

VOL. 5, NO. 1
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Viewpoint

magazine

A Publication of Cottey College:
CREATORS OF INCREDIBLE FUTURES

highlights

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Cottey Ranked # 6 Among Women's Colleges

Cottey College was ranked sixth in Best Women's Colleges in America and first among Best Regional Colleges-Midwest by College Consensus. In addition, Cottey was listed at 49 among all colleges in the U.S. out of 990 ranked institutions.

"It is no surprise that Cottey College is again recognized as one of the outstanding colleges in the U.S.," said Dr. Jann Weitzel, President of Cottey College. "It is gratifying that the word is getting out about the quality of a Cottey education. From *U.S. News & World Report* to College Consensus, outside agencies are helping the College become a nationally-recognized leader in women's education."



Last September, Cottey was recognized by *U.S. News* as #7 in Best Regional Colleges-Midwest, as well as #2 in Best Value Colleges and Lowest Student Debt Load at Graduation, and #3 in Schools with Most Proportion of International Students.

"Cottey stresses the importance of retention rates, graduation rates, maintaining small class sizes, a low student/faculty ratio, and the percentage of faculty who are full time. In addition, 90% of Cottey's faculty holds the highest degree in their field. These are critical markers in the decision process for a student and her family in choosing a college that will be a good fit," added Dr. Weitzel.

College Consensus looks across the crowded landscape of college rankings and boils it all down to a functional rating. The Publisher Rating portion of the College Consensus is based on published rankings by numerous reputable ranking agencies, including *U.S. News & World Report*, *Forbes*, and *Wallethub*. The Student Review Rating includes verified student reviews from sites like Niche, Students Review, and Unigo, summed up into one rating. Student appreciation for their Cottey experience became a deciding factor in the College's high ranking.

More information about College Consensus rankings and methodology can be found online at collegeconsensus.com.

A Message from the EDITOR

Creators of Incredible Futures

The theme of this issue – Creators of Incredible Futures – doesn't just reflect the lives of the incredible women featured in these pages, but also introduces Cottey College's new brand to our *Viewpoint* readers. Stephen Dill, special assistant to the President for marketing, explains the "why" behind the new brand as well as the changes you will be seeing in the weeks and months ahead as Cottey introduces new publications, gives the website a matching look, and adds new features such as a blog and monthly videos.

Simon Sinek, author of *Find Your Why*, says that when any business can identify why it does something, the public becomes interested in what it is the business does and how it does it. Sinek uses the example of Apple as a company that doesn't simply say what it does (We

make phones), but why it does what it does – Think differently.

What is Cottey's why? Simply stated, Cottey helps women to create incredible futures for themselves, their families, their communities, and the world.

"You cannot convince me that there are not 300 new students in the world every year who want what Cottey has to offer," said Dill. "My goal is to help the College get its message out and locate those 300 new students annually."

As alumnae, you are already believers in Cottey's ability to create incredible futures. I know this because you tell me at Founder's Day Weekend how Cottey helped you find your voice. You share your successes with me in the pages of the *Viewpoint*. You refer prospective students and give to the Annual Fund.

You can help us find those 300 women worldwide who want what Cottey has to offer. Tell your story of how Cottey helped you create your incredible future. Toss those old admission pieces and use our new materials, which will be rolling off of the presses this summer, that reflect the bold, confident identity of a Cottey woman.

YOU are the creators of incredible futures. Share your Cottey stories with us and with young women you know.

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

Sincerely,
Steve Reed, editor



THAT'S INCREDIBLE!

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

On the cover:
Associate in Arts graduate **Rilie Good** celebrates her graduation in May 2018. Photo courtesy of **Mandee Good Bronson '04**.

Vacation College FUN!

Vacation College 2018 was a wonderful opportunity to combine a Cottey experience with personal enrichment and have some fun along the way. Participants experienced Cottey from the inside out as they stayed in one of the residence halls, ate in Raney Dining Room, and attended classes taught by Cottey College faculty and staff – all without the pressure of mid-term exams or finals! Nightly entertainment, recreational activities, and extraordinary chances for fellowship were all a part of this exciting week.

Mark your calendars for next year's Vacation College, May 14-19, 2019. Online registration will open in mid-January.



Pictured above is the abstract collage class. Other art classes offered included pastels, watercolor, crafty Christmas, and still life drawing. There were also classes on astronomy, cheesemaking, bee keeping, the economy, China, New Zealand, yoga, and a book club.

“The staff MADE this a ‘10’ surpassing my expectations. ALL were helpful, supportive and patient! I have never been more relaxed than I was this week.”

-2018 participant



The Vacation College fishing guides display stringers full of fish. A new class offered this year was “Fishing with Ed and Jack.” A few of the participants caught the first fish of their lives in this class! Pictured above are Ed Hyde, supervisor, maintenance and grounds; Marion Keener, Cottey retiree; and Jack Weitzel, husband to Cottey President Dr. Jann Weitzel.



The largest number of registered participants ever for Vacation College with 160 people who signed up for the most fun week on campus!



message from the PRESIDENT

The New Look of Cottey

For the many who came back to remember, reconnect, and revel at Founder's Weekend this year, there were some first signs of change on the campus. It was too early for leaves on the trees, but the first banners using our new logo and tagline were up facing each other on the Rogers Fine Arts Building and the Chapel. As Stephen Dill, special assistant to the president for marketing, explains in this issue, the new brand rollout is underway and I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you to the new look of Cottey.

Many of you have heard me say that when I first arrived at Cottey College I was often told with a hint of humor, "Cottey is a well-kept secret." Contrary to the insider's smile on everyone's face, I might have looked concerned – I didn't want Cottey to be a secret much longer.

In 2016 I went to the P.E.O. Foundation to ask for a grant to fund a brand redesign. Geile/Leon, a brand agency in Saint Louis, was engaged to distill the history, present, and future of Cottey into a symbol and a tagline that would represent Cottey College to the world. The result was an artful new representation of the two C's of Cottey College,



along with a tagline that confirms the consistent emotion I heard at Founder's Weekend: "It all started at Cottey!"

The next step was, as Stephen characterized it, "bringing it to the students." We asked Geile/Leon to give us versions of the tagline that students would feel comfortable wearing and sharing with their friends on social media. One of the resulting designs is here; others are in Stephen's article.

There will soon be more slogans on merchandise for you to proudly wear, use, and share as we all embrace the undeniable truth that a Cottey experience changes lives for the better. Each in our own way, we all go forth from Cottey feeling empowered and equipped to create an incredible future for ourselves and those around us.

I heard at Founder's Day, and I hear a similar version every time I speak with alumnae, "I wouldn't be who I am today if I had started anywhere else." This summer, and in the years ahead, I ask you to share your story with the people you know so that many more young women can say the same decades from now.

Welcome to the new look and language of your Cottey College!

Jann R. Weitzel

Viewpoint
magazine

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

PUBLISHER
Cottey College

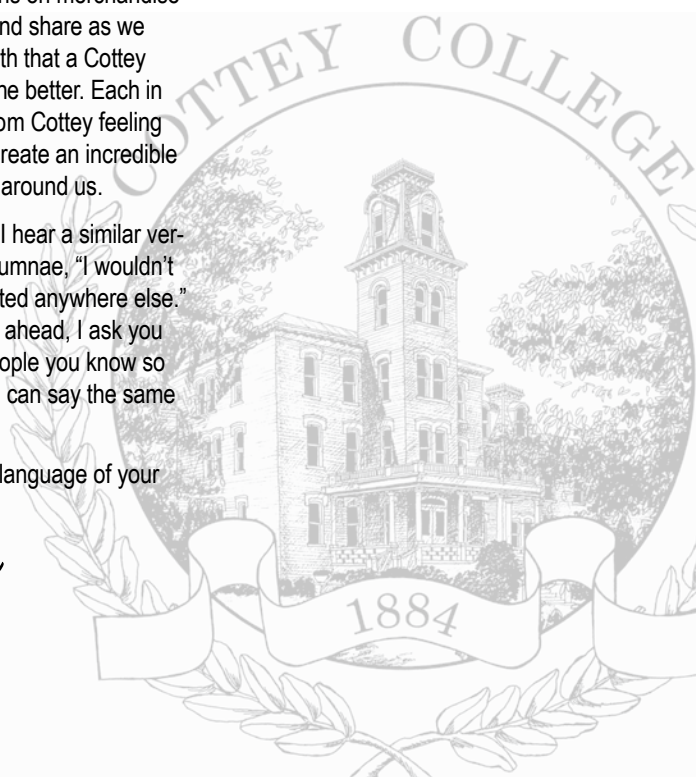
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Members of the Viewpoint Advisory Group include Steve Reed, Rachel Painter, Dr. Chioma Ugochukwu, Dr. Mari Anne Phillips '76, Kristine Anderson Fulton '89, Nancy Kerbs '79, and Dr. Kathy Pivak.



Welcome Home!

A warm “welcome home” was the prevailing sentiment that overtook campus during Founder’s Day 2018. We, as alumnae and guests, were welcomed with open arms and, of course, a song. We had over 300 alumnae and 40 visitors on campus. There were tears and laughter and new memories were made. The weekend kicked off with registration where the energy and excitement is always palpable.

