

VOL. 4, NO. 1  
SUMMER 2016

# Viewpoint

magazine

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

## highlights

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# Women and STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics



## Letters to the Editor

Dear Viewpoint,

In our old newspaper Viewpoint, there was always an article on Founder's Day and an application. When we got our last Viewpoint, I think there was a tiny blurb about Founder's Day. Did it even list the dates? No application. Now it's too late. March 15, I think was the cutoff date.

Please next year do as was done in the past: an article on the weekend events, dates, and of course, an application. I can't help it. The old publication was much better!

Thank you,  
Susan Bice-Sutton  
Class of 1968

Dear Susan,

We did have some human and technical glitches in getting the electronic address file to the printer that delayed the delivery of the spring Viewpoint until the date of the registration deadline. For that we are truly sorry.

The magazine did feature an article on Founder's Day by **Mary Frances Peterson Main '87** on page 3 of the spring issue. The Office of Alumnae Relations sent out a magnetic Save the Date postcard with the Founder's Day dates in the fall. After the first of the year, the Office of Alumnae Relations mailed a printed

Founder's Day registration form and schedule to every addressable alumna. Several reminders were posted on the Cottey College Alumnae Facebook page and in the monthly newsletter delivered by email. All of those reminders directed alumnae to the online schedule and registration at <http://community.cottey.edu/FD16>.

For the last three to four years of the tabloid newspaper Viewpoint, the alumnae office did not receive any registrations through those pages. When the College made the decision to move to a magazine format, the members of the Viewpoint Advisory

Group decided that printed registration forms in the publication were no longer needed as they were not being used.

Can the Viewpoint do a better job informing alumnae of Founder's Day dates and registration deadlines? Yes, we can and we will. However, because of the lack of interest in the printed registration forms in the pages of the Viewpoint for the past few years, I don't think we will see those returning to the Viewpoint in the near future.

Steve Reed

## A Message from the EDITOR

### Making connections

It's interesting to find how people and places are connected in ways we never anticipated. For example, most of the *Viewpoint* readers know that Virginia Alice Cottey was inspired to found her college after reading a biography on Mary Lyons, the founder of Mt. Holyoke College in Massachusetts.

Over 100 years later, we have a faculty member at Cottey, Dr. Catherine Volle, assistant professor of microbiology and biochemistry, who is a graduate of Mt. Holyoke. (You can read about her on page 15.) In an interesting connection, at Mt. Holyoke Dr. Volle was the lab partner of Cottey alumna **Amber Rosenberg Todd '03**.

One of the members of the Cottey College Board of Trustees, Dr. Sandra Laney, is also a graduate of a women's college, Smith College. Today she helps guide the decisions of this outstanding institution. Both Dr. Volle and Dr. Laney bring a science background to their work with the College.

In April, Dr. Volle arranged for the students in Cottey's Health Sciences degree program to have a question and answer meeting with Dr. Laney about women and science careers. On page 13, you can read what Dr. Laney has to say about women's colleges and STEM education.

Our historical feature on page 9 is about Dr. Rosemary Fowler, long-

time chemistry professor, who has made more connections in her career than most of us can imagine. Those who have worked with Dr. Fowler used to tease her about the size of her Christmas Card list as she sent cards to what seemed like every student she ever taught. Those connections have served her and her students well, as they have gone on to great successes.

Whatever your Cottey connection, know that it matters as we all work for the the good of women's education. As always you are encouraged to write me at [sreed@cottey.edu](mailto:sreed@cottey.edu).

Sincerely,  
**Steve Reed, editor**





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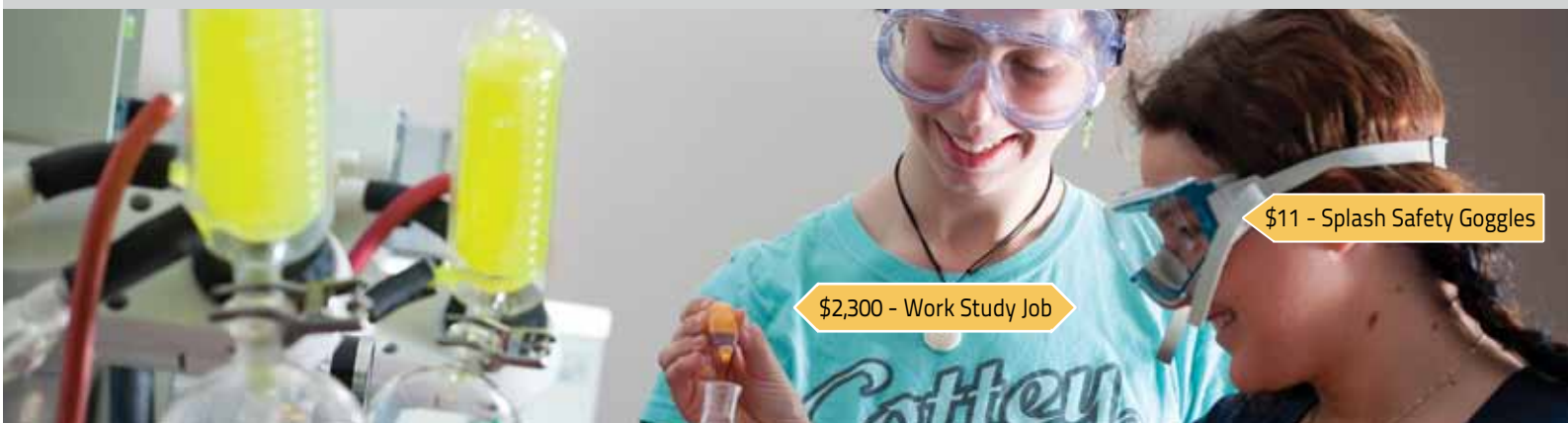
**On the cover:**  
Whitli Thomas '17, right, aspiring scientist, works on a DNA sequencing experiment in the Health Sciences program. Learn more about the new B.S. in Health Sciences on page 11.

**Another Cottey First!**  
Pictured in the photo at right is Alison Sowka who became the first student in Cottey College history to earn a Bachelor of Science degree. Alison was presented her B.S. in Health Sciences by Dr. Jann Weitzel, President of the College. Applauding in the background is Beth Ledbetter, President of International Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.



# The Annual Fund

"For Women... Because of You!"



GIFTS TO THE THE ANNUAL FUND SUPPORT EVERY ASPECT OF THE COLLEGE'S MISSION TO EDUCATE WOMEN IN THE COTTEY TRADITION



SO THAT THEY MAY REALIZE THEIR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL AMBITIONS. LOOK AT WHAT YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT.



THANK YOU TO THE 2015 COTTEY ASSOCIATES FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Cottey College is about developing the potential in every student. We engage. We discover. We educate. We serve. We are For Women, Because of You. Gifts to The Annual Fund support every aspect of the College's mission to educate women in the Cottey tradition so that they may realize their personal and professional ambitions and take thoughtful actions as lifelong

learners, leaders, and citizens. Your gift of any amount, from \$5.00 to \$5,000 or greater, will directly impact the lives of our students. Please make your meaningful gift to Cottey College today using the coupon in this issue or by contributing online at [www.cottey.edu/give](http://www.cottey.edu/give).



## message from the PRESIDENT

# Cottey College and STEM Education

If asked to name well-known female scientists, women who come to mind might include Marie Curie, known for her contributions to radioactivity and being twice awarded a Nobel Prize, first in 1903 for Physics and then in 1911 for Chemistry; Jane Goodall, considered to be world's most renowned expert on chimpanzees; or Rachel Carson, marine biologist and conservationist. We might also recognize Elizabeth Blackwell as the first woman to become a medical doctor in the United States or Virginia Apgar, American physician known for creating the Apgar Newborn Scoring System. It might be at that point, however, that our list begins to wind down.

Let's review the facts: Between 1902 and 2015, only two women had been awarded a Nobel Prize in physics, while 89 men received the same recognition; in that same time period, 4 out of 71 recipients of Nobel Prizes in chemistry and only 12 out of 100 recipients in physiology or medicine were women (nobelprize.org).

Further, while women currently make up more than half of the national workforce and earn more college and graduate degrees than do men, only 32 percent of all physicians are women. Only 19 percent of the surgeons in the United States are women, and research reveals that female physicians and surgeons earn 36 percent less than their male counterparts (huffingtonpost.com).

According to the AFL-CIO, while we have seen the number of women in the field of engineering increase, only 7 percent of the civil engineers, 9 percent of the electrical engineers, and 10 percent of the aerospace engineers are women.

And finally, according to news.nationalgeographic.com, while the number of women in the STEM fields grew from 7 percent in 1970 to 23 percent by 1990, the increase basically halted at that point: Women made up only 26 percent of the science workforce in 2011.

