



Speaker famous for American folklore, more

Colby Community College will celebrate its 41st annual commencement at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Colby Community Building.

Delivering the commencement address will be Dr. Don Coldsmith.



Coldsmith

Coldsmith is a popular speaker and lecturer on the Great Plains and the lore and literature of the American West. He has written 40 books and nearly 1,600 weekly syndicated newspaper columns over the last 30 years. There are now approximately six million copies of his historical Western novels in print, as well as British, German, French and Russian editions. Most relate to American Indian themes.

Born in Iola to a Methodist minister's family, Coldsmith graduated from high school in 1943 and entered the Army in 1944.

He served as a combat medic in the Pacific in World War II, and was among the first troops to enter Japan at the war's end. He was assigned the primary medical care of about 40 of the upper echelon war crimes prisoners including Premier Hideki Tojo.

Returning home, he graduated from Baker University in 1949. Working as a YMCA youth director, he initiated the first interracial

swimming in Topeka in the same school district as the now-famous Brown vs. Board of Education case. In 1953 he returned to school again, earning a doctorate in medicine in 1958. He served for 30 years as a family practice physician in Emporia, delivering nearly 3,000 babies. He closed his office in 1988 to devote more time to his writing.

Coldsmith is the past president of Western Writers of America. He has been a finalist for the Western Writers' Golden Spur award six times, winning the award for best original paperback in 1990 for his book "The Changing Wind."

The Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas chose him Distinguished Kansan in 1993. In 1995, he won The Edgar Wolfe Award for lifetime contributions in literature. His 1997 book "Tallgrass" was chosen as a Book of the Month Club selection, while his next title "Medicine Hat" was a Doubleday Book Club choice that same year. He received the Owen Wister Award for lifetime achievement in depicting the Historical American West in 2003. In 2004, he was chosen by True West magazine as the "Best living writer of Western historical novels."

His most recent book is "The Pipestone Quest" (Oklahoma University Press, Bantam paperback).

Coldsmith and his wife Edna also maintain a small ranching operation and have raised cattle and Appaloosa horses. They have five adult daughters.

Ride 'em cowboy



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

Clay Fordyce of Moorcroft, Wyo., displayed his bull-riding skills during the first Ag Olympics sponsored by the Colby Community College agriculture department Wednesday, May 3, at the college farm. In addition to mechanical bull riding, competitions in-

cluded slicker races, ag relays using wheel barrows and hay bales, and a tug-of-war. All college students were invited later to a barbecue and dance. College officials plan to continue the Ag Olympics next year.

Education association recognizes students for 14th year

For the 14th consecutive year, members of the Colby Community College Kansas National Education Association-Student Program were recognized with the 2005-06 Chapter Excellence Award at the Kansas National Education Student Program recently held in Wichita.

The future teachers student orga-

nization, under the direction of chapter sponsor Carolyn May, participates in a number of community events and projects.

Colby Kansas National Education Association-Student Program's president Kimberly Chase, vice-president Maret Peterson and publicity chair Judy Jordan at-

tended the state representative assembly with May at Friends University.

Peterson was one of three candidates nominated for the new position of underclass representative.

In addition to the awards ceremony, the Colby group attended workshops including Custodians

and Other Friends at Your New School; Diversity in the Classroom; and What Every Undergrad Should Know About Portfolios.

Eight members of the Colby group also traveled to Topeka for a spring field trip.

Those attending were Laura and Joe Robinson, Amber Shoemaker,

Kimberly Chase, Nickole Vallejo, Judy Jordan, Maret Peterson and Jesse Colson.

They visited various types and grade levels of schools as well as other sites in the Topeka area.

Included on the tour were historic Topeka High School, the state Kansas National Education Association

Student Program headquarters, Randolph Elementary, Topeka Rescue Mission, Chase Middle School, Williams Science and Fine Arts Magnet School and the museum site for Brown vs. Board of Education.

The group also visited the Docking State Office Building and the capital.



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

Pioneer Memorial Library Director Jeff Friesen explains how to download audio books to a group of interested patrons May 1.