As always, we took time to reflect on our founder’s life. This year we had a multigenerational service that included words and songs from current students and alumnae. It was a beautiful tribute to the woman who had the vision to be a Creator of Incredible Futures. The “3” and “8” years hosted reunions that included reminiscing, planning for homecoming, and of course more songs. Each class was serenaded by both freshmen and “seniors.” The coming together of all was moving. There was even a kidnapping of Hermitrude and her infamous wagon. The expressions on the current “seniors” faces were priceless.

Saturday’s luncheon was a powerful reminder of the impact Cottey alumnae have made on the world. We were able to celebrate our shared accomplishments and commitment to dear ole Cottey C. **Sharon Mathers Secor ‘70** was awarded the Distinguished Alumna award for her work on educating young women on their reproductive health and empowering them to be brave role models for their sisters and friends. We highlighted the triumphant spirit of **Tatsiana Khvitsko-Trimborn ‘10**, our Outstanding Young Alumna recipient, as we wished her luck as she headed to St. Louis to complete her first marathon. We were challenged by **Kate Barlow ‘15**, our Alumna Service Awardee, to follow her lead and become walking and talking Cottey billboards. Our beloved chef **Michael Richardson** was awarded the Friend of the College award. We wish him all the best in his retirement. Lastly, we celebrated the contributions of **Lois Owings** who received the Honorary Alumna award for her tireless work supporting the college in the Business Office.

We hosted a fantastic networking session. Approximately 50 current students were able to practice their interviewing skills in a safe environment while also meeting alumnae from various fields. It seemed that the nearly 30 participating alumnae found it just as rewarding. Directly following was the highlight of the weekend for many—HOMECOMING. We witnessed many different skits, songs, and remembrances. It is always interesting to learn of our shared history through these skits. We found out that “Ava Gardner” was actually a complimentary song composed by a member of the Great Class of 1978 as a freshman to her seniors! Think more cha cha cha and less bam ba dum bam ba dum. The class remembrances confirmed one thing: Cottey alumnae just

get smarter, sassier, and more beautiful with age. You may see highlights on the Cottey College Alumnae Facebook (facebook.com/CotteyAlumnae) and Instagram (instagram.com/cotteyalumnae/) pages. If you are not following, today is a great day to start!

Attendees took advantage of touring the campus. They visited many of the buildings including the gorgeous Judy and Glenn Rogers Fine Arts Building. Residence halls are always a big draw. Those who visited P.E.O. Hall were able



Brandii O’Reagan Holmdahl ‘93 gets serenaded by her daughter Hannahlyn who is a current student.

to see the new parlor renderings designed by our very own alumna, **Amy McCamish Eckhoff ‘94**. There was also the opportunity to visit Rosemary Alumnae Suite. This suite has been sponsored by the Cottey College Alumnae Association since the 1970s. Alumnae were the pioneers in establishing an endowment for this suite during the Centennial Challenge in 1984. To date, we have raised 70% of our goal to refurbish the suite. This summer there will be new bedroom furniture installed. Visit www.cottey.edu/giving if you would like to help us meet our target.

Our weekend concluded with a snowy 5K and a delicious brunch. Speaking of...we cannot close without mentioning the food. What can one say? The scale rudely showed us just how much deliciousness was ingested during the weekend! Baked potato soup, monster cookies, and so much more. Michael promised that he would leave his recipes behind as he moved on to his retirement in Bora Bora.

We hope to see you next year - March 29-31, 2019. In the meantime, we send you Cottey love and light.

Love,

The Cottey College Alumnae Association Executive Board

Founder's Day 2018 Wrap-up

It was a busy three days of singing, eating, reminiscing, and recognizing some of Cottey's best. **Top left:** The Class of 1968 entertained the crowd at the homecoming assembly with a lively skit and fun songs. **Top right:** Dr. Weitzel, president of the College, helps **Tenzin Ingsel**, the Dow Scholarship recipient, with her corsage. **Bottom left:** the five award recipients pose before lunch. They are (left to right) **Sharon Mathers Secor '70**, Distinguished Alumna; **Tatsiana Khvitsko Trimborn '10**, Outstanding Young Alumna; **Lois Owings**, Honorary Alumna; **Michael Richardson**, Friend of the College; and **Kate Barlow '15**, Alumna Service. **Bottom right:** An alumna from the Class of 1988 shows her Cottey style at the Saturday evening sing.



Save the Date(s) Founder's Day Weekend

- March 29-31, 2019 - For classes ending in "4" or "9"
- April 3-5, 2020 - For classes ending in "0" or "5"
- March 26-28, 2021 - For classes ending in "1" or "6"

Comets Repeat as Region Champions!

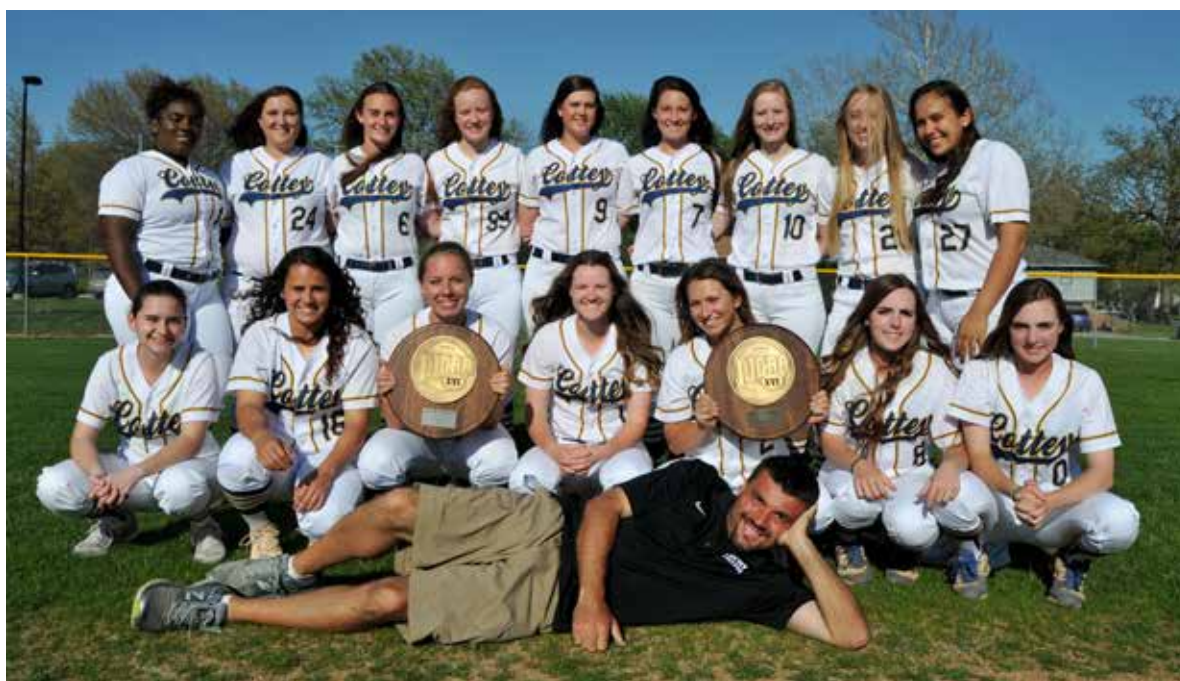


Photo courtesy of Matt Resnick, Nevada Daily Mail.

For the second consecutive year, and the final time ever, the Comets softball team reigned as the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II, Region XVI champions!

The Cottey College Comets are back-to-back regional softball champions after sweeping the Region XVI Tournament in Farmington, Missouri, in early May. The Comets defeated the nationally-ranked St. Louis Community College Lady Archers 4-1 to secure their second consecutive title.

Last year, the Comets were underdogs as they came into the postseason and stunned St. Louis. This season, however, the Comets were not sneaking up on any opponents as they compiled an 18-game winning streak and a regular season record of 25-6. Still, the Lady Archers were the 17th ranked team in the nation and had taken three out of four games from the Comets just a few weeks earlier.

In the opening round of the tournament, the second-seeded Comets defeated Mineral Area College 3-1 to put Cottey in the winner's bracket, where they then crushed the Archers 15-1 in a five-inning game. St. Louis beat Mineral Area in the loser's bracket to set up Saturday's championship game.

In early April, the Lady Archers travelled to Nevada and ended Cottey's school-record 18-game win streak, taking three of four games over a two-day period. St. Louis had to be thinking of that as they took the field against the Comets.

"We were better prepared this time around against St. Louis," said head coach Mark Skapin. "I can't say enough

about how hard this team has worked over the last two weeks, training specifically for this opponent," said Skapin of his team's preparation for St. Louis. "We kind of stopped preparing for many of our games over the last few weeks and only focused on getting ready for St. Louis."

Freshman pitcher Kirsten Wallace (15-2) was dominant as she pitched a complete game, giving up only three hits. Wallace held St. Louis scoreless until the seventh inning when the Lady Archers pushed across an unearned run. That was it, however, as the Comets shut the door and earned their second championship in as many years.

Skapin was named the region Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year. Wallace and Rayne Wright were named Region XVI First Team selections and Emily Killion and Izzy Milligan were named Region XVI Second Team selections.

The Comets earned the right to host a District Championship on May 10 against Illinois Central College from Region XXIV. The winner of the best-of-three series would be one of 16 teams to play in the NJCAA Division II World Series. Unfortunately for Cottey, the Comets dropped the first two games and were eliminated.

