



COTTEY

COLLEGE

2019-2021 PRESIDENT'S BIENNIAL REPORT

CONTENTS



Letter from the President	4
Degree Programs	6
Cotley Experience	8
College News	10
COVID-19 Response	12
Taking Stock at Cotley College	14
Leadership Development	16
Stock Trading Lab/E-Sports Arena	18
Cadaver Lab	22
Creating Incredible Futures	24
Letters from Alumnae	26
Study Abroad	28
P.E.O. Support	30
Scanning the Past, Informing the Future	32
Creating New Connections	36
Board of Trustees & Mission	38



As stressful as recent events may have been, they have resulted in great personal growth and lessons of resilience, perseverance, patience, and understanding.

***Jann Weitzel, Ph.D.
President, Cottey College***

At Cottey College, our mission is to educate students “to be contributing members of a global society through a challenging curriculum and a dynamic campus experience.”

The 2019-2021 biennium has been a thought-provoking, challenging, yet exciting time for our students and for our College. As we worked over the past two years to graduate students to enter the workforce or move on to graduate school, we have layered on top of our typical activities the COVID-19 pandemic, concerns related to social justice, and a contentious election cycle. As stressful as recent events may have been, they have resulted in great personal growth and lessons of resilience, perseverance, patience, and understanding.

As the P.E.O. Sisterhood works to increase diversity among its membership, Cottey, too, continues to maintain and expand diversity among its faculty and students. As the pandemic and world politics calm, we are desirous of continuing to welcome a diverse population to our campus, for doing so enriches the student experience; we all learn from others whose experiences and perspectives differ from our own. Because Cottey is located in a small community in the middle of the Midwest, we take seriously our responsibility to bring the world to Cottey and to introduce Cottey students to the world. All students participate in a week-long international experience with travel and lodging paid for by the College. These opportunities encourage our students to view themselves as citizens of the greater society.

Over the past two years, Cottey added a new baccalaureate program in elementary education and was approved to offer math certification as a category

of secondary education. These programs accompany the twelve existing four-year programs, two-year programs, and a variety of minors.

As academic programs have expanded, so have opportunities in athletics. Cottey added esports and flag football to the already existing programs in basketball, cross country, golf, softball, track, and volleyball. Each of these programs offer athletic scholarships, enabling students to continue playing the sports they love while also helping finance their educations.

Over the past biennium, Cottey’s campus has welcomed changes in its physical structure. The College added a stock trading lab/esports arena; a newly refreshed library; the purchase of adjacent property to provide additional housing options and create a new wellness center; air conditioning to Reeves Hall; and the renovation of our beautiful chapel accompanied with the creation of the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Campus Life.

In the following pages, we will share facts and news about our College, our response to the pandemic, how the College prepares students for their futures, and much more. Our goals are to inform our P.E.O.s about Cottey and to inspire them to continue telling Cottey’s story to prospective students. For over 90 years, Cottey and the P.E.O. Sisterhood have been partners in the education of women. Both organizations exist for the same purpose and work to achieve the same result: providing educational opportunities for women. We value our partnership with P.E.O. and will continue striving to make our P.E.O. Sisters proud of their incredible college.

Sincerely,

Jann Weitzel

DEGREE PROGRAMS

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration-Management

Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education

Bachelor of Arts in English

Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies

Bachelor of Arts in International Business

Bachelor of Arts in International Relations

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts

Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Bachelor of Arts in Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Criminology

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education

Bachelor of Science in Biology

Bachelor of Science in Health & Biomedical Sciences

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

Associate in Arts

Associate in Arts-Music

Associate in Fine Arts-Art

Associate in Fine Arts-Theatre

Associate in Science



COTTEY EXPERIENCE



SERVICES

The Office of Student Life provides leadership development, counseling services, and access to on-campus health services. The Academic Assistance Center provides resources for career counseling, academic advising, and tutoring, as well as information on volunteering and internships.

ATHLETICS AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Cottey offers 25 campus organizations representing academic areas, cultural and recreational interests, or social, religious, and volunteer activities. Students can also compete in intercollegiate sports as a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

EVENTS

Cultural events, performances, lectures, workshops, and recreational activities are offered without additional cost to students. Visit cottey.edu for a complete calendar of events.

RESIDENCE HALLS

Three residence halls each house 100 to 150 students who live in apartment-style suites. Each suite accommodates 10 to 12 students and includes single and double bedrooms, a living room, a large bathroom, and a kitchenette.

Cottey's residential student capacity of 350 women typically represents 40 states and 20 countries.

COLLEGE NEWS

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly given Cottey College its own unique set of challenges, and yet the past biennium has proven to be a time of growth and success for the College. Cottey has seen enrollment growth, improved standing in academic rankings, and the addition of new spaces as well as two new sports programs. None of these happened in a vacuum. Hard work and laser-like focus on the mission of the institution have given Cottey the opportunity to thrive.

In September 2019, U.S. News & World Report recognized Cottey as the #2 Best Regional College in the Midwest for 2020, a jump from #7 the previous year. Cottey faculty, staff, and administration were ecstatic over the improvement. One year later, after a spring semester drastically altered by the pandemic, Cottey topped the Midwest Region rankings. The College was listed as #1 Best College in the Midwest Region, along with #1 in Best Value

Schools, #3 in Social Mobility, #4 in Schools with Largest Proportion of International Students, and #6 in Lowest Debt Load at Graduation.

In addition, during this past biennium, the College was ranked #1 in lowest Student/Faculty Ratio by The Chronicle of Higher Education and was listed as a Best Value School by University Research and Review. Cottey was also listed as the #2 Best Regional Colleges in the Midwest by College Consensus.

