NEW PRESIDENT JOINS COCHISE COLLEGE

Dr. James Dale (J.D.) Rottweiler, an administrator and faculty member with experience at small, rural colleges and large, multi-campus, urban institutions, became the 11th president of Cochise College on July 1. He assumes the role held since 1997 by Dr. Karen Nicodemus, who retired this year.

Rottweiler joins the college at an exciting and challenging time. Enrollment is at an all-time high, up 9 percent over last fall, and the most visible aspects of the Master Facilities Plan will be complete early in 2010. The national recession and increased unemployment rate have placed community colleges in the national spotlight, placing additional pressure on them to help produce a skilled workforce.

“Enrollment is skyrocketing, but revenues are continuing to shrink as the college is facing greater demand in some areas,” Rottweiler said. “I look forward to working with donors and other external funding sources to help us meet these challenges.”

A first-generation college graduate, Rottweiler arrived at Cochise after serving as executive vice president for administrative services and professor of sociology at Central Wyoming College. Previously, he was associate dean of instruction at Western Iowa Technical Community College, he served on the faculty at Ricks College (now Brigham Young University-Idaho), and he was an associate professor and chair of the Department of Sociology at Salt Lake Community College.

Rottweiler’s academic expertise is in cultural studies and social mobility. He earned a bachelor of arts in sociology with a Japanese minor in 1990, and a master of arts in sociology in 1992 from the University of Wyoming. In 2005, he earned a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy from the University of Utah. He has spent a significant amount of time in Japan and produced the documentary film “A 20th Century Matsuri: The Secularization of the Japanese Religious Festival.”

J.D. and his wife, Melanie, have three children, the eldest of whom is attending Central Wyoming College.
Dear supporters of Cochise College and the Cochise College Foundation,

Times are changing, and they are changing fast!

In what seems like the blink of an eye, Cochise College has recruited a new president, implemented a Master Facilities Plan, and experienced record enrollment growth. The future is bright, and we expect these circumstances to present a new set of opportunities and challenges.

The state of today’s economy and job market has driven more people to enroll and placed greater demands on the college at the same time that public funding is, at best, uncertain. As enrollment has increased, so has the number of students who need financial assistance. By mid-October, the number of students receiving Pell grants through the Financial Aid Office is nearing the number who received those funds in all of the 2008-2009 academic year. In addition, new and renovated facilities at three college locations have been constructed to improve learning environments and substandard facilities. The college will need to tap additional revenue sources to accommodate growth and to continue to offer cutting-edge academic programming.

Your support has never been more important.

With this publication, the Cochise College Foundation is renewing its efforts to provide continuous information about Cochise College and about how your contributions help us achieve our mission of supporting student success. You’ll find news about our exciting plans to connect with Cochise College alumni, read about recent fundraising efforts and new scholarships and funds, and review our annual report and honor roll of donors.

Many good things come about as a result of your contributions. Given the economic situation and the national spotlight now shining on community colleges, the time to get involved is now. Let me be the first to thank you for your continued support.

Charles Chambers, Board President
Cochise College Foundation
BILL SAATHOFF MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Family and friends of the late Bill Saathoff, former associate dean for technology, have established an endowed scholarship fund in his memory. Saathoff, who began working at the college in 1980, was still closely connected to the college when he passed away suddenly just after retiring in 2008. The scholarship will be awarded to students demonstrating financial need who enroll in the academic and training programs Saathoff oversaw prior to his retirement, including automotive technology, building construction technology, business, computer science and information systems, drafting and manufacturing engineering.

The college also planted a tree and unveiled a memorial wall in Saathoff’s honor at the grand opening of the new Career Technical Education Building on the Sierra Vista Campus last spring. Saathoff cared deeply about the students at Cochise College and was extremely proud of the growth in the technology division, according to his wife, Becky.

“While it’s tempting to tie Bill’s legacy to the CTE building, his real legacy lives on in our actions and in the accomplishments and successes of all students who have been and will be touched by the programs he built and grew here at Cochise College,” said Clyne Namuo, assistant dean of technology.

