

VIEWPOINT
MAGAZINE

IMPACTING

THE WORLD



 **COTTEY**
COLLEGE

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Like every other organization, Cottey has been impacted by the recent trends in inflation and the rising cost of goods. For the upcoming 2023-2024 academic year, we have made the difficult decision to print only the summer edition of the Viewpoint. We will create a special digital edition for the winter issue and distribute it to our readers electronically.

If you'd like to update your contact information, especially your email address, please send updates to alumnae@cottey.edu. We don't want you to miss out on the winter digital edition of Viewpoint!

Introduction

The idea of impacting the world holds an undefinable attraction. It often appears as a light in the distance within our psyche, drawing us like a moth to a flame. People from all walks of life want to be impactful, and numerous motivations draw them to action, with ambition, pride, and financial stability being frequent and valid reasons for wanting to impact the world.

However, in the chronicles of history, we find that those who make the most impact are motivated by hope rather than desire—hope that they can make the world around them a better place, whether that be globally or in their local communities. These individuals know that hope is like fire: once sparked, it spreads quickly to hearts and minds around them, and what was once a distant light in a single person's psyche becomes a blaze kindled by many. A blaze that, even if kept in a small area, provides warmth, comfort, and inspiration in a deep and meaningful way.

And yet, the path to being impactful is often long, difficult, and must be taken in steps. Cottey wants to be the first step for many women on their journey to affect change. As heard from the passionate voice of Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." The strength of a Cottey education comes from numerous sources inside and outside of the classroom. It lies in the rigorous assignments, support

from suite mates, the alumnae and P.E.O. communities, and the waves of encouragement that reassure our students they can significantly impact the world.

This edition of the Viewpoint features members of the Cottey community who are making a difference. One is a graduating student whose capstone project analyzed local water conditions, providing much-needed information to nearby farmers and ranchers. Another is an alumna who traveled to Guatemala with the mission of helping those less fortunate. Both have set their sights on making the world around them a better place.

We aspire for this summer's Viewpoint to stir feelings of hope, strength, and productivity in its readers. If you are an alumna, we hope it takes you back to your time at Cottey, sitting in your suite with the wistful dreams of a young up-and-comer at a time of great passion and optimism. These memories are something we should all strive to recapture periodically.

If you know a current Cottey student, do not hesitate to send words of encouragement and inspiration their way. If you encounter a young woman yearning to make their mark on the world, guide them toward Cottey and encourage them to visit the campus. Together, let us foster a future generation of impactful change-makers.



DR. STEFANIE D. NILES

President's Message

What a year it has been at Cottey! Our students have experienced many exciting events, outcomes, and achievements, and I'm honored to have witnessed so many of them.

The arts are truly alive at Cottey. There have been faculty and student concerts, recitals, dance ensemble performances, and a play production during the spring semester. Regardless of their course of study, students bring their talents to Cottey's stages, sharing them with the campus and Nevada communities. Students also brought their passions to life in the classroom, offering glimpses into their academic experiences through their capstone presentations during Assessment Day in the spring.

Other events—such as the Honors and Awards ceremony, teaching events, and the Merry Ann DeVaney Sauls Writing Awards ceremony—offered students the chance to showcase their academic growth and development.

Athletic successes were plentiful during the spring semester, with Cottey's softball and flag football teams playing in the NAIA National Championships and an individual member of the track and field team competing nationally. The basketball team and golfers also enjoyed competitive finishes this spring in their first year as members of the American Midwest Conference. It was energizing to watch Cottey's students face trials and triumphs as they competed against new athletic competitors.

I had the good fortune to travel with 69 students and 11 faculty and staff members to Vienna, Austria, during the first week of spring break. Absorbing another culture through the eyes and experiences of our students was a wonderful privilege. I hope that some of you will consider joining us for the Cottey Abroad trip to Dublin, Ireland, for alumnae, P.E.O.s, and their guests in July 2024 (learn more at cottey.edu/cotteyabroad).

We are excited to offer members of the extended Cottey community the chance to travel together and learn from our tour guides, faculty, and staff while enjoying old and new friends during this phenomenal trip.

I was thrilled to be inaugurated as Cottey's 13th president on April 1, after a weeklong celebration on campus. This event was just one of many festive occasions during our Founder's Day Weekend, which was a joy to experience. I was glad to have the opportunity to align the investiture with Founder's Day and make this celebration accessible to more members of the extended Cottey family.

Commencement took place on Saturday, May 13, a highlight for the Cottey community. Faculty, students, staff members, alumnae, P.E.O.s, and family members from multiple countries gathered on campus to celebrate our 57 graduates' successes (nine received associate degrees and 48 received bachelor's degrees). The weather was beautiful, family members were beaming, and everyone was so proud of the graduates who successfully made their way across the stage, diplomas in hand, despite the many hardships that our students navigated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While there was much joy during commencement, the events were tinged with sadness as our community continued to mourn the loss of senior Ella Page, whose mother, Chel Page '92, accepted Ella's posthumous degree on behalf of her daughter. Ella's passing was very challenging for the community, though all pulled together to navigate this tragic loss. Our students, faculty, and staff proved resilient and compassionate as they supported each other through the difficult weeks at the end of the semester.