The last two years have seen changes to the physical plant of the campus as well. Although no new buildings were erected, new spaces for academics and student life were created in under-utilized and/or unused locations.

The largest project is the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Campus Life, which completely transformed the lower level of the Chapel and the grounds to the east and west of the facility. The groundbreaking was held on August 18, 2020, and the renovated space was dedicated on March 27, 2021, on the birthday of our founder, Virginia Alice Cottey.

This facility now houses the Chellie Club snack bar, the Spirit Shop (formerly known as the Bookstore), meeting rooms, casual spaces, and lockers for commuter students. The outdoor spaces have been reconfigured to allow accessibility to the lower level for all patrons as well as to create wonderful gathering spots for all. The addition of the terrace to the west and the amphitheater to the east provides natural lighting for what used to be a dark basement space.

The Center for Campus Life is centrally located among all of the residence halls. As part of the project, the sanctuary and side chapel received facelifts and air conditioning, which makes both much more usable spaces year-round. A new meditation and prayer room was also added to serve the faith needs of our diverse student population.

While all of these accomplishments are noteworthy, they would be moot points if there were no students to take advantage of these new spaces and opportunities. Fortunately,

Cottey has seen an increase in enrollment as well. In September of 2020, the College announced that student enrollment had increased by 10.5 percent over the previous year. The increase comes from growth in first-year students, an increased effort in retaining students, and the addition of more student athletes. Student athletes comprised 29.7 percent of the total student body in fall 2020.

Weekly reports from the Office of Enrollment Management show that metrics are up for enrollment for the fall 2021 semester. In every category across the board—applications, acceptances, and deposits—numbers are up significantly compared to the fall 2020 semester. At this writing, it's still too little early to make predictions, but it would appear again that more students are choosing Cottey College.



COVID-19 RESPONSE

As the COVID-19 virus began to spread in the U.S. in February and March of 2020, it became more and more apparent that this event would affect everyone everywhere. Because of its size, Cottey College was able to be nimble in its response to the challenges faced.

When Cottey made the decision to send students home in March of 2020, students were contacted individually to assess their learning situation and provided with technology or resources to help them complete their semester. This personal contact and educational assistance continued through the spring and throughout the following academic year.

Some students needed to stay on campus in order to finish the spring 2020 semester. Support from P.E.O. members around the country poured in—masks, supplies, gift cards, and monetary donations were sent to support students and keep them as safe as possible. When Cottey decided to resume classes in person in the fall of 2020, these supplies were also provided to students who needed them.

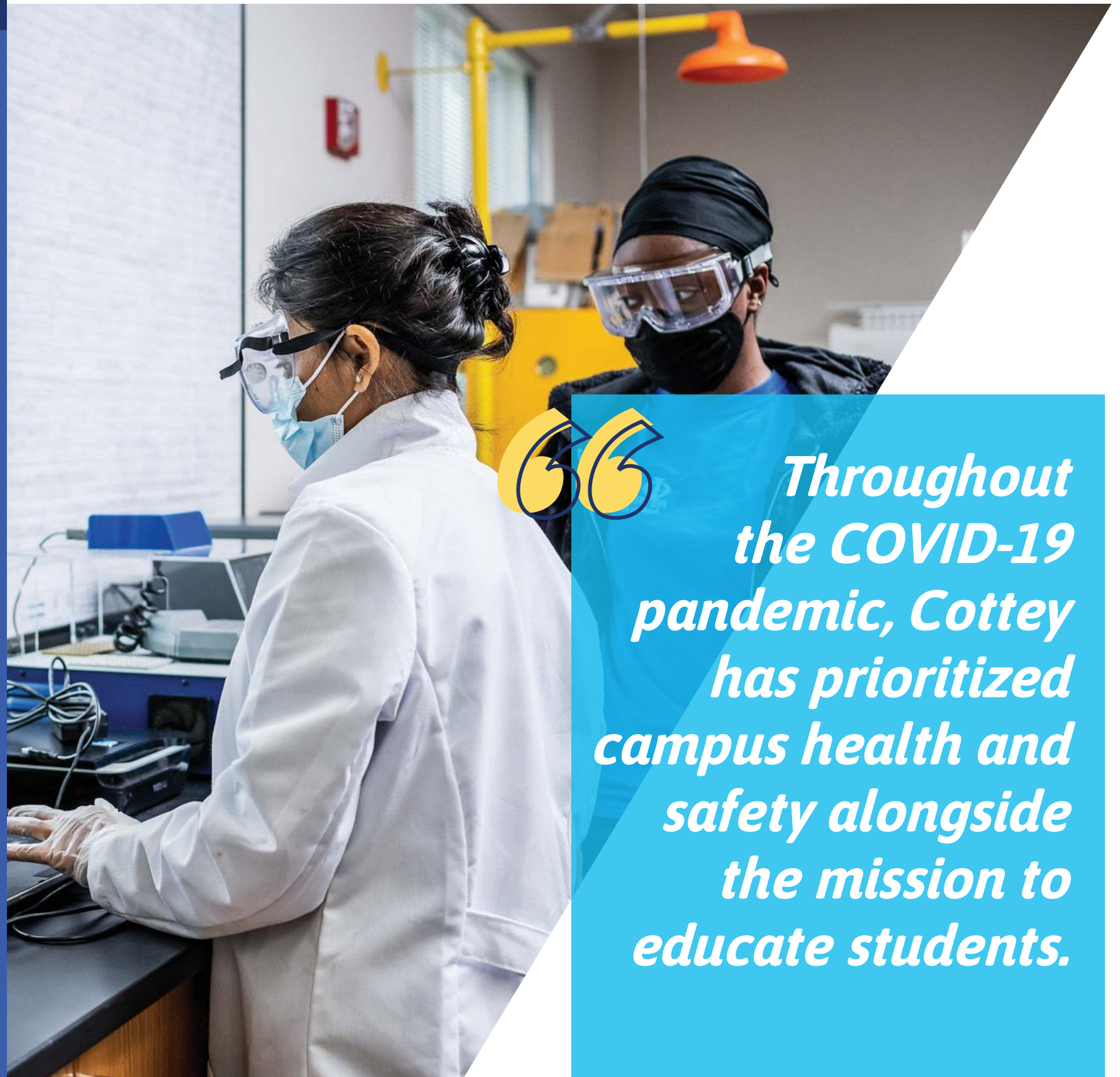
Most students returned to campus for the fall 2020 semester in order to attend classes in person; however, some students were allowed to take their courses online. Cottey faculty taught classes in two different formats, for those students on campus and for students online. Dance and arts professors used their creativity to best mirror the learning that was taking place on campus for those learning at a