Thus, while we have witnessed progress made by women in the STEM fields over the past 40 years, that progress is not nearly enough. Cottey College recognizes the need to

encourage young women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and has taken many steps:

- The Cottey health science program graduated its first Bachelor of Science student this year. In fact, this relatively new program is the third largest baccalaureate

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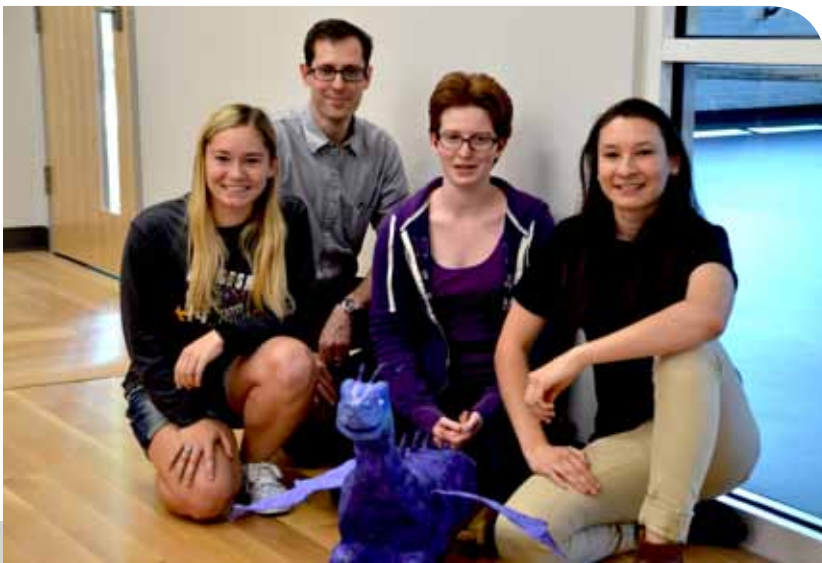
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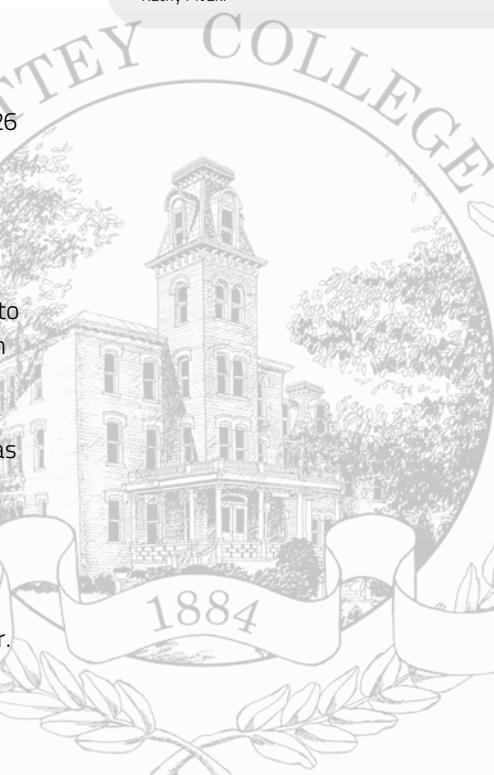
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*Below: the Cottey Engineering Club with faculty sponsor Dr. Peter Hyland and the robotic dragon they constructed.*



Continued on page 4



## Cottery College and STEM Education, from page 3

program, and psychology, a social science, is the second largest program.

- Cottery's chapter of Women in Science & Engineering (WISE) provides numerous educational activities such as workshops focused on science and engineering. A group of students and faculty members



*Belinda Hargrove '81 was the honored speaker at Commencement. She holds a degree in mathematics.*

traveled to Washington, D.C. this spring to network with women in various career areas in science & engineering, visit the National Institute of Health, and participate in the U. S. A. Science & Engineering Festival.

- Students at Cottery also participate in the NeXXt Scholars Program, which is part of an International Women's Undergraduate STEM Education initiative launched by former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in 2011. By partnering with a consortium of women's colleges, the NeXXt Scholars Program is preparing the future generation of female global leaders who, it believes,

will be discovering the next great idea and solving the next big challenge. In order to accomplish this goal, the Academy provides partnership, mentorship, and networking support for those Scholars by way of a selected female STEM Fellow. Dr. Ganga Fernando of Cottery College has been selected as a NeXXt STEM Fellow.

- The Cottery engineering club, sponsored by Dr. Peter Hyland, built a dragon robot that was shared with campus visitors at commencement. It is the club's goal to work with the local robotics organization for elementary students next year to further interest all children, including young girls, in the field.
- Additionally, Cottery under-

stands the importance of strong role models for our students.

- Belinda Hargrove (Class of '81), who has both a BS in mathematics and an MS in operations research and co-owns Transolutions, a business that specializes in computer simulations and operational excellence analyses used to evaluate capacity of large facilities, primarily airports, was the 2016 Commencement Speaker.
- Dr. Sandra Laney, deputy director of innovation, The Paul G. Allen Ebola Program, serves as a member of the Cottery College Board of Trustees and recently spent a day with students in the health sciences program, answering their questions about her career and women in the sciences.

- Cottery also understands the need to encourage high school-aged students in STEM. Therefore, our summer workshop for high school juniors and seniors has a science track, offering attendees the opportunity to work in a college science lab with doctorally qualified faculty members in order to experience college-level math and science courses.

Encouraging women to consider careers in the STEM fields must begin at young ages; however, once they reach Cottery, we work to give our students an opportunity to further their interests, talents, and knowledge.

*Jann R. Weitzel*

*Below: Dr. Sandra Laney, third from right, member of the Cottery College Board of Trustees, met with Health Sciences students of Dr. Catherine Volle (far left) to discuss careers in the sciences.*



# Cottery College: Loyal and True to Thee

By Mary B. Edelen '65  
Head class agent

What makes a Cottery Founder's Day so special? The answer is different for everyone you might ask, yet all alumnae convey the warmth and love they have for our alma mater. They have special memories of the suites and roommates, small class sizes, songs and traditions, instructors and, of course, the food. At Founder's Day, we experience it all over again! This Founder's Day we celebrated reunions with the classes ending in a 1 or 6 and 2015.

One of the first events was the celebration of Virginia Alice Cottery Stockard's 168th birthday and the founding of Cottery College at the Chapel. The Cottery inter-generational choir led by Theresa Spencer, Cottery's choir director, performed. Those in attendance sang favorite songs including "To Cottery C", "Aloha", "Father Time", "Daisies in the Sun" and Virginia Alice Cottery Stockard's favorite hymn, "Now the Day is Over". **Rebecca Zeltinger '94** and **Meg Collins McGrew '79**, members of the CCAA Executive Board, shared thoughtful readings. The mayor of Nevada gave remarks about the special synergy between Nevada and Cottery.

Saturday morning photos were taken in the new Judy & Glenn Rogers Fine Arts Building allowing alumnae to get a feeling for Cottery's newest building.

The Founder's Day luncheon, which honors the CCAA award recipients, followed. See page 17 for photos and bios of the winners.

At the luncheon, the CCAA Board Secretary, **Aimee Starlin Meyer '02**, introduced the Blanche Hinman Dow International Scholarship recipient, **Fatu Jambawai '16** from Sierra Leone, and **Elizabeth Ferranti Barr '97** gave a message about the importance of alumnae giving to Cottery. Elizabeth spoke about the Annual Fund, launched in 2014, that directs unrestricted gifts to those areas between what tuition covers and where the class projects, scholarships, and endowed funds that support Cottery and its students begin. Unrestricted and renewable gifts to the Annual Fund help provide financial aid, computer and laboratory equipment, course development, athletic equipment, recruitment materials and much more.

A highlight of alumnae giving for fiscal year 2015-2016 would be the Class of 1976, who, in honor of their 40th reunion, had a goal of raising \$40,000 in gifts and pledges and to have a 40 percent giving participation rate. The Class of 1976 well exceeded both of these goals. The Class of 1971, also a reunion class, had 99 alumnae in their class and 6 donors giving \$10,919.71 or an average gift \$1,819.95. These class

members have certainly stepped up to the plate for Cottery. Many other classes have shown great enthusiasm for giving to Cottery, and it is exciting to listen to the classes talk about what they can do to keep the spirit of Cottery alive.

President Jann R. Weitzel, Ph.D. presented her State of the College Address at the luncheon. Dr.

Weitzel spoke of the opportunities granted to students for international travel, the application process for more majors, the sports programs, and the wonderful faculty and staff who lead Cottery to be one of the best women's colleges in the country renowned for its women's leadership program. She also praised the students for the great work that they are doing in and out of the classroom. We thank President Weitzel for her dedication to Cottery.

For the first time, the CCAA Executive Board held a "Sing, Show and Tell" time for alumnae to reminisce about what has made Cottery such a special place. The Board led a discussion about traditions and how they have changed over time. Everyone was encouraged to share memories of the special events that occurred during their Cottery years. Cottery songs, duck jackets, capping, Hanging of the Greens and many more traditions were highlighted. This discussion will continue on and will become a regular event at future Founder's Day.

Another event that is becoming popular is the Alumnae/Student Networking Session. Cottery students are thinking about their futures and alumnae have forged their way to success in all kinds of professions. This is the place to share information and to network with each other. Oh, the questions!

Continued on page 6



*Of course alumnae will be singing at Founder's Day. The Class of 2006 shares a song. (You already know which one it is!)*

## Founder's Day, from page 5

Founder's Day would not be Founder's Day without the Homecoming Celebration. The CCAA Executive Board presented mugs to the members of the Class of 2016 and welcomed them into the Alumnae Association. Business card holders were presented to the BA/BS graduates of 2016. These presentations were followed by the very creative skits developed and performed by the reunion classes. Cottey has some very creative alumnae! Thanks to all of you for making Homecoming so special! And you did it all in 3-4 minutes each!

One of our revised traditions, due to the popularity of Founder's Day, is the Sing at Hinkhouse led by the current CSC song leader. Each class shared a couple of their favorite songs. Following the Sing, the CSC led everyone back out to the Senior Sidewalk where serenades were re-introduced to the current freshmen. What a wonderful celebration of Cottey's present and past! Thanks to the CSC for making this a special event and a highlight of Founder's Day!



*The freshman class was waiting to serenade alumnae in the Rubie Burton Academic Center on Friday evening.*

It was a wonderful Founder's Day with lots of lasting memories for everyone, and the CCAA Executive Board with **Sally Holland '85**, president, and **Mary-Frances (Muffy) Peterson Main '87**, vice president and Founder's Day chair, thank everyone for making this Founder's Day weekend at Cottey a wonderful experience for both alumnae and students.