The Comets won't have a chance to "three-peat" a championship in Region XVI as this is their final season in the NJCAA. Cottey becomes a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) on July 1. (See story on page 7.) However, the members of the softball team know they finished their last two seasons in the NJCAA as champions.

Cottey College Gains NAIA Membership

The Comets became members of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) in 1999 when intercollegiate athletics were reintroduced at Cottey because the College was still a two-year institution. That membership made sense then, but in 2011 Cottey began offering Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees and students could stay at Cottey for four years to complete their undergraduate education...unless they wanted to continue playing their particular sports. Those students had the unenviable task of choosing to leave Cottey to continue their athletic career or abandoning the sport they loved to continue their baccalaureate degree program at Cottey.

Beginning July 1, however, student athletes won't have to make that tough call. On that date, Cottey becomes a full member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). The NAIA is a governing body of small college athletics programs that are dedicated to character-driven intercollegiate athletics. Cottey College was granted membership into the NAIA on April 17, 2018, at the 77th NAIA National Convention held in Kansas City, Missouri.

Describing the 10-month application and approval process, Cottey President Jann Weitzel said, "Cottey College has taken another major step forward by being accepted into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). On April 17, 2018, Athletic Director Stephanie Beason received word that Cottey was accepted into membership beginning with the

2018-2019 academic year. Membership will allow our amazing student athletes to remain at Cottey and compete for and represent the Comets for a full four years. This announcement follows a year of diligent work by our coaching, student life, and marketing personnel; this move to a four-year athletic program would not have been possible without their combined efforts. I invite all Cottey supporters to come out to cheer on one of the newest NAIA members, the Cottey Comets, when they are in your area."

"I get to play again here at Cottey for my third and fourth years. I could not be happier."
-Kelsey Acton

Athletic director and head basketball coach Stephanie Beason also commented: "The student athletes we recruit tell us they want to compete for the Comets for a full four years. Now our athletes can stay at Cottey to complete their bachelor's degree and play their sport for all four years as well. This can only make Cottey more attractive to potential student athletes."



Coaches and athletes from all of Cottey's athletic teams celebrate membership into the NAIA.

Basketball player Kelsey Acton's enthusiasm reflected the tone of most Cottey athletes: "I am so excited we are going NAIA," said Acton, "because that means I get to play again here at Cottey for my third and fourth years. I could not be happier."

Cottey officially becomes a member of the NAIA on July 1. The Comets will initially compete as an independent college, but will look at conference affiliations in the near future.

"The big step was acceptance into membership with the NAIA," said Beason. "As we take that first step into four-year competition, we will be looking at where the Comets might be a good fit based on our location and the athletic programs that Cottey offers."

Also joining the association in 2018 are seven other colleges: Columbia International University (SC), Florida National University, Green Mountain College (VT), Lincoln College (IL), Ottawa University (AZ) and The Pennsylvania State University Schuylkill and Thomas More College (KY).

NAIA schools must meet membership criteria that include financial stability, sports sponsorship, accreditation and a commitment to character-driven athletics. Cottey is a good fit for the NAIA as it meets the membership criteria, and 81 percent of the member institutions are also private colleges and universities. There are 250 member schools in the NAIA, with over 65,000 student athletes.



Freshman golfer Rachel Hancock (pictured above) finished in the top two in the Region XVI Women's Golf Tournament held April 20 at Excelsior Springs Golf Course in Excelsior Springs, Missouri.

Cottey Hires New Golf Coach

The Cottey College Athletic Department is pleased to announce the hiring of Nevada, Missouri's, Eric Cameron as the new head golf coach for the Comets.

As a collegiate athlete, Cameron competed at the NJCAA and NCAA Division II levels in baseball. Cameron spent his first career in federal law enforcement, serving over 14 years as a Federal Air Marshal and a United States Border Patrol Agent. Following his retirement, Cameron returned to his native Nevada to raise his family and to begin his second career in education and golf. He will be leaving his current position at the Nevada R5 School District at the end of the school year.

Cameron studied golf under Coach Rick Burk in 2014/2015 and is certified as a Professional Golf Coach through the Next Level Golf USA™ (NLGU) Performance Program in Virginia. He has been a Swing Coach for NLGU since 2015, helping students in the Nevada area through private instruction, including high school athletes and younger junior golfers. Cameron has experience coaching and developing contacts on many of the top junior golf tours around the nation, including the Hurricane Tour, Future's Junior Golf Tour, North Texas Junior Golf Tour, First Tee, and the U.S. Kids Tour. One of his current students, his daughter Emree, "M & M," age 10, is considered one of the best up and coming Junior female golfers in the nation.

"I'm very excited to be joining the Cottey athletics team and to get the golf program moving in the direction that was intended when the administrators added women's golf to the

athletic programming," commented Cameron. "Within this first year, I hope to recruit enough athletes to compete as a team and start building a family. From there it's a no brainer; we want to be playing golf deep into May at the National Championship."

Cameron has hit the ground running and is working to recruit additional golfers for the 2018-19 season. If you or someone you know is interested in playing golf for the Comets, you can reach Coach Cameron at ecameron@cottey.edu. He began his official duties on May 29.

The 2017-2018 season was the first season of competitive play for the Comets golf team. Beginning July 1, the golf team will join all of Cottey's athletic programs as a new member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).



THAT'S INCREDIBLE!

By Steve Reed

Those of you who are closer to my age may remember a television show from the early 1980s called "That's Incredible." It was cohosted by John Davidson, Fran Tarkenton, and Cathy Lee Crosby and featured regular folks performing a variety of stunts or showing off their unusual talents. Oftentimes the stunts were dangerous undertakings such as juggling knives or there was one brave soul who allegedly caught a bullet in his teeth. (I still question the legitimacy of that trick.) Retired Army Lt. Col. Earl Woods brought his young son Eldrick to the show to demonstrate his putting ability from virtually anywhere on the green. We know Eldrick Woods better today as Tiger.

While the show was usually entertaining, I can't ever recall an episode that made me exclaim, "That's Incredible!" I have, however, met a number of Cottey students and alumnae who make me say, "You're incredible."

This past year, Cottey College went through a process to rebrand itself. (You can read more about it in Stephen Dill's article on page 18.) The College contracted with Geile/Leon, an agency out of St. Louis, to help us define who we are and what we do best. One result was the tag line, "Creators of Incredible Futures."

The tag line identifies those students who come to Cottey and partner with the College to create an incredible future for themselves. Together, Cottey, the P.E.O. Sisterhood, alumnae, parents, and friends work together to enable incredible students to create incredible futures for themselves, their families, their communities and the world. Together we help students take action towards incredible.

Cottey is so successful in helping women create their incredible futures because it puts the resources in place that students need, gives them the preparation they need to be successful, and then has students take action. Whether it is spending a semester studying

"I took a long, deep breath and wondered as usual where to start. You start where you are is the secret of life. You do the next right thing you can see. Then the next."

**- Anne Lamott
*Traveling Mercies***

abroad, accepting an internship in their field, or applying for competitive scholarships and awards, Cottey provides opportunities for students to take action.

As Anne Lamott wrote in *Traveling Mercies*, "I took a long, deep breath and wondered as usual where to start. You start where you are is the secret of life. You do the next right thing you can see. Then the next."

It is from those actions that students "start where they are" and learn to do "the next right thing." Once they have learned that important lesson, the sky is the limit. Long after a Cottey student has graduated, she knows she can keep doing the next right thing and continue building her incredible future because she was given the confidence and encouragement to do so on campus.

Make no mistake, though, it is always the individual's choice whether or not to say "Yes!" to the next right thing. The individual is the one responsible for creating her own incredible future. What makes Cottey such a valuable partner in that process are the many opportunities provided to which a student can say, "Yes!"

In the pages of this issue, you'll read about students and alumnae who have created and

are creating incredible futures for themselves. Some students come to Cottey with well-defined dreams and amazing focus. I believe the majority of college students in the U.S., though, come to their institutions with a lot of drive, but no real idea of what it is they need to be doing to get where they want to go. All they know is they need a degree to get there.

I hope you enjoy reading about the incredible women in this issue. From the repeat regional softball champions to the Founder's Day award winners to high achieving students and alumnae, your College helps women create incredible futures – like yours!



Help prospective students create their own incredible futures. Send in your contribution to the Annual Fund today! Use the mailer you recently received or visit cottey.edu/giving.

Founder's Day



Tatsiana Khvitsko-Trimborn '10
Outstanding Young Alumna

"The feeling of flying, that's why I'm running so much. I want to feel it over and over again." This is how Tanya Khvistko-Trimborn explains her passion for running. Four years after the Chernobyl nuclear meltdown in 1986, Tanya was born in Belarus without fully-formed legs and also missing most of her fingers. She was sent to a boarding school at the age of six, and visiting American doctors with the group called Project Restoration found Tanya and brought her to Kansas City to be fitted for new prosthetics. She returned to the U.S. each summer for adjustments while learning English. She attended Cottey, graduating in 2010, and continued her education at MidAmerica Nazarene University in Kansas City. During her senior year, she was presented with a set of prosthetics on which she could run. Figuring out how to run almost immediately, she ran her first 5K just two months after receiving her new legs. Being very determined, she ran her first half marathon just one year later. Now she races nearly every weekend. Because her leg blades are visible when she runs, she is an inspiration to other amputees.

