A Publication of Cottey College:
For Women, By Women, About Women
Letters to the Editor

Dear Steve,

I am writing to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed the recent issues of The Viewpoint. The coverage is very thorough and it is professionally laid out and printed. Thank you for the excellent job you do publishing this magazine.

Suella Bott Young
Class of 1966

Hello Steve Reed,

I’ve been meaning to write you ever since the Viewpoint became a magazine, because it looks so great. But this issue, with quotes from Kay Anderson, meant I really had to drop you an email.

Kay Anderson was “my” admissions representative. I remember meeting with her in my high school’s counseling office. I was the only one who showed up, but I was looking for something different and Cottey turned out to be just the thing. I remember her follow up phone calls in the months leading up to my arrival on campus. One of them she asked, rather incredulously, “Don’t you have any questions?” And I didn’t because I couldn’t quite picture how it would be when I got there. I figured I would figure it out once I set eyes on the place.

So much of orientation is vividly remembered, even more than 20 years later. I remember the way all the mothers seemed to simultaneously lean over and nudge their daughters when the very youthful and handsome Mr. Crawford was introduced. I remember Dr. Washburn showing us her blue slip, to match with the “orientation colors.” I remember how much Ms. McNerney cracked us up. And I remember wondering, “who is that guy walking around with the camera?”

It was you, of course. And I’m glad you are still there. Thanks to Cottey’s excellent ability to track me down when I move, I’ve been reading the Viewpoint longer than any other publication. Since 1993, in fact, because it was delivered to our suite.

I actually got a little misty-eyed when the magazine format debuted, because my alumnae publication suddenly looked so grown up. You’ve done good work.

I notice when yet another of “my” Cottey people retire or move on. Mr. Ashmore taught me (and so many others) piano. The early-90s numbers are dwindling. So it’s nice to see your name in issue after issue of the Viewpoint. And I hope this is a kind of same-apple-for-lunch-everyday you will be biting into for some time. Although I guess you must look forward to a retirement like everyone else.

Cheers and good tidings to you,
Patricia Collins
Class of 1995

A Message from the EDITOR

Daring to be different

Some people collect figurines or antiques; I collect quotes. As a writer, I appreciate a well-turned phrase and save several of them in a document on my computer. One of my favorites, however, isn’t there because it’s so well crafted. I save it because it reminds me of the mission of Cottey College. Surprisingly enough, it’s from a male president of a Catholic university.

“We...must have the courage to be who we are. If we are afraid to be different from the world, how can we make a difference in the world? Yet our difference is not a detriment. It is an asset that will make our contribution more distinctive, more exemplary, more valuable. We welcome the challenge.”

This was in Rev. John I. Jenkins’ inaugural address when he became president of Notre Dame University on September 23, 2005. Those words could (and probably should) be said by everyone who believes in the mission of a women’s college.

The announcement of the closing of Sweet Briar College was an unexpected blow to those of us who support women’s education. Today there are only 46 women’s colleges left in the United States. More troubling is the wave of articles that appear after such an announcement questioning whether there is still a place for women’s colleges in today’s world.

To those who ask that question, I would answer, “Absolutely!” In the pages of this issue, you’ll hear from several who also believe that, including the new president of the Women’s College Coalition, Michele Ozumba. This issue is dedicated to strong women of the past, of today, and of the future. To ensure the next generation of strong women, we will need to educate them.

We should not be afraid to be different. We should welcome the challenge.

As always you are encouraged to write me at sreed@cottey.edu.

Sincerely,
Steve Reed, editor
Women and Self Determination

“...Accept no one’s definition of your life; Define yourself.” We cannot know for certain to whom American actor Harvey Fierstein was speaking when he voiced these words encouraging strength and independence, but we can know that his words speak to women in general and to the women of Cottey College.

Let’s go back in time to the early 1970’s. As a high school senior, I was required to meet with Mr. G., my guidance counselor. He was a mountain of a man, known for his temper and bad disposition; as I entered his office, Mr. G. leaned back in his chair and said simply, “Jann, you have three options. You can be a teacher, a secretary, or a nurse. Choose one.” Wow. “Ok,” I thought, “I guess I’ll choose teaching.” Now, interestingly, I have no regrets, for that decision led to where I am today; but it was at that moment, as I walked out of his office, that I promised myself that I would never allow anyone to limit my choices or define my opportunities. From that moment forward, I took control of my own destiny.

In many cases, young women are still being guided to choices that might not be the best fit for them, either by their families, by their communities, or through the role models they see in the media. Why? Partly because they simply are not aware of the many options available to them. The young woman of today needs to explore all options before reaching decisions that may affect the rest of her life. She can do that at Cottey.

At Cottey College, women are encouraged to determine their own futures through the many opportunities offered. They are given opportunities to reach their full leadership potential through the LEO program and the Serenbetz Institute. They are encouraged to learn in environments created for them, supportive, collaborative classrooms with peers who are encouraging, rather than competitive. On campus, they learn from and are witness to strong female role models, and through the Center for Women’s Leadership, they are given opportunities to attend presentations by outstanding women from a wide variety of professional fields.

At Cottey, young women are encouraged to choose their own paths, to consider all of their options, to be strong, to be decisive. Cottey can set a young woman on the path that is correct for her.

Jann R. Weitzel
On the cover:
The daughter of alumna Robin Mallinson ’07 shows what a strong woman she is. Her heart cape is from her participation in the Superheroes of Kindness program at St. Mary’s School in Nevada, Missouri. More information on the Superheroes of Kindness is available online at http://missourisuperheroesofkindness.blogspot.com/

How to Keep Getting the Viewpoint

Reminder: beginning with the fall 2015 issue, the Viewpoint will be mailed only to those who contribute a minimum of $20 in unrestricted funds to the Cottey College Annual Fund each year. Alumnae who graduated two years ago or less will receive the Viewpoint regardless of their donor status for two years.

If you’re already a donor, you’ll keep receiving the Viewpoint. If you’re not a donor, please consider a gift to your Alma Mater. You’ll be educating and empowering other young women, and you’ll get a bonus of the Viewpoint three times each year. The Viewpoint is always available free online at www.cottey.edu/viewpoint.
Any of us participated in the original Paver Program during the “Defining Moment” campaign. It was a very successful fundraising program for Cottey; and the pavers, that are located along the Senior Sidewalk, are a great testimony to the many alumnae who stepped up to the plate for Cottey.

Now alumnae have another opportunity to be a part of a new fundraising program for Cottey called “Defining the Future Paver Program.” This new program is designed to create an annual source of unrestricted gifts that are very important to the life of our campus.

There are many sources of revenue that go to operate and maintain Cottey. Two of these are restricted and unrestricted funds. Restricted funds go to the designated fund that is specified by the donor (Library Enhancement Fund). Unrestricted funds have no designation and may be used for repair and replacement of the infrastructure of Cottey and many other uses.

Unrestricted funds are extremely important and help to keep the doors open. There is no restricted fund that has money set aside to fix the boiler, the air conditioning system, or aging plumbing. Unrestricted funds can be used for the operation and maintenance of Cottey when a need arises.

The “Defining the Future Paver Program” was launched at Founder’s Day 2015, and any annual gift of $5,000 or $10,000 and designated as unrestricted will entitle an alumna to honor a family member who attended Cottey or have their name inscribed on the paver. Any name inscribed on the paver must be that of an alumna.

A donor who makes an unrestricted gift of $5,000 or 10,000 will be entitled to a paver and membership in the Annual Fund Associates Program.

The “Defining the Future Paver Program” is a wonderful fundraising project for a class or a suite or a recognized group on campus. Groups securing a paver are asked to send one individual check for their paver.

Cottey alumnae care deeply for our alma mater regardless of how many years we attended and how long ago we stepped on the campus. Now we can give back to help make a difference in the life of our College. Will you stand up and be counted? This is the right time for Cottey!

For more information about the “Defining the Future Paver Program,” please go to www.cottey.edu/give and check out the program. The gift form is there for you to sign up.

“All of us need to have unrestricted funds in our budgets. Cottey College is no exception, and I can’t think of any entity more careful with their dollars than Cottey. Unrestricted gifts from donors are critical to the well-being of the College. Your gift to the ‘Defining the Future Paver Program’ will help assure Cottey’s future stability.”

~Lynn Kelley ’60
“Tradition” is a word that conjures up all kinds of meanings at Cottey College, from bread and gravy to duck jackets to serenades to “daisies in the sun.” Every graduating class has passed some traditions on to the next class, but every class is different, with unique memories and favorite moments, all tied up in that elusive concept of “tradition.”

