 your answer to #1. Do this repeatedly until you get crystal clear on how you want to feel. You will know when you get there. If you want a detailed worksheet that will lead you through this, see the box below.

Finally, look beyond the obvious. The "thing" that SHE has may not be exactly what you desire. It could be a symbol for the feeling that you want to achieve in your own life (in fact, it most certainly is!). For instance

Her Curly Pink Hair - a symbol of creative expression?
The CEO of a Startup - a symbol of freedom?
A New Bouncing Baby - a symbol of new beginnings?

Remember this: Everything we do is to feel better.
Always.

So find the answer inside of you. Explore that initial feeling of inspiration. Dig deep. What does it mean to you? How do you want to feel? Journal. Meditate. Draw. Build spreadsheets. Do whatever helps you get clear. This will unlock the third step.

Step 3: Create The Wind

After you gain clarity, you are ready to take action. Or, as I like to say - create wind. That may sound funny, but this kind of wind is movement or action that will pull all

that air - or inspiration - into your your life.

Wind is air in motion. Two factors are necessary to specify wind: speed and direction. Clarity gives you direction. Action gives you speed. A goal is achieved by mixing crystal clear clarity with repeated strategic action. Repeated action creates a pattern (a current) that builds momentum. Done over and over every day with strong intention you will soon have a tornado on your hands!

Want more? Download a goal setting tips and a worksheet here. [See box below.]

Most Important

Recognize your own accomplishments, gifts, skills and abilities. Think back to your Cottey graduation. At some point in time you were inspired to be a Cottey graduate. You saw something that created a spark of inspiration and then you took the necessary steps to line up your desire and your path (essays, entrance exams, applications, papers, labs, passing grades, killer white graduation dress with matching shoes, etc.). You created wind around your clear goal.

You must recognize that you already have what you need to get what you want. Each step you take will get you closer to the feeling you desire. Just take the first step! Then the next. Then another. They will each lead you forward. Fly with the wind.

Inspiring Others

One day, you will realize, while you may not be Her, you are Here, exactly where you need to be. The fact of the matter is, we never stop growing or learning or changing or expanding. You will never fully be THERE, but you will always be HERE.

The present is the most precious place of all, and being present in and to your life is the most beautiful gift you could give to others. Soon enough someone else will look up at you and exclaim... I want to be *HER*!

And so it goes.

Breathe in. Breathe out.

Pass it on.

Jamie Eslinger has a gift for you! She has created worksheets called "The Promise Packets" to help you set goals and find clarity. Download the worksheets here:
<https://thepromisedaily.securechkout.com/thepromisepacket>



Tatenda Ndambakuwa '15



Alumna Spotlight / Tatenda Ndambakuwa

By Brian McNeill

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Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted with permission of the author.

Tatenda Ndambakuwa [Cotter Class of 2015] grew up in Zimbabwe and vividly remembers the country's food crisis in 2008 that left her and millions of others facing starvation. Now, Ndambakuwa, a junior double majoring in math and physics at Virginia Commonwealth University, is seeking to prevent future famines in Africa with the power of big data.

Ndambakuwa, a student in the College of Humanities and Sciences, is co-founder of a startup that is developing a mobile application to allow African farmers to upload data about their farm's livestock and crop management, seed and feed access, milk production analysis, cattle pricing and other data points. The app will allow for real-time analyses of Africa's food production system, allowing policymakers and others to make the system far more efficient.

"We hear about all these famines or food insecurity or places where there's not just enough food, but Africa's a continent where agriculture is the biggest revenue-generating industry," Ndambakuwa said. "So why are we not producing enough food for the people? For those countries that are producing the food, why aren't they sending it to those who need it the most?"

"So, I thought: OK, we need timely and accurate data to map out food insecurity and food deserts because oftentimes the World Food Programme and nongovernmental organizations will come into countries when there's already a food crisis," she said. "But if we can collect the right data, can we not stop a crisis in advance?"

The startup, called 'Dbuntu' — a combination of 'data' with the Nguni Bantu term meaning 'humanity,' or "the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity" — is aiming to roll out the beta version of its mobile application in December.

It will launch first in Uganda, where the team field-tested the app last summer at a major dairy farm, and then plans to scale up in Zimbabwe and Tanzania.

The idea is that small-scale farmers will upload raw data for their individual farm's production from their mobile phones, which have been widely adopted across Africa because of the popularity of mobile money applications.

"With a mobile application, we will be able to reach people — even those in remote areas — from their phones. And, using the mobile application, we can tell things like how much farmers are producing and be able to tell, is it efficient?" Ndambakuwa said. "You can see, for example, when a farm's granaries are starting to run out of food. With that data, you could tell when we're approaching a crisis. So can we not prevent people from starving? Can we not take steps to prevent famine before it's already too late?"

With farmers providing data, policymakers and others will be better able to answer questions: How much food is being produced? How much is projected to be produced next year? And, if there are fluctuations, what is behind that?

"With the data, we hope over time we'll be able to, say, put red flags over a particular region because they didn't produce as much," Ndambakuwa said. "But, at the same time, we also hope we'd be able to prevent [those shortages] because we're giving the farmers the tools they need to maximize their agricultural efficiency."

To incentivize farmers to participate, the application will provide a number of additional features and services that will help them. For example, the team is looking to provide the ability to link farmers with nearby trucks that can drive their product to market.

"It could let someone say, 'OK, I'm going to this dairy exchange and I can pick up this number of dairy farmers in this area,' and then they can go pick up the farmers and drive them to sell their produce in the city," Ndambakuwa said. "That could make [the food production system] more efficient, and avoid spoilage."

The application may also enable farmers to exchange commodities between one another and even share expertise and information.

"Let's say you're a dairy farmer and you're producing more milk, and you need corn, then [the application] could let you network with corn producers," she said.

They are also hoping to integrate access to microfinance organizations, such as the Grameen

[Please see Ndambakuwa, page 14](#)



Student Spotlight / Tiara Rowell

By Steve Reed

Cottey College third-year student Tiara Rowell was announced as a recipient of a scholarship from The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program. With an acceptance rate of less than ten percent, the CLS is one of the most competitive scholarships in the U.S. and one of the most prestigious foreign language scholarships for U.S. students. The CLS Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The CLS Program offers approximately 600 students from the United States the opportunity to participate in an intensive language study abroad. This nationally competitive program funds students who study one of the 14 critical need foreign languages and is part of the National Security Language Initiative. The 14 critical languages include Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Swahili, Turkish and Urdu.

