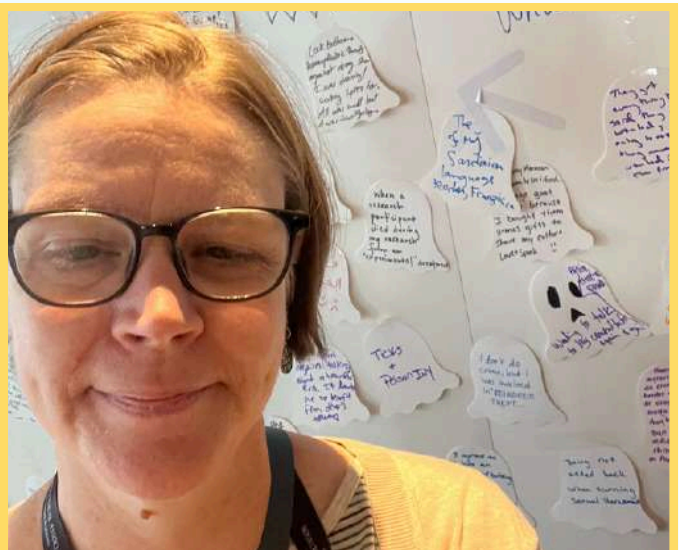


Sarah Quick

November 20-21, Sarah Quick attended this year's Ghost-themed American Anthropological Association's annual meeting in New Orleans, LA.

She gave a paper on Cottey's global potluck as well as attended other food studies sessions among the many other activities at the meetings such as the interactive "the fieldwork that haunts me" poster.



Cottey College's Global Potluck: Belonging and self-expression

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AAA 2025, New Orleans



Forensics Trek: Cottey Criminology Students Dive into Real-World Law Enforcement

On Tuesday, December 2nd, five dedicated Cottey College juniors and seniors—all Criminology majors and minors—traded their classrooms for tactical briefings during an immersive Forensics Trek to Springfield, Missouri. This vital career-readiness trip, sponsored by Cottey Career Services, provided an up-close view of both intelligence operations and the correctional system. The group departed campus at 6:00 AM and returned by 5:00 PM, carrying a wealth of new professional knowledge.

Mid-States Crime Information Center (MOCIC): The Power of Data

The first stop was the Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center (MOCIC), a hub for high-level intelligence sharing across a multi-state region. The students were greeted by Aaron, the Education and Outreach Manager, who led a quick information session and slideshow before guiding them on a comprehensive facility tour.

MOCIC professionals utilize cutting-edge investigative, analytical, research, and digital forensics services to combat a wide spectrum of serious threats, including:

- Drug and Human Trafficking
- Violent Crime and Gang Activity
- Terrorism and Cybercrime
- Child Sex Crimes and Pornography
- Identity Theft and Money Laundering



The students had the unique opportunity to meet with many center professionals including the center's Director, former Missouri State Highway Patrol, David Hall, gaining detailed answers to their questions about the complex work of intelligence gathering. A highlight was learning that MOCIC offers four internships every year, providing a direct pathway into the field.

Greene County Justice Center (Sheriff's Office/Jail): A Look at Corrections

The afternoon was dedicated to the Greene County Justice Center, home to the county's recently opened, modern jail facility. Our tour guides, Officers Wooliver and Estrella, led the Cottey students through a comprehensive look at the correctional environment.

This state-of-the-art facility features a capacity of 1,242 beds and is designed to house both men (over 1,000) and women (over 200). The tour showcased the essential services provided to inmates, including full medical facilities with on-site doctors and dentists, as well as extensive psychological facilities dedicated to mental health and addiction rehabilitation. The experience offered a tangible link between academic study and the real-world challenges of penology and institutional management. The students engaged Officers Wooliver and Estrella with many insightful questions, deepening their understanding of the operational and human aspects of the correctional system.

The Forensics Trek was a resounding success, offering Criminology students invaluable exposure to the critical roles of intelligence analysis and correctional services.

