

The Trojan Times

A publication of the Colby Community College Endowment Foundation



President's Update

Dr. Seth Carter



We hope everyone is doing well. It has been a great semester, one highlighted by a tremendous amount of institutional progress.

This academic year, Colby Community College has been recognized as having the highest graduation rate, highest retention rate, highest median wage placement, and has now been recognized by the Kansas Board of Regents as having the greatest percentage increase in student headcount from 2013 to 2018 among the community college sector. Our commitment to academic excellence and student success remains at the forefront of our institutional decisions, and in my opinion, these achievements continue to exemplify that goal.

We also want to update you on the status on raising funds for the Big Blue Barn athletic practice facility. Currently, we have over \$1,378,000 in pledged funds. The anticipated total for the project including mats, weights, nets, and all the other furnishings for the building is \$1,541,000, putting us approximately \$165,000 short of our goal. We are extremely pleased with our progress, and we are closer than ever to making the Big Blue Barn a reality. This would not be possible without the support of our community and alumni. The facility has been vitally needed by the institution for more than 40 years. All funds are 100% donated, and no public monies will be utilized.

Please consider a gift to help us reach this attainable goal. If half of our alumni and friends give \$25, we will achieve our target and break ground within the next couple of months.

March 2 marked the conclusion of my fourth year at Colby Community College. As I continue to reflect, I am overwhelmed by a sense of pride and accomplishment on behalf of the institution. I have said this many ways and many times, but I fully know and understand CCC would not be able to accomplish these things if we did not have wonderful students, employees, alumni, a supporting community, and a strong Board of Trustees. My family and I have been incredibly blessed to be here, and we are more excited than ever to start our fifth year at the College. Thank you. We are eternally grateful and hopefully in the next update, we will be able to announce the groundbreaking date for the Big Blue Barn!

Scholarship Benefit Auction

Saturday, April 13

It has been a long and cold winter in Northwest Kansas. The annual benefit auction is a great way to let loose and celebrate the onset of spring while supporting a great cause! Plan to attend this year's event, "Uncork'd and Unwind" on April 13 at City Limits Convention Center in Colby. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$300 for a corporate table of eight. Can't attend, but still want to donate? We are accepting those too! To purchase tickets by April 8 or to make a donation, call the Foundation office at (785) 460-4684.



Art Department Active in Community

Studying art at CCC involves many opportunities to discover a career path through studio work, a variety of electives, and exposure to visiting artists.

The department is under the direction of Rebel Mahieu, who started at CCC in 2008. Prior to entering postsecondary education, she taught art in the Russell school district. A native of Glen Elder, she earned a bachelor's degree in art education and a master's degree in sculpture from Fort Hays State University.

Her pedagogical approach at CCC combines the classroom with community engagement. The CCC Art Club sponsors a variety of activities that are open to the public, such as the annual Art Walk in April. Students and community members also participate in Studio Friday, an event that features a visiting artist. In 2016, she launched the Thirsty Thursday art show, where Mahieu says visitors can "quench their culture." On the third Thursday of each month, works of artists from other geographical areas, colleges, and universities are displayed in the renovated gallery of the Cultural Arts Center.

This year her department took the reins organizing the Art on the Oasis, a three-day show the first weekend in March that highlights regional professional and amateur artists.

Mahieu, the recipient of the 2017 Tangeman Award for Teaching Excellence, enjoys her profession be-

cause she anticipates something new every time she walks into a class.

"I never know what I'm getting into because I don't put a limit on what students can try. No two students are the same."

By having an open mind, she believes education becomes reciprocal. "I learn just as much from them as they do from me. It's not just about what the teacher knows. It's about the process. I'm constantly asking, 'What combination can I do to express myself? What can we discover today?'"



Send us your news:

www.colbycc.edu/updates

CCC Endowment Foundation

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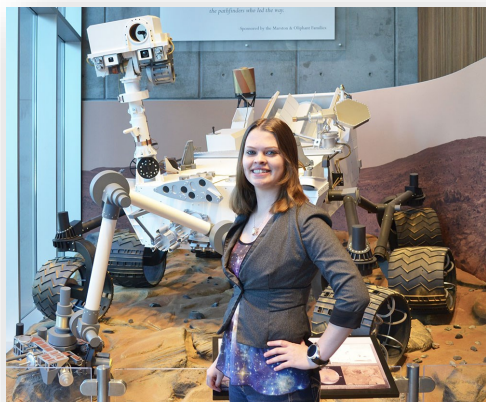
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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Sarah Lamm ('14)

Sarah Lamm accumulated enough college hours while attending Colby High School that she was able to collect her diploma and CCC associate degree in the same weekend. She went on to earn bachelor's degrees in chemistry, geology, and geography from Kansas State University.

"CCC allowed me to accelerate my education to meet my needs and achieve my dreams," she said.



Sarah Lamm with a full-scale model of the Mars Curiosity rover.

Those dreams include exploring space. Now, as a Northern Arizona University doctoral student, she is a member of NASA's Curiosity mission team and a student of astronomy and planetary science searching for signs of life on Mars.