Tanya is the public relations specialist for Knit-Rite, a company that manufactures prosthetic socks. She and her new husband John live in Lenexa, Kansas.



Michael Richardson
Friend of the College

Michael Richardson started his career in 1976 as a part-owner of a small, upscale restaurant in Massachusetts. From there he held positions as a chef of a French restaurant in Charleston, chef of a catering company in Ft. Lauderdale and then running the kitchen of an Italian restaurant in Dallas. He then became a member of a 4-star restaurant team at the upscale Mansion on Turtle Creek. Michael also started a food company, named Richwood Farms, in which he developed a line of gourmet flavored nut products, which were ultimately sold in 700 stores nationwide, including Neiman-Marcus and Nordstrom. Michael was running a food operation in the Chicago area when he applied for and was hired as Cottey's Director of Dining in 1993. Preparing for this new venture, he read recipes from church suppers, bed and breakfasts and state fair winners that he thought students would like and then re-wrote the recipes to serve not four but one hundred. He rose to the demands of an international student body; adapted menus to provide vegetarian and vegan options; and in the recent past has adapted menus as gluten-free. He and his wife reside in Nevada and his daughter Rachel is a Cottey alumna.

Award Recipients



Sharon Mathers Secor '70
Distinguished Alumna

In 1995, Sharon Mathers Secor led a church group to Kenya to pursue mission possibilities, which started a 23-year humanitarian commitment of service in Kenya. Under Sharon's leadership and many years of persistence, dental clinics were built in two communities that lacked adequate dental services.

Under the direction of Kenyan dentists and staff, the clinics provide comprehensive and preventative services and oral health education to the general public with an emphasis on the poorest segments of society. She was inducted as an Honorary Fellow of the International College of Dentists in 2016 making her one of 126 people worldwide to receive this Honorary Fellowship. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of For the Good Period, a non-profit organization that works to create gender equity in education by providing reusable sanitary pads, reproductive health education and human rights-based community development for girls.

Sharon graduated from Montana State University in Bozeman with a sociology degree. In 1991 she joined the staff of First Presbyterian Church as the Youth Director where she served until her retirement in 2004. She and her husband Gary have four daughters and 10 grandchildren. They live in Fargo, North Dakota, where she is a member of P.E.O. Chapter Y.



Kate Barlow '15
Alumna Service Award

Kate Barlow was a non-traditional Cottey student in that she transferred in as a third-year student after having already received her associate degree. She quickly embraced the Cottey life getting involved and serving as a Golden Key, Resident Assistant, and the third-year class president. She spent her study abroad at Semester at Sea. Kate graduated from Cottey in 2015 with a degree in international relations, and as the valedictorian, spoke at her commencement. She has also worked during Vacation College in 2016, 2017 and again in 2018 being the main face during the week earning her the unofficial title of "cruise director."

Kate was raised in Wyoming on her family's ranch. She graduated with her JD from the University of Wyoming College of Law in 2018. Kate has spoken enthusiastically about Cottey to countless P.E.O. chapters and represented Cottey at the Wyoming State Convention. She is a fourth-generation P.E.O. and is a member of Chapter V, Gillette, Wyoming.



Lois Owings
Honorary Alumna

Lois Owings was the associate controller in the Business Office when she retired in June 2017 after almost 43 years of employment at Cottey. She worked her entire career in the Business Office serving as secretary, assistant to the business manager, accountant, assistant controller and then associate controller. She worked with four Cottey presidents – Drs. Evelyn Milam, Helen Washburn, Judy Rogers and Jann Weitzel – and five vice presidents for administration and finance.

Her daughter graduated from Cottey in 2004 and her son worked several summers in the Physical Plant. In her words, "Cottey has been an anchor for me not only as a place of employment but also as a community of fellow employees and students who have become friends."

Lois was born and raised in Nevada and earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from Missouri Southern State University. She resides in Olathe, Kansas, with her husband Chuck.

INCREDIBLE STUDENTS



Addison Espeseth and Malikah Fard-Allah

Recent Graduates to Help Others Create Incredible Futures

by Sarah Gage '18

This fall, **Malikah Fard-Allah** and **Addison Espeseth**, who both graduated in May with their Bachelor of Arts in English degrees, will be applying the skills they learned at Cottey as new teachers. Both alumnae will begin their careers with Teach for America (TFA), where they will act upon their passion for education equity as socially responsible women leaders.

Beginning in the fall of 2017, both students went through a rigorous application and interview process that lasted nearly four months. However, Malikah and Addison felt confident in their interviews and applications as a result of their Cottey educations. Both students received a significant amount of support, advice, and help from Cottey faculty — specifically the English Department — in preparing their TFA applications. Additionally, the College's emphasis on leadership played a role in the skills that Malikah and Addison will bring to their TFA classrooms.

"Cottey has taught me how to be a strong leader and advocate for myself and those who are voiceless," said Addison. "I firmly believe that without my experience at Cottey, I would not have been accepted to Teach for America."

Both students were able to use their Cottey career to highlight their skills and experiences, which set them apart from other TFA applicants.

"In the interview process, I was able to recount my experience as an active leader on campus. I learned early on in my college career that being a leader is about knowing when to lead and understanding when to follow," said Malikah.

Now that they have been accepted by TFA, Malikah and Addison will be able to grow in their leadership skills as they teach for two years in communities where there are high rates of educational inequality. Malikah has been placed in a Kansas City high school, where she will teach English.

Addison will work as an elementary school teacher in Las Vegas.

"I believe all children deserve an equal education, and Teach for America is a practical way to act on education equity. I hope to become more socially aware of the injustices in the United States public education system," said Addison.

Malikah shares Addison's sentiments, as her life goal is to open her own K-12 school for underprivileged kids in the United States. Seeing that her educational values and those of TFA aligned, Malikah was eager to become involved with TFA.

"I want to learn everything I can from an organization whose goal is educational equity, while also contributing to their program with my own innovative ideas," Malikah stated.

Through TFA, Malikah and Addison will be able to grow as socially responsible women leaders. Building on their Cottey educations and experiences, both alumnae will contribute to their classrooms by empowering their students and teaching them the value of an education.

"Despite their age, I never want my students to feel voiceless. I want to teach my students that they can do anything they set their minds to. I firmly believe change begins with each progressive generation," Addison said.

Malikah shares Addison's desire to instill passion and confidence in her students. "At Cottey, I have learned that I can make a difference, and that it really does take only one idea, one voice, or one thought to take steps in creating an incredible future."

Through TFA, Malikah and Addison are using their Cottey educations to create incredible futures for youth in the American public education system.

Editor's Note: Sarah Gage graduated this spring with her B.A. in English. This is her first article for the Viewpoint.

"I want to teach my students that they can do anything they set their minds to."
Addison Espeseth

Ndambakuwa Selected as Oxfam Change Leader

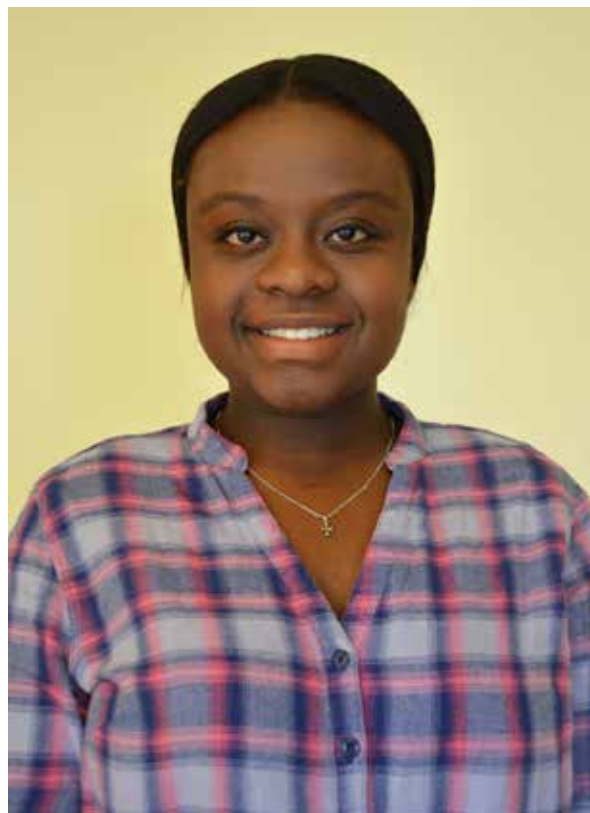
Cottey College student Yustinah Ndambakuwa was selected to the 2018 Oxfam CHANGE Initiative by Oxfam America. Ndambakuwa is one of only 30 students selected nationally this year after completing a competitive application review and selection process.

Ndambakuwa learned of the program through Oxfam's newsletter. She applied for the initiative and had Cottey professor of mathematics Dr. Wei Cui write her letter of recommendation. Ndambakuwa had phone interviews on January 8 and March 16 where she and the Oxfam representative discussed her passion for social justice. In April she was officially announced as a CHANGE Leader.

"I am excited to be among other young leaders learning about social justice and working together to make the world a better place," said Ndambakuwa. "I will be able to bring back to campus and share what I have learned."

The year-long program kicks off with a weeklong training in Boston this summer, where CHANGE Leaders get the chance to hear from Oxfam staff, CHANGE alumni and one another, as well as participate in workshops on leadership and advocacy training. CHANGE Leaders then take these skills back to campus, where they bring Oxfam's mission to life through teach-ins, panels, research projects, class curriculum, special events, campus clubs and more. Oxfam will support students with advice, materials and information throughout the year.

