



Interim president talks about vision, plans

Two weeks into his tenure as interim President at Colby Community College, Skip Sharp met with all faculty and staff members Nov. 1, to talk about his vision and plans for the college.

“We have the best community college anywhere in the Midwest,” said Sharp. “We have the best staff that we could possibly put together. I’ve lived in northwest Kansas for all but four years of my professional life.

“I’m here because of the people who live in this area.

“We need to do a better job of being proud of what we do and we need to figure out a way to let people in northwest Kansas know how good we are.”

Sharp unveiled the 2005-06 slogan for the college which is “Colby Community College...where YOU achieve success.” The college will utilize the slogan in all publications and promotional materials.

He asked each employee to set three

goals to recruit new students. Enrollment has increased.

“We have good news this morning,” said Sharp. “Our fall enrollment is up. When all the enrollments are entered, we anticipate a small increase in full-time equivalency numbers.

Sharp will continue to serve as dean of student services while assuming the President’s duties.

“My goal is to prepare the school for the next president,” he said.

“I want the college to be in great shape and ready to go when the new president walks in the door.”

Sharp also discussed challenges facing the institution including the increase in energy and gasoline costs.

“Although our dean of fiscal affairs Dan Erbert included an increase in next year’s budget for energy costs, there was no way he or anyone else could predict the exceptional circumstances that have resulted in



Skip Sharp

these prices we are now facing.

“Dan is estimating that we will experience a 70 to 80 percent increase over last year in our natural gas costs. That is an

additional \$90,000.

“I am asking for everyone’s help to conserve whenever possible.”

Sharp outlined four initiatives. A long-range plan will be completed and published by Jan. 31, 2006.

The marketing committee will be expanded and will complete a comprehensive institutional marketing plan for publication before the end of the spring semester.

The computer committee will be working on a short- and long-range technology plan for the entire campus to facilitate improvements and budgeting initiatives to fund the updates.

Assessment will also be a priority. Sue Ann Miller, business instructor at Colby College, will chair the committee and complete a plan for consideration by the Higher Learning Commission.

Sharp updated faculty and staff members on the selection process for the college’s next president.

“We are fortunate to have Dan Erbert on staff,” he said.

“He has had experience at other institutions with the hiring process and is working with the Board of Trustees to establish the procedures and timeline for the selection.

“We are compiling the input from over 3,000 surveys mailed to residents of northwest Kansas and will be providing Board members with that information.”

Faculty members met with students in conjunction with Student/Advisor Connection Day activities following the staff meeting.

Classes were not held to allow students to meet with advisors and complete spring enrollment forms.

The last day of the fall semester is Dec. 16.

Students may enroll for the spring semester by calling the Registrar’s office at 462-3984, ext. 675.

Dental students want you

Colby Community College dental hygiene students need your help.

Patients are needed for the fall and spring semesters to allow students an opportunity to learn and increase their experience in caring for teeth.

Students, under the supervision of director Becky Vollertsen and instructors Sherry Martin and Karla Colligan, do X-rays, cleanings and a thorough cancer screening for \$20 (\$15 for senior citizens and children 12 and under).

Dental sealants are available for children for \$10 per tooth.

The dental hygiene program at Colby Community College is unique in several ways.

Although classes are held on the Colby campus, much of the classroom work is delivered via state-of-the-art interactive television equipment from North-central Technical College in Wausau, Wis.

The clinical work is conducted in Colby under the supervision of a licensed dentist and registered dental hygienists.



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

Dental hygiene students Chelsea Moore (Hays), Jennifer Madden (Wichita) and Becca Gillig (Kiowa) work in the dental hygiene clinic located on the CCC campus.

The dental clinic is located in the Health Sciences Building, Room 801.

To make an appointment, call 462-3984, ext. 316.

Clinic hours are Monday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and 3 p.m.-8 p.m.; and Friday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

The students’ grades depend on their ability to work with patients in a clinical setting. Patients are advised that it may require more than one appointment to complete the work and they will need to allow more time owing to interruptions by instructors to check the students’ progress.

EduKan helps students of Katrina

EduKan, the online consortium of six western Kansas community colleges including Colby Community College, is offering students whose studies were interrupted by the hurricanes a chance to resume their education online, tuition-free.

To provide this opportunity, EduKan has joined the Sloan Consortium, an international association of colleges and universities committed to quality online education.

