

Dr. Dan Crawford honored at CCHS Graduation

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Fifty-six young people crossed the stage last Sunday to enter a new world during graduation ceremonies at Columbus Community High School.

Alex Edwards, National Honor Society President welcomed the attendees. Student Council President, Marisa Leyden, addressed the students with the topic: "Here's to High School." Vanessa Espinoza was the speaker at large, discussing "Uncommon People." Senior class Vice President, Elena Guerrero gave the farewell address. Music was provided by Jay Hauenstein and the High School Band.

For the third year a distinguished Columbus graduate was honored. This year the honoree was Dr. Dan Crawford, who graduated in 1960 and was a charter member of the Helen Orr National Honor Society. Dr. Crawford earned the BA, Masters, and PhD degrees in botany from the University of Iowa. He has been a faculty member at the University of Wyoming, the Ohio State University, and the University of Kansas.

He has been a visiting professor at universities in Austria, Chile, South Africa, and at the University of Michigan. His contributions to biology have been immense, and he is well published on the topic of the origin of new plant species. He is the author of two books, seventeen book



Dr. Dan Crawford, class of 1960 addresses the 2010 Columbus graduating seniors

chapters, twelve review papers, and one hundred and eighty five research papers. Professional offices he has held include President of the Botanical Society of America and the American Society of Plant Taxonomists. As one colleague stated, "Much of what we know about the genetic

divergence between continental progenitor species and their island derivatives, and the patterns of genetic variation within and among populations of island species, is due to Dr. Crawford's work."

Dr. Crawford is the son of the late Ralph and Adeline Crawford, and is

married to Linda (Cutkomp), also a graduate of Columbus Community. They are the parents of two sons: Michael (Donna) of Tucson, Arizona and Tim of Columbus, Ohio. The Crawfords live in Lawrence, Kansas where Dan is affiliated with the University of Kansas.

Over 400 attend Family Night at Roundy Elementary



Family Night was held last Thursday at Roundy Elementary. The night began with a parade of elementary classes displaying their work this year. The parade was followed by a supper donated and prepared by Tyson Foods. Those attending were asked to bring a non-perishable item, which was donated to the Community Action office. In the photo at left, an elementary class proudly displays their project on the high school track. In the photo on the right, Dalton Bright, Cynthia Montoya and Andrea Rodriguez unload food items at the CAP office on Friday morning.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU goes out to Tyson for donating and grilling hamburgers for over 400 people and collaborating with Roundy Elementary for the community food drive. Roundy Elementary would also like to say thanks to the following sponsors that helped make our family parade and picnic a huge success: Economart, Agriland FS, Caseys, New York Dollar Store, Dairy Sweet, Take Two Video, Community Bank and Columbus Junction State Bank.



School Board agrees on compromise sex education plan and discusses administrative reorganization

By Jim Rudisill

Younger students in the Columbus School District will receive a sex education program that is heavy on character development and abstinence; while older eighth graders will be exposed to a program that features more information on STDs and contraceptives.

The board agreed to adopt the compromise plan during its regular monthly meeting Monday.

Under the new program, the school's eighth grade class will continue to receive an Iowa State University Extension Service program currently offered in the district. The district's fifth, sixth and seventh graders will receive the Powerful Choices program.

Both programs were presented to the board during presentations over the past couple of months. Earlier in the school year, the district presented the extension service program to students, but apparently failed to notify parents until shortly before the program was held.

Numerous parents objected to the program and proposed the board look into an abstinence-based program.

Superintendent Rich Bridenstine said the new program will create a middle ground that will benefit both sides of the issue. He said that will

be an important first step for the district to take.

"We acknowledge some mistakes were made this year (and) parents were not informed," Bridenstine said.

He assured board members and visitors the same mistakes will not be repeated.

Middle school principal Jeff Maeder agreed.

"We will definitely notify (parents and board members) when a program is started," he said, adding additional information on the programs will also be provided earlier in the school year.

