

Child rearing: A major plan for many Cottey professors

By Tamara Heilman
Staff Writer

When one thinks of Cottey, babies and young children do not typically come to mind. However, more and more children may be appearing on campus.

Several professors and faculty members are starting or adding to their families.

Dr. Julie Tietz, associate professor of psychology, and her husband are expecting a younger sibling for their three-year-old daughter, Hannah, next May.

Tietz is already anticipating the changes a second child will bring. "I hear it's twice as much work," Tietz said with a laugh.

With one child already, juggling the needs and wants of both children will be a challenge for Tietz. "Hannah will want me at times when the baby will need me. I'm glad my husband will be there to help," Tietz said.

Until recently, Tietz's husband worked until 9 p.m. most days, as well as Sunday afternoons.

Now he is home at 4:30 p.m., which makes child rearing easier. Tietz did note that she and her husband often divide responsibilities by traditional roles. For example, he may play with Hannah while she cooks supper, which Tietz attributes simply to their personal preferences.

Anxiously awaiting the birth of a son in February 2005 are Adjunct Assistant Professor of Math Carrie Curtis and her husband Chip.

This is their first child.

Curtis chose to find out the gender of her child previous to giving birth.

"I was really hoping for a boy, and we did find out that we are having a boy. I am really happy

about that. My family is mostly girls, so ... I really wanted a boy," Curtis said.

Likewise, Tietz plans to find out the gender of her child as soon as possible.

"Why not? It's a surprise no matter when you find out," Tietz said.

Assistant Professor of Dance Haley Hoss-Jameson and her husband Sam elected to find the gender of their child while she was pregnant.

Their son Finley is now four months old.

"My husband wanted to know," Jameson said. "I just wanted a healthy child. For my husband's sake, I wanted a boy, but I wanted a girl, too."

Curtis and her husband are looking forward to most aspects of parenthood.

"(We) are looking to most of the changes that having a child will bring," Curtis said.

"The one I am not looking forward to is less sleep. I imagine that our time will be even more stretched, but in a good way. We will have to decide what our priorities will be."

Tietz agreed, saying that a change in priorities was one of the biggest changes parenting brought.

"It really does change your priorities. I don't work as long, and I've learned not to stress about it. I've learned to cope with decreased productivity and less sleep," Tietz said.

However, Tietz realizes that she is fortunate to have a career that is so flexible.

"An 8-5 job, having to clock in and out, would be very trying. A lot of women don't have the options that I do," Tietz said.

Another challenge is a lack of good quality childcare in the

area.

"I think society needs to stop seeing this (poor options for childcare) as just a women's issue, and not be seen as caring less about working," Tietz said.

"Childcare workers are taking care of our most precious assets and don't make a pence. They are poorly paid, don't have insurance, and have no sort of union. It's a lousy job for a lot of them."

Jameson agreed that finding quality childcare was a problem for her and that only recently did she find childcare she felt comfortable with.

"It would be really cool if Cottey established a day care for employees and possibly even students, so that they wouldn't have to drop out of school if they became pregnant. A women's institution like Cottey should support women in all stages of life," Jameson said.

Despite the challenges, parenting is a rewarding experience for Tietz.

"From a slightly detached viewpoint, I enjoy seeing all the developmental milestones that I have studied so much," Tietz said. "I also enjoy seeing my child grow up and discover the world. Plus, all the hugs and kisses are pretty neat."

Curtis has already identified what she is most looking forward to. "(I am looking forward to) being able to love and hold the little guy," Curtis said.

With so many professors adding to and starting families by having children, plus those that are a visible part of the campus now, one would believe that we will have some very tiny Cottey College prospectives to look forward to being on campus in the near future.

Professor writes new play

By Barbora Batokova
Staff Writer

While doing research on western-style theatre in Bangkok, Thailand, Michael Denison, assistant professor of theatre and speech, also found the time to write a play.

The play, with the current title "Speeding in Heaven," took Denison only a month to write and will be produced in April as a part of Cottey's Women's Studies Series.

The play is a one-woman show that will feature a professional actress, Kay Kuhlmann, who now works as a director of the Cottey's Center for Women's Leadership.

Kuhlmann will portray Matilde Moisant, the second American female to get a pilot's license.

In the play, Moisant's character will tell a story of the first female flyer in the United States, Harriet Quimby.

According to Denison, the purpose of this play is to "bring to the audience's attention the life and accomplishments of an interesting woman who was ... very much ahead of her time."

The major theme running throughout the play is the pursuit of a woman to be equal to men in a male-dominated field and society.

Denison first became interested in Harriet Quimby thanks to a friend who sent him some information about her. Denison thought she was an interesting character and wanted to tell her story in a play through another character.

