

Kotchman named Alumnus of the Year

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

Kotchman's life has been connected to Chipola 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,

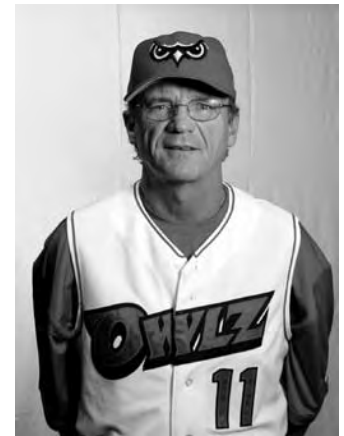
he makes regular visits to Chipola to share advice with all the players, not just the big prospects.

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 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

Continued on page 3

Spring 2009

Smoke Signals

A publication for alumni and friends of Chipola College

Chipola becomes state college

Chipola College officially became a State College on June 12, 2008.

Chipola is one of nine community colleges in the State College pilot project for Florida community colleges which offer four-year degrees. State Colleges include: Chipola College, Daytona Beach College, Edison College, Indian River College, Miami Dade College, Oka-

loosa-Walton College, Polk College, Santa Fe College and St. Petersburg College.

Chipola president Dr. Gene Prough, said, "This is an important event in the life of Chipola College. As a state college, we will be able to expand our offerings to provide more opportunities to the people in our district and beyond."

The newly-created Florida College System is a middle-tier

system of higher education which is expected to maximize student access to baccalaureate degrees, respond to community needs for postsecondary education, and provide the degrees that best meet Florida's employment needs.

State colleges are prohibited from using the term "university" and from granting graduate degrees. Intercollegiate athletics for state colleges will remain at the two-year level. State Colleges also must provide cost-effective delivery with substantial savings over state university system costs.

Chipola was founded in 1947 to provide the first two years of college and workforce programs for residents of the five-county district of Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties. In 2002, Chipola and Miami Dade became the second and third Florida community colleges

authorized to offer bachelor's degrees. Chipola originally was approved to offer degrees in Secondary Education with majors in math and science. Since that time, dozens of teachers have graduated from Chipola to begin careers in area middle and high schools. Chipola now offers a total of eight bachelor's degrees, including: Secondary Education with majors in middle or high school mathematics or science, Elementary Education, Exceptional Student Education, Nursing and Business Management.

Prough added, "Chipola has been providing opportunities to the people of this area since 1947. I am so proud that, 62 years later, we are still expanding opportunities for our students."

For information, call the Baccalaureate Hotline (850) 718-2492.

Check out Chipola at www.chipola.edu

HOMECOMING 2009

Indians celebrate Homecoming

Chipola celebrated Homecoming with a host of events culminating with the Homecoming games on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009.

This year's theme is "Building on Tradition".

Courtney Corbin of Graceville was crowned Chipola's 2009 Homecoming Queen and Kris Sampson was crowned 2009 Mr. Chipola.

Ashley Duce, Homecoming Queen 2008 and Keith Watford, Mr. Chipola 2008 assisted in the coronation.

Members of the 2009 Homecoming Court are freshmen attendants Emily Harrison and Madison Wester; freshmen male attendants Quintin Beechum and Josh Johnson; sophomore attendants Erica Manning, Alicia Hatcher and Courtney Corbin. and sopho-

more male attendants Teron Pope, Kris Sampson, and Mikey Smith.

The winners of the Talent Show competition were: Best Solo Winner: Emily Redmond; Best Dance Group Winner: BSU Dance Team; Best Singing Group Winner: Marcus Mallett and Daniel Martin; third place: Courtney Corbin and Mindy Shamblin; second place: FCA group Marshall Hilton, Dan Gochenaur, Ronald Shores and Cam Hitchcock; first place: Keith Watford & Kris Sampson.

The Building Decoration Contest winners were third place Phi Beta Lambda; second, Future Educators and first, Black Student Union.

An Alumni Reception hosted by Chipola President Dr. Gene Prough and his wife

Priscilla, was held in the Appreciation Club Room. Alumni and friends enjoyed the event.

Homecoming Night began with an 78-71 Lady Indi-

ans victory against Northwest Florida's Lady Raiders.

The Indians followed with another 78-71 victory over the Raiders.