Rowell will be studying Bahasa (Indonesian) for her language.

"My mother is Indonesian," she explained, "and I have family in Jakarta that I have never met. I have always been interested in visiting the country and getting in touch with my cultural roots. Luckily, this seemed like the perfect opportunity."

Rowell will leave for Washington, D.C., on June 4 for a two-day pre-departure orientation. On June 6, par-

ticipants fly out to their respective countries.

"The CLS Indonesian program will take place in Malang, Indonesia, and I will be studying at the Universitas Negeri Malang," Rowell added. "We study almost every day at the university for about five hours, and then we will take trips and do immersion-like activities on the weekends. After all the hard work, the program ends on August 8."

Immediately after she graduates from the program, Rowell intends to become CELTA certified. The Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults is a highly respected credential that will prepare Rowell to teach abroad.

"I think my liberal arts degree has taught me a lot about the different areas of academic study, and this path seems like a good start for me. After I become certified, my hope is to teach in Indonesia," said Rowell.



Ndambakuwa, con't from page 13

Foundation, enabling farmers to easily access available financial services.

Ndambakuwa, who previously worked on global nutrition issues as an intern at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has, along with her Dbuntu teammates, recently enjoyed success at several national entrepreneurship competitions.

In early April, Dbuntu was a finalist at Smith College's Fifth Annual Draper Competition for Collegiate Women Entrepreneurs, which offers undergraduate women students from across the country a chance to pitch new business ventures to a panel of judges. And, in March, Dbuntu won the Stumberg Venture Competition

at Trinity University, where a few of Ndambakuwa's friends and Dbuntu colleagues are studying.

In October, Ndambakuwa will take part in the 10th annual Clinton Global Initiative University, which supports students' projects focused on education, the environment and climate change, peace and human rights, poverty alleviation or public health.

Ndambakuwa calls Dbuntu a "data-centric think tank" and she plans to possibly expand to other areas of need, such as health care, that could benefit from harnessing the potential of big data. For now, though, the team is focused on hunger.

"We have the technology and systems in place that can bring efficiency to food production. It is unacceptable that people should be going hungry," she said. "There's no excuse why anyone should be going to bed hungry. It's not like a rare disease where people are trying to figure out how to cure it. We know efficient ways to produce food. So we are trying to just bring that technology to the ground and help make [the food production system] more efficient."

You Are Enough

By Lori Trail Martin '91

Business Coach

General Manager, www.thinkconsilio.com

I don't know about you, but what we hear in the media about everyone's achievements and the importance of finding the deeper meaning of life, I get discouraged. I find myself thinking that I'm not doing enough in life because everyone else has it figured out and I don't.



Don't get me wrong, I believe in personal development and growing as a person. My colleague Susan is brilliant at recognizing what makes someone unique and then helping her see it. She helps me climb out of my discouraged state. However, there is fine line between being in a happier state and appreciating and applying my unique strengths. What I find interesting is that the gifts that make me special, those gifts that make others say, 'I want to be her,' are so ingrained, so natural, native and subtle, they are invisible to me. I have learned that just because they are effortless to me doesn't mean that they are common or normal for others. Susan has helped me see how my unique gifts can be applied daily.

Our company uses a concept called the 3 A's for personal development. This method helps teams and individuals grow so that collaboration becomes easier. We encourage our clients to integrate the 3 A's a smidge every day so personal growth is simple and integrated:

1. **Awareness.** Become aware of what is unique to you and only you. Ask friends, colleagues what they

observe that you do that no one else does. What things do you do that are easy and give you energy?

2. **Appreciation.** Value what you have and the challenges that made you the person you are today. Also, express appreciation to those around you for the helpful contributions they make to your life and work.

3. **Application.** This is the fun part because when you are aware and appreciate your gifts you will see the opportunities where you can positively impact lives.

As you are thinking about your self-improvement goals, look around, notice what others are doing. What makes them stand out? How do they use their talents positively and consistently? What do you admire about what they are doing? Now take those ideas and mesh them with your unique talents using a skill-building mindset.

For example, when leading a team meeting I use a linear agenda and an activity that creates some fun and laughter, but can struggle with free-flowing idea generation. When Rochelle leads a meeting, she brings spontaneity and obscure new concepts, but she struggles with a linear agenda. Both styles work well and create growth in our team, but there have been times we have tried to impersonate each other wholly and those tests were failures at best. Embrace your style, use your energy to grow your own strengths instead of trying to emulate someone else.

So often we are looking at the grand gestures, the huge accomplishments. As I reflect on who I admire, I find people who use their gifts to notice, accept and love those around them. Virginia Alice Cottey built our college so each one of us could go out into the world and be the kind of person that others say, "I want to be like her". Believe in yourself, recognize your individual greatness and be authentically you!

"Virginia Alice Cottey built our college so each one of us could go out into the world and be the kind of person that others say, 'I want to be like her.'"

Lori Trail Martin

To Be Her, One Must Know Her

By Dr. Trisha Stubblefield
Professor of English

What does it mean to be a woman today? What is the relationship between identity and power? How have gender and gender roles changed throughout history? Who are the women our history books have left out? How can we draw on women's history and feminist theory to become socially responsible, globally aware, women leaders? These questions are just a few

that students get to explore in Cottey's new Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies baccalaureate program.

For many years, a Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies course has been part of the liberal arts core requirements at Cottey, and several students have graduated with a certificate or a minor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Now, however, students can complete a major in the discipline. As vice president for academic affairs Dr. Chioma Ugochukwu points out, "Introducing the Women, Gender, and Sexual-

ity Studies program at Cottey, a women's college, only makes sense since it aligns with our mission."

"Learning about topics such as how suffragettes achieved women's right to vote, for instance, should empower our students by exposing them to strong role models," explains Dr. Ugochukwu. Moreover, she notes that the major offers "students a deep understanding of the concept of intersectionality or how different identities such as race, class, and sexuality interact to shape women's experiences at home and in the workplace. Such an exposure helps students understand that they have agency and can effect change in any career path they choose, whether it is in politics, sciences, or the arts." Or, as Cottey's mission states, in this major, "women develop their potential for personal and professional lives of intellectual engagement and thoughtful action as learners, leaders, and citizens."



Dr. Trisha Stubblefield

Highly interdisciplinary, the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major allows students to take courses that explore gender both in the United States and around the world. Furthermore, Cottey Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies majors get practical experience through internships, and they complete a capstone project that represents the culmination of their work in the major. One of the strengths of the program is that it works quite well as a double major, thereby allowing students to gain a deeper understanding of the impact of gender in and on other disciplines and to become more marketable in a highly diverse, global workplace.

