

# Award for teaching goes to rodeo coach at commencement

**Debbie Schwanke**

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Allen Russell, Colby Community College instructor and rodeo coach, was recently named as the recipient of the 2009 Tangeman Award for Teaching Excellence. The award, honoring the school's second president, Dr. James Tangeman, was established in 1988 to recognize the outstanding teacher of the year. Previous recipients and current college students selected Russell to receive this year's award. Russell was recognized during commencement exercises held on May 16 at the Colby Community Building.

Russell began his career at Colby Community College in 1990. In addition to teaching agri-business classes, he is the advisor for agriculture and agriculture economics majors and is the coach for the college rodeo team. He serves as a division chair and is a member of the academic council.

"I love coming to work each day," Russell said. "I deal with something different every day. I enjoy teaching classes just as much as being the rodeo coach. The students are great and I look forward to each year."

In addition to teaching and coaching rodeo, Russell competed in professional rodeos for many years and was a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association for over 15 years, traveling to over 60 rodeos each year.

Russell served as the Director of the Central Plains Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association for six years. The Central Plains Region is one of the largest and toughest in the nation. It includes colleges and universities in Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

"Allen does an outstanding job in the classroom and is a tremendous rodeo coach," said Colby Community College President Dr. Lynn Kreider. "He plans and organizes an NIRA rodeo each fall at the Thomas County Fairgrounds which features over 500 contestants. It is one of the largest events hosted in Colby, bringing over \$100,000 into the community."

Prior to accepting the job at the college, Russell taught and coached at Allen County Community College for nine years.

A graduate of Eureka High School, Russell received an associate degree from Fort Scott Community College, his bachelor's degree in agriculture education and his master's degree in education from Kansas State University where he was a member of the rodeo team.

Allen has one son, Rocque, who is a junior at Colby High School.



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College  
CCC rodeo coach Allen Russell watched the action during the 2008 National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association event hosted by Colby Community College. The rodeo, held at the Thomas County Fairgrounds Sept. 12-14, 2008, featured over 500 contestants from two- and four-year colleges and universities. Russell organizes the annual event which is estimated to bring over \$100,000 to the community of Colby.

# Bethany College graduates Colby native

Colby High graduate Crystal Mary Mannebach, daughter of Bob and Evelyn Mannebach of Colby, graduated from Bethany College in Lindsborg on Sunday. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education, summa cum laude, or with highest distinction.

95 students earned Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music Education and Bachelor of Social Work degrees from the college during the 2008-2009 academic year. Summer, fall, interterm and spring graduates were honored during baccalaureate worship and commencement ceremonies on campus.

# Honor frat inducts five

Christopher Rohr of Colby, a junior at Fort Hays State University, was recently inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society.

Other inductees were seniors Robert Fossum, Marjorie Flesher and Aaron Yoder, and junior Michael Holton.

Dr. Tisa Mason, vice president for student affairs, and Gina Smith, instructor of psychology, are sponsors.

Vinton Cerf, vice president and chief Internet evangelist of Google, Inc., addressed the graduating class of 2009 during the commencement ceremony. The Rev. Floyd Thompkins, Jr., a Bethany alumnus, preached during baccalaureate worship.

Bethany College, established by Swedish Lutheran immigrants in 1881, is a college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

# Mathematics students sought for academy

The Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science has begun recruiting for its fall 2010 class, designed to speed advanced students on their way to college.

Information sessions will be offered in both the spring and fall around the state, covering admission requirements and the academic program of what sponsors claim will be Kansas' premier early-entry-to-college program. Information for registration, dates

and locations can be found at [kams.fhsu.edu/meetings.php](http://kams.fhsu.edu/meetings.php).

The 27 high school students selected for this fall's pioneer class will live on the campus of Fort Hays State University their junior and senior years. Over two years, they will not only receive college-level instruction, but 68 hours of college credit.

The academy anticipates an enrollment of at least 30 Kansas

high school juniors for its second class next year. Students must have completed two years of high school with distinction in mathematics and science.

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*The Senior Progress Center*

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