Courtney Corbin of Graceville was crowned Chipola's 2009 Homecoming Queen and Kris Sampson was crowned 2009 Mr. Chipola. Members of the 2009 Homecoming Court are, from left: Erica Manning, Teron Pope, Quintin Beechum, Madison Wester, 2009 Mr. Chipola Kris Sampson, 2009 Queen Courtney Corbin, 2008 queen Ashley Duce, 2008 Mr. Chipola Keith Watford, Emily Harrison, Josh Johnson; Alicia Hatcher and Mikey Smith.

Beloved Coach Johnson touched the lives of thousands

Retired Chipola coach Milton H. Johnson died Friday, Feb. 13, at his home in Marianna.

Coach Johnson was among the best to ever coach in community college basketball. From 1961 to 1993, Johnson won 628 games and led the Indians seven national tournaments, finishing second in 1974. He was named Division Coach of the Year nine times, Region VIII Coach of the Year six times and FCCAA Coach of the Year four times.

Johnson's winning ways didn't begin in junior college. The legendary coach gained wide recognition during six years at Campbellton High School (1955-61) by winning three state titles and rolling up an incredible 55-game winning streak. His lifetime coaching record includes more than 800 wins.

Johnson played basketball,

baseball and football at Bay High in Panama City. In 1947, he joined Chipola's first basketball team under Coach Roy Beall. Later he transferred to East Central Junior College in Mississippi, where he played basketball and football, and met his wife, the late Evelyn Johnson. Coach Johnson and his biggest fan, Evelyn, had two sons, Jimmy and David.

Johnson finished college at Livingston College where he was an outstanding scorer and defensive star as guard. He earned a Master's in Physical Education from Florida State. He then served for two years in the Army before taking his first coaching job in Campbellton.

Johnson's gentle demeanor and professional attitude earned him the respect of players and coaches alike. Chipola hosts the Milton H. Johnson Classic each year.

The Chipola gymnasium bears the name as does the Panhandle Conference trophy.

Johnson is a founding member and long-serving officer of the Chipola Appreciation Club, arguably one of the top athletic booster organizations in America. Club members raise thousands through annual memberships and corporate sponsorships and have amassed some \$1 million in an athletic endowment.

Johnson was a charter member of the Florida Community College Hall of Fame (1990) and was named to the National Junior College Athletic Association Hall of Fame in 1993.

Chipola held two major events to honor coach Johnson. Chipola's Night of Champions in 2007, featured Billy Donovan, coach of the Florida Gators two-time national champions and Chipo-



la alumnus Cliff Ellis, head coach at Coastal Carolina.

In 2008, more than 100 of Johnson's players, cheerleaders and friends attended a reunion to recognize him for his contributions to their lives. On Jan. 17, several of these players presented a check for \$50,000 to Chipola for the purpose of permanently endowing a scholarship in the coach's honor. To make a contribution to the fund, contact the Chipola Foundation at 850-718-2445.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Kotchman Alumnus of the Year, *continued from page 1*

manager and went home to be a dad. In 1990, he took a scouting position in Florida and a short-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 Alumnus running for Florida Senate



Bill Montford

Chipola College alumnus Bill Montford has made his choice to pursue a seat in the Florida State Senate as a representative for District 6.

A native of Blountstown, Montford was a student at Chipola in the 1960’s and moved to Tallahassee to attend Florida State University in 1967. While at FSU he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics Education and Master of Science Degree in Administration and Supervision. He also received an Honorary Doctorate

of Laws from Flagler College.

Montford began his teaching career as a math teacher at Belle Vue Middle School in Tallahassee in 1969. He served as a school administrator for 26 years and spent 18 of those years as a high school principal. He was elected Superintendent of Leon County Schools in 1996. Montford is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents.

Bill lives in Tallahassee with his wife Jane, who is a first grade public school teacher in Leon County. Jane also attended Chipola and that is where they met in a speech class. Bill said, “That was the most enjoyable class I ever had.” Bill and Jane have two children, William J. Montford, IV (Bill) and Katherine Montford Peters. Bill (IV) and wife Emily have two children, William J. Montford, V and Henry James Montford. Katherine and husband Kevin have one daughter, Eleanor Jane.

Montford said, “Growing

up in North Florida, hard work and community service have always been a large part of my life. That’s how I was raised, and how Jane and I raised our children. I am proud of my professional accomplishments and community involvement, and I stand by my record of public service. Someone once said of me, “He is one of us!” That is the best compliment that I could ever receive.”