One tradition that began during the life of Virginia Alice Cottey Stockard and continues to thrive annually is the celebration of her birthday, now called Founder’s Day. Alumnae “come home” to Cottey to celebrate its heritage and remember its founder. This year was no exception. In fact, Virginia Alice’s actual birthday was Friday of Founder’s Day Weekend, so everyone in Raney Dining Room sang a rousing chorus of “Happy Birthday” in her honor!

We celebrated the foundation of the past that has led Cottey to an exciting future. A new President soon to arrive, and baccalaureate programs gaining more and more momentum. The campus is alive with activity and energy. Getting excited about Cottey is the best tradition of all!

Friday evening’s chapel program included the majestic sounds of the student/alumnae choir, a brief history of Cottey in skit form, and a greeting from Nevada’s mayor pro-tem. Classes met afterward to receive a Cottey update from their Class Agents, and to discuss what they would present at Saturday’s Homecoming Celebration.

Saturday began with continental breakfast and class photos, followed by an “Alumnae in Recruitment” presentation. One of the highlights of the weekend was the Saturday luncheon, during which Dr. Rogers gave her final State of the College speech, and the Cottey College Alumnae Association presented its awards (see p 15).

Have you been back to Cottey lately? If not, consider a trip to campus, whether or not it’s your reunion year. See for yourself how the new Fine Arts Building is rising up where Rosemary Hall used to stand, and how the softball field provides a state-of-the-art facility for Cottey’s softball team. Have you suggested Cottey to a young woman who is interested in attending college? Increased enrollment is as essential to Cottey’s success as financial support. Have you happened to bump into any other Cottey alumnae in your town or neighborhood? Perhaps you’d like to organize a get-together to share memories of Cottey. Perhaps you’d like to become part of a Regional Group that other alumnae have already started as a way to remain connected with the College.

On Saturday afternoon of Founder’s Day Weekend, each reunion year group took part in the Homecoming Celebration by sharing a memory, brief skit, or song that illustrated the personality of their class. Each presentation was different, but each bore witness to the strength of Cottey friendship.

Following the Homecoming Celebration and another delicious meal (no one went away hungry!), classes gathered in Hinkhouse Gym to sing – old songs, new songs, individually and en masse. The cherished tradition of Cottey friendship filled the rafters with music.

Tradition. Keeping the best from the past and present and looking forward to the best of the future. Another Founder’s Day has ended (after Sunday brunch, of course!). Alumnae have reconnected; and the best is yet to come!
REMEMBER WHO, WHAT OR WHEN

By Tracy Hass Cordova ’04
Annual Fund and Alumnae Director

Lucia Dean Wyncken McBryer ’43 truly embodies the theme of this issue – strong women. At 91 years old, Lucia is a mother, scientist, and breast cancer survivor. On April 21, she and a P.E.O. sister drove 11 hours straight from Texas to Cottey to gather information for a P.E.O. chapter program – Cottey Then and Cottey Now. While on campus, the annual fund and alumnae director sat down to interview Lucia. Full of life, she broke out in song, “Now when a Cottey girl walks down the street; She looks a 100 per from head to feet…. Her sweet voice was strong and confident. She did not miss a single word.

Lucia decided to attend Cottey in 1941 after receiving a state scholarship from Texas. She traveled by train knowing very little about Cottey or Nevada, Missouri. She was selected to serve as the student body president, recognized in the yearbook as the All Around Cottey Girl, and presented with the seco nd lei during commencement celebrations, to name just a few of her Cottey accolades. “Personality flows from her as easily as water runs from a cup. Likeable and charming, she flashes the true Texan smile to befriend herself with all...” reads the 1943 Sphinx (yearbook). The same remains true today.

Post Cottey, Lucia earned a B.S. in biology with a minor in chemistry from the University of Texas. She studied nursing briefly at Yale before returning home to become a medical technician in San Antonio. She married and has two successful children; her son is an attorney in Lubbock and her daughter is a nurse practitioner administrator for Garland Independent School District. Lucia has returned to campus for her 10th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, and 60th reunions. During her 50th reunion she recalls her brand new car blowing its transmission. They parked their camper next to the car shop and enjoyed the weekend’s festivities. “We stayed past Founder’s Weekend to get the car fixed. The Texas Tech Lady Raiders won the National Championship while my husband and I were in Nevada, and the people that ran the trailer park invited us into their home to watch the game.”

In 2003, Lucia’s husband passed away. Two months after his death, Lucia was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. Preferring women doctors, she selected a female surgeon to perform her double mastectomy. The P.E.O. sister who accompanied Lucia on her trip said Lucia beat cancer with a very positive attitude. Nothing has kept Lucia down. In addition to her program preparations, she has promoted Cottey at local college fairs and supported the College throughout the years. We are thankful for her service and generosity.

After visiting with this very humble alumna, I must agree with Connie Labbitt (Roe ’42) who met Lucia at the train station: “I’ll never forget what you looked like when you got off that train. A tall drink of water.” Lucia is certainly a contagious fountain of youth with personality galore.
Susan Callahan: In Memoriam

Susan Lane Callahan passed away April 20, 2015. Susan was a long-time resident of Nevada and faculty member at Cottey College, where she had taught mathematics since 1980.

Susan was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in mathematics from Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly the University of Missouri-Rolla). She joined the Cottey faculty immediately upon graduation and, in addition to her teaching, served at various times as chair of the faculty and the Rank and Tenure Committee, chair of the Math and Science Division, and coordinator of the math department.

Susan received numerous recognitions for her dedication and excellence. She received the Missouri Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2002. She earned Cottey’s Master Educator Award in 1996; was designated an Honorary Alumna by the Cottey College Alumnae Association during Founder’s Day in 2015; and was recently elected by the faculty as the 2015-2017 Blanche Hinman Dow Honored Speaker.

Susan was an active member of the Cottey community, most notably through playing and performing in Cottey music ensembles for more than 30 years. She also enjoyed physical activity and participated in wellness activities including yoga, Zumba, and toning and flexibility.

Susan was a member of the Mathematical Association of America and served in many leadership positions for that organization, including election to the national Board of Governors. She was a member of Soroptimist International of Nevada, Missouri, serving at times as president and as a member of the board of directors. She was secretary-treasurer of the Drywood Crest Homeowners Association.

Susan also was involved in a variety of other organizations, such as the University of Missouri-Rolla alumni association; and she contributed to community activities by, for example, serving as a judge at the Nevada High School Speech and Debate Festival and playing clarinet in the El Dorado Springs Municipal Band.

Susan enjoyed hiking in national parks, visiting historical sites, riding and being around horses, attempting household repairs, and spending time with her two cats – which she named after noted female mathematicians. She had several of her pieces of needlework framed and hanging in her office.

Susan is survived by her mother, Dora, of Kansas City; her sister, Margaret, of West Des Moines, Iowa; and several uncles and cousins.

Susan’s friends and family gathered for a memorial service on Friday, May 8, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel at Cottey College.

Contributions in Susan’s memory can be made to Cottey College (1000 Austin, Nevada, MO, 64772), with designation to the Susan L. Callahan Mathematics Scholarship.

“She was, hands down, the best instructor I ever had. My brain just shut down on math, I didn’t understand and it was frustrating... Then I took her class. It was like a door opening to that part of my head.”

~Cheri Whalen Howrey ’90
I’ve read several good books on writing over my career. Stephen King’s *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* is excellent, as is William Zinsser’s *On Writing Well*. Those, along with the AP Style-guide, have helped me hone my craft.

But, one of my very favorite books on writing isn’t actually on writing at all. It’s Donald Miller’s *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years: What I Learned While Editing My Life*. In that book, Miller, a New York Times best-selling author, comes to the realization that his life is his story, and he can make that story/life as exciting and meaningful as any he could write. His book is a great reassessment tool for those of us who enjoy writing feature stories, as well as a beautiful celebration of life.

In the book, Miller outlines the important elements of story and how they are significant to the development of a meaningful, compelling tale. In many ways, the same elements in creating captivating reading are the same elements in the education of strong women.

Every good story has a character who wants something. For Cottey’s purposes, the 300-plus women enrolled as students are the characters in their own stories, and they all want something. Maybe they want to become a chemist and cure cancer; or they want to become a social worker and improve the lives of children in poverty; or perhaps they hope to teach second grade. Whatever it is, these strong women are the heroes of their own stories.

However, every good story also has conflict. Perhaps it’s something as simple as needing help in learning better writing skills, or mastering the quadratic equation to pass algebra. Every hero needs help in overcoming conflict and reaching a successful resolution. That’s where the guide comes in.

