Small Campus – BIG Premiere

Cottey College to Host the American Premiere of the African Opera Afiwa

by Steve Reed

It is, in the words of the late Ed Sullivan, “A really big show.” Cottey College will host the American premiere of Nicholas Ballanta’s opera Afiwa on April 16 and 17 in the Auditorium of the Haidee and Allen Wild Center for the Arts. The curtain will rise at 8 p.m. on both evenings.

The words “American premiere” don’t quite cover it, although they will have to do. The opera was first performed in Ghana in 1936 and again in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in 1937. It was also produced in Sierra Leone once more in 1997. When Afiwa is on stage at Cottey, it will be the first time it has been seen off of the continent of Africa. How it got to Cottey is a story in itself.

The story of Afiwa regards a King of the Anlo who had seven wives of whom one was the most favored. Unfortunately this one had only female children; and the King, desirous of having her bring forth a male child, killed a large goat and called all his wives to eat thereof, at the same time giving them an injunction that none of them should thereafter give birth to any female child. The punishment for disobedience would be that the unwanted girl would be thrown into the river. Immediately thereafter a female child was born by the most favored wife, and, true to his threat, he caused the child to be thrown into the river. The baby was picked up by another woman who nursed it and took care of it until it was grown. One day when the child was passing through the farm of the King she was instructed to drive away goats and birds who were destroying his corn. She refused, stating that, if she had been dead, she would not be alive to drive away goats and birds. The King was vexed at this and called his Counselors to witness her punishment for disobedience. They, however, after having heard the story of the child, decided against the King and had him punished for his crime committed years previously.

Dr. Kiel researched Ballanta and became more intrigued with the man who was both a recorder of African musical traditions, and a composer in his own right. Through his work, Dr. Kiel has preserved much of Ballanta’s music. He was entrusted with many of Ballanta’s original manuscripts, and has become one of the leading scholars on Ballanta. Because of his research and work in preserving Ballanta’s work and legacy, he was given permission to produce this opera at Cottey College.

The lead role for Cottey’s production will be sung by Joseryl Beckley, which nicely brings this story full circle. In addition to being a native Sierra Leonean and Cottey graduate, she is also a graduate of the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, Bloomington. She is a professional singer and also serves as acting principal of the Ballanta Academy of Music in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

As previously reported in the Summer 2008 issue of the Viewpoint, this musical odyssey began with Cottey student Joseryl Beckley, Class of 2000. She was rehearsing one day, and Dr. Dyke Kiel, professor of music, was captivated by something he had never before heard. Dr. Kiel stopped Beckley and asked, “What was that song you were singing?”

That song was part of Ballanta’s opera Afiwa. Prior to her arrival at Cottey, Beckley had studied briefly with Mr. Logi Wright who had been an associate of Ballanta. Beckley had also sung the leading role in Afiwa in the 1997 production in Freetown.

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Other roles will be performed by Cottey faculty, staff, and students. Professor Theresa Spencer, professor of music, will sing the role of Ayele, Afiwa’s foster mother.

Cottey artists are also involved in the production. Cottey professor of art, Dr. Bruce Holman, designed the backdrop (image in box below), and Cottey art students spent a weekend creating the scene and other set pieces for the performance.

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Tickets for the American premiere of Afiwa are $8 for adults and $6 for those under age 18 or over age 62. Although tickets are not yet available for distribution, they may be reserved by calling the Cottey Ticket Office at 417-667-8181, ext. 2186, or by e-mailing Kris Korb, coordinator of campus activities, at kkorb@cottey.edu.

For more information on the opera and the performance at Cottey, visit www.cottey.edu/home/afiwa/. For more information on Nicholas Ballanta, see the Wikipedia page created by Mrs. Becky Kiel, director of the library. That Web address is http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_G.J._Ballanta.

Joseryl Beckley ‘00

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Dr. Rusalyn Andrews, professor of theatre and speech, attended the National Communication Association’s annual conference in Chicago, November 12-15.

Ganga Fernando received her Ph.D. in chemistry on December 19, 2009, at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Gary Johnson, adjunct assistant professor of music, recently attended the Missouri Music Educators Conference as a recruiting representative of Cotter College. The conference took place from January 27-30 and was attended by 2500 music educators. Performing during the conference were 25 high school and middle school groups, totaling approximately 1500 students. The conference attracted an attendance of approximately 5000 teachers, parents, performing students, and exhibitors.

Congratulations to Sylvia Martin, part-time library assistant, on completing the Master of Business Administration/Public Administration degree.

Sherry Pennington, director of financial aid, attended the Federal Student Aid Conference in Nashville, December 1-4.

Dr. Don Perkins, professor of English, plans to retire at the conclusion of this current academic year. Dr. Perkins joined the faculty at Cotter  in 1994 and has served as coordinator of alumnae relations to accept a position with Weight Watchers. Her last day at Cotter was December 10, 2009.

Dr. Derek Rivard, associate professor of history, will be on a medical leave of absence during the spring 2010 semester. Dr. John Mack has agreed to teach Western Civilization since 1500 and Renaissance and Reformation Europe as an adjunct assistant professor of history. Dr. Mack holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Kansas and a Th.D. with an emphasis in Anglican Studies from Whitefield Theological Seminary. In addition to his teaching duties at Cotter, Dr. Mack is a full-time history professor at Labette Community College in Parsons, Kansas.

Carol Urner, who served as P.E.O. liaison from 1970-1994 and has served as a temporary employee in the Service Center and the Bookstore, has agreed to expand her temporary clerical employment to help in Institutional Advancement with the comprehensive campaign.

Whitney Jones has resigned her position as senior admission representative. Her last day at Cotter was December 23, 2009. She relocated to Salem, Oregon.

