Lamar Polston to deliver Chipola Commencement Address

Chipola alumnus Lamar Polston will deliver the commencement address at the Chipola College graduation ceremony on Thursday, May 2. The ceremony begins at 7 p.m. (CST), in the Milton H. Johnson Health Center. Parents, relatives and friends are invited to a reception immediately following the ceremony.

More than 400 graduates make up the Chipola class of 2013. They will join the ranks of more than 12,000 alumni. Counted as members of the class are all who completed their degrees or certificates from December of 2012 to May of 2013 or who will complete work during the summer 2013 terms.

Lamar Polston grew up in Graceville, where he graduated high school in 1970. He graduated from Chipola College in 1972 and transferred to Florida State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration, with a degree in Risk Management and Insurance.

Polston began his career in 1974 in Tallahassee with Alexander & Alexander, which was the world’s second largest insurance broker. For the next 14 years, Polston held various sales and management positions, rapidly rising through the ranks to become one of the firm’s youngest branch managers. He was selected to start the firm’s first ever branch office from scratch.

Polston was hired by First Union National Bank in 1988. While at First Union, he built an insurance brokerage operation, then transferred to its Capital Management Division, where he managed securities and personal trust sales forces. In 1995, Polston joined Factory Mutual Insurance as a Division Sales Manager, where he worked until retiring in 2007.

During his career, Polston obtained the CPCU designation, was a lecturer at FSU’s College of Business, and taught numerous Sales and Sales Management classes at the firms he worked for.

Lamar Polston and his brother Ricky Polston, Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, addressed the Chipola College Honors seminar in 2011.

Polston lives in Tallahassee with his wife, Leslie, also of Graceville. Lamar and Leslie have three children. Kathryn is a nurse in Atlanta, where she resides with her husband and 3 year old son. John works for Frito-Lay in Tallahassee, where he resides with his wife, 4 year old daughter and 2 year old son. Brian is an insurance broker for RT Specialty in West Palm Beach, and is engaged.

Chipola to host ribbon-cutting for School of Education

Chipola College officials will host a Ribbon-Cutting and Open House, Tuesday, April 16, at 4 p.m., to celebrate the opening of the new School of Education Building.

Current and former teacher education students are expected to attend. The public is invited.

Chipola Teacher Education graduates are serving in the K–12 schools throughout the five-county district and in neighboring counties. Several have won awards for teaching excellence in their respective schools.

15 MONDAY
- Early Registration for Fall A&B Currently Enrolled Students with 30+ Hrs; 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
- SGA – 2 p.m., Z116
- CEA – 2:30 p.m., TBA

16 TUESDAY
- Early Registration for Fall A&B Currently Enrolled Students with 15+ Hrs; 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Executive Council – 9 a.m., A192
- Student Ambassadors – 1 p.m., A156
- District STEM Parent’s Mtg - 6 p.m.
- Spring Ensemble Concert - 7 p.m., CCFA
- District Board of Trustees – 7 p.m., Bldg Y

18 THURSDAY
- Last Day to Resign from All Classes for Spring Term C
- Early Registration for Fall A&B for Currently Enrolled Students with 1+ Hrs; 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- CC Softball vs. TCC – 4/6 p.m., SC
- AWARDS NIGHT – Reception 6 p.m. / Ceremony 7 p.m., CCFA

19 FRIDAY
- College Appl Deadline for Summer I Term, 2013
- Early Registration for Fall A&B for Currently Enrolled Students with 1+ Hrs; 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Deans Meeting – 9 a.m., A192

20 SATURDAY
- CC Baseball vs. PSC – TBA, BC

21 SUNDAY
- FCA Chapel Service – 7:30 p.m., Chapel
Chipola Spring Ensemble Concert is April 16

Chipola College will present its Spring Ensemble Concert Tuesday, April 16, at 7 p.m., in the Center for the Arts.

The free concert will feature the Chipola Rock and Jazz Band directed by Dr. Daniel Powell, and the Chipola Chamber Chorus and Community Chorus directed by Dale Heidebrecht.

The Community Chorus will again join the Chamber Chorus singing in Russian, German, Latin, and a little bit of English. One piece has no word, but will feature Indian sounds. Another piece will be in the original Bebma (Chibemba) language spoken in Zambia.

The Jazz Band will close the concert with music in the funk, swing, rock, Latin, and popular styles. Director Dr. Daniel Powell says, “These professional that have worked hard all semester to raise the bar on this knock out concert. These students have been stretched and pulled to reach the height of their talent and will leave you wondering why you should ever travel out of your back yard to find such master performances.”