Founded in 2000, CHANGE has trained over 870 student leaders from more than 350 colleges and universities. Together they learn how to transform their passion for the



issue into meaningful action on campus and in their communities. Oxfam is a global organization working to end the injustice of poverty.

Elise Omais, Class of 2010, has been the only other Cottey student to be selected for this honor.



Dr. Dyke Kiel Honored by Local Rotary Club

Dr. Dyke Kiel (center), professor emeritus of music, receives congratulations from members of the Nevada, Missouri, Rotary Club. Each year the club selects a member who best exemplifies the ideals of Rotary - Service Above Self - and presents that person with a Paul Harris Fellowship. Dr. Kiel was honored as the 2018 Paul Harris Fellow.

Speakers Dr. Jann Weitzel, President of Cottey College; Steve Reed, Cottey College; Mary Ireland, Rotary member; and Rev. Chris Deines, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, all spoke of Dyke's volunteerism and generous spirit.

To the right is his wife, Becky Kiel, librarian emerita. Congratulations to Dr. Kiel!

Jemimah Nasara Named Newman Civics Fellow

Cottey College student Jemimah Nasara is one of 268 students named as a 2018 Newman Civics Fellows. Newman Civics Fellows are chosen by Campus Compact, a Boston-based non-profit organization. Nasara will participate in a one-year experience emphasizing personal, professional, and civic growth.

Nasara, a native of Nigeria, is double majoring in business administration-management and organizational leadership. Pursuing her desire to affect change for women and children through interfaith service, Nasara is an active volunteer leader on and off campus. Her service has included collection and distribution of donated clothing and toiletries to local women and children. Each Friday, she visits elderly women in a local senior care facility and volunteers to provide activities on the weekend through the campus Cross-Generational Sharing program. During summer and winter breaks, Nasara has provided leadership for interfaith community programs in Kansas, Nebraska and Kentucky working with underprivileged children in small, rural communities. To celebrate International Day of the Girl, she served as a mentor to middle and high school-aged girls during an intensive day-long workshop on empowering young women and inspiring them to pursue leadership skills and assume leadership positions. As a volunteer with a local domestic abuse shelter for women and children, she creates change by improving the lives of others and educating the community about social issues that face women and children in abusive situations.

"I became involved with issues of poverty and inequality after watching my mom assist an elderly couple," said Nasara. "As a social worker, she inspired me to think about individuals who were struggling with issues of poverty and homelessness and to help them any little way I could. I am involved in interfaith-based service activities on campus. These activities allow me to grow as a leader while working collaboratively with others on interfaith and diversity programs. My goal is to work alongside others to create the change that society needs; it all begins with one person who is willing to make a change. My overarching goal is to later work with underprivileged women and children in my home country, Nigeria."

The Newman Civic Fellowship is supported by the KPMG Foundation and Newman's Own Foundation. Through the fellowship, Campus Compact provides a variety of learning and networking opportunities, including a national conference of Newman Civic Fellows in partnership with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate. The fellowship also provides fellows with access to exclusive scholarship and post-graduate opportunities.



"My goal is to work alongside others to create the change that society needs; it all begins with one person who is willing to make a change."

Sophia's Choice

By Sherri Taylor
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

As the daughter of a P.E.O., Sophia Zetmeir, Past State President, Kansas State Chapter, grew up understanding the importance of women supporting women's education so it was only natural that education became an important part of her personal philanthropy.

Through her experiences with P.E.O. and as a member of the Board of Trustees for Labette Community College in Parsons, Kansas, Sophia recognized that many people want to give to scholarships. While this is important, she was also aware that colleges have other needs that can only be funded through philanthropy. During Cottey College's *Defining Moment* campaign, Sophia's contribution to the Fine Arts Building was inspired by her love of art and her desire to help move the art department "out of the basement and into a bright new space." Likewise, her recent gift for the renovation of the parlor in P.E.O. Hall was inspired by a recognition of the need for the space to be updated and her desire to create a bright new space for students to gather. The gratitude of the campus community for this contribution was on display when Dr. Weitzel announced Sophia's gift at a holiday gathering of faculty and staff, and again when she was introduced to students who greeted her with a standing ovation and enthusiastic rounds of applause.

"I don't give for accolades," Sophia humbly states, "I'm fortunate that I am able to make these gifts and hope that my giving inspires other people to be generous."

Sophia believes that young people, including her daughters and granddaughter, get involved with P.E.O. because they believe in the education of women and want to have a role in promoting the opportunities that P.E.O. makes available. Through her contributions to Cottey and other worthy organizations, it is her hope that others, including Cottey students, will recognize the pleasure that comes



Sophia Zetmeir receives a standing ovation from students when her gift for the renovation of the parlors was announced to the student body in January.

from identifying a need, then taking steps to do what they can to help meet that need.

This approach to philanthropy is one that Sophia shared with her late husband, Sonny, with whom she helped build the business, Grandview Products, which they purchased from his parents in the 1980s. Together, Sonny and Sophia grew the company from 20 employees to 280, doing business in 49 states. With their success came the opportunity to give back to their community. Often their gifts were made anonymously, sometimes through their company, and sometimes in their own names as an example for their children and others.

Sonny Zetmeir, like Sophia, encouraged others to be giving and charitable to whatever capacity they thought they could. Sonny passed away in 2013 but his legacy continues through the organizations he supported during his lifetime and through his estate. Sophia says, "More than anything, we've had so many people say thank you for supporting our community, it makes me want to do something. Those of us who have should give, because not everyone can. When you've been really fortunate – through work or inheritance, you should because who else is going to?"

Cottery's Oldest Hall to Get New Parlor

The annual faculty and staff holiday luncheon at Cottery College kicked off with a surprise announcement by Cottery College President Dr. Jann Weitzel that brought everyone to their feet. "I am pleased to announce a \$500,000 gift to the College from Mrs. Sophia Zetmeir of Parsons, Kansas, for the renovation of the parlors in Cottery's residence halls." [See article at left.]

"Cottery's parlors haven't been renovated in at least 40 years," said Dr. Weitzel. "The last renovations created more formal areas for socializing. Now, those parlors primarily serve as a pass-through space and are not locations that engage the students of today. We believe that the redesign of these common areas in the halls will create a synergy for residential life on campus by creating spaces in which our students will want to gather for club and organization meetings, study groups, and socializing."

Architects **GastingerWalker&**, who designed the Judy and Glenn Rogers Fine Arts Building, were retained to design the new P.E.O. parlor. They held focus groups with students after the first of the year and came up with two proposed designs. Those two designs were then put on display in the existing P.E.O. Hall parlor and architects explained the features of each design to students who were then asked to give a preference.

Almost immediately following Commencement, contractors began demolition of the parlor. Both the contractors and Cottery's physical plant staff will be exceptionally

busy as the goal is to have the new space completed by the time Orientation Weekend begins and students return to the halls.

One of the most anticipated features of the new parlor is... air conditioning! Contractors connected the parlor with the chiller on the north side of campus in June.

"Although air conditioning will be greatly appreciated by the students come August," said Neal Swarnes, director of the physical plant, "we think students will be impressed by the open, light and airy spaces with a contemporary look. The students are going to be wowed."

Furnishings are designed to be comfortable, while maintaining the historical architecture of the facility.

The next print issue of the *Viewpoint* will feature photos of the newly renovated parlor.



Architect Nicole Tidwell with GastingerWalker& points out potential features of the new P.E.O. parlor to students.



A resident of P.E.O. Hall examines the renderings provided by GastingerWalker& to see what the space may look like next fall.

Brand, NEW!

by Stephen Dill
Special Assistant to the President for Marketing

What is a brand?

The brand of a company, team, organization, or country is the impression that organization wants people to have when they hear the company name, see its logo, or experience its products, services, or culture. That brand impression can be factual as well as emotional. Over time, the brand becomes associated with brand attributes of credibility, quality, value, and customer satisfaction.

Brands change to appeal to new generations or to reflect new directions for the company it represents. Brand can be expressed in imagery, language, a slogan, colors, fonts, and sounds.

Why the new Cottey brand?

When Dr. Jann Weitzel assumed the role as president of Cottey College she heard over and over that the institution was a “best-kept secret.” She didn’t want Cottey to be a secret – the time had come to let the world know about this remarkable institution.

The design firm of Geile/Leon in St. Louis was commissioned to design a new brand for Cottey. They began by conducting extensive interviews with faculty, staff, students, and alumnae to understand what Cottey meant to them. After distilling those notes, a brand architecture was crafted that positioned the brand, defined the brand attributes, declared the brand promise, and provided the key talking points to describe the brand to others.

The challenge was then to translate the brand architecture into a logo and slogan, something that over time would be associated with the college and the experience of attending the college. Recognizing the use of the double C for Cottey College, two Cs were connected to suggest strength and confidence. The tagline “Creators of Incredible Futures” was identified as best representing the perceptions of the many who were interviewed. Around those two foundations of the brand the visual elements (images, image treatment, colors, and fonts) were decided next and the entire ensemble was presented in a brand guidelines book.

What does it look like?