Reba Cunningham began her dance with the angels on December 12, 2009. She was born on July 20, 1921, in Blue Eye, Missouri, daughter of Rev. Willie Adron Evans and Floy Baughman Evans. The family lived in Shawnee, Oklahoma; Berryville, Arkansas; and Picher, Oklahoma. She married James Edward Cunningham, Jr., in 1943 and was widowed in 1961. She is a graduate of Ouachita University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, and received her master’s degree in guidance counseling from Kansas State University. She began her teaching career in Pueblo, Colorado, and later joined the faculty at Cottey College as director of counseling where she worked for 24 years mentoring and hosting students from many countries around the world. She is also a professor emerita of psychology at Cottey College. While her Christian faith strengthened and directed her, the pride and joy of her life was her son, James Edward Cunningham III, of Little Rock, Arkansas. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and her brother, Billy Joe Evans at age 7. She is survived by her son, her sister Rena Evans Gennings, three nieces and seven grandnieces and grandnephews.

The funeral service was held Thursday, December 17, at Fellowship Bible Church with private burial in Graceland Cemetery, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Reba Cunningham Scholarship at Cottey College, 1000 W. Austin, Nevada, MO 64772, or donations may be made online at www.cottey.edu.

When I first went to Cottey College, I had little to no confidence in myself or academic ability. There was a wonderful woman over academic affairs, Dr. Cunningham. Dr. Cunningham had faith in me, which gave me faith in myself. My grade point went up, because I had the confidence to actually think I could study and retain what I studied. Had it not been for Dr. Cunningham, I would not be where I am today. I went on to get an MA in Learning Disabilities and an MA in Christian Counseling. I was able to pass the LPC test on the first try. I have now been an LPC for an inpatient unit, in the state of Oklahoma for 17 1/2 years. I am so thankful Dr. Cunningham was at Cottey at the moment I needed her help.

Linda Rodgers
Class of 1968
The Daisy Chain will be introduced at Founder’s Day Weekend, March 26-28.

be alumnae.

alumnae, a class or other combinations. The only restriction is that the donors must

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ou can make a difference at Cottey College. The College
comes to need your support: your financial support, your participa-
tion with your class, and your help with recruitment. Cottey is a small college
with an ambitious mission to continue to provide women a challenging curriculum
and a dynamic campus atmosphere. We want our students to develop their po-
tential as learners, leaders, and citizens. You can help us achieve this mission.
We have a clear example of one class who chose to do this.

The Class of 1960 recognized that the chief influence of the Cottey College ed-
ucational experience most likely comes from excellent teaching by outstand-
ing faculty members. Therefore, the alumnae of the Class of 1960, in honor
of their fiftieth anniversary, have created and funded the Class of 1960 Excellence
in Education Award as a faculty recogni-
tion. The first award will be granted at
the Founder’s Day luncheon on March
27, 2010. The members of the Class
of 1960, aided by Cottey institutional
advancement staff, have been working to fund an endowment to support this award
for several years. The Class of 1960 has
made a difference not only this year, but
for years to come, by recognizing and
rewarding excellence in education as it is
provided by outstanding Cottey faculty.
Each class member who contributed
shares in this accomplishment, and I will
be thrilled to participate in honoring the
members of this class during Founder’s
Weekend.

As I work on campus, I regularly see
the difference alumnae make. Another
example: Tara Stuart ’52, received
the Distinguished Alumna Award dur-
ing Founder’s Weekend in 2008. Tara
returned to campus this semester as a
volunteer to serve as a Leader-in-Resi-
dence—to be a guest lecturer in classes,
to meet one-on-one with students, and to
participate in our leadership programs.
As a Cottey graduate, educator, and citi-
zen of the world, Tara has much to share.
Cottey students have embraced her as a
role model and mentor. Tara Stuart is not
the only example. Barbara Trombley
’70, has also served this year as a Leader-
in-Residence to share her business expert-
ise and her art with our students.

Cottey College alumna, Joseryl Beck-
ley, a 2000 graduate and a graduate of
the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana
University, Bloomington, will return to
campus from Freetown, Sierra Leone, to
sing the lead role in the first production
outside of Africa of Nicholas Ballanta’s
opera Afirwa. Joseryl introduced the
music of Nicholas Ballanta to her Cottey
music professor, Dr. Dyke Kiel. Dr. Kiel
became intrigued by Ballanta’s music
and has spent the last 10 years research-
ing and preserving his music. Producing
the premier of Afirwa on our campus is an
extraordinary accomplishment that has
required the talent of our entire fine arts
faculty and many students and friends.
Joseryl made a difference.

Your gift back to Cottey may be very
different from any of these, but I invite
you to reunite with your class, to stay in
touch, and to find the right way for you to
reconnect with and support your College.
You can make a difference.

Defining Moment Campaign Update

By Carla Farmer
Campaign Manager and Senior Major Gifts Officer

Cottey Employees “Creating Defining Moments”

Cottey faculty and staff have joined together to make a significant
statement through their gifts and pledges to A Defining Moment Campaign.
In the first ever comprehensive campaign for the College, over 70 percent of the 149
employees made pledges and gifts totaling $115,705.40.

In the first three months of the campaign, the Faculty Staff Committee surpassed
their goal of raising $75,000. With less than a month to go in the active phase of the
campaign, the committee decided to “go for the gold” by establishing a stretch goal
of $100,000.

“As faculty and staff, the campaign became our defining moment,” said Theresa
Burger, professor of physical education and campaign co-chairman. “We believe this
campaign will define the future of our college for years to come.”

On February 18, an all-campus meeting was held at which Dr. Judy Rogers, Cottey
president, announced to a large audience the campaign total. Following the an-
nouncement, employees gathered for a celebration lunch.

“The employees of Cottey have made history with this campaign. They have ex-
pressed their desire to create defining moments for generations of students to come,”
said Dr. Rogers.

Daisy Chain to be Introduced at Founder’s Day

Diane Sampson, donor recognition chairman, announces an exciting opportunity for
Cottey alumnae that will enable alums to make a meaningful contribution to the cam-

A paver will feature a spray of daisies with three lines of copy chosen by the do-

The Daisy Chain will be introduced at Founder’s Day Weekend, March 26-28.

“This is an exceptional manner to show your support of our college,” added Diane.