## Cottey Named One of The Top Women's Colleges

Recently, Cottey College was recognized as one of the best women's colleges in the United States, according to a new ranking by CollegeChoice.net. This recognition comes on the heels of being named a top Best Value School in Missouri by bestvalueschools.com and ninth among the most affordable colleges in Missouri by collegeaffordabilityguide.org.

College Choice considered factors including academic reputation, financial aid offerings, overall cost, and success of graduates in the post-college job market in determining the list. College Choice is a leading authority in college and university rankings and resources dedicated to helping students and their families find the right college.

According to information on the College Choice web site, "Women's colleges in the United States are alive and well.

Many historic women's colleges are still thriving according to their original mission, and some others that have been historically limited to women now admit male students in their ranks. Our list highlights schools that are still limited to women only and is based exclusively on factors actual college freshmen said were most important to their college decision. According to the most recent nationwide survey published by the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA, these factors include academic reputation, financial aid offerings, overall cost, and success of graduates in the post-college job market. Our data was derived from a variety of publicly available sources, including U.S. News & World Report, the National Center for Education Statistics, and PayScale.com."

The ranking touts that more than 90 percent of faculty at Cottey, which

includes both men and women, hold terminal degrees. Cottey College values community, inside and outside of the classroom.

According to the announcement from Best Value Schools, the organization helps students find schools and degree programs that can provide the most available financial aid and assistance, the greatest support and service, the highest return on investment, and the best overall value. Similarly, the College Affordability Guide, using 15 filters, narrows the list of colleges in the United States down to 500 seeking those that provide the "best bang for the buck" for lower and middle income students. Criteria used in their final selection includes reasonable costs, promising outcomes and suitability for lower income students.

# COTTEY

## WOMEN & STEM

By Steve Reed



A couple of months ago I was watching TV with my 10-year-old step-daughter Lucy while she told me about school. I perked up when she said her favorite class was math. Wanting to make sure I heard her correctly, I asked, "Did you say math was your favorite class?" "Yep," she answered, "I really like it. It's easy."

It was all I could do to contain the Cottey feminist in me from jumping up in the air and shouting, "YES!" However, I restrained myself and simply said, "That's cool." Lucy nodded her head and then was off on a completely different topic.

Later I wondered, "How do I keep her from losing that interest in math?" Statistics show that girls tend to lose their interest in math and science in middle school, and Lucy is right about the age where that unfortunate transition takes place. I asked Dr. Chioma Ugochukwu, vice president for academic affairs, if she had any advice.

"A research study carried out in 2009 sought to explore the reasons for the underrepresentation of girls in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields. That study was based on a review of 400 articles and explored the question of whether biological or social factors contributed to the underrepresentation of girls," she wrote. "The researchers concluded that the research on gender differences in brain structure and hormones is inconclusive and that a hormonal explanation for the shortage of female scientists was weaker than other factors, including sociocultural influences (Ceci et al, 2009, p. 224). The study is important since it weakens the essentialist explanation or assumption that there's something about a woman's biological makeup that makes her incapable of excelling in STEM, or that boys have innate abilities to succeed in

science and math. This suggests that socialization factors may be more at play in understanding the low number of women in STEM. The study lends support to the importance of socialization in driving girls' interests, which elevates the importance of parental guidance in instilling a strong sense of self in young girls. What parents say and do at an early stage have an impact on girls' awareness of and interest in STEM careers, as well as their beliefs about their own innate abilities.

"Parents should encourage their daughters to explore all kinds of interests, including those related to STEM," she added. "They can do this by taking their daughters to museums, exposing them to successful women in STEM careers early in life, so they see that women can be successful in those fields. They can also watch documentaries on STEM topics with their daughters; promote the love of science by making activities such as watching solar eclipses a family event. Parents can take their daughters to NASA centers and space adventures, and instill a sense of wonder and love of space and the environment. They should not discriminate when it comes to buying toys for their girls. Expand your girls' interests and encourage them to play with toys they can dismantle and build. Parents should take away the fear of math early and help their daughters believe that it is actually cool to do math. When parents fail to expose girls to this love of science and math, they grow up believing the false narrative that medical, engineering, and computing fields are male domains.

"Parental encouragement is very critical in shaping young girls' interests and future careers. Girls need that support, since they are likely to encounter friends or teachers who have that implicit bias that boys are more inclined to perform

better in science and math. A parent's positive modeling will help counter that message. Building up a young woman's self-esteem will help her understand that she is not 'weird' if she happens to be the only one among her girlfriends or female peers who loves science. Girls

**"Parents should encourage their daughters to explore all kinds of interests, including those related to STEM."**

**-Dr. Chioma Ugochukwu**

*Vice President for Academic Affairs*

are faced with what Claude Steel and Joshua Aronson (1995) identified as the stereotype threat, or the phenomenon that occurs when people perform worse than they are capable of doing due to the existence of stereotypes about a group with which they identify or to which they belong. The stereotype for girls is that they are not naturally gifted in science and math or able to outperform boys in those fields. An awareness of that stereotype is in fact capable of stunting a girl's performance in STEM disciplines, which is a threat parents can protect their girls from if they modeled more inclusive and positive messages at home," she concluded.

I will take these suggestions to heart, but regardless of where Lucy's interests take her, I will continue to have her interact with the incredible women of Cottey College, who can only serve as positive role models for her success in any field.



Dr. Rosemary Fowler, professor emerita of chemistry, working with students in the chemistry lab in 2010.

# Cottey's Women of Science

## Dr. Rosemary Fowler Transformed the Science Department at Cottey

By Nancy Kerbs

Director of Assessment and Institutional Research

In her annual report to the Cottey College Board of Trustees, President Evelyn Milam referred to the 1976-77 academic year as "one of the most significant years in the history of the College." It was during that year that Dr. Milam took significant steps to ensure that Cottey would have a faculty of excellent teachers with exceptional qualifications.

Rosemary Fowler had recently received her Ph.D. in chemistry from Texas Woman's University. She had proved to be an excellent teacher at a small college in Oklahoma. It was not a tenure-track position, and Dr. Fowler sought more opportunity and stability in a place where she could raise her young daughter. Dr. Milam's vision and Dr. Fowler's hope came together in 1977, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Dr. Milam had a specific goal in mind for the science pro-

"Dr. Fowler was a phenomenal woman in science...who inspired her students. She allowed me to do research with her so that I could determine if I wanted to do medicine or research."

~Stephanie Vanderstelt '10

Dr. Fowler embarked on a complete reorganization. Consultants from the University of Missouri-Rolla (now Missouri University of Science & Technology) advised on curriculum, inadequate storage was replaced, and the laboratory equipment properly organized. The College secured the new chemicals and equipment needed, and reconfigured space in the academic building to create a larger chemistry lab, plus the addition of a small quantitative analysis lab.

program: to graduate students prepared to enter a pre-professional program in medicine or engineering. Dr. Milam was not alone. When she arrived, Dr. Fowler found several bright and motivated Cottey students who said they would leave the College if the appropriate science courses were not offered. These young women wanted rigorous science preparation included in their liberal arts foundation. They felt their future success depended on it.

The program Dr. Fowler built was a success from the beginning. Many young women completed the demanding curriculum, transferred to pre-professional baccalaureate programs, and went on to earn graduate degrees. These women are now pharmacists, researchers, chemists, physical therapists, science teachers, and veterinarians. While building the program, Dr. Fowler continued to present at academic conferences and participate in organizations such as the American Chemical Society, not only to keep current in her field, but also so that Cottey's name would be known, increasing the opportunities for her students. Dr. Fowler and her students were very active in the Missouri Academy of Science (MAS), which she served as president of in 2000. The College continues to be a supporting member of MAS so that students can participate in some of the organization's activities free of charge.

To have built a successful program from the ground up is something that any college professor would consider career success. Dr. Fowler's career has the added accomplishment of her key role in the design of the science labs in the Rubie Burton Academic Center at the invitation of Cottey's 10th president, Dr. Helen Washburn. Dr. Washburn also appointed Dr. Fowler to serve on the campus committee that worked in collaboration with the architects to compile input from faculty, staff, and students and to finalize the details of the various spaces in the building.

Dedicated on March 27, 1999, the academic center features spacious, well-equipped labs. An instrumentation room houses the sophisticated equipment available to students. Safety is an important feature in the chemistry space. The labs and the storage area are self-contained so that chemicals are not transported out of the space. The labs also have seamless, non-slip floors, hoods to vent fumes, and eye-wash stations. Dr. Fowler taught in this space from 1999 until her retirement in 2008.

The historic changes she brought to Cottey's curriculum and facilities are just part of the story. When her former students reflect on their time at Cottey, a memory of Dr. Fowler is among their first thoughts.

Continued on page 10

## Dr. Rosemary Fowler Transformed the Science Department, from page 9



*Dr. Rosemary Fowler, center, purple jacket, reviews the plans for the chemistry labs in the proposed Rubie Burton Academic Center in 1996. With her are (l-r) Wendy MacLaren, dean of institutional advancement; Janie Bossert, registrar; Mary Haggans, chief financial officer; Neal Swarnes, director of the physical plant; and Dr. Helen Washburn, president.*

"I fondly remember the final research project for Analytical Chemistry...to synthesize a substance," says Summer Steeples, AA/AS 2005. Summer chose purple dye. Dr. Fowler helped her find a book that explained the process she needed to use. It was written in German, and Dr. Fowler asked the German professor to translate it for Summer. The synthesis worked, but "my purple powdered dye got everywhere... Talk about encouraging creativity!"

"When I told her I thought I wanted to go into veterinary medicine at Kansas State, she grabbed the Kansas State course catalog and we looked up the course requirements. She also suggested I...shadow [a vet] to make sure that was what I wanted to do. That was probably the best advice I've gotten yet... I passed out during a cat-spaying surgery...that was not going to be my career path," said Summer.