In other action, the board agreed to launch a four-block day at the Roundy Elementary Building next year that will focus on reading, writing and math. Curriculum coordinator Tara Paul said research showed providing students with a curriculum enhanced by those disciplines raises achievement scores in all subjects, including science and social studies.

Under the new system, the current 90 minutes of daily reading and other literacy taught in many elementary classes will climb to 210 minutes. Paul said that will break out into 90 minutes of reading, 60 minutes of writing, 30 minutes of grammar and 30 minutes of oral literacy. Math will take up another 75 minutes. The rest of the class time will include 40 min-

utes of art, music and PE on a three-day rotation, 30 minutes of recess, 25 minutes for lunch and 10 minutes of "Flex" time, which will include travel between classes, restroom breaks and similar breaks.

Paul said other subjects, such as science and social studies will be incorporated into the reading sections.

Paul said the proposal was triggered because of the school's continued inability to meet state achievement goals in many areas. She said that problem will continue to plague the district unless new approaches are made.

"The status quo for us isn't working," she told the board.

The old administrative system will also no longer work, Bridenstine told the board, after high school principal Matt Kingsbury and Mike Jay, director of buildings/grounds, transportation and co-athletics, each submitted resignations. Kingsbury recently accepted a similar position in the Durant School District, while Jay has accepted a position in the private sector.

The board agreed to his proposal that will transfer Maeder, principal for grades 5-8 and co-athletic director, to a new 7-12 principal position. Maeder's salary will be set at \$80,000. Elementary principal Dan Vogeler will transfer to athletic direc-

tor and director of building, grounds and transportation. He will receive a 2.76% hike in his current salary.

Paul's duties will not change, but her salary will increase to \$75,000 and she will receive a two-year contract. Bridenstine's duties will also remain static. He will receive a 2.76% salary hike and a new three-year contract.

In addition to the shifts, Bridenstine said the district will advertise for a new elementary principal to replace Vogeler and will also seek two school administrative managers.

The plan was not fully supported by all the board members, including Joy Lekwa, who voted against it.

"This is an opportunity to save money for the district and with Matt leaving, it's an opportunity to divvy up duties," she told the board.

Board member Sandy Martin was also skeptical about the plan, explaining she was concerned about moving Vogeler from his position.

"Why would we want to move someone who is really good at his job and bring in someone new?" she asked.

Briefly -

Relay For Life golf tournament

A 4-Person Best Shot Tournament will be held on Saturday, June 5, 2010 at the Cedar Crest Country Club in Columbus Junction to benefit the Louisa County Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society. Tee times are 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Teams may consist of 4 men, 4 women, or any combination (co-ed). Entry fee is \$100.00 per team. There will be hole prizes, a 50/50 drawing, drawing for prizes, and a \$1,000 prize for a hole-in-one on Hole #9. Contact Cedar Crest Country Club at 319-728-8461 to sign up and reserve your cart.

Roundy School to thank Roundy and Smylie Families

A Thank-You celebration for the Roundy and Smylie Families will be held at the Roundy Gym on Friday, May 28th from 8:45 to 9:15 a.m.

C.C.I.C. to meet

C.C.I.C. will meet at the Columbus City City Hall on May 25th at 6 p.m. A potluck will be held with beverages and table service provided.

Colonial Manor Remembrance Service

You are invited to attend a Remembrance Service on Wednesday, May 26th, at 3:00 p.m. in the Colonial Manor Activity Room. We will be remembering: Charles Buser, Evelyn Finke, Lillian Fisher, Wilma Flanagan, Ray Galtitz, Dorothea Gambia, Dean Gipple, Howard Griffith, Lois Houseal, Anna Hamilton, Velma Lee, Charlotte Morrison, Roger Pretz, Stanley Randolph, Gerald Scotton, Woodrow Shearer, Lucille Wenger, and Irv White.

