

The Trojan Times

A publication of the Colby Community College Endowment Foundation



President's Update

Dr. Seth Carter

We hope everyone is doing well. The spring 2019 semester marked the completion of another successful year at Colby Community College. During the last academic year, CCC was recognized as having the highest graduation rate, highest institutional retention rate, and the largest percentage of enrollment growth among all 19 community colleges in Kansas. CCC is proud of these accomplishments but fully understands the need to improve. Until the college has a 100 percent graduation and retention rate, there are still opportunities for improvement.



From left: CCC board members Arlen Leiker, Quintin Flanagan, Mitch Gates of Stephens Construction, and board members Kenton Krehbiel and Carolyn Armstrong break ground on the Big Blue Barn.

This summer is going to be a busy time as well. We are renovating the south section of Living Center East, our sixth and final dorm remodel in the last five years. In addition, all of Ferguson Hall will have the drywall, paint, and flooring replaced. The institution also installed approximately 45 new security cameras across campus to ensure student safety.

Additionally, we are extremely excited to announce that on June 3 construction formally began on the Big Blue Barn athletics practice facility. All funds for the project were raised through grants and donations. I cannot express enough gratitude to the more than 200 individuals and organizations who helped make the facility a reality.

We look forward to another wonderful and productive summer. Thank you all for your support. If you have not been on campus in a while, please stop by and see us.

Foundation Update

Jen Schoenfeld, Executive Director

Thanks to many generous donors who are committed to the success of Colby Community College, the spring Scholarship Benefit Auction was a success. Over \$90,000 in gifts in kind were donated to help ensure a fabulous evening. Purchases and cash donations totaled over \$132,000 with \$28,000 being earmarked specifically for the Big Blue Barn project.

Speaking of the Big Blue Barn, a special thanks goes out to the Sunderland Foundation who awarded the college a grant for \$130,000. This was enough to complete fundraising initiatives for the practice facility.

Another exciting gift that is benefiting CCC students is a commitment from Engie, the corporation building the Solomon Forks Wind Farm south of Colby. Engie is donating \$100,000 in scholarships to CCC students over the next six years. Half of those dollars will be earmarked for students who are working towards an associate of applied science degree in sustainable/renewable energy. Students from other disciplines are eligible to apply for the other \$50,000.

Do you remember the annual phone-a-thon? Many of you likely helped with this fundraiser. Look for more information to come. A new annual fundraiser will begin this fall.



Solomon Forks Wind Farm now marks the landscape south of Colby. Photo credit to local photographer and CCC alumna Michelle Morris ('95).

Softball Clubhouse a Big Hit

The CCC softball team had big dreams and accomplished many of their goals throughout the academic year.

After winning the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference western division title, eight Colby Community College softball players were named to Division I all-conference teams, and Steve Kinnett was named Coach of the Year.

In the midst of the successful year on and off the field, a new clubhouse was built. The facility is north



of the Carl Adams Softball Field on the CCC campus.

Construction of the 1,000 square-foot structure was financed by fundraising and

private donations. The upstairs locker room doubles as

a recreation area with air hockey and ping-pong tables. The lower level is a lounge area that includes a flat-screen TV and kitchen.

The clubhouse was built on the site of the college handball courts after a student survey found the area was not being used.

Head softball coach Steve Kinnett has 30 years of remodeling experience and repurposed the concrete courts for the foundation and walls.

Except for the electrical requirements, he did most of the work with help from the players.

"The girls built the ping pong table," he said. "They also helped do a number of other things like building the countertops, installing and finishing the woodwork and installing the appliances."

Kinnett is also thankful for sporadic assistance from some campus employees.

"If they came to visit and see how it was going, I'd put them to work," he said.

The project began last June and was completed in February 2019.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Keep your eyes, ears and your mind open to opportunities. Try new things, be willing to evolve and take on new challenges. ~ Dan Richardson, DVM and CCC Alumnus ('73)

These words of wisdom were keys to Dan's success as he navigated through 46 years since graduating from Colby Community College with an associate degree. He has fond memories of the Rusty Bucket and their trademark red beer, the Colby cheese wheel at the local grocery store, and lifelong friendships that still exist today.

After leaving Colby, Dan transitioned directly into Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1975 and his DVM in 1977.

He assumed he would be a large animal veterinarian, but living by his own advice, life did not lead him in that direction. Instead, he fell in love with surgery during his senior year and upon graduation, accepted a small animal surgery and medicine internship at Auburn University. Following the internship, he and his young wife, Kathy, moved to Knoxville, Tenn., where he was the first surgery resident at the University of Tennessee's new College of Veterinary Medicine.

He spent a third of his professional career in academia, first at Purdue University as a faculty member in small animal surgery and later at North Carolina State as a member of the clinical faculty focusing on orthopedic surgery.

The next third of Dan's professional life transitioned into private industry, allowing the Richardsons an opportunity to move closer to home in Topeka and help care for aging parents. Dan moved up the ranks as the vice president of research at Hills Pet Nutrition, a subsidiary of Colgate Palmolive.

The final leg of his career was the accumulation of his previous professional experience. In 2008, he took on the adventure as CEO and dean of the new KSU Olathe campus, which is focused on animal health and food safety so people in the industry can earn graduate degrees.