For more information about the Daisy Chain, e-mail cfarmer@cottey.edu or
call the Campaign Office at 417-448-1418.

Campaign Events

A Defining Moment Campaign will be hosting events this spring in conjunction
with P.E.O. state conventions in South Carolina, Iowa, and Kansas. Another
awareness event is planned for Coronado, California, in mid-March. If you
would like to volunteer to help with or host a small awareness event, please
contact Jan Goodsell, awareness chairman, at jan@thegoodsells.com, or Carla
Farmer, campaign manager, cfarmer@cottey.edu.

“If you would like to be a part of this exciting time in the history of our
college, we are eager to hear from you” said Jan. “We will work with you
to share the message of the campaign at an awareness event or an alumnae
gathering.”

Reaching Alumnae Through Social Media

Never before has social media played such an important role in how we com-
municate with each other. This is not to say that we should ignore the popu-
lation that relies on traditional media for information. However, Web sites,
blogs, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media sites are legitimate commu-
ication tools.

A Defining Moment Campaign launched its Web site in October 2009. In the
following months, Dr. Rogers and Barbara Andes began blogging on the site.
Recently, a Facebook page called The Defining Moment was established and
every day more and more friends of the College and the campaign are joining
the site.

We invite you to stay abreast of the campaign through one of these media.
You can access the Web site by going to www.cottey.edu and clicking on the
Defining Moment icon at the bottom of the page. Join Facebook and enjoy
sharing your thoughts and comments about the campaign with a growing circle
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of Defining Moment fans.
A day ON, not a day off was the theme for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. Cottey students worked a variety of service projects on Saturday, January 16, following a service in the Chapel. Those projects included: a food drive for the local food pantry, holding a BINGO tournament for retired people served by the local housing authority, and giving art lessons to youth served by the Nevada Housing Authority. A mural will be painted in the Nevada Regional Medical Center at a later date by Cottey art students. New bookshelves have been donated to the Housing Authority and those will be dedicated at a later date as well. Above, Cottey students Genevieve Harding and Edie Jones have fun with a young artist. See more photos online at: www.cottey.edu/home/studentlife/MLKdayofservice-2010.html.

Cottey Students at Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, a Service Learning Trip to Guatemala, and a Habitat for Humanity Build

Habitat for Humanity

On behalf of the Habitat for Humanity Board Members we thank you for sending us so many eager helping hands. The young women wanted to know how Habitat for Humanity works in the community and were anxious to participate in the build. The young women who participated in this build were instrumental in getting the inside walls up and sealed for energy efficiency.

Traci Taylor and Jesse McCullah came in and caulked all the exterior walls that needed to be sealed. They also put their backs into cleaning up behind the other team member’s projects.

Amanda Taylor, Charlie Brown, Traci Taylor, and Odessa West were eager to get the ceilings prepped with the moisture barrier so we could put up sheetrock. And if that wasn’t enough, Amanda Taylor, Charlie Brown, Odessa West, Traci Taylor, Chrisissy Echeverria, and Madeline Swidergal came back the next workday and helped raise and secure the sheetrock to the walls.

Tanya Sawadye and Rutendo Sigauke from Zimbabwe and Amanda Taylor came in to help cover the floors with protective covering to keep paint from staining the floors. All the girls jumped in to paint where needed and clean up at the end of each work day.

The young women brought laughter and synergy to the project. Their willingness to work hard to provide someone whom they didn’t even know to get a fresh start with a new home was heartwarming. How appropriate since they are starting a new phase in their own lives. Their gift of time is one of the most rewarding things they could do to give back to their community here and in their respective home states and countries. We were very proud to have Cottey College volunteer to help us build house number 11. We hope their experience has enriched their lives.

Carolyn Lucas Habitat for Humanity Board member

I enjoyed being in the community of San Lucas Toliman. The people were warm and accepting and I loved learning about their culture.

~ Ellie Spresser ’10

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even Cottey students, one recent alumna, two administrators, and one parent of a current student recently returned from a 12-day trip to Guatemala. The trip is hosted by a consortium out of Minnesota, and this is the fourth consecutive year that participants from Cottey College have participated. A full week is spent at a mission in San Lucas Toliman, where the group learns about the outreach programs the mission sponsors and does some service work in those projects alongside local workers. They also spend time meeting local shop owners and residents and learning about their lives in this developing nation. Some time is also spent visiting other sites in Guatemala before and after the week at San Lucas, such as the volcano Pacaya and the Mayan ruins at Tikal.

Although some physical labor is involved, the focus of the trip is getting out and meeting the people of San Lucas Toliman. When asked if it were better to send money or to be present in San Lucas, Father Greg Schaffer, the diocesan priest who has been in San Lucas the past 47 years, said, “Certainly there is a constant need for funds to keep the parish running, but the presence of people like you is something that money can’t buy. The people of San Lucas know the volunteers have given up the place they want to sleep and the food they like to eat to be with them. That tells them that they must be important to those who come here and affirm their basic human dignity.”

Cottey’s campus group Change In Action (CIA) has raised money the last couple of years to sponsor the education of Guatemalan girls. Last year, the group raised enough money to pay for five year’s education each for three girls. On this trip, three of the CIA members, Treaa Bennett, Silvia Arzapala, and Taylor McCoy, got to meet the students they sponsor. In addition, next year Cottey will welcome its first Guatemalan student, Maria Sicay, the first recipient of Cottey’s Friends of Peace Scholarship, which was started by Dr. Brenda Ross, and is supported by the fundraising efforts of CIA.

You can help support the scholarship, too, at Founder’s Day Weekend, look for the Guatemala booth in the Center for the Arts. The students on this year’s trip purchased many beautiful skirts, scarves, shirts, headbands, purses, and bracelets which they will sell for a modest profit. All the profits from the sale of these Guatemalan textiles will go toward the education of Guatemalan girls.

Participating in this year’s trip were: Amy Sue Guinn ’09, Taylor McCoy ’10, Ellie Spresser ’10, Kayla Unruh ’10, Silvia Arzapala ’10, Treaa Bennett ’10, Kirsten Paschal ’11, Catharyn Nosek ’11, Steve Reed, Dr. Debbie Colpitt, and Dr. Brenda Ross.