Montford also served two terms as Leon County Commissioner and is very active in a number of professional and civic organizations. Montford serves on the Board of Directors for the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science, Challenger Learning Center, the Florida Center for Performing Arts and Education, and The Village Square. He was also appointed by Governor Crist to the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness, and the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

Montford has received numerous awards and recognitions for his dedication to

education and the community. Bill was honored as Florida Superintendent of the Year in 2002. In 2008, the Leon County School Board named William J. Montford, III Middle School in his honor. Montford said, “Throughout my 40-year career as a teacher, principal, superintendent, county commissioner, and CEO of the state superintendent’s association, I have demonstrated my ability to build consensus and reach responsible compromises to get the job done, and at the same time stand firm on my convictions and principles. At the end of the day, what matters most is that you accomplish the goals you set out to achieve for those you represent.”

In regards to his run for State Senate Montford has said, “I chose to run for Senate because there is still much work to be done in the Florida Legislature on behalf of the citizens in District 6. I know I can get the job done on your behalf.”

Homecoming 2010

Saturday, February 6

Chipola vs. Tallahassee

Milton Johnson Health Center

Women play 5:30 p.m. • Alumni Reception 6 p.m. • Men play 7:30 p.m.

All times are CST.

Alumni Shorts



Wendell “Ray” Hodges Jr. (2006) has completed his BS in Civil Engineering from FSU-PC. Hodges credits the outstanding faculty at Chipola College with his success. “I was thirty-five years of age, married and the father of two when I made the decision to pursue my college education. I can honestly say if it were not for the continuous encouragement and support that I received from the faculty in the math and natural science departments, I would never have fulfilled my dream. Thank you for helping my dream become a reality!”



Dr. Cherra Pumphrey (1999) has completed her residency in internal medicine at the University of Tennessee



Pumphrey

School of Medicine and will begin her medical practice in a few weeks. She is a graduate of the University of South Florida College of Medicine and a Cum Laude graduate in Biochemistry from Florida

State University.

She has worked with the Gulfcoast South AHEC Interdisciplinary Community Health Scholars Program and has served as a team-member for the Manatee County Health Department Childhood Obesity Project.

Dr. Pumphrey has conducted research on Mycobacterium Avium, Status Asthmaticus, Bicuspid Aortic Valve Rupture and Concurrent Three-Vessel Thrombosis.



Dr. Malcolm Gillis (1960), Professor of Economics and former President of Rice University, delivered the address to the Class of 2008 at Chipola’s May commencement. Gillis is a native of Marianna.



Gillis



The Villagers, a popular Chipola band from the 1960’s reunited for a special set four decades after their last performance at the National Guard Armory at the Chipola Endless Summer Event in August 2008 and the Sam Mitchell Dinner in 2009. Villagers Cliff Ellis of Chipley, Billy Bryan of Bascom, Allen Myers of Malone, George Boyer of Port St. Joe, Walter Dover of Quincy and Andy Murray of Chattahoochee, were idolized by their long-time fans.

The Endless Summer event reunited old Chipola friends and alumni for a relaxing evening to benefit the college’s athletic programs.



Chipola nursing grads enjoying success in health field

Chipola nursing graduates Tracy and Michelle Mears have made a name for themselves in the local health care industry.

After overcoming a traumatic event and meeting the challenges of education, this husband and wife nursing team is enjoying tremendous success.

Tracy serves as RN Charge Nurse in the Emergency Room of at Jackson Hospital in Marianna. On paper, Tracy’s story looks like many other high-achievers, but his plans were complicated by a serious automobile accident in 1999. Tracy served as a Paramedic for more than 14 years before the car crash changed his plans. He suffered broken legs, a crushed ankle and associated injuries that put him in a wheel chair for several months.

“It was a lesson in humility,” said Mears who was accepted to Chipola’s nursing program after the accident. “When I came to Chipola’s Health Science program I hobbled in on crutches and breathless. I wasn’t sure I would be able to enter the program because I wouldn’t be able to walk very much. Chipola assured me they would do whatever was necessary to help me finish the program.”

That encouragement was all Tracy needed. He went right to work, completing Chipola’s ADN program and earning RN certification in 2004. Tracy continued his education, earning the BSN from FSU in 2006. He is currently enrolled in the Masters program at FSU in the second year of the Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) program.

