

President's council shares ideas with 60 students

By Barbora Batokova
Editor

Sunday, Jan. 29, the Student Government Association (SGA) presented a "Pizza with the Prez" event in the Raney Dining Room, where students had the opportunity to ask questions and voice their concerns to the President's Council. SGA provided free pizza and drinks. Laura Hansen, SGA president, served as moderator between the 60 students who attended the event and the council.

The council was represented by the Cottey College President Judy Rogers; Janie Harrison, registrar, who substituted for Mary Emily Kitterman, vice president of Academic Affairs; Marjorie Cooke, dean of Enrollment Management and financial aid; Mari Anne Phillips, dean of Student Life; Mary Haggans, chief financial officer and international trip coordinator; Wendy MacLaren, dean of Institutional Advancement; and Tricia Bobbett, assistant to the president.

Students expressed the greatest interest in the closed-door male visitation policy that SGA is preparing to present to the Board of Trustees during its April meeting. Rogers addressed the topic first and said that her opinion and the decision will largely depend on the information presented. Mainly, Rogers is waiting on the results of the 255 student male-visitiation policy surveys (representing 91% of the student body) conducted by SGA the previous week. According to Hansen, the data are currently being analyzed by SGA.

Phillips added that much consideration will be given to students' comfortable living and safety. She said the college will analyze available data and will look into other women's college policies. She

added that the fact that Cottey is a two-year college and some students are not legally adults yet will also play a role in the decision.

A possible change might occur during the board's April meeting, the same time the issue will be first officially presented to its members.

Another topic discussed was connected to the draft of the five-year strategic plan and the future expansion/rebuilding of the college. One of the main students' concerns was the condition of Neale Hall, Cottey's art building, and possible construction of a completely new building dedicated to arts.

Rogers said that the construction of a new arts building is not included in the draft of the five-year strategic plan, but within one year following the plan's approval this April by the Board of Trustees, the college will have generated a campus facilities master plan to identify and analyze the physical needs of the college. The plan, prepared by an architectural firm, will help the college decide on the changes Cottey needs to make.

The council assured students that the college knows about the problem of Neale Hall and pointed out that minor construction changes can be initiated by Bruce Holman, professor of art, who has to fill out minor construction paperwork. Students are encouraged to speak with Holman about ideas for possible changes.

SGA chair for the Neale Hall Committee Jennifer Trombley has been working with Holman since October of last year on a proposal to renovate the darkrooms.

All members of the council also stressed the need for Cottey's growth. Rogers' vision is to reach 500 students.



Photo by Barbora Batokova

Representatives of the President's Council attended the "Pizza with the Prez" event presented by SGA on Sunday, Jan. 29, in the Raney Dining Room. The event gave the opportunity to Cottey students to ask questions and share their concerns regarding the college. President Judy Rogers greeted the students and Laura Hansen, SGA president, followed with her welcome to the event.

Phillips pointed out that more students generate more opportunities such as degree completion or Student Life activities. Harrison added that the same is true for academic courses — the more students, the wider the selection will be. MacLaren added that Cottey's growth means the need for more money. To meet the demands and needs of more students, the college will have to hire more faculty and staff and obtain additional housing facilities, even off-campus apartment-

style housing.

Students also expressed the need for a new sports building and a possible introduction of new sports such as soccer, track or tennis. Rogers said that she hopes new sports opportunities can be offered to students in the future.

Other topics discussed included enrollment and retention rates. Cooke said that the college is on track with maintaining the retention rate goal currently set to 83%.

Students also wanted to know about the possibility of expanding European destination spots. Haggans explained that adding a new destination requires a lot of preparation regarding logistics and the types of educational modules that can be prepared for that location.

Lastly, Phillips also addressed the question of whether or not Cottey would admit a transgendered student. She noted that the current application does not ask require that type of identification.

Non-denominational Sunday chapel service established on campus

By Kana Nakagawa
Staff Writer

Starting Sunday, Jan. 22, Cottey College began holding regular non-denominational chapel services. The service lasts about half an hour.

People can come to the service wearing jeans or semi-formal clothing. Most of the people who attend the service are Cottey College students, so the service feels more free and familiar. The service includes music, prayer, readings, a message and, sometimes, PowerPoint presentations.

This weekly service is new for Cottey College. Amy Sperline, a second-year student, said, "I think it is great. The chapel will be used on a regular basis."

Julie Daniels, a first-year student, said, "I like it. It is a good way for starting the week, and it is really good, because it is specific to Cottey students. I definitely encourage people to come next time."

In the past, chapel services were held only a few times each semester, such as during Thanksgiving, the Hanging of the Greens, Easter and on Founder's Weekend. However, the Rev. Elizabeth Hadler, Cottey College spiritual life advisor, who leads campus chapel services and directs students planning and organizing the service with her, mailed a survey to the student body asking their opinion on the subject of a chapel service. Most of the people who attended some chapel service during last year replied, wanting a contemporary service. Dean of Student Life Mari Anne Phillips and Hadler felt that Sunday evenings would work the best. This way, Cottey students can worship within their own community but don't miss the services at the local churches they attend.

Some people have helped to make the services more valuable to the students. One of them is Sarah Lockrem, a second-year student who plays the piano during the service. Also, the service sometimes is accompanied by PowerPoint presentation with music lyrics and other content. Adam Dean helped to set up the use of the computer network system and screen in the chapel for the presentations and music.