Valerie Bond, a first-year English major who also recently declared a major in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, explains, "In order to be a successful member of society, I need to be able to understand women like myself, as well as have a better understanding of sexuality....My knowledge of gender up until college was based solely on the ideals set by men....This degree program allows me to understand my own gender as well as others around me."

Sophomore Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major Alex Marroquin echoes these sentiments: "This degree will be highly beneficial to me in the way that it will open my eyes to not only current but past issues. It will further aid me in helping others understand why these issues are important. I will be able to apply the knowledge and skill set gained [through the degree] to many jobs. The possibilities are endless with a WGS degree."

"Such an exposure helps students understand that they have agency and can effect change in any career path they choose, whether it is in politics, sciences, or the arts."

~Dr. Chioma Ugochukwu

Indeed, a Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major gives Cottey women the tools to navigate successfully through an ever-changing, diverse world; to learn about the women who have come before them; and to see that they, too, are inspirational women who have the power to change the world for the better.



Alumna Spotlight / Elizabeth Walsh '32

by Christi Fulton Ellis '96
Coordinator of Alumnae Relations

I had the incredible good fortune to meet Elizabeth Jameson Walsh '32 at her home in Texas recently. This 103-year-old alumna is amazing, and everyone who has heard this story wants to be just like her.

I came across Elizabeth's name while preparing for Founder's 2017. I was looking forward to meeting some of our oldest alumnae from the Class of 1947. In researching reunion classes, I noticed we had an alumna from 1932. I thought, "This can't be right; that would make her over 100 years old." I looked her up in our database and sure enough there was Elizabeth Walsh, Class of 1932.

Remembering my Cottey history, I realized she was a student when our Founder was still alive. Wouldn't it be spectacular to meet someone who went to Cottey when Virginia Alice was still here? Upon further investigation, I learned she lived in Farmers Branch, and I was heading to Texas for alumnae gatherings. I decided right then and there I must try and meet her. I called her phone number, crossed my fingers and held my breath that she would pick up, AND SHE DID! I introduced myself and asked if she was interested in a visit. After consulting her calendar she let me know she was available ONE of the days I would be in Texas. I was ecstatic !!

On a lovely Friday afternoon I drove to her home. When I arrived, she was at the door waiting for me. Her front room held not one but two baby grand pianos. One was a 100-year-old Steinway that was a wedding gift from her husband, and the other was her everyday piano. At age 103, Elizabeth lives on her own with her very talkative cat, Kitty. We settled in the living room for what would be several hours of delightful conversation of Cottey memories and her extraordinary life since then.

Elizabeth came to Cottey in fall 1930 from Amarillo, Texas, at the age of 16. She explained it was very common back then to graduate from high school at 16.

Her memories of Cottey include

- Living in a suite in Main Hall. Her roommate didn't last long, as she was expelled for sneaking around with the Nevada boys.
- The swimming instructor, Miss Maynard, encouraging her to take swimming, though she was scared of the water. She took it and eventually learned how to swim. Miss Maynard became one of her favorite instructors.

- Her very favorite instructor was Miss Moore, who taught piano. Miss Moore encouraged her talent for the piano.
- Even though Virginia Alice Cottey was no longer the president of the College (She was named President Emerita in 1929), she still did a devotion every night in the parlor of Main Hall, for which Elizabeth played the piano.



Elizabeth was at Cottey for one year, and encouraged to pursue her outstanding piano skills, she attended the Conservatory of Music in Chicago for one year before completing her B.A. and M.A. in music at the University of North Texas. She married Thomas Walsh in 1951 and has three children, Thomas, Richard, and Lela, and several grandchildren.

She has traveled the world several times over, (her last overseas trip was 10 years ago at the age of 93), taught hundreds of students to play the piano, conducted dozens of choirs, appeared in many theatrical productions including *Cleopatra* in *Caesar and Cleopatra*, Jane in *Jane Eyre*, and Anna in *Anna and the King of Siam*, and sang in the Dallas Symphony Chorus.

Our visit ended with a concert; she played the offertory for me that she would be playing for church on Sunday—that's right she stills plays for church every Sunday. As I sat listening to the beautiful melody, I couldn't help but think, "When I grow-up I want to be HER!" If I'm lucky enough to be 103, I hope that I, too, have to check my calendar when scheduling a visit from a fellow Cottey sister.

Funny

The not-so-humorous courage it takes to step out of your comfort zone and follow your dream

By Steve Reed

Would you rather face the Grim Reaper or a packed audience waiting for you to say something? Surveys show that more Americans are afraid of public speaking than they are of death. Yep; more people would choose the final curtain over the stage curtain. Imagine then what it would be like to decide —after you've established a career and started a family—that you'd like to give live comedy a go. That's exactly what Mallori McGill DeSalle '99 did about a year ago as she got up on stage in a comedy club for open mic night.

DeSalle took a traditional career route after Cottey. She earned her B.S. in psychology from Nebraska Wesleyan University and then completed a master's degree at Truman State in Missouri. She met her husband Dan there and they married and began a family. DeSalle took a position as a professional trainer.

"I mostly train people in professional jobs, doctors, nurses, therapists, etc," she said. "I am not shy in front of an audience, but as a trained expert, I have a lot of other people's research and theory to lean on. Facts are facts. No one can say, 'No. That is wrong.'"

"What makes me more successful as a trainer is my interest in engaging and entertaining. I often use humor, jokes, comedic timing, and general silliness to keep my participants awake and interested," she continued. "I want people to take me seriously, but I want them to leave the training and say, 'I felt like this was a day well spent.'"

After years of training others, DeSalle had developed a signature style and was getting compliments from her attendees.

"In doing my trainings, I've had people ask me if I was a comedian. I'd say, 'No, but I play one on t.v.'" she joked. "Usually people say, 'Well, you should try it. I'd come.' And, after hearing people tell you that you are funny lots of times, you start to believe it. So, I thought, 'Maybe I should give it a try.'"

Her first set was at an open mic night held at a conference she was attending in 2014.

"It went well, and the feedback was positive, but I wasn't sure if it was a fluke or if I was cut out for comedy," DeSalle said of that first experience. "A year passed and I heard that my local community college offered a course in stand-up, so I enrolled in a five-week class that ended with a public performance at a comedy club. The performance went well (I posted that show on Facebook) and have been trying to build my comedic repertoire ever since."

