Kotchman named Chipola College Alumnus of the Year

Tom Kotchman, a major league baseball scout and minor league coach, has been named Chipola’s 2009 Alumnus of the Year.

Kotchman’s life has been connected to Chipola College since he signed a baseball scholarship there in 1973. He went on to a successful career in professional baseball, but he continues to give back to the little college that gave him his start.

As a major league scout and one of the most respected managers in the minors, Tom has helped sign several Chipola players to big league contracts. But more importantly, he makes regular visits to Chipola to share advice with all the players, not just the big prospects.

Chipola baseball coach Jeff Johnson says, “There are a lot of alumni who say they want to help and some even write checks, but Tom goes above and beyond. Anybody who knows Tom would say that he is a giver.”

Chipola president Dr. Gene Prough agrees. “Tom loves Chipola. Even before his daughter Christal played at Chipola, he was always in touch, asking what he could do to help our student-athletes. That connection is still strong today,” Prough said.

Kotchman is very open about the influence that Chipola had on his life. “My time at Chipola playing for coach Ellis Dungan was very important for me as a player and more so as a man,” Kotchman said. “You cannot put a price on the life lessons I learned at Chipola. Years later my son Casey was offered a scholarship to Chipola but was drafted in the first round and is currently playing in the big leagues. My daughter Christal received a scholarship to Chipola where she was the starting shortstop on their national championship softball team. As a family we will be eternally grateful to coach Johnson, AD Dr. O’Daniel, college president Dr. Gene Prough and softball coach Belinda Hendrix for the opportunity that was given to Christal,” Kotchman said.

Christal went on to play for the College of Charleston, and Casey was drafted by the LA Angels and now plays for the Boston Red Sox.

Tom could probably be a major league manager today, but he chose family over his career. In 1990 at age 35, he’d managed an Angels’ Triple-A club to rave reviews and was on the fast track for a major league assignment. But he had a young son and daughter who were growing up with dad out of town, so he walked away from that future as a Major League manager and went home to be a dad. In 1990, he took a scouting position in Florida and a short-

Chipola Brain Bowlers win Delta Burke Tournament

The Chipola Brain Bowl Blue Team beat perennial powerhouse Valencia Red (330-220) to claim the championship of the Delta Burke Tournament in Orlando for the second straight year.

Chipola finished the preliminary rounds 10-0, earning the number one seed for the playoffs based on points per game. Chipola beat South Florida CC in the quarterfinals, Case Western University (Ohio) in the semifinals, and host Valencia in the championship.

Five Chipola players scored among the top 30 individuals in a field of more than 140 players. Dallin Kelson was sixth overall. Ethan Hewett finished 10th. Drew Padgett was 11th. Nathan Hooppell finished 14th and Cody Pickens was 30th.

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FREE AIDS TEST. The Jackson County Health Department and BASIC of NW Florida will host free HIV testing (no needles) in the lobby of Building D on Nov. 30, 10 am - 2 pm.
Chipola Indians perfect after five games

The Chipola Indians are off to a perfect 5-0 start on the season.


Chipola (5-0) is ranked third in the FCCAA State men’s poll. Central Florida (5-0) is first. Northwest Florida State (5-0) is second. Gulf Coast (4-0) is fourth. Tallahassee (3-1) is fifth.

Chipola Lady Indians ranked fourth in state

The Chipola Lady Indians improved to 3-2 on the season with a pair of wins in the Chipola Alzheimer’s Classic.

Chipola scored a 62-56 win over Monroe (NY) on Nov. 13. Bianca Jarrett led Chipola with 18 points and 6 rebounds. Lindsey Carr 17 had points and 5 rebounds. Jasmine Shaw scored 14 and pulled down 7 rebounds.


Chipola scored a 72-67 win over Trinity Valley on Nov. 15. O’Neil led Chipola with 23 points and 7 rebounds. Kendra Powell had 14 points and 12 rebounds. Tawatha Tucker scored 11.

The Lady Indians host Florida Community College, Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 6 p.m., in the Milton H. Johnson Health Center.

The Lady Indians (3-2) are fourth in the FCCAA State women’s poll. Gulf Coast (4-0) is first. Pensacola (5-1) is second. Northwest Florida (4-0) is third. Tallahassee (3-2) is seventh.

Student and visiting artists work on display

Original works by Chipola College art students and an FSU professor are on display at Chipola College.