This will be the final Chipola performance for many of the students who will be graduating this semester.

For more information on the free concert, call Anita Price at (850) 718-2277 or pricea@chipola.edu.

Young Artist Showcase April 21 at Chipola

The Chipola College Department of Fine and Performing Arts will host a Young Artist Showcase Sunday, April 21, at 2 p.m., in the Experimental Theatre of the new Center for the Arts.

The concert will feature Aaron Smith, piano; Anna E. Williams, piano; Daniel Kern, piano; Michael Lingerfelt, piano; and Anthony John Marotta, saxophone.

The students are enrolled in music courses at Chipola and Gulf Coast. These award-winning artists open the 2013 Spring Into Summer Concert season with works by Barber, Beethoven, Chopin, Haydn, Mozart, Rachmaninoff, Ravel, and more.

The primary mission of the Spring Into Summer series is to present the area’s finest local chamber music ensembles and soloists on a Sunday Matinée during the spring and summer months.

Concerts in this series may range from classical offerings to modern. All concerts begin at 2 p.m., and admission is by donation.

For information, contact Dr. Christine Yoshikawa at yoshikawa@chipola.edu or call Chipola Fine and Performing Arts at (850) 718-2277.

Chipola baseball third in conference

As of April 10, Chipola (5-7) is third in the Panhandle Conference standings. Gulf Coast (8-5) is second. Tallahassee (12-1) leads the league.

The Indians have four home games remaining in the conference schedule. They host Tallahassee on Friday, April 12, at 2 p.m.; Northwest, April 17 at 5 p.m.; Pensacola, April 20 at 1 p.m. and Gulf Coast, April 22 at 5 p.m. Chipola closes out the conference season on the road at Gulf Coast on April 24. Chipola beat Alabama Southern 8-5 on April 9.

The Indians scored a big 4-2 win over Gulf Coast on April 6 in 10 innings. Chipola picked up a big 5-4 win over Pensacola April 1. Freshman pitcher Michael Mader went seven innings and allowed just one earned run on six hits, one walk, and six strikeouts. Luis Tunon hit 2-for-3 with four RBI and a run. Gibson was 2-for-4 with a run.
Government contracting seminar set at Chipola

Chipola College will offer a seminar, on “Government Contracting,” Friday, April 19, from 9:30 to 12:30 p.m., in Room M-108 of the Chipola Business and Technology building.

Participants will learn to identify government agencies and target marketing efforts to save both time and money. Cost is $30. The first six Chipola students to sign up will receive free admission.

Participants may register for seminars online at www.northfloridabiz.com.

At Chipola, contact Elissa Severson 850-718-2441 or email severson@chipola.edu. Participants may register in person in Building M, Office 208.

Chipola to offer lifeguard course

Chipola College will offer the American Red Cross Lifeguard Training course beginning May 3.

All interested students must be 15 years of age on or before the first day of class. The course requires a minimum of 32 hours of training in water rescue, CPR and First Aid. Attendance is required for all class meetings.

Students must be in good physical condition, able to swim 500 yards without stopping, able to swim freestyle, breast-stroke and side-stroke. Students also must be able to: retrieve a 10 pound brick from a seven foot depth, and tread water without hands for two minutes.

A prerequisite swim test must be taken prior to the course on May 3. There is no charge to take the test.

Course meetings will be held from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., May 6-9 and May 13-16, with the final test on May 17.

Cost of the course is $200. Students must register and pay the fee prior to the first meeting.

For information about the course, call Rance Massengill at 850-718-2240. To register, call 718-2405 or visit www.chipola.edu/ContinuingEd

Chipola softball third in conference

Chipola split a double-header with Tallahassee on April 2. Chipola scored a 7-3 win in the opener, but the Eagles won game two, 9-1.

As of April 10, Gulf Coast (7-3) leads the league. Northwest (6-4) is second.

Chipola (5-3) is third. Pensacola is (3-7) and Tallahassee is (3-7).

Chipola is third in the FCSAA State Poll. Gulf Coast is first. Northwest is tied for fifth.

Chipola hits the road for three conference double-headers at Northwest, April 11, at Gulf Coast, April 13, and at Pensacola, April 16.

Chipola finishes the conference season at home Thursday, April 18, with a 4 p.m. double-header against Tallahassee.

CRAA to meet Tuesday, April 16

The Chipola Regional Arts Association (CRAA) will host its monthly meeting Tuesday, April 16, at Jim’s Buffet in Marianna.

The public is invited to attend the Dutch-treat buffet luncheon which begins at 11:30 a.m. and the program at noon.