Treaa Bennett poses with the children of a local vendor whom the Cottey students befriended.
I was privileged to take a creative writing course taught by our president, Dr. Marjorie Mitchell, whom I admired greatly. We were required to write an essay every day and were evaluated periodically. My first conference with Dr. Mitchell was a blow to my ego. “You have no God-given talent, Betty,” she began. Then, to soften the blow, she added, “But you’re a GOOD writer. You just have to work at it.”

I realized that I might not write the great American novel, but I went on to earn a journalism degree at the University of Missouri and to write for a newspaper and later to teach high school journalism. I will always be grateful for Dr. Mitchell’s insight and sincere encouragement.

Elizabeth (Betty) Ausman Waller Class of 1946

Cottey, in my estimation, is one of the best colleges any young woman could attend.

I met and shared suites and classes with so many wonderful young ladies from around the USA and the world. My first was a suitemate, Sandra Shaw from Canada, and my world kept growing when I met and enjoyed the company of Mary Kagoshima from Hawaii, Vatsala Kadaba from India, and Julie Lee from Korea. They all opened my eyes to different lifestyles, food, dress, and activities. This is just one of the many factors that makes Cottey such a wonderful school.

In so many ways Cottey was my personal geography, history, and social studies classes all rolled up in one. Those days were glorious and brought me a better understanding of the world, lifestyles and how grateful we should be with the opportunities the U.S.A. gives us each and every day.

Sylvia Lilja Haselton Class of 1954

I think my defining moment at Cottey wasn’t just one thing, but many small ones that together helped shape who I am today.

First - My high school graduating class was three times as big as the entire enrollment of Cottey, so for me the first moment was realizing that my thoughts, my opinions and my involvement all mattered.

Second - because there weren’t any guys in classes or on campus, my learning tolerance and acceptance of all of the ‘quirks’ of women became a defining moment in the way that I have adapted to work environments and situations. I work in the employment industry and it isn’t the most forgiving place for the varied characteristics of humanity. Cottey taught me how to look beyond that and to see the person, not the moment.

Third - the traditions that were on the campus in the mid-80s were such a part of a development of confidence for me. I had always been a non-participant in many things and the camaraderie and friendships and bonding that came from ‘playing the game’ was part of my best experiences.

Combined - these all helped me be a stronger, confident, compassionate, and more willing participant in life. I don’t think that I would be who I am today without having attended Cottey College.

Barbara Pickett Schulz Class of 1984

Defining moment at Cottey? Oh yes, several, mostly about friends who became lifelong friends.

But leaving Cottey with confidence as a leader, even way back when I graduated in 1961…In those days, we didn’t “sign up” to be candidates for offices. I was totally amazed and shaken to learn I had been nominated for Student Body President – I had never even attended a student council meeting! Then……and finally, I was elected! Good grief, Charlie Brown!

Please see Defining Moment, page 9

Did you realize that your employer might match the gifts you make to Cottey? Many public and private corporations have matching gift programs that provide additional gifts to the non-profit organizations their employees support. Usually these programs match on a 1:1 ratio, but sometimes it is as much as 4:1, especially where equipment matches are available (like with HP).

Cottey is set to receive an additional $50,000 from 52 companies (based on calendar year 2009 giving) simply because alumnae, P.E.O.’s, and other friends of the College took the time to apply for corporate matches on Cottey’s behalf. Some companies require a paper application, while others have telephone and online registration available. In every case, Cottey’s Office of Institutional Advancement must verify that the donor has made a gift to the College before the gift will be matched. Some matches are paid monthly; others issue matching gift payments on an annual basis.

According to the Matching Gift Advisory Council of Leesburg, Virginia, nearly 16,000 companies and subsidiaries offer matching gift programs as a benefit to their employees. About a quarter of those match volunteer time as well. On average throughout the nation, one in 10 donors is eligible for matching gifts.

Below is a small sampling of companies who have matched gifts to Cottey.


If you would like to know whether the company for which you or your spouse work matches gifts, please ask your human resources director for more information. Or, you may contact Kristine Fulton, assistant vice president for Institutional Advancement, who could do a preliminary search. Her e-mail is kfulton@cottey.edu and her phone number is 417-667-8181, ext. 2286.

If you are one of Cottey’s supporters who loyally takes advantage of your company’s matching gift, thank you so much. These additional funds make a big difference to an institution the size of Cottey. If you have yet to look into this possibility, please find out if the opportunity exists before you make your next gift.

Double Your Dollars to Cottey

Note from the Editor: In the winter issue of the Viewpoint was the first installment of “My Defining Moment.” Compiled into one single-spaced document, those alumnae responses total 20 pages. Unfortunately, space would not permit us to print them all in the winter issue. An additional selection is below, and as space permits in future issues, we will print more. Thanks to all of you who shared your defining moments with us.

–Steve Reed, Viewpoint editor

Dr. Marjorie Mitchell

www.cottey.edu • Spring 2010 • Viewpoint • 5

Please return to Office of Alumnae Relations, Cottey College, 1000 W. Austin, Nevada, MO 64772

Spring ‘10
1930s

Nevah Smith Hubbell ‘37 passed away November 13, 2009, at the age 91. A second generation Arizonian, she was born Nevada Smith on June 22, 1918, in Prescott, Arizona. While attending Cottey she was instrumental in the foundation of multiple area environmental organizations. Widely read, her opinions were sought and freely offered. Family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Kansas City Chapter of Planned Parenthood, (913) 312-5100, or Friends of the Zoo, c/o Roberts-Blue-Needham, 101 S. Main St., Philadelphia, PA 19147 or the Menaul Historical Library, 301 Menaul Blvd. N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87107. The College was notified of the death of Mary Ella Pelley Danieli ‘39.

