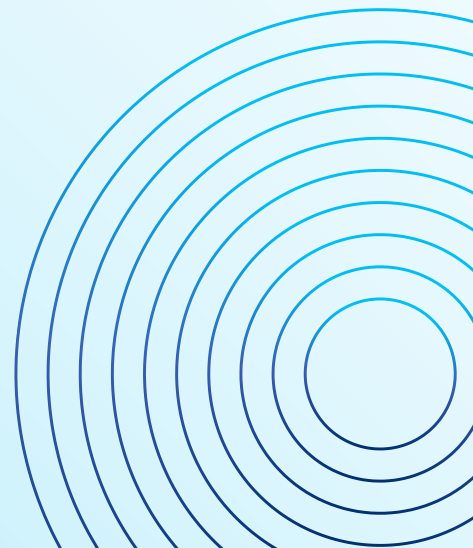


COTTEY Chronicle

Jorge Diones

On November 15, Dr. Diones and students Nina Kantorek, Pasnadge Matara, and Saya Kito attended the 2025 MAKO Undergraduate Research Conference at Missouri State University.

The presentations at the conference covered a variety of topics in mathematics like a winning strategy for a board game, a study of mathematical beliefs and anxiety in college students, applications of combinatorics to parking, a proof of a theorem about polynomials, and more.



Sandra Chaney

Students in US Environmental History (HIS/ENV 320) recently visited Republic Services Prairie View Regional Waste Landfill in Lamar, as part of their study of industrial-scale waste management systems that “digest” the rubbish of consumer society.

The landfill operations and environmental managers explained to students that the “cells” where trash is buried last about ten years before they are full. To protect the ground water, each cell has a thick bottom layer of compacted soil or clay, on top of which lies a durable plastic membrane.

Next is a drainage layer that directs the flow of toxic wastewater (leachate) so it can be safely treated. Heavy machinery compacts the trash that arrives daily, compressing it to a density of over 1000 pounds per cubic yard. When a cell is full, a layer of clay and soil is placed on top and then planted with vegetation.

Because decomposing garbage produces methane—one of the most potent greenhouse gases—the landfill captures the methane and processes it in a facility like the one in the photo. In the case of this site, the methane is then used by the city of Lamar to generate electricity.

While the landfill is managed in ways deemed sustainable, students recognize that reducing waste in the first place should be a priority. Participating students were Lindsay Abegg, Cassidy Barker, Gibsun Harkins, Riley Severance Grace VanEngen, and Alice Williams.



Jordan Johnson

Dr. Jordan Johnson presented her research at this year's meeting of the National Women's Studies Association in San Juan, Puerto Rico as part of the panel "Ecofeminisms and Placemaking."

Dr. Johnson also attended panels on feminist pedagogy, reproductive justice, disability studies, queer ecology, feminist materialisms, and anticolonial feminist theory.

Sarah Polo and Jon Green

As we look toward the end of the semester, please encourage your students to submit work completed in their Cottey courses to the 2026 Merry Ann DeVaney Sauls Writing Contest!

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL CONTEST RULES & DETAILS](#)

Please contact Sarah Polo or Jon Green with questions.

*Merry Ann
DeVaney
Sauls*

WRITING CONTEST



Scan the QR code for
details, contest rules,
and entry form!

ELIGIBLE SUBMISSIONS:
Projects completed for a Cottey class
between
MARCH 25, 2025 & MARCH 23, 2026

DEADLINE TO ENTER:
Monday, March 23, 2026,
11:59 PM

**FIVE CATEGORIES WITH PRIZE
MONEY FOR WINNERS IN EACH:**

- Introductory Writing (FWS 101 & WRI 102)
- Academic Writing
- Capstones
- Professional Writing
- Creative Writing

QUESTIONS?
Email Dr. Sarah Polo
(spolo@cottey.edu)
or Dr. Jon Green (jgreen@cottey.edu)

Nancy Kohn

Nancy Kohn attended the Kansas Herpetological Society's 52nd annual meeting in Manhattan, Kansas from November 7-9. At the meeting, she learned about lizard mouth maggots in the Dominican Republic and the distribution of cobras in Vietnam.

Dr Kohn also met up with alumna Daphne Hedrick who is at K-State for a PhD in chemistry.



Laura Chaney

The Theatre Department recently formed a collaboration with Arrow Senior Living and their podcast of "Thoughtful Connections." Arrow Senior Living has agreed to become a sponsor of the theatre department and will be filming their podcast bi-annually in the Missouri Recital Hall.

The first podcast series was filmed on October 28 & 29 and was attended by 4 theatre courses. We hope to be able to include other departments in the spring. Additionally, theatre scenic design students will be designing the next set for the podcast in a competition which will be voted on by the residents of Arrow Senior Living.

The student's design who is selected will win a gift card from the podcast chief operating officer, Amanda Tweten (a Cottey alumna). In fact, it was Amanda who had the vision of forming this collaborative effort and bringing the podcast to Cottey.

Pictured below is the set Professor Laura Chaney designed with podcast hosts, Charlie Johnson (who has performed in years past in Cottey plays) and Elizabeth Thompson and students watching on.