Consider the first *Hunger Games* movie where we were introduced to Katniss Everdeen. Katniss, serving as tribute for her sister, was forced into a deadly game of survival. Enter Haymitch, the only other winner of the games from her district. He taught her how to win the affections of the viewers and gain sponsors which would help her with timely gifts of food and medicine. It’s a formula for success that Hollywood has used over and over.¹

The role all of us affiliated with Cottey—faculty, staff, administration, alumnae, and P.E.O.s—have is serving as the guide to help students become the heroes of their own stories. Think back to your own college days. Was there a professor who took a particular interest in you and gave you the encouragement that you needed to keep trying or improve your skills in a subject area? Did you make friends with an employee who became a trusted advisor and served as your sounding board as you made plans for your career?

For me personally, it was English professor Paul Reichardt, who spent many of his office hours helping me master the intricacies of syntax and grammar to help me become a better writer. Without his help, I may have finished my English degree, but I certainly wouldn’t have become the writer I am without his patient guidance.

Finally, every story resolves. We love it when the heroes in books and movies succeed, and when the stakes are higher, it is even more meaningful. At Cottey, Commencement is a resolution of the Cottey goals, but we know that is only the beginning as these strong women go out into the world to follow their dreams, tell their stories, and live lives of significance.

Over the last 23-plus years, I have been humbled and motivated by the strong women I have had the pleasure to meet at Cottey College.

Every year there are more women who want to become the heroes of their stories. The task for all of us becomes, who will help them find direction and purpose, overcome challenges, and help them reach their goals? Will you direct them to Cottey College, a place that can help them become the hero of their own story?

You’ll read about some strong women in the pages of this issue of the *Viewpoint*. More important, perhaps, strong women are reading this issue of the *Viewpoint*. As you read this issue, I hope you remember that you are the hero of your own story, but also the mentor to help the heroes in many other stories as well. May we be them; may we know them; may we educate them.

¹How to Tell a Story, Donald Miller, http://storylineblog.com/ HowToTellAStory.pdf
2015 graduates Haley Guerin, Velichia Heinlein, and Caroline Guerin show they’re Cottey strong!
Dr. Orpha Stockard arrived at Cottey in September 1933. (She is no relation to Virginia Alice Cottey’s husband, Sam Stockard, though she was often asked.) Dr. Stockard was a very adventurous woman. By the time she enrolled in a Ph.D. program at the University of Missouri in 1930, she had lived in Alaska, Hawaii, and Idaho, supporting herself with teaching jobs ranging from a one-room school to a large high school. In 1935, she was the first woman to receive a doctorate from the University of Missouri in English-education.

When she was called by the placement bureau about a job at Cottey, the director was worried that a free spirit who was a product of public education would not be a good fit for a private women’s college. Also, her employment record showed many changes in positions, and for her future, the director told her she must stay more than one year at Cottey. It was the only job offer she received and it was the middle of the Depression, so Orpha took it and hoped she would last more than one year. She lasted 32—retiring in 1965, and even then staying on part-time to assist a new president.

While she began her career at Cottey as an English teacher, and served twice as interim president, Orpha Stockard’s primary area of service was as dean of the faculty. Under her leadership, there was constant effort to improve Cottey’s academic program and facilities to gain accreditation by the North Central Association (now known as the Higher Learning Commission). She knew that recognition by a regional accrediting body was necessary if Cottey was to continue to educate women. The College’s application was denied twice, once in 1932 and again in 1935.

Both rejections by North Central had been accompanied by constructive suggestions, and Dr. Stockard and Cottey President Marjorie Mitchell proceeded with plans to submit a third application in 1940. Virginia Alice Cottey passed away on July 16, 1940, and did not live to see the success of the third attempt. The excitement and joy at receiving accreditation is evident in the words of a telegram from Orpha Stockard, in Chicago for the North Central Association meeting, to President Mitchell: “Cottey fully accredited stop No strings attached stop Eureka.” The date and time stamp on the telegram is “1941 MAR 27 PM 4 24.” March 27 is Virginia Alice Cottey’s birthday.

Orpha Stockard was a strong woman, and she dedicated her efforts to educating young women to “find themselves more on an equal basis with men.” At a 1944 student assembly, she spoke on the topic “The Choice of a Lifework.” She said, in part: “Before deciding on a vocation, a girl should ask herself four questions: What is life? What is success? What is happiness? What is good? After she has tried to answer these questions, she should ask further: What do I want, and where am I going? Women no less than men, should regard college as a stepping stone to a vocation.”

Only a strong woman could have accomplished the careful, deliberate, and painstaking work of examining Cottey College catalogs 1884–1959; a large file of issues of The Chronicle, a college bulletin; and minutes of faculty and board of trustee meetings that resulted in The First Seventy-Five Years. With the publication of this book in 1961, Orpha Stockard made a significant contribution to recording the history of Cottey College. As she said in the forward to the book, “The First Seventy-Five Years is an attempt to present from the documentary evidence of published material and authentic record the story of [Cottey’s] academic evolution.”

Thank you, Dr. Stockard.
Vision, Power, and Relevance

By Michele Ozumba
President, the Women’s College Coalition

Third Wave Women’s College Movement – Transformation in the 21st Century
There has been no shortage of media attention to women’s colleges in the U.S. over the past two months. One would think that educating women in the 21st century would not be a burning issue on the nation’s social agenda. However, here we are, in the midst of a debate about the value and relevance of women’s colleges today. While it’s true that a majority of women in college today are enrolled in coed institutions, that fact does not diminish the important role women’s colleges continue to play in providing world class education to thousands of young women every year.

Women’s colleges are adapting and innovating in response to the rapid pace of change in society: new markets for recruiting students, new expectations for value in return for tuition, changes in the larger economy requiring new competencies, and the role of technology in the current focus on STEM subjects, as well as in redefining how education is delivered. All of these challenges are not unique to women’s colleges. They are, however, informing the current questioning of the future viability and relevance of women’s colleges.

Women’s Colleges and Social Change
The historical legacy of women’s colleges runs parallel to women’s social history in the United States. The first wave in the early nineteenth century can be characterized as largely faith-based educational institutions dedicated to training women as teachers, the only “suitable” profession for women in those days. With the Suffragist Movement and two world wars in the 20th century, women began to more vigorously assert their rights for full participation as equal citizens. The number of women’s colleges expanded as female seminaries evolved into liberal arts colleges offering a broad diversity of fields of study. By the mid 1960s, over 200 women’s colleges dotted the nation’s landscape.

The Supreme Court ruling in the 1950s declared single-sex public universities in violation of the 14th Amendment’s Equal Protection clause of the U.S. Constitution. This led to gender integration of historically male colleges. This was followed by historically significant women’s colleges, such as Radcliffe, deciding to become coed. Thus, the second wave can be characterized as the coeducation movement that created new opportunities for women. With more choices in higher education, women’s colleges were no longer the only pathway to a college degree.

We are now in the third wave of the women’s college movement. It’s time to reframe their unique niche within higher education with unwavering confidence in the important role women’s colleges occupy in the 21st century.

Looked at another way, can we imagine this country without women’s colleges? As higher education institutions serving increasing numbers of women of color, first generation college students, and

“Cottey College, with its focus on women’s global leadership, is a great example of this 21st century vision for the power and relevance of an all-women’s college education today and beyond.”
~Michele Ozumba
thousands of young women who want and seek out women’s colleges, why is it even a question of justifying their relevance and value? Largely because of their roots in social change, women’s colleges hold deep values for equity, inclusion, and social justice. These values endure alongside the value for academic excellence as the embodiment of a comprehensive liberal arts education.

There’s another important element to consider in this third wave. The role of women’s leadership globally and the opportunity for women’s colleges to assert the singular quality that puts them in a category only they occupy – providing environments in which young women discover their whole selves, and get to experience leadership roles in a constellation of activities unfettered by implicit or explicit male dominance. Gaining self-agency that fosters full confidence is necessary not only for good careers, but for fostering leaders equipped to navigate and contribute in all sectors of the economy and society.

**Women’s Colleges and Women’s Leadership in the 21st Century**

Educating young women today as leaders of tomorrow means women’s colleges become even more essential stakeholders in influencing the quality of life for all of humanity. In the larger context of liberal arts vs. STEM, women’s colleges can take the lead in challenging increased pressure to see college education as valuable only if it computes to slotting someone into a technology job. Technology innovation without social innovation has the potential of reducing society to a 21st century version of the industrial assembly line. The mechanisms will have changed, but the disparities in the ownership of production will not have changed. Social innovation grounded in the arts and humanities, and social justice is what will ensure technology serves humanity, not the other way around.