Since Quimby and Moisant were friends, Moisant seemed like a perfect character to tell Quimby's story. The play will be produced as a stage-reading, a process that helps the final development of the play. "The show is 40 minutes long, and it would not be reasonable for Kay to have to memorize the show for one performance only," said Denison.

The show will be accompanied by slides and Kuhlmann will wear a costume.

The stage-reading process will indicate the audience's reaction to the play and allow Denison to make minor changes to polish up the play to its final shape so it could be sold.

Denison first mentioned the play to Kuhlmann last spring and asked her whether she would be interested in playing Moisant's character.

Kuhlmann, who has played characters such as the first ladies Mamie Eisenhower and Bess Truman, as well as Catherine the Great, empress of Russia, accepted the offer. "I am very excited to do it," commented Kuhlmann.

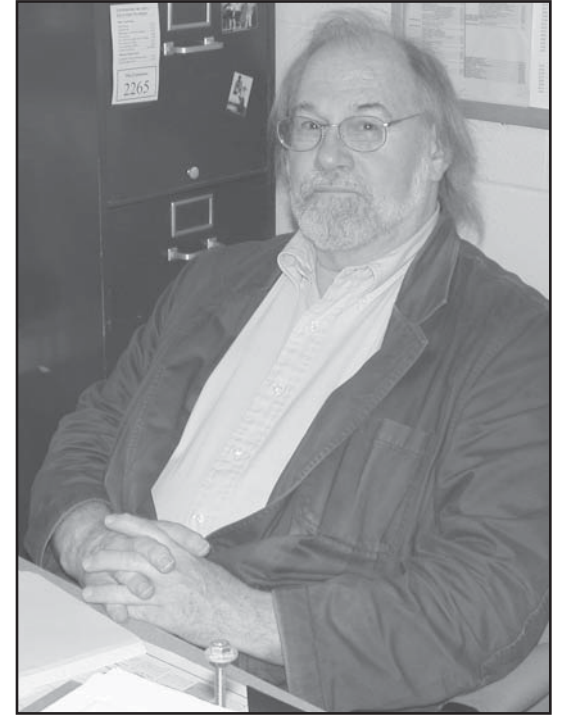


Photo by Barbora Batokova
Playwright Denison

Denison got his B.A. degree in English and Theater from Bowling Green State University, Ohio, in 1964. In 1975, he completed an advanced study at the Yale University School of Drama and returned to BGSU to get his M.A. degree in speech communications in 1985.

He has already written a number of plays, one of which (the "Loud Fast Rules") was produced by several colleges in the United States during the 1960s.

He has directed over 40 major shows in both English and Thai language. He has acted in 30 shows, and in 13 of them he held the leading roles. As a technical director and production designer, he has overseen more than 100 plays. He has also been active in other areas such as television; in 1986, he wrote and produced a five-part series on poetry for PBS television. Other areas of Denison's interest include film, photography and virtual reality.

He hopes that someday he will be able to earn his living by playwriting. Kuhlmann received her professional theater training from University of Missouri, Kansas City. She owned her own theater company in Lawrence, Kan., called Stages of History. So far, she has written 45 plays that have been produced multiple times. She also directed some of her plays.

Halloween celebrated in halls during Great Pumpkin tradition



Photos by Holly Mellas

On Sunday, Oct. 31, Halloween was celebrated by P.E.O. and Robertson halls in the basement of Hinkhouse. For the first time, the second-year students of both halls combined their efforts and performed the Great Pumpkin tradition for their freshmen at 8:30 p.m. for Robbie and 9:30 for P.E.O. The second-year students posted signs earlier that day claiming Hinkhouse basement to be flooded to keep freshmen from going downstairs. The second-year students began decorating for the tradition earlier that day at 3 p.m. and looked forward to the planned events for the night. The festivities consisted of various haunted hallways. The first-year students went through the maze in groups of three or more. After the participants finished touring the Halloween maze, Robbie first-year students watched their seniors perform a skit, and P.E.O. first-year students learned the traditional Great Pumpkin songs. Also provided for the first-year students were candy bags and either pumpkin or Tombstone predictions of their future written by the second-year students of their suite. ABOVE RIGHT-- Second-year student, Katie Crouch slides around inside a cobweb filled coffin. ABOVE LEFT -- Second-year student Allison Johnson is covered in blood as she offers the first-year students some 'brains.' RIGHT-- Robbie Hall second-year students, Monica Brown, the ghost, and Katie Crouch, the witch, help perform the 'Charlie Brown and the Great Pumpkin' skit for their first-year students. LEFT-- Catie Underwood in clown make-up and vampire teeth provided a scary sight.