distance. From mailing supplies, to sending demonstration videos, and to practicing over Zoom, the work and education of students continued.

For those students living on campus, the Cottey experience was adjusted to keep them safe and healthy. Masking and distancing became the norm; students sat in smaller groups in the Raney Dining Room; and each day, students, faculty, and staff were asked to report any coronavirus-related symptoms they might be experiencing. Despite the extra effort required, Cottey students rose to the challenge of personal accountability and maintained infection rates well below those at larger universities.

The enrollment team faced a challenge with recruiting the next group of students without being able to travel to college fairs and high schools. The pandemic required a shift from in-person to digital recruiting efforts. Text messages, video calls, social media posts, and virtual visit events all became standard operating procedures as Cottey worked to bring in the class of 2021.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Cottey has prioritized campus health and safety alongside the mission to educate students. These three priorities have guided Cottey through difficult circumstances and allowed the College to look to the future with optimism, hope, and a renewed focus to further women's education.



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TAKING STOCK at **COTTEY** **COLLEGE**

“Cottey had a way of making you feel that you needed to do your best. I owe my success in life to Cottey.”
Miriam Stephens Kindred, Class of 1951, the first female manager and stock broker at E.F. Hutton.

Miriam’s barrier breaking foreshadowed the incredible opportunities available to Cottey students today. Cottey is the only women’s college in the nation that offers a stock trading lab, giving students hands-on experience and the potential to step into the male-dominated field of finance.

One such example of how the stock trading lab enriches students’ lives is the Her Investment House project, a project envisioned by Rimsa Upreti, a third-year student from Nepal. Participating students simulate investing \$50,000 each. By comparing the results of their individual funds, students

determined how they wished to collaborate as a team to invest a group fund. Ten students, across many disciplines, participated, using the simulation to learn about different investment philosophies while researching to make informed decisions.

Rimsa’s vision was implemented through an internship under the guidance of Dr. Tammy Ogren, assistant professor of Business – Management. The project is open to every student regardless of major and the goal is to promote and support an environment to strategically learn and grow investments—all while having fun. Under Rimsa’s direction, students are learning research strategies, presentation skills, collaboration, and more.

This project is ongoing throughout the year; students can track their progress, make changes,

and go in new directions with their investments. While the overall goal is to grow each account by 10% by the end of the academic year, many more goals are being achieved. Working in a group and comparing the results allowed the team to analyze multiple approaches and in turn has created a healthy motivation for learning, analysis, and improvement. Investments have ranged from Tesla to Walmart to Boeing, Etsy, FedEx, and beyond, reflecting the various interests of the group.

Eden Bisetegn, a health and biomedical sciences major from Ethiopia, said, “Being a part of Her Investment House has allowed me to expand my knowledge on how to invest and how to conduct research on a specific company before investing. [It] has helped me develop my skills and be confident in the new field that I was introduced to, thanks to my mentors and group members.”