EduKan, including Barton County, Dodge City, Garden City, Pratt and Seward County community colleges, is among more than 150 educational institutions participating in the Sloan Semester, which allows students uprooted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to continue their studies and return to their home institutions in the next term.

The special eight-week accelerated semester, which began Oct. 17, offers a wide range of courses for students at the community college, university and graduate levels, regardless of academic discipline.

In the eight-week Sloan Semester, EduKan is serving 25 students who are hurricane victims. Each of those students is enrolled in one of the six EduKan colleges. Colby has five students; Barton, four; Dodge, eight; Garden, four; Pratt, two and Seward, two.

Participation in the Sloan project is more than just agreeing to provide the online courses tuition-free, said EduKan’s Executive Director Dr. Dennis Franz.

Faculty members are teaching the eight-week courses for free. In addition EduKan’s online provider, eCollege, did not charge EduKan for each enrollment as it normally would. EduKan’s new online bookstore vendor, eCampus, provided all textbooks to these students free of charge.

Registrars at each college worked to get students enrolled and the EduKan office staff worked for several weeks almost exclusively getting this complicated enrollment process in line so the students could start classes on time, Franz pointed out.

“(The hurricanes) presented an opportunity for EduKan to truly provide an educational service to those students who lost everything,” Franz said. “(EduKan) provided high-quality online learning to truly deserving students. It’s hard to imagine having lost all of one’s material possessions, but learning is one thing they didn’t have to lose out on. EduKan just wanted to be able to say, like the 150 plus colleges nationwide, ‘we did our part.’”

Because it is setting new quality standards for 100 and 200 level online courses on a national basis at this time, EduKan is able to cooperate in the Sloan Semester and offer transferable credits acceptable to some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the nation, Franz added.

More importantly, “helping those displaced students at their time of greatest need is just simply the right thing to do.

Fortunately EduKan was in a position to make this contribution,” he said.

EduKan instructors giving their time to teach the Sloan Semester courses include Joan Jilka from Colby College, Mike Kryschal, Dr. John Simmons, Becky Claassen, Loren Blinde, Addie Goymerac and Dr. Gillian Gabelmann, all from Barton County Community College; Winsom Lamb from Garden City Community College and Dee-dee Herrera from Dodge City Community College.



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

Quiz bowl team defeats Garden City

Quiz Bowl Coach Tom Moorhouse delivers questions to Quiz Bowl team members Camilla LeFlore from Cheyenne Wells, Colo.; Tyler Asher, Phillipsburg; and Jessica Morton, Colby, during a dual with Garden City Community College Saturday, Nov. 5. Assistant coach Krista Carter is running the time clock. President Skip Sharp was one of several audience members.

The Colby College team defeated Garden City two of the three games. Team members not pictured: Henry Lamm, Colby and Jesse Colson, Rexford.

Student places in National Newspaper contest

By Debbie Schwanke

Public Information Officer

Former Colby Community College student Brandon Gay was recently recognized by the National Newspaper Association Better Newspaper Contest with a second-place award in the small, non-daily newspaper category.

The Norton native received the award for a photo of a girl playing T-ball, published in the June 11, 2004, edition of *The Norton Telegram*.

Gay, who was a summer intern at *The Telegram*, took the photo which showed a little girl swinging away at a ball although her batting helmet completely covered her eyes.

The photo also received third-place honors in the annual Kansas Press Association Better Newspaper Contest.

Gay also took first place in the Kansas contest in 2004 with a feature package, “Trash in-Trash out,” about Norton County’s handling of solid waste.

After receiving his associate’s degree from Colby Community College, Gay transferred to the University of Kansas where he graduated from the William Allen White School of Journalism in December 2004.

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

He also contributed to *The Daily Kansan* (KU student newspaper).

Brandon is the son of Carol Gay of Norton.



Brandon Gay

Huge success!



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

Colby Community College Board of Trustees members Kenton Krehbiel, Larry McDonald and President Skip Sharp help with Phonathon. Krehbiel and McDonald were two of many Phonathon volunteers who made telephone calls beginning Sunday, Nov. 6, to the public and alumni. Calls were placed by student telecounselors and faculty members, Board of Trustees members and Endowment Foundation members. The Phonathon, which is the Foundation’s largest fund-raising event, is expected to raise \$50,000 for student scholarships.