

Viewpoint

magazine

*The future
belongs
to those
who believe
in the beauty
of their
dreams*



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CREATORS OF INCREDIBLE FUTURES

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Steve,
You came to Cottey after I had become less involved with the College. I learned in the recent *Viewpoint* of the deaths of Beverly Gunstone and Nancy Haynes. Both were good friends of mine for many years. In addition, Beverly was Dean of Students and Nancy was on the faculty when I was a student at Cottey from 1960-1962.

I wanted to share with you what special people these two women were. The 1960s was a very different time from today. Women's roles were defined and proscribed for many. The encouragement and support provided by these women and other faculty helped all of us seek our own way and dare to be different. A major factor was, of course, Blanche Hinman Dow. Dr. Dow was an amazing, accomplished woman who really made Cottey a "college of international understanding." I arrived at Cottey shy and from a small town. With the encouragement and support of these women, I went on to be confident, willing to learn and to work for the betterment of our world in my small way.

I consider my time at Cottey the reason I have accomplished much in my career. Both Evelyn Milam and Helen Washburn were friends. With Beverly, I was part of the group that renewed the Alumnae Association under Dr. Milam and worked to improve the alumnae and P.E.O. giving to the College.

My mother, Lillian Corley, was president of International Chapter from 1985-1987.
Sincerely,
Ellen Corley
Class of 1962
Past President Indiana State Chapter

We received a short note from Jen Charpentier and a copy of the May 30, 1963, issue of The Tower, the student newspaper.

In my time of seclusion – amazed at what I am finding. *The Tower* was our student newspaper. We have come such a long way!
Thank you for your vision!
Take care,
Wash hands,
Respect the six-foot circle!
Jen Wren Charpentier '64

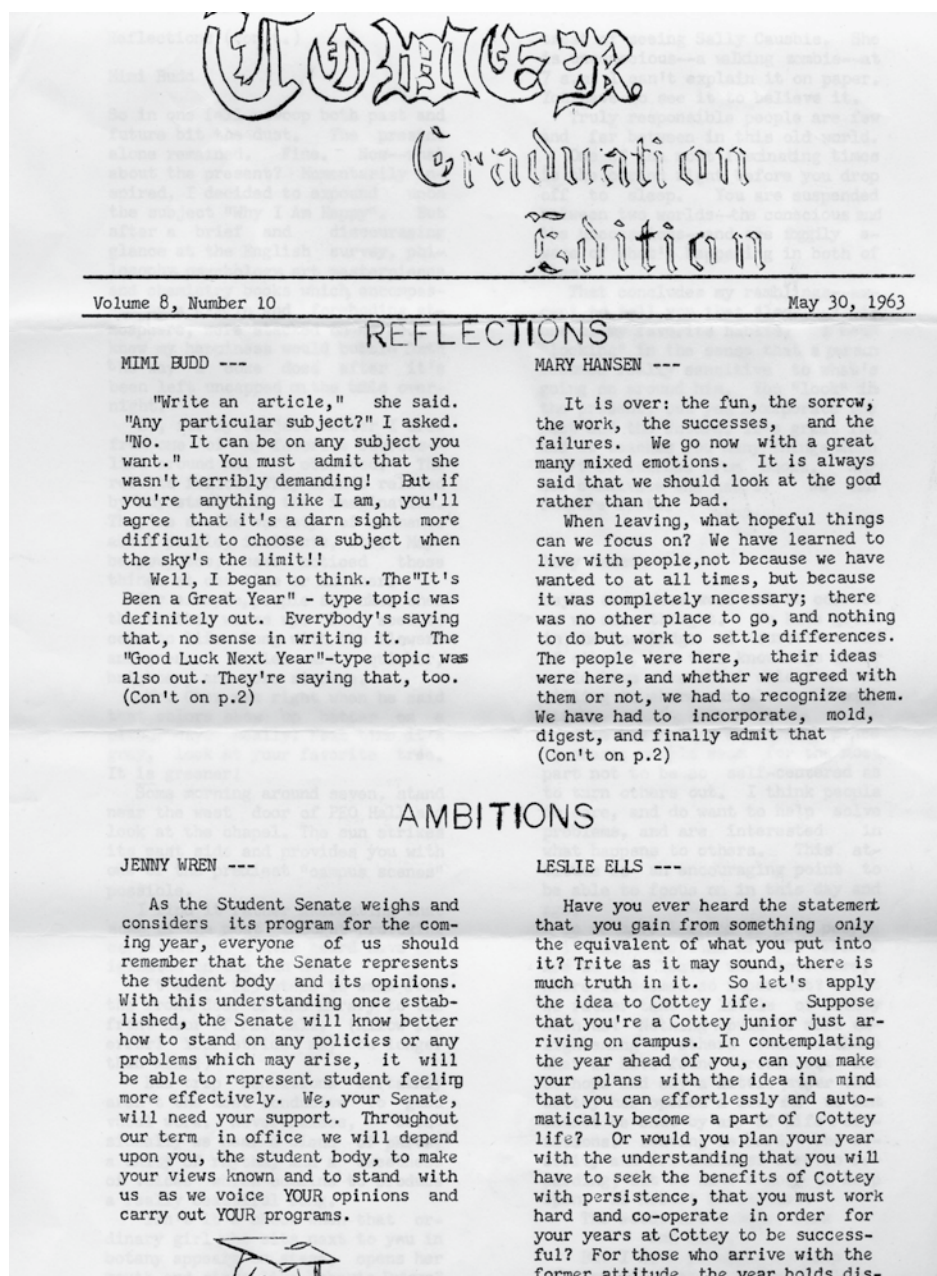
Thanks, Jen. We really enjoyed reading through The Tower. We thought our Viewpoint readers might enjoy this still relevant excerpt from the May 30, 1963 edition of the Tower:

Mary Hansen
Maybe our ideas were not so correct as we once thought. We have grown in the knowledge of ourselves and of others, but this knowledge never could have come about unless we were willing to share ourselves with others.

This has been a wonderful place to share; people seem for the most part not to be so self-centered as to turn others out. I think people do care, and do want to help solve problems and are interested in what happens to others. This

attitude is an encouraging point to be able to focus on in this day and age.

So we have learned to love people a little more than we did before. Are we to leave that love here, where it seemed so important? Can't we rather take a little of Cottey with us? Nothing could be more enlightening to others than to share what we have found ourselves. Let us hope and say a little prayer that Cottey has opened a door for us that cannot be shut by any of life's situations. Leaving is hard. The security and friendliness were so rewarding, but we have a door to keep open. As Robert Frost said, "The woods are lovely, dark and deep, But I have promises to keep And miles to go before I sleep And miles to go before I sleep."





message from the PRESIDENT

My Name is Cotley

Every one of us at Cotley College has dreams for the future of this institution. As I sat in my office one day, I wondered, "If Cotley had a consciousness, what would be its dreams for the future?" I've taken the liberty to give a voice to the College in my Viewpoint message. May all of Cotley's dreams, and yours, bloom like daisies in the sun.

One hundred and thirty-seven years ago, I was just a nugget of a dream—a small inspiration within the heart and mind of Virginia Alice, the desire to offer girls and young women the opportunity to learn and grow. My spirit began to mature within this young educator, and in 1883, she and her sister met with city leaders in Nevada, Missouri, requesting a tract of land, and in return, the Cotley women would educate the daughters of the community. Alice had a dream, and she believed in the beauty of her dream, and in 1884, I was born. My name is Cotley College.

In the physical sense, I began as a small brick school house but over the years, I grew to encompass 33 acres and 14 structures. However, a college is more than just land and bricks. A college is where learning and growing takes hold and flourishes. It is where students are encouraged to imagine...to visualize...to think beyond the current...and to take the steps to ensure that those imaginings thrive.

Here we are in 2020 with the COVID-19 virus taking center stage and the focus of every news report. The disease halted college life as we knew it and sent my cherished students home. My suites were almost empty, Raney Dining Room was silenced, no basketballs bounced in Hinkhouse, books stayed on shelves in the library, and the beautiful campus was eerily quiet. It caused worry among my faculty and staff as to how to meet the educational and life needs of our undergraduates. Faculty members worked tirelessly to create a learning environment that was welcoming, enlightening, and instructive, the type of education Cotley students desire and deserve. Most students moved home and continued their studies remotely. It certainly wasn't among the best of times.

But it also wasn't the worst of times; amidst all of the stress, I forged on. I decided not to allow this virus to slow me down and overtake my ambitions. I will not become that broken-winged bird that cannot fly* when dreamers allow their dreams to die. As a College, as a place of goals and ambitions, I continued to believe in the beauty of my dreams; I continued to soar.

To my alumnae, I'm known as "good ole Cotley C." To parents, I am known as the safe haven for their daughters. To my students, I am home away from home. In total, I am Cotley.

While I may have started as a dream in the heart of a young woman, I continue on as a dreamer myself. I dream of fall 2020 when the campus is alive with activity, when faculty, staff and students congregate and greet one another. I hold in my heart all of the P.E.O.s and BILs who will come for a visit, the alumnae who will return to reminisce about living within my walls. (And oh gosh, the stories I could tell!) I dream of welcoming students into my new stock trading lab and the beautiful new main floor of the library. I dream of our first esports and flag football team members and the excitement that all athletic teams bring to the campus. I dream of returning to being the center of learning for all my students.

I dream of spring 2021 when my newest campus addition, the Chapel/student center, will be complete. I long to have students and guests walk among the bricks and pavers of my terraces—to welcome them to share a cup of coffee at the Chellie Club or to browse my spirit shop for their newest Cotley wear.

I have beautiful dreams filled with learning and friendship and the creation of new stories to share with future generations. And I know that together, our students, faculty, staff, alumnae, and our wonderful friends will continue to foster my growth and my success.

*Langston Hughes

Jann R. Weitzel

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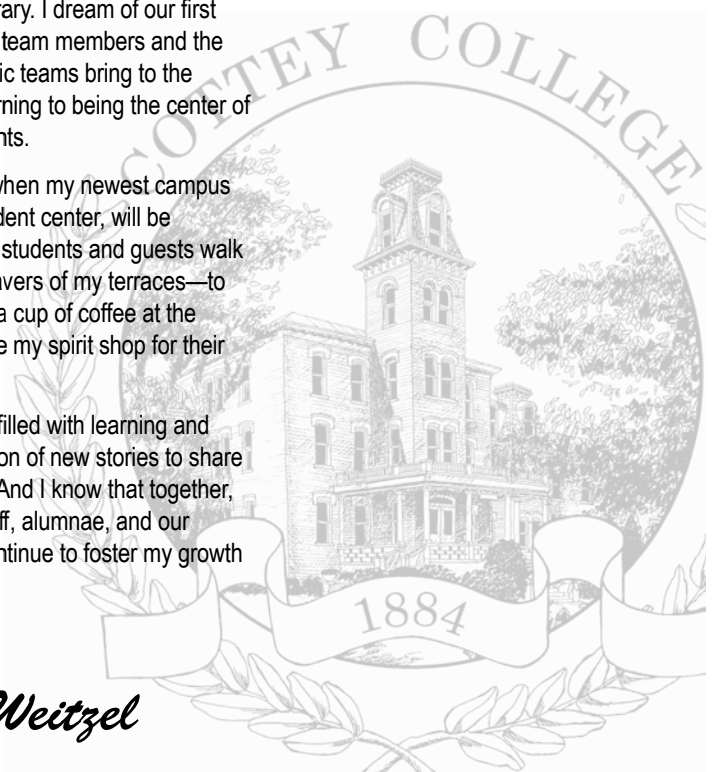
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Still One of the Best!

