

VIEWPOINT



**Fearless
Women
for a
Changing
World**



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letters TO THE EDITOR

“ **Dear Steve,**

I received my new issue of the *Viewpoint* this week. I thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you for so many articles on Cottey traditions. Our traditions are among the things that bind us as Cottey alums. The articles about Hermatrude and “Duck” were enjoyable but also caused some pangs of regret. My class (1967) and several classes ahead of us were denied being able to “do Duck.” During the spring of 1966 the administration confiscated Duck Jackets and ducks and the students were informed that the custom was no longer allowed on campus. It was several years later that it reappeared; it was after 1971 when my sister was at Cottey. I don’t believe her freshmen were the ones who brought Duck back. *Viewpoint* is a marvelous tool to keep alumnae up-to-date on what is happening at the College. Thank you again.

Mary Kay Engler Ray, Class of 1967. Chapter DF, TX

“ **Mr. Reed,**

I am a P.E.O. of only four years. During three of those years I have served my local chapter as Cottey College Committee Chairman. This year I also have the honor of serving as the chairman of the Mississippi State Cottey College Committee. I have not had the opportunity to visit the Cottey campus, but each time I read about the goings-on and the offerings available I am more and more enamored of Cottey College. I find the “task” of sharing promotional materials with local schools an easy and delightful one; and I truly look forward to the day when I am able to see the sights and meet the people in person! Just yesterday I was perusing some of the information in the official notebook for my state committee and ran across a copy of an email message dated September 22, 2017. The message was from Margaret Donaldson to the then state Cottey College Committee chairman and was announcing the “...first digital-only version of the *Viewpoint*...” Until I read that email, I was unaware of the existence of the magazine, digital or otherwise! Curious person that I am, I immediately pulled out my laptop to check out this new-found information. My curiosity turned into delight as I read through several editions. Congratulations to me for my discovery and congratulations to you for a beautiful magazine!

Kay Capelle, Chapter H, Gulfport, MS

“ **Greetings Steve,**

As always, I so enjoy reading the *Viewpoint* and am honored to receive it each year! It just arrived yesterday, so I stole time away from what I should have been doing, to sit a spell and take in all the news. That said, I have a question about the Onion Souffle — what? One of my favorite foods at Cottey, I’ve made that recipe from Michael’s book [*The Best of Cottey Cooking*] several times and it’s been fine. I have to ask, does it really need an egg; just one?? I also tried my notebook that has some Cottey recipes in it from when Livi was a student in the 90s but the onion soufflé isn’t in that printout. There are onion soufflé recipes available online that have similar base ingredients to his but also have no egg, so that’s why it never occurred to me one might be missing! Michael is so meticulous that I can’t imagine he’d miss even one egg! If it really was an oversight on his part, thank you for playing it down and using the wording you did, avoiding any finger-pointing as much as possible. (If this had been an April issue of the *Viewpoint*, I’d have assumed it was an April Fool.) Hope this finds you and everyone on campus well and safe!

Gerry Chamberlin

From April Mosher, head of dining services: *This issue with the egg was discovered last semester when we were doing the cooking video for Founder’s Weekend. I had not looked closely at the cookbook recipe and instead went by the recipe we use in the Cottey kitchen, so during the video we put in an egg and thought nothing of it. When Randon [Coffey, director of marketing] and Bradley [Love, assistant director of marketing] were putting everything together, they realized we added an egg when one was not called for in the cookbook. I cannot give the reason why it is not called for in the cookbook; what I can say is that the recipe used in Raney’s kitchen, also written by Michael, does contain eggs, and that soufflés are, of course, an egg-based dish. In the end, I do believe it is a personal preference issue. Beaten egg whites will certainly make a dish lighter and fluffier; however, its binding qualities are not needed in this dish.*

fearless women

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Who is the fearless woman in your life, the woman who defies the norm and faces her reality with resolve? And what does "fearless" really mean?

For me, the fearless woman in my life was my mother. Now, let's get this straight—she was not without fear, but she was determined to overcome the major obstacles that were placed in her path when, at the age of 34, she became a widow with two small children. I'm confident that she had not planned for my father, who grew up in Boys Town and spent his career in the United States Army, to die of heart disease in his mid-40s. I'm sure that my mother had no idea that she would need to pack our belongings into a station wagon and move her small family back to her hometown in Iowa.

These events took place in the 1950s at a time when it was common for men to be heads of the households and for women to stay at home and raise the children, which was my family's reality. It was not common at that time for women to be listed on their home's deeds or to have a line of credit. I'm certain that Mom stumbled as she tried to identify the steps to selling our home in Auburn, Washington, to work with the military to receive our benefits, to navigate the steps to purchasing a small home without prior credit, or to find a job, her first since she was married at the age of 21. I'm sure she had many fears, but she was fearlessly aware that my older brother and I (aged 10 and 5) depended on her for all aspects of our lives. She took on the role of sole provider for us and went to work full time as the secretary at our high school, where she worked for the next 30 years.

Because of many new responsibilities she faced, her personal dream becoming a history teacher was not to be. Thus, she was determined that both of her children would do well in school and attend college on scholarships- my brother with athletic scholarships and me with academic scholarships. She was so proud when we each graduated and chose to go on to graduate school.

When I think about my mom, I think about this saying by American novelist Veronica Roth, "It's not about being fearless, it's about acting in spite of fear." My mom didn't have a choice—she had to face her obstacles, to become fierce in the face of adversity, to push past life's complications, and to



CREATORS OF INCREDIBLE FUTURES



appear fearless even if in her heart, she was nervous as all heck!

Thus, my definition for fearlessness doesn't mean a person is without fear. Rather, to me, fearlessness means to face obstacles with full force, to be strong of heart and mind when life becomes complicated, to drive forward with all of one's might, and to use one's voice to make oneself heard and known. Is this not what we wish for our Cottey students? Through educational and campus life experiences, we hope to inspire this type of fearlessness in each and every Cottey student, so that, upon graduation, they can make their mark on the world and inspire fearlessness in others.

Jann Weitzel

retirement

DR. JANN WEITZEL



On August 16, 2021, Cottey College President Dr. Jann Weitzel announced that she would be retiring effective June 30, 2022.

Dr. Weitzel became the 12th president of Cottey College in 2015.

During Dr. Weitzel's tenure as President, the College boasted many accomplishments including:

- Growth in the academic degree program offerings
- Athletics programs move to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)
- Renovation of the first floor of the Blanche Skiff Ross Memorial Library and the parlor of P.E.O. Hall.
- Addition of a cadaver lab, a psychology lab, an Apple Mac computer lab, the Wellness Center, and the Stock Trading Lab/Esports Arena.
- Chapel renovation and the addition of the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Campus Life.

"Dr. Weitzel's presidency has been defined by her passion for providing women a high quality education that sets them on a path of achieving their dreams," said Kathryn Bayne, Chair, on behalf of the Cottey College Board of Trustees. "Her commitment to empowering each student with her own 'voice' has resulted in a new benchmark for fostering leadership and global awareness in each Cottey graduate. On behalf of the Cottey College Board of Trustees we are grateful for Dr. Weitzel's commitment to our College; we wish her joy and fulfillment in her next chapter in life."

“The most fulfilling part of my time at Cottey has been the students,” Dr. Weitzel stated. “Watching first year students walk across the stage at Opening Convocation to sign the Cottey Book and then witnessing them walk across the stage at Graduation as confident, strong, and determined individuals has been extremely gratifying. My fondest moments will be those spent with students on campus, during Hanging of the Greens, Capping, and Commencement; traveling to France, Italy, and Hawaii; and just getting to know the students on a personal level.”

In the biggest understatement I will ever write in the pages of this magazine, a lot of changes took place in the last two years. I don't need to enumerate them with you, dear reader, as we've all lived them and made our own adaptations as necessary during the pandemic. For many of us, the news of COVID spikes, businesses that couldn't find enough employees, and shortages in the stores were sometimes more than we could process day after day. It can be difficult to do anything when there is so much EVERYTHING to do.

While COVID and politics have been the metaphorical 800-pound gorillas in the room, less noticed—perhaps—but every bit as much stress-inducing has been the pace of technological change in the last decade or more. Author Azeem Azhar in his book *The Exponential Age* proposes that we are at a transition point in advanced economies where technologies in computing, biology, energy and manufacturing increase exponentially. The problem with that pace, according to Azhar, is that it is hard for humans to understand.