Student work is on display in the Chipola Arts Center, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., through Dec. 7.

The student show represents the work of students in Chuck Carbia’s Drawing I with an emphasis in Collage Drawings and Tonal Studies, and Kelly Boehmer’s Crafts I, Color Pictorial Composition, and Introduction to Two-Dimensional Design courses.

Guest artist Denise Bookwalter has her work on display in the gallery of the McLendon Fine Arts Building. Bookwalter’s show is titled: “The Spandrel is as Interesting as the Thing Itself.”

She works in a range of print media including traditional and digital processes, artist’s books, installations and dimensional prints. Her work examines the development of technology, most recently aviation technology, and its effects on culture and society. Her work has been exhibited in a variety of international venues.

The Bookwalter exhibit may be viewed weekdays, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Nov. 30 through Dec. 16.

For information, call 718-2277.

Kotchman, continued from page 1

season Rookie Ball manager assignment.

“That was so important to me and my sister, having him home with us when we were young,” said Casey. “Choosing us over his career, told me that once the cheering stops, all you have is your family. I was privileged and spoiled to have him do what he did.”

Three decades after Tom played at Chipola, he helped sign a young Marianna High School graduate Jeff Mathis to a big league contract with the Angels. Jeff is the son of one of Tom’s 1974 Chipola teammate’s Danny Mathis.

Tom Kotchman attended high school in Seminole, Florida, and played baseball at Chipola and Georgia Southern. He was signed by the Cincinnati Reds in 1977 and played two seasons in Class A.

The 2009 season marked Kotchman’s 31st year as a minor league manager. In 11 seasons with the Boise Hawks, the team never finished lower than second. He has managed the Provo Angels and since 2005, the Orem Owlz. Through 2009, he had compiled a career managerial record of 1,584 victories with eight league championships, including Orem’s ’09 Pioneer League title.
Chipola students and faculty attend national conference

Students and faculty from the Chipola College Teacher Education Department attended the NSTA (National Science Teachers Association) conference on Nov. 12 in Ft. Lauderdale.

Professors Dr. Santine Cuccio, Dr. David Hilton and Allan Tidwell accompanied students Mary Atwell, Valetta Bledsoe, Angela Henderson, Stephanie McIntosh, Deborah Miles and Cassandra Witt.

The Chipola professors made a presentation entitled, “Chipola’s Ground Water Outreach Project (Curricular Potential to Initiate Researchable Questions)” for attendees of the conference. Students attended seminars, workshops, and exhibits that provided experiences on implementing science in K-12 school classrooms. They were introduced to hands-on-minds-on learning strategies, skills, and the newest teaching technologies. These were embedded in all science disciplines and within disciplines, such as cell and molecular biology. The students were given free books, lesson plans, rock kits, foldables, models, videos, and CD’s for use in the classroom.

The overall purposes of the trip to the NSTA were to model to pre-service teachers the importance of professional development and lifelong learning, which has been a tradition at Chipola College since the inception of the baccalaureate programs in 2003. Dr. Cuccio was pleased to introduce Chipola student attendees to another conference attendee, Jessica Sloan, a graduate of the Chipola Secondary Science Education program and currently a high school science teacher in Mayo, Florida. Because of her initial conference experience while a Chipola student, Jessica continues to value the opportunity to keep her science education knowledge, skills, and technology up to date.

NSTA president, Pat Shane, said, “The purpose of this conference is to improve teacher retention through resources, respect, renewal, leadership, discovery, motivation, passion, expertise, growth and connections.”

For information on Chipola’s education programs, call 718-2276.

Brain Bowl, continued from page 1

The Chipola team will have some time off before their next tournament in January, 2010, where they hope to qualify for the community college national championship.

The Chipola A and B teams finished first and second respectively at the ACF Fall Academic Tournament Oct. 31 in Gainesville. Chipola finished third behind first place University of Florida and second place Florida State University in a 20-team tournament in Orlando on Oct. 24.

Chipola is the two-time, defending Florida State champion. The team also has finished second in the NAQT national tournament for the past two years.

The Chipola Brain Bowl coaches are mathematics professor Stan Young and Humanities professor Dr. Robert Dunkle.

First Generation scholarships available at Chipola

The Chipola College Foundation is accepting applications for the First Generation in College Scholarship for the Spring 2010 semester.