Was/is it easy to get up in front of an audience and tell jokes?

"I will say that I believe I was more comfortable on stage because of my day job. But, the nerves

DeSalle has some advice for those who want to try performing comedy.

"Before trying an open mic, find out the facts:

1. How do you get on the list?
2. What is required of new comedians? (length of set, do you need to bring your own audience? Yes, this is likely the case!)
3. Practice standing on stage with the mic and with the lights in your eyes.
4. Go to the club and watch someone else do it first.
5. Be open to learning. Find another comedian and talk shop."

Business



"To take a step out of your comfort zone, you must ask yourself, 'If I knew I would do well would I do it? Am I not doing it because I think I will fail?' If you are *NOT* doing something because you think you might fail or would only do something because you *KNOW* you will succeed, you have hit your comfort zone limit. Face your fear and find that the fear of failing is the worst of it. Actual failure is not the most painful, it's not knowing what will happen. Sometimes you win, sometimes you learn."

are intense! Training nerves no longer bother me. Comedy performance nerves are for me similar to small anxiety attacks. I think about my set a week in advance and my heart thumps quickly. I sit to write my jokes and I get stuck....what if I bomb? Gulp."

Preparation, work, and feedback are the keys to fighting the nerves and being successful on stage according to DeSalle.

"A five-minute set has taken me 10-20 hours to write because I am writing lots of material, saying it out loud, editing, and doing it all over again until I find the best five minutes," she explained. "I didn't get help from my husband in the beginning. I wanted to impress him with how good I was, but as time passed I realized I needed an honest sounding board. I tell him ideas for jokes; he rejects about 80% of them. Getting feedback is the most helpful advice I would give. I grow more when I share my work (OUT LOUD) with someone else. Feedback is not meant to stroke one's ego, but to make a joke better."

Does she think she's funny?

"To be honest, trying comedy makes me think I am NOT funny," she said. "I have to work really hard to do comedy. Being Mallori and joking around is natural. My hope is that as I keep doing this, I am able to use my natural style in my stage performances. If that happens? Boy, it would be something!"

DeSalle ended the interview with this bit of advice. "I'm enjoying the learning process. I share this journey with people around me. And, I feel excited to say that I do stand-up. I mean, if I didn't...I'd just be sitting all day."



Pictured above are First Lei recipient Hannah Cook; Mrs. Beth Ledbetter, president of International Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood; Dr. Jann Weitzel, President of Cottey College; Grace Trumbo, Second Lei recipient; and Tara Stuart '52, honored speaker at Commencement.



Congratulations to all 2017 Cottey graduates!

& thank you for helping
make Cottey great!





Student Spotlight / Christi-Anne Beatty

By Steve Reed

Campus Compact, a Boston-based non-profit organization working to advance the public purposes of higher education, has announced the 273 students who will make up the organization's 2017 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows, including Cottey College's own Christi-Anne Beatty.

Beatty, a second-year student from Lakeside Park, Kentucky, has a passion for diversity awareness and intercultural understanding reflected through her service, leadership and engagement in the community. This compassion led her to serve with the Alliance for Immigrant Women, listening and translating immigrant stories from Somali participants. Additionally, she prepares and serves traditional Somali dishes at the annual Cottey College Multi-Cultural Festival. Beatty fosters cultural understanding among rural elementary students through the service-learning program, STOMP (Students That Open Minds to Possibilities), and by volunteering as a summer reading program assistant with the Kenton County Public Library. She cultivates awareness by teaching basic American Sign Language to area Girl Scouts and providing dinner services to children at the Buenger Boy's and Girl's Club as a volunteer.

During the past two years, Beatty has assisted with the planning of the Community Chapel Service as part of MLK Day of Service activities, as well as participated in MLK Day of Service projects. Through her desire to increase cultural awareness and understanding, she has been influential as a student leader with the Cross Generational Sharing Project, a campus/community partnership to reduce isolation and depression among residents of senior care facilities.

As a 2017 Newman Civic Fellow, Beatty will be a part of the first cohort to benefit from a completely re-designed fellowship. The Newman Civic Fellowship, named for Campus Compact co-founder Frank Newman, is a one-year experience emphasizing personal, professional and civic growth. Through the fellowship, Campus Compact provides

a variety of learning and networking opportunities, including a national conference of Newman Civic Fellows in partnership with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate. The fellowship also provides fellows with access to exclusive scholarship and post-graduate opportunities.

"The cultivation of community-committed leaders has never been more crucial," said Campus Compact president Andrew Seligsohn. "We rebuilt the Newman Civic Fellowship experience because our country needs more people who know how to bring communities together for positive change. We are thrilled to welcome this group of 273 exemplary students as the first cohort to participate in this new model."

The Newman Civic Fellowship is supported by the KPMG Foundation and Newman's Own Foundation.

Campus Compact is a nonprofit coalition of more than 1000 colleges and universities committed to the public purposes of higher education. As the only national association dedicated to this mission, Campus Compact is a leader in building community engagement into campus and academic life. For more information, visit www.compact.org and follow @Campus_Compact on Twitter.



Photo courtesy Gabe Franklin and the Nevada Daily Mail

Coming Soon to an Inbox Near You



It's hard to believe, but even with 28 pages in the expanded *Viewpoint*, there often isn't room for all the news that happens on this campus. This summer we're going to try something new, a little "bonus" if you will. In late August, we'll be sending a link via email to all of our alumnae with a link to a shorter, digital-only version of the *Viewpoint*. This update between the spring/summer and fall/winter issues will have the stories that didn't make this print edition.

What will be in this mini-edition? How about

- Biographies of all the award winners from Founder's Day Weekend
- Photos and stories from Commencement Weekend
- Highlights from Vacation College
- Photos and highlights from Cottey's Summer Workshop for Women Who Are Going Places
- A story on Dr. Tara Stuart '52, honored speaker at Commencement, who gave a miniature peace pole to every 2017 graduate
- Biographies of the newest members of the Cottey College Board of Trustees
- Information on the newest faculty members to join Cottey this fall

The digital-only version of the *Viewpoint* will be posted to the website, as the print versions also are, but to receive notification when it is posted, make sure the Office of Alumnae Relations has your current email address on file. Keep us updated at alumnae@cottey.edu.

The College remains truly grateful for the many alumnae and friends who make Cottey College a philanthropic priority. We wish to specially recognize the following donors with contributions totaling \$5,000 or more from to October 16, 2016, to April 30, 2017.