As my first year at Cottey concludes, I consistently find myself reflecting on what an honor it is to serve as Cottey's president. Our faculty are dedicated and thoughtful, the staff is committed to our students' well-being, and the students themselves are passionate, articulate, and kind. Cottey C is most certainly a terrific place to be!



Stefanie D Niles

CAMPUS NEWS



◆ NEW VICE PRESIDENTS ARRIVING AT COTTEY

MICHELLE WOOD

Vice President for Institutional Advancement



Ms. Wood comes to Cottey College with 13 years of development experience, including six years at Missouri Southern State University, where she successfully raised over \$10 million for the university and worked diligently to engage and re-engage donors and alumni. Prior to Missouri Southern, she worked at Leggett & Platt Incorporated as director of talent acquisition. Michelle earned her B.S. in education from Missouri Southern and is currently pursuing her MBA from Pittsburg State University.

“I am honored and delighted to accept this role at a college that is committed to empowering women and providing them with an exceptional education,” said Michelle. “I look forward to working collaboratively with both internal and external stakeholders and sharing all of the wonderful things happening at Cottey.”

Michelle began her tenure at Cottey College on June 15.

DR. KARLA S. MCCAIN

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty



Dr. McCain earned a Ph.D. in physical/analytical chemistry from the University of Utah and a B.A. in chemistry from Ohio Wesleyan University. Prior to joining Cottey College, Dr. McCain served as the Provost at Blackburn College and was a member of the faculty at Austin College (TX) from 2003-2021. With experience as a professor, chair, dean, and provost, Dr. McCain brings a wealth of knowledge to her new position.

“Cottey’s mission is very inspiring to me,” said Dr. McCain. “To develop women as leaders through intellectually engaging curricular and co-curricular experiences, who are prepared to thoughtfully serve their local and global communities, is an exciting undertaking. I am eager to begin building relationships with students, faculty, staff, and alumnae. I was impressed by the people I met on campus and the high-quality education that Cottey provides.”

Dr. McCain began her tenure on July 1.

◆ 2023 INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE VIENNA, AUSTRIA



69 students had the opportunity to travel to Vienna, Austria, as part of Cottey’s International Experience program. Throughout the week, students learned about Austrian history, culture, and architecture. Students also participated in educational modules led by Cottey staff and faculty. The 2024 International Experience location is Dublin, Ireland.

◆ A DAY OF SERVICE

In honor of Martin Luther King Day, Cottey dedicated the day to service, celebrating a legacy of selflessness. Athletics Director Dr. Maryann Mitts and Director of Leadership Development Denise Hedges led the event, with support from student leadership assistants Madison Covell and Kaitlyn LeGrande, as well as Dakotah Johnston from the Student Life staff. The Serenbetz Institute provided funding for the event, which supports student-led initiatives and growth opportunities.

In her role as athletics director, Dr. Mitts hopes to weave service into the student-athlete culture. For her, it is more than just professional; humanitarianism has a personal significance. “My high school and college experiences were woven around ‘giving to others.’ What I didn’t realize at the time is that servant leadership was shaping me. Experiencing ‘being a person for others’ cultivates a culture in Cottey athletics where the focus is on developing the whole person. College athletics is so much more than the wins and losses. It’s about building a bridge of life skills,

including a philosophy of caring for others that will enrich one’s life well into adulthood.”

During this year’s day of service, over 100 volunteers gave their time at three locations: T&D Donkey Rescue in Liberal, MO; Harvester’s Community Food Network in Kansas City, MO; and Operation Breakthrough, a childcare and educational environment for underprivileged families, also in Kansas City, MO.

Hedges led the group at Harvester’s Community Food Network. “I think it’s important that our students get exposure to organizations that provide for our community and give their time, talent, and treasure to those around them.”

“I’ve found students can grow in all three of these,” Denise chuckled. “Volunteering can help students develop their talents, provide awareness, and learn about the needs communities face. It shows them how to help in the ways that they can, right now, as they are.”

For the students who participated, it was an eye-opening experience.

First-year student and softball player Adriana Abrantes ‘26 said, “You never really realize how much small acts of kindness, like helping put up fencing or picking up trash, means to someone until you see the impact firsthand.”

Like most traditions at Cottey, the MLK Day of Service has a legacy that is personal to the College. Being an institution that prizes its selflessness and service to others, Cottey had a Spring Day of Service tradition prior to its current MLK Day celebration. It took a student’s perspective to tie the two together, creating the tradition that Cottey has today.

Emily Cortez’s ‘16 capstone project made the case that Cottey’s Spring Day of Service should be held on MLK Day to honor his memory.

Emily’s project was well-received, and the following year, Renee Hampton, coordinator of career services and experiential learning (now retired), made it her mission to see Cortez’s vision come to life. Today, MLK Day of Service is a campus service day that emphasizes volunteering and gives faculty and staff the opportunity to coordinate official channels for volunteer work, like Dr. Mitts and Hedges did this year.

COTTEY COMETS



BASKETBALL

The Cottey College basketball program competed in the American Midwest Conference (AMC), securing a spot in the postseason tournament in their first season, which ended after losing against conference champion Columbia College.