"The rapid acceleration of the technology-driven exponential age is alien to us," said Azhar in an interview on The Next Big Idea podcast. "We regularly misunderstand both the long-term and the short-term impact of this pace. Sometimes we over-estimate, sometimes we under-estimate, but it's very unlikely that we'll be able to predict exactly what happens next. And even if we can do so with some first-order effect, it's hard to explain or predict where the ripples will end up." ¹

In this issue, we feature alumnae we call "fearless women for a changing world." Every one of them has an incredible story to tell about her accomplishments. They have each, in the face of some truly challenging times, been "scared to death and saddled up anyway," to paraphrase John Wayne.

I'm privileged to be friends with many of you on social media platforms. I hear you when you post about the challenges you are facing, when you report feeling as though the rules have changed and you don't know what the standards for "success" are any longer. I get it. The world has

editor's message

evolved rapidly since I was in my 30s and 40s in ways I never would have guessed. But here's one thing I do know: despite what you may think of yourselves, you are all fearless women.

Perhaps you haven't had to deal with a military coup in your job like Tatum Albertine did, or choose to expose a child abuse ring like Kathryn Skopec did, or literally walked away from it all and taken six months off to through hike the 2,100-mile Appalachian Trail like Heather Coffin Gerban did, but you are "saddling up anyway," scared to death or not, and navigating a brave new world and defining it by your own terms.

For those of you who don't believe you're fearless or wonder how to become more of a fearless woman, Dr. Bethany Cook has some advice for you in her article on page 20.

If Virginia Alice Cottey could come back today, she would be mystified by all of the technological and societal changes that have occurred. (Air-conditioning in the residence halls? Men allowed to visit in the suites?!) But, she would be equally as proud when she heard the stories of Cottey

alumnae, the challenges they have overcome, and the positive difference they have made and are making in the world.

"Women who attend Cottey share a common experience – the ability to shape their destiny based on the intellectual motivation and excellent academic preparation that they receive - to create incredible futures." ²

Fearless Women for a Changing World is the theme that ties our primary articles together, but it's also to whom this magazine is addressed: you. You are the fearless women in our changing world.

¹ https://nextbigideacub.com/magazine/exponential-age-accelerating-technology-transforming-business-politics-society-bookbite/30046/?utm_source=Heleo%20Newsletters&utm_campaign=73e40d547f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_lift_2021_10_19&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_85eb2ca8d0-73e40d547f-217254181&mc_cid=73e40d547f&mc_eid=36c33cfd0a&branch_match_id=955815669536148947

² 2021-2022 Cottey Catalog, page 9

Steve Reed

Highly Ranked

AGAIN



Cottey College was again confirmed as one of the top colleges in the Midwest region. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* listed Cottey as the **#1 Private College in the U.S. for Student-Tenured Professor Ratio** and U.S. News & World Report listed Cottey as the **#4 Best College in the Midwest Region** out of 76 colleges ranked from 12 states. This is the sixth consecutive year the College has been ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* and the third consecutive year Cottey has been ranked in the **Top 5 Institutions in the Region**. Cottey is the only women's college listed in the Midwest region.

Cottey was ranked in four additional categories in the Midwest region from *U.S. News & World Report*: **#4 in Most International Students, #5 among Best Undergraduate Teaching, #14 in Social Mobility, and #19 in Best Value Colleges.**

"We were again pleased and honored to be recognized by the *U.S. News & World Report* as a top college in the Midwest for the sixth consecutive year, and as a top five institution for the last three years" said Jann Weitzel, Ph.D., President of Cottey College. "Cottey is known for the outstanding education it offers to students. We find it especially noteworthy that Cottey is listed as the **#5 college in the region for Best Undergraduate Teaching**. It underscores the

value of our #1 ranking from *The Chronicle of Higher Education* as having the best student-to-tenured-professor ratio of any private college in the United States, not just in our region."

"Rankings assist students and their parents/guardians in differentiating among colleges by providing information about institutional quality," said Dr. Weitzel. "Our institution's commitment to student success is illustrated by these measurements that include small class sizes, strong retention and graduation rates, a low student-to-faculty ratio, and the percentage of full-time, terminally-qualified faculty leading students in the classroom. These critical markers, and others, are part of students' decision processes when choosing the college that will best meet their academic needs as they plan toward their future."

The rankings and the methodology are available online at usnews.com/best-colleges. Among the criteria on which *U.S. News & World Report* bases its rankings are the following: retention, assessment by peers and counselors, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, graduation rate performance, and alumni giving rate.

"I am extremely proud of our College, our talented students, and our outstanding faculty and staff," said Dr. Weitzel. "These rankings are a testament to the dedication and hard work of our employees, who guide our students as they create their incredible futures."



Cottey Shows **ENROLLMENT GROWTH AGAIN**



Cottey College is pleased that enrollment for the fall 2021 semester is up for the second consecutive year led by an incoming class of 135 new students, which is a 25 percent increase over the number of first-time students last fall and an increase in enrollment of 8.6 percent overall. The total student population represents 34 states and 17 countries.

“We’re very gratified to see a second consecutive year in enrollment growth,” said Cottey President Dr. Jann Weitzel. “Part of this growth can be attributed to families and prospective students realizing the excellent value Cottey represents. The diligent work by our enrollment management team, faculty and staff is the other factor in this increase. David Heringer, vice president for enrollment management and marketing and his staff are excellent at educating families about the Cottey advantages.”

In demographic breakdowns for total enrollment, Missouri leads all states with 86 students. Texas and Kansas follow with 28 and 21 students respectively. Internationally, Ethiopia and France each have three students on campus.

“We love our international representation on campus,” added Dr. Weitzel. “Cottey is regularly highly ranked as one of the best colleges in the Midwestern region when it comes to the percentage of international students on campus. Our international students add depth to the campus experience for our entire population.”



Cross Country

WINS CONFERENCE

Another academic year, another conference championship for the Comets! Last spring the volleyball team won the Association of Independent Institutions (A.I.I.) conference championship, and this fall, the cross country Comets took home the title in the inaugural Continental Athletic Conference (CAC), formerly known as the A.I.I. The championships were held in Lawrence, Kansas, on Saturday, November 6, 2021.

Junior Ella Page was the top individual finisher, which earned her the meet's Most Outstanding Runner Award and First Team All-American honors. Page completed the 5K course in 19:35, nine seconds ahead of the second-place finisher. Karina Gchachu finished third, running her best time ever, and was named to the First Team All-Conference. Kiana Garcia finished eighth in her best time of the season and was named to the Second Team All-Conference.

A scant eight points separated the top three teams in the meet. With the margins that slim, the championship came down to each team's fifth runner. Marinna Mentzel crossed the finish line in 19th place while Florida National's Prisilla Gonzalez finished 24th. That five-point difference was the championship maker as the Comets ended with 45 points compared to the 53 points earned by Florida National and Florida College.

As conference champions, the Comets competed in the NAIA national meet in Vancouver, Washington, on November 19, 2021.

The top scorer for the Comets at nationals was Ella Page who finished 265th with a time of 20:58 on a tough, muddy course.

Cottery College

alumnae association

BECOMING COTTEY ALUMNAE

How many of you remember the feelings of unpacking when you arrived on Cottery campus the very first time? Whether or not you knew it, by attending Cottery College, you were instantly inducted into a new family of Cottery Alumnae. Many women only realize their alumna status upon graduation, but in August, the Cottery College Alumnae Association (CCAA) sought the goal of welcoming our future sisters into the family from day one. CCAA board members welcomed students and families during Orientation Weekend and the alumnae visit was perfectly timed to enjoy several special moments for new Cottery students and their families.

Head Class Agent **Denise Bishop** and other CCAA board members went to each hall to hand out water during move-in. "I remember walking up these steps," Denise reminisced, as she walked to the third floor of Reeves Hall. Denise greeted a family from Texas with, "Welcome to Cottery; you are one of us!" Once again, alumnae from around the globe picked a card, wrote a note, or typed a letter to new and returning students. Many reminisced about their own first days on campus or the way the world was "back then." Some alumnae included their contact information, and to their delight, many students answered. More than one alumna commented excitedly, "My student wrote back!"

LINKING OUR COTTEY LEGACY

One experience all of us share is that we signed the Cottery Book. The longest standing tradition in Cottery College history has been in place since 1935. With faculty, staff and returning students watching, we signed our names and marked our commitment to living up to the standards set by Virginia Alice Cottery. This year, approximately 150 young women were invited to do the same and for the first time the Cottery College Alumnae Association (CCAA) was invited to contribute to this historic tradition.

Members of the CCAA board paired with upperclassmen to help new students prepare for one of Cottery's oldest traditions. "I loved how the returning third- and fourth-year students jumped in and organized the incoming students," said **Chris Renner '77**. "The young women here are leaders, and they know how to take charge."