APACHE BOOSTER CLUB

Cochise College athletics has a long history of competitive success and community support. In order to better assist the teams, the Cochise College Foundation, a 501(c)3, non-profit organization, began managing Apache Booster Club funds in October 2009. For tax purposes, new gifts to the Apache Booster Club will be acknowledged in writing by the foundation. Gifts to the Apache Booster Club advance Cochise College athletics by helping with recruiting expenses, extracurricular learning opportunities for student athletes, college-sponsored community sports clinics, and scholarship enhancement.

In support of the new fund, student athletes and coaches recently raffled a one-week stay in a timeshare at a Mexican resort. The timeshare was contributed by Kris Baumgartner, administrative assistant in the Athletics Department and an enthusiastic supporter of all of the teams. Future fundraising activities are planned, and the foundation looks forward to further engaging community and alumni support of Cochise College athletics.
The Ziedes met in high school and married in 1943. Joe entered the U.S. Air Force, and Gladys worked as a bookkeeper for Western Auto, which Joe managed when he returned from military service. They opened Ziede’s Swap and Lock Shop around 1956, and the store later evolved into Ziede’s TV, the only marketer of Zenith televisions in the area. The couple had two daughters, Carolyn and Josephine Diane, and were active in the American Legion, Lions Club and, later, the Elks. They sold the store after 32 years in business. Joe passed away in 1990 and Gladys in 2009.

The Joe and Gladys Ziede Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to recent graduates of Douglas-area high schools or home schools who enroll full time at Cochise College and maintain a 2.0 to 3.0 grade point average.

“I believe in scholarships, and it’s important to me that my parents’ names are carried on in Douglas,” Carolyn said. “It’s a way of honoring them.”

A new fund honoring lifelong Douglas residents Joe and Gladys Ziede has been established with a $50,000 gift from their daughter Carolyn.

**NICODEMUS-MICHELICH FUND FOR INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING AND LEARNING**

Nearly 150 friends of Cochise College attended a retirement dinner honoring Dr. Karen Nicodemus, president emeritus, and Dr. Joanna Michelich, executive vice president, in June. With lead gifts from the honorees, the event at the Windemere Hotel & Conference Center raised $15,000 to support innovations in teaching and learning. Attendees enjoyed dinner, signed photographic guest books, and got the chance to experience the technological realities of today’s classroom by using an automated classroom response system to participate in a trivia game about the college.

Nicodemus joined the college in 1986 as an instructor in the behavioral science and health and physical education area. She coached volleyball and basketball and served as an academic advisor and held administrative positions in the areas of academics, planning, and institutional research before being named president in 1997. Michelich graduated from Cochise College in 1968 and earned advanced degrees at Northern Arizona University, the University of Arizona, and Washington State University. She served in administrative dean and other senior positions in the areas of academics and student services at the University of North Dakota, West Shore Community College, and Central Arizona College before returning to her alma mater in 1998 as vice president for instruction/provost and, later, executive vice president.

Nicodemus and Michelich worked together as a team for about a decade, and Nicodemus said at the retirement dinner that she is proud that their names will forever be connected with the establishment of the new fund supporting innovations in teaching and learning.
RAYMOND E. LEVRA ART SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Former students and colleagues of Ray Levra, a retired member of the art faculty at Cochise College, are working to grow a new endowment in his honor.

Levra began teaching in the college Art Department in 1965, was named faculty emeritus after his retirement, and now resides in Douglas. He led efforts to sustain the arts at Cochise through years of budget cuts, according to former division chair Dr. Joe Gilliland. That a former student, county resident Greg Figueroa, would take the initiative to establish this scholarship fund shows how some teachers are so dedicated to their students and to the college, Gilliland said.

“He gave a life of work and love to the institution, and the health of the Art Department on the Douglas Campus is the direct result of his efforts to build and sustain the department.”

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

A variety of membership levels are now available in the Friends of the Library, a volunteer-based organization established this year to foster understanding and appreciation of the Cochise College libraries.

