



Campus Close-Up

News of Colby Community College

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Instructors, registrar retire from community college

A crowd of more than 50 people turned out for reception honoring four retiring Colby Community College instructors – Carolyn May, Dr. Phillip Shuman, Becky Vollertsen and registrar Betty Kruse – Friday afternoon at the Robert Burnett Memorial Student Union.

Carolyn May taught 32 years at the college, serving as director of the H.F. Davis Library for two years.

May, originally from New York, taught grades six through eight near Topeka prior to moving out to work for the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center for two years prior to accepting the college position.

She has brought national recognition to the college through her work with the student teachers' organization. She was the advisor for the Colby, group which won the Chapter Excellence Award at the state assembly for 18 consecutive years, more than any other Kansas college or university. Colby was the only community college to receive this recognition.

She received the college's Tangeman Award as Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 1997.

May holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's in curriculum instruction from Kansas State University.

She served as the Fort Hays State University off-campus director for the college and was the coordinator of the St. Mary of the Plains Elementary Education outreach program.

This year, she was director of library services and an education instructor helping coordinate elementary education programs for Fort Hays and Sterling College.

"My employment at CCC has been very fulfilling and enjoyable," said May. "I am honored to have been involved in helping students achieve their dreams."

May said her future plans include mission work, ministries and travel.

Dr. Phillip Shuman began his tenure in August 1989 as director

of the Sunflower Singers and Concert Choir. In addition, he taught private lessons, ear training and advanced harmony classes.

He taught in Emporia from 1972-81 and was a teaching assistant at the University of Northern Colorado from 1982-84. He taught private voice at Adams State College in Alamosa, Colo., from 1984-88.

Shuman received bachelor's and master's degrees in vocal performance from Fort Hays State and a doctorate from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

In 1992, he received the Tangeman Award for teaching excellence. He was recognized as the Outstanding College Music Educator, Kansas Northwest District, by the Kansas Music Educators Association.

Shuman was selected as honor choir clinician for Northwest District high school and middle school honor choirs on two occasions. He served as an adjudicator at music festivals in Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas.

He is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Sing-

ing, the American Choral Directors Association and the Kansas Music Educators Association and is a former Rotarian.

"I will especially miss the many students who have been involved in choir and Singers," said Dr. Shuman. "There are so many challenges working with this level, but there are also rewards. I am extremely proud of the choirs which I have directed since 1989...."

"It is a reward in itself to be a mentor to students; to offer guidance, to encourage them to achieve their best, to provide creative opportunities for students to excel. I'm going to miss working with these groups because, simply put, I enjoy it so much. But, I felt it was simply the right time to do this."

Although Shuman will retire in May, he said, he will continue to teach part-time at the college, working with Sunflower Singers and Concert Choir, giving private lessons for voice majors and recruiting.

"In addition to working part-time, I plan to garden, travel and compose music whenever possible," he said.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Carolyn May, director of library services and advisor for the Kansas-National Education Association Student Program at Colby Community College, talked at a retirement reception at the college Student Union on Friday.

Betty Kruse retired as registrar in April. Before coming to Colby, she taught for three years, was a stay-at-home mother, homebound teacher and was administrative assistant for the St. John's College Alumni Association in Winfield

for 17 years.

Kruse earned a bachelor's degree in education from Concordia University in Seward, Neb., and master's in curriculum and instruction from Kansas State University.

"It was a joy and privilege to work with a devoted group in student services to serve Colby Community College students all these years," said Kruse.

In addition to her duties as registrar, Kruse served on academic committees, including the Higher Learning Commission accreditation committee on two occasions. She was also a member of the college Academic Council.

"A year ago, I was elected to be state president of our Lutheran women's group for a four-year term," said Kruse. "As such, I am on state and national boards of directors for that, plus I am on the board for two other organizations and have meetings scheduled for about 50 percent of my weekends. So, for a few more years, I will be able to devote my energy to leading our group. I also have projects to last me for a long, long time."



Betty Kruse

Becky Vollertsen of Oberlin, a registered dental hygienist, began her career at the college in August 1998 as the first director of the dental hygiene program.

The Oberlin native taught dental health safety, dental hygiene orientation, oral anatomy, radiography, dental maters, and dental hygiene process.

"My experience at CCC has been wonderful," said Vollertsen. "I was given an opportunity to teach with other great hygienists and the students have been awesome. The reward of knowing I have helped graduate hygienists who have made a difference in the dental profession is priceless."

Vollertsen received a dental hygiene associate's degree from Johnson County Community College in 1977. She earned a bachelor's degree from Pittsburg State University.

"I plan to help my husband in our hometown pharmacy, Ward Drug Store, in Oberlin," said Vollertsen. "In addition, I plan to garden, golf and have fun."



B. Vollertsen

Library's recent additions have some new twists

The last few weeks, I have been sharing with you about events at the Pioneer Memorial Library and programs for children and youths during the summer, but today is for telling you about new items for your reading pleasure.

One book that I read is "The Book of Lies," by Brad Metzger. His last book, "The Book of Fate," was a No. 1 *New York Times* best-seller.

"Book of Lies" combines some very dissimilar and almost non-congruent subjects into one murder mystery, in both book and audio form. Calvin Harper works for a nonprofit to help street people.

He joins Roosevelt, a struggling pastor, to save the world one person at a time.

One eventful evening, Cal finds himself saving his long-lost father, and his world begins to unravel. He gets involved in finding one of the few first edition Superman Comic books, said to have been influenced by the killing of author Jerry Siegel's dad. Jerry is thought to have placed keys to the killing within the comic.

This mystery then becomes entwined with the biblical story of Cain and Abel. Cain is said to have been given something by God after he murdered Abel. An ancient

sect now is looking for the information within this very comic as well, believing it will lead them to Cain's gift from God.

The really wonderful thing about this book is that it mixes fiction with history. Metzger visited the house where Superman originated. He found the house in disrepair, and learned that the city of Cleveland would not even give the residents a plaque to mark it. He started a fund to rebuild the house. The story can be found at www.ordinarypeoplechangetheworld.com/articles/saving-the-house-where-superman-was-born.aspx.

A few other *New York Times*

best sellers on the library's shelves are: "The Eighth Confession," by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro; "First Family," by David Baldacci, (in both print and audio versions); "Tea Time for the Traditionally Built," by Alexander McCall Smith; and "Odd Hours," by Dean Koontz (in print and audio). We have many others under different categories, but I will report on them in weeks to come.

Summer Reading program signup begins at 1:30 p.m. next Thursday with a movie matinee. The theme for this summer is "Be Creative @ Your Library," and the programs are open to children

from preschool through eighth grade.

The program is divided into: Weekly Storytimes, Special Events and Imagination Station (Reading Challenge Game).

Judy Kleinsorge, our children's librarian, hopes that by planning a variety of offerings, the program will meet interests and schedules. Information can be found at the ISummer hours begin after this weekend: Monday-Wednesday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 – 4 p.m. See you in the library!

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