Now Tracy is helping other health professionals with their education. He teaches Advance Life Support courses for the American Heart Association and serves as a clinical preceptor—a medical term for mentor—for students in their final year of the RN program at Chipola and the University of South Alabama BSN program. He has also worked in the Intensive Care Unit at Jackson Hospital.

Michelle completed her RN training at Chipola in 1999. Since then, she has served at Jackson Hospital, Calhoun-Liberty Hospital and Blountstown Health and Rehabilitation. Currently, she is a Senior RN Supervisor at Sunland Center in Marianna.

Michelle also taught some classes for a time in Chipola’s Certified Nursing Assistant program. She has high praise for the Chipola nursing program. “The resources were readily available and the Chipola staff really helped. The availability of a nearby college with clinicals in Dothan was a big plus.”

Tracy said the roles of the nurse have expanded tremendously since the couple joined the profession. The Mears’ roles have changed as well with addition of daughters, Brittany Nicole, who is four, and two year-old Heather LeAnn.

**Send us your story!
See the last page of this publication.**

CHIPOLA FOUNDATION

Foundation offers much needed help to students

Even in today's failing economy, the Chipola College Foundation has been able to help a large number of students awarding 494 scholarships for the Fall 2009 semester totaling \$425,470.

The Foundation received 1,699 applications for various scholarships and 203 McLendon Educational Trust Scholarship applications for Fall 2009 semester funding. The Foundation also processed 641 applications that are forwarded to off-campus scholarship committees for review.

This is about a 35% decrease in applications from the previous year due mostly to the fact that the scholarship offerings were less in number and dollar value.

Total dollars awarded were about 62% less

for Fall 2009 than in Fall 2008 due to stock market losses forcing reduced awards.

The Foundation has current assets totaling \$12.7 million. The majority of funds are

secured in endowments with only the interest used to fund scholarships.

Former Chipola Foundation president Chuck Hudson, says, "The Foundation board members are proud that so many students are benefiting from the generosity of the many donors in our community."

The extensive list of all scholarships offered through the Chipola Foundation for the 2010-2011 school year will be available in early March.

The Chipola Foundation welcomes tax-deductible contributions to existing funds and programs and the creation of new scholarships.

For information, call 850-718-2478.



Some 500 donors attended a fundraiser in honor of the late Rep. Sam Mitchell on Saturday, Aug. 29. More than \$30,000 was raised to endow a scholarship in memory of the former state legislator who played on Chipola College's first football and basketball teams in 1947. Here, Chipola president Dr. Gene Prough presents a bouquet of flowers to Sam's wife Nellie. The event was hosted by "Friends of Sam Mitchell" and sponsored by the Chipola Appreciation Club.

Alumni Shorts



Gov. Charlie Crist on Oct. 1, 2008, announced that he has chosen **Judge Ricky Polston (1976)** of the First District Court of Appeal to sit on the Florida Supreme Court.

Polston, 52, takes the place of retiring Justice Kenneth Bell. Polston grew up on a farm in Graceville, where he was a high school valedictorian before attending Chipola and Florida State University as an undergraduate and law student. He joined the First District Court of Appeal in 2001 and has ruled in more than 6,000 appellate cases. He also worked in the Tampa Bay area as a certified public accountant prior to his law career.

Polston and his wife of 31 years, Deborah Ehler Polston, are parents to 10 biological and adopted children. After the last of their four biological daughters was grown, they adopted six brothers from state foster care, ages 1 through 15.



An original composition by Chipola music department alumnus **Mitch Sims** was scheduled to be premiered at the Wien Musikgynasium in Vienna, Austria on Dec. 11, 2009. For more information, visit www.mgw.at/plan/lage-plan.htm



Four former Chipola Honors Program students and founding members of the Chipola Pre-Med Society have been admitted to Florida State University's School of Medicine. They include: Laura Davis of Blountstown, Mitchell Whitehead of Cottondale, John David Byrd of Graceville and Alex Parker of Chipley.

Give a student a brighter future. Give to the Chipola College Foundation.