Developing leadership was a significant part of what many of the CCAA board members remember from Cottery. "I found my voice," said **Janell Doster '10**. "When I arrived I was quiet and shy, but when I came back for my second year I was ready to lead." Convocation was a memorable event for the CCAA board members who were proud to share the stage with the future of Cottery and the future of strong women leaders.



FEARLESS WOMEN

How many of you have a recurring dream about going back to school at Cottey? My dream is always that I get to go to Cottey again as a student and I soak up every moment because this time, I already know the kind of special place Cottey is for everyone.

2021 was a dream come true for several Cottey women! This year there were a remarkable 48 alumnae who attended Vacation College (VC), and what is even more impressive is that some alumnae brought their mothers!

We often think of legacy students as women who attend Cottey AFTER their mother, aunt, or other relative. But in a time of changing opportunities, Cottey College has brought together fearless women who wanted nothing more than to achieve their dream of attending Cottey. Two alumnae who attended Vacation College brought their mothers. The legacy of Cottey was passed UP from daughter to mother!

Kerry Tate '86 and her mother Pat Tate have attended Vacation College 11 times. This year, Kerry and her mother enjoyed staying in Rosemary Alumnae suite, experiencing the unique housing of Cottey College, sharing laughter and connection with other VC participants. This year, they took Etching and the History of Katharine Hepburn. They also took two courses from alumnae: **Stephanie Grgrich's** Book Review and **Blakelee Sanders' Crafty Courses**.

Randi Turk '68 and her mother Mary Ellen have attended Vacation College several times together. This year, Mary Ellen even celebrated her 93rd birthday while on campus. Remarkable!

So, don't think that your dream to attend Cottey is only for while you are asleep. If you get a chance, ask one of the 48 alumnae who attended Vacation College how to make that dream come true!

ALUMNAE REFERRAL CHALLENGE

Suite life. Small classes. State-of-the-art facilities. Opportunities to lead. Friends for life. If you were thinking that you don't know what to say to a prospective student—well, you do! The annual Alumnae Referral Challenge is on, and alums are Cottey's biggest cheerleaders. Talk to that daughter, granddaughter, niece, or neighbor about all that Cottey has to offer. Show her the website and talk about your experiences as a student. Gather her information and go to cottey.edu/referstudent. With a few keystrokes and clicks, you're done—you have referred her to Cottey!

All alumnae who refer a student during the challenge, which runs from October 1, 2021, to March 25, 2022, will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift certificate at the Cottey Spirit Shop. The class with the most referrals will have their class year inscribed on the Golden Duck. Cottey changed your life. Give that gift to a young woman you know.

True Cottey Wedding

The first alumna wedding in the newly renovated Chapel took place on September 18, 2021. **Janell Webb-Doster '10**, married Michael McDonald in a complete Cottey celebration. Janell celebrated her love for her alma mater by having a true Cottey wedding with Janell's suitemates from Louisiana Suite serving as bridesmaids. Additionally the ceremony was officiated by **Christi Fulton Ellis, 1996**; catered by **Aimee Meyer, 2002**; cake and cupcakes were created by **Monica Rorick, 1990**; photographed by **Rhys Harper, 2004**; toasting glass art created by **Randi Turk, 1968**; glitter created by **Sara Stewart, 2010**; bouquet charms created by **Taylor McCoy, 2010**; and the honeymoon was planned by **Ann Marie Foote, 1988**.