To make a gift in support of Cottey College's commitment to education for women, visit www.cottey.edu/give or use the gift envelope provided in this issue of the *Viewpoint*.

Gifts or Pledges of \$5,000 or more

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Carol L. Ryberg—New Ulm, MN

Diane Endicott Sampson '58—Salina, KS

Blaine & Marian Shull—Thousand Oaks, CA

Class Notes

1960s

Chelsea's Agora Gallery featured the original work of Cottey College alumna **Yoshiko Kanai '67** in *Mélange of Milieu*. The exhibition ran February 14 through March 7, 2017, with an opening reception on Thursday, February 16.

The mixed media art of Yoshiko Kanai is both a poignant tribute to traditional Japanese art and a beautiful expression of the many ways in which our global cultures intersect to create new and lovely themes and contextual meanings. Kanai's art is unique, in that she uses acrylic paints on small wood pieces and then wraps them with threads to form a variety of visual effects. Each pattern contains its own visual connotation, inspired by nature and the modern world in both physical and metaphysical ways.

Today Yoshiko Kanai lives and works in Yugawara, Japan. "My work is a reflection of my life. It contains everything about myself in the present and the past strung through by a long piece of thread. Now, these beautiful threads will lead me to new creative possibilities."

1970s

Suzette Dinehart Gill '74 retired from Chevron Oil Corp as a Environmental Specialist in May 2016, working 27 years in their Midland, Texas, office. This January she and her husband Press celebrated 41 years of marriage!

1980s

Lynn Logan Chavez '82 reports that her classmate **Susan Kerns Moore '82** was recognized as the nation's #1 Mary Kay Sales Director for 2016. Lynn says, "Sue is a dynamic woman, humble and supportive to so many." Congratulations, Susan!

1990s

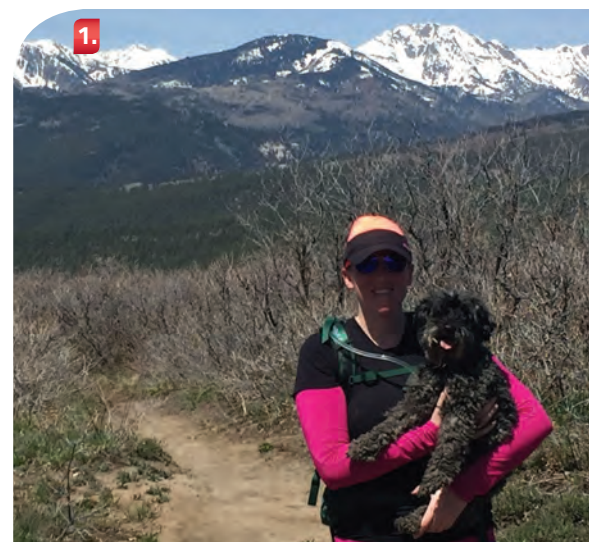
Karen (Potter) Hankins '92, a fourth-grade teacher in Oregon City, Oregon, was named the Concordia University Educator of the Week in May 2017 for the local Portland, Oregon, area. In an interview, she cited Cottey and Dr. Michael Emery as part of her motivation for becoming a teacher:

"I always wanted to become a teacher because I was surrounded by great teachers. Unfortunately, I wasn't convinced I could become one, because I didn't really believe in myself. It all seemed out of reach for me. Then, almost out of nowhere it seemed, the P.E.O. sisterhood and Cottey College offered me amazing scholarships. I knew opportunities like that didn't happen often, so I went for it. While in my first term, a professor, Dr. Emery, pulled me aside to make sure I knew he believed in me, that I was exactly where I belonged, and that he expected me to achieve my dream of becoming a teacher. He was really tough, honest, and not one to praise without merit, so I believed him. My life was changed by a teacher. If he could convince me to pursue my dream, I hoped I could convince others, too."

From Marlowe (Myers) Garay '97: Reunion time already?? Bittersweet... I owe so many of you heartfelt apologies and hugs and phone calls and letters. If I can find you (off of FB...I'm not THAT much better at being agreeable...) then you'll get it. Today I'm homeschooling, adopting, teaching ESL and driving a minivan with very little paint left on the hood & roof. I'd love to hear from you. marlowe2301@gmail.com

2000s

Last summer **Ann Woods '02** took a new optometry post in Durango, Colorado, after a brief stint in Denver. She loves all the mountain views and activities in the area. In addition to her continued pursuits in choral singing and science fiction writing, Ann and her husband, Andrew, have



Class Notes

started a new business called the Durango Spice Company. After finding that the touristy town has nothing like it already, Ann and Andrew began collecting spice recipes, sending samples to friends and beta testers (including several Cottey alumnae), and designing the labels. They are getting ready to go live online this summer at durangospiceco.com.

[PHOTO 1, page 23]

Liz Ferree '07 returned to Cottey in May to give the address at Baccalaureate. After graduating from Cottey, Liz attended and graduated from Syracuse University's SI Newhouse School of Public Communications. Liz enjoys mixing her

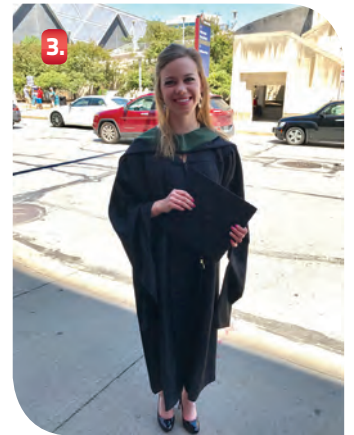


2.

communication style with her love of God to breathe hope and nourishment into people. Liz served as a key founding member of an inner-city refugee organization and is currently getting her MA degree from Denver Seminary in Christian formation and soul care. In her spare time, you can find Liz enjoying an orange theory workout, indulging a good book, savoring a shared cup of tea, hiking and skiing the mountains of Colorado, investing deeply in community, cooking her heart out in the kitchen or laughing until it hurts. **[PHOTO 2]**

2010s

Sarah Neill '11 graduated from Rockhurst University with a master's in occupational therapy. After completion of an internship and board certification, she hopes to find employment as an occupational therapist in the Kansas City area. **[PHOTO 3]**



3.

Sarah Raffurty '11 has been hired as the new Exhibit Manager at the Museum of Osteopathic Medicine on the campus of A.T. Stills University in Kirksville, Missouri. Raffurty has an M.A. in Museum Studies from Syracuse University and is excited to be starting her career in the museum field! **[PHOTO 4]**



4.

