Cottey-Two-Member-Informational-Skit

Announcer: This is Pam Daisy from station SISTER/2024 in Kansas City, coming to you from Nevada, Missouri. Today I have the privilege of touring the campus of Cottey College with the assistance of a past STAR recipient, a P.E.O. sister and one of the owners of Cottey College. As an owner of Cottey College can you tell me what is so special about this college?

Owner: Yes, each sister in P.E.O. is the proud owner of the only nonsectarian institution of higher learning in the country, solely owned, and supported by women.

Announcer: In my research I discovered that Cottey was founded in 1884 and was gifted to the P.E.O. Sisterhood in 1927. That’s impressive! Tell me a little more about the degree program offered at Cottey before we start the tour of the campus?

Owner: I LOVE to brag about Cottey and would love to share some interesting facts about our college. Cottey is an independent accredited four-year liberal arts and sciences college for women offering baccalaureate degrees. We offer eighteen baccalaureate degrees. More information can be found on the Cottey.edu website.

Announcer: I did read that your college was ranked one of the Best Regional Colleges in the Midwest by the U.S. News & World Report in 2023-2024. Congratulations! Well, are we ready for the tour now? Do you want to ride with me?

Owner: We’re going to walk…it’s only 11 city blocks. It also includes a 33-acre wooded recreational area with a lodge. That area is good for retreats and campus gatherings. On our 11 city blocks, you will find 15 buildings.

Announcer: Good thing I have on my walking shoes! Where do we start?

Owner: Right here. You are standing in front of Main Hall. This is the college’s original building and houses the Administration and Service Center. We will walk through Main Hall and continue through the glass walkway to Neale Hall and on to the Judy and Glenn Fine Arts Building. The Fine Arts building was completed in 2015 and brought all the arts under one roof. It includes practice rooms, faculty offices, studios and classrooms. This building houses the music and art departments.

Announcer: I read that the faculty here at Cottey College consists of 41 full time professors and that 90% of those hold doctoral degrees or terminal degrees in their fields. That is outstanding. Where to next?

Owner: Straight out these doors. In front of you, you will see the Haidee and Allen Wild Center for the Arts. It houses an auditorium that seats 495, a recital hall that seats 150, and an art gallery.

Announcer: You must be proud of all these buildings. I’m sure there is plenty of history behind all of them.

Owner: Yes, there is history behind each of these buildings. There are three resident halls in total. Now, if we stand in front of P.E.O. Hall, you can see two dormitories: Robertson Hall and Reeves Hall. Robertson Hall also includes Rainy Hall, on the lower level, where the students eat their meals and what fantastic meals they are! Each dormitory consists of suites. There are 34 suites in total. Each suite accommodates 10 to 12 students, and includes single and double bedrooms, a living room, large bathroom and a kitchenette. Just to the left of Robertson Hall is the Wellness Center which offers health and counseling service for students.

Announcer: So, is the capacity around 350 students for Cottey?

Owner: Yes, and women from 26 countries and 40 states are typically enrolled yearly. We encourage our sisters to be diligent in finding women to attend Cottey and refer them.

Announcer: That looks like a beautiful chapel across the street. What can you tell me about it?

Owner: The chapel was built in 1956 by our beloved B.I.L.s and gifted to Cottey. In P.E.O., we are called sisters and our husbands are called brothers-in-law, B.I.L.s. The chapel houses two organs and a baby grand piano. On the lower level you will find the Susan Buckeley Butler Center for Campus Life which houses the Chellie Club Snack Bar and Spirit Shop. The snack bar now serves Starbucks. We could stop in for coffee and a snack. Of course, if you would like souvenirs, we could go to the Spirit Shop.

Announcer: I have a deadline to meet so we had better continue on our tour.

Owner: Next up is Hinkhouse, the home of all our athletic facilities. This is a hub of activity. The building was named for Uretta and Paul Hinkhouse and was constructed in 1971. The gymnasium and fitness room are located here. The athletic complex also includes three tennis courts, a softball field and soccer field. Our students are offered 12 sports to participate in and can receive athletic scholarships to attend. Archery is the newest sport to be added. The Student Life and Development Center is housed in Hinkhouse and contains offices for housing and campus activities. Also found here is the ESports/Stock room. ESports is the only coed sport at Cottey and students have access to comfortable chairs and complete electronic facilities. This room doubles as the business Stock Market room with its revolving stock trade index for students to capture the essence of buying and selling stocks.

Announcer: I’ve heard that Cottey has some pretty good sports teams and has gone to post season tournaments quite a few times.

Owner: Yes, we have excellent women’s sports. The Blanche Skiff Ross Memorial Library is over there. The three-story building has a conference room, study rooms, computers and 50,000 books along with 1200 videos and DVDs. On the lower level of the library is the new Educational Center. This center has everything a student might need to help them develop the skills to be a teacher, including a mock classroom with a two-way window for observing and critiquing the students.

Owner: If you look over there, next to the library is the Academic Center. The center includes classrooms, offices, labs, and a student art gallery. The Office of Academic Affairs along with the Registrar is also in this building.

Announcer: I read that Cottey encourages women leadership, tell me more?

Owner: Discovery begins at the “Center for Women Leadership”. It’s located over on College Street. Guest lecturers and outreach programs are just a few valuable opportunities that are offered. Our graduates are “Creators of Incredible Futures.”

Announcer: I think it is incredible that P.E.O. sisters have built such an amazing institution. Thank you for the tour. I must get back to the station but will end our tour with “Hats off to P.E.O.”

Submitted by Julie Thomas, BM, Georgia State Cottey Committee – August 2023

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