



COLBY FREE PRESS

College awards honorary degree to former residents

By **PATTY DECKER***Free Press Editor*

David and Lois Ferguson of Denver became the 17th recipients of Colby Community College's prestigious public award, the Honorary Associate Degree, during commencement ceremonies Saturday at the Colby Community Building.

"Although David and Lois have lived in Denver since 1963," said Dr. Mikel Ary, president of the college, "they are both Colby natives and products of Colby schools."

Lois (Sears) graduated from Colby High School and received her bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of Denver, Ary told the audience. Her parents, Charles and Mabel Sears, were active in Colby for more than 50 years.

David attended Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., Ary said, before and after World War II when he was in the Air Force.

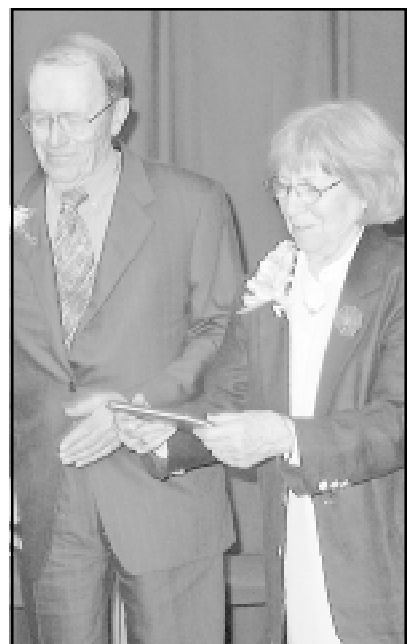
After graduating in 1946, he returned to Colby and worked in the Thomas County National Bank, owned by his family since its founding in 1886.

"After moving to Denver, David organized and operated a new bank, Boulevard National," Ary said. "Since the sale of the bank in the 1970s, he has been active in Denver-area real estate development."

As for Lois, Ary said she has been active as a volunteer at the Denver Art Museum and is a member of a Salvation Army advisory board.

Ferguson is a well-known name on campus as well.

"Ferguson Hall, which houses the

**David and Lois Ferguson**

art, television and radio departments, is named for David's parents, W.D. and Clara Ferguson, in recognition of their outstanding support of the college and its programs," he said.

Previous honorees of the award were also named during the ceremony. Those people include: Helen Frahm, 1986; Don Phillips, 1987; Jimmy Nickel, 1988; Don Crumbaker, 1989; Marilyn Donelan, 1990; Bill Beck, 1991; Les Barrett, 1992; Al and Ruth Lowenthal, 1993; Charles Schiefen, 1994; Gwen Young, 1995; Warren Hixson, 1996; Betty Secrest, 1997; Jack and Betty Fitzsimmons, 1998; George Elliott, 1999; Charles Davis, 2000; and Max Embree, 2001.

Fair board to fatten premium checks

By **MAXINE NELSON***Colby Free Press*

Premium checks for the Thomas County Free Fair will be fatter this year, thanks to a donation of \$7,500 in drug seizure money from the Thomas County Sheriff's Department.

The fair board voted at their Thursday night meeting to increase premiums in all categories by \$1, except for livestock classes which will sell at the fair. This includes the open and 4-H classes.

For example, premium checks for open class flowers which were \$.75 last year will be \$1.75 this year, and checks for \$.25 last year will be \$1.25 this year. The blue ribbon which was worth \$3 for dogs and cats last year, and will be worth \$4 this year. Checks for white (third place) ribbons will go from \$1 to \$2 this year.

For 4-H Club members, there will be prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 respectively for each of the three clubs that present the best notebooks on drug education. It is hoped all five clubs in the county participate.

Last year there were 900 open class entries, and 1,284 entries by 4-H members.

In other business at the meeting:

- The board decided to host a special open meeting with the public to discuss having a home-owned carnival. It will be at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 23. Representatives of neighboring counties with home-owned carnivals will be invited to participate. Anyone willing to start or help with a home-owned

carnival is asked to attend. No carnival has been signed up for this summer's fair, and organizations and individuals from the community are asked to bring games and booths to participate.

The board's vice-president Mark Anderson, conducting the meeting in the absence of Mark Miller, president, said he had contacted a person with a climbing wall who is interested in coming to the fair. The person is from Carbondale, Colo., and was at the Rattlesnake Roundup in Sharon Springs.

- Dennis Chandler, Extension agent, said he had conducted the HOT training for youth in Logan County and would like to have a farm safety presentation on Saturday at the fair. The board told him to pursue it.

- Sue Draper, board member, said the swim club is considering buying a large cooker for its booth at the fair, and needs to know if a 220 electric line will be available. Anderson told her to check with Fred Stephenson, fairgrounds caretaker, for prices and availability.

- Draper also said she had consulted with Trudi Wildeman, Rodeo Queen and Princess Pageant chairman, and there will be no pageant this year. The board had cut the pageant budget to \$1,000 this year, and Wildeman said she could not put it on for that.

- Marty Crampton, board member, said there are two dens of foxes near the race track, and he will talk to Wildlife and Game about removing them.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Tom Cole of Deerfield and his four-year-old great-granddaughter, Lillian Finkenbinder of Hutchinson, watched as more than 375 Colby Community College graduates were awarded degrees Saturday. For Cole and his great-granddaughter, their eyes were on Curtis Olstad,

who received an Associate of Arts in Science degree. Pictured next to Cole is his wife Ardis who said that Olstad was little Lillian's uncle. In addition to cheering when her uncle received his diploma, she proudly waved an American flag throughout the ceremony.

Get involved, speaker tells college grads

By **PATTY DECKER***Free Press Editor*

Citing lessons from Robert Fulghum's book, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten," was the focus of this year's Colby Community College commencement address on Saturday, with Dr. Duane Dunn, president of Manhattan Area Technical College, speaking to 376 graduates and their families and friends in the Community Building.