Cottey Again a Best Value College

Cottey College was again selected as a 2020 Best Value School by the higher education experts at University Research & Review. This is the ninth year for the Best Value School Awards. These exclusive awards are only granted to reasonably priced institutions whose students and alumni are most satisfied with their education and choice of school.

"We celebrate our recognition as a Best Value College," said Dr. Jann Weitzel, President of Cottey College. "Both U.S. News & World Report and Best Value Colleges recognize that Cottey is an affordable option and a great value. The generous support that Cottey receives from alumnae, friends, and the P.E.O. Sisterhood along with the College's excellent financial management makes this institution a great value for students."

University Research & Review recognized 124 traditional colleges and universities that provide students a place where they fit in, top-notch academic programs, costs that are reasonable, and financial aid.

While geographically disbursed around America, the states of Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York and Missouri represent those with the most schools offering students the best value. These four states are home to more than a quarter of all colleges and universities receiving the 2020 Awards. Both public and private colleges and universities are included in this year's Awardee list. Additional information is online at bestvaluecolleges.org.



Rose Atukunda Selected for Internship

Cottey College student Rose Sheila Atukunda was selected for the Harvard Stem Cell Institute Internship Program (HIP). Over 600 candidates submitted applications for this year's program and Atukunda's was one of only 20 that met or exceeded the rigorous review standards.

The program was scheduled to begin on June 8, but due to the pandemic this 10-week summer internship was sadly cancelled. However, Atukunda's remarkable achievement is still worth noting. Following her selection in April, Atukunda, a sophomore biology student, said, "I am so excited to go to Harvard this summer. If I were still in Uganda, I don't think I would have had this opportunity but being at Cottey gave me the platform I needed to get to Harvard."

"Rose is just another example of Cottey's outstanding scholars and leaders," said Dr. Jann Weitzel, President of the College. "Her selection also reflects well on the education and preparation our students receive from our faculty. We are so proud of her selection."



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Magdalene Asare Named Newman Civic Fellow

Campus Compact, a Boston-based non-profit organization working to advance the public purposes of higher education, has announced the 290 students who will make up the organization's 2020-2021 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows. The 2020 cohort—the largest group of Newman Civic Fellows to date—includes Magdalene Anima Asare, a student at Cottey College.

The Newman Civic Fellowship is a year-long program for students from Campus Compact member institutions. The students selected for the fellowship are leaders on their campuses who demonstrate a commitment to finding solutions for challenges facing communities locally, nationally, and internationally.

"While living in my home country [Ghana], I observed that some people—especially children and women who lived in the rural areas—had limited access to healthcare," said Asare. "People frequently ended up losing their lives from curable diseases due to the distance delay in reaching proper healthcare services. This placed a heavy burden on me with unreachable answers on what I could do as a change-maker in my country. Through my determination to obtain a bachelor's degree in Health and Biomedical Sciences at Cottey College, I have obtained some answers on how to be an active member in my country and community. Taking classes such as Social Justice and Civic Engagement has enlightened and instilled in me a robust idea about advocacy and social justice. Accepting an active role as the vice-president for service in Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) and participating in volunteer opportunities on-campus and within the community has increased my passion to be an agent of change. Therefore, I am now working towards my future goal of building hospitals in the rural areas of my country. These hospitals will provide affordable and accessible healthcare to save precious lives because all lives are important no matter where they live."

The fellowship is named for the late Frank Newman, one of Campus Compact's founders, who was a tireless advocate for civic engagement in higher education. In the spirit of Dr. Newman's leadership, Campus Compact member presidents and chancellors may nominate one student from their institution for the fellowship.

"Upon her arrival at Cottey College, Ms. Asare immediately became involved in volunteer activities, both on and off campus," noted Cottey College President, Dr. Jann Weitzel. "She worked with a community-wide project to assist people in need with home and yard maintenance, she assisted at a national park during a government shut-down, she volunteers as a peer tutor in Chemistry and College Algebra, she has served as a summer workshop counselor for high school students, she participated in MLK Day of Service, and she is a college ambassador.

"Ms. Asare has completed training as a hospice volunteer and is vice president of service for Phi Theta Kappa. In her leadership roles, Ms. Asare has helped plan roadside clean-up days, assisted with cultural research for conference presentation, and worked as a college intern to create and update electronic forms. Ms. Asare intends to take her servant leadership skills back to her home country



Magdalene Asare

of Ghana in order to create better healthcare access for rural women and children."

Through the fellowship, Campus Compact provides the students with a variety of learning and networking opportunities that emphasize personal, professional, and civic growth. Each year, Fellows are invited to a national, in-person conference of Newman Civic Fellows and participate in numerous virtual training and networking opportunities. The fellowship also provides fellows with pathways to apply for exclusive scholarship and post-graduate opportunities.

"We are proud to recognize each of these extraordinary student leaders and thrilled to have the opportunity to engage with them," said Campus Compact President Andrew Seligsohn. "The stories of this year's Newman Civic Fellows make clear that they are committed to finding solutions to pressing problems in their communities and beyond. That is what Campus Compact is about, and it's what our country and our world desperately need."

The Newman Civic Fellowship is supported by the KPMG Foundation and Newman's Own Foundation. Learn more at compact.org/newman-civic-fellowship.

#VirtualFounders2020: Dreams,

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

Cotley College alumnae know quite a bit about dreams. From their first semester Cotley alumnae are encouraged to dream away and know that their dreams—their ambitions and aspirations—should run wild and may bloom like daisies in the sun. Every five years, if not even more frequently, Cotley College alumnae dream of reuniting with their classmates and other alumnae on the beautiful Cotley College campus during Founder's Day Weekend. And, each and every year, the Cotley College Alumnae Association (CCAA) Board dreams of ways to foster these alumnae reunions and other Cotley connections. At the start of this year, the COVID clouds started to gather and the CCAA Board created #VirtualFounders2020—a dream to build on when our world's been torn apart—written in the linings of these COVID clouds.

From the moment #VirtualFounders2020 opened online, it was the same, but different; familiar, yet new; a trip down memory lane measured in bytes and hours instead of miles. It wasn't just for the scheduled reunion cycle of classes, it was #FoundersForAll... for the first time ever. Hundreds of alumnae from classes spanning the Great Class of 1948 to the Great Class of 2019 were able to connect, give support, and get involved through a wide variety of activities over several digital platforms.

Staying Connected

As always, Cotley College alumnae showed up to Founder's in their Cotley gear, many with ducks in tow. Those who had registered for the conventional Founder's donned the popular commemorative Founder's 2020 t-shirt (designed by alumna **Tamara Burkhead '95**) with the Friends We Are and Friends We'll Always Be theme.

Those who hadn't registered for the conventional Founder's donned their classic favorites and snagged some new Founder's swag in the pop-up shops, a long-time dream of alumnae and the CCAA Board alike.

Dreams have a long Cotley legacy. Friday night, as is tradition, alumnae collectively reflected upon and celebrated Cotley's first dreamer and founder, Virginia Alice Cotley (VAC) Stockard. VAC was a visionary, seeing a future filled with

innovations and opportunities never before considered for women. Her dream started with a small seed—a one-building school—that has flourished into the expansive campus that we all know and love today. Now offering 14 undergraduate degrees, a new esports team and women's flag football team, and unprecedented opportunities for international leadership, Cotley College has bloomed beyond VAC's wildest dreams.

Friday night's class reunions revealed a most luminous silver lining. As CCAA Board members floated from Zoom room to Zoom room greeting and welcoming #VirtualFounders2020 attendees, the list of first-time Founder's attendees grew with one newly reconnected alumna after another. With the hurdles of travel, plane tickets, hotel bills, and time away from family or work removed coupled with the ease of attending Founder's from one's couch, our reconnected Cotley community grew significantly. Classmates and suitemates reconnected through the video conference platform, picking up just where they left off the last time they were assembled. And, for some, that was just after graduation...20, 30, 40, 50, and 60 years ago. Classmates and suitemates shared updates on their dreams, commiserated about their local COVID cloud coverage, and pointed out potential silver linings and opportunities to each other in these topsy-turvy times. But, the Cotley connections were not contained within classes. After the late-night class reunion fun and excitement, #VirtualFounders2020 participants joyfully demanded more Zoom, more Zoom, more Zoom and connected across classes in Decade Zoom calls Saturday afternoon. And, from what we've seen and heard, Zoom Cotley calls are another luminous silver lining that has persisted beyond Founder's.

Saturday, we also celebrated our CCAA Award recipients. Find the biographies of our CCAA awardees starting on page 16.

Giving Support

Cotley alumnae are a supportive and generous lot and this collective philanthropy is never more apparent than at Founder's, and #VirtualFounders2020 was no exception. The CCAA, dear old Cotley C, and her students were benefactors of this generosity.

Merchandise sales at Founder's is the main funding stream for the CCAA and provides scholarships to help in the student recruitment and admissions effort and funds for special projects at Cotley. When the COVID clouds descended, the CCAA's ability to fund its projects in the coming year was in jeopardy. Thanks to its marketing maven, **Ann Marie Foote '88**, the CCAA Board took the opportunity to make its dreams (and that of many alumnae) come true with the launch of pop-up shops—for the first time in Cotley's history. The Board had always suspected that if we built an online store, alumnae would come—and buy. Alumnae did not disappoint, making sufficient merchandise purchases to exceed our fundraising goals. And, how could they disappoint with the unique, fun, and high-quality items that Foote secured? If you liked what we had on offer for #VirtualFounders2020, start saving now for next year. As an added bonus **Christi Ellis '96**, director of advancement and alumnae relations, served as a fun and engaging host for our inaugural QVC-esque Cotley Merchandise Show.



Christine Renner '77 shows off her Founder's T-shirt.

COVID Clouds, and Silver Linings



Amy Strunk '00 was ready to run - and donate!