Morgan Doyle Tschetter, AS 2005, says "I spent a lot of my academic time in her presence." Morgan also worked in the chemistry lab. One day Morgan was making distilled water and left the tap water running into a bucket while she did something else and the bucket overflowed! "My panic was met with laughs and a shake of the head from Dr. Fowler. We got the mops out and cleaned up...She has a great sense of humor and a laid back attitude. And I will never forget her dedication to her students and friends."

Stephanie Vanderstelt, AS 2010, says "Dr. Fowler was a phenomenal woman in science...who inspired her students. She allowed me to do research with her so that I could determine if I wanted to do medicine or research. While I was working with her I used many machines that I never used again...it was something that graduate assistants did" at the university to which Stephanie transferred after Cottey.

These three students are now successful women working in chemistry-related professions. Summer received her bachelor's degree in chemical science and master's degree in grain science from Kansas State University and is now a senior research and development scientist in Meat Coatings and Seasonings at Kerry, an international food ingredients, flavors, and nutrition company. Morgan received her bachelor's degree in chemistry from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from South Dakota State University. She is a pharmacist at Walgreens in Rapid City, South Dakota. She and her husband, Ryan, have two children, Francys, 2, and Harrison, 1. Stephanie received a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology and graduated in May 2016 from the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is a pediatric resident at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, Michigan.

Because of Dr. Fowler's dedication and hard work, Cottey will continue to lead in the area of preparing women for careers in sciences. The curriculum and facilities already in place provided a solid base for Cottey's newest baccalaureate degree in Health Sciences. It is a pre-professional degree that will prepare current and future Cottey students for careers in science that takes the vision and hope of 1976-77 to the next level.

**Author's note:** Following her retirement, Dr. Fowler served as Cottey's safety officer for a year. She was an adjunct professor emerita of chemistry at Cottey from 2009-2011. She currently teaches chemistry in the Crowder College nursing program in Nevada, Missouri, where she continues to live and keep in touch with students who benefited from the program she built.

# Cottey's Newest Degree: B.S. in Health Sciences

By Catherine Volle, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Biochemistry

Let me introduce you to our newest baccalaureate program at Cottey, our Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences! The Health Sciences program is a multidisciplinary plan of study designed to meet the needs of students who wish to pursue further education in medicine, veterinary medicine, biomedical research, pharmacy, or many other biomedical careers. The course work is rooted in biology, chemistry, and physics and offers advanced course work in medically relevant fields such as microbiology and the molecular causes of disease. While the science course work focuses on core aspects of the life and physical sciences, the program also requires additional work in the humanities and social sciences. It's not enough for our graduates to know scientific facts, they must also be able to analyze and communicate the latest scientific discoveries. The Health Sciences program was designed to produce graduates who are not only able to succeed academically, but to also produce graduates who can bring a broader perspective to solving relevant challenges in the health sciences.

Because this is a Cottey degree, our students also receive a great deal of individual attention. With small classes, professors can work with students so that they learn not only the course material, but also information literacy and critical thinking skills. While students may not regularly use the specific facts they learn in class, they will leave the Health Sciences program with the ability to find and evaluate information on any topic in which they are interested, valuable skills for the fast-paced world of health science. Because of the strong relationship between the students and faculty, students are encouraged to work with professors on independent research projects and often pursue internships both on and off campus. When students perform independent research with a faculty member, they are doing real science! At large universities, an undergraduate student may be preparing solutions or washing glassware, but at Cottey, students run their own experiments and are responsible for analyzing and presenting the data. Regardless of her career goals, these

are invaluable experiences for any student interested in the sciences.

At Cottey, we also provide access to the professional development that our students will need to thrive in their future careers. Students have the opportunity to develop their leadership potential through programs with the Center for Women's Leadership and the Serenbetz Institute. Through Cottey Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE), students have the opportunity to participate in career workshops, where they explore topics like finding internships and applying for graduate school. Students can also participate in career exploration seminars, where women currently working in science tell students about their careers, including what a typical day is like, how they prepared for their career, and what they know now that they wish they had known at the start of their career. Last April, several students were able to practice their networking skills during a trip to Washington, D.C., where they met with women working in science policy and biomedical research.

It's an exciting time to be a woman in science, and an exciting time to be at Cottey! With this inventive four-year program, we are providing students with the academic rigor needed to succeed in a career in the health sciences and the professional development necessary for them to thrive.

To learn more, go to [cottey.edu](http://cottey.edu) and visit the Health Sciences page under Academic Programs.





## Student Spotlight / Tori Kehler

**T**ori Kehler, from Vancouver, Washington, may someday become the fastest veterinarian in the country. She must be one of the fastest vet assistants as a member of the national qualifying Cottey track team and an assistant in the offices of Erik Andersen, DVM. Kehler just finished her junior year in Cottey's Health Sciences program with a goal of attending veterinary school after earning her BS.

Kehler comes to Cottey as a transfer student who earned her associate degree in her last two years of high school.

"I participated in the Running Start program at Clark College, through Heritage High School, during my junior and senior years of high school," she explained. "Running Start is a program that allows high school juniors and seniors to attend college full time and graduate high school with their associate degree."

Kehler is a traditional student in some ways, as someone who was running in high school last year, but is a bit different from the typical Cottey student as she entered the College with junior status and an associate degree.

Kehler could have gone many places after high school, but fortunately for Cottey, a P.E.O. talked to her.

"I found out about Cottey from one of my best friends because her stepmom is a P.E.O.," she said. "I chose to attend

Cottey because they had a lot to offer. They just became a four-year school and now offer a bachelor's in health sciences degree. They started a cross country/track team, which I run for on scholarship. I also received many other scholarships, which made Cottey very affordable for me. Cottey also has a lot of leadership opportunities and programs that help you grow not only in your education but as a person as well."

Kehler enjoys her work at the vet clinic as she progresses towards her BS in Health Sciences.

"I prep for surgeries as well as clean up afterwards; I give vaccines and pre-anesthetic injections; I help restrain animals, and I get to observe surgeries and go with the vet to people's farms to watch him work on horses and cows," she said, explaining her duties.

Kehler prefers smaller animals, but is getting experience in both large and small animal care.

"I prefer small animal care because I am more comfortable and familiar with smaller animals. However, while working at the 54 Vet Clinic I have had the opportunity to see what it is like to work with large animals, and I think that it is good to see both types of practices before deciding which I would prefer for my future career."



**Tori Kehler '17 with Erik Andersen, DVM**

Cottey has been very proactive in finding practical internships for its students through the efforts of Renee Hampton in the Kolderie Academic Assistance Center.

"I went through the experiential learning coordinator that works in the Kolderie Center at Cottey," Kehler said.

While carrying a full academic load and interning at the 54 Vet Clinic, Kehler also finds time to run for the Comets in cross country and indoor and outdoor track. After Commencement, members of the team competed in the Outdoor Track and Field National Championships in Texas. Earlier, Kehler shattered the school record in the 1500 meters and qualified for nationals where she finished 15th out of 21 runners in her preliminary.

"I did not think that I would be competing at the national level a year ago. I definitely see our team making it to nationals again next year," she added. "I think that as the team/program keeps growing, the team will keep getting better. I'm excited for next season, and I think that all of the hard work we put in over the next year will harvest great results."

## COTTEY

### Sharing Cottey

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

# Women's Colleges and the 'Real World'

By Sandra Laney, Ph.D.

Member of the Cottey College Board of Trustees

Deputy Director of Innovation for The Paul G. Allen Ebola Program

"Will a women's college prepare her for the 'real world'?" That was the question I would often get asked as I was promoting the many advantages of attending a women's college for a science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) education while I was working at the U.S. Department of State developing the NeXXt Scholars Initiative. I would typically respond to this "real world" question by saying "absolutely" and citing the top-notch education, incredible opportunities working directly with professors, the natural leadership incubator in which women hold all the positions of power on campus from team captains, presidents of student governments, leaders of clubs to the research positions at the lab bench, and then there's the sisterhood effect. In retrospect, I wish I had thought to respond by questioning the meaning of the "real world?" I didn't. So, I ask you now to think about that question.

What is the "real world" for which we are preparing the next generation of women? In academia in the United States, approximately 57 percent of bachelor's degrees are awarded to women and 43 percent to men, so campuses on average have more female than male students, while the general population is roughly half men and half women, and the U.S. labor force in 2014 was 47 percent women and 53 percent men. Is the "real world" question simply a question of the ratio of male to female in the work place? Is the suggestion that somehow getting your education in the company of 100 percent female students (yes, there are male faculty and employees on campus) is not intellectual enough, competitive enough, or what? I suspect the real underlying question is how can women educated at women's colleges be prepared to compete in a male dominated work world? After all, that is still very much the reality in which we live. In 2014, corporate boardrooms were comprised of 16 percent women and 84 percent men, and a mere 5.4 percent of CEOs of Fortune 1000 companies

"The presence of male students in the classroom is not required to produce a strong, educated female leader ready to take on the 'real world' and let her voice be heard."

~Dr. Sandra Laney

were women. In 2015-17, a record setting 104 women were sworn into Congress, which sounds great until you realize that it represents only 20 percent women and 80 percent men making the laws that 100 percent of us have to live by.

As a student at a women's college, leadership opportunities and examples are all around you all the time. This allows women to observe, learn, and try out a multitude of leadership styles and definitions, not simply those defined by or compared to men. Now, if you are a woman who enjoys competition like I do, you might be thinking that it would be missing from a women's college without males in the classroom or on campus. Before

attending Smith College, a woman's college in Massachusetts, I attended a coed community college, and it was usually the men that I found myself sparring with intellectually in my classrooms. So when it was recommended to me that I consider a women's college, I was concerned that I would miss that camaraderie and intellectual debate that I so enjoyed. I soon learned that I was very wrong. I found the intellectual rigor, the competition, the sparring and debate, as well as the collaboration and sisterhood, in the classrooms and on the campus of a women's college.

