



# Campus Close-Up

Colby Free Press  
Wednesday, April 12, 2006

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## Three Colbyites selected for honorary degree

Three outstanding citizens who have contributed to the growth and success of Colby Community College for many years have been selected to receive honorary degrees during the annual commencement ceremony in May.

In recognition of their exceptional contributions to Colby College and civic leadership, Jay Donelan and Jim and Betty Firestone have been chosen to receive the college's most prestigious public award.

The college has presented the Honorary Associate Degree annually since 1986 as part of its National Community College Month observance.

Previous winners include Helen Frahm, 1986; Don Phillips, 1987; Jimmy Nickel, 1988; Don Crumbaker, 1989; Marilyn Donelan, 1990; Bill Beck, 1991; Les Barrett, 1992; Ruth and Al 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; Max Embree, 2001; David and Lois Ferguson, 2002; Matt Hamill, 2003; Kenton and Sheila Krehbiel, 2004; and David Jennings, 2005.

### Jay Donelan

Jay Donelan, lifetime resident of Colby, attended Colby public schools and graduated from Colby High School in 1941. At the age of 19, he joined the U.S. Air Force during World War II and served with the 8th Air Force in Europe. He was an Armor Gunner on a B-17 and flew 35 missions over Germany before his honorable discharge in 1945.

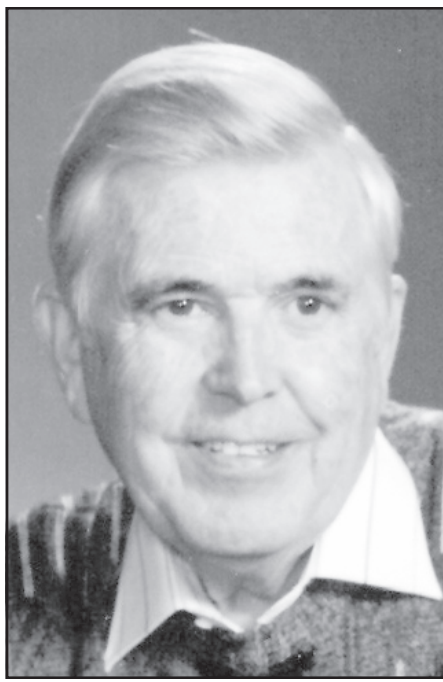
Following his discharge, he attended watch repair school in Poplar Bluff, Mo. He owned and operated Donelan Jewelry in downtown Colby for 48 years.

His love and concern for Colby is apparent in his many varied community activities and leadership roles. He served on the St. Thomas Hospital Board, Urban Renewal Committee, Colby Housing Board and Colby High School Alumni Association.

He is a charter member of the VFW, joined Lions Club in 1948, and is a 60-year member of the American Legion. He has been involved with the college since its inception and with his wife Marilyn has contributed to the college in many capaci-



The late Jim and Betty Firestone, left photo, and Jay Donelan, right photo, will receive honorary degrees in May.



ties. "Jay has always been an avid sports fan," said CCC interim President Skip Sharp. "He has given 14 wrist watches over the years to national wrestling champions plus a watch to Coach Steve Lampe for his selection as 'Coach of the Year.'"

In addition to being a regular at the college sporting events, Jay also drove the college bus on many occasions.

"Alice Oelke and I took the first volleyball team to Garden City," said Donelan. "The coach was unable to attend. Alice and I acted as coaches and I had never played volleyball in my life."

He was also instrumental in helping with the Colby Community College Endowment party auctions, assisting with annual commencement ceremonies, Thomas County Fair Booth and other activities.

"I was a reluctant participant in Jo Gatz's play production," said Donelan. "I was an undertaker and always wanted to smile when I was on stage, and she told me not to smile."

"Marilyn and I also enjoyed hosting students in our home. We entertained the wrestling team, out-of-state basketball players, presidential scholars, cheerleaders and other groups."