It seemed the darkest COVID clouds were over the heads of current Cottey students, but Cottey and her alumnae stepped up to push those clouds aside. In lieu of a registration fee, we asked alumnae to give a donation in an amount that was significant to them as part of the If We Share This Walk Together Virtual Walk/Run. Whether they went on a walk or a run, outdoors or around their couch, with those whom they were social distancing, or on their own, their gift supported the Cottey coronavirus-related student aid emergency fund needed in order to successfully complete the academic year.

Thirty-nine alumnae signed up for the If We Share This Walk Together Virtual Walk/Run and raised \$2,175 for the Student Aid Emergency Fund to cover some of the many unanticipated expenses during these uncertain times, including computers for students; shipping of educational materials and medications to students; distance learning software packages, technology, and licenses; last-minute return flights for students abroad; unplanned meals and hall cleanings over Spring Break; room and board reimbursement for many; and sustained payments to student workers through the school year.

Whether an alumna supported the CCAA projects with a merchandise purchase, a donation to the Student Aid Emergency Fund

via the If We Share This Walk Together Virtual Walk/Run, or a direct gift to the Student Center / Chapel Initiative, we showed our collective giving in progress in real time by geography, class, and fund with our enhanced online presence. The giving map was most compelling. With every gift we were...

*Gonna build us a castle, (make-that-a-Student-Aid-Emergency-Fund-AND-a-Student-Center)...blue and white
Gonna have us a Founder's on a website
Gonna inlay diamonds all over the floor, with my new Cottey C sweatshirt right over the door
Gonna change my state from white to BLUE!
In our castle painted blue, in our castle painted white-and-then-blue. In our castle painted blue and white. Yeah!*

The CCAA Executive Board wishes to thank all who gave gifts from 41 states.



Getting Involved

The ways for alumnae (and their family and friends) to engage during #VirtualFounders2020 were varied and sprinkled throughout the entire weekend. Friday commenced with a virtual campus tour, some shopping, and then the first round of Founder's menu

Please see Founder's on page 6

AND THE WINNER IS....

Meet **Mandi Jordan '01** and the winner of the 2019-20 Cottey College Alumnae Association's (CCAA) STUDENT REFERRAL CHALLENGE! Mandi gives back to Cottey in many meaningful ways, including referring young women to apply. We know that when an alumna refers a student, she is far more likely to ultimately attend Cottey.

When asked about her love for Cottey, Mandi said:

The biggest gift I could ever give any young woman in my life is the introduction to the Cottey experience. Cottey promotes female empowerment and leadership and changes lives! Cottey is such a positive influence, any young woman would benefit from the academic and social programs Cottey has to offer.

Recruitment is not a difficult task; it's so easy to share the fond memories from my experience and the importance of the lifelong friendships I have made. Keep sharing your memories and promoting Cottey's many camps and programs. It's so easy to fall in love with Cottey; keep sharing the love!

The CCAA sponsors a referral challenge each year to encourage alumnae to help aid in student recruitment. Be on the lookout for the next challenge and your chance to win a \$100 Cottey Bookstore gift certificate, which will commence 1 October 2020 at www.cottey.edu/referralchallenge. Until then, keep submitting student referrals at www.cottey.edu/referstudent.



Founder's, continued from page 5

appreciation. Saturday morning Founder's participants were invited to "Color with Cottey." Many shared their works of duck, daisy, and blue-and-white castle art.



Mallori DeSalle '99 and her children delighted Founder's participants with a cooking demonstration of Strawberry Lime Mousse Pie, one of Michael Richardson's famous recipes. DeSalle, along with Dr. Landon Adams, vice president for student life, offered an Inter-Society walk down memory lane and announced a relaunch proposal. Alumnae offered their feedback. Cottey welcomes additional ideas for the way forward for Inter-Society. Send them to alumnae@cottey.edu.

On Saturday night alumnae were invited to sup and sing. The menu consisted of the

Cottey favorites buffet and we reminisced about our favorite Cottey songs and their tell-tale choreography. We even made practical application of our Cottey singing tradition to accompany our coronavirus hand-washing regimens.

A fabulous Cottey Brunch menu followed our walk/run Sunday morning. And, before bidding farewell until next year, we did some

last-chance shopping in support of Cottey.

Let's plan to celebrate next year's Founder's Day Weekend together online AND back on campus. In a rare turn of events, next year's Founder's occurs on Virginia Alice's birthday, so we're going to go BIG for the celebrations! Claim your INCREDIBLE future by marking your calendars now for 26-28 March 2021.



Who Are the Dreamers and Dream Believers?

Time marches on and Founder's Day Weekend 2021 will be here before we know it! The Cottey College Alumnae Association (CCAA) Board is again accepting nominations for alumnae awards. Celebrate your accomplishments or those of a classmate or colleague who has dreamed and achieved with one of the following award categories:

- **Distinguished Alumna:** Awarded to Cottey alumnae whose accomplishments in professional or human services have brought distinction to the name of Cottey College
- **Alumna Service:** Awarded to Cottey alumnae who have contributed significant service and dedication to the College and/or the CCAA
- **Outstanding Young Alumna:** Awarded to Cottey alumnae who have graduated 15 years ago or less, and who have achieved recognition in a career, displayed exemplary community service, or offered significant service to the College
- **Friend of the College:** Awarded to individuals who are not Cottey alumnae, but who have contributed specific and meritorious service toward the advancement of the College and/or the CCAA

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

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

Nominations are due by July 31, 2020.





It Is the Living That We Do That Matters

by Steve Reed
Editor

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

~Attributed to Eleanor Roosevelt

Occasionally during the days of having to stay at home, conduct meetings via Zoom, binge watch TV, and eat too much of my own cooking, I found it was hard to think of the future other than those coming days when the restaurants, movie theaters, and hair salons would be open again. On a couple of cold, rainy Saturdays in early spring I longed for nothing more than to wander aimlessly through a home improvement store and dine out at my favorite restaurant. One Saturday evening I realized I was wearing the same clothes I had been wearing on Friday. I was allowing the present to block my view of the future.

Fortunately, I married someone who, although equally as restless, was not letting the present distract her from the future. She was using her free time to look at available real estate in our area. My phone would "ding" and I'd see another link to another listing with photos. Then I started getting links to Pinterest pages. "What do you think of these cabinets?" or "How do you like this house color?"

Note: You may not know that my wife Angie and I live in different towns. We married four years

ago and had homes and careers in separate spaces. Although we live only an hour apart, we agreed for convenience's sake I would live in my Nevada home during the week and commute to her house on the weekends until my retirement.

Angie was not to be distracted from her vision. A realtor friend of hers suggested we look at a house about to go on the market. "Let's just go take a look," said Angie. We took a look one week and went back the next with a contractor to give us his opinion. Dear reader, without additional details you know where this is heading. At the time of this article's deadline, we had a contract on a new (to us) home.

In early April, I was having trouble looking past the next dreary week. My wife couldn't keep her eyes off of the prize. I am humbled that she had a vision of the future when I was struggling with imagining anything more than "normal."

Let me clearly say to those of you who may have struggled or still may be struggling with the fallout from the coronavirus, I am **not** telling you how you should feel or behave. I understand that I am in a place of privilege with a good job, a place to stay, and food in my pantry. All any of us can do is the best we can in trying times. I wish to be kind to others and I hope you are being kind to yourself. I hope to convey what the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Galatia.

"Let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due time we will reap if we do not give up."¹

At the beginning of this article is a quote attributed to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Whenever I use a quote in this

magazine, I do diligence to ensure that the quote is a) attributed to the correct person, and b) accurately reported. My online research has not been able to document that Eleanor Roosevelt actually said those specific words. What I did find was something similar that Mrs. Roosevelt wrote in her syndicated newspaper column of July 4, 1957. Referencing the Founding Fathers and the signing of the Declaration of Independence, she wrote:

"It was by living hard and courageous lives that these people tried to bring their dreams of liberty to reality, and this fact is a good one to emphasize today. It is the living that we do that still matters, and will matter in what we make of our country in the next few years."

What I find most appealing and perhaps most relevant are the words "It is the living that we do that still matters, and will matter..." At Cottey, I am incredibly proud to be part of a community that has the courage to believe in the beauty of this institution's future. In the pages of this issue, you'll read how Cottey is actively engaged in working to make the College a place with a strong future. Cottey added a major, elementary education, and hired new faculty and administrative staff. Cottey is enhancing the physical plant with improvements in the library along with construction of the stock trading room and (very soon!) the student center project. The College recently purchased property contiguous to the campus for future development. The esports team signed its first two student athletes and women's flag football will be added to the competitive sports lineup. The campus may be quiet, but Cottey is getting ready for a beautiful future.

Thank you for all you do for Cottey College. The living that you do still matters and will matter.

¹Gal. 6:9





Comets Athletic Director Stephanie Beason is interviewed by Joplin, Missouri, television stations following Cottey's announcement of the addition of Women's Flag Football on May 14. The College will begin play in spring 2021.

Are You Ready for Some Football?

Cottey is the first women's college and the first college in Missouri to launch a Women's Flag Football Program

By Randon Coffey
Director of Marketing

150 years ago, American football was born when Rutgers and Princeton squared off in the first college football game. Fast forward a century and a half, and this simple game has woven itself into the fabric of our society and cemented itself as the most popular sport in the United States.

Most of the history of football has been written by men. The violence of the sport and lack of opportunities has long deterred women from participating. Recently, there has been a surge in young women showing interest in the sport. More girls are playing tackle football than ever and participation rates for flag football are growing rapidly.

Opportunities to become one of the first at anything aren't easy to come by. In May, the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) announced that it was partnering with the NFL (National Football League) to officially launch women's flag football as a collegiate sport. It didn't take long for the administration at Cottey to realize how truly special it would be to become one of the founding members in this up-and-coming sport.

On May 14, Cottey College officially announced the addition of women's flag football as the newest athletic program at the College. The announcement made Cottey the first women's college in the U.S. and the first college in Missouri to start a collegiate women's flag football program. Adding this program continues the vision of Cottey College by furthering opportunities for women in our country to gain an education and learn valuable life skills.

The announcement has generated a lot of buzz and excitement on campus about the addition of the sport. Athletes from all over the country have been in contact with Head Coach Madeline Culbertson to talk about playing this coming year.

"It's been really exciting and a lot of fun working to put the team together," said Madeline. "These are girls who never would have known about Cottey until we added this sport. They are all eager to get to campus and I think they will truly love being a part of this amazing place."

The College partnered with Nevada high school to use their football stadium for the team's home games. "We're very fortunate to have a great partner with the Nevada R-V Schools,"

said Athletic Director Stephanie Beason. "The Nevada High School swim teams have trained at Cottey and our Comets track team has trained at Nevada High School. We appreciate our good neighbor relationship with them."

One of the recruits who has signed to play with Cottey, Christeney Byrd, said, "I never thought my dream of playing my favorite sport in college was even possible. I will be the first at my high school to pursue flag football in college. It's exciting to be making history at my school and showing the younger girls on our team to work hard and their dreams could also become a reality."

