Chipola board approves raises and new $13.4 million budget

The Chipola College District Board of Trustees approved a three percent salary increase for career, professional and administrative employees filling positions on the table of personnel at the board’s regular monthly meeting on June 19.

The three percent raise follows last year’s six percent increase. The raise is effective July 1, 2007.

The board also agreed to continue to fully cover the cost of employee retirement contributions and individual health insurance premiums. Full-time employees participate in the Florida Retirement System and receive Blue Cross health insurance coverage as part of their benefits package. Individual insurance premiums are valued at $293 a month. Employees also have the option of purchasing health insurance for spouses and children.

The board also authorized college president, Dr. Gene Prough, to offer an overall three percent increase (including an annual step) to faculty employees subject to collective bargaining. The Chipola Faculty Association negotiates the faculty’s annual contract.

Dr. Prough said, “I am very proud that our board agreed to improve salaries and to cover the increased cost of benefits for our employees who provide quality educational opportunities for our students.”

In other business, trustees approved a $13.4 million operating budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year. The new appropriation represents a $635,000 increase over last year. Student tuition remains the same as the previous year.

Summer Session II begins; late registration continues through Tuesday

Chipola College Summer Session II classes begin Monday, June 25. Late registration also is Monday, June 25, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Tuesday, June 26, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Evening and distance learning courses are available during the six week summer sessions.

Chipola offers the Associate in Arts Degree, the Associate in Science Degree, Workforce Development programs and Bachelor of Science Degrees in Secondary and Middle School Education with majors in Math and Science.

Chipola officials also are planning to offer new programs in Survey and Mapping and a Masonry Apprentice program beginning in August. A new Bachelor’s of Applied Science degree in Business Management is slated to begin in January of 2008.

Applications for Admission are available in the Admissions Office located in the Student Service Building or online at www.chipola.edu

The Summer Schedule is available online at www.chipola.edu. For information, call 850-718-2211.

Jonetta Dawson of Blountstown uses a microscope in the Chipola science lab. Chipola Summer Session II classes begin Monday, June 25.
Chipola’s Lovestrand to play in World University Games in Thailand

Sarah Lovestrand, second baseman for the National Champion Chipola College Lady Indians, is one of 15 current and former NJCAA softball standouts selected to represent the United States in the 2007 World University Games in Bangkok, Thailand, August 11-17.

Lovestrand is a 2007 NJCAA first-team All-American selection and a two-time first-team All-Region 8 selection for Chipola. She hit .463 this year with 42 RBI’s, five home runs and 19 stolen bases, helping Chipola to a 57-6-1 overall record that included the Florida State Region 8 and national championship titles.

In her freshman campaign she hit .481 with 49 RBI, three home runs and 16 stolen bases, helping Chipola to a 48-11 overall record and an appearance in the Region 8 tournament. Her career NJCAA numbers are a .473 average, 91 RBI, eight home runs and 35 stolen bases. Lovestrand will continue her education and softball career at Florida Southern.

Gulf Coast CC players Amanda Byers and Sarah Dooley Gulf Coast CC also were selected to Team USA.

Team USA/NJCAA is made up of players from Arizona, Tennessee, Florida and Idaho and was selected by a panel of NJCAA coaches. Players include: Sara Lovestrand, Chipola; Amanda Byers and Sarah Dooley Gulf Coast; Amanda Duran and Dana Alcocer, Pima CC, Tucson, AZ; Elisha Collins, Walters State CC, Morristown, TN; Brittany Kopcsak, Meagan Masingale and Vicki McCoy, Chattanooga State Tech; TN; Kailey Yarmer, Phoenix College, Phoenix, AZ; Jessica Ware, Mesa CC, Mesa, AZ; Jessika Ngirblekuu, Palm Beach CC; Palm Beach, FL; Renee Welty, Chandler Gilbert CC, Chandler, AZ; Kelcey Cavan, North Idaho CC, Cour d’ Alene, ID; and Deanna Mauer, Central Arizona College; Coolidge, AZ.

The 24th International University Sports (Universiade) is considered a significant sports event among university students, being equivalent to the Olympic Games with participants from more than 200 countries in 20 different sporting events.

The softball portion will include two pools of five teams in a round-robin format. The top four teams from each pool advance to a tournament. Team USA/NJCAA is in Group B with Japan, Australia, Korea and the Czech Republic. Group A is composed of Thailand, Chinese Taipei, South Africa, Canada and Italy.

Team USA will participate in several practice sessions and exhibition games on the Chattanooga (TN) State Tech CC campus July 11-15.