

“They Burned the School for Girls”

Editor’s Note: We received the following guest article from Jean Cantwell, Chapter JR, Branson, Missouri, on the importance of educating women and girls. Those affiliated with Cottey understand the significance of educated women. In fact, as we received this article, we had just finished four short features on Cottey students and their achievements. This article dovetailed nicely with the features and only emphasizes the importance of supporting the education of women and girls. Think your support of women’s education doesn’t matter? Read Jean Cantwell’s article, look at the remarkable things these four Cottey students are doing, and visit www.girleffect.org. After that, we believe you’ll understand how important your support is.

~SR

by Jean Cantwell

I heard the newscaster on TV as I walked through the room, “Marauders burned the school for girls.” The words burned into my heart. I did not hear in which country it had happened, but I knew that school would never be rebuilt. I suddenly envisioned a whole community of little girls who would never read about the freedom

that women enjoy in the United States. They would never be able to have a career in a dentist’s office, or become a nurse, or operate their own business. They could never read about the history of their own nation. How could they teach their children about heroes who show courage and honesty, about the pursuit of happiness, or religions of the world, or the satisfaction of achieving

excellence or about art? I wondered how many schools for girls had been burned in that country without our having heard about them. It was not just one community that had stifled the desire to learn for women.

Men dominate those societies where women cannot read, cannot walk on the street alone, and cannot drive a car. Women cannot rebel to regain their freedom when they have no ability to communicate with anyone who can tell them what liberty is. They do not understand that

women can be educated and can live independently. They have no skills to find like-minded women to organize and demand their rights as human beings. They

live totally subjugated to the male society that keeps them confined behind the walls of their homes except when they don the burkha that totally covers their head, arms, body, and legs, that hampers their movements almost as much as the ankle chains of prisoners.

Seventy percent of the world’s out-of-school children are girls. Girls deserve better. They deserve quality education and the safe environments and support that allow them to get to school on time and stay there through adolescence.

-from www.girleffect.org

One of my P.E.O. Sisters lived in a “women wear burkhas” nation for over a year when her husband worked there in the oil industry. She told us how a burkha restrains a woman simply because it is so cumbersome. She called it “the black bag.” The burkha restricts her peripheral vision. In some countries, the women wear the veil that has a thread, lattice-like covering over the eyes. That would be like trying to see through a heavily woven screen. The covering over her nose made it difficult to breathe, and it added to the heat held within her robe. The temperature in some of those countries often exceeds 100 degrees.

My friend could not leave her house without wearing “the black bag.” When meeting a man on the street, she cast her eyes down for fear he would see her blue eyes and become enraged. If a woman’s burkha was considered to be an inch shorter than required, any man on the street is allowed to hit her with a stick or other weapon.

She spoke of a particular afternoon when she was not permitted to enter an air conditioned ice cream store with her husband. He brought her an ice cream cone to eat outside in the heat, and I still do not understand how she managed to slide it under her robe, to get to her mouth. What a mess that must have been!

Meet Elisa LeDesky

“Change in Action” (CIA) isn’t just the name of a Cottey College organization that Elisa LeDesky helped found; it’s a pretty good description of LeDesky as well. In her two years at Cottey, LeDesky has made an enormous impact on the lives of girls in Guatemala. Because of her efforts (along with those of her suitemates and friends), three Guatemalan girls have their education paid for all the way through high school. How did it all start?

“Last year I was eating with my suite at the beginning of the year,” said LeDesky. “We began to talk about travel and our life goals and I let my suite know that I had spent three months living in Guatemala doing service projects across the country. I told them how much I wanted to do something for girls in Guatemala. My entire suite was gung-ho about being proactive and making this happen, so we got together brainstorming what we could do. From that evening on

we met on a weekly basis in the Library conference room to brainstorm and plan our projects.”

In her freshman year, LeDesky organized “Color Their World,” a project to send



Elisa LeDesky

crayons and coloring books to an orphanage where LeDesky had done some of her service work. LeDesky and her friends ended up sending over 220 boxes of crayons to the orphanage.

That project only served to inspire LeDesky and CIA to bigger and better things. In her second year, she began a

new initiative “Enlighten Their Minds, Empower Their World” to sponsor the education of indigenous Guatemalan girls. In Guatemala, there is no free education as in the United States. Parents must pay tuition for their children to attend school. Many indigenous Mayan families are too poor to send their children to school, or if they can afford some, they will send their sons, but not their daughters.

Through fundraising events, CIA raised over \$3,900. “Because of our financial success this year,” said LeDesky, “the three students we sponsor (who are in eighth grade at the moment) have just had their entire education through high school paid for. In other words, we sent San Lucas Toliman Scholars a check to pay for the education not only this year -for the three girls-but also paid off the tuition costs for their entire high school education! This is so exciting!”

Now that she has her Cottey diploma, LeDesky is transferring to Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. She plans on majoring in peace and conflict resolution and intercultural studies. Afterwards, she plans on attending seminary and becoming a pastor.

Please see Burned on page 4

Meet three other students on page 4

Pridal Named New VPAA

Cottey College is pleased to announce the hiring of **Cathryn G. Pridal, Ph.D.**, as its new vice president for academic affairs (VPAA) and dean of the faculty. Pridal will assume her duties at the College on July 1. She replaces Dr. Mary E. Kitterman who is retiring.



Dr. Cathryn Pridal
Vice President for Academic Affairs
and Dean of the Faculty

1985 through 1987. She also was a visiting assistant professor in the department of psychology at Texas A&M University in College Station. From October 1984 through April 1985 she worked as a staff psychologist with MHMR [Mental Health Mental Retardation] Authority of Brazos Valley, College Station, Texas.

At Cottey, Dr. Pridal will serve as the chief academic officer and report directly to the President, Dr. Judy Rogers. The VPAA is responsible for planning, administering and enhancing the academic program, and overseeing the following support areas: academic and career services, registrar, library, international programs, international students, and academic computing.

Dr. Pridal earned a B.A. in psychology from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota; and an M.A. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, New York. She is an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow, completing her year-long fellowship at Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont, in 2008.

Dr. Pridal is a member of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA); the American Psychological Association in both Division 2, Teaching of Psychology, and Division 12, Clinical Psychology; the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology; and holds a license as a health services provider in the state of Missouri.

Dr. Pridal's scholarly achievements comprise over twenty publications and presentations on topics ranging from human sexual functioning, gender roles, service learning, and the self-study process.

Dr. Pridal has been employed at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, since 1996. She is a professor of psychology and also served as the associate dean of the faculty at Westminster from July 2002 to July 2008. In that position, she oversaw functions in the academic area of the college, participated in board of trustees meetings, and served as a member of the president's cabinet.

Prior to her arrival at Westminster, Dr. Pridal was a clinical assistant professor in the department of psychological sciences at the University of Missouri in Columbia from 1988 to 1995. Dr. Pridal also was an adjunct professor in the department of psychology at William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri, from 1987 to 1991 and a visiting assistant professor in the department of family and community medicine in the medical school at the University of Missouri in Columbia from 1987 through 1988. Dr. Pridal was the supervising psychologist at University Psychiatry in College Station, Texas, from

A Message From Your CCAA

1-2-5 Campaign

Yes, our alma mater is turning 125 years old this year! What a dream a young Virginia Alice Cottey had, to educate young women in the 1800s. To honor her, her dream, and Cottey, the alumnae board would like to challenge each of you to help in the following three ways:

1 alumnae gathering in each state in the month of September. Let Cottey know if you are interested in organizing or helping organize an event in your area. The alumnae office will send out invitations and assist you with all of the planning and execution of the event. The point person just has to pick a place, date, and time. We have secured point people in the following states: Washington, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, Illinois, Arizona, and Wyoming. If you see your area, plan to attend. If you don't see your area, offer to be the point person. We want this to be a fun way of meeting other Cottey alumnae in your area.

