Chipola shines at AFC Conference

Chipola was one of the most talked about colleges at the recent Association of Florida Colleges (AFC) Conference in Orlando.

Automotive instructor John Gardner was named AFC Professor of the Year.

The Academic Center for Excellence was recognized by Florida College System (FCS) Chancellor Madeline Pumariega for innovation and excellence through the Chancellor’s Best Practice Awards.

Math Professor Stan Young was inducted into the FCSAA Hall of Fame for his work as Coach of Chipola’s Seven-Time State Champion Brain Bowl team.

Chipola alumnus Russell Martin, Catcher for the Toronto Blue Jays, was nominated for the Leroy Collins Distinguished Alumnus Award.

The Chipola Chapter of AFC was named a Gold Level Chapter, and was one of only two chapters with more than 50 percent membership.

Chipola Chapter President Matt White won an award as outgoing Region 1 Director.

Alice Pendergrass and Evelyn Ward served on the Credentials Committee. Dr. Jim Froh is chair of the Service Project Committee. Lillie Hamil won the Unsung Hero Award. Brooke Mathis won the Lifesaver Award. Also attending the conference from Chipola were: Joyce Traynor, Angie White, Bonnie Smith, Joc Calloway, Darwin Gilmore, Dr. Sarah Clemmons, Dr. Rachel West and Joy Ree Ashmore.

Chipola President Dr. Jason Hurst, says, “These awards represent the excellent work of so many students and employees. My thanks and congratulations to everyone who played a part in earning these recognitions.”

AFC is a statewide organization open to all employees, retirees and trustees of the 28 colleges in the Florida College System. AFC provides professional development opportunities for its members, and represents the interests of colleges before the Florida Legislature. The Association has nearly 9,000 individual employee and retiree members.

Chipola’s John Gardner is Florida Professor of the Year

John Gardner, Chipola Automotive Technology Instructor, was recently named AFC Professor of the Year.

Gardner competed with two other finalists who each presented a lesson at the recent AFC Conference. Darwin Gilmore, Chipola Dean of Workforce Development, said, “John went head-to-head with two other excellent teachers. It was so impressive to see him practice his craft and earn this honor.”

When Gardner began teaching at Chipola, he had seven students. Some 16 years later, his classes are full and his automotive lessons reach millions of people each week. Gardner says his “edutainment” teaching philosophy is the key to the success of his program. Gardner says edutainment helps engage learners, keep interest high, and deliver technical and complex information through multimedia techniques used in television.

After more than a decade in the Chipola classroom, Gardner shared some of his teaching videos on the web. This led to a partnership with Advance Auto Parts as co-star of the company’s Automotive Training Series along with fellow automotive instructor Chase Vlieg. The educational videos are viewed by thousands of Advance employees across the country.

Gardner says, “I want to thank everyone at the college and our Advisory committee for supporting our program. I am very lucky to have so many friends who have helped me. Chase Vlieg has been my right hand man throughout this whole process.”

Exposure from the Advance deal led Gardner to a starring role in the new automotive how-to show, “Tech Garage,” on Discovery’s Velocity Channel. All episodes of the program have been filmed in the Chipola Automotive shop. Season 2 is scheduled to air beginning in January, 2016. As evidence of the program’s success, Chipola graduates have a 98% placement rate in the industry. Students also have an 85% pass rate on first attempts on (ASE) Automotive Service Excellence exams. Chipola’s program has earned Master Accreditation from ASE and (NATEF) the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation.

Gardner says, “The feeling I get when a successful student returns years after graduation and says, ‘thank you,’ is reward enough to keep me working to improve for many years to come. I can hardly believe that it’s brought me so many opportunities to share my knowledge and love of automotive technology with so many people. I have the most rewarding job in the world.”
Chipola athletes sign with D-1 colleges

Seven Chipola athletes signed letters of intent with Division I Colleges on National Signing Day, Nov. 11.

The signees include: baseball—Jay Estes (Auburn University), Maurice Cooley (University of Miami), Addison Reed (South Alabama) and Landon Faulkner (University of Georgia); men’s basketball—Antwain Johnson (Middle Tennessee); women’s basketball—Cynthia Petke (Georgetown University), and softball, Madison Ragan (Jacksonville University).

Jeff Johnson, Chipola AD and baseball head coach, said, “I’m just very proud of these student-athletes to be academically qualified to be able to sign and to have the athletic ability to play at these schools.”

About Antwain Johnson, Chipola basketball coach Bret Campbell says, “We’re very fortunate to have a player like Antwain on our team—a local player with great talent. This is part of Chipola tradition—to have a number of players that move on to a high level. I’m excited for Antwain and happy he’s found a place to move on to next year.”

Chipola women’s basketball head coach Greg Franklin, said, “Any time a kid can come to Chipola and wind up going to Georgetown University, which is historically a strong academic institution, it just tells players in the future that you can come here and go anywhere. Cynthia Petke is so skilled she’s like a point-center. She doesn’t really have a position. She can play everywhere. That causes matchup problems for the other team. She’s going to wind up being a tremendous player.”

Chipola to host ASA

The Chipola Indians also host ASA, Sunday, Nov. 29, at 2 p.m., in the Milton Johnson Center.

The Indians improved to 4-3 with an 85-77 win over South Georgia Tech on Nov. 18. Junior Saintel led Chipola with 18. Three other players were in double figures for the Indians: Eric Turner (15), Antwain Johnson (13) and Cletrell Pope (10).