**“ He (Jay) has given 14 wrist watches over the years to national wrestling champions plus a watch to Coach Steve Lampe for his selection as ‘Coach of the Year.’ ”**

— Interim President Skip Sharp

On May 6, 1951, Jay and Marilyn married. They have a daughter, Kathy Fedack, a board certified doctor of anesthesiology, and a son, David, who is a pharmacist at Via Christi Hospital. Both children attended Colby Community College.

### Jim and Betty Firestone

James (Jim) Firestone is the first recipient to be awarded the honorary degree posthumously. A long-time resident who was well-known for his commitment to the growth and success of Colby and the college, Jim passed away in February.

Jim married Betty (Bailey) on March 22, 1956 after serving in the United States Navy from 1951-1954.

He served aboard the U.S.S. Burlington in Subic Bay in the Philippines, and later on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Shangri-La,

CVA 38. He was honorably discharged in 1954.

"Jim and I would have been married 50 years on March 22, 2006," said Betty. "I met Jim after he left the Navy in Butler, Mo. I graduated from high school in Butler and then attended Central Missouri State Teachers College in Warrensburg, Mo. After Jim and I were married he went to work for Sinclair Refining Company in Kansas City, Mo."

Jim's job with Sinclair as a sales representative brought the Firestones to Colby in 1966. Jim later managed Colby Supermarket, worked at Larry's IGA, did sales and broadcasting work for KLBV and finished his working career at Golden Hardware.

Betty worked at Montgomery Wards

Catalog Store, J.C. Penney's and was employed at Palace Drug for 10 years.

Jim and Betty, along with their daughter Lisa, are also remembered for owning and operating the Coast to Coast Hardware store which was located at Fourth Street and Franklin for many years.

"Jim and Betty have been tireless in their commitment to the community and support of the college," said Sharp.

"Jim always had a smile and a positive attitude about everything. He was extremely proud of his family and his community."

"Betty has contributed countless hours to helping with community projects. She and Jim served as foster parents for members of the CCC women's basketball teams."

Jim and Betty attended college and high school sporting events and Jim provided analysis for radio broadcasts at many games.

"We love sports," said Betty. "We were foster parents for Louise McLean when she played basketball at the college. I got so attached to her and it was such a great experience."

The past year we have been foster parents for Jamie Schroeder from Douglas, Wyo. She has been so much fun and I try to send articles and other information to her parents."

Jim served on several community boards including the Hospital Board, Colby Chamber Board, Retail Promotion Commission and Special Zoning board.

He was a member of the American Legion, VFW, St. Thomas Masonic Lodge and Hi-Plains Shrine Club.

Jim and Betty have three adult children. Lorie Jo lives in Colorado Springs, Lea and his wife Crystal live in Wichita, and Lisa and her husband Bob live in Colby. They also have four grandchildren.

Lea and Lisa both attended Colby Community College.

A public reception to honor Jay Donelan and Jim and Betty Firestone will be held 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, in the Robert Burnett Memorial Student Union, room 108.

The Honorary Degrees will be conferred during Commencement ceremonies 2 p.m. Saturday, May 13, in the Colby Community Building.

## Talking about issues

Colby Community College students Amber Houser (Logan), left, and Amy Wilson (Colby), right, met with Congressman Jerry Moran while attending a Kansas Farm Bureau conference in Washington D.C. earlier this month. Houser and Wilson are members of the Colby Community College Collegiate Farm Bureau organization. Current issues of the agriculture industry including crop insurance, the 2007 Farm Bill, grain-based fuel and world trade issues. This is the first year for the college's Collegiate Farm Bureau organization. It is sponsored by Beef Production Director Dr. Marcy Ward.



Courtesy photo

## Robert wins award

Colby Community College instructor Kathy Robert has been selected by her peers as the "Outstanding Physical Therapy Educator" in Kansas.

Robert, who teaches in the physical therapist assistant program, received the award at the Kansas Physical Therapy Association conference held in Wichita April 1.

