



# Campus Close-Up

Colby Free Press  
Wednesday, May 11, 2005  
**Page 5**

## Seven retiring college employees to be honored

A public reception honoring seven Colby Community College employees who will be retiring at the end of the spring semester will be held on Friday beginning at 3 p.m. in the Student Union, room 108.

The honorees include Gracemary Melvin, Dr. Harlan Thyfault, Vernon Wranosky, Doris Anderson, Wanda Davis, Fred Miller and Tommy Dean.

**MELVIN**  
Gracemary Melvin, dean of instruction, began her career at Colby College in 1970. She taught office technology in the business department until 1991 when she was named dean of instruction. Melvin has three sons. Len and his family live in Hays where he is a coach and middle school teacher. Lucas and his family live in Norton where he is also a coach and middle school teacher. Lonnie and family live in Casa Grande, Ariz. He is a representative for Floritine, selling products to golf courses. Gracemary's family also includes her brother Larry who resides with her in Colby.

Melvin said her post-retirement

plans are not definite.

"I have several opportunities and am looking forward to new challenges," she said

"I will always be loyal to Colby Community College and will be an advocate for the college. I accepted the job as dean in 1991 because I thought I could make a difference. I have enjoyed my time at Colby College and have made many friends. I appreciate the support from all those I have worked with during the last 35 years."

### THYFAULT

Dr. Harlan Thyfault began his career at Colby College in 1979. Thyfault, director of the beef production department, received two bachelor's degrees from Kansas State University. He continued his education at the University of Maryland where he received his doctoral degree in ruminant nutrition.

Thyfault has seen a number of changes since he began at Colby College.

"When I came to Colby there were no pens, no cattle and only the walls were up at the college barn,"

he said. "We've improved the facilities and completed the beef unit. In addition, Colby Community College hosted the Bull Test sale for 21 years."

Harlan and his wife Jeanne have one daughter, Sarah Lanning. She and her husband live in Fayetteville, Ark.

### WRANOSKY

Vernon Wranosky began his teaching duties at the college in 1971. A graduate of the University of Nebraska at Kearney with his bachelor and master's degrees in biology, Wranosky is the division chair of the Math and Science Division at Colby College. He teaches biology, microbiology and genetics. In addition to numerous honors, Wranosky was selected to receive the Tangeman Award for excellence in teaching in 2004.

Wranosky and his wife Linda have two children. Vernon (Dude) III is a mechanical engineer for the Bayer Corporation. He and his family live in DeSoto. Shannon and her family live in Abilene where she teaches biology at Abilene High School.

### ANDERSON

Doris Anderson began her employment at the college in 1987. She started as secretary for the dean of student services. The next year the athletic secretary position was added to her job description. She has also served as secretary to counseling services, campus security and maintained alumni records.

Anderson and her husband Carl have two children. Jay is a regional sales director for Tractebel Energy Services in Houston, Texas. Daughter Lisa is in sales with Quest Diagnostic Services in Kansas City. She and her husband live in Olathe.

"I will miss being part of our college community," said Anderson. "I've truly enjoyed my position at the college and my associations with my co-workers and other staff. I have worked with some great people during my years here."

### DAVIS

Wanda Davis, a lifetime resident of Colby, starting working at the college in 1986 as a part-time secretary in the Adult Basic Education Department. A secretary for 44 years, Davis began her career in

1956 as a secretary for the Colby Chamber of Commerce. She was also a legal secretary for the Lowe & Willoughby law firm, Gary Cooper and Norman Wilkes.

Davis said her retirement plans include spending more time with her grandchildren.

She and her husband Don have two daughters who both graduated from Colby Community College. Lori Russell and her family live in Lincoln, Neb. Joni Ketchum and her family live in Colby.

"I have enjoyed working the past 19 years at the college," said Davis. "It has been very rewarding, both professionally and personally. I will miss the students, faculty and staff with whom I have had the privilege to work."

### MILLER

Fred Miller began his career at Colby Community College in 1971.

"Thirty-one years ago I told Dr. (Jim) Tangeman, I'd set up his new 'big press,' get it going and train someone to run it," said Miller. "I'd probably not be here more than a year. I was looking for an opportu-

nity to be a missionary. As it turned out my place to serve the Lord was right in the Colby Community College shop."

In addition to supervising press room performance, Miller taught offset press, three sections of photography and desktop publishing.

Fred and his wife Marvia have two children. Kristen Rathbun and her family live in Palco. Justin and his family live in LaJunta where he teaches art for LaJunta High School.