Every brand wants positive brand recognition, usually triggered by a visual or verbal clue. So Geile/Leon designed a visual system to help Cottey stand out in a field of similar colleges, as well as to be memorable every time it was seen. From the brand guidelines: “The powerful portraits highlight the strong women of Cottey. They are confident and sure of their future. The clean backgrounds and bold



CREATORS OF INCREDIBLE FUTURES

colors demand your attention. The portraits should feature authentic and unique students or faculty.”

These portraits are used primarily in what Cottey Marketing calls “first-touch scenarios.” The strong, saturated colors extending across covers of collateral are bound to look different than most other materials that may arrive in the mail or be picked up at college fairs. When habits are interrupted, the brain comes alive to question why. In that



Welcome
to

COTTEY
COLLEGE

- Orientation begins Friday, August 17, and concludes Monday, August 20.
- If you arrive on campus at 8 a.m. you may begin by moving into your residence hall. If you arrive after 9 a.m. you may start either at your residence hall and move in or you may begin by checking in for Orientation in the Center for the Arts.
- Sessions for families will be held through Sunday, August 19, concluding at 12:30 p.m. with brunch.



short interval before the prospect goes back into routine and instinct, we have an opportunity to make an impression – a brand impression.

If they dig deep, they learn more and begin the journey of discovery. If nothing more than the initial thought, “What is this?” we have made an impression. With enough of those impressions being neutral or positive, the prospect’s memory of Cottey is a positive one and they are going to be more open to considering Cottey when the name comes up again in the context of where to go to college.

Once a student arrives on campus, she joins the staff, faculty, alumnae and supporters of Cottey in seeing the “insider’s view” of the brand. This view is not about interruption as much as it is about conveying the spirit of the community, the look of the campus, and the energy of the people of Cottey.

Messages to inside audiences really only need to remind people of the brand; the simple use of the logo or images can be enough to recognize the campus.

How to support the brand?

The single most important way to support the brand is to remove from circulation any lingering elements that were used before the new brand was launched. Any old materials, slogans, or images can confuse the person becoming aware of Cottey College for the first time.

The second most effective way to support the brand is to remember the concept of “first touch” and “insider.” For so many who are considering Cottey, their exposure is sporadic and sometimes unexpected. Until they are in seats taking classes we want them to have a consistent experience of a few rich colors, women looking confidently toward their incredible futures, and hearing a relatively narrow selection of phrases to describe what we offer.

Of course, wearing one of the new Cottey shirts would inspire some questions – pick one up next time you are in the Bookstore. And to most questions, suggesting that they visit cottey.edu is a safe way to get their questions answered. Finally, telling your Cottey truth is a powerful way to support the brand. The passionate telling of your own story and how Cottey influenced it goes well beyond the influence of images, colors, logo, and tagline.



Cottery Friends Lift Each Other Up

by Tracy Hass Cordova '04

In early January of 2009, **Clare Wade-Callihan '64** prepared to do what no parent should have to do – say farewell to her child. Clare's daughter, Tanya, who was diagnosed with endometrial cancer was losing her battle, and Clare's mother's cancer was in remission. Clare turned to Cottery to try and reconnect with an alumna during this difficult time. To fully appreciate the random events that were to soon unfold, one must start at the beginning of Clare's story.

Clare was born in Huntsville, Missouri, a small town of about 700; she attended school all 12 years in the same building. The year she was born, both her mother and grandmother added Clare to the Cottery student list.

"I was from a P.E.O. lineage. It was never a question where I was going to go. We looked at [Cottery] as a second-rate school until I got there. It really was an amazing thing."

Quickly Clare realized her schooling was not on par with Cottery's academics. Having never had to study before, she

faced a steep learning curve. The gymnastics coach helped Clare discover her confidence.

"Dr. Strasser was my saving grace. Back then Cottery had gymnastics and he took me under his wing. He was eccentric as all get out! He gave me the courage and believed in me enough to help me believe in myself."

Clare left Cottery after one year to marry and then moved with her new husband to Alamogordo, New Mexico; he was stationed to work in the neuro-physiological labs at Holman Air Force base where they researched animals being sent to space.

Fast forward quickly through Clare's life – she continued her studies and chose physics as a major in between having five children and moving from New Mexico, to Colorado, to California, and back to New Mexico. She has worked as a vendor for many of the big name national theme parks, including Disney, and for National Parks, and as a general manager for a Native American clothing company.

"I moved to Albuquerque, N.M., in August [1994]. On television they kept going on about the Balloon Fiesta. My youngest son was visiting so I grabbed my camera and we went. I found my lust. It had me written all over it. I'd never seen one up close before, these giant bags of wind. I didn't know how they worked or what they did."

Terrified to be in a glass elevator or in a car overlooking a cliff, Clare was eager to start ballooning and by the following year she had earned her Hot Air Balloon Pilot's private and commercial rating from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

"When I land, it is like trying to land an eight-story building; it's 90 feet tall. I can only control going up or down. The air controls horizontal movement. When you are flying at the speed of wind there is no feeling of movement in the basket. It's very surreal in a balloon. The burner is very noisy, but even new passengers, after the first few minutes, get used to it. To me it's a worship experience."

Clare became increasingly active in the ballooning community. She was invited to fly Dawn Patrol* at the Albuquerque International Balloon Festival (AIBF), became the director of the AIBF Balloon Fiesta Academy (a youth program that promoted volunteerism), and was invited to fly her balloon at many other events. In 2000 she accepted an invitation to pilot at Farmington's (N.M.) Balloon Rally.

"We landed in a cul-de-sac. A bunch of neighbors came out. I put lines out and we offered tethered rides until we ran out of propane. They invited us to come for a pool party and a barbecue. We had so much fun that night that they [Donna Smith and neighbors] invited us to stay with them the next year."



Clare Wade-Callihan '64 descending into a copper mine



COTTEY
COLLEGE

Incredible Futures



Turns out, Donna and Clare had a common thread – both are Cottey alumnae. Clare stayed with the Smiths during the annual Farmington rally each year until it was discontinued in 2005. During this same time frame, Clare had much going on personally. She moved her mother into her guest house, co-founded the BFA Summer Youth, and was initiated into P.E.O.

When Tanya's cancer returned, Clare tried reaching out to Donna to reconnect; however, Donna had moved, and her phone number was no longer valid. Knowing Cottey had just conducted a directory update, Clare called the college looking for her friend.

"After calling all the children (5) and while trying to make all the airline arrangements work, I received an email with information from the Cottey alumnae office. I was fairly certain that this was not my Donna but decided to call."

As Clare explained who she was looking for and why, Donna Pabst (not "Clare's Donna") invited Clare and her whole family to stay at her home while she was gone for the weekend. After much persuasion, Clare accepted the offer. In addition to opening her home, Pabst offered the family a van to use during their stay.

Clare had shared news of her trip with her close ballooning friends. During the trip, Clare was able to take her daughter on a tethered balloon flight, another contact arranged for the family to have a free photography session, and another contact organized board games to be brought to the family. The weekend ended up being a joyous family gathering.

When Clare returned home from the trip, she tried sending a letter to the last known address she had for Donna Smith. The couple living in the home gave the letter to the neighbors who then forwarded the letter on to Donna. Eight days later, Tanya passed in her sleep. Once again, the Pabsts invited Clare to stay with them.

A couple weeks passed and one morning while Clare was preparing for work the phone rang.

"Hello.' I KNEW it was MY Donna! I was able to share with her all that happened and got her new contact information. I sent the information to the alumnae office."

Over 100 people attended Clare's 50th Cottey reunion and she plans to return for her 60th. Her granddaughter **Lauren Stephens '16** was in one of the first baccalaureate graduating classes.

"At the time, I didn't fully appreciate what Cottey did for me. I wasn't prepared for it; it was the beginning of my learning curve. It wasn't until years later I looked back and realized just how precious the bonds were that we formed."

Ballooning Career:

Clare is extremely humble when it comes to her notoriety in the balloon pilot community. She has been recognized with two national ballooning awards – the BFA President's Award for co-founding a youth balloon program and the Director's Award for her service to the BFA in offering numerous safety talks and balloon education courses. The 99's, a national organization of women pilots, have recognized her as the "Woman of the Year." She and her balloon crew have been sponsored at AIBF by Subway for 14 years. And she has been a member of the Dawn Patrol for over 20 years and the only woman in the group of pilots for the last 7 years.

* *Regulations only allow hot air balloons to fly during the daylight hours. Dawn Patrol pilots have a special position lighting system that allow them to take off in the dark and fly until it is light enough to see landing sites, which allows fellow pilots to get an idea of wind speeds and directions at different altitudes. The Dawn Patrol for the Albuquerque International Balloon Festival is an invitation-only group that performs a choreographed inflation and launch set to music.

Class Notes

1970s

Linda (Vanderhoff) Gordon '75 retired in the summer of 2017 following 36 years as an educator, most recently serving as associate professor of education at Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Missouri. Linda served as an English/speech/theatre teacher for 12 years at the high school-level, 10 years in middle school, and then 14 at the college level. In May 2017, she was awarded the John McCallum Excellence in Teaching Award from fellow faculty at Missouri Valley College and was very humbled by this honor.

1980s

Angela Baker Gassen '89 graduated from Emporia State University in May with her master's degree in instructional design and technology. Adding to the celebration was her oldest daughter, Robin, graduating with her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Emporia State the same weekend.