Chipola College Foundation

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Chipola Foundation

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Country _____ Class/Year _____

Phone: Home _____

Office _____

Fax: Home _____

Office _____

Email Address _____

CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION

I authorize Chipola to collect my gift of \$ _____

MasterCard Visa Discover American Express

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Name as it appears on the card

I would like to designate my gift to:

- Unrestricted Funds
- General Scholarship Fund
- Fine Arts
- Athletics
- Specific Academic Program _____
- Other _____

FACULTY AND STAFF IN THE NEWS



Geraldine DeFelix (right) and Dr. Cherry Ward (left) were chosen by their peers as co-recipients of the 2009 Kirkland Award for Excellence in Teaching at Chipola College. They are pictured with one of the namesakes for the award Carolyn Kirkland.

DeFelix and Ward win Kirkland Awards

English professor Geraldine DeFelix and math professor Dr. Cherry Ward were chosen by their peers as co-recipients of the 2009 Kirkland Award for Excellence in Teaching at Chipola College.

DeFelix has been an English and reading instructor at Chipola since 1997, and has been widely known as an excellent educator in the area for 30 years. She tutors many underprepared students and students who speak English as a second language.

The faculty member who nominated DeFelix, said, "Geraldine encourages students to ask for help and is available to

them. She is always professional and respectful in her relationships with students and is viewed by many to be a role model. She takes her role as advisor very seriously."

DeFelix was a key contributor to Chipola's Quality Enhancement First Year Learning Experience project. She helped initiate the project and served as an instructor and mentor for the pilot course. She provided leadership for the college's OnCourse training and has helped to develop successful strategies to engage students that have been adopted by many faculty members.

DeFelix served as a Chipola

partner for Graceville High School for several years, visiting the Graceville campus each week to mentor seniors. She has served as Chipola Cheerleader sponsor for 12 years.

Chipola math professor Dr. Cherry Ward also was chosen to receive the Kirkland Award.

The faculty member who nominated Ward, said, "Cherry is a professional educator in every way. She exemplifies excellence to her colleagues and is respected by her students, many of whom will also become teachers."

Ward initiated the Future Educators Club (FEC) which sponsors the Teacher Outreach Program in which upper division education Chipola students work with high school clubs to provide mentoring activities for high school students planning to become teachers.

In 2008, Dr. Ward received the Statewide Curriculum and Instruction Award for her innovative teaching technique called "test journals" to help students perform better in math courses. She also has

implemented the use of the Interwrite program and was one of the first faculty members to embrace the Desire to Learn (D2L) computer classroom management program as a way to help students.

Dr. Ward chaired Chipola's Quality Enhancement Plan Development Team and provided leadership for the faculty in that reaffirmation effort.

The Kirkland Award was established by brothers—J. R. Kirkland and David Kirkland—in honor of their parents Carolyn and the late Willis Kirkland of Marianna. The award provides \$1,000 to the annual recipient. Previous winners include faculty emeriti Dr. Stephen Shimmel, Dr. Bill Brievogel, Kathryn Roberts, Brenda Alford, Donald Holley, Paul Huang, Don Adams, Peggy Register, Charlene Lord and Lonnie Keene, former instructor Jean Taylor and current instructors Dr. Robert Dunkle, JoAnn Everett, Mary McClendon, Nancy Burns, Dr. Lou Cleveland, Rose Cavin, Dr. David Hilton, John Gardner and Stan Young.

Patricia Ward has been named Chipola's Career Employee of the Year for 2009.

Ward has served as a custodian in the college's Physical Plant Department since 2005.

She says, "I really enjoy working here at the college. I like everything about it, especially the students."

Ward's supervisor Edward Mount, says, "Mrs. Ward is very dependable, honest and hard-working. She's on time and never misses a day. She is very courteous to the students, staff and faculty. She tries to help students whenever she can, helping them to find their way around campus. She's

just an all-around outstanding employee."

Ward is a member of Chipola's chapter of Florida Association of Community Colleges and the Chipola's Career Employees Association.

Ward has five children, 19 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She is active in the Ever Increasing Word of Faith Church.

The Employee of the Year award recognizes the exceptional work of Chipola's career service employees. Candidates are nominated by fellow employees for exhibiting courtesy, motivation and professionalism. Annual winners receive a \$1,000 bonus, reserved parking

certificate from the college

Book Store.

Ward is Career Employee of the Year



Patricia Ward (center) accepts the Chipola College Career Employee of the Year award from Chipola president Dr. Gene Prough (left) and college board member Gina Stuart.