Claudia Hadlock, a freshman from Miller, Missouri, was exceptional during her inaugural season. Hadlock led the team in scoring, with an impressive average of 14.8 points per game. In addition to her scoring prowess, Hadlock also showcased her playmaking skills, leading the team in assists per game with 3.1, while also excelling defensively with 1.6 steals per game.

Claudia received multiple accolades from the AMC in recognition of her performance. She was honored as Freshman of the Year and named to the All-Conference Third Team and All-Tournament Team, cementing her place among the conference's top players.

Sophomore Sara Montesdeoca also contributed significantly to the Comets' success, earning Honorable Mention in the AMC. Montesdeoca averaged 7.1 points and an impressive seven rebounds per game.



ESPORTS

The Cottey College esports program finished its best season to date. The team members playing Valorant set a new single-season record for wins, garnering seven and qualifying for the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE) playoffs, during which they earned their first-ever playoff win.

Cottey's Overwatch team also set a new single-season record for wins with four and qualified for the NACE playoffs for the first time in program history.

INDOOR/OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

The Comets track and field program again represented well in postseason competition, as the team finished in third place at the AMC Indoor Championships. Senior Ella Page won first place in the 3,000m race, freshman Hannah Hayduk placed first in the 400m dash, and freshman Madalenn Fee hit the NAIA National 'B' Standard in the Pentathlon, earning her consideration for the NAIA Championship.

The Comets finished sixth at the AMC Outdoor Championships. Madalenn Fee qualified for the NAIA National Championship in the 3,000m steeplechase event. She also won the 800m race and was named AMC Freshman of the Year. Hannah Hayduk went undefeated in the 400m with her first place win, and the 4x400m team took home the championship title. Overall, the Comets set 22 new school records between both indoor and outdoor seasons.



SOFTBALL

The Comets softball program, under first-year head coach Jamie Taylor, continued its success, being named regular season co-champions in their first season in the American Midwest Conference (AMC), finishing with a record of 34-21. Cottey's softball team placed second in the AMC postseason tournament and were regular season AMC champions. Their regular season championship earned them a bid to the NAIA Nationals Championship in Chickasha, Oklahoma.

Coach Taylor was named AMC Coach of the Year, while six Comets landed on the AMC All-Conference Team. The first team included junior catcher Lauren Johnson, senior pitcher Lacey Cruz, junior third baseman Jenna Wilson, senior second baseman Aryana Palencia, and freshman pitcher Amelia Gassman. The second team included senior left-fielder Alyssa Montoya. Lauren Johnson was named Player of the Year, while Lacey Cruz was named Conference Pitcher of the Year.

This year's team broke an impressive 22 single-season individual records. The program also was noticed nationally, as the Comets received votes in the NAIA Top 25 Coaches Poll on two occasions.

GOLF

The Comets golf program, under first-year head coach Kim Severance, completed a very successful spring season, beginning at the Graceland Invitational, where the team finished fifth out of 10 teams. Sophomore Sara Golden, tied for eighth, while sophomore Dally Coulter and senior Rachael Carver tied for 20th on the individual level. At the Battle of Waterloo Invitational, Sara Golden placed fourth overall, sophomore Maddie Brennaman tied for fifth, and Rachael Carver tied for 10th.

Most impressively, the Comets finished third at the AMC Women's Championship while shooting a Cottey team record 701. Sara Golden and Dally Coulter finished in the top 10, while Maddie Brennaman finished 15th and Rachael Carver 17th.



CHAMPIONS CLUB

As Cottey Athletics continues to grow and teams become more successful, the need to increase departmental revenue becomes inevitable. The Champions Club was created to provide an excellent opportunity to invest in Cottey student-athletes by enhancing travel, providing improved equipment, and increasing overall resources available to our teams.

Champions Club members receive complimentary admission to home games, invitations to special events, and exclusive Cottey apparel.

Additional benefits are available at the All-American and National Championship levels. To join the Cottey Comets Champions Club, please visit: www.cottey.edu/champions-club

5K AND GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Comet Athletic Department held two major fundraising events in April. On April 2, the second annual Cottey Comets 5K Run/Walk and Family Fun Run took place. Contributors walked on campus, participated virtually, or sponsored a Cottey student-athlete to complete the run for them. The event had over 140 participants and raised \$25,000.

The inaugural "Swing for the Green" golf tournament was held on April 23 at Fred E. Peter's Golf Course and had a full field of 36 teams. The event raised \$15,000.

On a MISSION For Clean Water

Jerricho Jonker '23 has called El Dorado Springs, Missouri, her home for the past 15 years, and as an environmental studies major, she understands the importance of having access to clean water in her community. With a large family of six children and a husband, Jerricho heavily relies on local water sources for their daily needs. However, during her time at Cottey, Jerricho was shocked to find limited information on agriculture's impact on water quality in her region.

Undeterred, Jerricho decided to take matters into her own hands. For her senior capstone, she embarked on a rigorous research project to investigate the impact of agriculture on water quality in her community. She interviewed local farmers and other landowners, tested water quality at multiple sites, and examined land management practices and fertilizer use.