1990s

Nadina Colombo '94 graduated in December from Mississippi State University with her Master of Business Administration degree.

2000s

Sarah Haney '09 moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas, in May 2017 and accepted a new job as an Advertorial Writer at the *Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. She has been published in numerous magazines, newspapers, online media, and special sections since accepting the position. Below is a picture of Sarah enjoying her new favorite book store in Fayetteville.



Sarah Haney '09

2010s

Caitlyn Davis '12 is currently working as the High School Guide at the Acton Academy in Guatemala City.

Davis was Cottey's first recent semester-long study abroad student in what is now an increasingly long list of students. She received the nationally-competitive U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman



Caitlyn Davis '12

Scholarship, which helped make it possible for her to participate in the Social Change in Central America: Exploring Peace, Justice, and Community Engagement program offered by the Center for Global Education and Experience at Augsburg University.

After graduating with an associate's degree from Cottey, Davis transferred to Bennington College in Vermont and earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts with a focus on education and poverty alleviation. At Bennington, Ms. Davis worked in the Center for the Advancement of Public Action to develop roles for students in the program and complete projects under the mentorship the President of the College, Dr. Elizabeth Coleman.

Davis fell in love with Guatemala as a child during her visits there and has carried with her a desire to live and work in that country. She remained in the U.S. for six weeks after graduating to save more money, and she then moved to Guatemala with the goal of finding a job within six months or returning to the U.S.

Through contacts she made in Guatemala during the two-months field work terms required of Bennington students each year, Ms. Davis was able to secure positions teaching English in schools and privately in the Guatemala highlands' town of Xela (pronounced Shay')

Class Notes

continued from page 22

lah). Seven months later, Ms. Davis moved to the historic town of Antigua, Guatemala, to join Common Hope, a non-profit group focused on improving access to education through assistance with housing, healthcare and tutoring.

During her 15 months there, Ms. Davis worked to help groups of potential donors understand the mission of the organization, coordinated the activities of groups of volunteers, participated in individual tutoring and assisted in the library.

Davis' chose her current position as a teacher at the Acton Academy serving a K-12 population because of the unique style of education it promotes. The goal of the program is to develop independent learners through use of multiple tools including the Montessori and Socratic methods of education, writings that have changed the world, independent projects, etc. Davis' specific area

of focus is with students in grades 9-12, helping them find opportunities for extended learning, creating plans for internships and independent learning projects, improving basic skills and accessing resources needed to support in-depth learning. Davis intends to take the experiences and knowledge that she is gaining currently in this affluent environment and translate them to work with impoverished communities. Within the next three years, Davis hopes to return to the United States to complete a Ph.D. program in the School of Education at Harvard University.

Davis anticipates spending her life working in the field of education and splitting her time between Guatemala and the United States. She is engaged to Fernando Orozco, a photographer and Guatemalan citizen. They live in Guatemala City with their dog, Canela (cinnamon).



Congratulations to all 2018 graduates!

Pictured left are First Lei recipient Haley Van Dyke and Second Lei recipient Chloe Bietsch. First Lei is presented to the associate degree graduate with the highest scholastic average, and Second Lei is presented to the associate degree graduate determined by a vote of the faculty to be outstanding in the areas of leadership, student government, and academic, social and community affairs and who best exemplifies the spirit and ideals of the College. The leis are provided by P.E.O. Chapter C, Hawaii.

Obituaries

LaJune Goss '60 died on May 28, 2018, at the age of 78.

LaJune worked in the oil and gas business for 50 years. She was among the first female petroleum landmen in Nebraska.

LaJune was the daughter of **Mary Morris '30**; niece of **Betty Marquardt '29**; mother of **Marita Morris '81** and **Michele (Morris) Spieker '82**; and the grandmother of **Michele Whetstone '07**. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to Cottey College in the name of LaJune Goss. Condolence cards may be sent to: 10443 N. May Ave, No. 607, Oklahoma City, OK 73120.

The College was notified of the deaths of the following alumnae

Mary Ann (Napier) Crans '36
Esther (Connett) Woodward '39
Beverly J. (Murray) Kimball '44
Pauline (Morey) Vineyard '44
Joan Ruth (Kennick) Scott '46
Bonnie Lee (Dickson) Steele '46
Mary Celia (Putnam) Tuttle '46
Madelyn (Cawood) Bonte '47
Joanne W. (Hill) Allen '50
Rev. Martha (Craig) Lewis '50
Joyce E. (Pults) McCarty '54
Yuko Grace Hayashi '55
Judith (Williams) Rockey '55
Jarol (Beltz) LeGate '56
Kae (Robinson) Santman '56
Marion E. (Billett) Johnson '57
Dr. Norma Schell '58

Nancy Bloemendaal '58
Marilyn (Row) Crites '58
Barbara (Linn) Lindstrom '59
Katharine Louise (Bradley) Franson '59
Suzanne (Hausladen) Dunne '59
Emilie Gardner Dick '59
Jane (Ackley) Stratton '60
Alice (Selch) Stephenson '61
Donna (Jones) Hulse '62
Donnie Jo (Trefts) Bild '66
Kathleen Magee '67
Rev. Joan Stary Jacobus '68
Mary (McLaughlin) Farley '68
Andrea (Deist) Durham '70
Sharon (Voshell) Roling '71
Dr. Laurel (McLaughlin) Blackwell '73
Elizabeth (Heck) Kingseed '75
Emily Edwards Green '96

Class Notes

Births

2000s

Cristina (Culbertson) Gray '03, along with husband Scott, added a few more kids to the Gray family. Sebastian Luther Gray was born February 14, 2014, and Charity Autumn Gray was born September 27, 2015. Both were home births. The Grays feel truly blessed with their large family in Marana, Arizona. [PHOTO 1]

Elisa (Danner) Couture '06 and husband Matthew Couture welcomed son William Maverick on January 30. They are enjoying being first time parents, having lots of baby snuggles and planning a vacation to Colorado this summer to introduce William to family and friends. [PHOTO 2]



2010s

Brianna Blacklock '10 sent a photo of her and her suitemates' children. The four of them met as suitemates in Co-Thom during their first year at Cottey in 2008. This is their second year in a row getting their children together for a photo on Brianna's couch! The top picture is from last year, and the bottom is from last month with a few very cute additions!

- **Brianna Blacklock '10** - Llewyn, born December 2014
- **Amanda (Sebree) English '10** - Owen, born March 2015
- **Erica (Griffin) Hansen '10** - Griffin born August 2015 & Braxton born October 2016
- **Allyssa Miller '10** - Bryce, born November 2015 & Jullien, born November 2016



Class Notes

Nichole (Jackson) George '04 is pleased to announce the arrival of Nolan Dean, born April 12, 2016. He was 8 lbs., 7 oz., 20.5 inches long, and such a chunk! [PHOTO 3]

Molly Mosier '05, along with husband Dustin Mosier, welcomed their twin girls in Doha, Qatar, on November 18, 2017. Lilith Audra was born at 5:31 p.m. and weighed 4 lbs., 12 oz. Edith Alice was born at 5:32 p.m. and weighed 3 lbs., 13 oz. [PHOTO 4]

Cassie (Kaminski) Billups '09, along with husband Eric, welcomed Ellery Joy Billups on December 17, 2017. Ellery weighed 6 lbs., 1 oz., and was 19.5 inches long. [PHOTO 5]



Share the News!

Everyone has a story to tell.
What's yours?

Whether you're announcing a change of careers or a new baby in the house, your Cottey classmates want to know about it. Here's how to share it in the *Viewpoint*.

Send an email to editor Steve Reed at sreed@cottey.edu and put Viewpoint in the subject line. Tell us in the body of the text what's going on in your life. (Remember to include your class year!)

If submitting a photo, send as an attachment rather than inserting into the body of your email.

Class Notes

Weddings

1990s

Darya Zhuk '99 married Guy Cimbalo in Sea Cliff, Long Island, in September 2017. Alumnae **Yuliya Smyk '98** and **Elena Latier (Bakcheeva) '99** were present at the traditional Russian Orthodox ceremony. [PHOTO 1]

2000s

Sarah Roulston '04 married PJ McCormick on July 17, 2017, at 9 a.m. Icelandic time on the largest subglacial volcano (Katla Volcano / Mýrdalsjökull glacier) in Iceland. In total, on their wedding adventure they hiked over eight miles and 72 'flights of stairs' ('stairs' being figurative here, as there were NO stairs, only rocks, ice and moss!) The day was 16 hours long and consisted of over nine breathtaking locations around southern Iceland. They splashed through rivers in a tripped-out Land Rover, climbed into canyons, shared laughs in ice caves that have already melted, sat on the edge of a mountain cliff and stood silently in awe of secret waterfalls...it.was.epic! [PHOTO 2]

Rebecca Ward Christensen '06 met Clark Christensen in October 2016 at a meeting for Order of the Eastern Star in Guthrie, Oklahoma. They stayed in contact and eventually started dating in 2017. On March 23, 2018, in Oklahoma City they got married in a small ceremony. Since both are traveling the state with Eastern Star to visit the membership and raise money for Make a Wish of Oklahoma, they have decided to have a larger ceremony for family and friends as well as a reception after their year of travel. The couple reside in Choctaw, Oklahoma. [PHOTO 3]