2 percent increase in class giving. Have you donated this year? Make a commitment to donate every year even if it is \$10. It's the percentage of alumnae giving that counts! To be included in this year's giving report, the deadline is JUNE 30. Go to www.cotteycommunity.org/give and donate online.

5 more young women know about Cottey. Talk to your daughters, nieces, granddaughters, neighbors, and church friends about your experiences at Cottey. Think how your life would be different if someone hadn't told you about Cottey.

Women's colleges are on the decline. If you don't want Cottey to be one of those women's colleges that closes, then help support our 1-2-5 Campaign today!



Lori Trail Martin '91
CCAA Board

Class Agent Update

Hallelujah! For the first time, we have class agents committed for all reunions ending in '00 & '05. With those commitments made so early on, Founders 2010 is bound to be AMAZING!

If 2010 is your reunion year, here are some ways you can help your Class Agent:

- E-mail them with updates and suggestions for fun things to do over Founder's.
- Help with ideas on a class gift to Cottey.
- Register for Founder's!

We still need agents for the following classes: 1943, 1945, 1946, 1951, 1957, 1961, 1967, 1973, 1986, and 1992. Please let us know if you are willing to help by e-mailing Michele Strawn Hart at michelehart1@gmail.com.

A Big Thank You to every Class Agent—you are doing a great job!

I know a student! Please send information about Cottey to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

High School _____

Year of Graduation _____

Have you talked to this student about Cottey? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you a ☐ P.E.O.? ☐ Cottey alumna? Chapter _____ Class year _____

Your name and address _____

Your e-mail address _____

Please return to: Office of Enrollment Management, Cottey College,
1000 W. Austin, Nevada, MO 64772

Summer '09

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The office may be reached by phone at (417) 667-8181, ext. 2122 or by fax at (417) 667-8103.

Messages may also be sent by e-mail to alumnae@cottey.edu, for the Office of Alumnae Relations, or publicinfo@cottey.edu for the *Viewpoint* editor.

For address changes: contact the Office of Alumnae Relations
To submit class notes: contact the Office of Alumnae Relations
To suggest story ideas: contact the Office of Public Information

The President's Message

by Judy R. Rogers, Ph.D.

Commencement has come and gone again. Commencement, without question, is my favorite event of the academic year. So many goals are realized on that day. So many traditions culminate as the seniors exit the gymnasium and place a daisy in the basket. Symbolically, this is the daisy they received when they signed the Cottey book at Opening Convocation and pledged support of the Honor Code and allegiance to the values of the Cottey educational community. The two years have gone quickly, but the life-change that many of these young women have experienced has progressed slowly and steadily throughout the two years. Those of us who observe the growth and development of our students are literally amazed by how they are transformed by their two years at Cottey, by what they accomplish in the short time they are here. We know without question the value of their education in a College for women.

I am extremely proud that a Cottey student has again earned a Jack Kent Cooke scholarship. Last year I was invited to be a reviewer for the Jack Kent Cooke scholarship competition; therefore, I know from firsthand experience that the quality of the candidates' applications is extremely high. I have worked closely with our Jack Kent Cooke scholarship recipient, Veselina Hristova, who

was Student Government Association President and a fourth-level leadership student. Therefore, I know from firsthand experience that she was an exceptional young woman. I am delighted that she has been recognized and given the opportunities that the Jack Kent Cooke scholarship provides. It is remarkable that Cottey has had four consecutive Jack Kent Cooke scholars. This is a national recognition of the quality of the Cottey educational experience. Many of our students earn scholarships from prestigious colleges and universities to support their transfer.

I also know that many of these Cottey graduates have grown in their commitment to community and civic responsibility. Our students have contributed a remarkable number of volunteer service hours. Cottey averages 67 percent active involvement in service activities. This compares to a national average among college students of a simple 41 percent. Many have volunteered for over 250 hours and some have volunteered over 500 hours. These students will be recognized by a Presidential Volunteer Service Award based on their involvement in the community, both locally and globally.

Our graduates have grown in discovering their leadership style and in finding opportunities to practice their leadership

skills. A record seventy-six students participated in the Leadership, Experiences, Opportunity (LEO) program this year. Sixteen graduates completed all four levels of the program. The LEO program is just one of several ways in which students discover and practice their leadership during their two years at Cottey.

The achievements of our students challenge us to provide the very best learning opportunities for them. We already review and revise our current curriculum regularly. But Cottey must also explore new educational offerings, new degrees created with excellence and distinction, degrees that will maintain Cottey's reputation. To this end, at the January meeting of the board, the trustees expressed a strong desire for the College to offer selected baccalaureate programs. They requested a plan that would include the exploration of new disciplines and new degree offerings. A subcommittee of the planning committee is currently working with faculty to determine what these new degree programs should be to best serve the future needs and interests of our students and to ensure the continued growth and distinction of the College. Numerous possibilities will be explored over the next year to learn how to wisely enhance the Cottey experience for the future. As our students change, we also must change to meet their needs, support their dreams, and challenge them to amazing accomplishments.

I had the pleasure recently of meeting a woman who believes passionately in



Credit: © 2008, Don Wilkinson/Joplin Business Journal

Dr. Judy R. Rogers

the importance of educating women. I attended the Missouri State P.E.O. convention and was listening carefully to the invocation being delivered by a past Missouri State President, a woman whom I had not met. As I listened to her words asking for support of the mission of the P.E.O. Sisterhood to provide education for women, I recognized her fervent belief in the power of women to make a difference in our troubled world. Later that day, I met Jean Cantwell, and we talked more of our common interests. Her inspiring article appears in this *Viewpoint*.

Faculty/Staff Notes

Prof. Michael Denison attended the annual conference of USITT, the United States Institute for Theatre Technology in Cincinnati, Ohio. While there, he served on a panel on Study Abroad and also attended sessions on the gender barrier in professional scene design, airbrush make-up for the theatre, teaching stage management when there is no class offered in that subject, and alternative lighting sources for the theatre. He also attended an International Committee planning meeting and a regional planning meeting which focused on next year's USITT conference which will take place in Kansas City. Two Cottey students, **Katie Lykins** and **Caitlyn Nichols**, also attended the conference and worked as intern student volunteers.

Mr. Rick Eber, dean of enrollment management, was recently elected to the office of vice president for government relations in Overseas Association for College Admission Counseling (OACAC). OACAC was founded in 1991 when a group of primarily European counselors met and approached NACAC about the creation of an affiliate regional organization that would represent overseas counselors.

Prof. Gary Johnson, adjunct assistant professor of music, attended the Missouri Music Educators Conference as a recruiting representative of Cottey College. The conference took place from January 28-31 and was attended by 2500 music educators. Performing during the conference were 25 high school and middle school groups, totaling approximately 1500 students. There was a total of 121 exhibitors of which 31 were colleges and universities. The conference attracted an attendance of approximately 5000 teachers, parents, performing students, and exhibitors.