comets

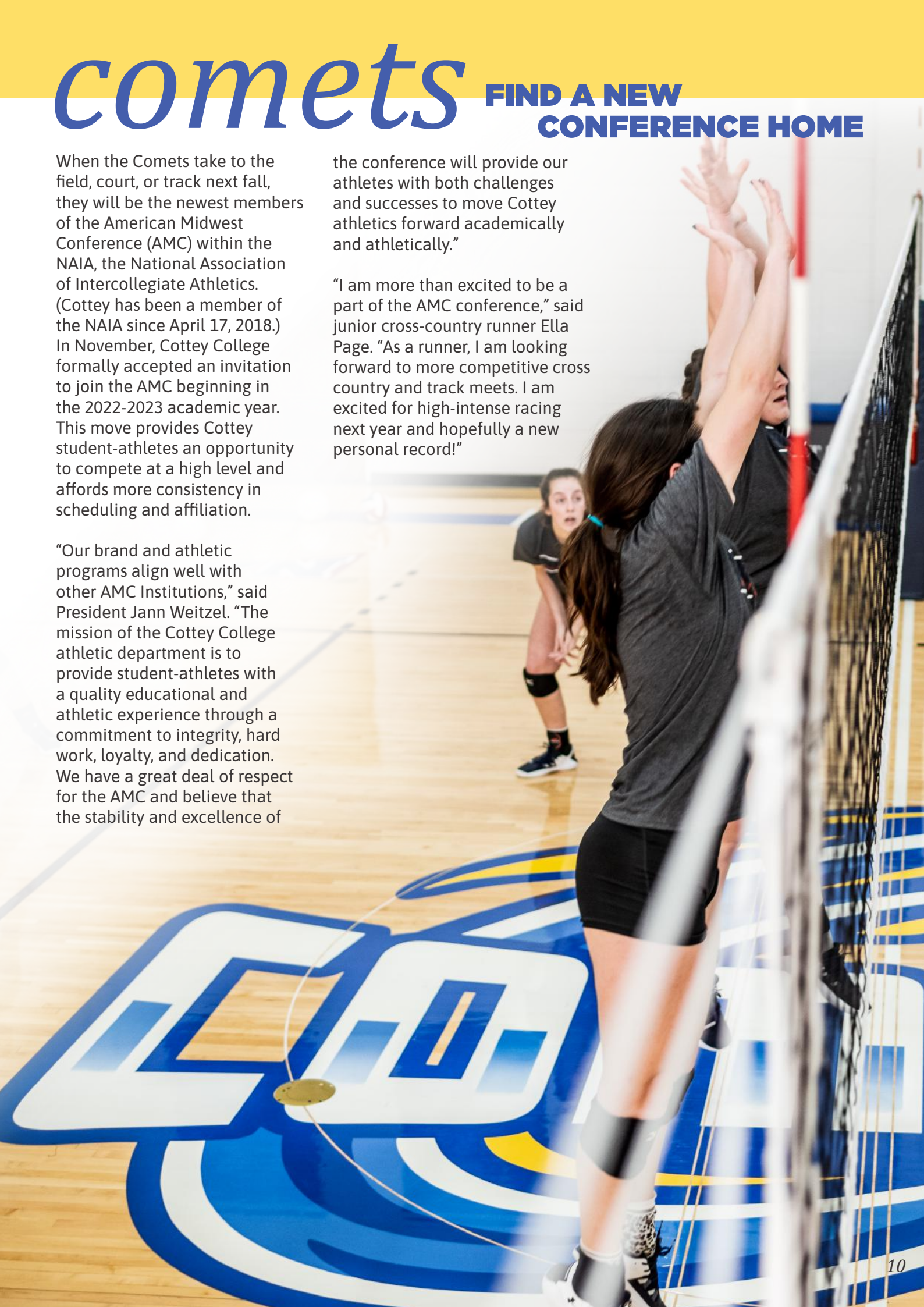
FIND A NEW CONFERENCE HOME

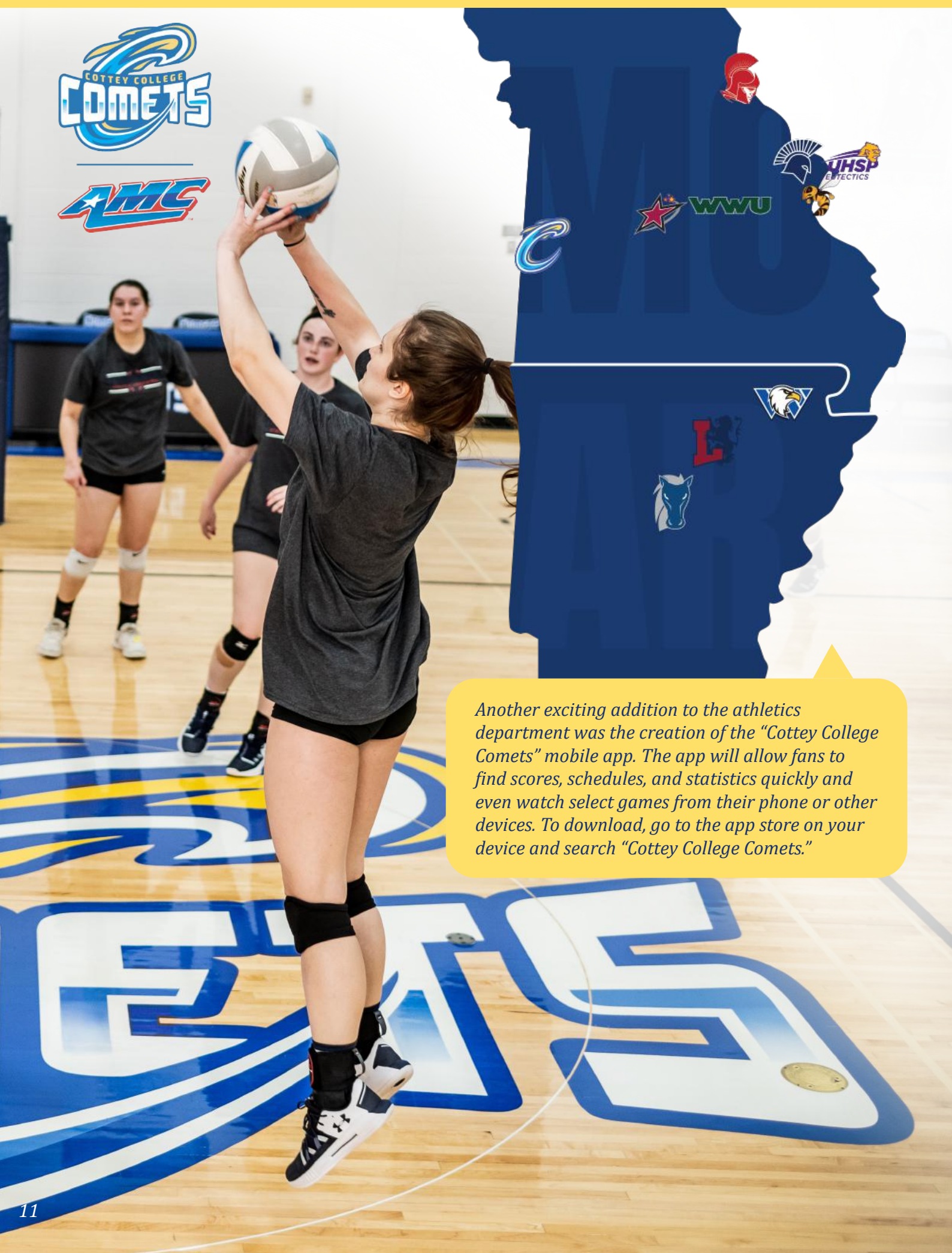
When the Comets take to the field, court, or track next fall, they will be the newest members of the American Midwest Conference (AMC) within the NAIA, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. (Cottey has been a member of the NAIA since April 17, 2018.) In November, Cottey College formally accepted an invitation to join the AMC beginning in the 2022-2023 academic year. This move provides Cottey student-athletes an opportunity to compete at a high level and affords more consistency in scheduling and affiliation.

"Our brand and athletic programs align well with other AMC Institutions," said President Jann Weitzel. "The mission of the Cottey College athletic department is to provide student-athletes with a quality educational and athletic experience through a commitment to integrity, hard work, loyalty, and dedication. We have a great deal of respect for the AMC and believe that the stability and excellence of

the conference will provide our athletes with both challenges and successes to move Cottey athletics forward academically and athletically."

"I am more than excited to be a part of the AMC conference," said junior cross-country runner Ella Page. "As a runner, I am looking forward to more competitive cross country and track meets. I am excited for high-intense racing next year and hopefully a new personal record!"





Another exciting addition to the athletics department was the creation of the "Cottey College Comets" mobile app. The app will allow fans to find scores, schedules, and statistics quickly and even watch select games from their phone or other devices. To download, go to the app store on your device and search "Cottey College Comets."

Not business as usual

Tatum Lindsey Albertine '12

thought 2020 was a tough year, but she had no idea how tough 2021 was going to get. Working for the American Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar (AMCHAM) during a pandemic was challenging enough, but in early February, the country suffered a brutal coup d'état that crushed the hopes and livelihoods of the people of Myanmar. The family was forced to evacuate; Tatum and her daughter Margaret evacuating shortly after the coup, while her husband Alex stayed behind for an additional five months in his role as a Foreign Service Officer.

There is no academic course on what to do when one is in the middle of a military takeover of the government, but Albertine's education and experiences certainly gave her the tools she would need to navigate through tumultuous times.

After earning her Associate in Arts from Cottey, Albertine graduated with cum laude honors from Mount Holyoke College with a Bachelor of Arts in gender studies and philosophy. Her first job out of college was a paid internship at Harvard Law School with Professor Terry Fisher.

"I worked with him and his team on (what was at the time, less so now) a virtual Copyright law course called 'CopyrightX,'" said Albertine. "The same course taught at Harvard Law School was reformatting into the 'massive open online course' (MOOC) model, and there were affiliated 'nodes' around the world teaching CopyrightX in the local context, contrasting U.S. law with local copyright law (Kenya, Egypt, etc.). All of these lead teachers were

working with Professor Fisher and the CopyrightX team. That was a fun job and illuminating for so many reasons. I thought I wanted to go to law school, but after my time was done, I had some good clarity about my future and decided that law school wasn't the right choice for me." Albertine had become interested in copyright law from library internships, including an internship at Cottey's Blanche Skiff Ross Memorial Library. Former Cottey trustee Nancy Gwinn helped Albertine secure two internships at the Smithsonian libraries in Washington, D.C. After finishing her internships in Massachusetts, Albertine returned to the Smithsonian.

"I headed back to Washington, D.C., to assist with the launch of the largest fundraising campaign of any cultural institution in the world with a pretty audacious goal—over 1.5 billion dollars," she said. "Around that time I also married my wonderful spouse Alex, who is a Foreign Service Officer and was posted to Cairo, Egypt, at the time. We married and I moved to Cairo in January. While in Cairo, I reconnected with some of my Harvard Law associates and started working at the American University in Cairo as a researcher and assistant teaching the Egyptian version of CopyrightX in the Department of Economics."

As if that weren't enough, Albertine was also researching and writing about access to knowledge issues and barriers in the developing world with

The Access to Knowledge for Development Center (A2K4D).

"We were an all-women team of researchers (all of them Egyptian except me) studying Internet governance, free speech, copyright issues, and more," Albertine said. "At the time, it felt completely normal, but I look back on that time and it was pretty wild what we did. It was amazing fun."

After two years in Cairo, it was off to Nairobi, Kenya, for a four-year appointment and more opportunities.

"I joined the State Department and worked in the U.S. Embassy there for four years as an economic officer covering environment, science, technology, and health issues," said Albertine. "I enjoyed that job immensely, too. It was a lot of writing and developing relationships with Kenyans to help advance U.S. foreign policy objectives in Kenya. Living in Kenya was amazing, too. It was a wonderful place with perfect weather and some of the best travel I have ever experienced." With the transfer to Myanmar, Albertine hit the ground running having already secured a job with the State Department.

"I had changed gears a bit and was working as the gender adviser, covering women and

LBGTQ issues in Myanmar,” Albertine explained. “I did that for four months and the opportunity to run AMCHAM Myanmar came up. I threw my hat in the ring, almost sure I wouldn’t be selected for the role. I had interfaced with AMCHAM Kenya in my previous post and they were all so great. AMCHAMs can have a good deal of influence if they are leveraged correctly and I was excited to try something new. To my delight, I was hired and it was and has been a pretty wild experience!”

Most may be familiar with their local hometown Chambers of Commerce, but what does the executive director of an AMCHAM do? Surprisingly, there are some similarities in the details.

“I am responsible and accountable to my members and board to promote economic ties between the U.S. and Myanmar,” said Albertine. “Some of my key stakeholders are U.S. companies operating in Myanmar. I manage my staff, oversee the budget, manage

our committees, and host a LOT of events. My favorite parts of the job are those with a creative element, like our newsletter, or moderating panels and discussions with guest speakers.”

Life was rolling along as planned, and then the pandemic hit, forcing the Albertines to evacuate Myanmar for the first time.

“We were there only a few months before COVID-19 hit and then we had to evacuate Myanmar for nine months,” said Albertine. “The State Department put us on evacuation status during that time. We went back around Thanksgiving and enjoyed a solid two months back at home and then the coup occurred on February 1. We were evacuated (again) in April and it is now October [at the time of this writing].”