To be sure, a women's college may not be the right fit for all women, but I must admit after having attended one, I have a hard time thinking of a single woman who would not find her fit in the incredible leadership incubator, ethos and sisterhood of a women's college. A woman educated at a women's college recognizes that she does not need a man to validate her voice. She never even questions that if she has something to say that it should be heard because she is used to expressing her ideas and viewpoints and having them taken seriously. The presence of male students in the classroom is not required to produce a strong, educated female leader ready to take on the "real world" and let her voice be heard. Visit any women's college campus, speak with any women's college alumna and see for yourself. For a prime example, we are on the brink of potentially electing the first female president of the United States of America, Hillary Clinton, a women's college alumna who has always fought to have women's voices heard around the world.



# Points of Pride: Laura Van Vlack-Ailes

by Kristine Anderson Fulton '89

Assistant Vice President for Institutional Advancement

With so many scientists in her family, finding a way to benefit college and university science departments came naturally to Laura Van Vlack-Ailes. With so many P.E.O.s in the family as well, supporting Cottey College in particular was also a perfect fit.

"I am a microbiologist, my brother is an electrical engineer, my grandfathers were researchers [one in agriculture and one in veterinary pathology] and my dad was a materials engineer," Laura explains. Her father, Dr. Lawrence "Larry" Van Vlack, was a long-time faculty member and administrator at the University of Michigan. According to an article in Michigan Engineer On-Line, he coordinated the accreditation of the oldest existing undergraduate curriculum in materials science in the United States and authored 11 books, including a text book used by more than a million engineering students around the world. Dr. Van Vlack also helped establish the first U.S. graduate program in the science of engineering materials.

"When Dad died in 2000, we approached Michigan about a way the foundation our parents started could help honor his dedication to the field. Even a school that large said that acquiring, but especially maintaining, science equipment is critical to the quality of the program."

Around the same time, Laura read an article about the science facilities and equipment in Cottey's recently dedicated Rubie Burton Academic Center. "My mom was a member of Michigan Chapter CH. My two grandmothers, aunts, my sister-in-law and I are P.E.O.s. I figured if keeping equipment current at a place like the University of Michigan was an issue, it probably was at Cottey, too." As a result, Laura and her brother Bruce Van Vlack granted funds through the Van Vlack Family Charitable Trust to endow the Van Vlack Science Equipment Fund at Cottey College. The fund agreement specifies that "distributions from the Fund are to be used exclusively to obtain and upgrade laboratory equipment, including modernization, maintenance, repair and replacement."

Since then, the Van Vlack Science Equipment Fund has helped provide high-quality biology and chemistry equipment that allows graduates to excel when they transfer or find internships and employment following their experience in Cottey's science departments. The Fund also offers the division some flexibility in planning for new equipment and funding unanticipated repairs.

Laura provides regular support for her family's science fund, as well as other programs at Cottey College through personal contributions. Every time she gives, she applies for employer matching gifts. Many companies offer matching gifts as a benefit to the employees and retirees that, with just a little bit of effort, allow them to double and sometime triple their contributions. While program guidelines vary, most companies now have online systems for employees to apply, and organizations to verify, gifts for matching. Some are accessible through a company's intranet and others are managed by third-party providers.

The College remains truly grateful for the support of alumnae and friends who sustain Cottey's dedication to women's education through charitable giving. We wish to specially recognize the following donors with contributions from February 1, 2016, to May 26, 2016, totaling \$5,000 or more.

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

## Gifts or Pledges of \$5,000 or more

**Abbott Fund**—Washington, DC

**Susan Moyer Breed '50**—Medfield, MA

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**Washington State Chapter**

**Mildred Willock Trust**—Kansas City, MO

**Karen Haynes Wilson '59**—Holland, MI

**Wyoming State Chapter**

# Faculty Feature: Catherine Volle

By Steve Reed

Dr. Catherine Volle, assistant professor of microbiology and biochemistry, became interested in science at age 10, when she decided to become a veterinarian. She remained on that career path until the beginning of her second year as a research associate, where she investigated the biophysics underlying predation by the bacteria *Bdellovibrio bacteriovorus*. She applied to graduate programs intending to study marine microbiology but chose to attend Brown University's program in Molecular and Cellular Biology and Biochemistry because she was impressed by the exciting basic science.

After completing her degree, Dr. Volle moved to the National Institutes of Health. At the NIH, she realized that she did not like big research and she would be much happier teaching. She served as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University and Trinity Washington University and joined the Cottey faculty in 2015.

Dr. Volle earned her AB from Mt. Holyoke College in Massachusetts, and now she teaches at Cottey. Are there things that women's colleges do well for women with an interest in science?

"I hear over and over from women's college graduates some variant of how they figured out who they are or found their voice while attending college," she said. "That was definitely true for me. Mt. Holyoke was a place where I could figure out who I was and what was important to me, where I could ask questions and was pushed by my peers and professors alike to think critically...about everything. And I could do this where women in science were the norm. It never occurred to me until I went to graduate school that women weren't always supported in their scientific endeavors.

"At Cottey, I want to provide that same environment. I want to let my students know that science is fun and important and that they can succeed in science. I want my students to leave Cottey knowing that they can change the world and that they have the tools to do it."

Is there a need for more women in science?

"In certain fields, like computer science, physics, and engineering, absolutely. The problem comes as [students] move through a career in the sciences; the pipeline leaks and it's harder for women to make it to the top of their profession. What we really need are women who

enter the pipeline prepared for the long haul, who are not just prepared in the subject matter, but who already have leadership training, communications training, and mentors who will help them avoid the leaks. We need the kind of women who graduate from all-women's colleges!"

What could encourage more women to pursue their interest in the STEM fields?

"One of the best things we can do is provide mentorship. Much of what I do at Cottey is trying to provide my students the same opportunities I had and to provide the opportunities I wish I had. Part of the reason I came to Cottey was so I could mentor young women in science. Then they would go on to mentor other women in science. I realized early in my career that as one person, it was going to be extremely difficult for me to effect real change in the status quo. But if I train a small army of women in STEM, and send them out into the world to do amazing things, we can patch up those leaks in the pipeline."

What excites Dr. Volle about Cottey's Health Sciences program?

"I love how interdisciplinary the degree is. It provides not only training in biology, chemistry, and physics, but also additional coursework from psychology and philosophy. It's a degree designed not just to prepare you for post-baccalaureate study, but also begins to prepare you for success in your chosen career. I also like that there is a focus on experiential learning. We send our students out into the community to try their job before they commit to it, which can be so important, especially if you're not exactly sure what you want."

Would she like to see Cottey offer other STEM degrees? If so, which ones?

"I would! I'm starting work on a life sciences BS degree, which will have a focus on biology. I'd also like to see some degree options in the physical sciences. I want Cottey to become a hub for women in STEM, where we send students into the world with the tools for success."




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"I want Cottey to become a hub for women in STEM, where we send students out into the world with the tools for success."  
Dr. Catherine Volle

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## Alumnae Spotlight / Margret Hjalmarson '96

Dr. Margret Hjalmarson '96, associate professor in the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University, is "on loan" from her job at the university to serve as a program officer in the Division of Research on Learning in Formal and Informal Settings within the Education and Human Resources Directorate at the National Science Foundation. She focuses on grants related to mathematics education and engineering education across K-12 and higher education. At George Mason University, she works in the Mathematics Education Leadership program. Her research focuses on STEM faculty teaching, mathematics teacher leadership development and engineering education. She has worked on NSF-funded research in STEM faculty development, and engineering education focused on models for students' problem solving and increasing the use of interactive teaching in STEM courses.

After Cottey, Dr. Hjalmarson earned her B.S. in mathematics from Mt. Holyoke, her M.S. in mathematics from Purdue University, and her Ph.D. in mathematics education from Purdue. She has published articles in *Mathematics Thinking & Learning*, the *Journal for Engineering Education*, and the *Journal for Mathematical Behavior*. She has also published chapters in edited books about research and teaching in mathematics education and engineering education.

Pretty heady stuff, and Dr. Hjalmarson got her start at Cottey College. Faculty at Cottey helped her with courses she would need for her future education.

"A few of us needed a more advanced mathematics course since we all had AP credit in Calculus," she explained, "and petitioned the vice president for academic affairs at the time to offer a new course for us. [Professor] Susan Callahan graciously supported us in this endeavor, and she designed and taught a linear algebra course for us (about four of us as I recall). There aren't a lot of colleges where a handful of students could make a request like that and get the academic support they needed in such a supportive way. In hindsight, this was probably the first time of many that I'd have to make an argument for resources to a university administrator."

In fact, Dr. Hjalmarson believes women's colleges are great places to foster education in the STEM fields.

"I enjoyed my women's college experience at Cottey so much I transferred to another women's college (Mount Holyoke) after I graduated," she wrote. "Women's colleges are the best places to find women who are smart, thoughtful, and committed to

learning more about the world around them. I am always amazed and impressed when I read about everything my fellow alums are up to at both my alma maters. Providing a space for women to develop as leaders that is focused on women's education is invaluable for developing confidence and networking with other women who will have similar interests."

Some of Dr. Hjalmarson's work has directly benefited women in STEM.

"The first grant project I worked on as a graduate student intended to develop and understand learning activities for undergraduate engineering that might improve gender equity and keep more female students in engineering," she stated. "Throughout my career, I have sought to learn more about women in the STEM professions and women who work as university professors. As a graduate of two women's colleges, I have always tried to speak up and have my voice heard as well as speaking up for fair treatment of women in academic settings."