**What does this have to do with gender and women’s education?**

Educating today’s young women at women only colleges is much more than “the count” – how many women’s colleges, how many applicants, how many enrolled, etc. Of course, these all matter to the higher education business model. Beyond these metrics, it’s very important to look at the deep, field-tested experience these institutions have in producing some of the most influential women in modern history. From Mary McLeod Bethune to Gloria Steinem; Marian Wright Edelman to Hillary Rodham Clinton; Emily Dickinson to Zora Neale Hurston; and Margaret Mead to Susan Kare. There are thousands of prominent women’s college alumnae who represent the best evidence of why women’s colleges matter. This is why Cottey College, with its focus on women’s global leadership, is a great example of this 21st century vision for the power and relevance of an all-women’s college education today and beyond.

**A Strong College for Strong Women**

Cottey College is a strong college. Over the last few years, there are indicators that point to the strength of Cottey. Among them are:

**Projected Enrollment growth** – Deposits for the 2015-16 academic year are well above the numbers at the same time last year. In addition, attendance for Cottey’s Celebration of Achievement Weekend jumped 35 percent this February. This weekend honors the accomplishments of top scholars across the U.S. who are considering enrolling at Cottey.

**Financial Strength** – The College last year completed a $35 million campaign with a final total of over $40.4 million. As a result of the successful campaign, the new Judy and Glenn Rogers Fine Arts Building is under construction and will be dedicated on September 26. Because of the College’s debt-free position, Cottey added academic programs during the economic downturn to strengthen its position, while other colleges were forced to reduce the number of academic offerings.

**Accreditation for Baccalaureate Programs** – Cottey now offers eight baccalaureate degree programs and has the approval to offer any baccalaureate programs that are approved by the faculty and align with the mission of the College. These additional programs will contribute to additional enrollment.

**National Recognition** – Cottey College was named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction for Interfaith Community Service. (See Spring 2015 issue of the Viewpoint.) Student Alina Ghulam Rasool was one of only 15 students nationwide selected as a prestigious Guist-White Scholar by Phi Theta Kappa. Rasool was also chosen as a Coca-Cola New Century Scholar based on her academic achievement, leadership, and service. (See page 12.)

**Leadership** – A generous gift of $1 million from Thelma and Warren Serenbetz enabled Cottey to offer four-year leadership programs that include internships, research, travel, and a distinguished speaker series on campus. The Women’s Foundation of Kansas City recently announced a partnership with Cottey to provide programming for its Girls Leadership Program.

These are only a few of the reasons that we can confidently say Cottey is a strong college for strong women.
Cottey College is pleased to announce that second-year student Alina Ghulam Rasool '15 was selected by Phi Theta Kappa as a 2015 Guistwhite Scholarship recipient. Guistwhite Scholars are chosen based on academic achievement, leadership accomplishment, and engagement in Phi Theta Kappa programs. In 2015, fifteen Guistwhite recipients were selected by a panel of independent judges from more than 1,700 applicants to receive this scholarship. Each Guistwhite Scholar is awarded a medallion and a $5,000 scholarship for their baccalaureate studies.

Prior to that announcement, Ghulam Rasool was also announced as a Coca-Cola New Century Scholar by Phi Theta Kappa. The program annually recognizes 52 scholars with scholarships of $2,000 each, totaling $104,000 in awards. Each Scholar’s nominating institution also receives special recognition at the American Association of Community Colleges Convention.

The Coca-Cola New Century Scholars program is sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation, The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, the American Association of Community Colleges, and Phi Theta Kappa.

The Guistwhite Scholar Program is named in honor of the late Dr. Jack Guistwhite and his widow, Margaret Guistwhite. Dr. Guistwhite established the first designated transfer scholarship for Phi Theta Kappa members at Florida Atlantic University in 1975. The Guistwhite Scholarships were established by Phi Theta Kappa in 1992.

“Dr. Jack Guistwhite planted a seed in 1975 that resulted in more than 750 colleges and universities designating transfer scholarships for thousands of Phi Theta Kappa members,” said Phi Theta Kappa’s Executive Director and CEO Dr. Rod A. Risley. “It is fitting that we continue to honor our students who excel in scholarship and leadership in Phi Theta Kappa as Guistwhite Scholars in memory of Jack and in honor of his wife Margaret. Through their generosity and those who support scholarships through the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation, these students will receive funds to help them complete their degrees.”

Ghulam Rasool attended a special social during Phi Theta Kappa’s annual convention April 16-18 in San Antonio, Texas, where all of the Guistwhite Scholars were honored. Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 1,285 chapters on two-year and community college campuses in all 50 of the United States, Canada, Germany, Peru, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the British Virgin Islands, the United Arab Emirates, and U.S. territorial possessions. Nearly 3 million students have been inducted since its founding in 1918, with approximately 134,000 students inducted annually. Cottey’s Epsilon Chapter is the oldest existing chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

Sharing Cottey

Whether you are an alumna or friend and supporter of the College, now is the time to share Cottey with a young woman in your life. Use our Refer a Student Form at www.cottey.edu or simply give the Office of Enrollment Management a phone call. Cottey is busy planning recruitment events, and who knows? We may be in your area! Start making your plans to change a young woman’s life today.
What Good Colleges Do Well

By Melinda Rhodes DiSalvo ’86

Most exceptional women leaders develop over time, emerging from challenging and supportive educational environments and with the guidance of mentors who model navigating both traditional and alternative paths to career advancement.

If you’re a news headline watcher like me, you know about the challenges colleges and universities across the nation face: constricting budgets, questions about consumer value and educational quality, criticisms regarding class divides amongst tenure-track and part-time faculty, and a growing public disillusionment with higher education.

To all of these challenges, I have one answer: colleges with a deep understanding of and commitment to who they are and the students they educate and develop. As director of a teaching and learning center, currently at the University of Cincinnati and by the time of this publication at The Ohio State University, the importance of teaching excellence on institutional health is the rationale for the work of people like me.

And as a graduate of Cottey College and a supporter of women’s colleges, I have a personal reference point for institutions whose laser-focused missions offer them the unique opportunity to survive and thrive during and following this shifting landscape of higher education.

In short, women’s colleges in general, and Cottey College specifically, exemplify what educational research tells us about how to teach so that students learn. Sounds simple, I know, but if it were, you and I wouldn’t be reading the same headlines.

Here’s what colleges where excellent teaching and learning take place – and their faculties – do. Here’s what students at Cottey regularly experience. It’s “unrestricted learning” -- to quote our Cottey’s Annual Fund Associate Program -- built on a foundation of best practices. All Cottey alumnae can point to a particular professor who embodies these practices or characteristics.

1. They understand that transparency matters: Whether it’s in clear measurable course outcomes, an understanding about why international experiences are transformative, an authentically learning-centered curriculum, a well constructed assignment rubric, or a strong explanation of theory to practice, students know why they are doing what they are doing.

2. They know relationships with faculty matters: One of the factors most critical to student success (and even more critical to first-generation or academically at-risk students) is the sincere interest of a faculty member. When faculty have and make time for students, they end the message, “You are important; you can do this. I see you, and I see you succeeding.”

3. They are innovative in the classroom, willing to experiment, and take teaching seriously: Great institutions and their faculty know that teaching is hard and thoughtful work. It’s taxing – some say labor-intensive. Great faculty constantly refine what happens in and outside of their classrooms. They understand that each group of students comprises unique learners and can adapt strategies based on classroom composition.

4. They help students assume accountability for their own role in learning: Where learning is powerful, student participation, leadership and engagement are required and their commitment demanded. The best faculty move students from one level of achievement to the next. When faculty members articulate high expectations and provide the opportunities to reach those expectations, they generate student motivation.

I can point to specific examples from my personal experiences at Cottey, both as a student and a faculty member, that illustrate each of these points. From Dr. Mark Pearson’s thoughtful approach to the curriculum, to Professor Susan Callahan’s impeccable teaching. From Dr. Trisha Stubblefield, who connects with students’ passions and sense of activism/desire to change the world, to Dr. Brenda Ross, who understands clearly the value of making connections across disciplines to teach difficult concepts.

Higher education across the country will continue to face contexts that demand change and adaptation, a nimbleness that many will fail to exhibit for several reasons: unwilling or entrenched stakeholders, inadequate endowments or operating budgets, and increased competition.

Cottey’s past and present willingness to embrace new programming and innovative approaches to educating women, as well as its unceasing commitment to teaching and learning, will continue to be what distinguishes it amongst liberal arts and women’s colleges.
Most of us can look at our pasts and see some decision that was pivotal. From that decision so many other opportunities and pathways emanate. For me it was choosing Cottey. At the time it was the excellent scholarship and pictures of the red brick buildings that looked like what I imagined schools in New England looked like. I was 17, not the most sophisticated creature, and with my limited experience it seemed like a good choice. Over the years I have come to realize what a very lucky choice it was.