Although the pandemic was unrelated to the events that precipitated the coup, when asked if the coup worsened the effects of the pandemic on the people of Myanmar, Albertine stated, “Yes, very much so. There was no official vaccine roll out.” Although Albertine and her family were safely back in the U.S., she continued to work remotely as the director of AMCHAM through the difficulties of the political situation as well as the logistics of holding zoom meetings with a 12-hour time difference.

“In some ways, yes,” said Albertine when asked if it was challenging to promote business partnerships. “When the U.S. imposed sanctions on some military individuals at the beginning of the coup it immediately pushed people away. Myanmar is almost a 12-hour time difference from the East Coast (EST). I work nights Sunday-Thursday, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., or as late as 1-2 a.m. depending on my meeting schedule. I also work some during the day to stay caught up.”

Myanmar

“Myanmar is considered the ‘last frontier’ in Southeast Asia,” she said. “It’s attractive for many businesses due to a young, skilled workforce and a lot of untapped economic opportunity due to being closed off for fifty years (previously). I find that more people are curious than ever because of the coup and how that

has actually impacted business operations. Obviously, it is not easy, and Myanmar is on the brink of economic collapse, a currency crisis, an associated banking crisis, and then there’s the major humanitarian emergency that was really solidified by the takeover of the generals. So, there are reservations for sure, but still some remaining curiosity.”

Both Albertine and her husband are continuing to work with Myanmar in their previous positions, but they recently

relocated to Thailand to lessen the time difference. She mentioned in a note, “We are looking forward to a stable and noodle-filled adventure with in-person preschool (finally) for the next couple of years.”



Tatum Albertine speaking at Opening Convocation 2021

cottey alumna

BRINGS HOPE TO GIRLS FROM CIRCLE OF HOPE



Imagine you are a teen-aged girl who has been sent to live in a religious boarding school in rural Missouri against your will. Now imagine you and your schoolmates are being subjected to abuse and no one will believe you until a new reporter fresh out of Cottey College begins asking questions. Cottey alumna **Kathryn Skopec** investigated rumors of abuse at Circle of Hope girls' residential boarding school. Her reporting broke the story that eventually led to charges against owners Boyd and Stephanie Householder.

Kathryn Skopec, a 2019 graduate with a newly minted English degree, began working for her hometown newspaper in Bolivar immediately after graduation, anxious to begin a writing career.

"What appealed to me was the creativity and freedom of the job," said Skopec. "The long hours and unpredictable schedule that you hear about are true, sure, but at the end of the day, writing for a

living is truly a privilege! I love being able to use my degree in my work."

In January 2020, Skopec transferred from the Bolivar paper to the *Cedar County Republican* in Stockton, Missouri, one of seven papers in her company's newsgroup because they were short-staffed and needed a reporter.

"During my first week in the Cedar County community, I immediately took notice of the religious boarding schools tucked away in the rural parts of the county," she noted. "I thought, 'Huh, that's kind of weird.' I'd never heard of these types of boarding schools before, and there were quite a few of them in Cedar County."

A few weeks later, Skopec was assigned to visit a religious boarding school (it wasn't Circle of Hope) to write a "fluff piece" about an event. But as she observed the school and the students, alarm bells immediately went off in her head. "My gut feeling told me something was off," said Skopec.

That evening, she began online research of Missouri religious boarding schools and came across several internet forums filled with student testimonials dating back to the early 1990s.

"These students were talking to each other and sounding as if they were completely ignored from the public—which was true at the time," said Skopec. "Those former students described horrific experiences of abuse at several boarding schools in Cedar County and the surrounding area. But when I later inquired about these schools to other people in my coverage area, I was universally

told that those victims were simply 'bad kids' who didn't like authority and wanted to be 'victims.'"

In May 2020, Skopec downloaded the TikTok app on her phone. After a few days of scrolling through the videos on TikTok, Skopec discovered a surprise.

"It was a video from Amanda Householder," Skopec explained, "the adult daughter of Boyd and Stephanie Householder, who founded and owned Circle of Hope Girls' Ranch and Boarding School. The daughter had just recently started posting TikTok videos at that time, speaking out against her parents and the physical, sexual and emotional abuse she had witnessed and heard about at her parents' boarding school. Her videos were quickly gaining a lot of views, but there was no news coverage of her allegations and no criminal charges against the Householders at all."

That video jump-started Skopec's investigation into the Circle of Hope (COH) ranch.

"As soon as I saw her videos, I googled Circle of Hope's address and saw that the school was only 13 miles away from my office. My jaw dropped and my heart started racing," said Skopec. "I had no idea the school existed, and most people in Stockton didn't either. At that moment, I knew that because this school was in my coverage area, I needed to do everything I could to investigate the truth and potentially help save lives by shining light on the

alleged truth. After all, the school was fully functioning at that point. I knew that if Amanda and the victims were telling the truth, the state of the students who were currently attending the school needed to be heard and seen.”

Skopec reached out to Amanda on TikTok, letting Amanda know that the message was from a newspaper reporter based in Stockton who wanted to speak with her and other Circle of Hope victims.

“Amanda called me on my cell phone right away,” said Skopec. “She was on board, and I let her know I was going to start investigating COH for a story. She was incredibly thankful and told me she had tried contacting my newspaper about this matter years ago, along with other major media outlets in Missouri, but had never heard a response. We set up a phone interview time, and she said she’d give my number to other victims in COH’s online survivor network.

“Within ten minutes, my phone started blowing up with calls from several other victims. A few of these women were crying when I answered the phone, exasperatedly telling me they were survivors of Circle of Hope. They said I was the only reporter who’d ever picked up their call. I was in complete shock,” she said.

The rest of the newsroom was shocked as well. Circle of Hope was located “in the boonies” and no one in the newsroom knew it existed. They did know, however, that something big had been put in their hands. Skopec excused herself, drove home, and locked herself in her bedroom to focus on these phone interviews. By the end of the evening, she had several notebooks full of details,

hours of audio recordings, and half of her first article written.

“During my first exposé on the ranch, which was published six days after my first contact with victims, law enforcement officials said they were aware of the allegations and would investigate with due course. Legally, there can only be so much said about criminal investigations involving minors as victims,” said Skopec.

In August 2020, after months of people telling Skopec the victims were simply “troubled girls” and “manipulators” and saying the overall story was blown out of proportion, suddenly over 20 students were removed from Circle of Hope.

“Once my newspaper broke the story of girls being removed from Circle of Hope, several large media outlets began paying attention to COH, including KY3, KOLR 10, KOAM [area television stations], and the *Kansas City Star*. I heard from a local deputy that the *New York Times* even called the sheriff’s department. Less than a month later, Boyd and Stephanie Householder closed the school down.”

During this process, Skopec had some concerns for her safety, but even more so for the victims.

“I was very fearful for their safety, and I know they have feared that for themselves,” she said. “The worst point of this was when Boyd and Stephanie were released on house arrest from custody earlier this year due to medical problems, even though they were originally deemed a flight risk. The victims were very worried about retaliation after the Householders were released, but I’m thankful that no incident has occurred thus far to my knowledge.”

INSPIRING CHANGE

As of this writing, the Householders have not gone to trial and face over 100 felony charges including statutory rape, sodomy, physical abuse and neglect. None of this may have come to light without the diligent work of Skopec.

“It was life-changing to know that my coverage truly started a movement of change for a very vulnerable population” said Skopec. “This story went global on Dateline NBC (who licensed my photo of the school and showed it on TV!), Fox News, BBC and almost all major media outlets, practically forcing state lawmakers to acknowledge that change needed to be made—and indeed, lawmakers delivered that change earlier this year. It felt like very meaningful work, and I would love to chase that feeling again.”

6 Months AND 2,100 MILES

Author Bill Bryson penned a book about his attempt to hike the Appalachian Trail (AT) with his very out-of-shape friend Steven Katz and titled it *A Walk in the Woods*. His humorous memoir was turned into a movie and is a classic tale revered by hikers and backpackers. However, no one – especially those who have attempted it – really thinks a six-month, 2,100 mile backpacking trek is a simple “walk in the woods.”

According to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, only one out of four thru-hikers (those who attempt the entire distance in one trip), successfully complete the hike. This year, however, **Heather Coffin Gerban '90** and former Cottey athletic director and head basketball coach **Stephanie Beason** both completed the trip from Springer Mountain, Georgia, to the top of Mt. Katahdin in Maine.

Some thru-hikers spend months, if not years, planning their hike. But for Gerban, it was a little more spontaneous.

“I only had about three months to plan my hike so it was very spontaneous!” she said. “I met another hiker on a Facebook group for Women Hikers in New Jersey. We went on weekly hiking trips and after a month or so she asked me if I was interested in hiking the Appalachian Trail. I was unemployed due to COVID and agreed to a month on the trail. I was hesitant, so I could only

commit a month. After hiking for four days, I fell in love with it and couldn’t imagine leaving the trail early.”