Hadler and the student organizers also decided to do lots of new things this spring, which not only includes the contemporary service, but they plan to go to B.I.L. Hill to have a bonfire in April, to invite some Christian bands to campus, have an event during Easter, and more.

Elizabeth Ferree, a first-year student, and Kaitlin Reif, a second-year student, help make lots of plans and organize the ideas for the chapel services.

Ferree said, "I would encourage all students to attend, because we are so fortunate as a campus. We should not allow it (the opportunity to worship) to go to waste. We put a lot of concentration into the service, and we would love to have a full student attendance. I think the service will be fun, and people can plan their night around it."

Reif said, "I am very glad that we have begun having weekly chapel services. In years past, I believe that Cottey has had them, so it is good that they are offering them again. I have enjoyed working with Elizabeth for the past few months, and I think she has a lot to offer to our student body."

Hadler said that everyone is welcome to come and worship, no matter their religious background. She hopes the service will be a great way for students to begin a new week.

Student organizers of the chapel services expect more students to come and contribute new ideas for the service.

Reif also said, "I really enjoyed the first service last night. It had a message that could be applied to our daily lives, which I think many students want. The main message I would want to get out to the student body is that they are all welcome. And if they have any questions or suggestions about how to enhance the service, we are open to those ideas. They are welcome because this is a service that is for Cottey students."

Polon prepares to travel to New Zealand

By Kristin Gumbert
Staff Writer

The faculty of Cottey College have the opportunity to take a sabbatical, a paid time of leave, every seven years to pursue something of interest to them that will in turn benefit the college in the academic areas.

Professor Karen Polon of the Physical Education Department has taken a sabbatical for the spring semester. Polon, who has been considering taking the sabbatical for the last few years, decided that this semester would be an ideal time to investigate an outdoor leadership program in New Zealand.

The program, which Polon will depart for on Feb. 15 and will last for three weeks, consists mainly of hiking, kayaking and cycling. She will spend seven days in Auckland, New Zealand; however, the majority of the trip will be spent on South Island.

Most people are familiar with New Zealand due to the fact that "The Lord of the Rings" movies were filmed there. Polon explained that New Zealand is "one of the last pristine areas left" in which they will be able to drink water straight from the streams and lakes.

Polon said that she is looking forward to "being able to experience first-hand the environment — ocean and mountains." She has even considered participating in some daredevil activities like bungee jumping or skydiving.

She is hoping to gain a lot of knowledge about how, exactly, outdoor leadership works; acquire new methods or ideas that will be useful in programs at Cottey; and possibly even create new courses that will be available to students in the future.

Polon described some of her plans that she hopes to implement into Cottey's curriculum. One idea is to offer a summer course that will combine a variety of disciplines. She hopes to work with Dr. Angela Firkus to create a summer class that "combines both physical and historical studies altogether."

She also described creating a Fitness Walking II course that would be eight weeks long and give students the opportunity to participate in a marathon in St. Louis that usually takes place around the end of April.

Polon is not currently teaching any classes this semester, but she still has been involved with different activities, including writing individual programs for the faculty and staff who are involved in the weight-training part of the college's wellness program.

The program gives faculty and staff the opportunity to do weight training, fitness



Karen Polon

walking, water aerobics or Pilates. Faculty and staff of the college can participate in one of the programs during the school day two times a week.

Another plan that Polon has in store after returning from her excursion to New Zealand is hiking at different conservations around the Nevada area in hopes of finding a course that is closer to campus. "This will directly benefit the hiking class," Polon stated.

Polon admitted, "It's nice having free time, but I miss the students." Her favorite part of teaching is watching students grow and alter their lifestyles for the better. "It is nice to see what they've learned and taken to heart and that they make positive changes in their life."

She looks forward to all of the wonderful experiences that she will get to take part in and is anxious to apply what she learns to the Cottey physical education curriculum. She did want to let students know that she continues to check her e-mail on a regular basis in case anyone needs or wants to get in touch with her.

Changes in Raney introduced to help prepare for increasing number of students next year

By Emily Blitstein
Staff Writer

The days of "an hour for dinner" are over. With the recent schedule change, dinners now last two hours from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. to give students more flexibility.

"The two hour dinner time makes it easier to eat and not have to rush because of your schedule," says first-year student Sarah Maxfield.

Another change in food service is the omelet bar available every day during breakfast from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and every Monday and Thursday during dinner time from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Another new feature at dinners is the 'self serve' line from 4:30 to about 5:15 p.m. when the food service staff is on break.

There seem to be few drawbacks to this new dinner time design, but there are concerns about the food portions that are not given in enormous amounts.

Jenny Green, a first-year student worker in food service, said that "in the self-serve line, students take more food than they eat and there's more of a mess to clean up sometimes."

Even this minor problem is being worked out by the staff. "We try to have someone there (at the line) now to eliminate some of the mess and to help out," says Marcie Hurshman, the Dining and Catering Supervisor. "Our staff strives to go above and beyond, because our main priority is to please you, guys (Cottey students)," she adds.

"Everything takes adjusting," says



Photo by Barbora Batokova

Shalona Stewart-Smith prepares eggs at the omelet bar that is now available to students every day for breakfast from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and every Monday and Thursday during dinner time from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Hurshman. "We (the staff) have to start earlier to make everything ready but I think this way it's a lot better for the students because of their schedules."

The reasons for the changes in Food

Service have been made in preparation for the expected increase in number of students for next semester.

"We're trying to make everything work now," explains Hurshman.