In spite of being pretty boy crazy the thought of a ‘girls’ school” looked good to me. The youngest, with four older brothers, I looked forward to the change. At Cottey, for the first time, I realized that my intelligence was for more than just getting all A’s. I absorbed the love of Western Civilization Miss Slingluff shared with us. I read Moby Dick, which required an entire semester. In spite of being a rather shallow little college girl, I learned that there could be deeper meanings in literature. In the studio I made my first oil painting and was surprised when Mr. Chew entered it in a regional contest and brought it back to me with a first place ribbon. I half-heartedly studied French, but only learned to speak it when Mary Irby and I went to France together for our junior year.

In my future academic career—France, a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from UC Berkeley—I realized that some of my most passionate and quality teachers were at Cottey. So much of what I learned there prepared me for the bigger challenges. What I also loved about Cottey was the encouragement to branch out and explore. The “science girls” were encouraged to try some of the arts and the “arts girls” to study some science. Many of my most precious memories are of walking across campus in the evening and seeing lights on in all the buildings. Girls were in the studios or practicing music or studying in the library. It was one of those wonderful experiences of what people now call synchronicity. Everything connected.

On some of those nights Mary and I would skip dinner and go to the gym to work on our gymnastic routines. To this day I am surprised by what we accomplished: tricks on the flying rings, the horse, the floor and the parallel bars. I spent my entire high school years sneaking out of P.E. and here I was— an athlete. I wish that some fledgling filmmaker had documented our feats.

I was getting ready to compete in the Miss South Dakota Pageant so skipping meals and working out fit nicely into that plan, as did getting a tan. This was done most effectively on “Tar Beach”, the roof of one of the buildings. We would go up there with our books, our album covers wrapped in tin foil (just to ensure more future wrinkles) and we would try to study. But it was also a great place to visit and to take part in nonsense like seeing if we could actually tweeze all the hair off our legs.

This may sound like a lot of nonsense and it was, but it was also part of the creativity that was spawned as we looked for ways to amuse ourselves in this relatively isolated and boy-free environment. But above all it was the other girls, some a little quirky, but always instructive in the range of human behavior. And the best of all, the friendships, lasting fifty years.

Another friend was Lorene Hyde a suite-mate and my big intellectual influence. Older and more worldly she gave us all a taste of the bigger world. When I got my first piece published in a major publication, I looked her up and let her know that I credited her with helping me achieve that.

Mary and I embarked on a big adventure and went to France together for our junior year. We learned French, about the French and how little you can really live with. The following summer I visited suitemate Joan Bacirdji, in Athens. While in Greece I learned that the application my Cottey friend Linda Turpin had sent me was accepted and I would be going to UC Berkeley with her. I really knew nothing about Berkeley, but she was convincing and it was the only application I had. Another example of the power of that early decision.

I studied at Berkeley for nine more years, became a psychologist and writer. I recently cut back to one day per week, so more time for writing. Here in Berkeley I married and had two kids. Now I sit at my computer, in my office, in my home, in the Berkeley Hills where I’ve lived for 40 years. I’m almost done with a book that is a collection of previously published essays. All of this because I decided to go to Cottey.
Points of Pride: Founder’s Day Award Winners

Drs. Judy and Glenn Rogers – Friends of the College
The Rogerses have traveled extensively for Cottey as Judy spoke at international and state P.E.O. conventions, reciprocities, alumnae gatherings, awareness events for the Defining Moment campaign, and most recently, events for the “Cottey College: Going Places” marketing initiative. When Judy became the eleventh president of Cottey College in 2004, Glenn retired. At Cottey he has been a writing tutor, a guest lecturer in Shakespeare, an instructor in Vacation College, and the unofficial events planner and tour guide at President’s House. Under Judy’s leadership the College has increased its emphasis on women’s leadership, inaugurated baccalaureate programs, and successfully completed a $35-million fundraising campaign by raising more than $40 million.

Dr. Lynn Frady Kelley ’60 – Alumna Service
“Cottey made me do it! The opportunities for leadership and the outstanding faculty who nurtured and encouraged us were superior to those of any other colleges I attended. Campus life provided opportunities for socialization and the development of deep friendships that are still strong to this day.”

Prof. Susan Callahan – Honorary Alumna
“Take advantage of the many opportunities offered by Cottey. Along with your academic work, get involved in a club or volunteering, attend performances or talk with faculty and fellow students. One individual can’t do everything, but find the activities that are right for you and make the most of them.”

Dr. Mary Beth Garrison McAfee ’60 – Distinguished Alumna
“At Cottey, I learned about friendship, academics, self-expression and responsibility... While I didn’t know it at the time, my two years at Cottey were the ‘defining moment’ for me to readily express and act on my personal passions and values. It was a stepping stone that has not eroded after more than five decades.”

Sylvia Sharman ’65 – Alumna Service
“My parents taught me to dare to dream, to take opportunities that are presented, and to live a life of service to others. Cottey College has been an excellent place to realize my dreams. ‘Of those to whom much is given, much is expected.’”

Ilse Gebhard ’60 – Distinguished Alumna
“When I think of Cottey, three things stand out: excellent education, confidence-building for leadership, and lasting friendships. My two years at Cottey gave me an excellent educational foundation from which to pursue my bachelor’s and master’s degrees. The highlights of my career as a medicinal research chemist were receiving the Upjohn Award and the Synthetic Chemistry Associates Award. But Cottey gave me so much more. It gave me confidence to say to myself, ’I can be of help here. I can tackle that problem. I can take on a leadership role in this situation.’”

To read full biographies on the award winners, please visit: http://community.cottey.edu/s/1449/images/editor_documents/ccaa_board/alumnae_award_winners/award_winners_2015.pdf
Kirsten Bureman will be a fourth-year student at Cottey next year, preparing to finish her B.A. in International Business. At Cottey College, bachelor’s degrees in international relations and international business require an overseas study component. Kirsten literally took her studies “over seas” as she spent the spring 2015 semester studying with the Semester at Sea program.

“I chose Semester at Sea over a traditional study abroad experience because it provided me the opportunity to see 16 countries and to experience many different cultures,” said Bureman. “I had the privilege of traveling throughout Asia and Africa. As an international business major, I wanted the opportunity to experience as many cultures as possible and this program gave me first-hand experience within these countries.”

Kirsten’s home for four months was the MV Explorer. It was also the home for another 629 students and 300 faculty, staff, crew, and Lifelong Learners. She took courses in International Marketing, International Finance, Consumer Behavior, and The New Scramble for Africa.

In addition to being at sea, there are a couple of other notable differences between regular college courses and SAS courses.

“It is not uncommon to have a class temporarily paused so that everyone can run to the window to see the whales or dolphins that are next to the ship,” she added.

Classes in some ways were comparable to what Bureman did while enrolled at Cottey.

“The workload was very similar to my Cottey classes. The ship had extremely limited access to Internet, so this created some challenges for professors and how they assigned course work. Homework consisted of lots of reading from the textbook and academic databases from the University of Virginia library.”

Classes, however, were only held while underway at sea. Once in port, classes had field labs.

“The field labs were planned by professors and they directly connected to what we were learning in class,” she explained. “I had a field lab for my international finance class in Yokohama, Japan. We visited the Oppama Nissan production plant and spoke with some of their executives about their international financial tactics. I had a field lab for my consumer behavior class in Kobe, Japan. We visited a Kobe beef farm to see how they are able to market their beef so that people are willing to pay $500 a pound. We also visited a sake factory and learned about their production and marketing tactics.”

In addition to the field labs and lectures, Bureman had the opportunity to visit famous landmarks, including a hike on the Great Wall of China, and a visit to Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City.

Still, it’s about the academic work as much as the global awareness factor. Did Bureman feel that she was prepared for this type of course work after two-and-a-half years of traditional college experience at Cottey?

“The courses were definitely challenging, but I felt Cottey had prepared me very well for success in my classes,” she said. “Three of my professors were Executive MBA professors at their home institutions. Semester at Sea is academically sponsored through the University of Virginia, but faculty and staff are from all over the United States and the world.”

Kirsten Bureman in Chaouen, Morocco.

Bureman felt that her experiences gave her an advantage over traditional classroom lectures and readings.

“Semester at Sea provided me with great insight into international business and relations,” Bureman said. “Getting first-hand experience in so many different countries provided exposure to local business practices and customs. I’ve learned things that are unable to be read online or learned in a textbook. This program taught me the immense importance and beauty of other cultures and how important it is to understand and truly appreciate them. I feel so thankful that this program has provided me the opportunity to experience the world.”

Following her graduation in May 2016, what’s next for Bureman?