Rosemary Davis Logsdon ‘38 died December 10, 2009, at Newman Regional Hospital in Emporia, Kansas. She was 92. Mrs. Logsdon was a longtime resident of Destin, Florida, before she and her family moved to Emporia, in January 2006. She married Roy L. Logsdon of Bakersfield, California, on July 12, 1943, at Gulfport, Mississippi. He preceded her in death in 2008. Mrs. Logsdon was a member of the First Baptist Church in Destin and belonged to the Ricky Van Shelton Community Singers. She was a tireless environmental and social activist. She championed causes that often had not, at the time, garnered widespread popularity. As a summer resident of Pelican Lake, Minnesota, Nevah was instrumental in the foundation of multiple area environmental organizations. Widely read, her opinions were sought and freely offered. Family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Kansas City Chapter of Planned Parenthood, (913) 312-5100, or Friends of the Zoo, c/o Roberts-Blue-Needham, 101 S. Main St., Philadelphia, PA 19147 or the Menaul Historical Library, 301 Menaul Blvd. N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87107.

The College was notified of the death of Mary Ella Pelley Danieli ‘39.

1940s

The College was notified of the death of Ormajane Kirkpatrick Zeigler ‘42. She died September 21, 2009. She is survived by her husband, John Zeigler, and two sons, Russell Zeigler and John Zeigler Jr.

1950s

The College was notified of the death of Connie Jane Hewitt Jensen ‘50. She died October 18, 2007.

1960s

Francine Irving Neff ‘46

Francine Neff, who served as U.S. treasurer in the 1970s and was deeply involved in Republican politics for decades, died February 9, 2010, of heart failure at her home in Penia Blanca, according to her family. A funeral Mass was celebrated February 12.

Born December 6, 1925, in Albuquerque, Neff was appointed U.S. treasurer by President Richard Nixon in 1974, then reappointed by President Gerald Ford and served until 1977.

Neff grew up in Mountainair, New Mexico, then attended Cottey College where she graduated at the top of her class in 1946. She graduated from the University of New Mexico with a double major in English and music in 1948, obtaining her Bachelor of Arts with distinction.

She co-founded an accounting firm in Albuquerque with her husband, Edward J. Neff, and was active in community and school organizations. She got started in politics by campaigning for GOP presidential nominee Barry Goldwater in 1964. She served as a GOP national committeewoman from 1970-74. In both 1968 and 1972 she was elected a delegate to the Republican National Convention.

In 1975, Neff was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumna Citation presented by the Cottey College Alumnae Association, and she was also the Honored Speaker at Commencement that year.

In 1982, she was appointed to the Cottey College Board of Trustees and served for seven years.

In 1996, the Cottey College Alumnae Association began the sale of $2 bills that were personally autographed by Neff. These previously uncirculated bills also featured the printed signature of Neff as the nation’s treasurer.

Her daughter, Sindle Neff Sandoval ‘70, said that even though her mother served as the nation’s treasurer, “her ability to balance the checkbook was questionable. My dad teased her and said she was perfect for the job because she truly understood deficit spending.”

She was a charter member of Chapter AL, P.E.O., a member of Alpha Delta Pi, and a member of St. John’s Episcopal Cathedral. She served as president of Inez Elementary School P.T.A., den mother of her son’s Cub Scout group, leader of her daughter’s Camp Fire Girls group, state sponsor of New Mexico Teenage Republicans, president of Mortar Board Alumnae, president of New Mexico Society of CPA’s Auxiliary, and president of City Pan-Hellenic Alumnae.


Neff was awarded honorary degrees from Mount St. Mary’s College, American International College, and New Mexico State University.

Neff was preceded in death by her husband, Edward J. Neff; and by her parents Edward Hackett Irving and Georgia Henderson Irving. She is survived by son Edward Vann Neff; daughter Sindle Sandoval and husband Chris; sister Shirley Irving Fisher ‘54, brother-in-law, George Neff; sister-in-law, Barbara Neff; nieces and nephews and many friends.
Blossom Perkins Shaw ‘60 is looking forward to attending her 50th Cotter reunion, to revisit an important scene from her youth, and meeting her classmates. After Cotter, she received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Hiram College, Ohio, in 1962. Then she studied English Literature at the University of Pittsburgh. Later she attended the writers’ workshop at the University of Iowa and received her Master of Fine Arts in English and writing in 1974. She has taught English, worked in libraries, and worked in her family business for 20 years. Blossom has had some poems and short stories published and has produced a self-made CD of her own songs that she wrote for children and the young at heart. She and husband Jay of 45 years have sold their business and are now retired. They love to bicycle, attend classical music concerts, and take care of their bluebird trail. She and her husband are proud to have in their family a daughter, a son in-law, one granddaughter, and five cats. Blossom invites Cotter grads in the Iowa City area to contact her to have tea together. You may write her at 309 Windsor Drive, Iowa City, Iowa 52245.

Linda Smith Nugent ‘64 recently moved from Sterling, Virginia, to Denver, Colorado, and would love to connect with alumnae in the area. You may contact her at: ljnugent@gmail.com.

Class Notes

1960s

Blossom Perkins Shaw ‘60 and granddaughter Molly.

Deaths, continued from page 6

Wilson, three sons, and three grandchildren. After graduating from Cotter, Carol attended and graduated from Kansas State University. She was a retired librarian from Wichita North and Northwest High School. During her life, she was active in P.E.O., AAUW, ADPhi, and Project Beauty. She was a member of Eastminster Presbyterian Church.

Suzanne Soares (Shaw) Covey ’59, died in Gainesville, Florida, on October 17, 2007, ten days before her sixty-eighth birthday. Suzy had recently retired from the University of Florida Library, where she was a key member of the technology team. She was, at the time of her death, voluntarily developing, organizing, and cataloging the comic collection for the Library. This collection has since been named for her. She is survived by her husband Bill Covey, a director of the University of Florida Library, where she was a retired professor of French.

1960s

Martha Ann Sidlik Rusch ‘64 of Two Rivers, Wisconsin, died August 8, 2009. She grew up in Cudahy, Wisconsin, and attended Cudahy High School in 1962. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Coe College in 1966. Martha is survived by her husband of 41 years, Louie; their three children; James Rusch, Catherina Webster, and Holly Fowler; and nine grandchildren.