The first signee to the fledgling team was Erynne Christopher of Sunrise Mountain High School in Las Vegas, Nevada. Christopher graduated as the Class President for Jobs from Sunrise Mountain and was voted Most Spirited. She will major in Organizational Leadership and Business-Management at Cottey while playing a huge role along the offensive line as a Comet!

Within two days of Christopher's signing, Christeney Byrd, of Wakulla High School in Tallahassee, Florida, inked her letter of intent to play for the Comets. Byrd was Honorable Mention Big Bend Conference as a multi-position player for Wakulla. She played a little defensive end, receiver, and cornerback to garner Big Bend Conference honors. Byrd is undecided on her major but is excited to have a multitude of options at Cottey to help her choose her path.

The following week, Hailey Hibbitts of Sheldon High School in Sheldon, Missouri, committed to play for Cottey. Hibbitts has signed as a walk-on for the flag football team. At Sheldon High School, she was on the volleyball team and was also involved in yearbook.

The Comets flag football team plans to take the field for their first games in spring 2021. The rules for flag football are virtually the same as tackle football except that it is seven against seven, players don't wear helmets or pads, and the field is usually 80 yards instead of 100 yards. Teams play two 20-minute halves and, instead of tackling, a defensive player must pull a flag attached to the ball carrier's waist.



Madeline Culbertson, head coach of the Women's Flag Football team, is interviewed by Mike Harbit of local radio station KNEM/KNMO.

The Future Belongs to the Comets

New Sports and Coaches Added for 2020-21

The softball field has been quiet since early March and no runners have been circling the track this spring. What does an athletic department do when all of the competitions have been canceled? If it's the Comets athletic staff, you add two new sports—women's flag football (see page 9) and esports—and hire coaches for both new sports and cross country.

As mentioned in the fall/winter issue of the *Viewpoint*, the College added esports to the competitive athletic mix and hired Bovey Zhang as the first coach of the team. Zhang has since signed his first two recruits for the Comets esports team, Alexie Ward of Creston, Iowa, and Serenity Mary Ellen Torkelson of Malvern, Iowa.

"Gaming is a big passion in my life," said Ward. "I am super glad to be coming in to an all-female team and getting the confidence to expand my talents."

Ward has been active in her school and community. She was an All-State speech performer 2018-2020; received a certificate for outstanding achievement in drama in Denair, California, in 2017; earned a Career Skills Certificate from Precision Exams for Personal Financial Responsibility in 2019; and attended the Iowa RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) Conference in 2018. She has also been an active volunteer serving as a counselor at both a drama camp and an art camp in Creston. Ward has also volunteered for Meals for Heartland.

"I'm excited to have Lexie a part of Cottey's esports program," said Zhang. "Her passion and driven ambition are not only great additions to the team but for the future of the College."



Alexie Ward



Serenity Mary Ellen Torkelson

Torkelson has been playing video games for as long as she can remember. She has experience with the Halo series, Smash Brothers, Overwatch, Apex Legends, and other competitive and non-competitive games on many different kinds of gaming systems.

"I have been gaming since I've been an 8-bit sprite," Torkelson said. "I look forward to leveling up with the Cottey College esports team! Video games have been a huge part of my life and joining the esports team at Cottey would be a dream come true!"

"I am super excited to have Serenity a part of our new esports program," said Zhang. "Her love and passion of gaming is a good forefront of who we need on this program. I am excited to see what we have in store in the future."

In addition to esports, Torkelson has been on her high school's quarterly honor roll with a 3.6 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale. She was voted senior class president and took three years of Spanish. Torkelson was active in the theater and music and was a member of the cross country and dance teams. She has experience with digital art and video filming and editing, as well as other technical aspects that come with screen recording for video games.

Esports is competitive, organized video gaming. The world of esports involves competitors from various leagues squaring off against each other via online tournaments and matches.

"Esports can build future careers and not just in gaming," explained Zhang. "Examples include webcasters (webinars), graphic designers, video editing, event organizing and operations. There are a lot of job opportunities that can be grown into this space."

Zhang wants to eliminate the stereotype of lazy video gamers who "sit on their butts."

"I have a strong athletic background and I want to break that stigma for future gamers," he said, explaining that physical training will be incorporated into practices. "I believe if you have a healthy body, you have a healthy mind. We're going to have that regimen in our practice sessions."

New Coaches

Bovey Zhang, Esports

Bovey Zhang was hired as the College's first esports coach. Zhang began his duties with the College in March.



Bovey Zhang

"We're very pleased to have someone of Bovey's caliber as our first esports coach," said Landon Adams, vice president for student life. "His extensive network with other gamers, especially the women's team he coaches, gives him an advantage in recruiting for the College."

Zhang is the founder

and owner of Flash Point Esports where he not only is in charge of operations and budget, but also in charge of community planning and negotiating sponsor and investment deals. Zhang also is the senior operations manager for Bes-tikas Esports, a Turkish women's professional team. Zhang is the team manager and handles all players' contracts and scouts opposing teams as well as future players. Zhang is the founder of the Ember Z Gaming Tournaments and has been a tournament manager for Victorious Gaming. Zhang earned a bachelor's degree in business management information systems from Liberty University in Virginia.

Rose Howell, Cross Country and Track

Ms. Rose Howell is the new head coach for Cottey's cross country and track program. She replaces Tony Skiles who left at the end of the year. Howell comes to Cottey with extensive knowledge in cross country and track at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) level. Howell was an assistant coach for the men's and women's cross country, track and field program at her alma matter, Nova Southeastern University for the past two years. Prior to Nova, Howell had stints coaching at Purdue University Northwest and University of La Verne.

"I would like to thank Stephanie Beason and all those involved in the hiring process for giving me the opportunity to represent Cottey College and lead the Comets cross country and track program," said Howell. "In the short time that I have gotten to know Cottey and its community, it is evident how proudly and strongly they practice their core values on a daily basis. The passion to educate and support young women into responsible 'learners, leaders, and citizens' is clear and I am honored to be chosen to share in these values."

"After meeting the young women on the cross country and track team, I am overjoyed to see the dedication and excitement they share for our team and our sport. We are all excited to hit the ground running and help this program reach its full potential on the course and in the classroom."

Howell has a Master of Science degree in business administration with a concentration in management and leadership from University of La Verne and a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Nova Southeastern University. Howell is USA Track and Field Level 1 certified.

The Comets Get a New Home



Later this summer, the new Comets athletic website should be live. Visit cottey.edu and click on athletics to check out the new look for the Comets.

The Future of Education

by **Steve Reed**
Editor

If the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams, then teachers must have beautiful dreams because they touch the future every day. This year, Cottey College touched the future in a pair of meaningful ways. In May, the College graduated its first certified teachers in secondary education (see sidebar). Shortly before that, Cottey announced the addition of the elementary education major and the hiring of a new faculty



Dr Kristina Adams

member to teach classes in that major.

"I look forward to adding elementary education," said Dr. Kristina Adams, assistant professor and coordinator of secondary education. "When I first came to Cottey I asked, 'Why do we not have an elementary education program?' I had taken on a representative position with state (of Missouri) in the first year, but realized we needed to do elementary education. I approached Dr. (Joann) Bangs (vice president of academic affairs and dean of the faculty) with the courses needed for this major. Once we got approval to move forward, we moved the proposal on to the state in December 2019."

In February 2020, Cottey was in the list of the next 10 programs to be reviewed by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Things were moving smoothly and then the pandemic hit and the process ground to a halt, or at least a very slow crawl. At the time of this interview with Adams in late May, the College is allowed to offer the major in elementary education, but final approval by DESE is still pending.

"DESE is working as hard as they can," added Adams. "Only two employees at the state are working on it right now; they're flooded. I have no doubt they will approve the program."

Cottey is definitely seeing interest in the education majors.

"Cottey has 27 education majors who have declared," said Adams. "We have over 30 students expressing interest in the major and eight of them are in elementary education. What has surprised me since I've been here are the number of secondary education students. Cottey will have a lot of growth in elementary education. I predict we'll have 40 students in education majors, and two-thirds of those will be in elementary. We have a president who comes from an education background and understands the program. She and Dr. Bangs have been very supportive of the program."

Cottey is pleased to announce that Dr. Tracy Lanser has accepted a position as an assistant professor of education. Dr. Lanser has an Ed.D. in educational leadership, an educational specialist certificate in superintendency and a Master of Science in elementary education from Southwest Baptist University. Her Bachelor of Science in elementary education is from Central Methodist University. She has served as the elementary principal in El Dorado Springs since 2008. She will begin teaching at Cottey this fall.

"I am thrilled to join the faculty at Cottey College and look forward to helping our students create incredible futures in the field of elementary education," said Dr. Lanser.



Dr. Tracy Lanser

Begins at Cottey College

"It's so exciting that Cottey has a secondary education program now! Through the years I've had the pleasure of welcoming several Cottey students into my classroom for their observation hours. I'm sure it's no surprise when I say that these young women are just really awesome! One of the students spent a lot of time in my French classroom and even got to present a lesson to my students. I was able to work closely with another Cottey student teacher through the Speech and Debate program, of which I am the assistant coach. Now that the first secondary education students are graduating from Cottey, we have hired one of them to teach at the high school. It will be so much fun for me as a Cottey graduate and a tenured teacher to work with and mentor this young woman as she starts her career next school year." – Christen Diehl '98

"As both a Cottey alumnae and elementary teacher, it brings me so much joy to see that Cottey is now offering this program! Since graduating from Cottey and continuing on to become an educator I have always wished I had had the opportunity to remain at Cottey. Cottey College has always had the highest standards in regards to the education that young women receive while attending. I know this program will be no different. I am so excited for all the young women who have the opportunity to pursue their calling as educators at one of the finest educational institutions. I am even more excited that they can do so at Cottey."

– Jamie Stark '03

Cottey's First Secondary Education Major is Hired

This May saw the very first certified secondary education teachers graduate from Cottey College. It was a four-year process, but Kasey Acton, Kelsey Acton and Heidi Wiskus are ready to educate students.

"They are the first three graduates in any educational program from Cottey," said Dr. Kristina Adams, assistant professor and coordinator of secondary education. "Each of them has an amazing work ethic and each brought that determination and perseverance into the program. We now have eight students in the program and 19-20 pre-education majors."

Kasey Acton was hired last month by the Nevada (Missouri) R-V school district to teach freshman English, making her the first Cottey education major to be hired as a teacher.

"It feels so special to be in the first Secondary Education graduating class and to be the first graduate to have a teaching contract for next year," said Acton. "I'm very excited to be teaching in Nevada. I've grown to love Nevada and the community here and I'm looking forward to investing into it and getting to know more of the people."