“I’m planning to work for a few years and then earn my MBA,” she said. “I’m driven to use all of the knowledge and leadership skills that I have gained from my time at Cottey to pursue a career doing work that I am passionate about.”
Faculty Feature: Brenda Ross

By Steve Reed

Most alumnae know Dr. Brenda Ross as a professor of chemistry. That is accurate as she teaches organic chemistry and introduction to environmental chemistry. That simple assessment of who she is would leave out her soul for social justice, which those who know her well have seen. In addition to those classes listed above, she also teaches environmental chemistry and social justice, civic engagement, and is developing a course in health justice.

Although she’ll admit she’s always had a heart for social justice, her formal entry into work in this area began with the annual winter trip to Guatemala that she leads for Cottey students.

“I was looking for something to involve students in,” she said of organizing that first trip. “I was attending a conference in Chicago and met Anna Verhoye. [Verhoye runs a consortium taking students to countries like Guatemala and partners with Cottey on its annual trip.] I still don’t know why I went to that session, but she spoke about opportunities to take college students to Guatemala for the mutual exchange of cultures. For some reason I thought this would fit. Julie Daniels ’07 went the first year and we decided it was a good fit.”

Shortly after this trip to Guatemala, Ross accepted the position of assistant dean of the faculty when Dr. Melinda Rhodes DiSalvo ’86 left. Rhodes developed a course on social justice, and insisted that Ross teach it.

“I think I’d led a socially just life, but I wasn’t aware that was what I was doing and wasn’t working on it,” said Ross. “The first year I was in administration I taught organic chemistry for what I thought was the last time and social justice for the first time. Somewhere in there was the first Peace Week, and I wanted to raise money for the projects in Guatemala.”

Peace Week is a week with student-led events, such as chapel services and readings, leading up to a campus celebration of the International Day of Peace. As part of the Peace Week festivities, Cottey reinstated the Multicultural Festival. The Festival celebrates world cultures with music, art, and food. It also allows student organizations to sell crafts as fundraisers.

At the Multicultural Festival, Ross began selling Guatemalan textiles to raise money for a scholarship she titled “Friends of Peace.” The goal was to endow the scholarship to provide help for a Mayan Guatemalan girl to attend Cottey. After a couple of years selling coffee and textiles, Ross was introduced to a P.E.O. benefactor (who wished to remain anonymous) who endowed the scholarship.

With the prompting of Anna Verhoye, Dr. Ross realized that one way Cottey could participate in a deeper mutual exchange of cultures would be by making it possible for a Mayan Guatemalan woman to attend Cottey. Cultural barriers made it challenging to find a student who was willing to leave the familial boundaries, but Ross trusted that community partners in Guatemala would know how to identify a student and help her prepare for coming to the United States. Maria Sicay Lux became the first Mayan woman from Guatemala to attend Cottey and she will graduate with her bachelor’s degree in 2016.

“I have to give the College a lot of credit for allowing all of these things to happen,” she added.

When asked what she thought defined a strong woman, Ross answered, “Caring for the world and yourself both. Know when to take care of yourself first so you can be out in the world. Power and strength are not the same thing. Working to understand yourself and recognition that you have to understand yourself and your place in the world is a sign of strength.”

Although she loves the work she does in social justice, Ross is a teacher first and foremost.

“Teaching at Cottey is incredible; you have so many students who want to learn,” she said. “They want to find their voice. I get to work with multiple groups of students with multiple interests. This semester I had two students who were taking organic chemistry and social justice. That was a lot of fun.”
Points of Pride: Chapter BM, PA

Retired schoolteacher Jeanne Boltz, president of Chapter BM, Pennsylvania, has a lot of pride in her chapter, Cottey College, and in the student her chapter helped support, Charlotte Wade. Charlotte was the first recipient of the Pennsylvania Chapter BM Scholarship.

“Our chapter takes great pride in its ownership of Cottey College and wished to support ‘A Defining Moment Campaign’ to show its support,” said Boltz. “Thus, during our chapter’s 30th anniversary celebration year, our scholarship was established to honor its own Charter and Chapter Members, thereby creating a lasting legacy for our chapter in Cottey’s history. The Pennsylvania Chapter BM Scholarship is awarded annually using the earned interest from the endowed funds to a Cottey College student with preference to a Pennsylvania student. The principle is held in perpetuity and secured by the by-laws of Cottey College. Our scholarship is an open-ended permanently held fund.”

The scholarship was first established in 2013, but when it came time to award the first scholarship in the 2014-15 academic year, no Pennsylvania students enrolled at Cottey.

“Second-year student Charlotte Wade from Apalachin, New York, was selected as our chapter’s first recipient and we could not have been more pleased,” said Boltz. “Charlotte was the best of ambassadors for Cottey! Charlotte sent us a letter before every chapter meeting sharing her life at Cottey College with us. When I asked her if we could do Facetime before a chapter meeting, she responded that she and her mother would like to meet the sisters of Chapter BM. We were over the moon when we learned that they would drive from New York state to meet us for lunch! At our luncheon, we learned about Galentine’s Day and the Cottey spring break trip to Barcelona. Charlotte is a P.E.O. from Chapter BO, NY so we had a lot in common.”

“The support I got from Chapter BM, PA not only helped me reach my educational goals, but also made me feel connected to P.E.O.s like them all across the U.S. and Canada,” said Charlotte. “Their cards and letters were so kind and encouraging, and getting the chance to meet them in person helped me communicate how important this kind of support is to Cottey students.”

Unfortunately for Chapter BM, Charlotte Wade graduated in May with her Associate in Arts degree, and the chapter will need to find another recipient for its scholarship.

“Come August there will be at least one Pennsylvania student on Cottey’s campus,” Boltz added.

Increasing endowed funds and building unrestricted annual support has been the fundraising focus since the successful conclusion of A Defining Moment: the Campaign for Cottey College in January 2014. The College remains truly grateful for the continued support of all alumni, faculty, staff, friends, P.E.O.s, chapters, corporations, and foundations. We wish to specially recognize the following donors with contributions from January 19 to May 20, 2015, totaling $5,000 or more.

To make a gift in support of Cottey College's commitment to education for women, visit www.cottey.edu/give, or use the gift envelope provided in this issue of the Viewpoint.

Gifts or Pledges of $5,000 or more

Larry Andre—Spirit Lake, IA
Lois Keister Bevins ’47—Canyon Lake, CA
P.E.O. Chapter GA—Los Angeles, CA
Susan Carlson ’70—St. Louis, MO
Conan Castle—Warrensburg, MO
Barbara Ryan Eanes ’41—Arvada, CO
Mary Beaty Edelen ’65—Vermillion, SD
Anne Evans—Des Plaines, IL
Ilse Gebhard ’60—Kalamazoo, MI
P.E.O. Chapter BL—Gainesville, GA
Genevieve Gouker Charitable Foundation—Sedona, AZ

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W.W. and H.J. Klos Trust—Peoria, AZ
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Estate of Margaret R. Lee—Columbia, MO
P.E.O. Foundation—Des Moines, IA
John J. Phillips—Omaha, NE
Estate of John W. Rogers—Kansas City, MO
Estate of Esther Smith Van Soelen ’47—Clovis, NM
Dorothy Dyer Vanek—Tucson, AZ
Ronald and Janet VanMynen—Shelburne, VT
Blossom Perkins Shaw ’60 and Jay Shaw are happy to announce that they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Iowa City, Iowa, in March 2015!

Michaele Ann Buell ’62 has moved from Arkansas to southeast Colorado, and is looking forward to becoming involved with local organizations and activities. She would welcome hearing from ’62 classmates at 908 San Juan, Trinidad, CO 81082, or michaeleannbuell@yahoo.com.

From Patricia LeBaron ’73: Hi to all those Cottey Gals from 1971–1973! Special greetings to those from Louisiana & South Dakota Suites in Rosemary Hall! After a 20-year career in advertising as an art director in New York and Seattle, I did a mid-life career switch and went back to school at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California, to get my M.Div. I’m now an Ordained Presbyterian Minister (PC/USA) and working full-time as a hospice chaplain for Evergreen Hospice in the Seattle and Puget Sound area. I have a Jack Russell Terrier named Abbey and I get home to visit my folks in Wichita (and fellow Cottey and KU alumna Paula [Petruzates] Matson). I’m also a loyal Kansas Jayhawk! ROCK CHALK! Would love to hear from fellow classmates!

Pamela J. Webb ’76 has been serving as a reader’s theater teacher at the American School of Kuwait since 2013. She plans to be there for another few years and then will return to North Carolina to build a tiny house, possibly on wheels. You can follow her adventures and travels on her blog: https://allaboardforadventure.wordpress.com/

Robin K. McClellan ’79 has left her position as director of minerals research initiatives at Curtin University to become the CEO of Leadership Western Australia. Her new position will start in August.