Dr. Judy Rogers, President, has been awarded the 2008-2009 Soroptomist Making A Difference Award by the Nevada, Missouri, Soroptomist Club. This award honors women who, through their professional or personal efforts, are making extraordinary differences in the lives of women or girls.

Dr. Trisha Stubblefield, associate professor of English, presented the 2007-09 Blanche Hinman Dow Lecture on Wednesday, April 1. Dr. Stubblefield's lecture was titled "Taking One's Ease in One's Own House": Edith Wharton and the Mount." A reception honoring Dr. Stubblefield was held immediately following the lecture in the Center for the Arts.

Here is my gift of \$ _____ paid by check to Cottey College.

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1000 W. Austin, Nevada, MO 64772

Summer '09

Three More for Tomorrow...and Today

Cottey College is pleased to announce that a member of the Class of 2009 has been recognized for her academic achievements with a prestigious national scholarship. **Veselina Hristova** received a Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship valued at up to \$30,000 annually. Hristova is the fourth consecutive Cottey graduate to have been awarded a Cooke Scholarship.

Hristova, from Krepost, Bulgaria, was one of only 30 students in the nation to be named a Cooke Scholar. Hristova has been accepted for transfer at Smith College in Massachusetts. Her long-term plans include earning a Ph.D. in counseling psychology and returning back to her homeland to work with substance abusers.

Each year the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation works to identify the best community college students in the nation to receive its prestigious Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, which awards up to \$30,000 per year for up to three years, making it the country's largest, most competitive undergraduate transfer scholarship.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation awards Undergraduate Transfer Scholarships to approximately 50 deserving students annually. Each award is intended to cover a significant share of the student's educational expenses – including tuition, living expenses, books and required fees – for the final two to three years necessary to achieve a bachelor's degree. Awards vary by individual, based on the cost of tuition as well as other grants or scholarships he or she may receive.

Previous Cottey College Cooke Scholars are Alexandra Swidergal in 2008, Volha Charnysh in 2007, Ivy Fitzgerald in 2006, and Maggie White and Amanda Bryant in 2002.

First-year student **Elise Omais** has been accepted as one of 50 students nationwide in OXFAM's CHANGE Initiative. Omais will participate in a week-long training in Boston in July and is expected to implement an OXFAM Campaign on Cottey's campus during the 2009-2010 academic year.

"I plan to tie together a lot of the activities that I will do with Amnesty International since I am the president [of the campus chapter]," said Omais.



Elise Omais in Guatemala



Veselina Hristova

"I presently hope to do something with Peace Week next year. This will really be a team effort, I just have the opportunity to learn how to lead it."

OXFAM is an international relief and development organization that creates lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and social injustice. The CHANGE Initiative is a highly competitive national program that trains college students to become actively engaged in OXFAM America's social justice mission, and are asked to work on one or more of these issues on their campus during the academic year. OXFAM assumes the cost of training, room and board, and travel.

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I dare not use even her first name, because she has recently moved with her husband to Yemen. She said the restrictions are not as severe as they were in her first overseas home, but again, she will not be able to move freely as an American woman. She understands what American freedom is. She will return to the United States of America. She will continue to support Cottey College and all the projects that help women to gain an education.

I thank God that women in this nation can go to school, to college and universities for advanced degrees, that each woman may achieve her goals according to her ambition and her willingness to work. We are women who can educate our children to achieve their highest potential.

At that moment I heard the broadcast, I was preparing to go to the Missouri State Convention in Columbia. Dr. Judy Rogers was one of the excellent, inspirational speakers at the convention. She fired up the delegates with her enthusiastic passion for the merits of Cottey College. In the afternoon, she led three workshops with mounting excitement over the progress and needs of Cottey, and she captured the male segment with the charms of OUR school as she spoke at the BIL dinner that night. We worked her hard that day! She was brilliant throughout. She was burning with fiery words for Cottey. She led us to understand how important it is for us, as members

of P.E.O., to support the College by being informed about Cottey so that we can carry that message to worthy young women who will benefit from the Cottey experience. P.E.O.s and alumnae are the best

source to enroll students and to support the College financially.

I think about the "school for girls was burned" phrase every day. It has burned into my brain. I cannot rebuild that school nor influence anyone who will, but I can say, over and over, to those who listen and those who don't, "We must be aware how blessed we are that we can educate women." That is synonymous with, "Women must continue to be allowed to develop all their skills, increase their knowledge, achieve all that their talents will allow and become leaders to enhance 'the good life' for all. We love and teach our children to contribute to the peace of the world as they grow to be thoughtful, loving leaders." Women are powerful only if they have the freedom to "be" all that they can "be."

The Suffragettes grow more important in my mind with each passing year. It was in 1920 that women gained the vote under the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In the earlier centuries of humanity upon this Earth, where and when did women have the right to vote, that is, to be equal to men in running the government? Centuries! Thousands of years! Not only is the vote liberating, it is also symbolic of women's rights to make their own decisions. I remember when a teacher's job was terminated if she got married. Does that mean women were punished if they chose to enjoy a personal life having a family? The vote was symbolic of acceptance of women in the business and corporate world. In America, suffrage was no longer "restricted by race" in the 15th Amendment enacted in 1870. That ethnic group was liberated before the wives of loving husbands allowed them to express their views in a secret vote. I wonder how many were still tongue tied in expressing their views openly at home. Let us not allow women, in any nation, to be slaves for lack of education.

It is incumbent that women support higher education for women at every opportunity.



Second-year student **Amy Sue Guinn** (second from right), created and staged a fund-raising event to aid Linda Platt (center) with her medical expenses. Linda Platt, Cottey's VISTA volunteer and service learning coordinator, has ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Guinn organized a 1.5-mile walk and 4-mile fun run event on April 11. Hoping to raise \$500 at best, Guinn far exceeded her modest goal. With over 120 participants and numerous other donors, Guinn was able to raise \$8,060.50 to present to the Platt family at Cottey's Baccalaureate service on Friday, May 15. Pictured are (left to right): Linda's daughters, Jae Miller and Abi Platt; Linda Platt; Amy Sue Guinn; and Rev. Bill Platt.



Cotley Business Students Place at State Phi Beta Lambda Competition

Five Cotley College students placed at the Missouri State Phi Beta Lambda Leadership Conference and Competition held last week in Jefferson City. Cotley students competed against other students from schools such as the University of Missouri, Lincoln University, Truman State University, Evangel University, Crowder College, State Fair Community College, and many others. The following Cotley students placed at the state level:

Patricia Martinez	1st	Help Desk
Jessica Martinez	1st	Client Service
Jessica Martinez	2nd	Human Resource Management
Sarah Stone	2nd	Hospitality Management
Sarah Stone	2nd	Sales Presentation
Maggie Thomas	4th	Job Interview
Maggie Thomas	5th	Public Speaking
Tori DaHarb	5th	Business Law

Patricia Martinez, Jessica Martinez, and Sarah Stone each qualified to compete at the PBL National Leadership Conference and Competition this June in Anaheim, California.