Kendra Wilson Waddle ‘64 of Los Altos, California, died September 25, 2009. She attended Cotter College and the University of Iowa. She returned to Marshalltown and married Haskell T. Waddle on July 30, 1968. She was an active member of the Los Altos United Methodist Church in Mothers Day Out, Starfire, and United Methodist Women Harvest Fair. She was a past president of P.E.O. Chapter UB. She developed gourd art with the Calabash Club. She was preceded in death by her mother Naida Ruth. She is survived by: father Ralph Wilson, husband Haskell, children Neil and Alexa Waddle Sims. Memorials in Kendra’s name can be directed to the Los Altos United Methodist Church UMW and to the P.E.O. Sisterhood c/o Chapter UB, Sandi Kreft, 10843 Wilkinson Avenue, Cupertino, CA 95014.

The College was notified of the death of Patrice Boehme Griffith ’65 on December 10, 2009.

1970s

Karel Lyster Lowery ‘75 writes, “Hey, Class of 1975! Our 35th reunion is coming up very soon! I hope you are making your plans and reservations! It would be great to have a large turnout! I am still in Jefferson City, Missouri, so I know it is easier for me to get to Nevada. I am still teaching and am active with many music organizations and my P.E.O. chapter. Looking forward to seeing many of you in March!”

1990s

Michele Strawn Hart ‘98 received her Master of Arts in education from the University of Phoenix. She completed her student teaching and is now licensed to teach grades K-6 in Colorado. She is currently teaching 5th grade in Palmer Lake, Colorado.

2000s

Dilyana “Didi” Pavlova ‘04 received her Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Maine at Presque Isle in May 2006, and completed her MBA from Arizona State University in May 2009. She would love to connect with alumnae in the area. You may contact her at: dilyanaster@gmail.com.

Amelia True ‘08, a former member of the Swimmin’ Women at Cotter and now a member of the swim team at Mills University qualified for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national championships in two relay events. Nationals will be held March 3-7 in St. Peters, Missouri.

Rebecca Ward ‘08 was chosen to present her paper, “Chiwere the Language of the Otoe-Missouria and Iowa Peoples of North America: at the Language and Linguistics Student Conference on November 7, 2009. The conference was held on the campus of the University of Central Oklahoma. Rebecca’s paper was one of thirty chosen internationally to be presented. She is a senior at UCO and will graduate in May with her Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy and will continue working toward her master’s degree at OSU next fall. Rebecca is of Otoe-Missouria and Cherokee descent.

Chelsea Jones ‘09 is serving as an intern at Disney World in Orlando, Florida, for the semester. The internship program is through the theater department at her transfer institution, Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, Missouri.

www.cottey.edu • Spring 2010 • Viewpoint • 7

 Expanded class notes and additional photos are online at www.cotteycommunity.org
1960s

Jenny (Jo Willis) Meadows ’65 married her Kiwi sweetheart in Austin, Texas, on June 20, 2009. His name is Ian Hudleston. Her name remains Jenny Meadows (it was Jo Willis when she attended Cottey). Ian has two children and two grandchildren living in New Zealand; Jenny has a son and granddaughter living in Arlington, Texas. Her granddaughter, Morgan, was the flower girl for their wedding.

Ian is now immigrating. They plan to live in Austin for at least a couple of years, then move to New Zealand for a while.

1990s

Rochelle Martin Borgaila ’93 and husband Dan of Council Bluffs, Iowa, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Isabella Grace Borgaila. Isabella was born at 3:31 p.m., on August 10, 2009, at Methodist Hospital, in Omaha, Nebraska. She weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces, and measured 21 inches. She is joined by big sister and big brother, Chloe and Jacob Zane.

Proud grandma (Mimi) is Diane Martin, administrative secretary to the vice president for student life.

Stacie Steensland ’98 and Stephane Gaudet were united in marriage January 9, 2010, at the couple’s home in the Turks and Caicos Islands, with the Rev. Sherlock Padmore officiating. Nuptial music was provided by NaDa Duo and Patrick Norman, the famous Quebecois country singer/cousin to the groom. Pepper, the couple’s potcake (island dog) served as the ring-bearer. The bride received her B.F.A in photography/new media from the Kansas City Art Institute in 2001. The groom graduated from Chateauguay College in 1999 with diplomas in cabinetmaking and carpentry. The couple owns their own fine woodworking and construction business, TC Millwork Ltd, in the Turks and Caicos Islands where they have built their home.

Heather Fischer ’99 and Marvin Dailey are happy to announce their marriage on August 8, 2009, in New York, New York. They currently reside in Jamaica, New York. Marvin and Heather had met six years earlier at work and dated for four years. They live with their two cats, Morty and Peyton. Heather’s sister, Dawn Fischer ’01, was in attendance as Maid of Honor.

2000s

Ashley Haltom ’05 is excited to announce that she was married to Jordan Stowe on December 19, 2009. It was a small and beautiful wedding in Greenwood, Indiana. The newlyweds currently reside in Indianapolis. Molly Refsland ’05 and Casey Deleisseque ’05 were two of her Cottey friends that were ecstatic to be included as bridesmaids on Ashley’s special day.

Adriane Fellows ’02 and Mike Lake were married August 15, 2009, in Bozeman, Montana. In attendance (pictured below) from left: Aimee Starlin ‘02, Jamie Getty ‘02, Kendra Fellows Robinson ‘00, Ashley MacDougall Starlin ‘03, Adriane Fellows Lake ‘02, Kate Sloane ‘02, Kara Fellows Tripp ‘99, and Shannon McLaughlin ‘07. The couple will reside in Bozeman, Montana, where Adriane works as a dental hygienist.