Downloadable books arrive

The H.F. Davis Library located on the Colby Community College campus and the Pioneer Memorial Library in Colby recently announced the arrival of downloadable audio books for patrons' enjoyment.

Now with a valid Kansas Library Card patrons can browse and search hundreds of great titles and download them to their computers, transfer them to portable devices (MP3 players or IPODS), or burn onto a CD to be listened to at any time in any location.

A Kansas Library card provides entry to online library resources including high quality in-

formation and research databases. The card is a free service of the State Library of Kansas and can be acquired at both Colby libraries.

"The downloadable audio books are checked out for a two-week period," said Colby Community College librarian Shelly Huelsman. "At the end of that time, the files basically self-deactivate."

Patrons may check out up to 10 titles at one time. This is a great service for commuters and students who don't have time to read but wish they could."

In addition to a Kansas Library Card, participants will need Internet access, Windows Media Player and Overdrive software. Titles of audio

books and the Overdrive software are available at <http://kansas.lib.overdrive.com>.

If a title is not available, participants can place a "hold" on the book and receive an e-mail notification when the item is returned.

"The library staff is available to help patrons with this process," said Huelsman.

"Our library computers have the required software and we are happy to demonstrate how to download the books. I encourage everyone who has an interest to stop by the campus library or the Pioneer Memorial Library for more information."

College judging team places second

The Colby Community College Livestock judging team finished a very successful season last month at the Grand National Cow Palace in San Francisco, Calif.

The team, coached by Matt Ellicott, placed second overall as a team at the prestigious event.

Team members who were part of the second-place team include Amanda Albrecht of Tryon, Neb., Jennifer Albrecht, also of Tryon, Jason Johnson of Longmont, Colo., Brad Mills of Seibert, Colo., and

Lindsey Zellitti of Durango, Colo.

Other college team members competing at the event were Kendra Brown of Ft. Collins, Colo., Eric Barb of Ulysses, Jamie Bremerman of Bennington, McKenzie Chambers of Mead, Colo., Jamie Eder of Sharon Springs, Clay Fordyce of Moorcroft, Wyo., Kevin Keller of Ellis, and Julie Saur of Gillette, Wyo. The sophomore team began the day by placing first as a team in sheep, second in oral reasons, third in swine, fourth in cattle and Re-

serve Champion Team overall.

Individually, Mills led the team effort. He placed second in oral reasons, third in sheep, fourth in swine, eighth in cattle and second high individual overall.

Amanda Albrecht placed 10th in swine and seventh overall. Zellitti placed second in sheep and 12th overall. Clay Fordyce placed third in cattle.

"The team finished strong, completing the best season at CCC in almost 20 years," said Ellicott.

Davis inducted into prestigious group

Colby Community College English instructor and paraprofessional in the Comprehensive Learning Center Connie Davis was recently notified of her selection to Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Davis attended a formal induction ceremony held at Fort Hays State University campus April 23. She was one of 13 graduate students selected for this honor.

Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest, largest and most selective all-discipline society.

The organization inducts annually approximately 30,000 stu-

dents, faculty, professional staff and alumni.

Since its founding in 1897, more than 1 million members have been initiated.

Some of the organization's most notable members include former President Jimmy Carter, author John Grisham, NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, and Netscape founder James Barksdale.

Phi Kappa Phi has chapters on nearly 300 select colleges and universities in North America and the Philippines. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent

of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors.

The society's mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

Davis received her bachelor and master's degrees in English from FHSU. She teaches English composition classes and tutors students in the Comprehensive Learning Center.

She also serves as the advisor for the International Students Organization.

Deadline Thursday for senior trip

Colby Community College and the Thomas County Council on Aging are sponsoring a one-day trip for Thomas County senior citizens Sunday, June 11.

Colby College instructor Lar-

ry Koon will accompany the group to Boulder, Colo., where they will attend a performance of "The Music Man."

Those wanting to participate will pay \$42 which will include the meal, transportation, snacks

and tickets to the musical. Availability is limited, Larry said.

For information, questions or to sign up for this one-day trip, call Deb Koon at (785) 462-6617 by Thursday.