Chipola nurses score well on national boards

Chipola College nursing students performed well on the latest National Council Licensure Exam NCLEX exam.

Chipola’s third quarter NCLEX-RN passing rate is 96 percent and the NCLEX-PN passing rate is 80 percent. The year-to-date passing rate is 94.4 percent for NCLEX-RN and 88.89 percent for NCLEX-PN.

Mil Cox, MSN, interim Director of Chipola’s Health Science programs, says, “These results prove that our nursing students are well-prepared to work in the health care field. It also speaks highly of a faculty who are committed to having a successful program.”

The Chipola Nursing program trains some 80 nurses a year for promising careers in the health care field.

Chipola’s nursing program is approved by the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Board of Nursing through 2010. All of Chipola’s educational programs are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

The Florida Board of Nursing approves Chipola’s nursing curriculum which is approved to accept 80 students per year. Students may begin in either the Fall or Spring semester. The Spring application deadline was in September; however, students may continue to

Chipola Brain Bowlers win Valencia Tourney

The Chipola Brain Bowl Gold Team won the Valencia Community College “Delta Burke” Tournament Oct. 24-25 in Orlando.

The Gold team defeated defending national champion Valencia 185-180 in the final round to claim the win. Chipola outlasted 30 community college teams to claim the title, finishing with a perfect 12-0 mark in the tournament.

This is Chipola’s first championship in the annual event, after making it to the semi-finals last year. Gold team members are: Jordan Belser, Anthony Garrett, Brad Wells, and Ryan Wells.

The Blue Team also performed well making it to the 16-team playoff round, where they lost to South Florida Community College in a close match. Blue Team members are all freshmen, including: Anthony Berkeley, Nathan Hooppell, Drew Padgett, Cody Pickens and Morgan Stumpf. Padgett averaged 33 points in the tournament for the Blue Team.

The Chipola Gold team had an outstanding run in the final rounds of the tourney, with a 335-65 win over Lake Sumter in the octo-finals; a 370-55 win over South Georgia in the quarter-finals; a 235-195 win over Broward in the semi-finals and a 185-180 win over Valencia in the finals.

Chipola Gold team members answered an amazing 115 tossup questions of the 180 they heard. The Gold team had a balanced scoring attack with each of the four members averaging at least two tossups per game. For the tournament, Anthony Garrett averaged 44 points per game with 41 tossup questions. Brad Wells scored 28 points per game with 29 tossups. Ryan Wells averaged 25 points per game with 26 tossups. Jordan Belser scored 20 points per game with 19 tossups.

Chipola is the defending FCCAA Florida State Champion.

Brain Bowl coaches are Stan Young and Dr. Robert Dunkle.

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THIS WEEK AT CHIPOLA

3 MONDAY
- Sunday Afternoon with the Arts Exhibit — I
- Early Spring Registration For Currently Enrolled Students With 45+ Hrs. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Student Government — 2 p.m., Q111

4 TUESDAY
- Sunday Afternoon with the Arts Exhibit — I
- Early Spring Registration For Currently Enrolled Students With 30+ Hrs. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- BCM Prayer Meeting — 8:15 a.m., Dorm Lobby
- Executive Council — 9 a.m., A192
- Student Ambassadors — 1 p.m., A156
- Governance Council — 2:30 p.m., Y

5 WEDNESDAY
- Sunday Afternoon with the Arts Exhibit — I
- Fall Theatre Production for selected audiences
- Early Spring Registration For Currently Enrolled Students With 15+ Hrs. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- BCM Bible Study — 10 a.m., A156
- Faculty Meeting — 3 p.m., Z116

6 THURSDAY
- Sunday Afternoon with the Arts Exhibit — I
- Early Spring Registration For Currently Enrolled Students With 1+ Hrs. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Fall Theatre Production, “Bus Stop” — 7:30 p.m., J

7 FRIDAY
- Last Day to Withdraw From A Class for Fall
- Sunday Afternoon with the Arts Exhibit — I
- Academic Directors — 9 a.m., A192
- Fall Theatre Production, “Bus Stop” — 7:30 p.m., J
- Panhandle Classic: CC Women vs. FCCJ — 5:30 p.m., R

8 SATURDAY
- Fall Theatre Production, “Bus Stop” — 7:30 p.m., J
- Panhandle Classic: CC Women vs. Santa Fe — 4 p.m., R

9 SUNDAY
- Fall Theatre Production, “Bus Stop” — 2 p.m., J
Chipola Indians lead state hoops poll, Lady Indians second

The Chipola men’s basketball team is ranked first in the Florida Community College Activities Association (FCCAA) Pre-season Coaches’ Polls and the Lady Indians are ranked second. Chipola’s men are the defending Florida/Region VIII champion. The Indians finished with a 35-2 record last season with one loss to conference rival Okaloosa-Walton (now Northwest Florida) and one loss to Midland in the NJCAA national tournament.