Roach is Chipola Faculty Member of the Year

Lindsay Roach, retired Chipola Articulation Coordinator and Honors Adviser, was named the 2009 Chipola Faculty/Administrator/Professional Employee of the year.

Roach worked at Chipola from 1991 to 2009 where he served as an advisor in the Student Services Division. His responsibilities included helping students to plan their academic careers in order to make a successful transition from Chipola to the college or university of their choice. He also taught a section the college Orientation course. Roach was Articulation Officer for the college and also served on the college Honors Council and the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee. He was chair of the local FACC Scholarship Committee which was twice named best scholarship program in the state in the last four years. Roach also served

FACC at the state level as an executive board member of the state FACC Student Development Commission.

Roach says, "This is a tremendous honor. I love everything about Chipola and the Chipola family."

Roach's supervisor Dr. Joan Miller, Dean of Student Services, says, "Over the last eighteen years Lindsay has assumed additional duties and responsibilities, handling each with determination and dedication. He advised a broad range of students including honors students, athletes, and dual-enrollment students. Thanks to his leadership on the FACC scholarship committee, our endowment has increased by several thousand dollars. Hats off to Lindsay .. a true student advocate!"

Roach retired from Chipola in May 2009.



Lindsay Roach (right) accepts congratulations for the Chipola College Faculty Member of the Year award from Chipola College Dean of Student Services Dr. Joan Miller.

Pendergrass inducted in FCCAA Hall of Fame

Alice Pendergrass, Coordinator of the FCCAA State Basketball Tournament held at Chipola, was named in March 2008 to the FCCAA Women's Coaches Hall of Fame.

Alice has worked at Chipola for 18 years and has served as Tournament Coordinator for 12 of those. When she's not working on the tournament, she serves as a Departmental Staff Assistant for Chipola's Workforce Development division.



Ward and Gardner win Best Practice Awards

Chipola mathematics professor Dr. Cherry Ward and automotive professor John Gardner were each awarded a Best Practice Award at the Florida Association of Community Colleges Annual Convention held in November 2008.

Ward was recognized by the Instructional Innovation Commission. The competition gives community college faculty members the opportunity to share innovative teaching strategies with faculty members across the state.

Ward's presentation on "Test Journals: Helping the Under-Prepared Student Succeed" was chosen from three

finalists as the state winner.

According to Ward, many under-prepared students perform poorly on tests because of anxiety and a lack of practice. Because of these factors, tests may not be accurate measures



Cherry Ward

of their abilities. By utilizing test journals, tests can measure performance and provide an opportunity for students to correct their errors and earn points back.

In addition to teaching mathematics and education classes at Chipola, Ward serves as facilitator of the college's Quality Enhancement Plan/ Title III project.

Gardner was recognized by the Occupational and Workforce Education Commission.



John Gardner

Chipola's automotive program provides a platform for employment in a rewarding high-wage career. Students learn on computer stations which can be accessed by the instructor through a network of wireless laptops via a central file server.

The program is open-entry/open-exit system. Both entry-level and experienced technicians can access any area of the curriculum at any time.

Gardner says, "Partnerships with local dealerships, shops, and a strong advisory committee afford students opportunities such as industry based curriculum, industry tools, and training in all fields of the automotive industry. This powerful partnership has resulted in increased enrollment and retention as well as an increase in employment potential and program completers."

The automotive program has grown from only 12 students in 2000 to 30 students and a waiting list in 2008.

Chipola officials cut ribbon for renovated building

The Chipola College District Board of Trustees hosted a Ribbon-Cutting and Open House for the college's newly renovated Building 'L' on April 21.

The renovation project provides additional classroom space and a new home for the college's ACE (Academic Center for Excellence).

Chipola president Dr. Gene Prough thanked the college's Board of Trustees for their leadership on the project which includes the Dean Allen Atrium, named for the late Webb Allen, the first dean of the college and one of the most influential leaders in the school's history. In addition to teaching, Dean Allen was practically the president of Chipola handling many of the day-to-day opera-

tions of the college from 1948 to 1978. Prough, who was a Chipola student during Allen's tenure, said, "Dean Allen loved students and a genuine concern for them to succeed. We are proud to name the Dean Allen Atrium in his honor."

The renovation project also provides space for the college ACE (Academic Center for Excellence). Bonnie Smith, ACE Coordinator, said, "We appreciate the board and administration for providing this new space. We especially appreciate the faculty for supporting the ACE and our students." ACE offers free peer tutoring for Chipola students.

