Colby Free Press Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Page 5

News of Colby **Community College**



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

Dr. Max Pickerill returned to the classroom this fall, teaching organic chemistry on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Dr. Pickerill, 85, has been teaching at the college since 1974. During his 105 terms, over 5,000 students completed their chemistry courses with him at Colby. He was recently named the college's first professor emeritus.

Tribune siblings attend dental program together

For the first time in 12 years, the dental hygiene pro-recently received my bachelor's degree in psychology. gram at Colby Community College has a male student. The timing worked out well and I was able to begin the Ryan Wenciker, Tribune, began the program in August. dental hygiene program this fall."

His sister, Shayla Nix, was also accepted into the college's program.

"Our oldest sister is a dental hygienist," said Wenciker. "She earned her degree at Wichita State University and encouraged us to become hygienists. Shayla and I both applied to the CCC program about three years ago. It's something we both wanted to do and it just worked out that we were selected the same year."

Wenciker is one of seven children. He graduated from Mission Valley High School in 1990. Nix is the youngest in the family and graduated from Greeley County High School in with labs and clinics on the Colby campus.

"In addition to being in the Marine Corps, I have had

several jobs since graduating from high school," said Wenciker. "Working in a medical setting has always appealed to me. I just liked the idea of being a hygienist. Prior to beginning the program, I worked as a dental assistant at Great Plains Dentistry in Leoti."

Nix took a more traditional path following high

"I felt it was important that I go to college right after graduation," said Nix. I applied to the CCC program and then enrolled at Fort Hays State University where I dentist for the program.

Wenciker has four children: Gage, 20; Megan, 16; Garrett, 9; and Grant, 6. Nix is the mother to a four-month old boy, McCoy.

"We study together and help each other when possible," said Wenciker. "I think we've made a good decision and so far everything is working out as I expected."

The nationally-accredited program at Colby is unique in its method of instructional delivery. The classroom component of the work is delivered via interactive television equipment from Northcentral Technical College in Wausau, Wis. Lectures are reinforced

"We are an accredited school," said Colby program director Bobette Maier. "Our program is limited to a

total of 24 students each year." "We offer a quality program that also provides a great service to patients in the surrounding counties,' said Maier. "Our graduates are in demand. They are employed in many communities across Kansas, Ne-

braska, Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado."

Program instructors include Maier, Sheri Martin and Dana Foss. All instructors are registered dental hygienists. Dr. Jay Sekavec serves as the supervising

Colby gets turbine test center

R. Wenciker

Contracting, and Kansas State University has received a subcontract award from the U.S. Department High Plains Small-Wind Turbine Test Center at Colby.

residential and commercial scale turbines rated at 50 kilowatts and under. Data from the tests will be used in a national certification program to produce standardized rating labels for wind turbines, much like fuel mileage ratings for automobiles.

Midwest Energy's desire to provide realistic savings estimates for its customers sparked the effort, according to Patrick Parke, the company's vice president of customer services.

"Initially, we considered establishing our own test center. When we learned of the competitive grant opportunity, we sought out the expertise at K-State's Wind Applications Center," Parke said.

The wind center's involvement led to the inclusion of K-State's Advanced Manufacturing Institute and Colby Community College, which is a K-State Wind for Schools project participant.

"We're pleased to be a part of this effort to provide reliable information about renewable energy," Contracting, a consulting firm based Energy Association.

A partnership involving Colby Parke said. "Midwest Energy will in Florida but with offices scattered Community College, Midwest Enpurchase electricity produced in across the country, provided initial ergy, Wind Energy Consulting and the trials, and those funds will help help with the first financial modelsustain ongoing operation of the test center.'

Midwest Energy, which is based of Energy's National Renewable in Hays, also is assisting with grid Energy Laboratory to establish the interconnection for the turbines and test center start-up costs.

The Advanced Manufacturing The Colby center will focus on Institute staff will set up the instruments to measure turbine performance. The institute has expertise in designing, evaluating and improving industrial equipment.

Staff with K-State's Wind Applications Center want to use the Colby center to give wind engineering students experience with small turbines, as well as to provide information to Kansas citizens on the quality of various turbines on the market.

"We're also excited about the collaboration with Colby Community College, which is interested in matching its programs in energy and sustainability to programs at K-State, where its students will come after finishing their associate degrees at CCC," said Ruth Douglas Miller, K-State associate professor of electrical and computer engineering and director of the Wind Applications Center. The project also fits in with K-State's goal of becoming a nationally recognized top 50 public research university by 2025.

ing and will continue to provide consulting advice to help the High Plains Small-Wind Turbine Test Center best meet the needs of the small-wind industry. The consulting firm specializes in conducting the front-end wind, environmental and financial analyses for wind projects ranging from large wind parks to single one-off installations.

Colby Community College will be home to the High-Plains Center

"The High Plains Small-Wind Turbine Test Center will plant another economic seed for wind energy development in northwest Kansas," said Lynn Kreider, president of Colby Community College. "It will enhance our alternative energy/small wind program, which was recently submitted to the Kansas Board of Regents. This is a tremendous opportunity for Colby Community College and for economic development in the area."

Along with the Colby site, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory announced test centers will be in Texas, Utah and New York. Test data will be submitted to the Small Wind Certification Council, an independent body that will certify small wind turbines that meet or exceed performance and durability Wind Energy Consulting and standards of the American Wind PART INFO **GETTING**

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Friday Evening September 17, 2010									7, 2010		
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CNN	Rick's List Larry King Live			Anderson Cooper 360			Larry King Live				
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HIST	Modern Marvels Gangland			Gangland		Gangland		Modern Marvels		
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Real Time/Bill Maher

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