Four $1,000 scholarships may be awarded to qualified students. Applications are available in the Foundation Office and are due by 4 p.m. on Dec. 2.

The First Generation Scholarship is available to Florida residents whose parents did not complete a four-year (bachelor’s) degree. If the student regularly resides with only one parent who provides the majority of support, that one parent must not have completed a bachelor’s degree.

Applicants must have applied for Federal Pell Grant (FAFSA) and been determined to be Pell eligible, and have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) below 4617 with unmet financial need. Recipients must enroll in a minimum of six hours per term as undergraduate, degree-seeking students.

For information, contact the Chipola Foundation at 718-2445.
Chipola Teacher Outreach Program recognizes area schools

The Chipola College Teacher Outreach Program (TOP) recently recognized area schools for participation in the program.

The Teacher Outreach Program is part of Chipola’s Teacher Education program which offers four-year teaching degrees in math, science, elementary and exceptional education. TOP is designed to mentor and support high school students in the five-county school district who are interested in a career in education.

Under the supervision of mathematics professor Dr. Cherry Ward, Chipola students in TOP served area high schools to coordinate activities for their Future Educator’s Clubs (FEC).

Niki Seley, TOP facilitator, worked with Vernon High and coordinated all activities with the participating schools. Other Chipola students working as coordinators were Amanda Williams at Graceville High and Bethlehem; Brandi Perkins at Malone; Karla McBryar at Marianna High; Anna Beth Parmer at Holmes County High and Danny Rutherford at Ponce de Leon High.

For the 2008-09 year, the Ponce de Leon High FEC was presented the Gold Club Award, for the highest number of community service hours, member attendance and club projects.

The Malone High School FEC earned the Silver Club Award. Holmes County High, Marianna High, Vernon High and Bethlehem each received Participation Awards.

At the end of the 2009-10 school year, participating FEC clubs will be invited to Chipola College for a tour of education classes and facilities.

For information on the Teacher Outreach Program at Chipola, contact Dr. Cherry Ward at 850-526-2761, ext. 3265 or email warde@chipola.edu.

BOOKSTORE HOURS
Monday-Thursday
7 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Friday
7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

TESTING CENTER HOURS:
Monday & Wednesday
8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Tuesday & Thursday
8 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Friday
8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

LIBRARY HOURS:
Monday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

TECH CENTER HOURS:
Monday - Thursday
8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
Friday
8 a.m. - Noon

ACE HOURS:
Monday - Thursday
8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Friday
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

ATTENTION ENC 1101 & 1102 STUDENTS: You will need your Photo ID for admission to take your final exam.

If you do not have your photo ID, you may get one made on Tuesdays from 8-11 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. in Building A. Replacements are $10. Bring the white copy of your Fall fee receipt to get your ID.

SALE @ BOOKSTORE: Just in time for the fall cool weather, the Chipola Bookstore has all zip-up and regular hoodies on sale for 25% off Nov. 8 - 28.

NEED CHRISTMAS CASH? Book Buyback at the Chipola Bookstore is Dec. 9-10 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Dec. 14-16 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER
8 Regional Career Fair
9 Last Day to Resign from All Classes for Fall Term C
10 Artist Series: Celebrating the Season
11 Last Class Day Academics - Fall A
14-16 FINAL EXAMS FOR FALL A
15 Last Class Day Workforce Dev - Fall A
16 Last Class Day for Fall Term C
17 Grades Due 2 p.m. for Fall A & C
18 Last Faculty Work Day — Fall Term C

“Chipola This Week” is a weekly publication of the Chipola PR Office.

Deadline for the next issue is 8 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 2. Articles will be printed as space permits. E-mail Evelyn Ward at warde@chipola.edu.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK
25-Nov Bruce White
27-Nov Carole Edenfield
27-Nov Kathy Leigh
30-Nov Michelle Stone
2-Dec Tammy Neal

UWF NEWS. The University of West Florida offers several graduate programs in collaboration with the Chipola University Center.

Courses are offered on Chipolas campus each semester as well as online.

Programs include: a Masters degree in Educational Leadership with Certification, Education Specialist in Administration or Certification, and Doctoral Degrees in Curriculum and Instruction.

Students currently enrolled in classes can register for spring term. New students can enroll Dec. 7. Classes begin Jan. 6, 2010.

For more information, call 850-718-2295.