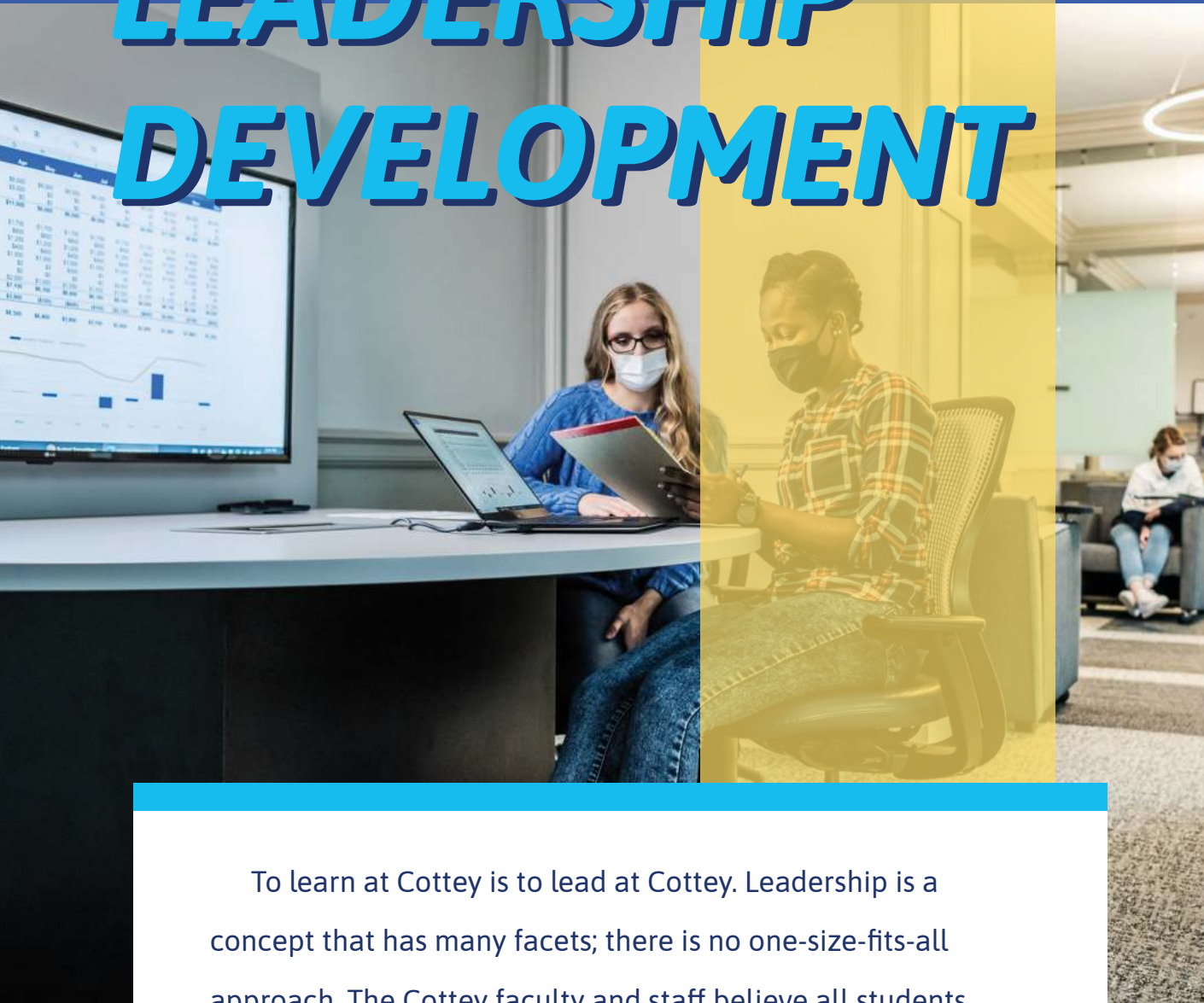
Though Her Investment House is a simulation exercise, the real-world results will have helped empower students to make informed investment decisions, building their confidence and giving them increased access to what has traditionally been a male-dominated field after graduation and into the future. Considering Rimsa’s own incredible future, she states that Her Investment House has “helped solidify my drive towards achieving my long-standing ambition to create a platform for women to learn about investment as a life skill.”



Being a part of Her Investment House has allowed me to expand my knowledge on how to invest and how to conduct research on a specific company before investing.

Eden Bisetegn

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



To learn at Cottey is to lead at Cottey. Leadership is a concept that has many facets; there is no one-size-fits-all approach. The Cottey faculty and staff believe all students have the potential for leadership and they endeavor to provide an environment for students to explore their leadership philosophy and develop a leadership skillset.

Because leadership is foundational to a Cottey education, efforts are organized through the Serenbetz Institute for Women's Leadership, Social Responsibility, and Global Awareness, and manifested through a variety of programming to reach every student. Established in 2010, the Serenbetz Institute supports the College in its mission for students to meet their potential for personal and professional lives of intellectual engagement and thoughtful action as learners, leaders, and citizens.

Students have the opportunity to first explore leadership at Cottey through the First-Year Writing Seminar. This class brings together Cottey's guiding threads—leadership, social responsibility, and global awareness. It also helps students understand the import of a liberal arts and sciences education. Every new student explores these threads through a common reader, a book that all first-year students read, which lays the groundwork for the skills the students will develop during their time at Cottey.

Additionally, students acquire applied leadership skills through the 25 clubs and organizations offered on campus, each of which offers organic leadership opportunities for students to develop their skills alongside their peers. Through the NAIA Champions of Character program, Cottey athletes explore what it means to be a servant leader on their teams and in their community.

For the more intentional pursuit of leadership, students are encouraged to participate in LEO (Leadership, Experiences, Opportunity), which integrates classroom instruction with the events in which Cottey students

are already engaging, such as clubs, performances, or other activities. As a four-level leadership certification program, LEO allows students to mix the best of both worlds: co-curricular activities and classroom instruction. The fourth level includes a community service project that impacts the College, the local area, or the global community.

The pinnacle of Cottey leadership resides in the Organizational Leadership curriculum. Students can earn a Bachelor of Arts degree, a minor, or a certificate of Organizational Leadership. In this way, leadership instruction is accessible to all majors across campus. In fact, the degree is designed to allow students to double-major, wherein leadership can be a focus through the lens of another discipline.

It's through this degree that the lessons of leadership are studied through an interdisciplinary approach, helping create adaptable leaders for a changing world. Students have the opportunity to identify their leadership style, grow through the development and refining of a Leadership Development Plan (LDP), and obtain desirable hands-on experience through internships, excursions, research and beyond. Students studying Organizational Leadership will combine the foundations of leadership through a capstone project, taking theory to practice, and implementing the work students put into their LDP.

The Cottey philosophy is that leadership is a set of skills that can be learned, these skills should be practiced, and through enriching experiences and opportunities, each student can find that leader within.

STOCK TRADING LAB AND ESPORTS ARENA

Fall 2020 marked the first semester of Cottey students being able to utilize the new Stock Trading Lab on campus. With its opening, Cottey became the first women's college in the country to feature such a space. The room houses 16 state-of-the-art computer stations, an LED stock ticker tape, and large monitors.