Lamm contributes to the NASA team from labs at NAU. She downloads data and makes reports after analyzing the chemical composition and reviewing pictures of the targeted rocks shot with lasers. She notes of anything interesting or unexpected and helps scientists decide what and where to shoot next.

According to Lamm, it is important to keep those on earth current on what is happening in space.

"If the public knows what is going on with the rover, they will ask better questions and support space missions," she said. "Public support is so important for space missions. We need to keep the energy high years after the initial excitement of landing on Mars. It is also a great way to show younger students how fun and exciting science is."

Indoor Track Setting Records

The CCC indoor track team set several school records this season. In the 5000-meter run, both Nehemiah Too (14:32.74) and Wesley Banguria (14:42.73) surpassed the record. The duo from Eldoret, Kenya also moved to the top in the 3000m, with Too running an 8:12.78 and Banguria at 8:26.20. Additionally, Too now has the high mark in the mile after finishing in 4:14.60.

On the women's side, Aileen Gurrola (Garden City, Kan.) put her name on top of the list in the 600m with a 1:36.00, as well as her 800m time of 2:19.21.

Both teams were ranked most of the season. The Trojans are lead by head coach Cameron Rieth and assistant coach Joey Villarreal.



Allen Russell to Retire

After 39 years as a rodeo coach and agribusiness instructor, including nearly 30 at Colby Community College, Allen Russell notified the Board of Trustees of his intention to retire at the end of the semester.

A graduate of Eureka High School, Russell received an associate degree from Fort Scott Community College and a bachelor's degree in agriculture education from Kansas State University where he was a member of the rodeo team. He went on to earn a master's degree in education from KSU.

He began his higher education career teaching and coaching rodeo at Allen County Community College for nine years. He served a short stint at McPherson College before beginning his current post at CCC in 1990. With the instructional and coaching responsibilities, he is an academic advisor for agriculture and ag economics majors and serves as a division chair.

During his first 15 years in higher education, he competed in as many as 60 professional rodeos each year and was a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. Twice, he was a two-time Prairie Circuit qualifier in steer wrestling.

For six years he was also the director of the Central Plains Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA), a region considered one of the largest and most competitive that includes colleges and universities in Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

Additionally, he garnered respect in the classroom at Colby when he was recognized with the Tangeman Award for Teaching Excellence in 2009. Those selected are chosen by previous recipients and current CCC students.

CCC Vice President of Academic Affairs Brad Bennett has known Russell for 11 years.

"Allen has been one of the pillars of CCC," he said. "While we are excited for the next chapter of his life he will be greatly missed by all, but mostly by his students."

"I've enjoyed coming to work every day," Russell said. "The students make it fun. I've been lucky in that respect."

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**Colby Community
College Endowment
Foundation**

**1255 South Range Ave.
Colby, KS 67701**

The Colby Community College Endowment Association was chartered in 1964 as a non-profit educational corporation to encourage, receive and administer gifts and bequests for the benefit of Colby Community College, its students and its staff.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

In November, the class of 2018 CCC Hall of Fame inductees included former instructor Vernon Wranosky, long-time friends and supporters Lois and the late David Ferguson, softball All-American Heather Chatwood, and All-American baseball player Jason Chatwood.

Vernon Wranosky instructed biological sciences from 1971 to 2005. Since then, he has served on the CCC Endowment Foundation board. He and wife Linda, now married 54 years, established a scholarship benefitting biology majors. They have two children, son Vernon III, and daughter Shannon Heintz. Both are graduates of CCC.



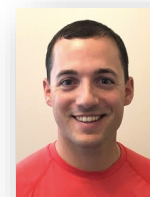
David and Lois Ferguson The Ferguson name has been part of CCC since the institution opened. David's parents, W.D. and Clara Daniels Ferguson, were great supporters of CCC. Ferguson Hall was one of the original buildings on campus. David and Lois grew up in Colby and attended Colby High School. Although eventually moving to Colorado for business interests, they traveled to Colby to visit family and friends. Lois still owns a home in Colby and returns when she can.



Heather Ebert Chatwood attended CCC from 2004-06 as a member of the softball team. She played for the late coach Carl Adams, who was inducted

posthumously into the Hall of Fame in 2016. The infielder from Saskatchewan, Canada, graduated and transferred to Adams State University. She went on to earn the 2008 Daktronics NCAA Division II Player of the Year and several other national awards. In 2017, she was inducted into the ASU Hall of Fame. Today she resides in Red Deer, Alberta, with husband and 2018 CCC Hall of Fame inductee Jason Chatwood. The couple met in 2005 while attending CCC and married in 2014. They have two sons, Tucker and Owen.

Second baseman **Jason Chatwood** played for the Trojans from 2005-07. He holds CCC career records in at-bats (414) and hits (161) as well as single-season records for at-bats (218) and hits (89). He was a unanimous selection for both first-team All-Jayhawk West and first-team All-Region VI and was the Region VI Gold Glove Award recipient. Nationally, he was a third-team All-American and a member of the All-Academic team. The Alberta, Canada, native started in every game after transferring to Gonzaga University and was named to the West Coast All-Academic Team as a senior. Now, Chatwood is the head instructor and teacher at a baseball-softball academy at St Joseph's High School in Red Deer.



Details on the class of 2018 can be found at www.colbycc.edu/alumni.