Class Notes

2010s

Mary Katherine Kerbs Best '12 married Lyle Best on June 3, 2017, in Nevada, Missouri. It was a true Cottey wedding, featuring bride and groom rubber ducks on the cake and Skinna-ma-rinking the groom! **Kathrina Schneckloth '12** was a bridesmaid. Also in attendance were **Lindsey Hollis '13**, **Erin Chuchovich '11**, **Julie Kurtz Messerole '86**, **Nancy Delehanty Kerbs '79**, **Brittne Walker '12**, and President Emerita Helen Washburn. Lyle and Katherine have settled in Linn, Missouri. Lyle is the superintendent at a nearby rural school district. Katherine graduated from law school in May 2017, passed the bar exam, and is a drafting attorney for the Missouri House of Representatives. [PHOTO 4]

Abbey Young Hirsch '17 married her high school sweetheart, Brent Hirsch, on June 24, 2017, in Abilene, Kansas. Abbey's California-Weller suitemates **Sarah Gage '16**, '18 of Colorado and **Stephanie Zerkel '16** of Arizona along with classmate **Sallie Proudfoot '17** of Florida were bridesmaids. Lots of other past and present Cottey ducks were in attendance as well. Abbey and Brent honeymooned in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and are now both students at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas. [PHOTO 5]



In Memoriam Jane Louise Stratton

Jane Louise Stratton, member of the former P.E.O. Chapter PA, California, and daughter of the late Jon O. Hondrum, former Cottey College President (1969-1974), and his wife, the late Ona Lou Hondrum, passed away at age 76 from complications due to Lewy Body Dementia on November 10, 2017.

Jane is survived by her husband, Dr. S. Duane Stratton, son, Ken Stratton, daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren.

She earned the B.A. in Social Anthropology from Long Beach State University, where she was awarded the Phi Kappa Phi for academics, and later did post-graduate studies in counseling at the University of Utah. In 1979 she earned the JD law degree from the University of California Hastings School of Law where she was one of a handful of women in her class and a member of the school's Law Review staff.

Jane led a full and varied life. It all started when she moved to Europe in 1945 because her dad was put in charge of relocating the POWs who were released from the Nazi concentration camps. Then a few years later while living in Egypt, they were given thirty minutes to board a boat in Cairo and leave the country as one Col. Nasser was beginning a coup. She and her family ended up in Malta after that one.

Even after Duane left the military, travel all over the world became their major past-time. In fact her family noted that Jane had traveled on or lived in all seven of the world's continents. And that included Antarctica where she spent ten days on an ice breaker touring up and down the Antarctic Peninsula.

Dr. Angela Firkus, professor of history at Cottey College, has been awarded the 2018 fellowship from The Center for Missouri Studies on economic history in the greater Kansas City area for her proposed study, “Girls Wanted, Experience Unnecessary. Good Pay’: Child Labor in Kansas City during the Progressive Era.”

“Recent scholarship on child labor at the turn of the twentieth century has emphasized the competing interests involved,” Firkus said. “Children, parents, reformers, labor unions, government officials, and business owners of Kansas City were all invested in this complex issue. I’ll be investigating the development of and response to child labor and child labor restrictions in a city on which researchers of the topic have so far failed to focus.”

The fellowship recipients will hold their appointments for the 2018 calendar year. Each will write a scholarly essay for possible publication in the *Missouri Historical Review*, the quarterly journal of the State Historical Society, and will also make a public presentation of their work. The fellowship awards include stipends of \$5,000.

In addition to the fellowships, the Center for Missouri Studies’ programs include publications such as the *Review*; educational programs like National History Day in Missouri; and public events such as the African American Experience in Missouri lecture series, cohosted with the University of Missouri and sponsored by the Missouri Humanities Council.

In March, 2018, **Dr. Kathy Pivak**’s students in ENG211 Jane Austen Home and Museum traveled to Chawton, England, where they visited Jane Austen’s house and Chawton Library. The library is dedicated to recovering works by eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British women writers. During the same week, ENG211 The Making of Harry Potter students traveled to Warner Bros. Studio in Leavesden, England, to visit the studio used in the filming of all eight Harry Potter films. Dr. Pivak selected excerpts from reflective essays the students submitted after their trips, discussing their learning and expressing their appreciation for the financial support.

Select Excerpts from ENG211 Reflective Essays

Jane Austen House and Museum:

1. The fact that I was able to read from one of my favorite authors and learn about her and her world, and then experience it, will probably go down as one of my fondest memories. To stand where such an amazing woman stood will forever stay with me as I try to be an amazing woman as well.
2. I would really like to thank those responsible for awarding the funds used for the trip and to let them know that being in the home of a woman writer like Jane Austen, seeing it preserved for so long, and then seeing a library filled with books written by women was a very empowering experience.
3. I am grateful for the funding that made the class and excursion possible.

The Making of Harry Potter:

1. I learned so much about filmmaking. [The trip] made it so much fun...seeing all the amazing props, costumes... But the finale was the [model of the] castle...it was extraordinary....walking into the Great Hall...felt like I

was walking in as a first year [student at Hogwarts] to be sorted into my house. Amazing.

2. Taking the class helped prepare me for the trip....I gained a better sense of what it is like to convert a book to film and a higher appreciation for all the work that went into making the movies.

3. This was one of the coolest experiences I have ever had. I grew up with Harry Potter and getting to see the studio was a dream come true. Thank you.

4. I gained a new appreciation for how cinematography is done. I also gained some inspiration for future career options I had never considered before—being a historic advisor on movies and T.V. series.

5. I learned a great deal...about...all the work that goes into making a movie.

6. I never thought I was going to learn so much during this trip....I was able to receive insight on how things were made and done. I never realized how film making is so intricate, detailed, and fascinating.

A complete listing of the traditional Faculty/Staff notes will be available in the online version of this issue of the *Viewpoint*.



The following faculty and staff members announced their retirements. Left to right: Carol Urner, office assistant, marketing and institutional advancement; Judy Gossett, housekeeper; Dr. Michael Emery, professor of English; Marcia Morton, registrar; Michael Richardson, director of dining services, chef; Darrell Eaton, maintenance technician; Dr. Robert Jones, professor of biology. Not pictured, Dr. Chris Peterson, professor of biology.

Faculty Retirements

Dr. Michael Emery, professor of English, retired at the end of the academic year after 29 years of teaching at Cottey. Dr. Emery joined the faculty at Cottey College in 1989. He was designated the Hattie B. Touhy Professor of English in January 2004 and assumed the role of faculty marshal for the College in 2015.

Over the past 29 years, Dr. Emery has taught a wide array of courses in the English department, including College Writing, Creative Writing, Shakespeare, American Poetry, American Literature, Introduction to Literature, Topics in Poetry, Introduction to the English Major, and Excursions. He has also shared his interest in films by teaching American Film and Introduction to Film Studies. Students often comment about Dr. Emery's knowledge and passion for writing and how he inspired their desire to write stories, explore different genres of literature, and appreciate poetry.

Dr. Emery has served the College in a number of ways. His committee service activities include terms on the Personnel Committee, Curriculum Committee, Assessment Committee, and Library Advisory Board, as well as a number of search committees. He regularly served as coordinator of library acquisitions for the Humanities Division and as the faculty

advisor for *The Image Tree*, a student literary publication. Dr. Emery has taught classes for Vacation College, assisted with "C" for Yourself events, participated in summer science workshops, and prepared educational modules for the Barcelona international trip. He is a regular contributor of book reviews to *Choice Magazine*, which is published by the American Library Association.

Dr. Robert Jones, professor of biology, retired at the end of the academic year after 27 years of teaching at Cottey. Dr. Jones joined the faculty in 1991 and was designated the Eloise M. Cost Professor of Science in 2013. He has served the College admirably and made significant contributions as a teacher and mentor. Dr. Jones recently served as chair of the Science and Mathematics Division and member of the Dean's Council. He has served on numerous ad hoc and faculty standing committees, including the Personnel Committee, Academic Committee, Advising Committee, Faculty Senate, Institutional Review Board, Athletics Advisory Board, Change Application Steering Committee, and several faculty searches. His service is not restricted to standing committees as he also supports student groups, including the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship organization, which he advised as faculty sponsor.

Dr. Jones has regularly taught departmental offerings in Introductory Biology, Principles of Biology, Genetics, Molecular Biology, as well as the labs associated with each of these courses. His course evaluations confirm the supportive manner in which he engages students through his availability, patience, and sense of humor. Students acknowledged Dr. Jones' excellence in teaching when they selected him as Teacher of the Year in 2007 and Master Educator in 2001 and 2002.

Dr. Chris Peterson, professor of biology, retired from teaching in December 2017. Dr. Peterson joined the faculty at Cottey College in 1991 and was designated the Iva Corpstein Professor of Science in 2013. Dr. Peterson has an impressive list of noteworthy contributions in his 27 years of service; however, we must honor his request not to list any of those accomplishments. We are grateful for Peterson's years of dedicated service as a teacher, advisor, and mentor to students and colleagues, and we wish him well in his retirement years.

Those wishing to make a gift in honor of one of these retirees should contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at advancement@cottey.edu or 417-667-8181, ext. 2120.



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Cottey College has a new logo, a new tagline, and a fresh new look for today's college students.

Learn more about Cottey's new brand, and how Cottey will use it to appeal to prospective students. See the article by Stephen Dill beginning on page 18.