Community Club to meet

The Columbus Community Club will meet this Thursday at Noon at the Senior Center. 2010 dues are now due.

Empowerment Board to meet

The Des Moines/Louisa County Caring CommUNITY Empowerment Board will be meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle Street, Mediapolis, IA, on Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

Farmers Market this Friday

The Columbus Junction Farmers' Market is held Fridays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. through October 8 at the American Legion parking lot, 99 Second St., Columbus Junction. The market features regional vendors selling Iowa-grown produce, plants, baked goods, eggs, snacks, crafts and more. Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards, IFMNP/WIC checks, Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition checks and Louisa Bucks are welcome. Buy local and taste the difference! This week we'll have free CJ Farmers' Market refrigerator magnets thanks to the community Foundation of Louisa County and free marigold seeds courtesy of Keep Columbus Beautiful.

Visual Support Group to meet

The Louisa County Visual Support Group will meet on Thursday, May 20th at 1:00 p.m. We will meet in the East Room of Corner Market in downtown Wapello. Susan Howard from the Dept. of the Blind in Des Moines will conduct the meeting. You do not have to have severe eye problems to attend the meetings. For more information contact Lois Richers at 319-527-2630.

Masons to honor 50 year members

The Columbus City Masonic Lodge will be hosting a supper at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 20th to honor two new 50-year members of the Masonic Lodge, Tommy Thomas and Karl Elliott, and also to honor all 50-year members. All Masons are invited to attend.

Calling all Norwegians

All those with Norwegian blood, or those who wished they had some, are invited to the celebration of Norwegian independence at the home of Verl Lekwa at 213 Springer Avenue, at Noon on Sunday, May 23. There will be a short parade, then a return to the house and a lunch of that Old Norwegian dish: Chili.

Pleasant Grove social and supper

The Pleasant Grove Church is having a neighborhood ice cream social and potluck supper, Sunday June 6 at 5:00 p.m. Please bring dish to pass, lawn chair, and sunshine. If the weather does not cooperate for being outside we will have it in the church basement. Table service and drink provided. Mark your calendars for an evening of good food and fellowship.

Retirement party for Steve

Helscher and Jay Hauenstein

Sunday, May 30, 2010 please come and help us honor our music directors Steve Helscher and Jay Hauenstein as they retire from CCHS. The program will begin at 2 p.m. in the Columbus High School gym for Mr. Helscher and immediately following for Mr. Hauenstein in the auditorium. Refreshments will be served in the student center after the programs.

Shellbark Club to meet

Shellbark club will meet May 20, at 11:30 a.m. at the Bistro in Washington, Iowa.

Swimming Pool to open

The Columbus Pool will open for the season on Saturday, May 22. Hours: Monday-Friday 1-6 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday 1-7:30 p.m. Adults Only: Monday-Thursday 6-7:30 p.m.. Rates: Daily \$2.50 per swimmer; Season Tickets: Single \$50; Family \$100 (covers members of your immediate family only); Punch Card: 10 punches - \$20. The family season ticket can be purchased before the season opens from Cheryl in the high school office at a discounted price of \$90.

Winfield Lions to hold fly-in breakfast

The Winfield Lion's Club will be serving the 32nd annual Memorial Day Fly-In breakfast hosted by Sheldon and Sandy Kongable on their farm two miles NE of Winfield on Monday, May 31st. Everyone is welcome to come enjoy a breakfast of biscuits and sausage gravy, egg casserole, rolls, juice, milk and coffee, all for a freewill donation. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. So whether you come by plane or train, bus or car, on foot or horseback - everyone is invited to come and enjoy the food, fellowship and fun. The proceeds go to support local projects sponsored by the Winfield Lion's Club.

2010 County Fair dates set

The dates for the 2010 Louisa County Fair are: July 24 - Parade and Fair Kickoff; and Fair - dates July 26-31. Dates for the Iowa State Fair are August 12-22.