Phi Beta Lambda is a postsecondary student organization for students interested in pursuing a business or business-related career. PBL members develop leadership skills, initiate business ventures, organize community service projects, and attend state and national leadership conferences. Students have the opportunity to win recognition in various business competitive events at the state and national levels. Through participation in these activities, students are better prepared for careers, graduate school, and life.



Cotley Phi Beta Lambda participants at state competition. Front row (left to right): Vanessa Conatser, Chelsea Jones, Sarah Stone. Back Row: Ashlyn Profio-Ensminger, Patricia Martinez, Jessica Martinez, Tori DaHarb, and Maggie Thomas. Not pictured is Cotley PBL sponsor Dr. Gary Lunkenheimer, professor of business and economics.

The Cotley Bookshelf

Mimi Mathers Meredith '83 has penned a new book, *Blooming Where You're Planted: Essays on life balance, leadership, and finding goodness wherever you are*. Meredith was co-author on two previous books, *Empowering Employees* with Kenneth L. Murrell, and *Building a Full-Service School: A Step-by-Step Guide* with Carol Calfee and Frank Wittwer.

Meredith is a business consultant and professional speaker who works from her home in Phoenix, Arizona. She was asked if she had learned any lessons at Cotley that helped her "bloom where she was planted." Meredith answered, "I'd say absolutely, and they are gifts I use every day. I attribute much of my appreciation for diverse perspectives and personality styles, and my blend of lead-

ership skills to Cotley. Cotley is part of some of my favorite and most poignant memories. It is in the songs I have sung to my children through the years and it was absolutely in this book as I looked to my Cotley friends--particularly **Susan Reyburn '84**, who is herself an accomplished author--for direction. And when **Denise Williams '83** heard the book was out, she became a one-woman public relations machine. The support and celebration with my Cotley friends that followed via e-mail were second to none. It could only have been better if we were celebrating in the Chellie Club together! So yes, Cotley lent many lessons that have helped me grow and bloom, and that are part of this book."

From life balance and time-management to communication and leadership,

Blooming Where You're Planted will remind you why life is good and how we are all equipped to help that goodness grow. The authentic, and often humorous, voice with which Mimi Meredith



addresses her subjects resonates with a broad range of readers from college students to corporate executives. One reader said, "reading this is like having a cup of tea or glass of wine with a good friend. Mimi's creativity, compassion and encouragement makes my day!"

The late **Jetta Carleton Lyon '33** has had her only novel *The Moonflower Vine* reissued. The book, originally released in December 1962, spent four months on the *New York Times* Best Sellers list along with works by J.D. Salinger and John Updike. Harper Perennial, a division of HarperCollins Publishers, has

Please see Bookshelf on p. 7

Host Parents Visit Japan for Wedding of Their "Daughter"



Sara Compton and Terry Peterman (far right) celebrate the March 2009 wedding of **Yoko Asakura '01** (front right) in Tokyo. Also pictured (back row, left to right) are **Ayako Okada '01**, **Chika Nakazawa '01**, **Sonya Nikolova '01**, Sonja's sister Nina, and Sonja's boyfriend David.

by Sara Compton, special to the *Viewpoint*

Since the early 1990s, my husband, Terry Peterman, and I have been host parents to several international Cotley students. Sometimes this means serving as their home-away-from-home when it comes time to do laundry, have a quiet place to study, or enjoy a home-cooked meal on Sunday night when the dining room is closed. Other times it means rides to the airport, or a place to stay during breaks when the entire school is closed. We have enjoyed learning more about each of these students and the lives they lead in their own countries, as well as helping them discover more about American culture and life in the Midwest. It is also wonderful to witness their growth as intellectuals and individuals.

I like knowing that we now have "children" all over the world, especially when we live in a community that is quite homogenous (but becoming more and more diverse nearly every day). We have kept in touch with many of our 'Cotley daughters' through phone calls, letters, and e-mail, and have come to treasure these long-distance relationships.

In the spring of 2009, we were fortunate enough to attend the wedding of one of our Japanese daughters, **Yoko Asakura**, Class of 2001. My job as a senior programmer analyst in Information Technology for Leggett & Platt (a leader in engineered components and products for homes, retail, and the automotives industry) has taken me abroad before, but never to Japan. This trip was strictly for pleasure, so I contacted some of the other Japanese alumnae when making our travel plans. We also met up with **Sonya Nikolova**, Class of 2001, who was from Bulgaria and is now in the final year of a doctoral program at Princeton. She and her boyfriend also traveled to Tokyo to attend Yoko's wedding.

While in Japan, we met up with several other Cotley alumnae, including **Noriko Furusawa '92**, **Ayako Shirasaka '95**, **Yoshiko Ikeda '97**, **Fuyuko Iimori '03**, and **Maaya Ito '03**. They and their families served as gracious hosts and our personal guides in Tokyo, Utsunomiya, and Nikko. Seeing the sights, visiting with nine former Cotley students, and attending the wedding made for an unforgettable trip.

[Notable People]

1960s

Kulsum Sunderji Davidson '64 updated the College on her life and reminisced about the influence Dr. Dow had on her and the many other international students at Cottey in the 1960s. Originally from Tanzania, Kulsum transferred to Carlow University in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, for a degree in history, and also has a master's degree in child and youth care administration from Nova University, Orlando, Florida. She currently serves as director of Wesley Spectrum, providing family therapy and care services to dependent, neglected, and delinquent youth throughout Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Kulsum has four children of her own in Ohio, Hawaii, Georgia, and Texas. Since Hollis Davidson, her husband of 36 years, died in 2001, she has spent more time supporting the battered women's movement, visiting grandchildren, and traveling. Recent trips include returning to Tanzania, going on safari in the Serengeti, and visiting India, the country of her ancestors. Kulsum would like help getting in touch with **Noriko Arai '64** and **Leslie (Merry Luedtke) Zondervan-Droz '63** who have both lost contact with the College.

1970s

Joyce (Rosen) Hemphill '77 received the University of Wisconsin School of Education Distinguished Academic Staff Award. She is a senior lecturer in the Department of Educational Psychology at UW-Madison. After Cottey Joyce earned her bachelor's in economics at Indiana State University and then her M.S. and Ph.D. in developmental psychology at The Ohio State University. She has been teaching at UW for nine years now.

1980s

Dr. Dawn Larsen '81, received a research stipend for the summer to study Mexican tent shows (carpas Mexicanas) in south Texas and Mexico. She plans to write a book on Toby shows with a chapter on carpas and the Pellado character because she finds they have a direct relationship to Toby shows. As well, there is little formal scholarship about them. Her plans are to fly to Texas from Missouri around June 17 and visit Texas A&M, Austin, and San Antonio. She will then fly into Mexico City about June 29 to do research at the library at the university in Mexico City. Interested friends can keep up with Dawn's adventures through her blog: <http://profesoracaliente.blogspot.com/>

2000s

Cassandra Bales '07 graduated from College of Notre Dame of Maryland majoring in international relations. She was fortunate to receive a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship for Indonesia and will be leaving on August 30 for 10 months. Her e-mail address is TheBookKeeper212@sbcglobal.net



Cassandra Bales '07 and her mom

Seattle Area Alumnae Gathering



Courtney Jones Cameron '98 helped host a Cottey College alumnae brunch event for Seattle area alumnae in Renton, Washington, on May 2, 2009. Courtney reported that 17 alumnae attended, and that graduation years from the 1940s to 2006 were represented.