Dr. Prough said, "To borrow a popular slogan, ACE is the place. This is the place where students can find help,

find a friend, and find success in their college classes."

Whiterock & Associates,

Inc., completed the renovation project at a cost of \$1.7 million.



The atrium of the college's Academic Center for Excellence was recently named in honor of Dean Webb Allen. Pictured are retired Chipola Librarian Merle Houston, Chipola president Dr. Gene Prough and board member Jeff Crawford.

Chipola students honored for academics

Chipola College students Russell Register and Cassie Mitchell have earned high honors from USA Today Academic Team program. The program is associated with Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges.

Register was named a member of the All-USA Today Coca-Cola Bronze Team. He received a medallion and \$1,000, and was highlighted

in the April 6, 2009 edition of USA Today.

Mitchell was named a Coca-Cola Finalist in the All-USA Academic Team competition and also received \$1,000. Both students were named to the All-Florida First Team.

Russell Register is an active member of Chipola's Phi Theta Kappa honor society and became active in PTK as a Marianna High School

senior while dually enrolled at Chipola. He quickly shared his passion for working with medical organizations to provide support in finding cures for serious illnesses that affected members of his family, as well as members of our community. He implemented "Project Patients," an avenue to work with various charitable organizations.

Register said, "I have great pride in my community and pride for Chipola College. Both of my parents are Chipola alumni, as are many family members and friends. The Chipola legacy is one I value because of the advantages that I have received by attending this outstanding institution."

Register is the son of Russell and Jill Register of Marianna. He plans to transfer to the University of West Florida to major in history.

Cassie Mitchell of Sneads was named a finalist in the in the USA Today All-American

competition.

In addition to many service activities, Mitchell is a member of the Honors Program, Show Choir and the New Friends Program. She was involved in numerous Phi Theta Kappa projects. She also is a Chipola Student Ambassador and a member of the Student Government Association.

Cassie's goal of promoting reading and learning at every grade level from preschool to college through the "Leaps for Literacy" program featured many projects, including "Pajama Night" at the Jackson County Public Library. Cassie recruited Phi Theta Kappa chapter members to read to children of all ages who showed up at the library in pajamas and carrying pillows and blankets.

Mitchell is the daughter of Lonnie and Joyce Mitchell of Sneads. She plans to transfer to Florida State University to major in Public Relations.



Chipola College officials recognized the academic accomplishments of Russell Register and Cassie Mitchell in 2009. Pictured from left, are: PTK adviser Pam Rentz, Russell Register, Chipola president Dr. Gene Prough, Cassie Mitchell and Chipola vice president Dr. Sarah Clemmons.



Chipola biology professor Dr. Virginia Baker is working with colleagues at Florida State University and the World Health Mission to unravel the mysteries hidden in the poor efficacy of the malaria vaccine.

Dr. Baker says, "In the field of malaria research, we are frequently confronted with the hopeful perspective that a malaria vaccine is eminent. Unfortunately, the development of such a vaccine has

Chipola biology professor working on malaria vaccine

remained elusive, with factors of unknown origin undermining its success."

While working in Nigeria, Dr. Baker uncovered an unexpected autoimmune phenomenon found in children under the age of six. The impact of this find may lie in a novel discovery of an innate immune response never before identified in association with malaria.

The manuscript, *Cytokine-Associated Neutrophil Extracellular Traps in Plas-*

modium Falciparum Infected Children under the Age of Six, was submitted by Dr. Baker and colleagues to the MALARIA JOURNAL, where it has recently been accepted for publication by peer review. The manuscript has claimed international attention and press as the long sought-after explanation for malaria vaccination failure. Invitations for Dr. Baker to speak about the research are as far-reaching as Guangzhou, China.

Community College Chancellor addresses Chipola grads

Dr. Will Holcombe, Chancellor for Florida's Community College System, delivered the commencement address at the 2009 Chipola College graduation. Some 371 Chipola graduates received their diploma. Chipola's fifth class of bachelor's degree graduates in Secondary Education were among the graduates.



Chipola Brain Bowlers look to defend state title

The 2009-10 Chipola Brain Bowl team hopes to win the Florida State title for the third straight year this spring.