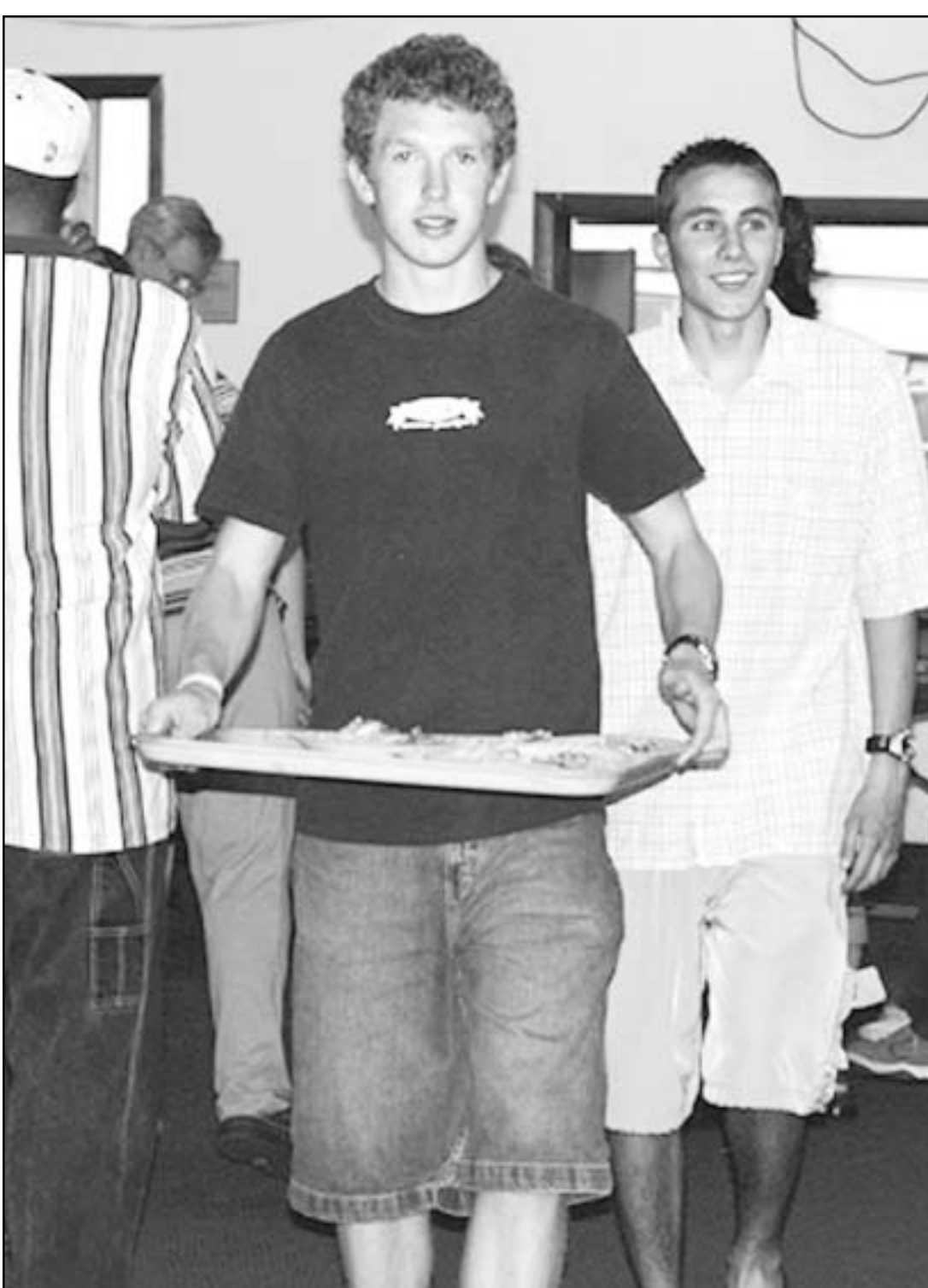
### DEAN

Tommy Dean has been employed in the maintenance department at the college since September 2000. He retired from the Colby city power plant after 21 years of service prior to accepting the job with the college.

Tommy and his wife Poppy have two daughters. Kelly Lee and her family live in Colby. Terry Smith lives in Abilene with her family.

"I plan to take a part-time job after I retire from the college," said Dean. "I'll also spend more time with my grandkids and complete some projects at home."

## At your service



COLBY COLLEGE PHOTO  
Derrick Monson was one of 48 Colby Community College students who helped serve the annual RSVP banquet in late April. The student behind Monson is Anton Sandoval, who was visiting campus as a prospective student for fall 2005. Colby College instructors Mike McVay and Tom Moorhous with the assistance of Roger Hale helped coordinate the event.