Sarah Bailey ’06 married Salvador Barrera-Martín on April 29, 2009, in a courthouse ceremony in Clayton, Missouri. She is currently studying at Maryville University in St. Louis, pursuing a bachelor’s degree in middle school education with specialization in language arts and literacy instruction. After graduation she will seek a job in the St. Louis area while working towards ELL certification. Sarah previously attended Lindenwood College pursuing an art history degree. She would love to hear from her old classmates at sarah.r.bailey@gmail.com.
A Message From Your CCAA

Founder’s Day Weekend 2010
Save the Date!

Founder’s Day Weekend 2009 made a few changes from previous years, and your CCAA will be continuing them this year. Make note of some important events as you make your plans. In particular, the Saturday events have been moved about to accommodate requests from alumnae. The big change is the Awards Presentation has switched from a luncheon to a Saturday brunch. In past years, the Homecoming Celebration, a more casual event, occurred prior to the Presentation Luncheon, a dressier event. Alumnae often had to scramble to change clothes between the two events. Now the Homecoming Celebration will precede the Supper and Sing on Saturday evening as both are more casual dress events.

Although the schedule has changed, the fun and the spirit of Founder’s Day Weekend have not. Mark your calendars for March 26-28 for a great weekend. An online registration form is available NOW. Log onto the Cottey Community for full instructions.

Hanging of the Greens

One of Cottey’s most beloved traditions, Hanging of the Greens took place on December 4. Here, members of Cottey Big Sisters pose with their wreath.

Defining Moment, from page 5

There was only one thing to do – live up to it. I was probably not a barn-burner kind of leader, but I did the job well enough to realize that I could. And I enjoyed it. No doubt my future years as a public speaker and president of various organizations were rooted in the confidence of my Cottey experiences.

Nancy Beckner Watt
Class of 1961

There were probably two specific life-changing moments at Cottey for me, not to mention the two life-changing years I spent there. The first “moment” was at Chapel one evening, when I affirmed my Christian faith. The other moment was when Mrs. Dorothy Berry, the advisor of Golden Key, put her finger under my chin, made me lift my painfully shy face, and look at her. She told me that I needed to quit looking at my feet, and face, and look at her.

Alice Kline Huss
Class of 1960

Founder’s Day Weekend 2010
Saturday, March 27

1:00-10:00 a.m.
Registration
Class Pictures
Bookstore Open
Founder’s Day Luncheon
Supper and Sing
Class Reunions

Optional Events
- Campus Tours
- Residence Halls Open
- Meet and Greet with Students
- Chellie Club Open

Sunday, March 28

9:00 a.m.-Noon
Campus Buildings Open
Brunch Buffet

www.cottey.edu • Spring 2010 • Viewpoint • 9
Summer Programs

Deadlines Approaching

Vacation College – May 18-23, 2010

If you enjoy making new friends or reuniting with old ones, learning impressive new facts or honing your skills, eating delicious meals or indulging in delectable desserts, then what are you waiting for – enroll in Vacation College 2010 today! Vacation College is a great opportunity to experience the life of a Cottey student while being surrounded by sisters, BIL’s, alumnae, and friends from across the country. Already, we have 12 Californians, seven Oklahomans, four Kansans, and three participants from each of these states: Alabama, Illinois, and Washington. While eight alumnae between 1944 and 1987 have already enrolled for the week, there are still alumnae scholarships available.

Early registration is March 15, 2010. For more information about the classes, visit the summer programs page at www.cottey.edu, or contact the Office of P.E.O. Relations at peo@relations@cottey.edu or phone 417-667-8181, ext. 2122.

Summer Programs – June 13-19, 2010

Summer program applications are now available through the Office of P.E.O. Relations. These weeklong programs are designed for girls who enjoy learning as much as they do having fun. High school girls can choose one of four workshops to attend for the week: Exploring Careers in Science, Music, Dance, or the new Leadership Discovery program. All programs will include hands-on activities, lectures from professionals, discussion sessions, and a final program for parents. For more information, visit the summer programs page at www.cottey.edu, or contact the Office of P.E.O. Relations at peo@relations@cottey.edu or phone 417-667-8181, ext. 2122.

Academic All-America Honors for Bright Comets

The Cottey College Comets volleyball team was recognized by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) as an Academic All-American Team for their grade point average. Pictured above are members of the 2009 Comets. Front row, left to right: Natalie Larsen, Emily Moore, Kate Whitsaker. Middle row: Taylor Means, Madeline Swidergal, Kailiey Kelly. Back row: Chevelle Francis, Chryissy Echeverria, Andrea Hass, and Janelle Crowell.

Job Opportunities with Cottey College

Coordinator of Alumnae Relations

Cottey College seeks a coordinator of alumnae relations who enjoys working as part of a dynamic development team. The coordinator is responsible for creating and sustaining long-term, relevant relationships with Cottey alumnae and other friends of the College; fundraising for the comprehensive campaign; managing volunteers; planning and directing activities on and off campus; and maintaining communications and records related to alumnae.

Position requires some travel; excellent written, interpersonal, and oral communication and public speaking skills; and event planning experience. A minimum of two years of recent work in alumnae relations and/or development is preferred. Strong computer skills in the areas database software, web content management, word processing, and spreadsheets are essential. Invaluable attributes for the successful candidate include confidence, tact, diplomacy, discretion, being a team player, and a sense of humor. Bachelor’s degree and valid driver’s license required.

Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Interested candidates should send letter of application, résumé, and three letters of reference to: Director of Human Resources, Cottey College, 1000 West Austin, Nevada, MO 64772.

Looking for a lost classmate?

Maybe the Office of Alumnae Relations can help you find your missing person. It’s as easy as picking up the phone, sending an e-mail, fax, or letter. Simply contact the office, give us your name and address, and we’ll forward it to your friend’s most recent address. We can give out an alumna’s address to another alumna, or we can verify an address for you. Contact us and ask if our most recent address matches the one you have. Here’s how to contact the Office of Alumnae Relations to help locate your friends and classmates.