"What is great about getting the job in Nevada is the support system she is going into," said Adams. "Research shows if you can support teachers through the first year, the longevity increases. The English Department loves Kasey. When she did her student teaching, she started developing those relationships right away with students and others."

"My experience as a student teacher in the Nevada High School was amazing," added Acton. "My mentor teacher, Deidre Goins,

was so helpful and was always taking time to teach me and help me grow. I also had so much support from the faculty and staff at Cottey. Dr. Adams, Dr. Stubblefield, and Dr. Emery took the time to help me grow in the skills I need for a high school English teaching position. Coach Beason and Blaklee Sanders were so supportive and were always there to help me throughout all my years at Cottey. I'm so thankful for all of the faculty and staff at Cottey who helped me along in my journey and made this opportunity possible.

"The education program at Cottey is great because the class sizes are small so you get individual instruction," said Acton.



Kasey Acton

"Teaching is the one profession that creates all other professions."

Cottery Property Purchase Expands

Cottery College is pleased to announce the purchase of 2.93 acres of property contiguous to campus. The property is located immediately west of campus between Tower Street and Woods Supermarket. (See map.) The owner of the property approached the College and presented the opportunity to purchase this land. The Cottery College Board of Trustees saw this as a long-term fit for the development of campus and authorized the purchase. The property contains an office building, a triplex, four apartments, and a small home and is contiguous to the Kelso property the College purchased in 2014.

The funds for the purchase came out of an endowed operations reserve fund. Monies from that fund are used for campus enhancements and are not part of the general operating budget.

"The purchase of the property allows Cottery to increase its footprint and add acreage to help facilitate the campus master plan," said Dr. Jann Weitzel.

What will the College do with the property?

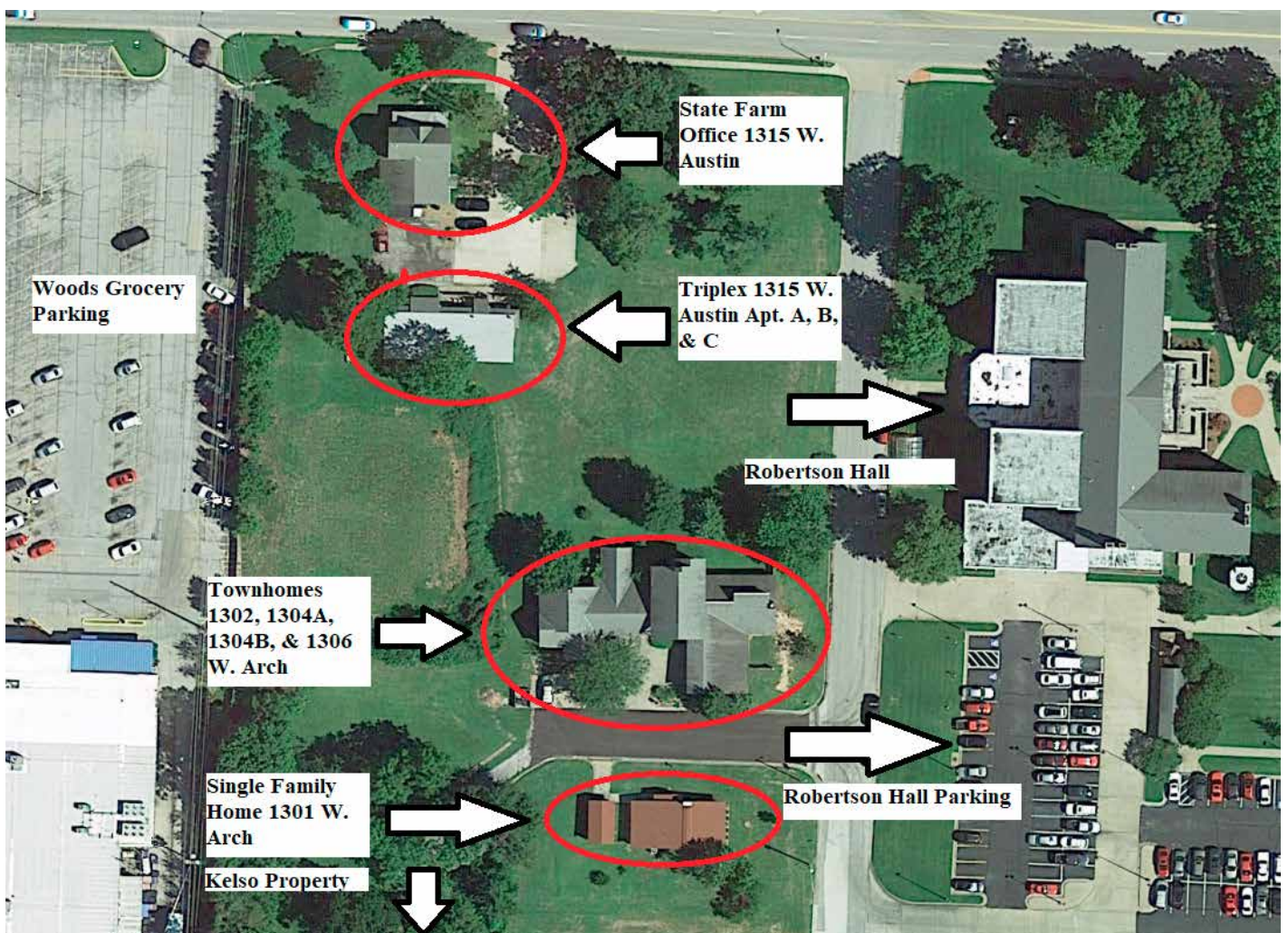
"After reviewing all of the proposals, we are excited to announce that the office building will be the future home of the Cottery Wellness Center," said Dr. Weitzel. "For many years, we have taken great pride in the excellent health and counseling services that Cottery provides its students. The increased space will enable Cottery College to continue

to provide and enhance health, counseling, spiritual life, and other wellness services for future students. The location of the space will additionally improve the privacy we can deliver to students."

"At Cottery we have always taken an enormous amount of pride in our holistic approach to student wellness," added Dr. Landon Adams, vice president for student life. "We know that a well student is better positioned to be successful in the classroom and ultimately graduate. We are very excited about the opportunity to move into a new facility, which will allow us the opportunity to further enhance our wellness programs to ensure that Cottery remains on the cutting edge in terms of wellness offerings to students."

Optional housing for third- and fourth-year students is under consideration. Apartment living close to campus would offer juniors and seniors a transition from suite life to independent living. The apartments all have full kitchens, which would allow students to prepare food, and the proximity to Robertson Hall also offers students the opportunity to purchase a meal plan and eat in the dining room if they choose to do so.

"We hope to have some townhome space available for students this fall," added Adams. "Interested students should reach out to the director of housing, Ms. Cindy Spencer, for more information."



Future Housing and Wellness Options



This office space is the future home of the Cottey Wellness Center.

Stock Trading Lab/Esports Room



Construction on the Stock Trading Lab/Esports room began in April when it was apparent that students would not be returning for the semester. These two photos show some of the construction work in progress. Left, taken on April 24, this photo shows the basic layout of the room with some drywall in place. The large opening is where a short wall and long expanse of glass will be. Photo right, taken on May 8, shows most of the walls in place. Channels were cut into the concrete floor for electrical wiring and specialized cabling. Follow improvements to Cottey's physical plant on social media.

Alumnae Award Winners for Founder's 2020

Distinguished Alumna

Christine Fuller Scheuneman '70

Christine is an independent corporate director and advisor to national and international private and Fortune 100 companies. She is an award-winning leader achieving results with organizations by providing innovative and strategic advice and is a published author on corporate governance and finance issues. She is a Governance Fellow with the National Association of Corporate Directors, a member of Women Corporate Directors, the Forum for Corporate Directors, and the Corporate Directors Roundtable.



She received her Juris Doctor degree from DePaul University College of Law, her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Kansas, and her Associate in Arts degree from Cottey College.

Christine is active in nonprofit governance, both advising nonprofit organizations and associations and serving on boards of directors. She served as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Cottey College during 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Christine said, "I attended Cottey during a time that reflected the beginning of the most active and disruptive phase of the women's movement. It was also a time of great change in the country. Cottey gave me a stable environment in which to thrive, to develop and explore ideas that put me on a path of activism. I was convinced that there was nothing that could not be accomplished. The environment at the College encouraged not competition, but kinship in the best sense of the word. We were classmates, suitemates, friends, members of one of the societies, colleagues in affinity groups, and finally alums. When there are no outwardly imposed limits to using one's voice and talents, that internal voice of doubt gets fainter and fainter until it is just something one used to believe. At Cottey, I was able to prove to myself that I had the talent and drive to accomplish what I wanted to accomplish personally and professionally. No limits—and no fear."

She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of Orange County and the Orange County United Way. In addition, Christine is on the Advisory Board of the University of California Irvine Merage School of Business, where she is a faculty member for the Certificate in Women's Leadership program and is involved in organizing a Center for Women's Leadership at the business school.

Alumna Service

Karel Lyster Lowery '75

Karel grew up in Greeley, Colorado. She graduated from Cottey College in 1975 with a degree in music performance. She went on to earn a bachelor's in music education from the University of Northern Colorado and her master's in music education from the University of Central Missouri. Karel served as an elementary music teacher for 31 years with 28 of those years in the Jefferson City Public Schools system.



Karel also spent two terms on the Cottey College Committee for Missouri State Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood and a six-year term on the Cottey College Alumnae Association Executive Board. Karel is married to her husband Jim and they will celebrate their 40th anniversary this year. They have two children, Evan and Emily, and one grandson, Bennett.

Karel said, "While at Cottey, I was very busy as a music major playing the bassoon with a woodwind instructor who played the flute and was an amazing musician. This required me to do and learn many things on my own. I also was involved in student government and was student body president, which gave me invaluable and incredible leadership experiences."

Her interests include being actively involved in church activities, playing principal bassoon while serving as the vice-president for the Jefferson City Symphony Orchestra, keeping active in her local P.E.O chapter and gardening.

Outstanding Young Alumna

Kristy Leitze '05

Kristy Leitze works at Trios Health as the lead speech pathologist in the Special Care Nursery and oversees the outpatient feeding clinic for ill infants with feeding disorders. Prior to Trios, Kristy worked at the Pasco School District as an SLP. She holds a master's degree from Smith College and another from Washington State University.



Kristy is married to her husband Alex and they have two children, Finn and Lynleigh. She said, "Being Finn and Lynleigh's mom is by far the most rewarding experience I have in life. They are my favorite little people and the reason why I pushed so hard to open Trios Health's pediatric feeding clinic."

Kristy said, "Cottey allowed me to see my potential as a leader. The leadership experience I gained at Cottey allowed me to have the confidence I needed to open an outpatient feeding clinic and attend meetings with hospital leadership. Cottey gave me a safe place to grow and nurture who I desired to become. Cottey was the best decision I have ever made."