Prior to the creation of this lab, business students didn't have a place that they could call their own. "I feel like they have ownership of this space," said Dr. Tammy Ogren, assistant professor of Business-Management. "I also was pleasantly surprised at the large number of students interested in investing and asking when they will be able to start using this space for investment purposes." (see Her Investment House story on page 14 for more information.)

While the space is used for business classes, it also doubles as the esports arena, causing it to be one of the most used spaces on

campus. In the first year of the launch of the esports program, a full-time coach was hired, a dedicated esports gaming facility was built, student-athletes were recruited, and those students practiced and competed against colleges from across the country.

"The students really love this facility," said Dominic Habjan, esports program director. "Every single day there's a student here either playing a game or bringing in some friends to teach them about esports and talk about becoming part of the team. We've actually had a few students join and get involved through word of mouth."

Habjan continued, "Compared to most of our competitors, this facility is really strong. With this facility, we are able to bring in new students and show them that not only are our program and College great, but we also have an amazing arena in which to compete."



Above- Student participating in a business class.

Below- Esports team practices for competition.



*Students walking
between classes*



CADAVER LAB

Often, discussions about innovation are focused on new technology such as faster computers, distance learning, or holographic optics. Sometimes, however, innovation is introducing students to an older practice to which they might not currently have access. At Cottey, innovation led to the creation of the College's cadaver lab.

Working on cadavers offers many opportunities not available through textbooks, videos, or software dissections. "The United States has an aging population that will need comprehensive medical care, and more medical

professionals need to be trained," said Dr. Jason Librande, visiting assistant professor of biology.

"The human body is the source of enormous amounts of anatomical variation. While we see some of that externally, internally it is equally varied. In turn, no textbook image, anatomical model, computer simulation, or other source of information can quite capture this."

Librande continued, "While education is the most important advantage to undergraduates using cadavers, I cannot deny that it helps to bolster career outlooks. Medical students are often told that the cadaver is their "first

patient" as a means to drive home that they should treat the cadaver with respect. At Cottey College, dissection students get their first patient early. This means that as they apply for medical school and other professional programs they will have something special to write about in their personal statements or to discuss during interviews."

Although exact numbers are hard to find, most cadaver labs are attached to universities with medical schools or large biology programs. The Cottey classes currently utilizing the cadaver lab are special topic courses BIO 391 & 392 (Cadaver Dissection & Prosection I & II.)

Students in the Anatomy and Physiology courses have been invited to view the cadavers.

"When I heard we were going to have a cadaver lab at Cottey, I knew I couldn't pass up the opportunity," said sophomore Mariana Middents. "As a second-year [student], this isn't the kind of thing I would have the chance to do at a larger school. Being able to get hands-on experience was so meaningful to me. I learned so much through observation and experience, and I was able to apply my knowledge to my other biology classes. Overall, I cannot overstate how grateful I am for the gift of knowledge these donors have given us."

Creating Incredible Futures

Christi-Anne Beatty, Cottey Class of 2019, has always been a go-getter. She entered Cottey in fall 2015 at the age of 15. Yes, she was only 15 years old when she became a college student. Today, at age 21, she has finished her second year of law school, owns income property, and is a clerk in a law firm.

“I was definitely nervous about starting at Cottey and nervous about making friends as every student entering college is, but I was also really excited about the experience and felt comfortable in the Cottey atmosphere,” said Beatty.

As Beatty was working toward her Bachelor of Arts in Business-Management with a minor in International Relations, she became involved in extracurricular activities. She was a top runner for the cross-country Comets, finishing her career as one of two Cottey runners that year to be named All-Region 16 and qualifying for the national meet. She participated in Model UN, was president of Phi Beta Lambda, the business honor society, and in 2017 was named a Newman Civic Fellow.

“One thing I loved about Cottey was the opportunity to try different areas of interest,” she said. “Cottey helped me find myself. I honestly just had so many interests I didn’t know if I wanted to be a sign language interpreter, an athlete, a teacher, a businessperson, or a lawyer, so trying different extracurriculars helped me get more exposure to my areas of interest.”

One thing I loved about Cottey was the opportunity to try different areas of interest. Cottey helped me find myself.

One of those areas of interest was real estate, which she began to pursue her junior year.

“Real estate wasn’t even on my radar until my junior year at Cottey. My business classes really started my interests in finance and investing and real estate was a natural extension of that,” she said.

When she moved back to Cincinnati for law school, she got serious about pursuing real estate while working on her juris doctor degree.

“I really just was focusing on finding the cheapest housing possible. House hacking [living in one of the multiple units of your investment property as your primary residence and having renters from the other units pay your mortgage and expenses] came on my radar from a YouTuber I watched named Graham Stephan. And in the process of finding a deal, I learned more and more about real estate and became heavily interested.”

This past year, Beatty was named a 2020-2021 Diversity in Law Fellow at the Law and Leadership Institute.

“It was an amazing and invaluable experience,” said Beatty. “It’s a year-long program starting in the summer where we teach inner-city high schoolers about the college process and about law school. We attend workshops where we connect with attorneys across Ohio, connect with the other fellows, and get a mentor who teaches us about the legal profession.”

With a year left in law school and her first income property purchased, the future looks incredibly bright for this accomplished alumna.



LETTERS FROM ALUMNAE

The connections between Cottey alumnae and students are one-of-a-kind!

On the first day of classes for the fall 2020 semester, all new and returning Cottey students received a welcome letter from an alumna. In many cases, the letter sparked a connection that is developing into a lasting friendship. The Cottey College Alumnae Board organized the letters to be sent to students through their project, the Welcome-a-Student Connection Campaign.