Mail: Cottey College, Office of Alumnae Relations, 1000 W. Austin, Nevada, MO 64772
Phone: 417-667-8181, ext. 2122
Fax: 417-667-8103
E-mail: alumnae@cottey.edu

Remember to include the class year of your school pals when requesting information. Please notify us when you move, so we can help YOUR classmates keep track of your whereabouts as well. Use the coupon to the left to let us know when you change your address.
The Cotey College Comets are struggling for position in the Region XVI playoffs as this issue of the Viewpoint went to press. With two regular season games left—both at home in the friendly confines of Hinkhouse Gymnasium—the Comets could finish seeded anywhere from fourth to sixth in the playoffs depending both on whether they win their last two games and how their opponents fare in the last week of play as well. The Comets would love to finish in the fourth position, as the fourth seed will get to host a first-round playoff game. If the Comets finish fifth or sixth, they will have to go on the road for any and all playoff games. It’s a tough route to the regional championship if your team has to play three games on the road.

The Comets had their chances this season to lock into either a first-round bye or a home playoff game. Penn Valley, the number one team in the region, came into Hinkhouse in late December and Cotey had a prime opportunity to hang a loss on the top team and go one up in Region XVI competition. It was an up-tempo, physical game that the home team narrowly lost 61-63.

After trailing by 10 points early in the first half, the Comets began finding the range and held a three-point lead on the Lady Scouts at the break, 31-28. The second half was just as exciting with three lead changes and two ties. Cotey had an eight-point lead, 48-40, with 13 minutes left in the game. Penn Valley, however, went on a run of their own to tie the game at 49 with just over eight minutes left. The visitors built a five-point lead, but Cotey cut it to two points, 61-63, with 42 seconds left. The Comets got the ball back with only a few seconds left to play, but could not find the range as time expired.

That was the first loss against Region XVI competition, and didn’t seem to be such a big deal as the second half of the season began. In early January, the Comets traveled to St. Louis and faced three regional opponents in one long weekend, sweeping all three games to raise their record in the region to 3-1. On January 6, they easily defeated Forest Park, 90-56, on January 9, they defeated Meramec in overtime 63-60, and it was a 64-63 nail-biting win against Florissant Valley on January 10.

After two non-conference wins, the Comets headed north to Trenton, Missouri, to face North Central Missouri College in a regional tilt. It was a close first half, the Comets only trailed by a point, 24-25, at the break, but the home team was able to get hot from long range and hit six three-pointers in the second half to take a nine-point win from the Comets, 65-56.

The Comets never gave up and kept chipping away. A Natascha Lord bucket at the eight-minute mark brought the Comets within three at 52-55. The Lady Pirates were equally persistent and built the lead back to six points on a three-point play of their own.

Again the Comets cut the lead to three points, 59-62, but North Central had a 7-0 run to knock the lead back to 10 at 59-69 with three minutes to play.

At this stage, the game became a free-throw shooting contest as both teams were fouling and sending the other to the line. Bailey Beale hit a basket inside and was fouled. She hit the bonus shot to cut the lead to seven points, 62-69. On the other end of the floor, North Central’s Colleen Sullivan missed four consecutive free throws while the Comets were making theirs. This allowed Cotey to close the gap to three points, 66-69 with 1:32 remaining. Unfortunately for the Hinkhouse crowd, the Lady Pirates regained their touch at the line, and the Comets could only squeeze out one more point before the final buzzer.

After a lopsided win against Forest Park, the Comets found themselves heading up to Penn Valley, a place they have never won in their 11-year history. This was almost the year the Comets made history though, as it took the Lady Scouts two overtimes to pull out a win over Cotey. The Comets held a slim lead at the half, the game was tied at 60 at the end of regulation, and again at 69 after the first overtime. In the final minutes, however, Cotey was outscored 3-8 as they fell to Penn Valley by the final score of 72-77.

This left the Comets with a 4-5 mark against Region XVI teams with only one more regional opponent left to play. To find out where the Comets finished in the region and how they fared in the post-season tournament, visit the basketball page on the Cotey College Web site: www.cottey.edu.
In most of the United States, CIA may be the acronym for Central Intelligence Agency, but at Cottey College it represents the student organization Change in Action. For three years now, Change in Action has been raising money to support the education of indigenous Maya girls in Guatemala. Part of their funds have gone to pay for secondary education in Guatemala, and this year part of the funds have gone to pay for English lessons for the young woman Cottey hopes will be the first recipient of the Friends of Peace Scholarship begun by Dr. Brenda Ross, associate dean of the faculty. The goal of the Friends of Peace Scholarship is to generate enough monies to allow a Guatemalan girl to enroll at Cottey College. This fall members of the campus community hope to see the first recipient of that scholarship, Maria Louisa Sicay, on campus as a full-time student.

“A year ago I met with Dennis Evans, the director of the San Lucas Toliman Scholars program in Guatemala,” said Dr. Ross, “who agreed to help us identify young women in the community who might be able to attend Cottey College. This year, just twelve months later, I was able to meet Maria, her sister, and her parents to talk about her preparations for coming to the United States.”

Three members of CIA—Silvia Arzapala, Treea Bennett, and Taylor McCoy—were members of this year’s contingent on the Learning Through Serving: Guatemala trip (see page 4) and got to meet Maria while in San Lucas Toliman. In addition, the Cottey students also met the three girls whose education they sponsor in San Lucas. Last year, CIA raised enough money to pay for five years’ education for each of three girls. Those young women will graduate from high school courtesy of the efforts of CIA.

Monies for these educational efforts are raised in various ways. The annual hunger banquet, hosted mainly to raise awareness of world hunger, is the first event held in the fall. The Bachelor Event, in which “dates” with young men from area colleges are auctioned off is another. (Not to worry, moms. The “dates” are held immediately after the event in the gym around tables with Cottey staff on hand.) Students and Dr. Ross also purchase Guatemalan textiles such as bags, headbands, and skirts, and sell them during Founder’s Day Weekend as the final fundraiser.

Of course, donations to the Friends of Peace Scholarship are always welcome. For information on contributing to this scholarship fund, contact Wendy MacLaren, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at 417-667-8181, ext. 2120, or e-mail wmaclaren@cottey.edu.