Indiana Suite '15

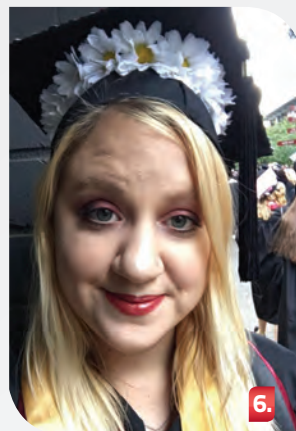
Members of the Indiana Suite Class of 2015 wanted to share their most recent graduations.

Velichia Heinlein graduated on May 6, 2017, from William Peace University. Heinlein majored in Communication-Public Relations. **[PHOTO 5]**

Maggie Mefford graduated from Azusa Pacific University with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work. She is moving back to Nevada, Missouri, to find work before returning to school to earn a master's in social work. **[PHOTO 6]**

Sydney Santana graduated from the University of California, Davis with a Bachelor of Science in Human Development & Family Studies on June 18, 2017. She plans to attend the UC Davis School of Education, Teaching Credential/Master of Arts in Education. She intends to become a teacher like her friend and mentor **Julie Lohr-Shelton '00**. **[PHOTO 7]**

Charlotte Wade graduated from Mount Holyoke College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Gender Studies and a minor in English on May 21, 2017. She plans to pursue a career in higher education administration. **[PHOTO 8]**



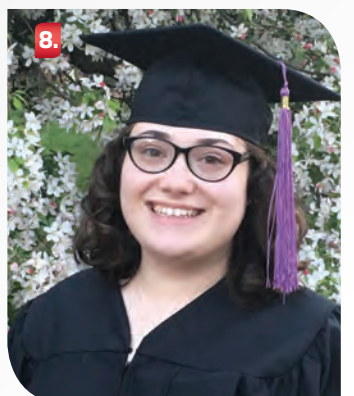
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Class Notes

Births

1990s

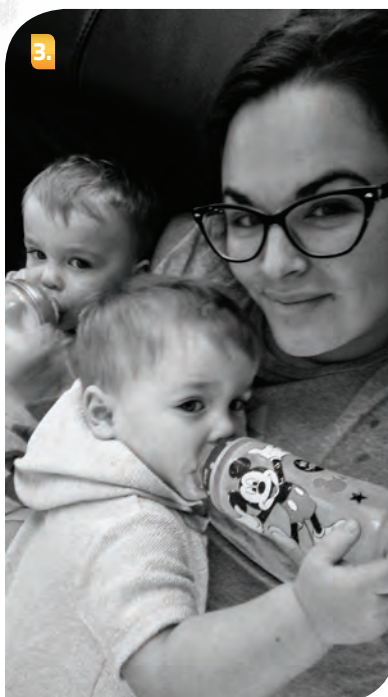
Angie Niemeyer Daniels '94 and husband Brian are pleased to announce the birth of their third son Aaron Michael. He was born on March 29, 2017, and weighed 8 lbs 14 oz. Big brothers William (11) and Thomas (5) are happy to welcome Aaron to the ranch. **[PHOTO 1]**

2000s

Hallie Cook '01 and husband Nick are pleased to announce the adoption of their daughter Ruth. Ruth was born on November 12, 2016, in Waco. Hallie and Nick were there for her birth and took her home from the hospital on November 14. Ruth's adoption was finalized on May 15, 2017, in Dallas. Hallie reports that Ruth will likely be in the Cottey Class of 2037 due to the Kindergarten cut off dates. **[PHOTO 2]**

Jamie Stark '03 has a new job next fall. She will be teaching first grade at Ellis Elementary School in Plattsburg, Missouri. She also wanted to report the birth of her twin boys Kieran and Maddex who were born on September 25, 2015. **[PHOTO 3]**

Becky (Epperson) Rowe '08 and husband Damian are pleased to announce the birth of their first child Jackson Thomas Rowe born on March 17, 2017. Jackson weighed 8 lbs 14.2 ozs and was 20.5 inches long. Proud grandma is **Cindy (Kilian) Jensen '79**. **[PHOTO 4]**



Class Notes

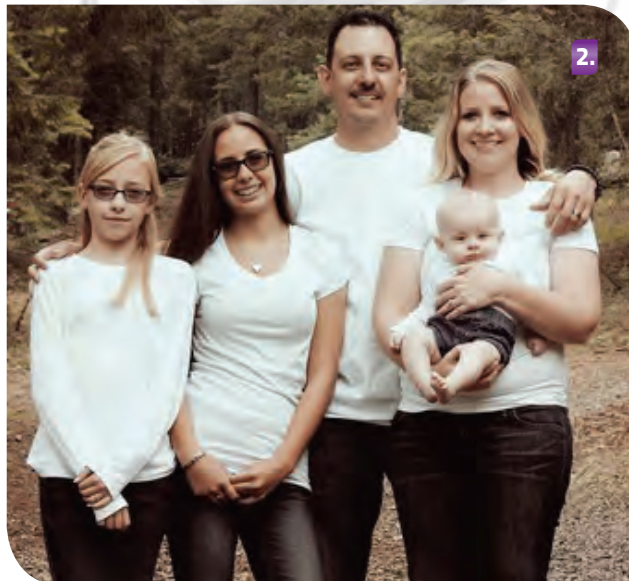
Weddings

2000s

Sami (Jordan) Seivers '02 married her best friend Ryan Seivers on April 21, 2017. They live in Springfield, Missouri, with their large chaotic family of blended children as they both gained some pretty great step kids. Sami would love to hear from her former classmates at samihill46@gmail.com. **[PHOTO 1]**

Tiffany (Wernette) Marsitto '03 got married to her best friend Russell on February 14, 2015. They welcomed a beautiful baby boy named Easton Carl Marsitto on March 22, 2016. Tiffany reports, "He is an absolute joy!" Easton has two step-sisters named Gabriella and Selma whom he loves dearly. The family lives in beautiful Flagstaff, Arizona, where Tiffany and Russell both work for Coconino County Adult Probation. Tiffany hopes you all are doing well! She enjoys reading everyone's updates. **[PHOTO 2]**

Bonnie Blackshear '04 married Anthony Zielke in Mesa, Arizona, in front of 100 of their closest friends and family on November 5, 2016, after 3 1/2 years of dating. In a happy coincidence, two weeks later they would find a puppy cowering next to a fire hydrant in their neighborhood, dirty and scared to death. They rescued her from the cold and took her in. After a month of no one claiming her, they named her Luna (aka Lulu) and decided to keep her! Now their happy family of 4 has become a happy family of 5! Photo caption: The happy couple with their two fur children, Poncho and Hope! (Not pictured: Luna, who was found 2 weeks later) **[PHOTO 3]**