The poll includes: (1) Chipola, (2) Miami Dade, (3) NW Florida (OW), (4) Tallahassee, (5) Santa Fe, (6) Polk, (7) Gulf Coast, (8) Central Florida, (9) Hillsborough, and (10) Indian River.

The Panhandle Conference Men’s Basketball coaches gathered recently at Tallahassee Community College to discuss the upcoming season. Chipola was predicted to capture a sixth consecutive conference championship on the men’s side while the Gulf Coast women were picked to win an unprecedented twelfth straight league title in voting by the conference’s head coaches.

Chipola has won the last two FCCAA/NJCAA Region VIII men’s championships and finished seventh in the 2008 NJCAA Tournament. Chipola also has garnered a number two pre-season ranking from both the NJCAA and The Sporting News. The Indians return 6-foot-8-inch All-Conference sophomore Gary Flowers.

The Indians open play in Poplar Bluffs, Mo., on Nov. 1 and 2 at the Three Rivers Tip-Off Classic. Chipola will travel to Ottumwa, Iowa, for a clash with preseason number one Indian Hills on Nov. 3.

Northwest Florida State College (formerly OW) finished second in the conference men’s voting with 16 points, narrowly edging out Tallahassee CC (15 points) and Gulf Coast (14 points).

CHIPOLA LADY INDIANS

The Chipola Lady Indians begin the season at second in the pre-season women’s state poll behind top-ranked Gulf Coast. The women’s poll includes: (1) Gulf Coast, (2) Chipola, (3) Santa Fe, (4) Pensacola, (5) Seminole, (6) Central Florida, (7) Tallahassee, (8) NW Florida (OW), (9) Daytona, and (10) Miami Dade.

The reigning NJCAA Champion Lady Commodores enter the 2008-09 season as the team to beat in the PC, despite receiving only two of the five possible first-place votes. Gulf Coast, with 22 points in the voting, beat out Chipola, who, with three first-place votes, collected 21 points. Pensacola (15 points), Tallahassee (10 points) and Northwest Florida (seven points) round out the voting. Chipola returns 2008 All American Latoya Williams.

The Lady Commodores are ranked fifth in the NJCAA’s preseason poll. The Tallahassee women are ineligible for the 2009 FCCAA Tournament, thus leaving the four remaining PC teams to compete for three postseason berths. Tallahassee’s games will count in the conference standings making them eligible for the PC’s regular season championship.

Chipola’s Mathis earns grants professional credential

Vicki Mathis, Grants Operations Coordinator for Chipola College, has earned a nationally recognized credential in the grants field and is among the first-year awardees for this distinction.

The recognition is by the Grant Professionals Certification Institute, Inc. (GPCI), an affiliate of the American Association of Grant Professionals (AAGP). Mathis is among the first 200 certified grant designers and managers who were conferred the “GPC” title as Grant Professional Certified indicating proficiency in standards that include tenure in the profession, education, demonstrated achievement and a commitment to service for public and private philanthropy.

“The past decade of activity by the American Association of Grant Professionals shows this field now requires skills far beyond just the staff-level ‘writer’ role,” said GPCI President Marcia Ford. “Today, grant professionals are held accountable not just by their employers, but especially by charitable and corporate foundations and governments. They are called upon to negotiate elaborate collaborations between groups that can leverage more productivity than a single agency or advocacy group could manage on its own.”

Beyond meeting eligibility requirements, GPCs have mastered nationally standardized competencies that are defined by nine skill sets. In partnership with the University of South Florida’s Tampa-based Institute for Instructional Research and Practice, the GPC exam was established within the strict rigors of psychometric testing, and is subject to accreditation.

Mathis is a 17-year employee of the Florida educational system having served at Chipola and Washington Holmes Area Vocational Technical Center. She earned an Associate in Arts degree at Chipola.
Chipola’s ‘Bus Stop’ opens Nov. 6

Tickets are now on sale for the Chipola College Theater dramatic comedy, “Bus Stop,” which opens a four-day run, Nov. 6.

The show opens at 7:30 p.m. nightly, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee.

“Bus Stop” is set in a howling snowstorm with a busload of weary travelers holed up at a roadside diner. A nightclub singer named Cherie (played by Marilyn Monroe in the movie adaptation) has been kidnapped by a young cowboy who is ready to sling her over his shoulder and carry her, kicking and screaming, down the aisle. As a counterpoint to the romance, the cafe owner and the bus driver at last find time to develop a friendship of their own; a middle age scholar comes to terms with himself; and a young waitress also gets her first taste of romance.

Chipola Theater director Charles Sirmon cast several local actors in the following roles: Brenna Kneiss as Elma, Dianna Glaze as Grace, Aven Pitts as Will, Kyndall Covington as Cherie, Nathan Houser as Dr. Lyman, Aaron Moore as Carl, Garrett Brolund as Virgil and Ben Grande as Bo. Keith Watford and Sarah Martinez are the Stage Managers. The behind the scenes crew includes Haley Barfield, Stephanie Lawson, Courtney Corbin, Kylee Shores, Sarah Lovins, Austin Pettis and Kristina Lopez.