"Each day I went out was an adventure," said Jerricho. "I found it immensely enjoyable exploring the region and meeting with landowners. Some of the locations were pretty remote, and as I was driving to these locations, some

of the roads and rivers on Google Maps simply vanished into thin air. It made me realize that I have a passion for fieldwork and helping people."

Her dedication paid off when she discovered that one landowner's water source was heavily contaminated.

"The landowner had witnessed a dog food factory dumping waste and septic tank content onto the field adjacent to his property," said Jerricho. "The landowner had brought up concerns before, but now has data to present to the company."

Thanks to Jerricho's efforts, nine area landowners learned about the water quality levels and took action to ensure that their water was safe and clean.

Jerricho's passion for environmental studies was ignited further during her internship at Wah'Kon-Tah Prairie, an ecosystem that the Nature Conservancy runs in El Dorado Springs. There, she gained hands-on experience with land management practices and tools, and learned about the importance of protecting streams

and water sources. Inspired by her experiences, Jerricho hopes to use her research to inspire others to take action within their communities and educate themselves about the importance of clean water and sustainable land management practices.

After graduating in May, Jerricho plans to work with the Missouri Department of Conservation in her hometown. She hopes to continue learning about conservation efforts and give back to the community that has supported her throughout her journey.

I believe conservation work is essential for us to better understand and support the environment, and I hope that my effort is just one more positive step in helping create a brighter, cleaner future for all.



ALUMNAE

News

Sowing Seeds and Planting Hope



There is a well-known song on Cottey's campus, "May All of Your Dreams," that is a favorite at serenades and among alumnae at gatherings. For many alumnae, this song is a seed planted in their minds, reminding them that the future is theirs and that anything is possible. Susan Kratzer Woodard '83, wanted everyone to remember the value of this message, so she did something special. Susan harvested seeds from her home garden and created daisy seed packets for Founder's Day Weekend 2023. Thousands of seeds were distributed in hundreds of packets to alumnae and current students alike. Daisies will be sharing their hope for the future across the world through this generous gift.

The poem "Grow" by Melissa De Sousa (below), was read at the chapel service during Founder's Day Weekend by Luka Parker '26 and Mallori DeSalle '99.

"Grow" By Melissa De Sousa
'Goodbye old energy
it's time for you to go,
leave my body and let me grow,
more confident and happy,
strong and wise,
let me make my best life.
Let me see all that I can be.
Let me unleash the power in me.'

Constructing Cottey History

Cottey alumnae all have stories about their time at the College. Over the decades, many historical events have taken place on campus, but perhaps one of the most iconic was when the chapel was built. Though building a chapel on a college campus is not unusual, hiding campus celebrities Hermatruide and Murgatroyd inside the unfinished chapel steeple is quite unique. Sue Clover '58 and Cheryl Crow '58 shared the heroic tale of hiding the papier-mâché ducks in the steeple while it was under construction. They would have stayed there, enclosed by the chapel siding, had it not been for Sue and Cheryl's efforts to rescue the



ducks (that they had stolen from their seniors). **For the entire account of this event, watch the recording of Homecoming 2023.**

Inaugural Serenade

Serenades are a tried-and-true tradition at Cottey. The annual serenade during Founder's Day Weekend has taken place in many locations throughout the history of the event. This year, the serenade was integrated into the inauguration. Dr. Stefanie Niles ("Ducktor" Niles according to her duck jacket) sat in awe as she witnessed her first Cottey serenade with students and alumnae from around the world.

Dr. Niles has loved singing for much of her life, and at one point in her education, she considered pursuing music. She has performed in local musical groups and ensembles nationwide.

Cottey alumnae were excited to have Dr. Niles front and center for the serenade. It was also exciting to share a traditional "Skin-a-ma-rink" of Chris Niles (Dr. Niles' husband).

Though serenades have changed over time, singing continues to be one form of communication that bonds us all.



Alumnae Who Inspire

Every year, the Cottey College Alumnae Association recognizes alumnae who have made tremendous contributions to the Cottey community and the world. **Margaret Hubele Cunningham '09** flew more than 30 hours to get to Cottey from her home in Australia so she could accept the Outstanding Young Alumna Award. Maggie said the recognition was a beautiful surprise and inspired some amazing family decisions. Upon hearing of her desire to come back to Cottey to receive the award, Maggie's sister decided to set her wedding date to occur during Maggie's trip! Maggie was not just getting an award; she was getting to see her sister wed.

Distinguished Alumna **Rayito Lopez Stephens '86** returned to campus with her American host mother. In one of the most humble award acceptance speeches given, Rayito honored her Cottey sisters and

instructors who have shared opportunities that lifted her to influential status as a certified legal mediator and former commissioner on the Texas Real Estate Commission.

Aimee Starlin Meyer '02 is a familiar face in Nevada, MO. A native of the community, Aimee not only provides catering services on campus, but also has served on the Cottey College Alumnae Association Board of Directors for six years. Aimee was the recipient of the Alumna Service Award for her time on the CCAA, raising funds for the College and for her efforts to select Cottey's 13th president, Dr. Stefanie Niles. Aimee is also a fan favorite on campus and in town because she is the owner of a local Freddy's Frozen Custard. Aimee continues to be a shining star in Nevada, at Cottey, and among women entrepreneurs everywhere.