[Marriages & Births]

1990s



Lisa (Kunz) Engels '92 and Nicholas Engels are happy to announce their marriage on October 18, 2008, in Gainesville, Florida. They currently reside in Gainesville.

Shelley Gass Gaddis '99 and husband Jeremy are pleased to announce the birth of their son Lane Rowan on April 23, 2009. Lane was a whopping 10 lbs, 1 oz., and 22.5 inches long! Big sister Aria welcomed him home, and thinks he's pretty darn cute.



Shelley Gass Gaddis '99, husband Jeremy, daughter Aria, and son Lane



Elliot Joseph Fortenberry

Courtney Brown Fortenberry '06 and husband Justyn are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, a son, Elliot Joseph. Elliot was born on April 30, 2009, weighed 7 lbs., 11 oz., and was 21 1/2 inches long. Elliot was welcomed home by the Fortenberry family dog Lilly and has already had two Cottey "aunties," **Kayla Wardrup '07** and **Katy Reif '06**, come to visit him.

2000s

Vanessa (McCarty) Ruffin '00 married David Ruffin in April 2007. She is a radiation therapist in Fort Worth, Texas. All the Cottey women can keep in touch with her by e-mail at vanessamccarty@hotmail.com.



Julie Sculthorpe Lewis '01 and her husband Nathan

Julie Sculthorpe '01 married Nathan Lewis on January 24 with **Jennifer McDuff '01**, as one of the bridesmaids. A reception at Jupiter Beach Resort followed the ceremony. Julie graduated from Port St. Lucie High School, from Cottey College, and from the University of Florida in 2003. She is working toward her master's in public administration at Morehead State University. She is employed by IMG in Lexington as a project coordinator. Following a cruise to the Eastern Caribbean, the couple plan to reside in Morehead and Lexington.

Olya Nikulina '06 married Drew Blase on May 16, 2009, in Independence, Missouri. Olya reported, "I have some wonderful news to share with all of you! Drew and I got married! It was a small wedding and we did not have much time beforehand to let many people know. We also had to wait some time afterwards to share this happy news; we apologize. We are both very happy that we battled through the Air Force limitations and finally can be together!"

Olya is working at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg this summer. Congratulations may be sent to Olya at olikn@yahoo.com.



Olya Nikulina Blase '06 and husband Drew

[Deaths]

1930s

The College received notice of the death of **Affie (Ellsberry) Smith '31** on February 25, 2009.

Margaret (Norman) Martin '32 died in Columbia, Missouri, May 26, 2009. Margaret was born on June 6, 1912, in Nevada. She graduated from Nevada High School, received a degree from Cottey College, a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Illinois. Margaret was employed as a librarian by the University of Missouri-Columbia, as a member of the United States Special Services. She was married to Dr. Floyd A. Martin, who preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by her brother and her sister. Margaret is survived by two children, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Additional survivors include a step-daughter, two nieces, and a nephew.

Mary (Sperry) Crigler '33 died December 22, 2008. She was born July 5, 1905. Mary attended the University of Illinois, Washington University, and Cottey College and taught school in Illinois. While in St. Louis she met Edgar M. Crigler whom she married. Following her marriage, Mary became a homemaker and mother. After her husband retired from a career first as a journalist and later as development officer for institutions of higher education, the couple embarked on several entrepreneurial efforts in central Missouri. She was preceded in death by her husband and three brothers. She is survived by her sons, her daughter, three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and nephew. Mary was a member of Linn Memorial United Methodist Church, Chapter AU of P.E.O., as well as of the All Year Round Club and the MMM Club.

Rosemary (Lindau) Kalb '36 died on March 18, 2009. She graduated from Cottey College, then later from Seattle Pacific College with a bachelor's in English where she also worked in the Economics Department. While in Portland she worked for Evan's Products, was a volunteer for the Public Libraries, taught English as a second language, and was a member of St. Michael's and All Angels Episcopal Church for 28 years. At age 84, Rosemary took her first international trip to Europe with her sons, commenting often as she reflected upon her wonderful adventure. Rosemary was a strong woman physically and spiritually, with a gentle soul and always looked for the best in others. She married Allen Granville Kalb on March 25, 1944, in Wichita, Kansas. Allen died December 29, 1997, in Portland, Oregon, where they lived since August of 1973 and celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary together. She is survived by her three children, her two sons in-law, her granddaughter, and three great-grandchildren.

1940s

Joan (Fowler) Logan '40 died March 22, 2009, in Oklahoma City. She was born on March 29, 1921. She married Franz Logan, who preceded her in death while on active duty with the Air Force. Joan worked at the capital for many years before her retirement. Joan had a lifelong passion for travel. She was active with her P.E.O. sisters and her Macular Degeneration Support Group. Joan had been a member of Village Baptist Church for the past several years. Surviving Joan are several cousins.

Jacquelyn (Beatty) Spearman '40 died peacefully July 21, 2006. Jackie is survived by two daughters, a step daughter, and a brother, along with three grandchildren. Jackie graduated from Denver University and was a avid supporter of the arts in Colorado, including the ballet, symphony, lyric opera, and the W.L.A. Denver Library Association. Jackie herself lived a blessed life full of travel, excitement, and wisdom. Never a dull moment!

Mildred (Christian) Prideaux '41 died February 18, 2009. She was born September 7, 1921. She graduated from Quincy High School, attended Cottey, and Western Illinois University. She married Richard P. Prideaux. He preceded her in death in 2005. "Millie" was a devoted wife and mother. She was an avid "PC" enthusiast and was very creative, pursuing her crafts with precision. Her family was the most important thing in her life. She is survived by her children, her grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, a sister, **Marilyn (Christian) Conrad '42**, and other relatives and friends. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, a son, and a granddaughter.

Jacquelyn (Forney) Noll '41 died on April 29, 2009, in her home holding the hands of her daughters. Jackie was known by all as a gentle and kind woman with a quick smile, a caring heart, and a selfless spirit who loved dancing and a party. She attended Cottey College. There she met Henry and they were married September 7, 1940. The couple headed west, and Jackie quickly grew to love Arizona; enjoying all it had to offer as she traveled with Henry throughout the state. Jackie devoted her energies to her children and helping Henry in various businesses. She was active in P.E.O. and Desert Club, and cherished the friendships that endured from those associations. She is preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by her three children, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Barbara (Dressler) Stratis '42 died May 21, 2009. She attended Cottey College, Kansas State College, and received her B.A. from Peru State College. Barbara taught at several different elementary schools. She was a member

Cottey Bookshelf, from page 5

reissued *The Moonflower Vine* as part of its "Rediscovered Classics" series. The book is published under the author's maiden name, Jetta Carleton.

The novel is about Callie and Matthew Soames who settle on a farm in western Missouri in the early 1900s and raise four headstrong daughters. A bit of Lyon's life is reflected in the character of Mary Jo, who leaves the farm and moves to New York to work in television.

Lyon was a 50-year-old advertising writer working in New York when she published her novel. Originally from Holden, Missouri, she and her husband Jene Lyon, would return to Nevada, Missouri, every summer to visit her parents. Her father, P.A. Carleton, had served as the superintendent of the Nevada schools.