For ticket information, call 850-718-2220.

President gets excellent rating on annual evaluation

The Chipola College District Board of Trustees gave college president Dr. Gene Prough an excellent rating on his annual performance evaluation which was presented during the board’s regular monthly meeting on Oct. 28.

All nine board members rated the president’s performance as excellent, the highest rating available on the evaluation. In a summary of the trustees’ comments, board attorney Gerald Holley stated, “President Prough received an excellent evaluation, and should be commended for his leadership and service to Chipola College.”

Each of the nine trustees agreed that the president has met all objectives that could be reasonably attained within the time frame and with the available resources.

Board members listed several areas of the president’s strengths, including: vision for the college; ability to meet problems head-on; dedication to students; personnel selection; problem-solving; leadership; fairness; putting the interest of students first; ability to recognize and promote needed changes; excellent communicator; works well with legislators on budget matters; and continues to move the college forward to provide educational opportunities for our five county area.

In the improvements section, one trustee suggested that the president could “improve involvement with the Board of Trustees in the formation of College policy.” Another trustee recommended that the President “should get a little more rest.”

Seven trustees made general comments, including: the President makes it easy for a Board member to do his or her job; always seeks to make Chipola a better college; is a hard worker; is very creative and innovative; trustworthy; works to make the college survive in hard times; works well with supporters to receive donations; exercises great leadership and tireless effort; is considerate of his faculty and students; gives praise to those who accomplish good things, and rarely accepts praise for his own accomplishments; and is the right leader at the right time for the college.

Following the meeting, Prough said, “I consider it a privilege to serve as president of Chipola College. I appreciate the work of our board of trustees, faculty and staff as we continue to provide a quality educational program for the people of this area.”

During the Tuesday meeting, Prough was granted a one-year extension of his previous contract. The president requested no increase in salary, saying, “I will not ask for a raise until we can increase the salaries of our employees.”

Board Vice-Chair Jeff Crawford commended Prough for his decision in not requesting a raise during these difficult times, stating, “Not many leaders would make this decision.” Several trustees expressed their appreciation to Dr. Prough for his commitment to the college, students, faculty and staff and to the community.

Prough, a 1968 graduate of Chipola, became the college’s ninth president in October of 2002. He served as executive vice president of the college from 1997 to 2002. He also served as interim president in 2004-05. Prough first came to Chipola as Director of Vocational Education in 1994.

During his time as president and executive vice-president, Dr. Prough has provided leadership that enabled the college to obtain more than $30 million in building projects and more than $20 million in federal and state grants. A new Student Services building was completed in 2005. A new entrance road to the college is slated to open in the near future to provide the setting for the college’s new $16 million Center for the Arts.

Under his leadership, the college foundation has grown from $2 million to more than $14 million. Endowments and scholarships in the foundation provide some more than $1 million annually in direct aid to students.

During Prough’s tenure as president, the college has changed its name from Chipola Junior College to Chipola College in order to offer bachelor’s degrees. The college now offers eight bachelor’s degrees in education, business and nursing. Chipola became one of nine community colleges designated as a state college in June of this year.
Nursing, continued from page 1

apply until all seats have been filled by qualified applicants.

Chipola’s Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program is a 1+1 LPN to RN curriculum. After completing the first year of coursework, students are eligible to take the LPN state licensure exam. Students are eligible to take the RN exam after completing the second year of the program. Major pre-requisites for acceptance include: psychology, intermediate or college algebra, English 1101, Biology and orientation.

Chipola’s LPN to RN transition program accepts current LPN’s into the third semester of the ADN program during the summer terms. Chipola also offers a Bachelor’s of Science degree in nursing (BSN), Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedic and Certified Nursing Assistant programs.

For information about Chipola’s Health Science programs, call Mil Cox at 850-718-2278, or visit www.chipola.edu

Basketball team to host Golson readers

The men’s basketball team will host an Accelerated Reading Awards Party for hundreds of Golson Elementary students Friday, Nov. 7, at 9 a.m., in the Milton Johnson Health Center.

The party is a reward for the more than 650 students who met their AR goal during the previous nine weeks.

The nationally-ranked Chipola Indian basketball team will perform slam dunks and Globe-trotter style drills for the children. The team also will play an inter-squad game with Golson second grade teacher Reid Brockett, a professional referee, calling the game. Students will be treated to popcorn and a drink, and the big time light show, smoke machine and big screen experience of Chipola basketball. The Chipola players also will emphasize the importance of reading and staying in school.

Golson principal Lee Miller is rumored to be dusting off his old basketball shoes to shoot some hoops.

Janie Nolen, Curriculum Specialist, says, “We really feel like this is an excellent way to promote reading and also to show how Chipola College works with us as a partner.”

Pope is Employee of the Month

Wanda Pope (left) accepts the Chipola College October Career Employee of the Month award from college president Dr. Gene Prough. Pope has worked in the college’s Physical Plant since 2002.