2023 CCAA Award Recipients. (left to right) Karen Brooks, Marty Bilek, Rayito Lopez Stephens, Aimee Starlin Meyer, Margaret Hubele Cunningham, Beverly Bond Quinlan.

Virtual Cottey State of Mind

As a community, we have learned that we can connect from any place that has Wi-Fi. For nearly 100 alumnae, this meant that they could participate in Founder's Day Weekend events without having to leave the comfort of their homes. This year, there were some favorite livestream events (chapel service and the awards luncheon), but there were also some Cottey State of Mind specialties. If you haven't had a chance, check out the website: www.CotteyFoundersDay.com to find the Cottey State of Mind visualization, Cottey Mad Libs, Cottey Fun and Games, and more.

And the GOLDEN DUCK goes to... 1976!

COTTEY REFERRALS BONANZA



P.E.O. members. The challenge will run until October 15. The goal is for 1,000 high school seniors to be referred to Cottey. The top referring alumnae, classes, and class decades will be recognized and can win prizes. To learn more and submit a referral visit cottey.edu/refer.

Congratulations to the Class of 1976 on winning the student referral challenge for 2022-2023! Overall, high school student referrals are lower than last year. Though a referral may seem insignificant, it is not! The more referrals Cottey receives, the more opportunities for Cottey to grow enrollment. This year, Cottey is issuing a new referral challenge to alumnae and

Nifty Fifty - Join Our Cottey State of Mind

How many of you have visited all 50 states? Though very few Americans have been to each state, Cottey has hosted students from all 50! And considering that we have alumnae who represent the entire country, the Cottey College Alumnae Association wants to continue this tradition by helping students visit from around the nation.

From December through March, the CCAA collected gifts from 29 states for the Cottey Campus Visit Fund. During Founder's Day Weekend, the CCAA was on a mission to find alumnae from our unrepresented states. Funds collected for the Cottey Campus Visit Fund help encourage prospective students to see Cottey for themselves.

The CCAA aims to raise \$87,000 for the fund. Why \$87,000 you ask?

In 2021, the year the CCAA created the endowment, 87% of the students enrolling at Cottey that fall had already visited Cottey as a prospective student. The number stuck! So we have two goals: The first is for alumnae from all 50 states to give to the Cottey Campus Visit Fund, and second, to raise \$87,000. So, if you haven't made your annual gift, consider the Cottey Campus Visit Fund.

Help girls from everywhere call Cottey their home. You can make the gift at www.Cottey.edu/give



CHANGING LIVES

ONE GIRL AT A TIME



By Brandii O'Reagan '93



“We do not get beat here.”

These words hang heavy in the air, met by gasps and an extra beat of silence. The air is cool in the mid-morning mountains of Guatemala. We are in Hacienda Vieja Village clustered around the bright blue entrance to the girls' club classroom, surrounded by 15 young girls ranging in age from 6-15.

The statement was in response to our team leader's question, asking the group of young girls gathered outside their classroom, “What do you like best about girls' club?” In the mountains of Guatemala, change is in the air, and this group of brave girls is part of it.

I recently returned from a life-changing experience with an organization working to create a new world for the women of Guatemala—one woman, one family, and one community at a time. My time was spent with an organization called Wakami. Wakami means “It already is.” Community. Safety. Health. Nutrition. Prosperity. This dream plants seeds in the hearts and hands of the people living in these rural communities trying to make a better life and a better world.

Wakami focuses on the lives of rural women and their struggle to generate sources of income for their families. Business training is provided to these rural women in order to transform cycles of poverty into cycles of prosperity.

*Guatemalans have a saying,
“El que te quiere, te aporrea.”
 (“The one who loves you, beats you.”)*

This is a sad expression of how violence is viewed as normal and even as an expression of affection. Guatemala is patriarchal, and one of the most gender-unequal countries in Latin America. Its traditional gender

roles revolve around machismo, caballerismo, and marianismo, i.e., in Guatemalan families, men generally are the strong, aggressive heads of families and providers, while women are the moral cores of families and handle most household work and childcare. This moral code affects every aspect of Guatemalan culture and is reflected in the treatment of the country's young girls.

Wakami was born by recognizing that Guatemala is a country where dreams are big, but opportunities are few. It all started when they reached out to communities and asked, “What do you need?” The answer was, “What we need is a source of income.” These words triggered endless questions, plans, and projects that led to a formula for change. The women were not asking for their problems to be solved, but rather were asking for the tools to solve problems themselves.

Wakami generates jobs in Guatemala's rural communities using two methodologies:

- An inclusive business methodology that incubates, establishes, and strengthens rural businesses mainly led by women through nine training cycles conducted over a two-year time frame.
- A Smart Investment Methodology platform that provides women with access to products and services, allowing rural families to invest their income strategically to improve their homes and their children's education and nutrition.



The method is the life and heart's work of Maria Pacheco, whom national and international agencies have recognized for her work in Guatemala. Maria knows that when you empower women by providing them with resources to better themselves, the effect is exponential. These women dream of better lives for their children, including education for their daughters and thriving, vibrant communities.