Her hobbies include playing with her children, cooking, traveling and Netflix binge-watching the latest shows with her husband.

Honorary Alumna Linda Russell

Linda Russell grew up in Shawnee Mission, Kansas. She, her husband, and small boys moved to Fort Scott, Kansas, in 1975, and she first came to work at Cottey in April 1991. After nearly 24 total years of service, she retired (again) in January 2020.



During Linda's employment at Cottey, she served as the assistant to the business manager, public information secretary, and assistant to alumnae and P.E.O. relations. She has been married to Don Russell for 49 years. They raised three sons: Casey, married to Mindy; Les, married to Jena; and Matt Russell; she also has one step-daughter: Jamie Payton. Linda is a proud grandma to four beautiful grandchildren: Kaitlyn, Cottey Class of 2013; Brysen; Max; and Madi.

Linda said, "Cottey is very important to me. I feel that there is a sense of family and connection in this community that you don't find everywhere. I developed lifelong friendships at Cottey, much like the students who attend Cottey and have appreciated those relationships throughout my life."

During retirement Linda hopes to plan some road trips, make time for reading, and take up sewing again.

Honorary Alumna Helen Lodge

Helen Lee Lodge of Nevada, Missouri, was born November 25, 1955, in Corning, Iowa, the daughter of Duane E and M Virginia Smith Lodge. She died April 14, 2019 in Wichita, Kansas.

Helen graduated from Valley High School, West Des Moines, and Central College, Pella, Iowa. She was a teacher at Valley and later became a residence hall director at NIACC in Mason City, Iowa. Between 1983 and 1991 she was hall director and assistant director of housing at Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls. From 1991 until her death she was direc-



tor of student housing and assistant dean of student life at Cottey. Helen enjoyed the students, especially the resident assistants and her hall staff. She loved seeing the growth in their leadership skills. She relished being part of the international experience that Cottey provided in Europe. Her 28 years at Cottey were filled with special memories.

Helen was a genealogist, and taught classes in genealogy, English royal history, and castles and cathedrals at Cottey Vacation College.

She traveled with Cottey students to London, Paris, and Madrid several times. She, her sister, and her mother traveled on genealogy trips yearly from 1986 to ancestral places in the U.S., England, and France. Her nieces were treated to a family vacation to England in 2015 and many Memorial Day cemetery trips.

Friend of the College Chuck Baker



Chuck grew up in Warren, Ohio. He loves horses, old cars and all things sports. He attended Miami University in Ohio and graduated in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science degree in business.

Chuck serves as the co-chair to the BIL Taskforce for the CONNECT Initiative. He assists Cottey in bringing awareness to BILs and P.E.O.s across the country introducing the idea of creating a student center in the lower level of the Chapel, in the heart of campus.

Chuck is married to his college sweetheart, Sue, president of International Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood 2017-19. They have three daughters—Kristen Gebhardt, Deanna Andamasaris, and Julie Lintz—and six beautiful grandchildren. Chuck is owner and president of E.B. Baker and Sons, General Contractors—a family-owned business for 60 years.

Chuck said, "Never in my life have I been aware of, and associated with, an institution of learning that places such emphasis on the personal advancement of its students. Each student at Cottey is set up for success!"

Dreams of a Place to CONNECT

By Christi Ellis '96
Director of Advancement and Alumnae Relations

Eighteen months ago, the dream to bring a central gathering place to Cottey's campus turned into a plan, a plan to create a student center in the heart of campus and give a well-deserved refresh to our beloved chapel. This space will be a place to congregate and relax; a space where students, faculty, staff, alumnae and visitors alike can hold meetings, study, and dine; a space where relationships are built, meetings take place, and collaboration inspires; a space to foster a vibrant environment and energetic Cottey Community.

What has always stood out about Cottey are the relationships; Cottey is an institution that builds connections and bonds that last. The student center will be that place to offer our campus community and its visitors a place to come together and make those important connections. In recent months the relationships that are the heartbeat of Cottey College have taken on a new look. Faculty taught students remotely, coaches have provided athletes with training routines to work on while



Interior view showing student lockers

one thing that has not changed is our goal to complete the Cottey Chapel/Student Center initiative so construction can begin this summer. As of mid-June, we are only \$160,000 away from the funds needed to begin construction.

We invite you to join us in our efforts to take the dream that was turned into a plan and help it become our reality. Help create incredible futures and foster connections at the center of it all. Be a part of the Cottey legacy. Your gift can present a unique opportunity to be personally recognized or to honor family members, classmates, or friends by including their names on a designated space in the Chapel or Student Center.

A new video and updated renderings have been prepared by our architect Amy Eckhoff, Cottey alumna, Class of 1994 and partner with GastingWalker. This exciting representation demonstrates what the center can become. To view the video, visit www.cottey.edu/connect and click on the Virtual View tab.

When this pandemic has passed and the campus is once again bustling with activity, the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Campus Life will be that place where we all come together to celebrate this incredible college!

For more information on the CONNECT initiative, naming opportunities, and to give a gift online, visit: www.cottey.edu/connect, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement, 417-667-8181 ext. 2120, or email at advancement@cottey.edu.



A view of the spirit shop

they were away from campus, many of our staff work from home, and commencement was held virtually. Even though we are facing the challenges of the present, we have not taken our eyes off of the future. We believe in the beauty of this plan and the impact it will make.

As a reflection from the mid-1950's, Joe Messer, chairman of the original Chapel project wrote the following: "This building will be a beautiful setting for Cottey students, alumnae, faculty and members of the P.E.O. Sisterhood to seek the [connections] that are needed in our world today." Seventy years later, his words ring true more than ever. Although things are different now,



Entry wall in the Susan Bulkeley Butler Campus Center

Points of Pride: Tom and Betsy Cornwall

BIL and P.E.O. from Thorsby, Alberta, Canada

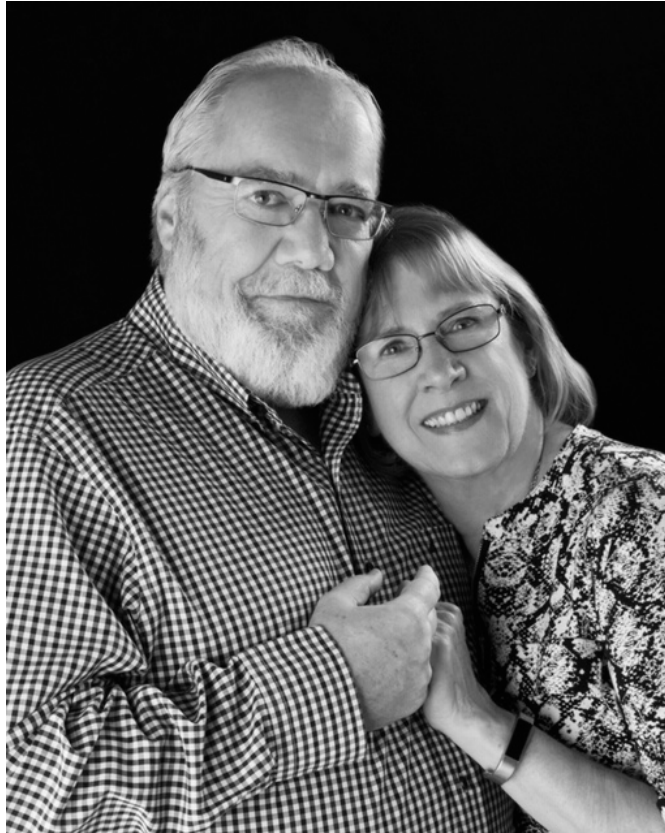
By Christi Ellis '96
Director of Advancement
and Alumnae Relations

Most often when meeting Cottey supporters, one of our first conversations we have revolves around P.E.O. and their Cottey connection. Many times, I hear about a wonderfully long history of a P.E.O. and how many generations before her were members of the sisterhood; I hear about their favorite P.E.O. activities and projects, their interest in Cottey, and even how they brought their BIL into the mission. But for Tom and Betsy, it was Tom with the long-standing history with P.E.O. "I tell people that my commitment to P.E.O. occurred long before I was even born!" said Tom, "My great-grandmother was a charter member of Chapter H, Iowa in 1884, and being P.E.O.s and BILs has run in my family ever since. I grew up having to 'hide in my room' on nights when my Mom hosted P.E.O. meetings or Dad held BIL initiation ceremonies at the house." For Tom, being exposed to the mission of P.E.O. all of his life, it was only a matter of time before he would become a BIL and could support his P.E.O. in their mission.

Betsy, however has only been a member since 2001 after a friend asked her to join, and she has been extremely active

"We like to support things that make a difference in the lives of others."

ever since! She has been a member in five states/provinces and have served in all offices at the chapter level. She was the provincial Cottey Chair for two years and then went on the AB-SK Provincial Board, serving as President in 2017. Since finishing her term as President, she continues her work serving on the Provincial Membership Committee, and now along with her BIL, Tom, volunteer as the Canadian regional leaders for the CONNECT initiative to raise funds to create a student center in the lower level of the Cottey College Chapel.



Tom and Betsy Cornwall

Betsy has always known Cottey was a special place, but it was when she attended P.E.O. Seminar as the Cottey Chair that she fell in love with our College. She again had the opportunity to visit Cottey while serving as the AB-SK Provincial President and attend Dr. Weitzel's inauguration celebration; this time she brought Tom along so he too could fall in love with the College. "Throughout my career, I have always been passionate about women's education and mentoring women in my career field to become successful leaders. Being on the campus with Betsy during Dr. Weitzel's inauguration let me see what a great opportunity Cottey offers to young women and I knew then we needed to be involved in some way to help make a difference in Cottey students' lives."

When asked to serve as the Canadian leaders to assist Cottey with bringing awareness and raising the funds to create a student center on our campus, they didn't hesitate for a minute to say yes! They knew that this was something they should be doing. When considering their personal contribution to the initiative, they stated, "We like to support things that make a difference in the lives of others. This Student Center will create a central gathering place on campus and also provide a 'home-base' for commuter students each day. The variety of spaces within the Center will provide opportunities for socializing, studying, relaxing and entertainment. It will also increase the visibility of the bookstore and Chellie Club. It will enhance the experience of the young women attending Cottey, as well as the faculty, staff and anyone who visits the campus."

Their contributions to Cottey College are inspired by knowing that Cottey's commitment to women's education and leadership is evident, with the choice to be a small campus. It allows our students to not just be a number; rather, it offers a committed faculty and staff that create a unique learning environment thereby making it a truly student-centered institution.

Zoomie-Roomie: Cottery Alumnae Connections Via Zoom

By Mallori DeSalle, '99
CCAA Boardmember

Cottery College suitemates and roommates are now Zoom-mates because of Virtual Founders 2020. When it appeared that Founders Weekend 2020 would be cancelled, Zoom (a video conference software), made it possible for unprecedented connections during the Covid-19 closures. This innovative way of using live video meetings to reconnect with Cottery friends started as a way to bridge the gap for the cancelled on-campus events during Founder's and blossomed into so much more.