There are a few hardy souls who want to hike the trail alone, but for most hikers, they journey with a partner or in small groups referred to as “tramilies” (trail families) that break apart and re-form based on the hiking speed and destinations of the members. Every hiker has a trail name, some given by others, some self-selected. Gerban’s trail name was Heavenly Heather and her original hiking partner’s trail name was Lovely Lavender. Gerban was given her trail name by Nimrod at the Above the Clouds hostel in Suches, Georgia. Together she and Lovely Lavender were called the Floral Sisters.

The Floral Sisters began the trail together, but Gerban ended up doing several solo miles until meeting up with another hiker.

“I started the trail with a friend (Lovely Lavender) and we hiked together until North Carolina. I hiked mostly solo after that until Connecticut. In Connecticut I started hiking with Walmart [a thru-hiker, not the store!] who makes me laugh every day. I’ve learned a lot from him as this year is his third consecutive year thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail,” said Gerban.

About half of the thru-hikers who drop out do so because of injury, illness, or just running out of energy to complete the task. How did Gerban avoid those problems?

“In the beginning it is wise to do fewer miles, around 8-10 miles per day,” she said. “As your body becomes more conditioned, you start adding miles. In the White Mountains (New Hampshire), pretty much everyone does considerably fewer miles as the terrain is a lot more difficult. At that point, you are basically mountaineering,” said Gerban. “I also make sure I drink enough water, especially during the summer, and get enough calories. Thru-hikers burn around 5,000 calories daily so it is important to eat as much food as you can on the trail and in towns when you get your food resupply.”

The logistics of food resupply are another obstacle to successfully completing the AT. There are no stores on the trail, so hikers must make arrangements to go into local towns to resupply or have food shipped to post offices in towns along the way. Gerban said that was the hardest part of her trek.

“The logistics of resupplying food and taking a day off to shower, do laundry and rest (called “taking a zero”) were the most difficult,” she said. “The trail doesn’t go through a lot of towns and so you need to coordinate transportation, which is usually with a shuttle driver.”

Despite all the difficulties of resupply, mountaineering and lousy weather days, Gerban loved her experience.

“The trail has changed my life so I’m very excited for the future!” she said.

Gerban's advice to other potential thru-hikers sounds a lot like good advice for life.

- “Be prepared to be comfortable with being uncomfortable. For example, sometimes you will not be able to shower for four days and you will be dirty and sleepy. You also might have consecutive rainy days and everything you have is soaked.”
 - “Never quit the trail on a bad day. Sometimes you can be discouraged, but allow yourself time before quitting.”
 - “Find something to be grateful for every day.”
-

How does a prospective thru-hiker prepare to hike the AT?

“I had no prior experience backpacking so I read a few books about hiking the AT and asked for advice from employees at my local REI store,” Gerban explained. “Once you are on the trail, other hikers are willing to help and give advice. The trail community is amazing and is a big part of why I love the AT so very much. In regards to training, I believe that trail running and finishing a few workout programs helped condition my legs.”



Appalachian Trail

CONTINUED

Unlike Heather Coffin Gerban, Stephanie Beason (trail name Vista) began researching her thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail about seven years ago.

"I spent that following year purchasing gear and my first backpacking trip was the northern 150 miles of the trail the following year," said Beason. "Since then, thru-hiking the trail was always on the bucket list. However, I assumed it was a pipe dream because of my profession and the time commitment it demanded."

Like Gerban, the pandemic was a motivating factor in Beason choosing to pursue her AT dream. Beason resigned from her position at Cottey and set out to mark off this bucket list item. Before her final day at Cottey, however, she spent weeks in training.

"I did day hikes, walking, jogging, etc. prior to leaving for my hike in March," she said. "Regardless, it's difficult to mimic the AT when you live in the Midwest. We do not have trails or mountains remotely close to what the AT is, even though I felt like I was in decent shape to start the trail. I started the hike knowing I had to be strategic with pace and miles and keep the end goal in mind. After all, this is a six-month, 2,193.1 mile commitment. I started the trail with the intent of having an eight-mile-a-day pace for the first few weeks. Then I'd bump my miles up to 10-11 miles a day for a few weeks and continue to increase miles as I got in shape and started to develop trail legs."

Beason was aggressive in her daily mileage, although she also was diligent about scheduling "zero days" in her schedule.

"My daily miles were very dependent on the terrain and weather once I had trail legs. In the northern half of Virginia, where the elevation changes are less drastic, I was doing 20+ mile days four times a week," said Beason. "I did a marathon day in Maryland and into Pennsylvania vs. southern Maine where it could take me all day to do 10 miles because of rocks, roots, rock climbing and elevation gain/loss. For me, 16-18 miles a day was my sweet spot where I still had plenty of time to enjoy the beauty of the trail and could get to camp without being really tired."

What was Beason's biggest challenge during her six months on the trail?

"The most difficult part was getting used to being uncomfortable," said Beason, echoing one of Gerban's points. "The Appalachian Mountains are very damp, and humidity plays a big factor. Once it got hot out or if you'd get rained on, your clothes never dried out until you got to town to do laundry. Putting wet and smelly clothes on every morning was definitely the hardest part to get used to since thru-hikers typically carry two sets of clothes: one pair for hiking and the other pair for camp to ensure you have dry clothes to sleep in."



points of pride

FEARLESS GIVER BECKY ZELTINGER '94



Rebecca “Becky” Zeltinger ‘94 is fearless, especially when it comes to giving to Cottey College. She is not only a generous benefactor, but she also says “yes” when asked to volunteer for the College. Zeltinger has served on the Cottey College Alumnae Association (CCAA) Executive Board (with terms as both President and Vice President), as a Class Agent, as a member of the Alumnae Campaign Steering Committee for the Defining Moment Campaign, and as the Co-lead for the Cottey College Alumnae Club of the Washington, D.C., Area. Why is giving back to Cottey so important to her?

“I grew up in a family of givers—givers of time, money, and talents,” Zeltinger explained. “No matter how the Cottey experience changes over the years, there is something at its core that persists through the generations and should be sustained. Within just a few years after my graduation I saw from my younger sisters’ experiences how Cottey kept getting better and better over the years—with the addition of the international trip being a stand-out improvement at the time. Soon after graduation, I decided that I wanted to be a part, even if a tiny part, of Cottey’s growth and continuous improvement.”

Zeltinger is a knowledge and talent manager for an intelligence and security contractor, and she was able to use those particular skills during her time on the CCAA board.

“Part of my charge in my day job is organizational change. I was fortunate to have the chance to collaborate with a cohort of fearless leaders to achieve some organizational change within the board,” she said.

Zeltinger elaborated on why she gives of her time to Cottey College. “The core of my personal ‘why’ is big purpose,” she said. “In my estimation, Cottey fulfills a big purpose for the women who attend, their families, and their communities. And, how could I pass up any opportunity to meet and spend time with a new Cottey alumna? From my years as a Cottey volunteer in a variety of capacities, I’ve established many dear Cottey connections outside of the Great Class of 1994 and across the generations that I wouldn’t trade for anything. Yes, the friendships made as students will last a lifetime. The beautiful thing is that ability to create a Cottey connection doesn’t stop at graduation and transcends classes.”

Not everyone is in a position to give so much volunteer time back to their alma mater, but giving financially is possible for almost everyone even at a modest level.

“Giving to our dear old Cottey C is imperative and its importance continues to increase during this time of great change and uncertainty,” Zeltinger added. “To ensure Cottey remains a place for creating incredible futures for women, by women, about women,

all alumnae should become Cottey supporters. Imagine the possibilities for growth and innovation if we alumnae, as a collective, converted our undeniable love and passion into tangible support. A monetary gift is more than increased buying power. A single gift from just one alumna who has yet to give in a fiscal year increases our alumnae giving rate. The alumnae giving rate is a key metric used by prospective students, funders, and evaluators in assessing the level of endorsement given by the College’s product—us! If we don’t step forward to become Cottey supporters, who else should?”

What has been the most gratifying result to Zeltinger from her donations of her presence, gifts, and service?

“I always find giving to Cottey rewarding and, quite often, fun!” she noted. “Contributing to the addition of or improvement to an amenity to strengthen the offerings to current and future students aligns with my core values and gives some purpose to my existence. That I often get to combine my giving of time or money with a duck- and daisy-oriented art and craft project is simply a bonus and a hands-on creative balance to my day job.”