In addition to Dunn's presentation and the conferring of all degrees, the college honored the outstanding teacher of the year and outstanding student of the year by announcing the Dr. Mosier Award and Dr. Tangeman Award.

Marlena Marie Hill, who graduated with an associate degree in applied sciences with emphasis in nursing, was the recipient of the Dr. Tangeman Award and Sandra Harper, business instructor, was named outstanding teacher of the year. Dunn was himself a graduate in 1977 from Colby College with a major in agriculture education, continuing his studies at Kansas State University and receiving a doctorate of educational administration in 1996.

In his speech, Dunn highlighted the importance of sitting toward the

front of the class, not wasting energy, joining a club, the world is small, staying in tune with the times, learning to enjoy a lifetime sport, change is a certainty, learning never stops, and expect the unexpected.

"I was never one to sit in the front of the class," Dunn said, "and typically I sat in the back and didn't take an active part in discussion."

What Dunn said he has since learned is that he missed out on a lot. The chance for us to influence decisions and to make an impact can only be noticed when we are in the front of the group.

"Success," he said, "is often associated with taking a risk — take the risk by being a leader."

As for wasting energy, Dunn said that he recalls many a time he just wasted time on a weekend afternoon by lying around on the couch and watching television.

"I'm not proud of it and my wife probably would say I haven't completely broken the habit," he said. "Unfortunately, I missed out on some great opportunities in the process."

Consequently, in the wasting energy category, Dunn suggested to the graduates that they read more, study more, volunteer more often, play golf, softball or invite friends over.

"Sure, watching television once in awhile is relaxing, but just don't be-

come a vegetable."

Among Dunn's fondest memories was being able to play in the pep band for Colby College, which meant he was able to travel at away basketball games and do road tours with the jazz band.

"I belonged to a few clubs and played intramurals and it was that participating which helped develop my awareness of how important it is to be involved," he said.

Learning that the world is really a small place is something Dunn said he witnesses all the time. Two years ago, he said, he was selected to participate in a statewide activity known as Leadership Kansas.

"Coincidentally, one of the participants was Curt Stephens, a member of the college board of trustees," he said. "After getting acquainted, Curt and I realized we attended Colby College at the same time and I am thankful to have made new friends while here in Colby."

Staying in tune with the times is vital in life, he said. "Think of changes you'll realize in the next 25 years and stay in tune with the times or the times will leave you behind," he said.

When enjoying a lifetime sport, Dunn cited an example of when he dropped a weightlifting class while a student at Colby College.

"I just couldn't drag myself to the weight room at 7 a.m., three days a

Kansas House remains deadlocked on budget

TOPEKA (AP) — With large cuts in spending looming, the House remained deadlocked over tax issues as the Legislature's session reached its 103rd day.

No session in state history was longer, though the one in 1991 also lasted 103 days. Legislative leaders have been frustrated by their inability

to get tax increases approved.

House members have rejected every significant tax proposal to come before them. They forced more negotiations Saturday. Three senators and three House members drafted a package that would raise \$283 million by increasing sales, inheritance, cigarette and liquor taxes but tie those proposals to

some business tax breaks. But House Republican leaders weren't confident any plan would win approval because of disagreements among Democrats and moderate and conservative Republicans.

Legislators must close a \$290 million hole in a \$4.4 billion budget for the state's 2003 fiscal year, which begins

July 1. Gov. Bill Graves plans to sign that budget this week but is preparing to cut it about \$300 million should no revenue package pass.

Democrats said any package must include higher income taxes to get a large number of their votes, because they view an increase for wealthy Kansans as the fairest way to raise money.

day was a cool 59 and the overnight low this morning was 36. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 59 degrees.

Weekend precipitation amounts to 0.08 inches, moving Colby's rainfall for the month to 0.10 inches. The records for May 13: 99 in 1962 and 26 in 1966. (*The temperatures and precipitation are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.*)

Team in dire need of coaches

The Colby Girls Fast Pitch Association is in desperate need of a head coach and an assistant coach. The coaches are needed for the 14 & under team. Anyone interested in

helping out or needing more information can call Tanya Staats at 462-6537. The season gets underway the first weekend in June, so the coaching positions need to be filled now.

School physicals Tuesday

All Thomas County students in grades 6-11 who plan to participate in athletics, cheerleading and drill team next school year, will have an opportunity to get their physicals at Colby Medical and Surgical Center, 175 S. Range on Tuesday at no charge.

Colby Middle School students will need to arrive at the center by 5 p.m.; Colby High School students by 5:45 p.m.;

and Brewster and Golden Plains students at 6:30 p.m. Students are reminded to bring with them the Kansas High School Activities Association physical forms the day of the exam and make sure to return all paperwork to the appropriate school since no copies of the physical are kept by the physicians, Quenzler said.

School board meeting May 20

Colby Public School officials are reminding patrons that the Monday, May 6 regular school district board meeting was held on Monday, April 22. The next regular meeting will be Monday, May 20, at 7 p.m. in the board room, 210 S. Range Ave. For questions, call 465-5000.

Briefly

Little hope for moisture

A slight chance exists for some thunderstorms or shower activity in the Colby region through Wednesday night, the National Weather Service said today. Tonight, clear, lows in the middle 40s, southeast winds 5-10 mph. Tuesday, partly sunny then becoming mostly cloudy, very windy, highs in the lower 50s, strong southerly winds 15-25 mph, gusting to 35. Tuesday night, cloudy, lows in the lower 50s, a 20 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms. Wednesday, partly sunny, a 20 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms, highs in the middle 70s. Wednesday night, partly cloudy, a 20 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms, lows in the upper 40s. Colby's high Sun-