Classes ranging from the 1960's to 2010+ found comfort in seeing one another through their cell phones, web cams and computer screens. Some alumnae celebrating their 20th or 30th reunion year were attending reunions as a part of Founder's for the first time. Several alumnae noted that Zoom made participating in class reunions easier than ever before.

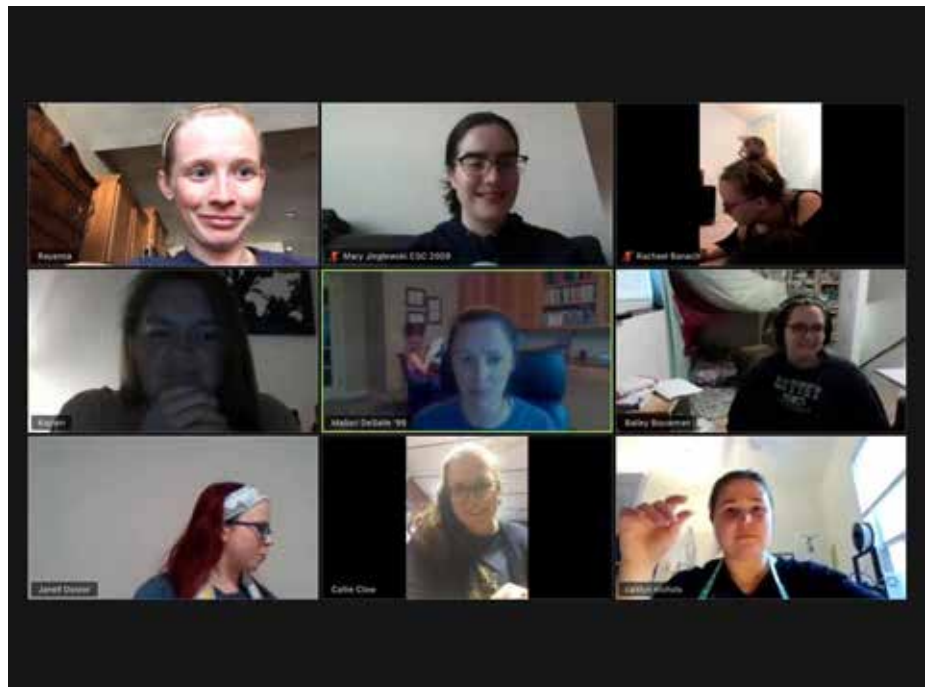
With the incredible experience gained through the success of using Zoom during Virtual Founder's, alumnae have found inspiration to connect more frequently than waiting for a reunion year. Cottery roommates became Zoom-mates by deciding to continue using Zoom for regular reunions to build on the initial spark that came from Founder's.

Class of 1983 decided that Zoom will be a monthly meeting place. The second Saturday of every month the class hosts their own "Sup and Sing" via Zoom where they select a song to sing and a topic to discuss. The first month of course they sang our beloved Alma Mater. Several other suites and classes have followed this same trend. Class of

1998 has Zoom calls, a Facebook page and has scheduled a class trip for 2020 (assuming travel is permitted in coming months).

As Cottery alumnae continue to use online tools to stay connected, we invite you to share your experiences. Post photos, share stories and let others know what is working well for you! The Office of Alumnae Relations is ready to assist those who are still learning how to use these resources.

If you would like support to set up a Zoom session for your suite/roommate or class, please let the Office of Alumnae Relations know!



Class Notes

Dr. Sidney Gardner '96 moved back to her home state of Texas from New Jersey about a year ago in order to take a job as the Director of the Women and LGBT Center at SMU in Dallas. Over the last decade she was able to complete her Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from St. Cloud State University, get involved with P.E.O., and become a mom to two great boys. She is looking to connect with other Cottery grads, particularly those in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex.

Erica Rounsefell '97, a Foreign Service Officer for the U. S. Agency for International Development, will serve a one-year tour as the Director of Education at the U. S. Embassy in Juba, South Sudan.

Caroline Dohack '04 was recently hired as a staff writer at *The Hustle*, a digital media company focused on emerging business and technology trends. In this role, she contributes to the daily newsletter, produces a weekly newsletter for Hustle Ambassadors and writes original long-form pieces. Carrie finished her bachelor's degree at the University of Missouri School of Journalism in 2007. She served as the lifestyle editor at the Columbia Daily Tribune, taught writing at the Stephens College School of Fashion and Design and worked as a public relations specialist at University of Missouri Health. Carrie lives in Columbia with her husband, Justin Willett; their children Carter, Danny and Zinnia; and their dogs Jon Bon Jovi and Stevie Nicks.

Summer Wylie '08 will graduate in August 2020 from Eastern Florida State College of Cocoa, Florida with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Management; and will be attending Florida State University of Tallahassee, Florida, in the fall to pursue a Master of Public Administration degree, specializing in Florida City and County Management, and Emergency Management & Homeland Security. The program is fully online so she will be continuing full time in the Purchasing Office at Brevard County Board of County Commissioners, in Melbourne, Florida.

Ashley Claborn '09 began working at Kares Library, Athens State University, as Library Support Specialist in Collection Services in May 2019.

Dorothy Vanek, A Friend of the College

Dorothy Dyer Vanek, 93, of Oro Valley, Arizona, passed away March 25, 2020. Vanek provided the funds to build the home of the softball Comets, Vanek Family Memorial Field. The field was dedicated in 2015.



Dorothy Vanek holds a softball team photo and autographed ball at the dedication of the Vanek Family Memorial Field in 2015.

Vanek was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on July 2, 1926, and grew up in Webster Groves, Missouri. A graduate of Webster Groves High School and Central Airlines School in Kansas City, she attended Ward Belmont College in Nashville, Tennessee, and transferred to Washington University in St. Louis to study architecture, art and music. She worked first as a dental assistant and then as an airline hostess for Capital Airlines in Chicago. She married Robert Vanek, an airline industry executive, in 1950. They lived in Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Connecticut, Guam, San Francisco and Morocco, making Tucson their retirement home.

Vanek's guiding values were philanthropy, education and the arts, and she inspired others with her distinguished record of service and philanthropy. She was an elder in the Presbyterian Church, life member of Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority, Pan American World Airlines Retirees Association, Missouri Historical Society and the P.E.O. Sisterhood. She was a major benefactor of the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, True Concord Voices and Orchestra, Southern Arizona Symphony, Interfaith Community Services, College of the Ozarks, Pan American World Airlines Foundation, Cottey College and the American Red Cross. Dorothy's charitable heart, work and generosity have had a ripple effect across the cultural landscape of Tucson and beyond. She supported and encouraged the creation of new artistic programs and groups, as well as affirming and assisting existing organizations to grow and flourish.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Vanek; brother, John Dyer; and daughters, Deborah Butler and Nancy Vanek. Dorothy is survived by her life partner, Robert Carroll; grandsons, Brian (Jennifer) Butler and Michael (Megan) Considine; granddaughter, Jennifer (Randall) Bias and five great-grandchildren, all of Dallas, Texas, and niece, Becky Kaiser of Orlando, Florida.



Members of the 2012 Comets' softball team along with head coach Shelli Stanley (front row, left), Dr. Judy Rogers, president (front row, right), and Dorothy Dyer Vanek (back row, third from right), pose for a photo after breaking ground for the new Vanek Family Memorial Field on March 31, 2012. It was Dorothy Vanek's generous gift that made the Comets' home field possible.

In Memoriam, Dr. Richard Brown

Dr. Richard Brown, professor emeritus of Spanish, passed away in Nevada, Missouri, on April 23.

Dr. Brown was a Cottey faculty member from 1981-2006. He earned a B. Mus., and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Spanish at Texas Tech University. He also engaged in summer studies at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City (Mexico) and the Universidad de Madrid (Spain), as well as a year at the Universidade Federal da Bahia, Salvador (Brazil).

He was an extensive traveler with visits to England, France, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Ireland, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Jamaica, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Greece, Italy, Monaco, Vatican, San Marino, Austria, Lichtenstein, and Switzerland.

In addition to serving as Chair of the Faculty and Chair of the Humanities Division, Dr. Brown served on many committees including the Faculty Senate, Academic Committee, Rank and Tenure Committee, Student Recruitment Committee, Financial Aid Committee, ad hoc committees on New Faculty Orientation and advising, and numerous search committees. He served as Faculty Parliamentarian, a mentor to new faculty, and coordinator of the Brown Bag Lunch Series, and he assisted in organizing the Humanities Film Festival. He sponsored the Spanish Club and co-sponsored Alpha Mu Gamma Honor Society. He conducted a three-hour seminar for faculty, staff and spouses on Spanish American literature on the book *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel García-Márquez.

Dr. Brown was selected as the Blanche Hinman Dow Lecturer at Cottey in 1995. His lecture *Amazon Sketches* was a personal account of a trip he made to the Amazon regions of Brazil in 1965.

My very favorite memory of Dr. Brown was watching telenovelas via satellite in the PAC theater. He would very animatedly help us understand the storylines "Mercedes is very sad that Paco has left her... Oh no! Mercedes has just found out that Paco left her for her mother!" Gasps, and much laughter, but a great way to learn Spanish. Dena Poer '92

Editor's Note: *Richard Brown was my friend. When my office was in the basement of Main Hall, Richard would often stop by for a short visit (and a cup of coffee) after picking up his mail. While many remember him as a brilliant linguist – he was fluent in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French – many may not know that he was also a talented musician. Prior to becoming a professor of Spanish, he played the bassoon professionally.*

*A quiet and unassuming man, Richard had a wicked sense of humor and if you knew him, you know how funny he could truly be. The stories of his world travels kept me mesmerized. I fancied myself a bit of an adventurer, but after I heard his Dow lecture, *Amazon Sketches*, I realized he had lived a far more adventurous life than I may ever live.*

Both of my sons mowed Richard's lawn during the summer. Years afterward, I still felt the need to apologize for the lackluster job my



Dr. Richard Brown

oldest did. However, Richard was always kind to the boys, paying them in full, offering them a cool drink and sharing stories with them. He and I would sit on his back porch and visit while my sons tried to mow in a straight line.

In retirement, Richard would still occasionally drop by my office, and a handful of times a year I'd drop by his house for lunch. I was a couch surfing host during those years and would get the random cross-country bicyclist needing a place to stay for the night. One of those guests was originally from Brazil, and to celebrate his 40th birthday he was bicycling from his adopted American home in Iowa to his birthplace in Brazil. He offered to cook a traditional Brazilian lunch in exchange for the overnight stay. I knew Richard had lived in Brazil so I called him and invited him to join us. At first, Richard was hesitant, but eventually he agreed to come over.