From Jennifer Baublits ’89: Inspired by her mother’s journal, author Diane Thaxton Baublits researched her family genealogy to write The Monhollon Homesteaders: Kansas, Oklahoma, and Colorado 1859–1987. Edited and published by her daughter Jennifer Baublits ’89 through Renatus EduWorks, the book is a biography of the life of western pioneers Isaiah and Etta Monhollon, who participated in the Oklahoma Land Run, encountered Jesse and Frank James, and raised five children while surviving drought and the Dust Bowl Days.

Amy Eckhoff ’94 spoke to an audience of 109 prospective students and guests at Cottey’s Celebration of Achievement event in February. Amy shared her experiences leading up to choosing Cottey and her education and career path since graduation. As a principal architect for the Judy and Glenn Rogers Fine Arts Building, Amy shared insights into the design process and special features of the building, which is scheduled for completion later this year.

Keepa Maskey ’94 displayed ten beautiful figurative abstract paintings depicting her varying emotions between 2012 and 2014 at a solo exhibition at The Gallery of City Museum Kathmandu in Durbar Marg. To read more about the show go to http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=88140

Kasey Kahler Gordon ’00 is currently the director of women’s sales for Tori Richard; the Honolulu-based company designs for resort lifestyle. Gordon currently resides in Brooklyn, New York.

Katy Studer Hoxsey ’01 and Hailie Thomas formed Design Vim, a full-service Interior Design consulting firm in Boise, Idaho. The firm is a female–veteran-owned company that offers a complete range of services for a variety of project types. Design Vim is engaged in both commercial and residential projects, and their award-winning designs have been featured on Home & Garden Television (HGTV), in Houzz, by the Building Contractors Association of Southwestern Idaho, and by the Interior Designers of Idaho. The interior design partners are LEED AP- and NCIDQ-certified. For more information, please visit http://www.design-vim.com

Courtney Cole ’02 accepted a position as the executive director of the Excelsior Springs Area Chamber of Commerce. She is thrilled for this opportunity to give back in a leadership position to her hometown community.
Ann Woods ’02 added the skill of novel writing to her repertoire in 2014 under the pseudonym Ann Serafini. She has since written four full-length books in a romantic science-fiction series titled *Sapphire Shade*. The seven-part series is on track to be completed in 2016. The first four books are available online for Amazon Kindle or as paperbacks. For signed copies, please email Ann at asiah-blue@hotmail.com.

Julia Weaver Bounchareun ’03 is the research and communications advisor to World Renew in Cambodia. The Christian NGO focuses on integrated community development in rural communities. In her new position, Julia will serve a dual function of supporting the country consultant and program managers, as well as coaching the staff with a variety of tasks associated with representation, research, and communication for the organization.

Ashley Stark ’04 graduated in May 2015 with a Doctorate of Business Administration with a concentration in management from George Fox University. She is presently employed teaching accounting at Dickinson State University in Dickinson, North Dakota.

Dr. Mai Tadokoro ’04 recently graduated from the University of Kansas with a Doctor of Musical Arts in percussion. In March, Mai gave a solo recital at Cottey featuring the marimba, snare, and musically pitched flower pots. [PHOTO 1]

Mary Jinglewski ’09 is the new training services librarian for Equinox Software. In this role, Mary trains librarians on all the ins and outs of Evergreen and Koha software. In her spare time, Mary enjoys dancing, following hockey, and volunteering as a community representative for the Digital Public Library of America. You can also find her tweeting about the latest in library news and open source on Twitter (@mjingle).

Mary Jinglewski ’09

Round and Round for 36 Years

It’s always a great thrill when the postman delivers the thick round-robin envelope to my door. I make a pot of tea and settle in to savor all the latest news and photos from my dear suitemates. Each letter begins, “Dear Suities…”

After reading the six letters in consecutive order, I write a new letter, add it to the bottom of the stack, remove my old letter, and mail the packet on to Linda. About two or three times a year, the wonderful collection of letters makes its way back to me.

Originally we discussed our university classes, new friendships, and courtships. Then news centered around our graduations, post-grad degrees, careers, and travel. We also stayed current about the details of each other’s families.

We’ve shared the joys of our weddings, births, and adoptions … and the sorrows of illnesses, divorces, and deaths in our families. All of us are married and have children. While some of us are still raising teenagers, others are now empty nesters. Half of us now have married children. We will now see who becomes the first grandma in our group.

By saving every letter, we have created a written record of our last 36 years. These “diaries” are filled with rich details rarely found in today’s emails, texts, and tweets.

We’ve reunited for two Founders’ Days, attended each other weddings, and visited each other’s homes occasionally. We celebrated our 50th birthdays together in Colorado.

The suitemates are now mature women in our mid-50s. We’re planning our next reunion, where we know we’ll pick up right where we left off when we were last together.
Emily McNary ’10 finished her B.S. in environmental studies and sustainability from the University of Utah.

Elise Omaits ’10 has finished two years of service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon where she worked as a community economic development advisor working with cooperatives on agricultural and business initiatives. Elise will be moving to New York City, and in July, Elise and her business partner Ben D’Innocenzo will be launching an app called TravelTrainer (www.traveltrainerapp.com), a low-tech fitness app, available for Apple and Android devices, that randomly generates full-body workouts for when a person is traveling or away from the gym. A portion of the profit will go toward Peace Corps wellness projects in developing countries.

Sarah Raffurty ’11 is working towards a master’s in museum studies at Syracuse University. This summer she has two internships. The first one will be in Wilmington, North Carolina, at the Bellamy Mansion Museum. Then Sarah will be at the Smithsonian Postal Museum in Washington, D.C., working as a curatorial and research intern for her dream organization. While in the area, Sarah is interested in meeting other Cottey alumnae or P.E.O.s and can be reached at sraffurty@yahoo.com.

Tatum Lindsay ’12 is working at the American University in Cairo as a researcher in the Economics Department and School of Business researching copyright law in Egypt and the Arab world through a research center at AUC, the Access to Knowledge for Development Center. She co-taught Harvard Law School’s CopyrightX course taught at AUC, “CopyrightX: The Economics of Copyright and Creativity” to a group of undergraduate economics students this semester. She also maintains a blog, Ms. JD, Determined to Rise: http://ms-jd.org/profile/Tatum-Lindsay.

Taylor Woods (AA ’12; BA ’14) traveled to Nuremberg, Germany, in February 2015 for the world’s largest organic trade show called BioFach. While there, she internationally promoted her company’s name brand organic pecans, American Native, and established good public relations with the company’s current European buyers. Woods was able to meet the German Food and Agriculture Minister, as well as the United States Counsel General in Munich, and tell them both a bit about American Native’s delicious and unique pecans native to the United States and our little rural Vernon County.

Sarah Neill ’13 graduated in May with a B.A. in psychology from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, and started the Master of Occupational Therapy program in June at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Missouri.

Shauna Schmitt ’13 graduated from the University of Dubuque in May with a bachelor’s in business administration with a concentration on marketing. This summer she will be working at McGraw Hill Education as a national support sales intern. She will return to the university in the fall to pursue her master’s in communication while being a graduate assistant in the career services center with hopes of working in higher education.

Ly (Harriet) Huong Bui ’14 is a marketing intern for Full Circle Adoption. She is currently studying at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts.

The Denver Regional Group met in Lowry, Colorado, this January. With eleven alumnae in attendance, everyone had a great time reconnecting, reminiscing, and making new Cottey connections. [PHOTO 2]

The Kansas City Regional Group met in February to cheer on the Cottey Comets. The Comets triumphed over Penn Valley that evening and all alumnae and P.E.O.’s in attendance were thrilled to meet the team and congratulate them on their win. Alumnae in attendance ranged in class years from 1978 to 2004! [PHOTO 3]
**Births**

**2000s**

Michelle (Rey) Merritt ’01 and Andrew Merritt welcomed Bradley, born December 1, 2014.  
**[Photo 1]**

Torie (Short) Davis ’03 and her husband, Andy, welcomed Nora Marie Davis on January 14. Nora was 6 lbs., 9 oz., 19.75 inches. Both Mama and Papa are enjoying their precious gift.  
**[Photo 2]**

Lisa Heller-Grummert ’04 and her husband Brian welcomed Blake Charles Grummert on February 19, 2015. He was 8 lbs., 11.5 oz., and 21.5 inches.  
**[Photo 3]**

Kerri (Brown) Brooks ’09 married Nevada local Chase Brooks in May 2011. Baby boy, Keith, was born November 14, 2014, at 7 lbs., 7 oz., and measured 21 inches.  
**[Photo 4]**