After Cottey, Lyon attended the University of Missouri-Columbia, studying English literature. In 1936, she was named Mizzou's Poet of the Year. She earned a master's degree in English and briefly taught that subject at Joplin Junior College before moving to Kansas City, and later east where she and her

husband settled in Hoboken, New Jersey. They later relocated to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and ran a small publishing company.

An initial first printing of 18,500 copies was completed. The book is selling well enough, however, to send *The Moonflower Vine* back for a second printing.

To read a wonderful review of the novel and a biography of Lyon featured in *The Pitch*,



a Kansas City paper, use this Internet link: <http://www.pitch.com/2009-06-04/culture/summer-reading-moonflower-resurrection/>

1950s

Mara (Straumanis) Racenis '53 died March 19, 2009. After Cottey, she graduated from Cornell University School of Nursing. Mara later earned a master's degree in education and taught for eight years. She, her husband, and her family enjoyed skiing. She is survived by her husband, two children, six grandchildren and her sister, **Ilze Straumanis '55**.

1960s

Sherrill Ann Killian Summerfield '62 died May 2, 2009. She was born on February 1, 1942. Sherry was a loving daughter, mother, and grandmother. She had a successful career as a business owner in the needlepoint industry for over 13 years and then in real estate for 22 years. Sherry was a great friend to many and her compassion for others was endless. She loved music, going to the movies, the theater, and Broadway plays, spending time with her friends and family, and being up to speed on the latest technology. In addition to her mother, she is survived by her daughter, and two grandchildren.

Stacy Kramer '69 died March 13, 2009. Stacy was born October 7, 1949. After Cottey she studied at the University of Arizona. She taught school in the Verde Valley for over 30 years and enjoyed spending time with her family and friends and watching college sports. Stacy is survived by her husband, children, step-daughter, parents, and brother.

The College of World Friendship Travels the World

In the summer blockbuster movie *Angels & Demons*, fictional Harvard symbolologist Robert Langdon explored the history of Rome to unravel a sinister plot from a secret society. In March, many of Cottey's second-year class explored the history of Rome as well, but not to uncover a mystery. Instead they went to Florence and Rome to learn about the history, culture, art, and cuisine of Italy.

The spring break trip to a European city has been a Cottey tradition for ten years, but for the first time ever, students had an option between the European trip and an alternate destination. Ten students chose to go on a two-week trip to New Zealand. This alternate trip was led by Cottey professors Karen Polon and Kathy Taylor.

Ciao, Italia

This was the second year Cottey traveled to Italy and split the week between the

My heart is in Firenze. Elisha Wawrzyniak

A special treat was a visit from Cottey alumna **Nan McElroy '74**, who is a resident of Venice. McElroy is the author of two travel guides, one on Italy in particular, and she agreed to take the train from Venice to Florence to meet with current students, faculty, and staff. She spent over an hour in the hotel lobby with students answering several questions about traveling and living in Italy before joining faculty and staff members for dinner that evening. (Look for a feature on McElroy in the next issue of the *Viewpoint*.)

In Rome, modules covered the gamut from the artwork of Gian Lorenzo Bernini (especially pertinent with so many of his works featured in *Angels & Demons*) to the Coliseum and Palatine



Tiffany Frerichs tosses some coins into the Trevi Fountain in Rome in hopes that her wishes will come true.

Auckland, Rotorua, Palmerston North, Wellington, as well as Tongariro National Park. In addition to visiting sites and enjoying free time, students also attended lectures at local universities on environment and current events in New Zealand.

This trip was a bit different from the European trip in scope, length, and expense. The College pays for the expenses of second-year students to attend the European excursion. The trip to New Zealand exceeded that per capita expense. Cottey provided the same level of financial support to those students who chose to visit New Zealand, but they were responsible for making up the difference between the subsidized amount and the actual cost.

Despite that, the trip was so successful and popular that approximately 20 students expressed interest in the New Zealand trip for 2010. Additional alternative trips may be planned in the near future as well to address the interests of students and faculty members.



Chelsea Jones base jumps off of the tallest building in the southern hemisphere.

To read an excerpt from a New Zealand participant's academic report, visit the online version of this issue of the *Viewpoint*.

The Cottey New Zealand trip was a fantastic experience for me. Not only did we get to spend two full weeks in one of the most beautiful places in the world, but it gave us a chance to have closer friendships with our fellow Cottey students. This trip was incredible. In two short weeks I bungee jumped off a bridge, went base jumping off the tallest building in the southern hemisphere, rappelled down waterfalls at night, took a snorkeling tour of the Goat Island Marine Reserve, experienced traditional Maori culture, went hiking in breathtaking national parks, went on a seal adventure, and even saw live Kiwi birds! (Whew!) Our group also had the privilege to listen to several different lectures at universities across the North Island about the current issues facing today's New Zealanders. We even got to meet up with a recent Cottey graduate! I am very grateful for this opportunity that Cottey has given me, and after this experience, I hope to someday not only return to New Zealand, but live there!

Chelsea Jones



Several members of the Cottey New Zealand contingent let the Kiwis know from whence they came. One of the highlights of this trip to New Zealand was visiting several sites where the *Lord of the Rings* movie series was filmed.

two cities. The first three days were spent in Florence exploring the Renaissance art and history of this beautiful city. Faculty-led educational modules included trips to the Galleria Accademia, the Pitti Palace, the Duomo, the Palazzo Vecchio, and one group took a bike tour through the Tuscan countryside. All Cottey participants took a tour of the Uffizi Gallery and had the opportunity to see some of the world's most renowned art work.

One of the highlights for many students was discovering the joy of Italian gelato and, of course, Italian pizza! Within the first 24 hours, many students were sporting Italia jackets they had purchased from street vendors as they walked along enjoying their gelato.

Hill. All participants also took a tour of Vatican City, the Vatican Museums, and St. Peter's Basilica.

Italy was truly the trip of a lifetime. I fell madly in love with the country, especially the city of Florence. I took hundreds of pictures, met some amazing people that I will never forget, and I became closer with my Cottey sisters than ever before. The culture is so rich, and the history is beautiful. I wish that everyone could experience a trip to another country; it really rocks your world.

Kassia Forsberg

G'day New Zealand

The first alternative trip was also a two elective credit course. IDS 201 Step Into the World: New Zealand met every week through March and involved course work, research, and a visit to New Zealanders in the Nevada, Missouri, area who operate a dairy farm. Following the trip, students had to complete a writing

assignment, photo exhibit, or other presentation to the campus community.

Students on this trip visited both the North and South Islands and the cities of

Singing, Laughing, Crying ~ Founder's Day 2009



Classmates from LXIX ('69) want to know "Who'll pay the rent?"

Founder's Day 2009 wasn't just the 161st birthday of Virginia Alice Cottey Stockard, it was also a great time! There was, of course, plenty of screaming, laughing, singing and a few tears, but in the end, it was a great weekend where classmates and current students could interact and share the traditions they love so much.

On Friday was the traditional fiesta dinner followed by class reunions at different locations on campus. Returnees eagerly await the serenade by current Cottey students in their DJs and Baby Blues. As the seniors led rousing renditions of Cottey songs like Mary Margaret Truman, most of the alumnae could be seen singing right along.

Saturday was a full day, although the schedule was rearranged to make it easier for alumnae to participate in a larger variety of events. After a continental breakfast, reunion classes met on the steps of Main Hall for group photos. Immediately following the photo time was the Reunion Luncheon featuring the introduction of the Alumnae Citation Award Winners and the State of the College address by Dr. Judy Rogers.