In recognition of her academic service and dedication to the association, Robert was presented with a plaque at the KPTA spring meeting.

She was commended for continually challenging and mentoring her students to reach their highest potential while presenting the latest information in clinical practice with flexibility to meet a variety of learning styles.

Her students identified Robert as honest, kind, encouraging, an excellent role model in the classroom and within her family, devoted to learning and being lighthearted. Students also indicated she maintains genuine respect, courtesy and acceptance for each individual stu-

dent and she facilitates the understanding and critical thinking skills of many currently practicing physical therapist assistants.

Pat Erickson, P.T., D.P.T., is the director of the CCC program.

"Kathy is a great teacher who has been an asset to the program and Colby Community College," said Erickson. "She is deserving of this recognition for all her hard work and dedication to education and the field of physical therapy. CCC could not have asked for a better instructor or role model for the students."

Robert is a 1986 graduate of CCC. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Pittsburg State University in 2002. Robert has been a teacher in the physical therapist assistant program since 1993.



K. Robert

## Colby town hall meeting to focus on entrepreneurship April 19

NetWork Kansas, a service of the Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship, will hold a town hall meeting at Colby Community College to discuss entrepreneurship April 19.

The meeting is open to the public, students, and public officials. It will be an open forum dialogue con-

cerning entrepreneurship as a priority for economic and community development and creating an entrepreneurial environment in local communities. The forum will also include NetWork Kansas partners who provide business building services to entrepreneurs and small

business owners in each community.

The town hall meeting will be held from 7-9 a.m. in the Student Union with a continental breakfast served from 7-7:30 a.m.

"The mission of Network Kansas is to promote an entrepreneurial

environment throughout the state by establishing a central portal for information," said director Steve Radley. "It's important for entrepreneurs and small business owners to have a central portal that connects them to the education, expertise and economic resources

that are available."

NetWork Kansas is a statewide network of resources that provide business-building services. The NetWork Web site is [www.networkkansas.com](http://www.networkkansas.com). The site includes entrepreneurial classes offered statewide, economic resources

available, and news and events going on throughout Kansas.

NetWork Kansas counselors are available by calling 877-521-8600.

For information regarding the town hall meeting, contact Barry Kaaz, business and industry representative, at 462-3984, ext. 224.

## RSVP banquet nears

The annual RSVP Recognition Banquet will be held 4 p.m. April 19 at the American Legion in Colby.

"This is our annual event to say thank you to all of the RSVP volunteers who give so much during the year to their communities," said director Laura Withington.

"We hope all volunteers will be able to join us on this special night." Check-in is at 4 p.m. with dinner

and awards presentation starting at 5 p.m.

The Ramblin' Andy Band will play from 7-9 p.m.

Colby Community College students will be assisting with the event.

For more information, contact director Laura Withington at the RSVP office located in the Senior Center or call 462-6744.

Colby Community College has announced the selection of the 2006-07 Presidential Scholar class. Candidates for this prestigious award are nominated by their high school counselors.

The Presidential Scholars are selected on the basis of leadership, academic achievement,

poise and potential for contribution to Colby Community College.

Presidential Scholars are expected to be leaders and serve as positive examples for the entire student body. They represent the Office of the President and are responsible for a number of campus activities. The Presidential Scholars pro-

gram is designed to prepare young men and women for future leadership through active participation and service.

Students selected for the 2006-07 class are Alisa Golden of Oakley; Grace Hnizdil of St. Francis; Anna Johnson of Derby; Sara Morrison of Ruby Valley, Nev.; Court-

ney Duell of Burlington, Colo.; Jessica Shaw of Selden; Beth Lowe of Spring Hill; Jalyn Reid of Brewster; Courtney Hodgson of Greeley, Colo.; Megan Prather of Gove; Nicole Giebler of Russell; Kalie Smith of Sharon Springs and Kara Mawhirter of St. John.

## Presidential scholars recognized