Dr. Hjalmarson still cherishes her time at Cottey and the friendships she fostered there.

"Every summer, five of us who were suitemates in Rubie Suite my first year meet for a weekend of catching up and re-connecting," said Dr. Hjalmarson. "This long-term friendship (going on 20 years) is priceless to me. Cottey as an experience helped me grow as a leader by providing a strong environment full of smart, engaged women who were looking to change the world around them."



# Points of Pride: Founder's Day Award Winners

## Neal Swarnes

### FRIEND OF THE COLLEGE

Neal started employment at Cottey College in March 1977 in the Physical Plant, serving in several roles before becoming the Director of Physical Plant in 1984. He received the State of Missouri energy award and National Department of Energy Award for Energy Innovation in 1984 and has been dedicated to energy conservation all of his life. "I would like to see Cottey continue to install more solar energy projects to reduce the cost of operations and also help the environment of the wonderful world in which we live," said Swarnes.

## Dr. Melinda Domingo Rhodes-DiSalvo '86

### ALUMNA SERVICE

Melinda Rhodes-DiSalvo is the director of the Office of Teaching & Learning at The Ohio State University's College of Veterinary Medicine and currently teaches graduate-level courses in leadership and administration of online education. Earlier in her career, Melinda instructed English, leadership, and journalism courses for Cottey College, advised the student

newspaper, and was the assistant dean of the faculty.

"As a student, I discovered Cottey offered a place of academic challenge and the opportunity to test out ideas about the world and intellectual identity [...] As a young woman, I found the college community helped me recognize the value and strength of my voice and the importance of actively and conscientiously promoting women's issues. As a faculty member, I began to learn the discipline of teaching from patient colleagues and master educators and, of course, my students. And from mentors [...], I began to understand nuances and obligations of leadership. Cottey has always provided friendship and family."

## Thelma Serenbetz

### HONORARY ALUMNA

A P.E.O. since 2002, and ever the philanthropist, Thelma Serenbetz has been a fervent advocate for the benefits of a good education all her life.

Thelma and her husband Warren created the Serenbetz Family Foundation in 1997. As a complement to the foundation activities that provide direct support to child-focused organizations, members of the Serenbetz family have established scholarship programs at various universities and schools throughout the United States, including Cottey College. In fall 2014, Cottey honored the family and their tremendous generosity to the institution through the naming of the Serenbetz Institute for Women's Leadership, Social Responsibility, and Global Awareness.

## Shirley Bush Helzberg '61

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

Shirley Bush Helzberg cur-

rently serves as chair of the Board of Trustees for the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and formerly served as president of the Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Symphony for 18 years. A founding board member of The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, home to Helzberg Hall, she is also chairman of The Heart of America Shakespeare Festival and founding chairman of ARTSKC, formerly The Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City.

Shirley co-founded University Academy in 2000, a public K-12 charter school emphasizing college preparation for students from the Kansas City Missouri School District, and in 2010 formed Friends of University Academy to facilitate unique educational programs and experiences for University Academy students and graduates. Also an advocate for urban historic preservation and restoring historic buildings, Shirley's redevelopment projects in Kansas City have earned numerous awards at the county, city, and state level.

## Nyoko Muvangua '01

### OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNA

"I served as Student Government vice president during my second year and really had a great time! I equally enjoyed the academic life at Cottey College. I particularly enjoyed philosophy [...] When I was not in class, I was often sitting somewhere with Dr. Helen Washburn debating the various philosophy concepts and it was just great."

After completing her undergraduate degree in economics at Smith College, Nyoko graduated with her law degree in 2007 and a Ph.D. in legal philosophy in 2010. She then worked at the Constitutional Court as a law research clerk to the former Chief Justice of South Africa. Nyoko is now self-employed – practicing law as an advocate.



Clockwise from top left: Mr. Neal Swarnes, Dr. Melinda Rhodes-DiSalvo, and Mrs. Shirley Bush Helzberg. Thelma Serenbetz and Nyoko Muvangua were unable to attend Founder's Day.

# Class Notes

## 1950s

After graduating from Cottey, **Ann Walby Steben '59** attended Iowa State University and had a dietetic internship with St. Mary's Hospital. She worked in variety of dietetic positions in hospitals and home care. Ann is presently retired and enjoying her seven grandchildren; skiing in Park City, Utah, where she lives five months of the year; hiking; traveling; and golfing. She just returned from Michigan State P.E.O. Convention, and they presently have three sisters from Michigan attending Cottey at the same time who are on the basketball team!

## 1960s

**Mary Beth (Garrison) McAfee '60** has joined with others to become "accidental activists," a group who monitors county commissioner meetings and public lands activities in the Four Corners region of the Southwest. Emphasis of observation, education, and speaking out is about gas and oil development. The group has learned a great deal about exploration and production including fracking, pipelines, compressor, and booster stations. There was an unusual amount of snow this winter and she cross-country skied many days from her front door across fields that were shared with a herd of 300+ elk and footprints of numerous little animals. River rafting trips, biking, hiking, and reading are fit in around diverse community activities.

**Sally Young '60** moved to the Athens, Georgia, area in 2013, building a new home and transferring her P.E.O. membership to Chapter AD in Athens, where she is now the president. Although she misses her sisters in the CA chapter, she is enjoying her new chapter. She and her husband Ed have 12 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren and are happy to be geographically closer to many of them. Sally would love to hear from any classmates who remember her; she can be reached at [16grands@gmail.com](mailto:16grands@gmail.com). [PHOTO 1]

**Miki Kashiwagi '62** proudly represented Cottey at the inauguration of Dr. Christine Riordan at Adelphi University on March 11, 2016. Miki attended the ceremony with her husband Tom and said that the 'ceremony was grand, full of pomp and circumstance." [PHOTO 2]



1.



2.

**Melinda Garver '66** was elected the president of Georgia State Chapter, P.E.O. on May 14. Melinda lived in Kansas Suite while at Cottey. She now lives in Senoia, Georgia, with her husband Jim. They have three children and five grandchildren. [PHOTO 3]



3.

**Laura Lyon Redford '67** is a volunteer contributing researcher at Shiloh Museum of Ozark History in Springdale, Arkansas. With another researcher and hand weaver, she has co-authored a book titled "Ozark Coverlets: The Shiloh Museum of Ozark History Collection" published by the museum. More than 25 handwoven coverlets and other bed coverings were documented. Almost 200 pages in full color, the book details the lives of the weavers or owner's family and provides a weaving draft for each coverlet pattern.

**Karen Osborn Renner '67** and husband Gary will be moving from their hometown of Friona, Texas, to Amarillo, Texas, the second week of June. Karen retired from teaching in 2003 but has been substituting regularly for the past ten years. Gary is self-employed. They are looking forward to living in a larger place with more opportunities for entertainment and eating out!

**Patty (Turner) Ruggles '68** and husband, Robert, have been serving a full-time mission for their church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in Salt Lake City, for the past year. They are in the Family History Library and have been helping visitors learn more about their family history. They work with people from all over the world and love it. They will return home to Texas in August. Both of their sons and their families came to see them in December so that their kids could play in the snow--a rarity in their part of Texas. It's been a wonderful experience.

# Class Notes



1970s

**Barbara Johns '70** writes "As I am rolling toward my 50th reunion date, I am happy to report we are healthy and traveling. We are spending this month in France using Gourdon, Lot, as our base. Southwest France is the location of many amazing prehistoric caves painted by Cro-Magnon people. Everyone who took Art History remembers the first page of the huge Jansen textbook. It is a dream to finally see these images on stone. Our town sponsored an exhibition of 2D and 3D textile works by women from all over France. There were many shows. I am still doing lots of genealogy research and volunteering as the librarian of our San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society."

**Kim Davis '71** writes, "In case anyone remembers me, my days at Cottey were in retrospect a positive experience. I learned a great deal about myself and some fundamental understandings concerning academics were instilled." For the past 30 years, Kim has lived in Oslo, Norway, where she is a senior advisor at the Research Council of Norway, the Norwegian version of the National Science Foundation. Kim has responsibility for EU programmes concerning ICT research (although Norway is not a member of the EU, they buy into their research and innovation programs).

**Billie Engler Hendry '71** is celebrating one year of retirement by looking at options for a part-time job, as she misses working and patient care. She and Gregg will also

be doing some traveling, including visits to her sister, **Kay Engler Ray '67**, and suitemate, **Shelly Fuller Harrison '72** over the summer.

**Nancy Rutherford Turley '71** is an engineering technician at Red Willow Production Co. in Ignacio, Colorado. She lives in Durango, Colorado, with her husband Steve and has written a personal blog for 4 1/2 years. She became a P.E.O. only last year (she loves her group members of chapter CS)! She was initiated into the P.E.O. Sisterhood in May 2015. **[PHOTO 4]**

**Kim Heikes Adams '72** writes, "Hello Cottey Classmates. Wow! Has time ever seemed to zip by for me! Since Cottey it has been a career in teaching students who are blind, along with marriage, children, grandchildren and now retirement. Next year in April 2017 our class will be celebrating its 45th Founder's. Can you believe it? **Judy Gover Lindquist** and I will be your class agents. We are hoping to see as many of you as possible to renew friendships, see what's new on campus, learn how to support Cottey and of course ---Sing! Anticipate more information in the fall and catch the Cottey Class of 1972 on Facebook. Looking forward to a good time."