This idea is what brought 14 Rotarians from Minnesota and Alaska to Dona Gloria and the self-titled girls' club, “Circle of Friends.” Gloria is an incredible leader, the matriarch of her family and village in a land ruled by patriarchy. When Maria and Wakami approached villages looking for partners in their method, many of the male leaders turned them away, but Gloria stepped forward and said, “We will do this.” Gloria now runs a little store and a pharmacy. Her building houses the local girls' club.

Girls' clubs meet once a week for three hours in the afternoon. The clubs are capped at 20 participants each, and most have a waiting list.

In Guatemala, more than half the population lives below the poverty line, and many children cannot afford the cost of school. Dropout rates for girls are high. According to the Cooperative for Education, a nonprofit organization providing educational resources and opportunities to indigenous Mayan schoolchildren, an indigenous Guatemalan woman attends school for an average of 1.8 years. They often leave school early to help support their family, take care of siblings, or get married.

Even those who can attend school, particularly in rural schools and in indigenous communities, find that they are poorly funded and do not have adequate books, curriculum guides, literacy materials, and exam prep guides. Nine out of 10 schools in rural Guatemala lack books. Another problem, particularly in rural areas, is a lack of proper training for teachers, which stems from the challenges of recruiting and retaining quality teachers in rural schools.

The girls' club curriculum uses the Vital Voices program on handheld tablets—a full tablet-based curriculum that includes women's health, self-esteem, citizenship, and financial training. Vital Voices is another global nonprofit based on the philosophy that nations and communities cannot move forward without women's voices in leadership positions.

Partner groups, including Rotary International, provide tablets that cost around US \$220 each. The Circle of Friends club has five tablets that girls share. One of the program goals is to provide each girl with her own tablet.

Each girls' club costs US \$12,000 annually, which covers the curriculum, school supplies, a teacher's salary, and training for the teacher. Kimmy is the teacher for the girls' club I visited. Her mother, Dona Gloria, has been working with Wakami for over a decade and has educated all four of her children. Kimmy is in her last year of nursing school and splits her time between her own school, work in the coffee fields, and her work with the girls' clubs on behalf of Wakami. Kimmy is a role model for the young girls of the village, and her love and mentorship are obvious in her girls' faces.

Wakami is funded through online sales of jewelry and other goods that the women in the villages produce, as well as by national and international organizations, grants, and the generosity of individuals worldwide.

Maria, Wakami, and the girls' clubs' goals resonated deep within me as a Cottey graduate and echo Cottey's ideals of empowering women through education. Cottey helped me find my voice, and in an effort to give back, I joined Wakami as a volunteer to develop grant opportunities and marketing strategies for North America. You can learn more about the organization, including how you can help with its mission, at Wakamiglobal.com. They are also on social media (Facebook and Instagram).

And the beatings? Educated, empowered women teach their children differently and are regarded differently by their partners. It will take decades or longer to change a culture that views women as less than human, an almost worthless afterthought. But it starts with each girls' club, with every young girl taught that she has worth and that dreaming is possible.



If you are interested in learning more about the author's experience, you can email her directly at sewardqa@gmail.com

NEWS FACULTY



Dr. Julie Tietz, professor of psychology, attended the annual Southwestern Psychological Association conference in Frisco, TX, March 31–April 2, 2023. The theme was “Psychology by the Numbers,” and Dr. Tietz attended several excellent sessions, including “Presentations About Factors Affecting Voting Behavior,” “Factors Affecting Responses to Negative Events,” and “Post-Pandemic Student Expectations Regarding Academic Leniency.”



Dr. Goutam Sarker, assistant professor of biology, published a journal article in the Herpetological Monographs. Using molecular DNA and morphological data, Dr. Sarker and his team described a new species of the Sumatran Angle-headed Forest Dragon Lizard.



Dr. Sandra Chaney, professor of history, gave a podcast interview about her article, “A Chemical Landscape Transformed: Bitterfeld, Germany since 1980.” Her article examines the degradation and clean-up of Bitterfeld, once dubbed the “dirtiest city in Europe.” The podcast is titled *How They Did It*, and focuses on environmental civic engagement. Dr. Johanna Schuster-Craig of Michigan State University produces it.



Dr. Carmen Bourbon, professor of Spanish, attended the California Language Teachers’ Association State Conference in Visalia, California, March 15–19, 2023. She participated in a series of panel discussions and several workshops, such as “Authentic Projects to Energize World Language Learners Beyond the Classroom Settings” and “World Language ‘Trade Secrets’—12 Top Strategies to Engage Today’s Language Learners.”



On January 21, 2023, Professor of Dance, **Jo Byrnes** attended a Virtual Professional Development Day with the National Dance Education Organization. She attended sessions on the topics of access and equity, disability culture, and modulating student stress.



Dr. Oindrilla Roy, associate professor of international relations, served as an invited peer reviewer for the journal *Foreign Policy Analysis*. She also served as an external examiner on Hassan Bin Afzal’s Ph.D. dissertation committee at Kent State University (defended April 10, 2023). Dr. Roy also co-authored a paper, “Exploring the Relationship Between the 1951 Refugee Convention and Refugee Workers’ Rights in Signatory versus Non-signatory States,” with international relations major Emily Cook ‘23 for a presentation at the Midwest Political Science Association’s (MPSA) Annual Meeting in Chicago (April 13–16, 2023).



