Chipola opens new Center for the Arts

More than 300 people celebrated the opening of the new Chipola College Center for the Arts with a Ribbon-Cutting ceremony Tuesday, July 17.

Members of the Chipola District Board of Trustees cut the ribbon followed by a brief program and tours of the new $16 million facility.

The Center for the Arts is located on the north end of campus on Prough Drive off of River Forest Road. The 56,000 square foot Center features a main theater with a balcony and seating for 655 patrons. The most intriguing feature of the new complex is the black box, experimental theater designed for audiences of 100. The center also includes an art gallery, dance studio, reception area, dressing rooms, teaching spaces, a scene shop and costume shop. The main theater is equipped with state-of-the-art systems for rigging, sound, lighting and set construction to handle professional shows of all types.

Chipola president Dr. Gene Prough, said, “The new Center for the Arts is the largest building project in the history of the college. This will be a showplace for the performing arts for our students and the community.” Dr. Prough announced that a section in the theater will be named the David Coley Box in memory of the State Representative who first secured funding for the project. A plaque was presented to David’s wife, Rep. Marti Coley.

College board of trustees chair Jan Page also announced that a section in the theater will be designated as the President’s Box in honor of college president Dr. Gene Prough’s efforts to see the project through to fruition.

A Grand Opening Gala featuring Sally Struthers and Broadway star Tony Yazbeck is set for Sept. 20 in the new center. The "With the opening of the new Chipola Center for the Arts, this year’s Artist Series is going to knock your socks off,” says Dr. Daniel Powell, Associate Dean of Fine and Performing Arts at the college.

This year’s season includes a nationally-recognized male a cappella group, STREET CORNER SYMPHONY who was a finalist in NBC’s The Sing Off – Sept. 27. Illusionist SAMMY CORTINO will present a Las Vegas style magic show – January 17, 2013. DAVIS AND DOW jazz quartet featuring a vocalist and requests from the audience is February 7, 2013. The popular bluegrass/country group, THREE ON A STRING featuring Bobby Horton is April 11, 2013.

Season tickets for all four events are $48. Season ticket holders get a VIP pass to Meet the Artist receptions and early renewal privileges for the following season to get the best seat in the house.

Single ticket sales will be $14 for adults, $10 for 18 and under, and $5 for Chipola students/faculty/and staff. The deeply discounted $5 tickets are only available at the box office 30 minutes before the show starts with a valid photo ID and pending availability. The college is using a new professional ticketing system for online ticket purchasing. Tickets will also be available in the Center for the Arts Box Office with hours

**Chipola Artist Series season lineup announced**

**THIS WEEK AT CHIPOLA**

24 TUESDAY
- Last Day to Withdraw from a Class for Summer II
- Executive Council - 9 a.m., A192

25 WEDNESDAY
- Deans Meeting – 2 p.m., A192

27 FRIDAY
- COLLEGE CLOSED - Four Day Work Week
Ribbon Cutting, continued from page 1

semi-formal event includes an after party with live music and heavy hors d’oeuvres.” Tickets—$50—are available at the Center for the Arts, the Fitness Center and the Gazebo Café. Call 850-718-2220 for credit card orders, or contact sirmone@chipola.edu.

A section in the theater will be named the David Coley Box in memory of the State Representative. A section will also be designated as the President’s Box in honor of college president Dr. Gene Prough’s efforts to see the project through to fruition. Pictured from left, are: State Representative Marti Coley, Dr. Gene Prough, and College board of trustees chair Jan Page.

Local arts fans are invited to support the new Center through the Applause! fundraising campaign. Funds will support programming and educational opportunities for Chipola students and K-12 schoolchildren, as well as facility enhancements. The campaign features the “Be Seated” program for naming seats in the theater. The “Be a Star” program offers Gold, Silver and Bronze Stars in the lobby. The “Legacy” initiative offers opportunities for individuals or organizations to have part of the Center named for a person or group.

The new Center for the Arts will replace the current 350-seat theater which was built in 1958. The old theater was short on space and even shorter on restroom facilities. Set construction was performed outside weather-permitting. Insufficient dressing room space and the absence of a costume shop were just some of the challenges faced in the old theater.

The Chipola Fine and Performing Arts Department provides programming for an estimated 10,000 visitors per year. In addition to three annual college theater productions, the college also is home to four annual artist series events and other performances for thousands of area children.


Calhoun County School Board gets gold star

The Calhoun County School Board recently donated $2,500 to purchase a Gold Star in the Chipola College Center for the Arts Applause! campaign. Pictured from left, are: Tim Smith, Calhoun County School Board Chair; Danny Ryals, Calhoun County School Board member; Julie Fuqua, Chipola Foundation Director and Wilson T. McClellan, Calhoun County Superintendent.

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established closer to the performance.

Season Tickets go on sale to the general public Aug. 27. The college is offering two sneak peak ticket events on Tuesday, Aug. 14 at 2 p.m. and Friday, Aug. 17 at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. At these events, patrons will have the opportunity to see the inside of the new building and purchase season tickets the same day as the tour. Those wishing to take the tour may RSVP to Anita Price at (850)718-2277 or e-mail pricea@chipola.edu.

AUGUST
01 Deadline to Have Financial Aid Files Complete for Fall 2012
02 College Appl Deadline for Fall
05 Early Fall Terms A&B Registration Payment Due
13 Return to Regular Work Week Faculty Returns -- Fall Term
15 New Student Testing Begins Returning Student Reg & Drop/Add for Fall A&B
16-17 New & Returning Student Reg & Drop/Add for Fall A&B
20 Classes Begin -- Fall Terms A&B

THIS WEEK

“Chipola This Week” is a weekly publication of the Chipola Public Relations Office.
Deadline for the next issue is 8 a.m., Wednesday, July 25. Articles will be printed as space permits. E-mail Evelyn Ward at warde@chipola.edu.

BELATED BIRTHDAYS
18-Jul Brooke Mathis

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK
25-Jul Vickie Jones
26-Jul Vikki Milton
27-Jul Joshua Martin
29-Jul Kelly Brookins

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER II HOURS
Mon-Thurs 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

TECH CENTER
Mon-Thurs 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

$$$ Deadline to have Financial Aid Files complete for the Fall is August 1, 2012.

FSU PC ON CAMPUS. A recruiter from FSU Panama City will be on campus July 24, from 9 a.m. - Noon in Building Z.

SWIMMING LESSONS for ages four and up are scheduled: Session 3 is July 30-Aug. 9 with a registration deadline of July 23. Classes are available at 9 a.m., 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. Sessions include eight 45 minute classes which meet Monday through Thursday for two weeks. Cost of regular swimming lessons is $45. Pre-registration is required, with a $5 late registration fee. For information, call pool manager Rance Massengill at 718-2473.