**Jane Johnson '75** and her husband Gene have moved to Temple, Texas, and they love it! Jane is working part-time as secretary to the department chair for sonography at Temple College. She is active in her church's Bible study group and enjoys going out to lunch with the girls, and especially the ones on the ranch! She loves seeing the animals and beauty of Texas firsthand. She would love to reconnect with any of her Cottey friends. "Y'all come and see me!"

**Karel Lyster Lowery '75** retired from teaching elementary music in May 2016. She taught in Marshall, Missouri, for three years and then in Jefferson City, Missouri, for 27 years at the same school. No big plans for the immediate future. She will remain active in her P.E.O. chapter,

## Vacation College Class Reunion

**Elizabeth Carty '64/Reunion** - A gathering of friends during Vacation College 2016. The songs we sang entertained those in attendance and warmed our hearts with memories of our time at Cottey. Seated: **Pat Rehm Barnhardt '63**; **Les Eells Fankhauser '64**; **Karen Anderson '65**. Standing: **Shari Feeley McPherson**, **Liz Doyle Carty**, **Nancy Scott Wright**, **Jen Wren Charpentier** and **Kathy Craig Marshall**, all Class of '64.



# Class Notes

continue playing in the local symphony, and directing the adult choir at her church. She writes, "I am looking forward to less routine and more time to spend with friends and family."

**Carey Freeman '76** writes, "Retirement finally! Who knew it could be so great! I retired from teaching after 22 years. I will be catching up around the house and then some. Hopefully, I will pick my golf game back up but I continue to play competitive tennis on three teams along with leagues and drills! For the future, I plan on subbing some and organizing for others. And enjoying my two pups! Alan and I have travel plans with our three sons and their girlfriends this summer in Colorado... should be a blast! It was great seeing everyone at the 2016 Founder's Day!"

## 1980s

**Shari Baublits Fox '84** was recently installed as the secretary for the Colorado State P.E.O. Executive Board at the Colorado State Convention in June, 2016. She will serve five years on the board and serve as president in 2021. Shari has been a P.E.O. for 30 years. Her daughters Ashleigh and Emilie were initiated into her chapter, Chapter AT, in December 2015. They are fourth generation P.E.O.s. Shari recently attended graduation at Cottey to watch her niece, **Sarah Gage**, receive her AA degree. Shari loves meeting new P.E.O.s and sharing her love of Cottey with women. She looks forward to returning to Cottey in two years to watch Sarah graduate with her BA!

[PHOTO 5]

2016 marks the 22nd year that **Kristine Anderson Fulton '89** has worked for the Office of Institutional Advancement at Cottey College. She gives a shout out to other Cottey alumnae employees past and present, especially the admission representatives from the 1990s who occupied the Cube Farm. That space now belongs to institutional advancement, and admission is down the hall. Dedicated alumnae supporting and promoting their alma mater directly impact the success of the College. If summer travels bring you through Nevada, please plan to



visit campus and reconnect. "Thanks for all you do, Cottey Alumnae!"

## 1990s

**Ashley Atwood '95** has been voted a Woman of Excellence for 2016-17 by her American Business Women's Chapter (ABWA) in Katy, Texas. The gala event will be held in September by the Federation of Professional Women in Houston, Texas. [PHOTO 6]

## 2000s

**Mandi Jordan '01** was recently promoted from executive assistant to the CEO and CFO to director of materials management at Nevada Regional Medical Center. She can be reached at [mjordan@nrmchealth.com](mailto:mjordan@nrmchealth.com).

**Ashley Ensey Stasch '01** graduated in May 2016 with a MBA/HRM from University of Phoenix.

**Brandi Harris VanAntwerp '01** was honored in the *Springfield Business Journal* as a member of the 2016 40 Under 40 class in Springfield, Missouri. [PHOTO 7]

**Courtney (Morgan) Cole '02** is happy to announce her new position working as the executive director of the Excelsior Springs Educational Foundation, in Excelsior Springs, Missouri.

**Elise Van Pool '03** is currently working as a public affairs specialist and is doing community relations for U.S. Forces in Seoul, South Korea. In her role, she takes student groups nearly every week to visit the joint security area in the DMZ and such an experience has been a game changer for her. Anyone from Cottey - students, faculty, whomever - would always be welcome to stay with her. She lives right in the center of the city and has a guest room ready to go.

**Amy McLane '04** writes that her husband accepted a job offer with Grant Aviation, which is based out of Anchorage, Alaska. She was sad to leave her amazing job and the close proximity to some special Cottey ladies, but



# Class Notes

they are looking forward to the adventures that Alaska might bring to their family. She was able to hang out with (on multiple occasions) **Andrea Lewis '03**, **Emily Arzate '04**, and **Melissa Felsenthal '04** during her \*almost\* three years in Colorado, including her attendance at Melissa's wedding last year. Look her up if you are heading to the Anchorage area, as they live in the valley (Palmer/Wasilla) and are not far from Anchorage! **[PHOTO 8]**

**Dr. Ashley Stark '04** is taking a new position at Carroll College as an assistant professor of accounting in Helena,



A group of Cottey sisters in Oklahoma met April 23 for brunch at Kamp's 1910 Cafe in Oklahoma City. L-R: **Marcia Peeler '72**, **Marita Morris '81**, **Michelle Whetstone '07**, **Hilary Dittman '08**, **Christa Whetstone '12**

Montana. Carroll was her transfer institution after Cottey. She will start in August and will have the opportunity to work with and grow their strong accounting program.

## 2010s

**Ellie Spresser '10** is traveling to Ecuador for the month of June to complete a 200-hour Yoga Alliance teacher training.

**Tatum Lindsay '12** (NC/AW) moved to Nairobi, Kenya, where she works at the United State Embassy as the Environment, Science, Technology & Health Officer. She is the State Department's reporting officer for Kenya on climate change, wildlife trafficking, oceans, health, science and technology issues. Through her work she has engaged with 2004 Nobel Peace Laureate Wangari Maathai's Green Belt Movement organization and is working with Maathai's daughter, Wanjira, to bring the story of Maathai's environmental leadership to her P.E.O. group in North Carolina. She is still an active member, thanks to Facebook and FaceTime. Tatum is always available to host anyone from the Cottey community on safari in Kenya!

## Obituaries

**Joanne Thomas Saathoff '45**, of Nevada, Missouri, passed away on April 16, 2016. Joanne graduated from Nevada High School in 1943 and Cottey College in 1945. She worked at Farm and Home Savings and Loan, Jones Hardware and at the Nevada State Hospital. Joanne was married on November 8, 1945, to Richard Saathoff. Joanne and Richard were blessed with two loving children, Shelia Klumpp Saathoff and Steven Thomas Saathoff.

She contributed greatly to the recording of the Nevada and Vernon County history. From her senior year of high school to the end of her 90 years, she recorded it all. Her genealogy and historical research stretched back in history as far as 1599.

She leaves behind her sister and nephew, her children, grandchildren, and

great-grandchildren.

**Kathleen Gutzman Nenaber '69** died May 30, 2016, in Springfield, Illinois, having lived a full life since her first cancer diagnosis 21 years ago. She earned an A.A. degree at Cottey College in 1969 and a B.A. in mathematics from the University of South Dakota in 1971. Kathie then served in the Peace Corps in Jamaica. On August 25, 1973, she married Michael Nenaber. After they moved to Springfield, Illinois, she taught mathematics at Sacred Heart Academy for five years. She also taught at Lincoln Land Community College and tutored dozens of high school mathematics students in her home over the years.

Kathie is survived by her husband Michael, son James, his wife Nicole, and grandson Andrew of Chicago, daughter

Christa and significant other Ethan Brown of Denver, along with several siblings, nieces and nephews.

**Christina Sue (Coffman) McElroy '72**, passed in 2008 of breast cancer. She left behind two sons, Scott and Will McElroy of Texas, and is terribly missed. Christina was a native of Nevada, Missouri.

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

**Kathryn von Gulker Enix '31**

**Viola Morey Errett '41**

**Nancy H. Mendenhall '44**

**Elaine Jenkins Haynes '44**

**Carol Jean Blackhall Kilbourn '51**

**Judith Sue Ide Fink '53**

**Miriam Sue John '53**

**Helen McNabb Lundstrom '54**

**Mary Johnson Preston '54**

**Violet Elena Walling Diemer '79**

# Births

## 1990s

**Melissa Jenkins Bown '98** married Roger Bown on August 30, 2014. On February 26, 2016, they welcomed a tiny, beautiful baby girl into their family. Her name is Savanna Mae Bown. Mel, Roger and Ian (now nine years old) couldn't be happier. **[PHOTO 1]**



## 2000s

**Sarah Hutjens Gottfredsen '03** and her husband Matt welcomed son Quinn Matthew on September 28, 2015. Sarah is a PA (physician assistant) in general and vascular surgery at BayCare Clinic/Aurora BayCare Medical Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Feel free to reach out to her at [sarahgottfredsen@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgottfredsen@gmail.com). **[PHOTO 2]**



**Kanapat (Tanthana) Hung '03** was married to Jerry Hung on March 20, 2015, in San Mateo, California. A year later, they welcomed Kate Hung into the world on February 3, 2016. She weighed 6 lbs., 10 oz. and measured 18.5 inches at birth. They are enjoying parenthood and their little family. **[PHOTO 3]**



**Molly Kimpel-Borska '05** and her husband Justin are excited to announce the arrival of their son, Ethan Don Borska, born November 16, 2015, in San Diego. Ethan is a sweet, cuddly boy with an awesome sense of humor. **[PHOTO 4]**

**Mrs. Arica Goulet '06** and husband Lt. Ryan Goulet are pleased to announce the birth of Jack Shepard Goulet on December 12, 2014. Jack was welcomed by siblings Jacob and Suzanna (b. 6/30/13), grandmother **Joan Henderson Ebersold '83**, great aunt **Diane Henderson Petty '73**, and cousin **Dresden Petty Wulf '03**. Jack was born in Anacortes, Washington, weighing 7 pounds, 8 oz. **[PHOTO 5]**