The meeting will feature presentations by area arts educators who have received mini-grants. Dr. Daniel Powell, Executive Director of CRAA, says, “This is a powerful testament to what a donation to CRAA can do for the community. All funds received directly support local arts programs. To continue and expand these programs, we need your help.” CRAA is in the middle of their fund-raising campaign to fund next year’s programs and hopes to increase their impact on the community.

Because of the number of mini-grant awards, presentations will be divided between the April 16 and May 21 meetings.

For information on CRAA, contact Dr. Daniel Powell at powelljd@chipola.edu or (850) 718-2257.

SGA Election Results

Congratulations to the newly elected 2013-2014 SGA Officers.

SGA President: Tatum Skipper, Malone
Sophomore Class President: Cassidy Wade, Marianna
Chief Justice: Garion Grant, Marianna
Sophomore Senators: Dustin Graham, Blountstown; Olivia Guettler, Chipley; Ruby Harrison, Chattahoochee; Josh Myers, Chipley; Sheetal Patel, Bonifay; and Zack Perkins, Marianna.

Oliver is top employee

Gwen Oliver is Chipola College’s Career Employee for April. Gwen serves as an Office Assistant in the Foundation department and has worked at the college since 2002. Here, Oliver (left) is congratulated by Director of Foundation Julie Fuqua.
Chipola shines at state AFC convention

Chipola College was one of the most talked-about colleges at the Association of Florida Colleges Annual Convention in Palm Harbor.

Chipola garnered numerous honors, including chapter recognition, membership awards and leadership awards.

The Chipola Chapter was named a Platinum Chapter, the highest recognition a chapter can receive for chapter activities and leadership. The Chipola Chapter also won a membership award for having one of the highest percentages of full-time employees as AFC members.

Chipola’s Automotive Technology program was awarded the Occupational and Workforce Education Commission’s Exemplary Practice Award. Chipola Instructors John Gardner and Chase Vlieg and Executive Vice President Dr. Jason Hurst presented the practice, “Time to Reinvent the Wheel” at the conference. The practice emphasized today’s evolving student and how workforce training and programs must also change.

Chipola’s Public Relations Office also won three Exemplary Practice Awards from the Communications and Marketing Commission. Chipola was awarded a First Place Award for Specialty Advertising/Promotion Items for the Center for the Arts Grand Opening bookmark souvenir and the Best Bang for the Buck Award for the 2011 Chipola Yearbook. The PR Office also won a Second Place award for the redesign of the Workforce Development brochure.

Several Chipola employees presented Educational Sessions at the conference. English professor Dr. Rachel West presented, “Employees as Donors: Who Are They and Why Do They Contribute.” West’s presentation highlighted her doctoral research on the giving patterns of state college foundation donors. Her research showed that 40% of individual donors were past and present employees.

Dr. James Froh, Dean of the School of Business and Technology, presented a session, “Faculty Teaching Online.” Froh discussed different avenues for offering coursework online and guidelines to help faculty be better prepared for the online classroom.

Publications Coordinator Evelyn Ward presented a session on “Creating Your Leadership Growth Plan.” The session included a study of leadership styles to help aspiring leaders decide which approach was best for their personal growth.

Pat Barfield was honored with the Distinguished Service Member Award. The award was given for her exceptional leadership and achievements at the chapter, region and state level. Barfield, Departmental Staff Assistant for Institutional Development and Planning, also serves as the Vice President for Regions and Chapters and sits on the state Board of Directors.

During the convention, Immediate Past President Evelyn Ward was awarded the highest honor the Association bestows, the Honorary Life Membership Award. The award recognizes long-term contribution to AFC and the state college system. Ward also was acknowledged by the Chipola Chapter as their Unsung Hero for her service behind the scenes.

Ward was also recognized as a member of the first class earning the new AFC Certified College Professional certification. The leadership program provides AFC members with the opportunity to earn a designation related to their work as a college professional. The designation is recognized by the entire Florida State College system.

Several Chipola employees will serve in state leadership roles next year. Evelyn Ward will serve as the Awards Chair and Alice Pendegrass will serve as chair of the Credentials Committee. Both will sit on the state Board of Directors. Dr. Jim Froh is Chair-Elect of the Communications and Marketing Commission.

Also attending the convention from Chipola, were: Angie Tyler, Katy Flowers, Kim Collins and Becky Davis.

AFC is a statewide organization open to all employees, retirees and trustees of Florida’s 28 state colleges.

Pictured from left, are: Pat Barfield, Chipola chapter president Angie Tyler; and Evelyn Ward displaying some of the many awards Chipola took home.