This year's Citation Award Recipients are listed below, and biographies are available at the online issue of this *Viewpoint*.

Free time to wander campus, along with a reception at President's House, was scheduled between the luncheon and the Homecoming Celebration. This flipping of events (luncheon and celebration) allowed alumnae to get dressed up nicely for the photos and luncheon early and then change into more casual clothes for the homecoming and the Supper and Sing later that evening.

The Homecoming Celebration took place in the Auditorium. The Celebration is a way for reunion classes to share a favorite memory or song with the other alumnae in attendance. It is also an opportunity for the CCAA to share the work of the Alumnae

Association, introduce the Dow Scholars for 2008-09, and induct members of the Class of 2009 into the Cottey College Alumnae Association. There was also a presentation from the Enrollment Management staff on how Cottey alumnae can be a critical link in recruiting students.

In the evening, it was back to Raney for one of the favorite traditions of Founder's Weekend: Saturday Night Supper and Sing. Current students join alumnae at dinner to sing favorite Cottey songs. Classes take turns singing favorites from their college days and occasionally teaching the younger classes one or two songs lost over time.

After the Supper and Sing, it was off to class reunion sites, or as was more likely on Saturday, to the Chellie Club for a Chellie shake.

In the end, it's the friendship and fellowship that keep alumnae coming back to Founder's. If your class year ends in a 5 or 0, you'll want to make plans to attend the next Founder's Day Weekend, March 26-28, 2010.



Students **Vanessa Syring**, **Rebeca Cruz Hernandez**, and **Melissa Kristovich** performed special music at the Remembrance Service in the Chapel on Friday evening.

Alumnae Association Citation Recipients

The Cottey College Alumnae Association recognized its Citation Award Winners at the Founder's Day Luncheon. **Chapter IB, Texas**, was honored as a Friend of the College; **Betty Stutz** received the Honorary Alumna Citation; **Helen Kirby '53** was recognized with the Alumna Service Citation; **Julie Bliss '64** was awarded the

Distinguished Alumna Citation; and **Marijana Kolak '94** was named the Outstanding Young Alumna. Biographical information on each of the Citation Award winners is available in the online version of the *Viewpoint*. That online version will also have information on how to nominate others for these notable awards.



Helen Erosky Kirby '53
Alumna Service Citation



Betty Stutz
Honorary Alumna Citation



Julie Beshore Bliss '64
Distinguished Alumna Citation



Marijana Kolak '94
Outstanding Young Alumna

Vacation College: The Secret is Out

Approximately 85 participants discovered (or rediscovered for those faithful students who keep coming back year after year) that Vacation College is the next best thing to being a Cottey student. Held every May in the week following Commencement, Vacation College allows alumnae, P.E.O.s, B.I.L.s, and friends of the College to live in Robertson Hall for a week, eat the fabulous Cottey cuisine, and take interesting and fun courses from Cottey faculty.



Students in the Watercolor III class at Vacation College found plenty to smile about while working on projects.

many nice people, and oh yeah, the food.”

After seeing the campus and experiencing Cottey life, how can one keep this jewel of a college a secret? Bonnie Brown wrote that she liked, “Meeting Cottey staff and seeing how ultra-helpful they are. Assuming this is how students are treated, it now becomes a mission to recruit students and to get my chapter to ‘step up to the plate’ with giving.”

(Psst, Bonnie, you can recruit a student with the coupon on page 2 of this issue, or call the Office of Enrollment Management at 1-888-526-8839.)

Want to live like a Cottey student for a week and join the fun? The next Vacation College will be May 18-23, 2010. Information and registration will be available in early January.

Classes ranged from the ever-popular Mediterranean Cooking (taught by chef Michael Richardson) and Tap Dancing to British Royal Families and Personal Finance. Harriet Fox, a member of the Social Justice class, wrote of her experience, “I did love the Social Justice class and feel that I was opened up to a whole new way of thinking and action. Revelations are hard to come by in this day and age, but I certainly had one there.”

Della Bozworth was briefer in her description of her favorite things. “Beautiful campus, wonderful classes, meeting so

A Cottey Graduate 13 Years Later



Allison Wallace, Class of 1996, had a regret. She never graduated from Cottey College with her class. Even though she completed two years at Cottey, she never got to walk across the stage in Hinkhouse Center and receive a Cottey College diploma from the President. In May, Wallace got to live the dream. She back-transferred hours to Cottey College to fulfill the requirements for graduation. She then requested a cap and gown and to walk with this year’s graduating seniors. In the photo above, Wallace receives her diploma from Dr. Judy Rogers. At right, she is pictured with classmate Carrie Reeves, Cottey’s coordinator of alumnae relations, who capped her. For information on requirements to back-transfer hours, please contact the Registrar.



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Return to: Cottey College, Office of Alumnae Relations, 1000 W. Austin, Nevada, MO 64772

Looking for a lost classmate?

Maybe the Office of Alumnae Relations can help you find your missing person. It’s as easy as picking up the phone, sending an e-mail, fax, or letter. Simply contact the office, give us your name and address, and we’ll forward it to your friend’s most recent address. We can give out an alumna’s address to another alumna, or we can verify an address for you. Contact us and ask if our most recent address matches the one you have. Here’s how to contact the Office of Alumnae Relations to help locate your friends and classmates.

Mail: Cottey College, Office of Alumnae Relations,
1000 W. Austin, Nevada, MO 64772

Phone: 417-667-8181, ext. 2122

Fax: 417-667-8103

E-mail: alumnae@cottey.edu

Remember to include the class year of your school pals when requesting information. Please notify us when you move, so we can help YOUR classmates keep track of your whereabouts as well. Use the coupon to the left to let us know when you change your address.

Softball Comets Conclude First Season

The Cottey College Comets' first softball season showed real promise. In the limited fall season, the Comets went 6-2 and looked as though they might be a contender. In the spring, the Comets had a record of 8-14, as the team's inexperience occasionally hurt them. In the postseason, the Comets went 1-2 in the Region XVI tournament.

The weather gave the Comets more trouble than other teams this spring. Four doubleheaders were rained out and, because of the wet spring, were unable to be rescheduled. In fact, one of the rescheduled doubleheaders was rained out. Games scheduled for April 2, 5, and

9 were rained out giving the Comets an extended stretch where they played no games, and couldn't even practice on the field due to the wet conditions.

Despite having all freshmen who had never played together as a team and fighting an incredibly wet spring, the Comets put together an admirable first season. One certainly they should be able to build upon next year.

The Region XVI postseason tournament was a microcosm of the spring season with convincing wins and losses and close calls. In the opening round, the Comets defeated St. Louis Community

College-Flo-rissant Valley 9-2. In the second round, top-seeded Mineral Area College handled Cottey 2-11. In the losers' bracket, the Comets had a narrow defeat at the hands of East Central College 7-8.



Theresa Wilson sends one down the left field line against Ft. Scott.

Top-Seeded Basketball Comets Fall in Tournament

Maybe it was an omen of the 76-85 overtime loss that was to come, but when the bus transporting the Cottey College Comets to the Region XVI postseason tournament broke down in Liberty on the way to Trenton, Missouri, it put the team in a pinch. Head coach Dave Ketterman had to rent a pair of vans, and by the time the team reached North Central Missouri College, it was only 30 minutes before tip off in the semifinal match between Cottey and Penn Valley.

