



DEBBIE SCHWANKIE/Colby Community College
Bobette Maier talked with a patient in the Colby Community College dental hygiene clinic.

Dental program has new director

Colby Community College President Dr. Lynn Kreider has named Bobette Maier as director of the Dental Hygiene program.

Maier, who has been a full-time instructor at Colby for three years, teaches and supervises students in the dental hygiene clinic. She will replace Becky Vollertsen, who announced her retirement effective in May. Vollertsen was the first director of the program, which began in August 1998.

"The dental hygiene program is one of our premiere programs," said Dr. Kreider. "I am pleased that Bobette has accepted this challenge. She has done an excellent job as an instructor, and I am confident she will continue the tradition of excellence in the dental hygiene program."

Maier, a native of Imperial, Neb., graduated from the dental hygienist program at the University of South Dakota. She moved to Colby and worked for Dr. Randy Nordstrom for 17 years. After Dr. Nordstrom retired, she worked for Dr. Karen Thummel for four years prior to accepting the teaching job at the college.

"I became interested in dentistry when I was a junior in high school," said Maier. "I worked with a hygienist in Imperial, and decided I wanted to learn more. After high school, I earned my dental assistant degree from Mid-Plains Community College, and then applied for acceptance to the dental hygienist program at the University of South Dakota."

"The CCC program accepts 12 students each year," said Maier. "Because of the smaller class size, there is more opportunity for individualized instruction in the classroom and the clinic."

Students in the dental hygiene program make a big commitment when entering the two-year professional program, she said. In addition to classroom instruction, students participate in weekly labs and clinics to prepare for the national board exam. Colby has one of only three dental hygiene programs in Kansas. The other two are in urban locations - Johnson County Community College and Wichita State University.

"It is a very demanding program," said Maier. "Students must be very organized. I suggest that interested students take as many chemistry and science courses as possible prior to applying for admission. It is also helpful if applicants have observed or worked in a dental practice. The CCC program has a 100 percent placement rate for recent graduates."

The nationally accredited program is unique in its method of delivery, she said. The classroom component is delivered via interactive television equipment from Northcentral Technical College in Wausau, Wis. Lectures are reinforced with labs and clinics on the Colby campus. Dr. Jay Sekavec is the supervising dentist for campus clinics. Registered dental hygienists Dana Foss and Sheri Martin teach and assist with labs and the clinic.

"It is a wonderful professional career," said Maier. "I've seen many changes since I began working for Dr. Nordstrom. The most significant changes include the emphasis on infection control, the use of gloves and masks and the remarkable change in technology."

Maier and her husband Jody have two children, Ethan, 9, and Emma Kate, 7.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE Tuesday

- 2:28 a.m. - Heard banging on the outside back wall of the Law Enforcement Center. Unable to locate.
- 3:08 a.m. - Two tires slashed on vehicle.
- 5:06 a.m. - Ambulance requested at 1150 S. Franklin.
- 7:37 a.m. - Employee reported being verbally threatened by customer at Wal-Mart, refused to press charges.
- 12:34 p.m. - Dog at large by Quality Inn. Unable to catch.
- 12:48 p.m. - Assisted with tour of Law Enforcement Center for Quinter third graders.
- 12:51 p.m. - Greg Inman reported criminal damage vehicle damage.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF Tuesday

- 1:33 p.m. - Girl reported jumping on vehicle at 1150 S. Franklin.
- 3:37 p.m. - Theft at the ball diamonds.
- 7:30 p.m. - Argument at Fike Park.
- 11:38 p.m. - Aggravated battery at 1150 S. Franklin.
- 12:48 p.m. - Tour of Law Enforcement Center for Quinter third graders.
- 2:38 p.m. - Assisted police with dog at large.

Scammers take advantage of swine flu outbreak fears

Attorney General Steve Six warns Kansans today of fraudulent e-mails and web sites trying to take advantage of the current swine flu (H1N1) outbreak.

"Scammers often take advantage of fear and disaster to make money and mislead consumers," Six said. "Consumers should watch out for new scams surrounding the swine flu."

According to McAfee Avert Labs, an online security company, spammers began pumping out e-mail scams as soon as the first cases of swine flu were being reported in the news, accounting for two percent of all spam messages. The messages include such subject lines as, "Madonna caught swine flu!" and "Swine flu in Hollywood!" The company reports

that the e-mails do not contain malware, but often link to online pharmacies or other scam web sites.

According to F-Secure Corp., another online security company, more than 250 web sites with the term "swine flu" were registered within the first few days following the announcement of the outbreak and predict that the scammers are preparing to use such web sites in a variety of different online scams. F-Secure also reports that one web site is already selling a "Swine Flu Survival Guide" PDF for \$19.95.

There is no vaccine for swine flu, so do not purchase one online. Consumers can find free information about the swine flu at: www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

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