Laura Chaney, professor of theatre, and 13 students traveled to Des Moines, Iowa, to participate in the American College Theater Festival. Cottey’s students were exceptional, receiving certificates of merit in choreography (Sasha Smith ‘24), musical direction (Kordelia Taylor ‘25), stage management (Kordelia Taylor), wig and hair design (Jordan Taylor ‘24), sound mixing and reinforcement for musical theatre (Alex Lay ‘25), and costume parade (Prof. Chaney).

Professor of Physical Education **Karen Polon**, Director of Leadership Development **Denise Hedges**, and 10 students traveled to New Zealand during spring break 2023. This was Karen’s final trip with students to New Zealand prior to her retirement, a trip she developed in 2007 and has offered four times. The 2023 itinerary included visits to both the northern and southern islands of New Zealand and included many learning activities, e.g., hiking the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, volunteering at a local high school, and visiting the Te Papa Museum.

Tammy Ogren published a book in March 2023, *Discover Your Purpose (Be the YOU You’re Meant to Be)*, which is available at Amazon.com.

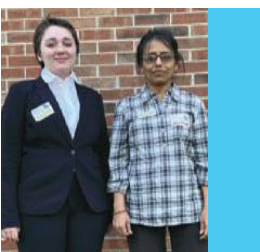
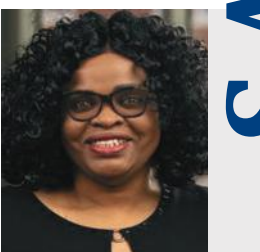
Denise Carrick Hedges, director of leadership development, and **Dr. Mary Mba**, associate professor of French and Francophone studies – along with Cottey students Jasmine Cooper ‘25, Khloe Kennedy ‘24, and Madison Covell ‘25 – received certificates of leadership at the College Leadership Summit, held February 2-4, 2023, at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. During the summit, sessions focused on preparing participants to be social justice and human rights advocates in their communities.

Dr. Selena Kohel, professor of psychology, gave two presentations this spring semester. The first, “Creating Space,” was given at the AAC&U’s “Conference on Diversity, Equity, and Student Success: Can We Handle Truth?” March 9–11, 2023, in Henderson, NV. The second presentation, “Cultural Similarities and Differences in the Classroom: Opportunities and Challenges,” was delivered during the Professional Development Workshop at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference April 19–21, 2023, in Chicago, IL.

Dr. Trisha Stubblefield and Dr. Jon Green, along with six Cottey students, attended the Sigma Tau Delta/Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society convention in Denver, CO, March 29–April 2, 2023. All six students presented original work, and each presentation received much praise from the audience. The group attended a wide range of panels, readings by published authors, roundtables on career opportunities and leadership, and activities in the evenings, such as Bad Poetry Reading and Literary Trivia Night.

Dr. Mary Mba, associate professor of French and Francophone studies, presented a paper, “The Pandemic of Online Betting in Nigeria since COVID-19,” at the 26th Annual Meeting of the Mid-America Alliance for African Studies (MAAAS) at the University of Kansas Medical Center, October 21–22, 2022. The theme was “Public Health and Well-being in Global Africa in the Shadow of COVID-19.” Dr. Mba is also the association’s president and the conference convener.

Dr. Manjira Kumar, assistant professor of biology and chemistry, conducted research with one of her students, Alison Cortright ‘23, as part of Cottey’s STEM research scholarship. Alison presented the research to the Biochemistry, Biomedicine, and Biotechnology section of the 60th Missouri Academy of Science Annual Conference on April 22, 2023. The oral presentation’s title was “Quantitative Analysis of Microcystins in Water Bodies from Southwest Missouri.”



FACULTY NEWS

CLASS NOTES

'64 Maria Alice Philipovsky
I was a foreign student from Brazil and graduated from Cottey College in 1964. I am presently living in Knoxville, Tennessee, and am interested in receiving news from the girls in my graduating class. I can be reached by my email: malifilhon@outlook.com.



'74 Devon Gedney
I was installed as the President of the North Carolina State Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood this spring. My Cottey Seaboard suitemates Terri Srch, Karen O'Leary, and Kathy Wood were there to support me. A testament to just how special the Cottey experience is, these suitemates, their seniors and freshmen, have stayed connected throughout the last 50 years. My theme and logo, Ducks in a Row for P.E.O., is a homage to the "best two years of my life!"



'87 Nancy (Peterson) Bradfield
I am a pharmacist and a member of Kansas Chapter 1Y. My husband, Clint, is a retired veteran and works at Textron Aviation.

Pharmacy isn't the only thing that's kept me busy since my years at Cottey, we also have a non-profit named Rosie's Snuggle Bunnies, 501c3. Using certified Flemish Giant Rabbits, who weigh 15-20 pounds, we do home, facility, group and event visits. The Flemish Giant breed of rabbits are commonly used as emotional support animals for folks with anxiety and PTSD due to their calm and docile nature. We were honored to be able to donate two rabbits to veterans suffering from PTSD last year.

