



Campus Close-Up

News of Colby Community College

Colby Free Press
Wednesday, February 3, 2010
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DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

Maxine McNeely, W.D. McNeely and Betty Fitzsimmons sat together at the Trojan basketball games with Barton County Community College. W.D. is a member of the cheer squad.

Cheer squad member follows long-standing family tradition

W.D. McNeely V has many reasons to attend Colby Community College.

His grandfather, W.D. McNeely III, was the school's first chemistry instructor when the doors opened in 1964 at the Cooper Hotel in downtown Colby. In addition, his father W.D. McNeely IV and his mother Jill Fitzsimmons met in Colby while attending high school. His grandmothers, Maxine McNeely and Betty Fitzsimmons, are well-known in the community and encouraged him to come to Colby.

"My grandfather and grandmother McNeely moved to Colby to teach at the college," W.D. said. "When my grandfather died he was replaced by another well-known teacher, Cyril Leiker. My grandfather and Roger Hale, who also taught during that time, were good friends. Roger is my godfather.

"I think it is interesting that this semester I'm in a class with Cyril Leiker's granddaughter Jessica."

The maternal side of the family also has ties with the school. Jack and Betty Fitzsimmons were a driving force behind the creation of the college. Betty, on the Colby School Board at that time, was one of the members who supported it. She was also one of the first instructors, teaching speech and drama during the second semester of 1964. Her students presented the first two stage productions at the school. Following her resignation as a teacher, she worked part-time in the library.

Jack Fitzsimmons served on the first elected board of trustees with Don Crumbaker, John Renner, Ted Bourquin, Charles Schiefen and Tom Pratt.

In recognition of their contributions to the college, the Fitzsimmons received honorary degrees in 1998.

W.D. McNeely V graduated from Arapahoe High School in Littleton, Colo., in 2005. He attended a community college in Littleton for a brief time and then decided he wasn't ready for college.

"I worked at a variety of jobs during that time," said McNeely. "I did okay in high school but was more interested in ... sports and other activities. After a time I determined I wanted to go to college so I moved to Colby and lived with my grandmother Maxine." He started classes in January, 2009, and will graduate this May.

McNeely is a member of the Trojan cheer squad and chess club, a student senate representative, art club president, student ambassador and a peer tutor. He was also selected as a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for students attending community and two-year colleges.

"I'm pleased with my decision to attend CCC," said McNeely. "My experience ... is much different than in Colorado. CCC instructors genuinely care about their students. ... My largest class is about 20 students."

McNeely plans to transfer to KU next semester to major in engineering or medicine.

"Colby has been a great start," said McNeely. "I've always wanted to attend KU because that's where my dad graduated. I've established residency now in Kansas and will be able to transfer to KU as a junior."

McNeely's father is a dentist in Denver. His mother Jill is an architect in the Denver area.

Fall semester honor roll released

One hundred two students earned their place on Colby Community College fall semester honor rolls, according to Megan Augustine, college registrar.

The President's Honor Roll lists 66 students, while the Dean's Honor Roll lists 36 more.

To be listed, students must earn 15 or more credit hours and have no failing grades. The Dean's Honor Roll includes students with grade averages of 3.75-3.99. The President's Honor Roll includes only students with a perfect 4.0.

President's Honor Roll

In northwest Kansas: **Colby:** Bryan Brewer, Jedediah Oesterreich, Matthew Oesterreich, Jessica Leiker, Tanya Weiss, Laura Dougherty, Randi Beckley, Logan Wark, Nicholas Kriss, Rochelle Shoemaker, Jenny Dickman, Cody Wark, Jared Bixenman, Cade Carter, Laura Schmid, Lindsey Wilson, Garrett Zwegardt, Curtis Korthanke, Skyler Weisshaar, Joshua Faber, Kelly Focke, Leanna Larmer, Dylan Woolfer.