Volunteering for the College can be as simple as referring a prospective student (at cottey.edu/referstudent) or by serving as a class agent. Cottey alumnae are amazing; let’s be fearless in the promotion and support of our institution. You too may also find “big purpose” and have fun doing it, just like Becky Zeltinger.

IMPOSTER SYNDROME

If you Google the term “imposter syndrome,” you will get a myriad of definitions all slightly different yet sharing similar themes: self-loathing, anxiety, fear, frustration, feeling “less than” or like you’re pretending to be someone you’re not while worrying that people are going to “find out.”

The symptoms stem from our own perception that we aren’t doing or being “enough” (whatever that is). This notion that we aren’t “enough” is often reinforced daily by family, religion, media, friends, and foes.

The cause of imposter syndrome isn’t clear cut. It’s a unique blend of circumstances such as one’s exposure to media and marketing, family and religious values and

morals, history of relationships, pressure from “them” versus what you want and personality and temperament to name a few. What is clear is that imposter syndrome can be felt by anyone at any time.

This syndrome may appear both in our work and personal lives as well as parasocial relationships (these are one-sided relationships when you feel you have a personal connection with someone whom you’ve never met like a celebrity, or someone you follow on social media).

At the end of the day these thoughts and emotions tend to bubble-up when you are feeling insecure about yourself. They can also surface when you read or see someone else doing something you think you “should” be doing as well. These thoughts are called cognitive distortions or irrational thoughts.

One powerful way to combat imposter syndrome is to challenge your irrational thoughts. Below is a brief rundown of the main ways our thoughts tend to deceive us. This is a list of the most common distortions.

Fortune telling: the expectation that a situation will turn out badly without enough or accurate evidence.

All-or-nothing thinking: thinking in absolutes such as “always,” “never,” or “every.” “I never do a good enough job.”

Magnification and minimization: exaggerating or minimizing the importance of an event. One might believe their own achievements are unimportant or that their mistakes are awesome and amazing.

Magical thinking: the belief

that the way one behaves will influence unrelated situations. “I am a kind person—bad things shouldn’t happen to me.”

Emotional reasoning: the assumption that emotions reflect the way things really are. “I feel like a bad friend; therefore, I must be a bad friend.”

Catastrophizing: seeing only the worst possible outcomes of a situation. Making broad generalizations from a single or few events. “I felt awkward during lunch with my friends. I am always so awkward.”

Personalization: the belief that one is responsible for events outside of one’s control. “My mom is always upset. She would be happy if I was skinnier.”

Jumping to conclusions: interpreting the meaning of a situation with minimal or no evidence.

Mind reading: thinking you can read other people’s thoughts without evidence to prove you can. “She would not go on a date with me. She probably thinks I’m ugly.”

Disqualifying the positive: acknowledging only the negative aspects of a situation while ignoring the positive. One might receive many compliments on an evaluation, but focus on the single piece of negative feedback.

“Should” statements: the belief that things should be a certain way. “I should always be friendly.”

Example: You start a new job

that is one you will “grow” into. A colleague asks you a benign question about an area that is on your learning curve. You tell him you will get back to him within 24 hours. After he leaves your office you start to mentally tailspin: “I’m never going to learn everything I need to know. I was stupid to say ‘yes’ to this job.” (This distortion is “all-or-nothing thinking”).

In this situation, the first thing you need to do is recognize that these thoughts are cognitive distortions. The second is to challenge them.

You do this by literally writing down the irrational thought and replacing it with a rational one. “No, I didn’t have the answer right away. Yes, I know where to look for the answer and am aware this is an area I’m not strong in but I am learning. I just started this job and need to give myself some grace.”

In our social media-obsessed world, it’s easy to see how one can start to feel “less than” when what we see appears to be “perfection.”

The next time you start to feel self-loathing, fearful, or anxious, stop and ask yourself, “Why?” Challenge yourself to dig deeper and find evidence to disprove those cognitive distortions. Remember, you’re amazing and there is no one in the world quite like you. Your unique set of skills are valuable and important. Stop being your own worst enemy.



Editor's Note:

*“Comparison is the thief of joy.” Everyone who has ever used social media knows this when reading other friends’ curated highlights and comparing themselves to those. The feature stories in this issue spotlight some truly outstanding fearless women, but the reader should use these role models for inspiration, not comparison. Based on some recent social media posts I read where alumnae felt they were not “good enough” or were “faking it,” I asked Cottey alumna Dr. **Bethany Cook ‘97**, licensed clinical psychologist, to share her thoughts on how you can acknowledge the fearless women you really are.*

class notes

FALL / WINTER 2021



Ria Jewell Allen '11, received her Doctor of Occupational Therapy on August 20, 2021, from the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences in Escondido, California.



Amber Rosenberg Todd '03 has been working at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine for the past five years and was recently promoted to Assistant Dean of Medical Education and Accreditation. Her two children (now 9 and 6) enjoy being the “school-aged” subjects to help demonstrate to the medical students how to interview pediatric patients.



Michaela A. Culkin '95, Ph.D., Chapter AD, Kansas, and husband David T. Culkin, Ph.D., have published a book, *OCD and Marriage* (September 2021), published by Specialty Press. It is a book about OCD in committed partnerships that can offer some perspective in an era of COVID-induced anxiety, polarized communications, and life-balance stress.

From the authors: “When we were first diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD)

Fearless women

twenty-five years ago, we sought a resource in conjunction with our therapy that would help our marriage survive and grow stronger as we navigated our ‘new normal.’ We could not find such a resource, so we did all we could to research OCD and its effects on relationships. We felt strongly that our story could help others in the same position, so we took a leap of faith and wrote about our journey. *OCD and Marriage* is a book by survivors for survivors of a much misunderstood disorder that can ravage any couple’s life. The text includes a foreword by the renowned researcher, Jonathan Abramowitz, Ph.D. We hope that this witness of our own experiences will foster healing, communication, and rejuvenation in other relationships.”

The book is available online through major booksellers and the Culkins have developed a website at www.oecdandmarriage.com to provide a safe space for survivors of all paths to share their voices and learn.

alumni

DEATHS

1942 Jacqueline Drew	1960 Sharon Eckles McKibben
1946 Thelma Kay Rowland	1961 Carlene Baharlou Remund
1947 Jacqueline Frailey Lamoreux	1963 Ann Burnet
1949 Barbara Roach Fox	1965 Barbara Clark Smith
1951 Margaret Ritchey Turner	1969 Jill Vagt Johnson
1952 Sandra Thompson Armstrong	1969 Monthana Tanthana
1952 Mary Hadley-Nankivil House	1975 Nancy Martin
1954 Gwendolyn Schoolcraft Roeder	1987 Deidre McCormick Larsen
1958 Janice Spinelli Kretzmeier	1988 Mitzi King
1959 Arlene Kestner Schweigerdt	

in memoriam *Jack Sargent*

Jack D. Sargent, J.D., former member of the Cottey College Board of Trustees, died on November 22, 2021. Sargent, from El Paso, Texas, was appointed to the Cottey College Board of Trustees in 1986 and served as chairman of the board in 1990-91.

Mr. Sargent graduated from University of California, Los Angeles, and received his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas Law School. He was a partner in the law firm of Patterson, Sargent and Glanville in El Paso and became a member of the Texas Bar Association in 1955. Before joining his law firm in 1978, he had a 30-year banking career, including 21 years as a trust officer of El Paso National Bank.



His wife June is past president of Texas State Chapter P.E.O. Sisterhood. The Sargents have two sons, Charles and John, and a daughter, Holly. Holly graduated from Cottey in 1982.

Mr. Sargent was active in community affairs, including the El Paso Symphony, Providence Memorial Hospital, Kiwanis, El Paso Community Foundation, and the El Paso Aviation Association. He was very involved with the local United Methodist Church, having served at the local, district and conference levels.

The family has requested donations be made to the June Sargent Scholarship Fund at Cottey College. Checks should be made out to the P.E.O. Foundation with the memo: June H. Sargent; TCCSF Scholarship Fund. Checks should be mailed to: Coralinn Young, 109 Mount Ellen Street, Hutto, Texas 78634.

Faculty NOTES



Dr. Carol Clyde Gallagher



Dr. Mary Mba

Dr. Landon Adams, vice president for student life, and **Dr. Joann Bangs**, vice president for academic affairs, attended a virtual conference titled *Bravely Confronting Racism in Higher Education*, sponsored by Harvard Graduate School of Education. This four-week virtual learning experience met twice weekly. The goal was to help participants build a more equitable environment for the community at their institutions by developing sustainable practices to confront racism through anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

Dr. Carmen Bourbon, professor of Spanish, attended the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages' (ACTFL) Virtual Convention. She participated in a series of workshops and panel discussions and also took part in a Q&A session with ACTFL's special guest speaker, Dr. Miguel Cardona, U.S. Secretary of Education. She also attended the 103rd Annual Conference of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Bourbon participated in scoring Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish Language and Culture tests as an online Distributed Reader for the Educational Testing Service.