Please check us out on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok as RosiethRabbit. If you are in Kansas, save Sept 9th for a trip to Wichita to participate in the inaugural Rosie the Rabbit Poker Run (open to all types of vehicles and family friendly) and meet Rosie!!

Recently featured in a national pharmacy magazine and on a local news segment, we are looking to grow our service by certifying more rabbit teams and handlers.



'00 Aimee (Galster) Llewellyn-Zaidi
After 16+ years living in London, UK, I returned to Oregon with a British husband in tow. We held a family wedding at Timberline Lodge, Mt. Hood, in 2017 and had our son Harry in 2018. Since then, we've settled in Salem, OR and I recently joined P.E.O. Chapter EC. I continue to divide my working time between science and art—in canine genomics for an international non-profit, and fine art: primarily landscape paintings and mural commissions.



'01 Jennifer Loker (Luellig)
We are blessed to announce the birth of our daughter, Eliza Lee Loker. She made her grand entrance into the world on the morning of April 12, 2023, in McCook, Nebraska. Weighing 8 lbs. 1 oz and measuring 20 inches long, she is a welcome blessing for me, dad Zachary and big sister Kenzie (4 years).



'06 Kristin Jensen
I completed my AS in library information technology at Cuesta College and accepted a spot at Texas Women's University in their Master of Library and Information Science program.

'20 Hailey Lovgren
I'm now in my second semester of veterinary school at the University of Minnesota!

'20 Dawn Hope-Wood (Wood)
I got married to Kayden Hope-Wood (Hope-Cole) from Michigan on June 29, 2022! I know it sounds funny, but we met because of TikTok. Last August we moved to a small village in Bellevue, Michigan to be closer to their family!

We want to hear from you! We encourage all Cottey alumnae to submit achievements, career news, births, adoptions, weddings, or anniversaries to us at alumnae@cottey.edu.

These may be included in the next issue of Viewpoint.

IN MEMORIAM

1944	Peggy (Tinker) Haas	1954	Anna Sue Barney	1966	Suzette (Runnels) Johnson
1946	Shirley (Stevens) Sisk	1954	Janice (Moe) Clikeman	1968	Janet E. Barker
1948	Beverly (Braun) Denman	1954	Polly (Bailey) Reichardt	1968	Barbara (Barrons) Ismael
1949	Jean (Arnot) O'Neill	1956	Jane (Macumber) Weber	1968	Linda (Lecture) Smith
1949	Marvel (Conkling) Gillespie	1958	Cay (Canavan) Culbertson	1970	Melanie Dufur
1949	Doreen (Ham) Mauk	1958	Judith Niemela	1970	Patricia (Hawkins) Deklotz
1950	Shirley (Brown) Lewis	1958	Kathleen (Park) Walling	1973	Lisa Cook
1950	Barbara (Hungate) Turner	1958	LeEtta (Reinecker) Oskarson	1973	Robin (Fleming) Heydman
1950	Ruth Ann (Morton) Willsey	1958	Carolyn (Smith) Keutzer	1973	Jill (Kurashima) Ho
1953	Janice (Brown) Johnson	1958	Janet (Westman) Hrutfiord	1973	Becky Laverty
1953	Nancy (Fletcher) Chalmers	1958	Genevieve (Weyand) Ramsey	1978	Sherry (Dean) Logan
1953	Jennie (Gleghorn) Epperson	1959	Elizabeth Schwalm	1978	Ann (Keyzer) Neal
1953	Beverly (Henline) Skoglund	1960	Gloria (Wolf) Evans	1979	Ann (Smith) Lepretre
1953	Judith (Ide) Fink	1962	Sara (Robinson) Steiner	1981	Kate Smith
1953	Kay (Johnson) Witham	1963	Suzanne (McCrary) Nedblake	1983	Mary Elliott
1953	Marion (Mountain) Petersen	1963	Barbara (Stewart) McGuire	2002	Katherine (Sloane) Holmberg
1953	Patricia Richmond	1964	Mary (Shiffman) Stone		<i>*Arranged by Class Year</i>



ELLA PAGE



On February 22, 2023, Cottey student Ella Page passed away at her off-campus apartment. Ella was a senior from Byron, Minnesota. She was a business administration major and a member of the cross country and indoor and outdoor track teams.

In the months since her passing, the Cottey College community has come together to heal, to support one another, and to honor Ella's memory.

Ella's initials were embedded into a mural placed outside of the Spirit Shop windows and athletics teams honored Ella by wearing a patch with her initials on their uniforms this spring.

On May 12-13, Ella's family participated in commencement weekend ceremonies by speaking at the Capping ceremony and accepting the posthumous degree awarded in her honor.

Ella's vibrant spirit and joyous presence will forever be etched in the memories of those who knew and loved her.



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JOIN US IN DUBLIN!

July 15-22, 2024

You are invited to experience many of the sights and sounds Cottey students encounter on their week abroad! Enjoy 7 days and 6 nights learning about the rich history of Dublin and exploring the beautiful countryside of Ireland. The trip will include guided tours, faculty and staff led outings, and the experience of a lifetime. Learn more and save your spot at cottey.edu/cotteyabroad.