Class Notes



2010s

Lindy Renee Wefel '10 and Phillip Ryan Block were married on September 18, 2016, in Rockford, Illinois. The ceremony included Ryan's two beautiful children, Roman (7) and Olivia (6) whom Lindy is so excited to welcome into her life. In attendance were Yellowstone suitemates **Vanessa Martinez (Madrid) '10, Patricia Martinez '10, Elaine Starks '09, Allison Rodriguez '11 & Rebecca Grant '11.** [PHOTO 4]

Ria (Jewell) Allen '11 married Aaron Allen in Kaneohe, Hawaii, on December 18, 2016. She has been working as a Skills Trainer in the Hawaii Public Schools. Aaron is in the military, stationed in Hawaii. They will be moving eventually to San Diego, after a year in Mississippi. **Tanya Khvitsko '10**, Ria's roommate at Cottey, was one of Ria's bridesmaids. Guests included at the wedding were **Erin Chucovich '11** and Professor **Dr. Ganga Fernando** with her son Ashton. [PHOTO 5]

Ducks flocked to Asheville, North Carolina, on August 13, 2016, for the wedding of **Tatum Lindsay '12** to Alexander Albertine. In attendance were **Cuki Maindu '12, Aiano Nakagawa '13, Corisa Rakestraw '11, Katherine Kerbs '12, Kassi Hampton '12, Devon Anderson '13, Christine McGee '11, and Jamie Penick '11.** It was the ultimate Cottey wedding! Following the celebrations, Tatum and Alex returned home to Nairobi, Kenya. Photo Credit: Terri Clark Photography. [PHOTO 6]

Obituaries

Betty Arline (Taff) Harris '47 passed away peacefully in her sleep on April 25, 2017, a month shy of her 90th birthday. She was born in Hutchinson, Kansas, to Verlus and Helen Taff and spent her early years in Wichita. She graduated in 1944 from Westport High School in Kansas City, Missouri, and attended Cottey College. She met her husband Joseph J. Harris when he moved from Ferguson, Missouri, in 1943 to the boarding house run by her parents. They were married April 3, 1948, and in 1949 settled in Prairie Village. Joe worked for TWA and Betty was a housewife and mother of their two children Bill and Kay. Because Joe worked for the TWA, they were able to travel extensively as a family, but their favorite times were spent at the cabin built by the Taffs at the Lake of the Ozarks. Later on she worked for the Red Cross and the Heartland Presbytery (1983-2003). She loved her church and was the oldest charter member of Southminster Presbyterian Church, remaining active until the end.

Betty was also an avid reader, tireless KC Chiefs fan, 70-year member of P.E.O. (chapter GJ) and regularly attended live theater events. Due to her commitment to walking and exercise, she was profiled in a *US News & World Report* article (Nov

12, 2007) on senior fitness. People were drawn to her wonderful sense of humor and endearing personality.

She attended many Founder's Day Reunions at her beloved Cottey College with her classmates, completing the last trip just three weeks before her death. These gals were always known by their nicknames - Betty was 'Taffy,' the name engraved on her pool cue.

Betty was a special gift to those that knew her, making all our lives better and will be greatly missed. Donations in honor of Betty can be made to the Cottey College Class of 1946 Library Fund,

The College was notified of the deaths of the following alumnae:

Wilma (Fell) Fraser '33

Ms. Freda (Fryer) Newport '39

Mrs. Jane (Edmiston) Beach '41

Barbara L. (Ryan) Eanes '41

Ms. Dorothy A. (Lodge) Foster '41

Mrs. Dorothy (Johnson) Redding '41

Ms. Helen (Moger) Schroder '41

Marjorie A. (McNamara) Smith '41

Ms. Jane (Vickers) Allen '42

Mrs. Elizabeth Irwin Purnell '43

Lou Ellen (James) Yuncker '45

Ms. Joanne (Crothers) Johnson '46

Mrs. Beatrice (Garrett) McWilliams '46

Jean Chandler Moore '46

Dr. JoAnn (Glottfelty) Pedrick '46

Karyn (Sanders) Morris '47

Nancy (Marsh) Straight '47

Hazel L. (Bondurant) Krutsch '48

Mrs. Wilma (Norris) Gartung '49

Barbara A. McCormick '51

Margaret Salter Cash '52

Sally Moseman '52

Erika Weibel '52

Mrs. Ann (Forance) Keleher '53

Rebecca (Pederson) Kuehnelt '53

Marion (Mountain) Petersen '53

Jo Dubois Clark '54

Ms. Gail (Broccopp) DuLac '54

Ann (Kohlmeier) Morris '54

Nancy Lee (Johnson) Woods '54

Sherron (Huff) Bowman '55

Carolyn Anne Solt Musil '55

Mrs. Nancy (Truran) Hoyt '57

Ms. Betty (Machen) Walters '57

Mrs. Camille (Helgersen) Geditz '63

Barbara Beals Roberts '64

Mrs. Betty (Montgomery) Belz '65

Mrs. M. Sue (Carroll) Artmeier '67

Ms. Linda Gray '67

Cynthia Cisco Moore '70

Paula (Berg) Bain '72

Mrs. Cherie (Watson) Branson '74

Kay (Young) Crawford '75

Mrs. Ellen (Thompson) Murin '77

Mrs. Brenda (Jay) Crowley '78

Mrs. Becky (Clayton) Smyth '80

Ms. Jessica (Cordell) Meyer '06

Alexandria Young Lewis '09

In Memoriam Dr. Henry Gregory

Professor Emeritus of Religion Henry Marion Gregory passed away on Friday, May 12, 2017, at O'Connor Woods. He was born in Elk City, Oklahoma, to Henry Gregory and Dona Grissom Gregory. His education proceeded from Oklahoma Baptist University to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and later to the University of Pacific. He married Bobbie Hendrix, had two children, Julie Hitchcock (Lake Quivera, Kansas) and Robert Gregory (Kansas City, Kansas). He served as a professor at Cottey College, from 1953-1985. In 1962 he was invited to participate in a seminar

in India sponsored by World University Services where he met both Nehru and Ambassador Galbraith. Following retirement he relocated to Stockton in 1997 and married Beth Mason and acquired stepdaughters Eugenia Hart Mason and Amanda Louise Mason. He enjoyed international travel, wine tasting, relaxing at the cabin in Arnold and participating in UOP Osher Lifelong Learning seminars. In 2008 he and Beth relocated to O'Connor Woods where he enjoyed an active lifestyle and many friends. He will be fondly remembered. At his request there will be no services.