**Elizabeth (Matthees) Stowers '05** and family welcomed the birth of their second child, son Ethan David Stowers on October 2, 2015. **[PHOTO 6]**

**Angela (Phillips) Moore '06** and husband, Dan, are proud and happy to announce the birth of their son, Reichen Ray, on January 12, 2016. He was 8 lbs., 4 oz. and 21 inches long. **[PHOTO 7]**



# Weddings

## 1990s

**Maggie Schaber '99** married David Billings on March 12, 2016, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In attendance were **Nancy Ward '65** (mother of the bride), **Helen Plouffe '97**, and **Heather Seal (Carter) '98**. [PHOTO 1]

Photo Caption (left to right): Helen, Maggie, Nancy, and Heather



## 2000s

**Priscilla Schenk '02** was married to Erik Harlan on July 18, 2015, in Broomfield, Colorado. At the wedding were fellow Cottey alumnae **Megan McIntire Williams '02** and **Sarah Lull Castillo '02**. [PHOTO 2]



**Ashley (Pentecost) Claborn '09** married William Claborn on April 16, 2016, in Trinity, Alabama. The couple met in high school at Decatur Heritage Christian Academy and began dating in 2010. [PHOTO 3]

a mini-Cottey reunion at their wedding on April 15, 2017, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. [PHOTO 4]

## 2010s

**Amanda Akers '09** and **Jessica Joseph '10** are excited to announce their engagement! They met at Cottey back in 2008, and eight years later are ready to tie the knot. They resided in Oklahoma after Cottey where Amanda graduated from Oklahoma State in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in interior design and then they headed west. Jessica continued her education at the University of Nevada Reno and graduated in 2015 with a bachelor's in wildlife ecology and conservation. They are hoping for

**Emma McKirdy-Wilsey '12** was married to Benjamin McKirdy-Wilsey on June 26, 2015, in Spearfish, South Dakota. They were joined by Cottey alumnae **Grace McKirdy '09**, **Eamon Forslund '08**, **Rosemary Leach '12**, **Katie Blaede '12**, and **Jane Hazen '72**. Emma and Ben will soon relocate to Highmore, South Dakota, to start new jobs after finishing their master's degrees in May 2016. [PHOTO 5]



# Faculty/Staff Notes

**Prof. Jo Byrnes**, associate professor of dance, was guest artist at Montgomery College, in the Washington D.C. area April 1-5, 2016. She set a dance from her 2012 *Hamlet* show and taught some classes.

**Dr. Carol Clyde**, director of the Serenbetz Institute for Women's Leadership, Social Responsibility, and Global Awareness, and assistant professor of leadership, along with baccalaureate student **Arden White** presented *Women and Leadership: What We Know and How To Take the World by Storm!* at the 2016 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). This conference, held in June, is hosted by the American Association of University Women and began more than 30 years ago when Donna Shavlik (member of the National Advisory Council for the Serenbetz Institute) invited representatives to develop a leadership meeting for college women. Today more than 1,000 students gather for this powerful experience. Workshops like the one proposed will help college women student leaders bring innovative ideas to campus and to find their voice. The proposal was selected as one of over 50 workshops that will be presented at this year's conference.

In addition, Dr. Clyde was accepted to present *Educating and Developing Undergraduate Women Leaders: Best Practices and Practical Applications* as a Campus Professionals workshop. The session is designed to support the development of professionals interested in collegiate leadership education and development for women. The Cottey research team (including student Sandra Musonza) will travel to women's colleges in Virginia for site visits connected to their research on undergraduate women's leadership education and development while on this trip. This project is supported through an Undergraduate Research Grant from the Serenbetz

Institute for Women's Leadership, Social Responsibility and Global Awareness.

**Dr. Ujjaini Das**, assistant professor of environmental studies, co-presented at the Evidence-based Teaching and Learning Lilly Conference on "Teaching with Collaborative Learning Strategies in Mathematics." The conference was held in Newport Beach, California, in February.

**Dr. Angela Firkus**, professor of history, organized the panel "Black, White; Urban, Rural: Working Women in Missouri History" and presented the paper "Women of the Looms: Missouri Women Working in Textile Mills at the Turn of the Twentieth Century" at the Missouri Conference on History in Columbia, Missouri, in March.

**Prof. Karen Polon**, professor of physical education, recently completed the American Council on Exercise Weight Management Specialty Certification. The Weight Management certification addresses behavior change, exercise, nutrition, obesity, empathy, and how to work concurrently with allied health providers to help clients achieve a sustainable healthy weight.

**Dr. Sarah Quick**, assistant professor of anthropology and sociology, presented a paper within the American Indian Studies Seminar Series at The Newberry Library in Chicago, Illinois, on March 16. This paper chronicles Native fiddling and jigging through time, discussing its origins in the nineteenth century and taking its practice up to more recent periods. To learn more about the series, or Dr. Quick's paper, visit:

<https://www.newberry.org/american-indian-studiesseminar-series>

<https://www.newberry.org/03162016-towardsgenealogy-native-fiddle-dances-prairies>

**Dr. Julie Tietz**, professor of psychology, attended the annual conference of the Southwestern Psychological Association in Dallas, Texas, in April. The focus of the conference was evolutionary psychology, but it included a wide array of presentations ranging from sexuality to teaching online courses.

**Dr. Chioma Ugochukwu**, vice president for academic affairs, spoke to a crowded room at Central Exchange in Kansas City, on April 28, as part of Cottey's Going Places marketing outreach. Dr. Ugochukwu spoke on *Navigating Cultural Sensitivity in the Workplace*. The workshop explored strategies for recognizing and handling diversity concerns and racial tensions in the workplace, to ensure that individuals, especially those in supervisory positions, are not only aware of, but are effectively addressing those cultural landmines that end up harming others or causing distractions and public relations nightmares.

This is the first of four leadership sessions geared to professional women that will be presented at Central Exchange in Kansas City as part of Cottey's partnership with the 1,100-member women's professional development organization. In June, President Jann Weitzel and Denise Hedges, director of the Center for Women's Leadership, presented a session for mothers and daughters titled *She Can Lead*. This program focused on helping daughters become leaders. Future sessions will be presented by Dr. Carol Clyde, director of the Serenbetz Institute, and Dr. Amanda Gilchrist, assistant professor of psychology. The series is titled *Cottey College – Equip, Engage, Empower*.



# Arrivals and Departures

**T**he Cottey College Comets are pleased to announce the hiring of Mark Skapin as the new softball coach. He replaces Shelli Stanley who resigned earlier in the spring.

Skapin brings a wealth of experience to the head coaching position. He most recently has been the assistant softball coach for Southeastern Community College in Whiteville, North Carolina. At SCC, Skapin served as the hitting and defense coach leading the team to a strong second half finish. Prior to SCC, he was the head varsity softball coach for Holy Name High School in Ohio.

In addition to his coaching duties, Skapin has served as the vice president of the MC Madness Fastpitch Softball Organization since 2007 and as the vice president and girls personnel director for the North Ridgeville Baseball and Softball League since 2005. Overall, he has a career tournament fastpitch record of 291-71 with a Triple Crown National Championship in 2015.

Skapin outlined his mission statement for the Comet's softball team: "To seek excellence on the field, in the classroom, and in the community through competition and a commitment to the development of our important core values." The core values that Skapin finds critical to success are integrity, responsibility, and passion.

Skapin has already begun recruiting for next year's team and is optimistic about bringing in talented players to advance the Comets to the next level.



"Cottey College is an incredibly special community and has so much to offer prospective student athletes," he said. "I know that over the next few years this program will compete at a high level while also providing students with one of the best academic experiences in the Midwest. I am excited to be a part of an outstanding community here in Nevada and know that with hard work and dedication we can build a successful softball program for years to come."

Skapin encourages those who are interested in playing softball at the collegiate level, or those who know high school players with an interest in playing at the collegiate level, to contact him at [mskapin@cottey.edu](mailto:mskapin@cottey.edu).

**E**ffective June 30, Ms. Judi Steege will retire the position of Director of Admission, a role she has filled for the last 12 years. Judi came to Cottey from South Dakota and graduated with an Associate in Arts in 1962. After living in Minnesota for many years, where she is a past state president of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, she moved to Nevada in 2002 and joined the Office of Enrollment Management just two years later. In her second year, the College enrolled a high of 193 first-year students. Judi has served as the interim VP for enrollment management and transformed the College's summer program into the Workshop for Women Who Are Going Places. Steege's involvement with Cottey extends beyond 12 years in the office as she has been a member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood for 55 years. As such, she was recruiting and referring long before joining us on campus and recently finished her term as president of Chapter KK. Most recently, Steege oversaw international

recruitment and has been traveling the country meeting with P.E.O. chapters and reciprocities and presenting at conventions, offering training and crucial updates about Cottey to the Sisterhood.



While we are sad to lose our friend as a colleague, we are happy to celebrate this most important milestone with her. Congratulations to Judi Steege on her retirement; we thank her for her tireless efforts as an administrator and P.E.O., honor her service to her alma mater, and wish her well for all the best that is yet to come. Well done Judi!

# COTTEY

Inquiries and information should be addressed to:

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## YOU ARE INVITED

The Board of Trustees of Cotley College invites you to the inauguration of Dr. Jann Rudd Weitzel as the twelfth president of Cotley College on Saturday, October 22, 2016, at 2:30 p.m.

The theme for the inauguration and the week's activities is *Imagine*. Look for a schedule of events to be posted online at [www.cotley.edu/inauguration](http://www.cotley.edu/inauguration).