Not that bus troubles can excuse the Comets' cold start, they were after all the top seed in the region, but Penn Valley was more than ready for Cottey when they took the floor. The Lady Scouts scored the first six points of the evening and jumped out to an early 10-2 lead as the Comets committed a number of turnovers, throwing the ball out of bounds on several of their early possessions.

Cottey twice pulled within a basket of Penn Valley in the first half, only to see the fourth-ranked Lady Scouts rebuild their advantage. Twice the Comets faced a 10-point deficit in the first half.

The Comets, however, were not about to give up without a fight. They did not earn the region's top record by rolling over when games got tough. Cottey clawed back and managed to pull within six points at the break 29-35.

After the break, the Comets did a much better job of controlling the ball and not making careless turnovers. That had as much positive impact as the Comets improved shooting. Jessica Roberts began to heat up outside and passes in to Brittany Smith and Amanda Sanders began finding their marks. At about the 13-minute mark, the Comets took their first lead of the night at 45-43, and momentum seemed to have moved over to Cottey's bench for the first time all night.

Penn Valley was not about to relinquish the lead, however. The Lady Scouts' guard, Ashley Booker, who had been averaging around 10 points per game, was in the zone and totaled 33 points

on the night. In the second half, she hit three of her game-high six treys to keep Cottey from pulling away. In the final six minutes, there were five lead changes and three ties.

Cottey had its chance in regulation. Sanders hit a trey with just over two minutes to play giving the Comets a four-point lead at 66-62. The Comets could have closed out a close win. Instead, the Lady Scouts defensive pressure kept Cottey from getting a good look at an open basket. Alex Noble was stripped of the ball and Penn Valley scored at the 1:47 mark to pull within two at 66-64. Sanders missed a shot at 1:13. The Lady Scouts got the ball, worked their offense, and missed the shot. However, they grabbed the rebound and got the tying basket with 51 seconds on the clock. Tied at 66, the Comets took one final shot with five seconds left, but it would not fall and the teams went into overtime.

Penn Valley quickly scored the first five points and looked as though they would run away with the OT. Credit Roberts who hit a pair of key free throws to tie the game at 74 and a clutch basket to tie it again at 76. Unfortunately, it would be the last basket Cottey would score while the Lady Scouts found an additional nine points in the final minutes. Booker hit two treys and a field goal in overtime along with four free throws to seal the upset win.

Leading scorer for the Comets was Roberts with 24 points. Close behind was Smith with 23 points, and Sanders added 13 points. Leading rebounder for Cottey was Kindal Huett with nine boards. Diamond Hurst added seven assists and Roberts had four blocked shots.

After the game, it was announced that Roberts and Smith were named to the All-Region First Team, and Sanders and Noble were named to the All-Region Second Team.

The Comets finished the season with an overall record of 15-6 on the year.

Tara Mitchell took the hill in the 8 a.m. opening game and went the distance striking out three and scattering five hits. Mitchell helped her own cause with three hits and drove in four runs with a single, double, and home run. Amanda Sebree was four for four at the plate with two singles, two doubles, and two RBIs.

At noon, the Comets faced the top-seeded team and discovered that you can't make mistakes against a good team.

"We made four errors in that game and it cost us," said Comets head coach Greg Tietz.



Megan Steffens sends a pitch home.

Megan Steffens pitched a complete game for Cottey against Mineral Area, striking out five and allowing nine hits. On offense, Jasmine Miller had two hits and an RBI and Ashley Wilson had two stolen bases. Of note was Theresa Wilson's steal of home to score the Comets' second run.

At 4 p.m. the Comets took the field for the third time that day. Despite that, the Comets almost pulled off the upset. Mitchell again took the mound and went the distance striking out nine and only allowing eight hits. The Cottey defense was solid behind Mitchell, making only a single error the entire game.

Kelsey Henson had two singles and a double, driving in three of the Comets' runs. Ashley Wilson and Steffens each added a pair of hits as well. What really showed the Comets' aggressiveness were the two players who each had three stolen bases. Ashley Wilson and Brianna Blacklock led the larceny in a back-and-forth game.

"We were very close to winning that game as we had the lead and fought back each inning to retake the lead several times," said Tietz. "It was a tough game to end the season on."

The Comets ended their first season with a record of 15-18 including the postseason tournament.

Cottey Runners: On the Road and On the Web

Are you a runner? Check out the Cottey College Runners page on Facebook. This group is open to everyone, but is especially for any past, present, or future Cottey runners. The Cottey campus has had a vibrant running community for several years. It has been an informal group of both competitive and recreational runners who get together to train and occasionally compete in area races. In fact, two of this year's graduates, Amy Sue Guinn and Kate Valerio, have been offered scholarships to run cross-country at their transfer institutions.

facebook

Cottey alumnae, students, and prospective students who are runners are encouraged to join the Facebook

group and post photos, course routes in and around Nevada, and race PRs. Most important, this group exists to share the love of running with other members and to encourage participation in a lifetime sport.





Kassia Forsberg, Class of 2009, expresses the sentiments of most graduates on Commencement morning.

COTTEY

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One Vision ~ 125 Years ~ Celebrating Our History

Family, friends, and art lovers gathered at the Haidee and Allen Wild Center for the Arts on March 28 for an exhibition of the art work of the late Harry Chew. Harry Chew began teaching at Cottery College in 1951 and was a professor of art for 27 years. He was chair of the Fine Arts division and held the Gene Wild-Missouri Professor of Fine Arts Chair. He earned a B.F.A. and M.F.A. from the Kansas City Art Institute and School of Design. His art work was recognized nationally. Despite the inclement weather, more than 100 people greeted members of the Chew family. "I'm so happy that so many people came, I was worried about the weather," said Dodi Chew, Harry's widow.

Joining Dodi were her children Winston and Pam, along with Harry's two sisters, Nellie Hom and Lillian Fong. Interestingly enough, Harry and his sisters were separated early in life and were raised in orphanages. Because of that, Harry's sisters had never been to Nevada nor seen his art work. "It's spectacular," said Hom, "I didn't know he did watercolors."

Visitors enjoyed finger foods and punch and fondly remembered Harry Chew, his artwork and his contributions to Cottery College and Nevada. There were 45 different pieces of Chew's work on display in the P.E.O. Foundation Art Gallery. Wendy MacLaren, dean of institutional advancement, noted, "It's quite an eclectic collection." Chew worked with different media like watercolors, oils, and acrylics to create still lifes, portraits, and landscapes.

Some of Harry's early works, dating back to the late 1940s, were watercolors depicting waterfront scenes reminiscent of the San Francisco bay area. As time passed, his work progressed into an abstract style with time and birds a favorite subject, especially owls.



Regarding his father's art Winston Chew said, "It brought us together as a family; he was such a fan of so many other art forms. We're just honored that so many people remembered him."



Photo courtesy of Rusty Murry, Nevada Daily Mail

Remembering Harry Chew

Winston Chew of New York, New York (far left); Dodi Chew of Nevada, Missouri (second from left); and Pam Chew of Tulsa, Oklahoma (far right); were joined by Harry Chew's sisters, Nellie Hom and Lillian Fong and her husband Bill Fong who live in San Francisco.