Mallori DeSalle, Class of 1999, and Chloe Bollin, first-year student, met through this project. The communication between the two of them didn't stop with the one-way email; through their correspondence, they developed a "big sister-little sister" relationship.

"We email about classes, about suite life, and about real life," DeSalle said.

Throughout their conversations, DeSalle has offered Bollin resources for talking with suitemates, taking part in traditions, and ideas for Sunday dinner recipes.

"I feel connected to Cottey and humbled by the chance to be one more person in Chloe's corner to ensure that her experience at Cottey is successful," said DeSalle.

The fall 2020 semester presented an additional opportunity for connections between alumnae and current students. As a surprise gift to students during an uncertain time, alumnae sent more than 450 baby blue and navy blue passdown masks for students to use during traditions.

Through this project, the alumnae hoped to place a positive spin on a difficult time and solidify the bond with students. One can only imagine the conversation between a freshman and a senior a generation from now when they find a mask in the pocket of their passed-down jacket.

Without a doubt, the incredible students at Cottey learn and grow into incredible alumnae.



STUDY ABROAD

Global awareness is a central theme to a Cottey education. In addition to Cottey's International Experience, students are encouraged to consider studying abroad, where many of the skills and lessons they learn at Cottey are put into practice.

Maya Struhar, a senior from Creston, Iowa, spent the majority of her junior year at Edge Hill University in Ormskirk, England. She was able to study a variety of subjects, ranging from business, to theatre, to political science, and even became involved in the university cheer team, where her team ultimately won the national competition!

While she definitely experienced homesickness, she learned to appreciate the Scouse accent, traveled extensively to places like Rome, Vienna, Athens, and Edinburgh, and grew in confidence.

Maya said, "I am so much more independent than I give myself credit for! I did almost all my travel solo, and I learned how much I really don't need to rely on others to do what I really want to do. It was such a freeing realization to have."

Cottey students have studied in a number of locations, including Hong Kong, Japan, Ghana, Spain, Costa Rica, Argentina, and even a Semester at Sea, which brings students to a variety of nations on an ocean liner.

Some of our baccalaureate students spend a semester or more overseas. They take courses for credit and develop a truly international perspective. Students have studied in these countries listed below and more.

ARGENTINA

CHILE

CHINA

COSTA RICA

FINLAND

FRANCE

GREECE

INDONESIA

ITALY

JAPAN

NETHERLANDS

NEW ZEALAND

SOUTH KOREA

SPAIN

UNITED KINGDOM

URUGUAY

P.E.O. & Cottey

Cottey would not be the College it is today without the extraordinary support of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. The strong relationship between Cottey and P.E.O. became even more evident during this biennium as P.E.O. members from around the world demonstrated their support for their College.

When the pandemic struck the United States, it didn't take long before P.E.O. members began to ask how they could assist students at Cottey. Some began making masks for students. Packages arrived to campus with snacks, games, puzzles, and a variety of other items to help students be comfortable and stay safe.

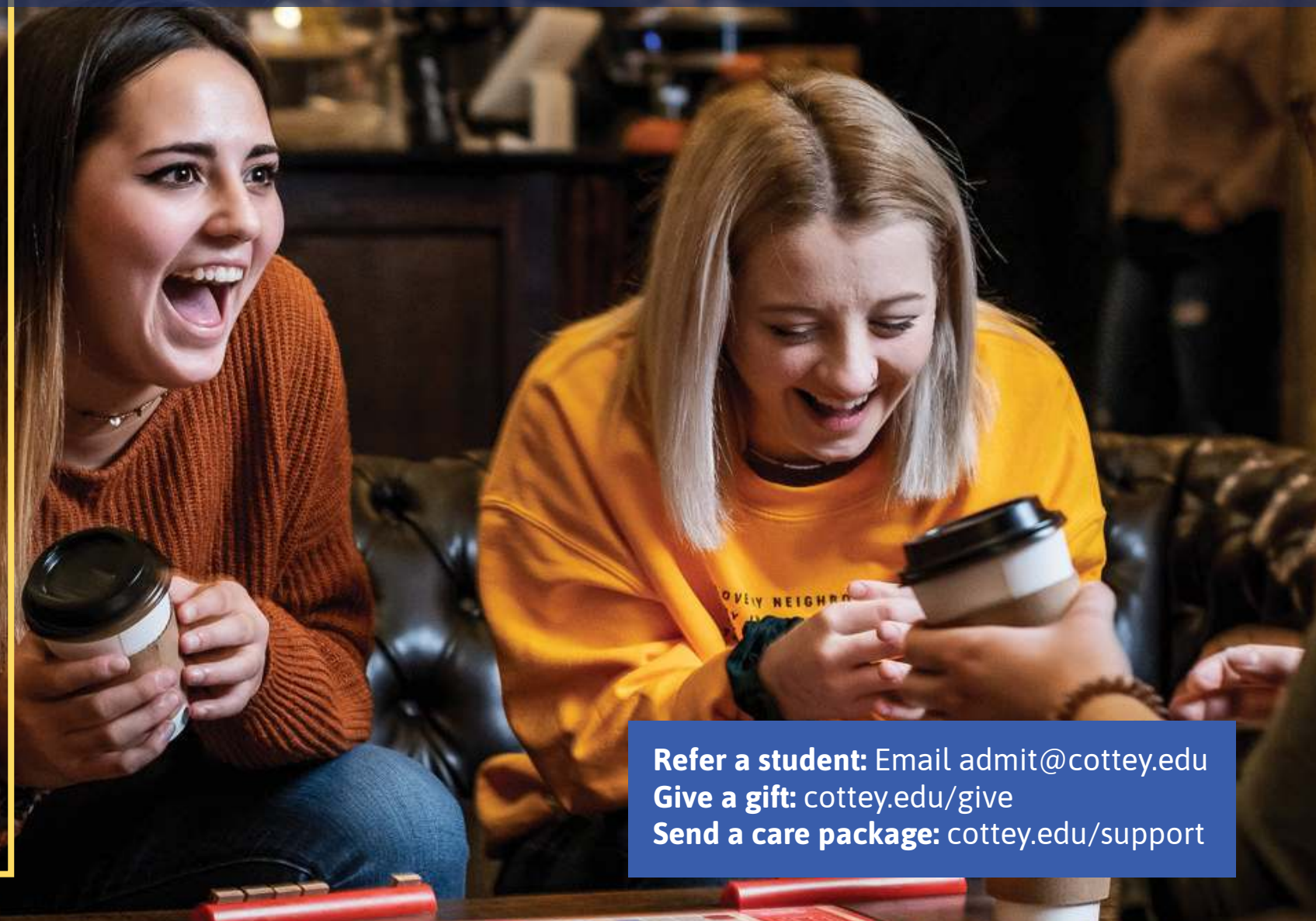
This outpouring of support included more than 1,300 handmade masks, \$26,771 in gift cards, and countless packages of supplies for students; in addition, the student aid emergency fund raised \$53,486.51 with donations from P.E.O. members and supporters of Cottey. While the impact of these items is tremendous, students will long appreciate the intrinsic value of the care and support they received. It's a priceless gift for students to realize that thousands of women—most of whom they have never met—care about their future.