**Obituaries**

Norma Flanagan ’39 passed away on January 9, 2015. Her daughter writes, “She was a 1939 graduate of Cottey College and a P.E.O. She loved her time at Cottey and considered it a turning point in her life. She requested that any donations made in her memory be sent to Cottey College.” Her obituary can be found online at: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dallasmorningnews/obituary.aspx?pid=173892105

Barbara was a distinguished scholar, teacher, senior administrator, and internationalist. Her obituary can be found online at http://www.obituariesfree.com/2015/03/barbara-h-knudson.htm

Ruby Simmons Patterson ’46 passed away on October 5, 2014. Her obituary is online at http://www.palmerfuneralhomes.com/notices/Ruby-Patterson.htm

Helen DenAdel Byler ’48 passed away on April 3, 2015. Her obituary is online at http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/kansascity/obituary.aspx?pid=174582139


Judith Susan Caudle Strada ’68 passed away on December 22, 2014. Her obituary can be found online at http://www.atchisonglobenow.com/obituaries/article_fb3b3f02-c122-5c15-ab83-2d4a2e71e3ba.html

The College was notified of the deaths of the following alumnae:

Dorothy Green ’29
Lois Walley McGee ’34
Mary Gene Allen ’36
Norma Faye Anderson ’39
Margaret Farwell ’43
Catherine Conis ’46
Marleen McKeehan ’50
Patricia Jennings ’50
Mary Jane Casper ’51
Merrywayne Ridge ’55
Sharon Ritchey ’55
Cathryn Clarke ’58
Carol Collins ’59
Glenda Smith ’73

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Weddings

1990s

Brianne Fulton Miller ‘99 married Scott Miller on March 9, 2015, in an elopement ceremony in New Orleans, Louisiana. Brianne is an assistant professor of art at Cottey, and Scott is the municipal judge for the city of Lawrence, Kansas. The couple will continue to split their time between Nevada and Lawrence, and they appreciate the many well-wishes they’ve received from Brianne’s Cottey sisters, P.E.O.s, and the Cottey community! [PHOTO 1]

2000s

In June 2014 Whitney (Jones) Archer ‘01 graduated from Oregon State University with both an M.A. in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies and a Ed.M. in College Student Services Administration. She then began working at OSU Women’s Center in November. In December, after almost 8 years together, Whitney and Carrie (Reeves) Archer ‘96 got married. In January, they changed their last names to Archer, celebrating the first street they lived together on in Nevada, Missouri. In February, they welcomed an amazing baby boy, Dalton Miles Archer. He is their greatest achievement! Courtney Jones Cameron ‘98 and Brittnie Jones ‘06 were excited to welcome their first nephew into the world. In April, the Archers bought a home in Corvallis, Oregon, where they both work at the university. Whitney became Dalton’s legally binding parent on May 20 during their second parent adoption ceremony. Well wishes can be sent to a shared email at Whit.Carrie@gmail.com. [PHOTO 2]

Amy Christofis ‘03 is happy to announce her engagement to Jeffrey Ruff!

Kait Calys-Strohm ‘05 and Justin Strohm were married on November 14, 2014, in St. Louis, Missouri, at the Jewel Box in Forest Park. Crissy Rea-Bain ‘05, Allison Hall Frank ‘06, & Kristen Hower Difani ‘05, were bridesmaids, along with Kait’s step-sister, Alex Farber. Kait and Justin live and work in St. Louis and are enjoying being newlyweds! Photo caption – From left to right: Allison Frank, Kristen Difani, Kait Calys-Strohm, Crissy Rea-Bain, and Alex Farber. [PHOTO 3]

Jade Kai ‘05 married her high school sweetheart, Marcus Ferguson, on October 11, 2014, in a tree- and book-themed celebration at Gilman Park Arboretum in Pierce, Nebraska. Her sister Jasmine Kai ‘11 was a bridesmaid in the wedding as well as the party bus driver, a reader in the ceremony, and a major artistic influence in the wedding decor.

Jade and Marcus are also in the process of relocating to Lincoln, Nebraska. Jade is working as an advisor at Nelnet Education Planning and Financing. Marcus is an HR manager for Extended Families of Nebraska. Photo caption – The wedding party in front of the high school where the bride and groom met, including bride Jade Kai ‘05 and bridesmaid Jasmine Kai ‘11 (3rd from right) [PHOTO 4]

Maggie Hubele ‘09 became engaged to be married to John Cunnington of Perth, Western Australia, on April 30, 2015. The happy couple is looking forward to their nuptials next year. [PHOTO 5]
Dr. Carol Clyde, director of the Serenbetz Institute for Women’s Leadership, Social Responsibility, and Global Awareness; and assistant professor of leadership, along with student Tatenda Ndambakuwa, represented Cottey College at the 6th annual McDonough Leadership Conference, April 10–11, 2015, at Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio. The conference theme of “Concrete Leadership: Bridging the Divide Between Theory and Practice” applies directly to the Institute’s themes of women’s leadership and social responsibility. With student research presentations, forums on best practices and professionals sharing knowledge, there were abundant opportunities to learn more about leadership in an academic context. The Institute’s third theme of global awareness is a continually emerging topic in leadership practice and research, and two speakers in particular addressed this for attendees: Maka Meshveliani, from the Women’s Movement within the Republic of Georgia, and Kathleen Reddy-Smith, a retired Diplomat with the U.S. Foreign Service, U.S. Department of State.

Dr. Amanda Cook, assistant professor of music, successfully defended her dissertation and completed her doctorate in music at Indiana University over the spring break in March.

Dr. Ganga Fernando, associate professor of chemistry, received a Dorothy and Moses Passer Education Grant to support her attendance at the “Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (LC/MS): Practical Maintenance and Trouble-Shooting the Instrument” short course at the American Society for Mass Spectrometrists International convention in St. Louis, Missouri, in May 2015. The Passer Awards are granted to a full-time faculty member in chemistry at an undergraduate two- or four-year United States college that does not have a graduate program in the chemical sciences. Though Cottey currently does not have a LC/MS instrument, Dr. Fernando has experience working with it in the past. This opportunity will allow her to learn more about the recent developments to this teaching- and research-oriented analytical instrument, which will be the next-in-line equipment to add to our laboratories to benefit Cottey’s B.S. program in Health Sciences.

Nancy Kerbs, director of assessment and institutional research, and Dr. Trisha Stubblefield, professor of English, attended the AAC&U Annual General Education and Assessment Conference “From Mission to Action to Evidence: Empowering and Inclusive General Education Programs” in Kansas City, Missouri, February 19–21, 2015.

Dr. Selena Kohel, associate professor of psychology, attended the course “Meditation and Psychotherapy: The Power of Mindfulness” offered by Harvard Medical School, May 8–9, 2015, in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. Kathryn Pivak, associate professor of English, presented part of her sabbatical research, a paper titled “Imagining the Front: Mary Roberts Rinehart and the First World War,” at the annual conference of the College English Association, which was held in Indianapolis from March 26–28, 2015. She also attended presentations on composition, Shakespeare, and Victorian literature.

Dr. Trisha Stubblefield, professor of English, attended the Moral Cultures of Food Conference in Denton, Texas, April 1–4, 2015.

Courtney Trautweiler began her duties as the new director of the Blanche Skiff Ross Library on January 13, 2015. Courtney came to Cottey from the St. Clair County Library in Osceola, Missouri, where she served as the assistant director and technology coordinator since 2010. Courtney holds a Master of Science in library and information services from the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. She also has a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

Dr. Kanji Watanabe, associate professor of political science and international relations, spent December 22, 2014, through January 1, 2015, revisiting women’s organizations and NGOs he had visited last summer in Palestine. During his trip, he purchased art and crafts made by impoverished Palestinian women, learned more about the situations in Palestine, and worked to recruit high school students who might want to attend Cottey in the future.

Ellen Weatherholt, assistant director of annual fund and alumnae relations, and Judyth Wier, vice president for institutional advancement, attended the annual CASE District VI conference in Denver, Colorado, January 11–13, 2015. This annual event provides educational sessions on all topics related to institutional advancement. While at the conference, Ellen accepted the CASE Gold Award for Magazine Publishing Improvement for Cottey’s Viewpoint magazine. In addition, Judyth also gave a presentation titled, “Generational Fundraising: What You Need to Know About Generational Characteristics of Your Friends and Donors.”
GIFTS TO THE ANNUAL FUND SUPPORT EVERY ASPECT OF THE COLLEGE’S MISSION TO EDUCATE WOMEN IN THE COTTEY TRADITION

SO THAT THEY MAY REALIZE THEIR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL AMBITIONS. LOOK AT WHAT YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT.

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For more information: www.cottey.edu/annual-fund/cottey-associates/