The Friends of the Library promotes enrichment of library resources by soliciting and accepting monetary gifts, as well as gifts of books, equipment, and other materials; promotes the highest standards for library services; stimulates awareness of the library's role in the college and the community; and sponsors cultural events such as exhibits, lectures, readings, and other programs designed to add to the cultural life of the college and the community.

“The primary benefit of membership is the satisfaction that comes from making a lasting contribution to learning,” according to Pat Hotchkiss, director of Cochise College libraries. Members also enjoy borrowing privileges for books, CDs and DVDs; an annual newsletter; and invitations to Friends of the Library programs, lectures and cultural events.

Membership costs range from $1 annually for a student to a one-time gift of $500 for a lifetime membership. Visit a Cochise College library for more information.
Cochise College Foundation

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A gift from Cochise College Foundation board treasurer Mark Battaglia recently helped improve the visibility of the sign at the entrance to the Benson Center. The center, located on Highway 90 near the interchange with Interstate 10, sits at a lower elevation than the highway. The stunning views of the San Pedro Valley made it easy to overlook the previous sign, in foreground.
What are your career goals?
Ever since I can remember, I have always loved helping people. I decided from a young age that caring for others was my calling and that I wanted to become a doctor. In the eighth grade, I realized my love and compassion for children and decided to specialize in pediatrics. I am chasing my dream of becoming a pediatrician to help treat children and keep our future generation healthy.

How are you pursuing your goals at Cochise College?
The education I receive defines who I am: a dependable, trustworthy, and hardworking individual who wants to reach my full potential. I am planning on getting a couple of associate degrees at Cochise College. I have learned that an individual can never be too educated and that Cochise College is a good place to start. Over the summer, I was inducted into the Alpha Mu Zeta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. After Cochise, I plan to transfer in order to earn my bachelor of science, then attend medical school and return to Arizona to care for local children.

How are scholarships helping you?
I have worked at Boot Barn for two years, and one of the great aspects of my job is that I have the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life. However, I didn’t think I could continue to be both a full-time student and employee. Thanks to the scholarships I received, I recently reduced my work hours to part time so I am able to focus more on my education because I don’t have to worry so much about money and the financial investment in my education. The scholarships that I have received this semester have helped a tremendous amount with tuition and books. I owe a great deal of thanks to the donors of the scholarships who have played an important role in my future.

April Scriven graduated from Buena High School and plans to complete her Cochise College studies in May 2010. She is the recipient of the Arthur and Jeanne Milczarek Memorial Scholarship and the Wolslager Scholarship. Her community involvement has included 4-H, Care for the Horses, and mentoring of younger students.
You know them. We know them. They’re around every corner in Cochise County, and an untold number transferred to other schools or pursued careers elsewhere.

More than 17,000 students have earned 22,000 degrees and certificates at Cochise College since 1965, and the college is now planning a program to reconnect with them. At the time of this publication, employees who earned degrees or certificates at Cochise College were discussing alumni outreach and nominating officers to lead a new alumni organization. These first members will establish a charter and plan programs to engage their fellow alumni in the life of the institution.

Although much dated information about former students is available in paper records, the time and cost of tracking every individual graduate is prohibitive. The college anticipates a push to collect current alumni contact information and “After Cochise” stories at the launch of a new college website early in 2010.

Some alumni have kept in touch with each other for years or are already connecting in person or using social media. As a result, approximately 100 former Cochise College aviation students attended a two-day gathering and picnic in the Phoenix area in October. The reunion event took place at Falcon Field in Mesa and was followed by a picnic in Tempe the next day.

A group of aviation alumni from a particular time period has kept in touch over the years and was the driving force behind the event, said Belinda Burnett, a Cochise College flight instructor who helped organize the reunion. They created a Facebook page and generated excitement for the get-together. A number of former students who attended within five to seven years of that core group also attended, with one attendee who graduated in 1975.

“Our graduates continuously rate their Cochise College experience very positively,” said Denise Merkel, executive director of the Cochise College Foundation. “Although they may have transferred or taken jobs elsewhere, we believe many value their time with us, and we are looking forward to finding out where life has taken them.”