Richard and my guest began comparing notes on where they had lived in Brazil and commenting on the delicious stew that was simmering on my stove. Although I had never been to Brazil, I was included in the conversation. But slowly, there was more Portuguese in the conversation and less English until finally it was Richard and my guest laughing and chatting a mile a minute in Portuguese. I have no idea what they talked about, but it was obvious they were having a wonderful conversation. Richard did later apologize for forgetting to use English, but admitted he had a terrific conversation.

This is how I will remember Richard: a funny, kind, truly brilliant man who was a delight to be around. He was inquisitive, a voracious reader, and a wonderful human being. Rest in peace, Richard.

In Memoriam, Dr. Marjorie Goss

Dr. Marjorie Anne Hill Goss died December 27, 2019, at Quail Run in Mennonite Village, Albany, Oregon.

Dr. Goss was born in Ely, Nevada, September 1, 1929. She was the daughter of Ina Howard and Ernest Raymond Hill. She grew up in Utah, attending public schools in Richfield, Salt Lake City, and Ogden, then finishing a bachelor's degree in English in 1950 at the University of Utah. Shortly thereafter, she married Chal Currie Goss of Salt Lake City. They were divorced in 1969.

Dr. Goss finished an M.A. at Northwestern University in 1960 and a doctorate in English literature at the University of Oregon in 1970. From that time until 1994 she taught in the English Department at Cottey College. For several years after she retired, she remained in Missouri, where she did volunteer work at the Bushwhacker Museum, was associate editor of its quarterly, handled publicity for the organization, and did historical research and writing.

Dr. Goss enjoyed traveling in Europe; her favorite country was England, the place where she spent most of her vacation time for many years. She took a year-long sabbatical to England during the 1982-83 academic year.

Dr. Goss spent the first of that summer (1982) traveling around the British Isles; during July and August she stayed at a residence hall for foreign women students in London. From September through May she lived in the village of Fulbrook in the Cotswold region.

According to an interview she did with the Cottey College *Sonance* (the student newspaper), she particularly enjoyed the opportunity to live in the English countryside and live an English life, studying the history of the village she lived in through a course taught by an Oxford professor.

One of Dr. Goss' hobbies was wildflower identification, and her time in the English countryside allowed ample opportunity to indulge in a favorite pastime.

"I used to take long walks, from village to village," she said. "There was always something blooming. I managed to identify about one hundred varieties of flowers during my stay."



She noted in the article that not all of England was as picturesque as Fulbrook, but she made it a point to be located in a rural, pastoral countryside.

Dr. Goss had a specific interest in Shakespeare. She was instrumental in bringing several noted Shakespeare scholars to campus during her tenure.

Dr. Goss returned to Oregon in 2002. While she was drawn to Yachats for its beauty and proximity to the ocean, she ultimately settled in Corvallis for its diversity and intellectual stimulation. In her final years she settled in Albany, Oregon.

THE COLLEGE WAS NOTIFIED OF THE FOLLOWING ALUMNAE DEATHS

Dorris Bury Nolan	1938
Ruth Trombley	1941
Martha McKinney Robertson	1948
Susan Moyer Breed	1950
Mary Lou Allen Etherington	1950
Norma Jones Brewer	1951
Marilyn Norris Yocum	1954
M. Julia Horton Hage	1956
Marty Baxter Coyle	1958
Mariana Newton	1958
Helga Keller Helling	1960

Sharon Findley Orthwein	1960
Kay Moxley Black	1961
Jeannie Robinson Santucci	1961
Eudoxia Efklidou Samoladas	1963
Judith Hitchman	1967
Dorothy McIntosh	1967
Janet Jacobson Stevenson	1969
Mary Munyon	1969
Sharon Steinberg Clark	1978
Suzanne Masters	1979
Heidi Schoenberger Connell	1994

FACULTY/STAFF NOTES

Dr. Rusalyn Andrews, Professor Laura Chaney, and eight students traveled to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, the week of January 19-25. All of the students participated in adjudicated acting and design contests. Two students received awards while at the festival. Stephany Crooks received honorable mention for her Dramaturgy work on "The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls." Anna Borgerding was awarded a week-long intensive trip to the Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas for this summer. The theatre faculty would like to congratulate these students on their awards as well as all of the students who participated in the week-long festival.

Rose Howell has been hired as the new head coach for cross country and track and field. Howell came to Cottey from Nova Southeastern University. She began her duties on June 1.



Rose Howell

Dr. Selena Kohel, associate professor of psychology, attended the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, February 26-29, in New Orleans, Louisiana. While there, Dr. Kohel presented "Making the Grade on Inclusion, Equity, and Equality" at the Society for the Teaching of Psychology Pre-Conference. She also served as a mentor, facilitating a conversation on Microaggressions: Stories of Success and Resilience, for a Student Mentoring Lunch.

Dr. Nancy Kohn, assistant professor of biology, and Dr. Sarah Quick, associate professor of anthropology and sociology, took their Animal Behavior and General Anthropology classes (respectively) to the Kansas City Zoo on February 8. They went to specifically observe primates

— gorillas, chimpanzees, lemurs, tamarins, baboons, gibbons, and many types of monkeys. They recorded their observations in order to construct ethograms. Students also had time to explore some other animal exhibits including polar bears, sea lions, penguins, elephants, and leopards.

April Mosher, director of dining services, attended the NACUFS (National Association of College and University Food Services) Operator Roundtables and Foodservice Director's Symposium in New Orleans, Louisiana. The week began with a full day of meetings with operators and learning about new products and initiatives becoming available through the vendors in attendance. The remainder of the conference was spent in small group discussions among other foodservice management professionals on topics ranging from change and menu management to program, strategic and capital planning to food insecurity. Through the week's networking opportunities, Mosher met the director of another women's college located in Minnesota as well as the director of a university in Alabama who is a P.E.O. and already knew a little about Cottey.

Dr. Erica Sigauke, coordinator of spiritual life and campus diversity, drove students to the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City on February 9. Students had an opportunity to learn more about the history of jazz music and its African roots. Students also enjoyed interacting with people who came to attend the Black History event that was being held.

Dr. Sigauke organized a trip to the Nevada Moore Few Center where students enjoyed the early Valentine's Day celebration with the seniors. Students played BINGO, sang for the

residents, shared food and also had some social interaction with some of the seniors.

Dr. Trisha Stubblefield, professor of English, attended an ACRL-Choice Webinar titled "Decolonizing the Literature Curriculum: Equality Diversity and Inclusion in Literary Studies."

Dr. Trisha Stubblefield presented a program (via Skype) on Louisa May Alcott's novel *Little Women* to P.E.O. Chapter AC, Las Vegas, New Mexico, on January 21, which was the 151st anniversary of the founding of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Dr. Stubblefield had a lovely time talking with a group of very attentive P.E.O.s, including Cottey alumna Christina Litherland (English B.A., 2017), who sends warm wishes to the Cottey community.

Congratulations to Cottey's new vice president for administration and finance, **Mr. TJ Tubbs**. Tubbs has served as the co-interim VPAF for several months as he also continued his work as associate vice president for facilities and safety.

Tubbs earned a Master of Science in Operations Management from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville. He is currently enrolled in a Doctor of Education program in Organizational Leadership with Grand Canyon University and will enroll in the Harvard Principles of Finance Graduate Certificate program.

As VPAF, Tubbs will oversee the administrative computing services, bookstore, business office, dining services, housekeeping, and physical plant.

Happy Retirement!



Best wishes to Dr. Rusalyn Andrews who is retiring at the end of the summer. She taught courses in speech and drama, and introduced new courses in both communication and theatre. She directed and/or designed more than 40 Cottey theatrical productions; taught modules in London, Paris, Barcelona, Florence, and Rome; and was designated a Fulbright Scholar in Russia where among other things she lectured at a major university. Dr. Andrews has held the Margaret Emily Stoner Chair in Speech and Drama since 1999.

Cottey and COVID-19

When the pandemic affected Cottey College, along with most of the world, it was easy to count the moments that were lost: no spring break trip to Munich, no Founder's Day on campus, no Commencement weekend with friends and families. What may not have been noticed, however, were the wonderful things that happened in the midst of crisis. These are a few of the items Dr. Weitzel noted in an email to campus.

- Our amazing students held student government association meetings remotely and participated virtually in national conventions.
- Students adapted to the online classes and kept in touch with their professors, advisors, organization sponsors, and mentors.
- Graduating seniors presented their capstone projects.
- Cottey continued to provide housing and food service for our financially and housing-insecure students, as well as our international students.
- Student employees were compensated for every hour of employment that they could have expected to complete.
- The counseling staff contacted every counseling client within a week of switching to alternative formats and maintained counseling services to local students or those unable to connect with a local provider.
- Faculty flipped their method of instruction to an online format within a 10-day period.
- Staff personally texted every student regarding technology needs and then worked with each to identify a solution to any personal challenges.
- The Business Office processed housing refunds to eligible students.
- Staff coordinated an impressive campus-wide effort to facilitate the packing and move out of student belongings.
- The Alumnae Office held a successful virtual Founder's Day that saw an increase in giving from last year.

- Cottey implemented a summer housing program and offered online summer courses.
- Academic Affairs offered all students the opportunity to switch to a pass/fail grading system.
- Cottey held a virtual commencement that was true to Cottey and its wonderful traditions.

"The indomitable spirit of our founder, Virginia Alice Cottey, is alive in every person who has worked so diligently to press forward with the mission and goals of our beloved institution," said Dr. Weitzel. "I am so proud of how we have risen to the challenge presented to us this year. I am eagerly looking to the incredible future of Cottey College knowing we have amazing people invested in its success."



RA Geneva Webster and Robin Connor, student health office manager, stand next to the carful of N95 masks collected from around campus. The masks were collected from science labs and other areas and were donated to medical personnel in Nevada and Vernon County.



Volunteers Elizabeth Bolyard (foreground) and Staci Keys from the Office of Institutional Advancement help pack student belongings in the residence halls.



Left: Dr. Weitzel pre-recorded her Commencement address. You can still view the ceremony online at <https://cottey.stageclip.com/>



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Together in Spirit

While we wished we could be there in person, resilient Cottey alumnae found ways to get together (virtually) and share the love over Founder's Day Weekend. An online pop-up shop, Zoom class meetings (like the Class of 2000 pictured below), a virtual 5K, and a cooking lesson were all part of the festivities during this unique event. The presentation of Founder's Day changed, but the love alumnae share for each other and their Alma Mater remains steadfast. If you missed virtual Founder's Day, check out the article and photos beginning on page 4, and start making plans for the biggest and best Founder's Day ever in 2021!

Save the Date! March 26-28, 2021! Celebrating Classes ending in 0s and 5s and 1s and 6s.