No other college has a connection like that of Cottey and the P.E.O. Sisterhood. This special bond continues to prove true year after year.

As the pandemic begins to subside, the needs of Cottey students will remain. P.E.O. members have many different avenues to help support Cottey College and its students. Whether it is referring students to the enrollment management team, giving a gift to help support scholarships or initiatives on campus, or sending in care packages and notes to students, every little bit of support goes a long way and is greatly appreciated.



No other College has a connection like that of Cottey and the P.E.O. Sisterhood. This special bond continues to prove true year after year.



Refer a student: Email admit@cottey.edu
Give a gift: cottey.edu/give
Send a care package: cottey.edu/support



SCANNING THE PAST, INFORMING THE FUTURE

Dr. Trisha Stubblefield, professor of English, has taught several courses that highlight the rich histories of both Cottey College and the P.E.O. Sisterhood. One such course is P.E.O. Sisterhood Excursion. Through this class, students have the opportunity to travel to Iowa to visit the birthplace of the Sisterhood.

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“P.E.O. is a benevolent organization and these trips personalize the relationship [between Cottey and P.E.O.] and put a face to it. The students get to stand in the room where the first initiation happened and where the organization was founded. They get to see that the Founders were college students their age who came together through the bonds of friendship to start an organization 150 years ago. It’s an incredible story,” said Dr. Stubblefield.

Over the years, Cottey students and faculty members alike have studied and researched the histories of the College and the Sisterhood. The P.E.O. Record magazine serves as an abundant source of information on both institutions. The College is fortunate to have original, print copies of the magazines in its archives dating back to 1918. While conducting research, faculty and students often refer to past issues of the Record, and thus a great need surfaced for digital versions and a publicly available index of these important historical documents.

Thanks to funding from the P.E.O. Foundation, Dr. Stubblefield was able to purchase a scanner to begin digitizing the issues of the Record. This project will span multiple years and provide students the opportunity to participate and learn each semester. Emily Marsh, a senior and Psychology and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies double major, is an intern for Dr. Stubblefield, and she’s currently working on this project. Dr. Stubblefield hopes to recruit additional students to assist with this project as well.

The P.E.O. Sisterhood recently provided the College with print issues of the magazines dating from the beginning of publication in 1889 through 1917 so that they can be scanned and converted to searchable PDF documents.

The current goal is to scan and sort articles related to each of the Founders of

P.E.O., the organization’s six philanthropies (projects), and other topics for which students, faculty, staff, and P.E.O. members frequently search.

While the project began as a way to facilitate research at the College, Dr. Stubblefield noted that there are benefits for members of P.E.O. across the world.

P.E.O. chapters frequently seek information from the Cottey archives to develop their programming. The ultimate goal is to make all of the digitized issues of The P.E.O. Record available online for ease of access and research.

Dr. Stubblefield shared that one of her favorite aspects about the project has been the opportunity to learn more about the past and see P.E.O. evolve as an organization over time. “Through the articles, you can see the way in which the world was social in a very different way. There were letters from chapters all over the country—they were writing in and excited to share their stories,” she said. “You can see how community was built. Periodically, you’ll see articles in the magazine sharing that the organization is struggling to pay for printing or that the magazine was up to 500 issues [in print]. This look across generations of the Sisterhood allows us to see the growth of the organization and to develop an appreciation of where we are today.”

This look across generations of the Sisterhood allows us to see the growth of the organization and to develop an appreciation of where we are today.





CREATING NEW CONNECTIONS

In Cottey's quest to become the institution of choice for women who seek a welcoming, connected, and forward-thinking college, the College focuses on creating a dynamic campus environment. Campus improvements directly impact the student experience, which is why the College remains dedicated to maintaining and improving its facilities. As a student-focused institution, Cottey is committed to directing all tuition and fees paid by students into their education. Therefore, campus improvements are made possible by the generous support of Cottey alumnae, the P.E.O. Sisterhood, BILs, and friends of the College.