Atwood: Joshua Memmelaar, Marilyn Horinek, Jacob Reinert. **Gem:** Todd Ziegelmeier. **Goodland:** Krista Huscher, Callee Warren, Chelsie Gausman, Matthew Espinoza. **Levant:** Jake Cox. **Norton:** Dustin Hillebrand. **Oakley:** Lindsay Hoff, Morgan Martin, Heather Vincent. **Oberlin:** Cherish Manning. **Rexford:** Melissa Rall. **St. Francis:** Katherine Jones.

Elsewhere in Kansas: **Augusta:** Jennifer Malcom. **Blue Rapid:** Rebecca Sannder. **Chanute:** Skye Finley. **Dighton:** Helena Harmonson. **Dodge City:** Jennifer Debes. **Dresden:** Jay Wessel. **Edson:**

Robert Borneman. **Lecompton:** Garrett Jones. **LaCrosse:** Alyssa Frick. **Monument:** Haley Kistler. **Vermillion:** Trina Ekstrum.

From other states: **Durango, Colo.:** Larissa LaShell. **Lakewood, Colo.:** Jamie Main. **Beatrice, Neb.:** Stacy Baxa. **Phoenix, Ariz.:** Mariah Sherman. **Albuquerque, N.M.:** Cassandra Smatana. **Doniphan, Neb.:** Jessica Swanek. **North Platte, Neb.:** Whitley Brown. **Orleans, Neb.:** Sylvia Harvie. **Overton, Neb.:** Derick Bacon. **Pleasanton, Neb.:** Amanda McNeil. **Tryon, Neb.:** Meka Melvin. **Benbrook, Texas:** Jeong-Ah Lee. **Fort Worth, Texas:** Ji-hyun Youn.

From other countries: **Ireland:** Hannah Thornton. **Trinidad and Tobago:** Scarla Nero. **Uzbekistan:** Bekzod Abdurakhmonov.

Dean's Honor Roll

In northwest Kansas: **Atwood:** Marilyn Horinek. **Colby:** Ryan Baalmann, Christopher Williams, Rachel Lamm, Jordon Hockersmith, Tyson Miller, Samantha Tolle, Beverly Johnson. **Hoxie:** Jesse Mader.

First baby wins scholarship

The early arrival of Brayli Ann Keiswetter, born Jan. 3 at Citizens Medical Center in Colby, resulted in some welcome news for her parents Sara and Cole Keiswetter of Hill City. Brayli was the first baby of the year born at the hospital. Colby Community College President Lynn Kreider visited the baby and her parents in the hospital to offer Brayli a full scholarship to the college.

"We are pleased to provide Brayli with a full scholarship to include

tuition, fees and books for two years when she is ready to begin college," said Kreider. "Brayli's mother and father both attended Colby Community College. Sara was a member of the Trojan track team from 2004-06. Cole majored in history at CCC. In addition, Brayli's aunt Brandi Niblock works in the college's Outreach Department. We hope Brayli will continue the family tradition by attending CCC."

Elsewhere in Kansas: **Atchison:** Kandi Morris. **Ellsworth:** Rachael Kruse. **Hays:** Sarah Holmes. **Leavenworth:** Chelsey Darrow. **Palco:** Marissa Lambert.

From other states: **Bethune, Colo.:** Kelby Medford. **Burlington, Colo.:** Brianna Elliott. **Castle Rock, Colo.:** Tami Romano. **Keenesburg, Colo.:** James Hirsch, Andrea Emick. **Yuma, Colo.:** Emily Anne Lubbers. **Detroit, Mich.:** Aireus Stephenson. **Ithaca, Mich.:** Wesley Toews. **Columbia, Mo.:** Laura Thurman. **Benkelman, Neb.:** Tamara Bolio. **Elm Creek, Neb.:** Joseph Meier. **Holdrege, Neb.:** Anne Bohr. **Max, Neb.:** Cody Nichols. **Seward, Neb.:** Kaitlin Wright. **Sutherland, Neb.:** Kelsie Johnson.

From other countries: **Mongolia:** Ganbayar Sanjaa. **Spain:** Aritz Garcia.



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