BEQUEST PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS TO MATCH SCIENCE FOUNDATION ARIZONA GRANT

A portion of a bequest from a former Bisbee resident has been directed to match a $500,000 Science Foundation Arizona (SFA) grant Cochise College received earlier this year.

The foundation established the Margaret Kent STEM Pathway Scholarship Fund in support of Cochise College’s application for SFA funds to establish a new training program in mechatronics, an applied engineering program that prepares students to enter the workforce or continue their studies at a university. The new program is set to kick off in January at the Sierra Vista Campus as part of a pathway of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs available through Cochise College.

The new scholarship fund was made possible by an unrestricted gift from the estate of Margaret Kent, a long-time Bisbee resident who passed away in Phoenix in 2007. Although little documentation is available, friends of Kent say her family moved to Bisbee in 1917. Her father was a miner for Phelps Dodge, and she later worked for the Miner’s and Merchants Bank and married Arthur John Kent, who worked for the Bisbee Police Department. The couple had no children.

“She had a beautiful smile, gorgeous white hair and blue eyes,” said Joan Gore. “The only thing that makes me sad is that she won’t be able to see the outcome of her gifts.”

The new scholarship will help Running Start students enrolling in STEM-related programs, including the new Siemens-certified mechatronics training. The first of its kind in the western U.S., the mechatronics program provides technical education and skills training to prepare students for undergraduate studies in applied engineering leading to an internationally recognized Siemens Mechatronic Systems Certification. In addition, the SFA grant also is funding instructional television outreach to local high schools.
At the time of this publication, construction is still underway at the Douglas and Sierra Vista campuses of Cochise College. However, excitement over the renewed learning environment has been building for months, and soon, members of local communities will have the chance to see for themselves how these modifications are transforming the campus atmosphere.

At the Douglas Campus, two buildings housing Student Services and computer labs received extreme makeovers that were completed last summer. A new Career Technical Education Building also opened prior to the start of the school year to house welding, agriculture and building construction technology. A new Science Building and Housing and Student Life Complex also are slated for completion this semester, with students moving into the new residence halls in the spring semester.

At the Sierra Vista Campus, a four-lab addition to the Science Building and a new Career Technical Education Building opened prior to the start of the fall 2008 semester. A Learning Commons complex opened this semester and features tutoring, group and individual study areas, computer labs and classrooms, and faculty offices around a courtyard. Construction and maintenance personnel are now focused on finishing a two-story Student Union that will be the new site of Student Services offices and a sizeable multi-purpose community room. Major renovations will turn the 700 Building into a nursing facility that includes classrooms, labs, and private faculty offices. The projects are expected to be complete by January.

A new Willcox Center is anticipated for completion in spring 2010 on property owned by the Willcox Unified School District. The 8,000-square-foot project is a partnership between the two entities and will include four general purpose classrooms, science lab, computer lab, and flexible space for hosting public events. Ground was broken in July 2009, with completion anticipated in May 2010 and the date of a public opening to be determined.

Come see for yourself!

Douglas Campus Open House
Tuesday, January 26 – 1 p.m.

Sierra Vista Campus Open House
Wednesday, February 17 – 2 p.m.
WAYS TO GIVE

Donor contributions help provide thousands of dollars in scholarships and program support each year. You can help support these and other college activities in a variety of ways.

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Five students from the Cochise College nursing program who received the Marilyn Lenio Nursing Scholarship to help them with their studies attended a recent meeting of the Sierra Vista Woman’s Club, which funds the scholarship. Pictured left to right are Luann Vanfossen, Roxanne Ramdeen, Jennifer Crieghton, Laura Shay, and Risa Kim.
Col. George Hooper, right, held the office of first vice president at the Cochise College Foundation’s annual meeting in 1980. Hooper resigned from the board this year and moved to Phoenix to be near family. In honor of his many years of service, the Cochise College Foundation is establishing a fund in his honor. This unlabeled photo depicts a changing of the guard, but the year it was taken and name of the individual on the left is unknown.

Contact us at foundation@cochise.edu or (520) 417-4100 to make a contribution or tell us more about this photo or other college history.