Faculty/Staff Notes

Prof. Jo Byrnes, associate professor of dance, was honored to be a guest speaker/panelist for a Cr(eat)e dinner event at Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville, Arkansas. These dinner events are held in conjunction with current exhibits at the museum, and the museum had an Art of American Dance exhibit on display. Cottey alumna **Sarah Chase** (AA '08, BA '13), sous chef at Crystal Bridges, asked Prof. Byrnes if she would attend as a dance representative.

Prof. Byrnes was a guest artist for Stephen F. Austin University. She taught a master class and set choreography on the SFAU Dance Company.

Golf coach **Mark Cole** completed his Level III Instructional Certification program from the United States Golf Teaching Federation (USGTF) in Port St. Lucie, Florida. Coach Cole scored highest on the written and oral examinations, while shooting the lowest score on the Playing Ability Test (PAT).

Dr. Amanda Cook, assistant professor of music, attended the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Schools of Music in Dallas, Texas. This is Cottey College's 60th year as an accredited member of NASM.

Mike Dombroski, instructional technology specialist, attended the Teaching and Learning Technology 2017 Conference at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Missouri. He presented "Getting Started with Virtual and Augmented Reality" and attended sessions on topics such as recording the classroom, open education, edTech tips and tricks, digital citizenship and dynamic syllabus development.

Carla Farmer, vice president for marketing and strategic communication, accepted an appointment to the Women's College Coalition Strategic Communications Advisory Council for a two-year term, which began May 1. Through the interaction of its members, this Council will support the implementation of

strategies that advocate the benefits, achievements, and contributions of women's colleges to society, thereby increasing understanding and support for women's colleges and elevating the Women's College Coalition role as a key influencer on issues affecting women in higher education. This will be the inaugural year of this council.

Prof. Morgan Frew, assistant professor of art, had a painting, "Pluto is for Lovers," on display at the Morpho Gallery in Chicago, beginning in January.

Prof. Brianne Fulton Miller, assistant professor of art, recently had artwork featured at the Knockdown Center in Queens, New York. Her work was featured with over 700 other women artists and also raised over \$30,000 for charity. Her piece sold on the opening night of the exhibition, especially exciting as so many artists were involved! Brianne contributed a small, ceramic ocarina which she titled, "No One Puts My Bunny In the Corner."

Denise Carrick Hedges, director of the Center for Women's Leadership, graduated with honors with her master's degree in strategic leadership in business from Stephens College in December 2016.

Dr. Jackie Lordo, assistant professor of music, attended the Missouri Music Educators' Association Conference and presented at a research poster session. The poster was titled, "Expertise Development in Musicians: The Roles of Deliberate Play and Deliberate Practice." Music professor **Gary Johnson** and Enrollment Management staff member **Kaitlyn Russell** also attended.

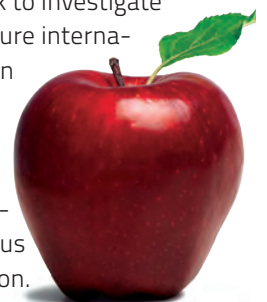
Dr. Sarah Quick, assistant professor of anthropology and sociology, presented a paper titled "Fostering the future for farming and technology: Future Farmers of America" in the GMOS in North America and Africa session panel at the annual American Anthropological Association meetings in Minneapolis, Min-

nesota. She also attended a workshop on Wiki-editing in the classroom.

Rev. Erica Sigauke, director of spiritual life and campus diversity, now has her name listed in the "Encyclopedia of African American Music" (edited by Emmett G. Price, III, Tammy Kernodle, Horace Maxille) under the 2007 composers, page 241. Erica composed a song that was sung by the 130 voices professional musicians from the Vocal Essence group in Minnesota. For the performance, Rev. Sigauke had dancers from Augsburg College in Minneapolis who played percussion to accompany the music and the dancers from the Landmark Center, a cultural center for music, dance, theatre, exhibitions public events, etc., which she had also choreographed. Erica composed the song including the accompaniment in honor of the February Movement and also did a three-day performance at the Ordway Theatre in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dr. Trisha Stubblefield, professor of English, attended the Intersectional Inquiries and Collaborative Action: Gender and Race conference at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana. She attended sessions on topics such as intersectional pedagogy and activism, Black Lives Matter, the rhetoric of the civil rights movement, racializing welfare, the re-veiling movement in fashion, the Slut Walk movement, rape culture, digital feminism, transgender justice, and Beyoncé.

With the support of the Serenbetz Institute, **Dr. Kanji Watanabe**, associate professor of international relations and political science, traveled to Indonesia during the spring break to investigate the possibility for a future international experience trip. In the Sumba Island, he joined a Japanese NGO and local people who planted trees on the island, which has a serious problem of deforestation.



Inquiries and information should be addressed to:

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Cottey Runner Named All-American

Cottey College's Oluwabukola Pereira finished sixth in the 1500 meters at the National Junior College Association (NJCAA) Division II outdoor track meet in Hutchinson, Kansas, in May. Finishing in the top eight qualified her as an

All-American. Pereira is only the second Cottey athlete to qualify as an All-American following Lacy Leonard who was a two-time All-American in basketball in 2005-06 and 2006-07.

"Bukola came in on a mission," said Head Coach Austin Bunn. "She was looking for redemption from that narrow miss of eighth place at indoor nationals in the mile. She has persevered through two years of injuries to get back to this level."

Pereira just missed All-American status at the indoor track meet in the mile run where she placed ninth with a personal record of 5:15.84. She just missed eighth place in that race by .75 seconds.

"When recruiting her, something just kept telling me to take a chance, despite her previous injuries," Bunn continued. "So many things led up to this meet and we were both blessed to have it conclude this way. It's been an honor and a blessing to coach her and see the dedication and passion she has for running."

Pereira's time of 4:52 in the final was identical to her time in the semi-finals the previous day. She was two seconds off of her school record in the semis but held back at the end per Coach Bunn's instructions once he realized she had secured a spot in the finals.

At the same outdoor meet last weekend, second-year student Lexi Gradwohl topped off her Cottey career with her sixth national meet in two years (cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track) as she competed in the 10,000 meter race, finishing 16th. She also set three school records in her career, including smashing the 10K record with a 41:09.



Oluwabukola Pereira, Cottey's Newest All American