In 2018, Cottey's Board of Trustees, representatives of the P.E.O. Sisterhood and Cottey alumnae, students, faculty, and staff engaged in a process to create a new campus master plan. The result of this process is a plan that recognized the needs and expectations of today's students while embracing and respecting the past. One of the development and renovation recommendations in the plan was the creation of a student center.

The College is pleased and proud to report that the groundbreaking for the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Campus Life and the renovation of the Chapel took place on August 18, 2020, and the College held the dedication of the building on March 27, 2021, during the alumnae Founder's Weekend festivities and on the birthdate of Virginia Alice Cottey.

The Chapel is located in the heart of the campus and is the site for special remembrances, particularly during Founder's Day activities when alumnae gather to celebrate the rich Cottey heritage and their lifelong friendships. Faculty, staff, and students are excited about the future of the Chapel as a center where the campus community will enjoy the relationships that are the heartbeat of Cottey and continue to make connections that will last a lifetime.

The Chapel has long been a treasured centerpiece of the campus. In the spring of 1950, at the South Dakota P.E.O. state chapter convention, Joseph W. Messer proposed that the BILs build a chapel on Cottey's campus. The Cottey College Board of Trustees approved Mr. Messer's suggestion and, in 1951, established a Chapel Advisory Committee. The BILs were successful and the new Chapel was dedicated in the spring of 1957.

In the past few years, BILs have again had a hand in shaping the Chapel's history, this time, leading a welcome refurbishment of the upper level and the addition of a beautiful new campus center. BILs have faithfully served on the

CONNECT Initiative Task Force. They helped to secure initial funding for the project, assisted in the raising of funds for the building endowment, and have been a continued source of encouragement to the CONNECT team and leadership.

The upper level of the Chapel continues to house the sanctuary, which has been revitalized and air-conditioned to provide a beautiful space for gatherings of students and visitors. It also provides a venue for concerts, lectures, weddings, and special services. In alignment with Cottey's commitment to supporting a diverse campus community, a new prayer and meditation room and a renovated side chapel provide students of many faith traditions with places to meet, meditate, and worship.

The student snack bar, the Chellie Club, named after Chellie Stevens Wright, past President of the Supreme Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, has moved from Hinkhouse Center to the campus center. The Cottey Bookstore moved from Main Hall and has been renamed the Spirit Shop. In addition to the open gathering areas, the lower level features two small meeting rooms and a large multi-purpose room for larger group gatherings, as a dressing area for performers in the chapel or bridal parties, or even for yoga classes.

The natural lighting in the center is enhanced by the addition of two large terraces that expand the center an additional 3,700 square feet on each side. The west terrace offers a beautiful multilevel patio with seating for up to 150 people. A gently sloped pathway provides wheelchair access to the campus center. The east terrace will serve as an outdoor amphitheater to be used for a variety of performances. The amphitheater, along with additional tables, chairs, and benches, will seat 200 people.

It has been said that no one who achieves great success does so without the help of others. The College knows this to be true. From initial focus group meetings, through months of fundraising activities, this center was conceived and financed through the collaborative efforts of Cottey Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, BILs, P.E.O.s, alumnae, and countless other friends of the College. This project will benefit the campus community for years to come.

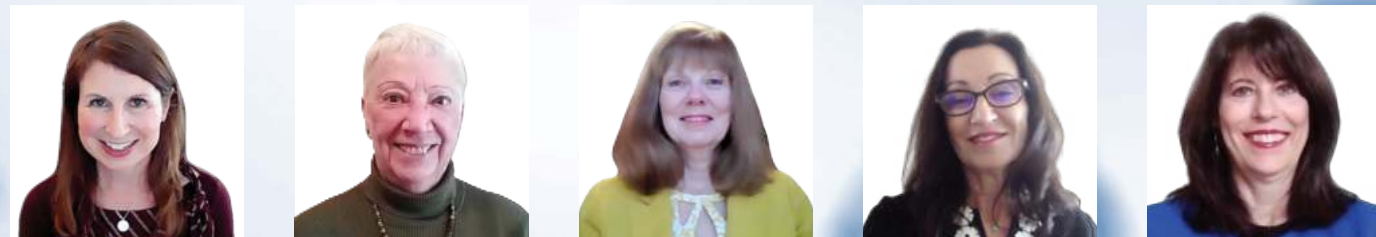
This Center is truly a physical representation of the greatest strength of Cottey College—the relationships that are built and the support that is offered to students and to each other. It is the friendship of so many that allowed the College to end 2020 with a spirit of gratitude and approach 2021 with optimism for the future.



The gathering space inside the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Campus Life.

Board of Trustees

2020-2021



OUR MISSION

Cottey College, an independent liberal arts and sciences college, educates women to be contributing members of a global society through a challenging curriculum and a dynamic campus experience. In our diverse and supportive environment, women develop their potential for personal and professional lives of intellectual engagement and thoughtful action as learners, leaders, and citizens.

Top row: Diann McChesney (Secretary), Brenda Atchison (President, International Chapter, P.E.O.), Jann Weitzel (President, Cottey College), Grace Chalker (Chair), Jim Bickel
 Middle row: Hope Zoeller, Cheryl Denslow, Kathryn Bayne (Vice Chair), Georgann Douglas, Tamara Kenworthy
 Bottom row: Jack Ewing, Lydia Bangert, Joan Braddock, Patricia Brolin-Ribi (First Vice President, International Chapter, P.E.O.)

Two trustees completed their service on the Board of Trustees in 2020: Christine Scheuneman (2013-2020) and Sandra Laney (2013-2020)

COTTEY
COLLEGE