Dr. Carol Clyde Gallagher, assistant professor of organizational leadership, participated in The University of Missouri's 32nd Annual Wakonse Conference. (Wakonse is a Lakota word meaning to teach, to inspire.) The conference brings together people who find inspiring and influencing others is what they do for a living. This year's two-day virtual summer event worked to create a climate where participants can strive to improve their teaching skills, talents, and areas for growth. Participants also learn about themselves as teachers and consider the tasks and issues of creative teaching.

Dr. Gallagher also participated in the "Advancing Research In Women and Leadership Academic Colloquium: From Intent To Action." The colloquium was sponsored by the International Leadership Association and based out of Canada's only women's university, Brescia University College at Western University in London, Ontario.

Dr. Wei Cui, Dr. Amanda Gilchrist, and Nancy Kerbs attended an interactive online series presented by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) to develop action plans for Cottey's general education assessment processes. They learned best practices for the assessment of student learning in general education programs and worked with a mentor to review the structure and philosophy of Cottey's program and plan for implementing the next steps.

Dr. Nancy Kohn, assistant professor of biology, attended the Animal Behavior Society's Education Workshop titled *Teaching Lessons Learned From a Distance*. She also attended the Animal Behavior Society's 2021 Virtual Conference. Attending the workshop was a great way to hear and share ideas about teaching lectures and labs in the field of animal behavior.

Kris Korb, director of campus activities, attended the Arts Midwest 2021 Online Conference. She attended workshops on presenting performing arts in a pandemic age and also was able to view a large number of potential performers for the campus performing arts series.

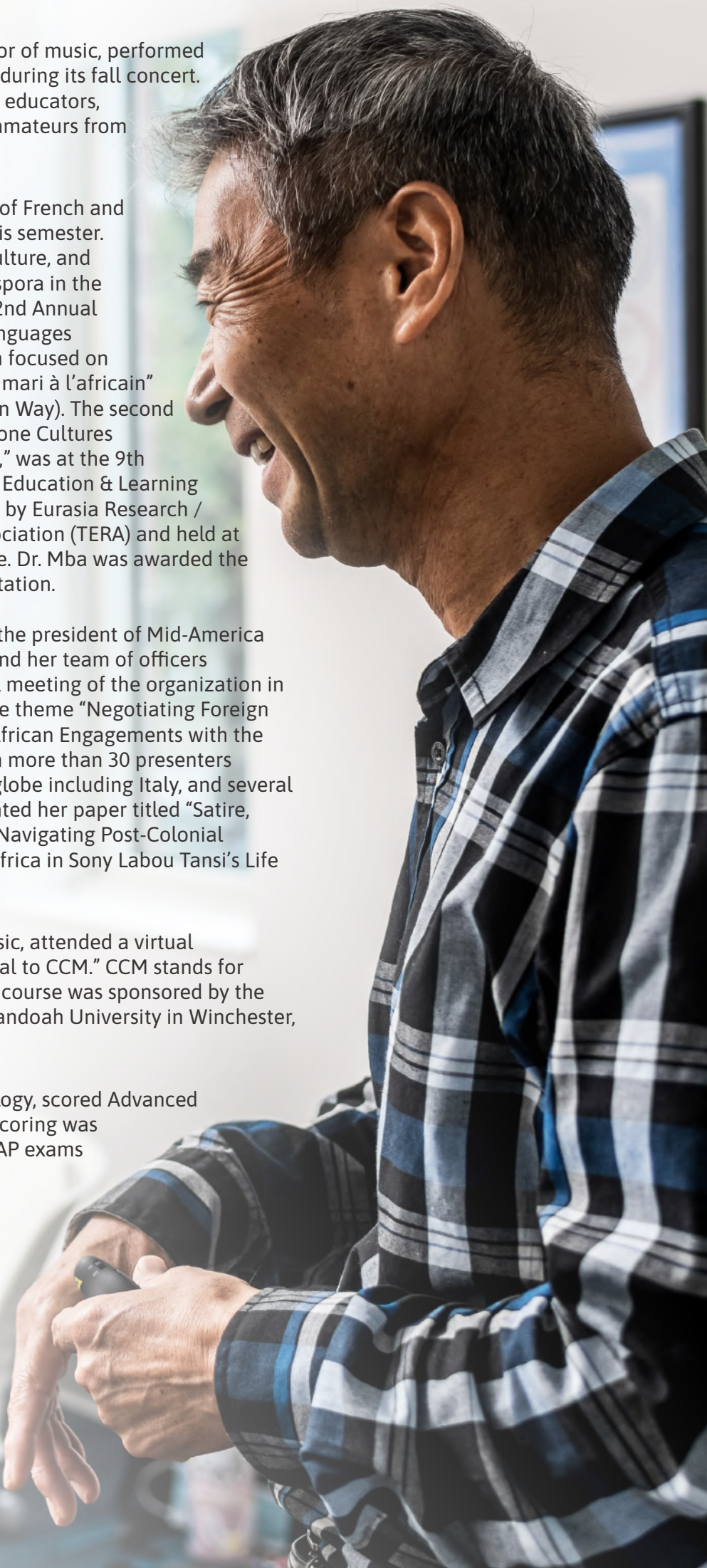
Dr. Jackie Lordo, assistant professor of music, performed with the Four States Symphonic Winds during its fall concert. This group is comprised of many music educators, professional musicians, and excellent amateurs from the Four States Area.

Dr. Mary Mba, associate professor of French and Francophone, presented two papers this semester. The first, titled “Post-feminism, Food Culture, and Articulating the African Woman in Diaspora in the Work of Calixthe Beyala,” was at the 62nd Annual Convention of the Midwest Modern Languages Association (MMLA). Dr. Mba’s research focused on Beyala’s novel, “Comment cuisiner son mari à l’africain” (How to Cook Your Husband the African Way). The second paper, “Teaching French and Francophone Cultures through Students’ Culture Involvement,” was at the 9th International Conference on Teaching, Education & Learning (ICTEL). This conference was organized by Eurasia Research / Teaching and Education Research Association (TERA) and held at FormaSquare-La Chapelle, Paris, France. Dr. Mba was awarded the “Eminent Person” for her paper presentation.

Dr. Mary Mba, who currently serves as the president of Mid-America Alliance for African Studies (MAAAS), and her team of officers successfully organized the 25th annual meeting of the organization in October. The conference, which had the theme “Negotiating Foreign Actors and Influences: Reconsidering African Engagements with the World Beyond,” was well attended with more than 30 presenters presenting from different parts of the globe including Italy, and several countries in Africa. Dr. Mba also presented her paper titled “Satire, Humor, Absurdity, and Magic Realism: Navigating Post-Colonial Leadership and Foreign Influences in Africa in Sony Labou Tansi’s *Life and Half* (La Vie et demié).”

Theresa Spencer, professor of music, attended a virtual course titled “Bridging the Gap: Classical to CCM.” CCM stands for Contemporary Commercial Music. The course was sponsored by the CCM Vocal Pedagogy Institute at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia.

Dr. Julie Tietz, professor of psychology, scored Advanced Placement (AP) Exams in Psychology. Scoring was conducted remotely this year. Scoring AP exams is an excellent form of professional development, as it greatly improves essay grading skills.





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By Cottey College Alumnae Association

Cottey alumnae may span the globe, but in a Zoom room, they shared squares side by side. More than 50 alumnae registered to be a part of the Sea to Cottey C event on November 13, 2021. Even alumnae living on the other side of the world joined for Zoom time in their time zone! We had people connecting from six time zones across the globe!

No matter the class year, everyone enjoyed Cottey Pictionary! Small groups were able to draw pictures that depicted classic Cottey-related items. Who knew so many people could draw so well? Another surprise was the connections made between alumnae who had never met before.

An alumna from the Class of 1972 discovered she is neighbors to a 1983 alumna's sister-in-law. These connections led to discussions of new Cottey Clubs, and opportunities to bring more people to the Cottey campus. Watch for opportunities to contribute to the Cottey College Campus Visit Fund, the newest endowment and current project of the CCAA.

Many alumnae topped off the day by joining with their classmates in a virtual community happy hour. Stories were told, memories were shared, and connections were made. Cottey alumnae truly do connect from Sea to Cottey C!