Chipola split a pair of games at the Bruce Stewart Classic at Northwest Florida State College. The Indians defeated Richard Bland College 82-63 on Nov. 14. Antwain Johnson led the Indians with 17 points. Mehdy Ngouama had 11 points and 5 rebounds. Eric Turner and Cletrell Pope each had 10 points.


Chipola fell to Broward 89-79 on Oct. 31 and scored a 79-76 win over Indian River on Oct. 30.

The defending national champion Chipola Lady Indians’ next home game is Friday, Dec. 11, against Ft. Benning at 7 p.m. Chipola is 5-1 after their first misfire of the season, an 81-79 loss to Shelton State on Nov. 14. Cynthia Petke and Barbara Johnson led Chipola with 12 points apiece. Shaliaya Fluker and Aisha Edwards both scored 11 points.


On Nov. 11, Cynthia Petke signed a letter of intent to play at Georgetown University next season.


The Lady Indians finished the 2015-16 campaign by capturing the NJCAA National Championship. They also won back-to-back state and conference titles (2015 and 2014).

For information, visit www.chipolaathletics.com.

ACE wins Chancellor’s Best Practice Award

The Chipola Academic Center for Excellence was recognized by Florida College System (FCS) Chancellor Madeline Pumariega for innovation and excellence through the Chancellor’s Best Practice Awards. Chipola established the ACE seven years ago to provide free peer tutoring. Thanks to the ACE, students who enroll at Chipola this year are at least 28% more likely to graduate in three years than students who enrolled six years ago. Pictured at the awards ceremony are, from left: Chipola Senior Vice-President, Dr. Sarah Clemmons; ACE Director Bonnie Smith; Chipola President Dr. Jason Hurst; Florida College System (FCS) Chancellor Madeline Pumariega and Lottery Secretary Tom Delacenserie.

Government Contracting Seminar

Chipola will offer a small business Seminar “Introduction to Federal Government Contracting,” Friday, Nov. 20, from 9 to 11:30 a.m., in Room M-108 of the Chipola Business and Technology building (M).

Pre-registration is recommended online at www.sbdc.uwf.edu by clicking Training Opportunities in Panama City.

For information, contact Katrina Griffin at 850-718-2441 or email griffink@chipola.edu.
Chipola Show Choir Christmas Jazzmatazz

Tickets are now on sale for A Christmas Jazzmatazz. The show will be presented Thursday, Dec. 10 and Friday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 13, at 2 p.m.

Chipola’s award-winning Show Choir will perform their annual concert in a beautiful holiday setting in the Center for the Arts. Tickets—$10—may be purchased at the Chipola Box Office or online at www.chipola.edu/boxoffice beginning Nov. 16.

For information, contact the Box Office at 850-718-2420, or phone Show Choir Director Angie White at 850-718-2354.

Chipola Brain Bowl takes fourth at Delta Burke

The Chipola Brain Bowl Team A finished fourth overall at the 32-team Delta Burke Tournament held Nov. 14 at Valencia College.

The Chipola team finished second among community college teams, losing only to Manatee State College in the championship bracket.

Chipola B also had a strong showing, with a ninth place finish. Both Chipola A and Chipola B finished with an overall record of 7-3.

After the preliminary rounds, Chipola’s Hunter Davis finished as 11th overall in individual scoring, but finished 16th after the playoff rounds. Other Chipola players in the top 40 included: Katie Everett (19), Haileigh Pippin (20), and Chance Pender (38) in the field of 119 players.

Stats are at: http://www.hsquizbowl.org/db/tournaments/3420/stats/delta_burke_2015/

The Chipola team will play next Jan. 8-9 in Lake City and will host the NAQT Florida Sectional on Jan. 22-23.

Earlier last week, Chipola Brain Bowl Coach Stan Young, was inducted into the FCSAA Hall of Fame.

Chipola science students study champion trees

Barry Stafford, Florida Forest Service Jackson County Forester, recently introduced the National Champion Tree Program (which includes Jackson County) to 30 Chipola College Environmental Science students.

As a Forester, Stafford assists landowners with the health of their trees and manages forests. This interactive lesson was sixth in a series directed by Billy Bailey, Park Services Specialist at Florida Caverns State Park.

Students selected and measured trees on the Chipola campus, estimating tree age. The Champion Tree is an American forest program started in 1940 which serves to collect data on the largest trees within a species. Trees which are eligible must be native or naturalized, have at least a 9.5 foot circumference and be at least 13 feet tall.
FIRST GENERATION SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The Chipola Foundation is accepting applications for the First Generation in College Scholarship for the Spring 2016 semester. Several partial $1,000 scholarships will be awarded.

Completed applications must be received in the Foundation office by 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10.

Students must have applied for Federal Pell Grant (FAFSA) and have been determined to be Pell eligible and still have an unmet financial need in order to apply for the First Generation Scholarship. Current Chipola students must have a 2.0 college GPA. New students must have a 2.0 high school GPA.

The need-based scholarship is available to Florida residents who enroll as undergraduate, degree-seeking students for a minimum of six hours per term. Students must meet the eligibility requirements for demonstrated financial need and must come from a family where neither parent has completed a bachelor's degree. If the student regularly resides with only one parent who provides support, that one parent must not have completed a bachelor's degree for the student to be eligible.

Students must submit a personal letter and an application—available in the Foundation Office—with all required items outlined on the application by Dec. 10. For information, call 850-718-2404.