

Message from the Director



Dr. Adair Gilbert, Director of Business & Technology

**“Developing
Leaders for
Tomorrow”**

**“Made Me
Very
Optimistic
About The
Future”**

As this newsletter goes to press, we are looking forward to graduating the first bachelor's degree candidates from the BAS in Management baccalaureate degree program. Several of the first enrollees will complete their programs this summer. This is an exciting occasion for Chipola College. We have joined the ranks of other institutions here in the State of Florida in offering 4-year degrees in business. Our intention is and will continue to be the offering of an outstanding applied degree in business management with concentrations in accounting, management and supervision and management. Our graduates will be challenged as they face the uncertainties of the current business climate. We are sensitive to those challenges and are working to provide our students with a broad range of knowledge covering a variety of subjects. This will prepare them to compete in the recovering economy. To that end, our stated mission is to

- **produce graduates who are knowledgeable of business and information technology**

theories and practices.

- **provide our students with the tools to be leaders in both local and global communities.**
- **teach our students to be technologically proficient, to be ethically grounded and to strive for high level performance in their careers.**

Many students have found our upper-level courses quite rigorous. We have worked diligently to provide substance in the coursework equal to what someone might experience elsewhere. I am a firm believer that the students who attend the baccalaureate in business program here at Chipola are capable of achievement on a level comparable with our sister colleges and universities, and I have challenged them to strive to achieve a high level of competence through their chosen curriculum.

Many of the students who are pursuing their bachelors in business here already have jobs or have work experience, which they bring with them to the classroom. Because of the uniqueness of the program and the work experience of students who attend, the interactions that take place among students and with the faculty both within the classroom and outside brings a richness to the college experience. Students and future employers will benefit from these collaborations and interactions.

I end this message by saying that I am proud of our first graduating class. We all have grown through this startup period of this degree program, and our graduates leave with their bachelor's degree and the certain knowledge that they have advanced in their understanding of business theory and practices. We count them as being among the brightest and best of graduates of 2009 and we wish them God Speed.

Brain Bowl Moderator

On March 13 & 14, 2009, Dr. Jim Goodpasture participated in the Tallahassee High School Brain Bowl. He was asked to be a moderator by Brett Paulson, the Bowl Director.

“Being a moderator is tough work”, according to Dr. Goodpasture. “Each of us went to two or three training sessions. Each session lasted about three (3) hours.” Training sessions covered

the myriad of rules used in Brain Bowl competition as well as learning how many points to award for a question, how to deal with interruptions from spectators, and other complications that may occur.

In addition, moderators were given coaching regarding their reading skills. All moderators were tasked with reading the questions the same way in an

understandable fashion—to be as consistent as possible.

“While not working as hard as the contestants, moderators had to be prepared and in control. It was a very exciting experience. In addition, the students that I met made me very optimistic about the future. They appeared very bright, composed, and courteous. Great to be around.”

“Hello There! This is Elissa”

The Business and Technology Department now has a Departmental Staff Assistant. Some of you have already met her when you needed a lab opened or a classroom unlocked. You definitely cannot miss her with her welcoming “Good morning” or “Hello.”

Her name is Elissa Severson, and she joined Chipola College at the end of November 2008. Prior to her coming to Chipola, she worked at Troy University Dothan Campus as the Departmental Secretary for the Sorrell College of Business.

Elissa received her bachelor’s degree in Pre-Law History/Russian Studies from Stetson University in 1991. Over the years, she had the opportunity to study overseas in such countries as England (at Nottingham Polytechnic), the former Soviet Union, Russia (Moscow State University),

and in the Middle East (Israel, Egypt and Jordan).

Elissa comes to us with the knowledge she gained from working in the education, pharmaceutical and construction industries. She worked at a division of Ranbaxy Pharmaceutical in Jacksonville, FL (formerly known as HMS Sales and Marketing) for many years as the Executive Secretary to the CEO and Chairman. After she married, she worked at the University Of Florida Levin College Of Law as the Senior Secretary to the Graduate Tax Program. Soon after, her husband’s job moved them to Folsom, CA. She became the Director of Administration/Purchasing and Options Coordinator to a Home Builder, Pacific Mountain Partners.



In 2005, her husband’s job in aviation brought them back to the east coast and eventually to Chipola.

Feel free to stop by and welcome Elissa and expect a cheery response back to you.

Accolades & Cash

The Spring 2009 Awards Ceremony allowed several Business and Technology students to be recognized for their accomplishments.

Chris Shah received the Phi Beta Lambda Leadership Award. Chris is the current president of the local PBL chapter. In addition, Chris serves as the state of Florida Region I Vice-President for PBL. Under his leadership, membership in the local chapter has grown and outreach to the community has increased.

Jonetta Dawson received the National Leadership in Business Award. This award is presented through the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). This award is nationally recognized throughout the United States.

Cortney Pettis (now Cortney Pettis Corbin, see last page) received the Business & Technology Department’s academic award in the Accounting track. Brooke Mathis received the academic award in the General Management track while Monica Kennedy received the academic award in the Supervision & Management track.

Kayla Stewart and Andrew Johnson received

recognition as outstanding freshman and sophomore accounting students.

Trey Dennis and Adam Duran received recognition as outstanding computer science students.

The Business & Technology Department is proud of all its students and was glad to have the opportunity to recognize these individuals.

Dr. Adair Gilbert presents Chris Shah with the Phi Beta Lambda Leadership Award



Left to Right: Jonetta Dawson, ACBSP Leadership Award Winner; Brooke Mathis, General management Award Winner; Cortney Pettis Corbin, Accounting Award Winner; Monica Kennedy, Supervision & Management Award Winner



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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Cortney Pettis (Accounting track) is now Cortney Pettis Corbin having married Jeremy Corbin on March 28, 2009.

Have News? Call 850.718.2441 or e-mail any B&T faculty member.



The Business and Technology Department will be recognized for high quality business and technology programs whose graduates are successful business and community leaders.

Behind the Lectern—Prof. Nancy Burns

Professor Nancy Burns has taught at Chipola College for 23 years. Prior to that she was an adjunct instructor in computer science for Troy State-Dothan for 3 years and an elementary and secondary school math teacher in Texas for 7 years.

Adam Duran explains an assignment to Prof. Burns



At Chipola, Prof. Burns teaches CGS 1060 Introduction to Microcomputer Use and all courses for CS/IT university transfer programs. She is an active member of the following Chipola committees: Curriculum, Planning & Accountability, Instructional Resources, Web Site Design.

She enjoys challenging students to stretch their abilities by setting challenging goals and working to reach them. Since current students are the leaders of tomorrow, she finds the most rewarding part of her job to be hearing about the successes of former students, many of whom have graduated -- some in the local workforce, some currently still enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs.

Her major academic interests are Computer Science curriculum and educational practice, computing theory, and cryptography and other applications of discrete mathematics. Since Spring, 2000, she has worked with the FSU online Computer Science degree program, teaching Discrete mathematics online and mentoring students in the senior Computer Theory course.

Prof. Burn's husband, Mike, is a Professor of Christian Counseling at the Baptist College of Florida in Graceville, FL. They have 2 adult sons - one living in Florida one in Washington state. They have 5 grandchildren - ages 3 thru 16. They are active members of Greenwood Baptist Church where Prof. Burns serves as pianist for worship services. Aside from family and church relationships, recent personal interests and activities include house renovation and landscape gardening.