Dan officially retired in 2013. He stays active within the community, enjoys a variety of hobbies, and has more time with Kathy, now his wife of 44 years and according to him the major contributor to his professional success. Life has not always been easy for the Richardsons, but he says it has been a good life. And true to Dan's advice, he is willing to take on new challenges, no matter what the next season might hold.



Dr. Dan Richardson and his German Shorthair, Hattie.

Sue Draper Receives Honorary Degree

Long-time college supporter Sue Draper was awarded the honorary associate degree during commencement on May 10. The honorary degree recognizes distinguished contributions to the community and CCC.



Sue grew up on a farm in Sheridan County and graduated from Hoxie High School. She moved to Thomas County in 1976 when she married Bill Draper. With Bill's sons Neal Draper and Nolan Draper, and Bill and Sue's daughters, Tanya (Chad) Douthit and Shanda (Caleb) Mattix, she enjoys nine grandchildren.

Those who have a history with the CCC equine program know "Mama Sue," or at least know her voice as an announcer at the equestrian shows.

"I have been a CCC supporter since our oldest attended in the mid-1980s," she said. I began announcing the IHSA shows for Dr. Gary and Sue Webb in the mid-90s. When Tanya participated on the equestrian team, we hosted the team at our home for an end-of-year cookout. When Shanda became a member of the team, we hosted cookouts again."

Shanda returned to Colby as a faculty member and director of the horse production program and coach of the equestrian team. Over the years, Sue has spent countless hours assisting in multiple ways. She has provided gallons of concession stand sloppy joes for the equestrian team fundraisers at the college rodeo and the home equestrian shows. Other roles she has taken on include being a tailor, altering show clothes for team members each year, and a farm laborer over summer and winter breaks feeding horses at the college farm.

The connection with the college goes even deeper. Sue has served as the Thomas County Farm Bureau Association liaison to CCC's collegiate chapter since 2005, attending monthly meetings and facilitating programming. For several years, her family cattle operation employed CCC ag students. Many international students have also enjoyed her home-cooked meals as she has helped them get involved with various events.

Her community involvement spans four decades. In the First Presbyterian Church of Colby, she has served as trustee, deacon, elder and Sunday school teacher and a co-host for the monthly Common Grounds student outreach in the Student Union. She was the treasurer of the Thomas County Salvation Army unit for more than 20 years as well as bell-ringer coordinator on many occasions. Her family has long been active in 4-H, resulting in her taking on various roles. Additionally, she was on the Thomas County Fair board for 12 years.

She continues to attend college events such as the Pickerill Lecture Series, music department performances, and athletic events.

"CCC has a strong history, now reaching into the third generation," she said. "Students leave CCC well-prepared for further education or employment. I am humbled to receive this recognition and pleased that I am able to offer support to CCC students."

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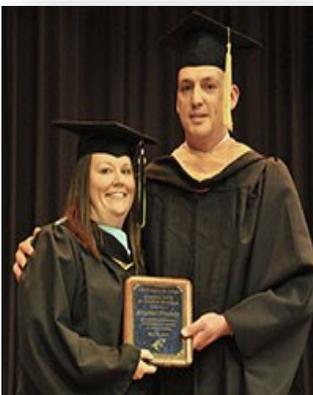
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The Colby Community College Endowment Association was chartered in 1964 as a non-profit educational corporation to encourage, receive and administer gifts and bequests for the benefit of Colby Community College, its students, and its staff.

POUNDS RECOGNIZED FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Colby Community College business instructor Crystal Pounds is the recipient of the 2019 Tangeman Award for Teaching Excellence. The announcement was made during the college's commencement activities on May 10.

The award was established in 1988 and named after the school's second president, Dr. James Tangeman, to



Crystal Pounds, left, and VP of Academic Affairs Brad Bennett

recognize an outstanding instructor. Each year the selection is made by a committee of previous recipients and current CCC students.

"Crystal is known for her dedication to students and being task-oriented. And I must also note that she is quick to tell me when I am wrong," joked Vice President of Academic Affairs Brad Bennett during the presentation.

Pounds began her career at the college in 2005 after earning a Bachelor of Arts in Information Networking and Telecommunications (INT) with an emphasis in Web Development from Fort Hays State University. She also holds a Master of Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Instructional Technology from FHSU. Since coming to CCC, she earned Microsoft Office

Specialist Master Certification by passing the Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Word Expert, and Excel Expert.

She is engaged in college activities and is a fan of various athletics.

"I enjoy following CCC events and watching sports," she said. "I'm known for having a 'traveling TV' where I can watch football while baking, watch baseball on the patio, or watch multiple basketball games during March Madness. I also enjoy traveling, reading, and scrapbooking."

Pounds, who served as a Colby Diplomat for the Colby/Thomas County Chamber for three years, is looking forward to staying involved with activities throughout the community.

"I am honored to receive the Tangeman award and join the elite group of faculty who have been recognized for dedication, perseverance, and passion for student learning. In addition to teaching, I have worn many hats throughout my 13 years at CCC and look forward to building more community relationships and watching CCC continue to excel."

Send us your news!

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