Chipola students win top honors at National Conference

Chipola Phi Beta Lambda students received national recognition at the PBL Awards of Excellence on June 27 in Nashville, TN.

Chipola College winners include: Shareem Goodlet – 1st place Music Business; the team of Alex Anderson and Jeff Pitts – 7th place Business Ethics; the team of Brady Carlson and Shareem Goodlet – 8th place Network Design; and Brady Carlson – 9th place Networking Concepts.

Glenda Bethel and Vikki Milton serve as advisers to the Chipola Phi Beta Lambda chapter.

More than 1,800 of America’s best and brightest college students traveled to the historic city of Nashville to make some history of their own as they showcased their talents as future business leaders and vied for the opportunity to win over $79,000 in cash awards.

Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL), the largest and oldest student business organization, held its National Leadership Conference in Nashville on June 24–27. Participants from across the United States and two countries were in attendance for this exciting conference to sharpen their core business skills, expand their networks, and participate in more than 55 business and business-related competitive events.

The award was part of a comprehensive national competitive events program sponsored by FBLA-PBL that recognizes and rewards excellence in a broad range of business and career-related areas. For many students, the competitive events are the capstone activity of their academic careers. In addition to the competitions, students immersed themselves in educational workshops, visited an information-packed exhibit hall, and attended motivational keynotes on a broad range of business topics.

Students should apply now for Financial Aid

Students planning to enroll in Fall classes at Chipola are encouraged to apply for financial aid as soon as possible. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application should be completed and all required documents must be received in the Financial Aid Office by July 21 in order to use Federal Financial Aid to cover Fall tuition and fees.

Dr. Jayne Roberts, vice president of Student Affairs, says, “Students should be sure to provide a correct mailing address and to check email accounts assigned by the college. Those who miss the deadline will be required to pay tuition and fees up front, but may be reimbursed once financial aid is awarded.”

Chipola is no longer participating in the Federal Direct Loan Programs which include Federal Direct Subsidized, Federal Direct Unsubsidized and Federal Direct Plus Loans. For information about the FAFSA, call the Federal Student Aid Information Center 1-800-433-3243 or visit www.fafsa.ed.gov.
Villagers to headline Chipola Endless Summer dinner/dance

The Villagers, a popular, local band from the 1960’s, will perform at Chipola’s “Endless Summer” dinner and dance set for Saturday, Aug. 16, at the Marianna National Guard Armory.

The Villagers are celebrating their 50th anniversary of performing for Chipola students, alumni and friends throughout the South. Original Villagers -- Cliff Ellis of Chipley, Allen Myers of Malone, George Boyer of Port St. Joe, Walter Dover of Quincy and Andy Murray of Chattahoochee -- will perform their favorite tunes, including their hit song “Laugh It Off.” The group’s former drummer, Billy Bryan of Bascom, died in 2010.

Ellis, head basketball coach at Coastal Carolina University, has fronted the Villagers ever since they laid down the single “Laugh It Off” at FAME Studios in Muscle Shoals, Alabama in 1966. David Johnson of FAME Studios and head of the Alabama Music Hall of Fame will be in attendance at Endless Summer along with Bill Moody of the Big Bam Radio show.

The Big Bam was a 50,000 watt AM station that played Top 40 hits like the Beach Boys, The Beatles, Herman’s Hermits, and The Villagers. The Big Bam featured a cannon which blasted a bam whenever a request was played. Moody said he played The Villager’s 1966 song “Laugh It Off” on his “Make it or Break it” Show and it jumped up in the charts. Over the years, Ellis and Moody did concerts together and have recently done radio shows spinning oldies and beach music.

Coach Ellis, who has led four teams to the NCAA Tournament including Coastal, Auburn and Clemson, said, “It’s no secret that the Villagers had a recording contract and I gave it up in 1968 for coaching. But I had a great journey playing with people like Roy Orbison and Etta James, just some tremendous people. And I learned a lot from it.”

The Endless Summer event is planned to reunite old Chipola friends and alumni for a relaxing evening to benefit the college’s athletic programs. In addition to the Villagers, a professional DJ will spin some great oldie dance tunes. Chipola College began in 1947 and has enjoyed more than 67 great years including numerous state and national athletic titles, and thousands of individual success stories among its graduates.

Special guest for the evening is Sen. Bill Montford, a Chipola alumnus and Villagers fan. Montford grew up in Blountstown and graduated from Chipola in 1967. Funds from the event will go to a scholarship in his name. This event will reunite old Chipola friends and alumni for a relaxing evening to establish an endowed scholarship honoring Florida Senator Bill Montford (Chipola Class of 1967).

Robert Trammell, incoming president of the Chipola Appreciation Club and former Chipola basketball player, says, “While music has evolved from Big Band to Rock N’ Roll and Hip Hop during Chipola’s 60-plus years, the bonds and friendships built at this little college have remained constant.”

Trammell points to the commitment of alumni and supporters as the key to the college’s success. “Without strong support from our people, Chipola Athletics would be unable to perform at the national level,” he says.

Tickets are $50 per person with a social hour and smoked-steak dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tables of eight are available for $400. Summer casual attire is recommended. For ticket information, call Lillie Hamil at 850-718-2375.

Chipola to offer corrections classes

The Chipola Public Service Department will offer a Basic Corrections course beginning Aug. 11.

The 420-hour program will meet weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Nov. 11. Completion of the program prepares candidates to take the State Board Examination for entry into the Corrections field.

Candidates for all programs must be at least 19 years of age and earn a passing score on the Criminal Justice Basic Abilities Test (CJBAT) offered at the Public Service Building every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. Cost of the test is $45.

Applicants must have a standard high school diploma or its equivalent and must undergo a medical physical examination, background check and drug screening.

For information regarding the application process, contact Jamie McAllister, Corrections Coordinator, at (850) 573-0437.