## Regents' chief to deliver commencement address

Colby Community College will celebrate its 40th annual commencement on Saturday beginning at 2 p.m. in the Colby Community Building.

Delivering the commencement address will be Reginald Robinson.

Since October 2002, Robinson has served as President & CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents, which governs the state's six universities, and coordinates those institutions, along with the state's 19 community colleges, 11 technical colleges and schools, and its municipal university.

For the four years prior to his appointment as CEO, he served jointly as Chief of Staff to University of Kansas Chancellor Robert



Robinson

Hemenway and as a Visiting Associate Professor in the Kansas University School of Law.

Robinson, who also served as an Associate Professor of Law at KU from 1988-1993, returned to Kansas in 1998 after five years in Washington, D.C., with the United States Department of Justice.

He served there in a variety of senior management posts, including Director of the Department's Office for Victims of Crime. He was also a White House Fellow.

Robinson earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Kansas where he was Student Body Vice President and Editor in Chief of the *Kansas Law Review*.

Between college and law school, he served four years as a field artillery officer in the United States Army, and was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain.

Upon graduation from law school, he was a law clerk to Judge

Deanell R. Tacha of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. He then joined the KU law faculty. As a faculty member, he was the first two-time winner of the Frederick Moreau Award for Student Counseling and Advising.

He also serves as a member of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and the Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Degrees and certificates will be conferred by Dr. Mikel Ary, President of Colby Community College, and Curt Stephens, chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Also on the commencement program will be the conferring of an Honorary Associate Degree to a Colby businessman and leader, David Jennings, presentations of the Mosier Award to the year's outstanding graduate, and the Tangeman Award to the institution's distinguished teacher for 2005.

## Former student wins photo award

Former Colby Community College student Brandon Gay, was recognized for excellence in journalism at the 113th annual Kansas Press Association conference held recently in Lawrence.

The Norton native received third place honors in the sports photog-

raphy category in Division I. The photo was published in *The Norton Telegram*. This was not the first Kansas Press Association award for Gay. He received first place honors in Investigative Writing in the previous year's competition.

After receiving his associate's

degree from Colby College, Gay transferred to the University of Kansas. He graduated from KU in December 2005 with degrees in journalism and political science.

Gay was managing editor of the Colby College student newspaper *The Trojan Express* for two years.

## Picking the leaders



COLBY COLLEGE PHOTO  
Colby Community College Student Senate President Beth Zillinger (Logan) and Tony Anderson (Alma, Neb.) manned the voting booth as students voted to select officers for the 2005-06 Student Senate. Results of the election were announced last week. New officers are Andrea Sis (Atwood), president; Jake Rasmussen (Colby), vice-president; Josh Houtz (Colby), secretary; and Chris Gordon (Colby), treasurer.

## 'Great finish,' says rodeo coach

The Colby Community College rodeo team had a great finish to a successful season at rodeos in Hays on April 23 and in Durant, Okla. on April 30.

The team, coached by Allen Russell, finished the year as the top two-year college in the Central Plains Region of Kansas and Oklahoma.

Sophomore Scott Minium, Morland, split third in the long round in steer wrestling and 6th in the average at the Fort Hays State rodeo. Brooke Inlow, Oakley freshman, won the long round in the breakaway and second in the average. She finished 6th in the average in the goat tying event.

Ashley Amos, Colby sophomore, was 5th in the long round in the breakaway and 5th in the average. She also was 7th in the long round in the barrels. The women's team finished 4th at the Fort Hays State rodeo.

The following weekend at the Southeast Oklahoma State University rodeo, Inlow was 2nd in the short round and 4th in the average in the breakaway roping. She also won the long round in the goat tying, 2nd in the short round, and split 1st in the average.

Inlow received a saddle for All-Around Champion at the Southeast Oklahoma State Rodeo. She also received a saddle for earning Year-

End Champion in goat tying in the Central Plains Region.

She will be competing at the College National Finals Rodeo June 12-18 at Casper, Wyo. Chris Sherman, Brule, Neb. freshman, split 4th in the long round in the team roping, won the short round and was 1st in the average.

The women's team of Tabitha Brooks, Wamego sophomore, Amos, Inlow and Ashley Coats, Hastings, Neb. freshman earned championship honors at the Southeast Oklahoma State rodeo.

"This was a great finish to our season," said coach Russell.

"They worked very hard and are to be congratulated."