The latest version of Chipola Brain Bowl version 2009-10 team appears to be the strongest yet with four returning players and freshman standout Dallin Kelson. This

year's squad beat Valencia in November to win the 2009 Delta Burke Tournament for the second straight year. Five Chipola players scored among the top 30 individuals in a field of more than 140 players. Kelson was sixth overall. Ethan Hewett finished 10th. Drew Padgett was 11th. Nathan

Hooppell finished 14th and Cody Pickens was 30th.

The Chipola team will play again in January, 2010, in the hopes of qualifying for the community college national championship.

The Chipola A and B teams finished first and second respectively at the ACF Fall Academic Tournament October, 2009. Chipola also finished third behind first place University of Florida and second place Florida State University in a 20-team tournament in Orlando in October, 2009.

Chipola is the two-time, defending Florida State champion, and has finished second in the NAQT national tournament for the past two years. Chipola won the school's first state championship in 2008 and repeated in 2009. Last year's

2008-09 Brain teams included (Gold): Jordan Belser, Anthony Garrett, Brad Wells and Ryan Wells, and (Blue): Nathan Hooppell, Ethan Hewett, Drew Padgett, Cody Pickens and Anthony Berkeley.

Chipola Brain Bowl coaches are mathematics professor Stan Young and Humanities professor Dr. Robert Dunkle. Coach Young, said, "Our players and my fellow coach Robert Dunkle put in many hours of hard work. A lot of credit also goes to the many college employees who support our team."

Chipola president Dr. Gene Prough, said, "The Brain Bowl team represents the best of the best in the state of Florida. I congratulate the team and coaches for their ongoing success."



Brain Bowl team members are, from left: Cody Pickens, Ethan Hewett, Nathan Hooppell, Drew Padgett, Brittany Stephens, coach Stan Young, coach Dr. Robert Dunkle, and Dallin Kelson. Not pictured is Jessica Bradley.

Chipola men's and women's basketball teams capture 2009 state titles and advance to national tournaments



Chipola celebrates their third state basketball title in the last three years in March 2009.

The Chipola College men's basketball team captured their fourth state title in five years with a 68-65 win over Gulf Coast in the FCCAA/Region VIII Championships on March 7, 2009.

Tournament MVP Casey Mitchell led the Indians with 17 points. Torye Pelham had 13 points and 15 rebounds. Malcolm Almstead scored 12 with 6 assists. Gary Flowers had 11 points, 7 rebounds, 6 assists and 3 steals.

In addition to his MVP award, Mitchell was named FCCAA Player of the Year and to the All State/All Region VIII team.

Four Chipola players were named to the All Tournament Team: Justin Brownlee, Jeremy Jacob, Gary Flowers and Casey Mitchell. Chipola coach Greg Heiar was named FCCAA Coach of the Year.

The Indians defeated Connors State College (OK), 102-70, to finish third in the National Junior College Athletic Association Men's Basketball Tournament in the Bicentennial Center in Hutchinson, Kansas.

NJCAA All American Cassie Mitchell was named to the NJCAA All Tournament Team and the NJCAA Player of the Year.

The Indians finish their season at 34-2.

The **Chipola Lady Indians** captured the FCCAA/Region VIII Championship with a 68-67 win over Gulf Coast on March 7.

Pearl Johnson led Chipola with 20 points, including the go-ahead lay-up with three seconds remaining.

Tournament MVP Latoya Williams scored 17 points and pulled in 14 rebounds for Chipola.

Chipola's Latoya Williams was named Tournament MVP and FCCAA Player of the Year. Lenita Sanford and Latoya Williams were named to the All Tournament Team.

Williams also was named to the All State/All Region VIII Team. Chipola's Jamia Akins won the FCCAA Sandy Miller Academic Award. Lady Indians head coach David Lane was named FCCAA Tournament Coach of the Year.

The Lady Indians made

school history defeating Kas-kaskia College (IL), 81-74, to finish third in the National Junior College Athletic Association Women's Basketball Tournament in the Bicentennial Center in Salina, Kansas. This is the highest finish in the history of the women's program at Chipola.

Chipola finished fourth in 2006 and fifth in 2007.

WBCA All American Latoya Williams and Marneshia Hall were named to the NJCAA All Tournament Team.

The Lady Indians finish their season at 30-6.



**NJCAA All-American
WBCA All American
LaToya Williams**
Women's Basketball



**NJCAA All-American
NJCAA Player of the Year
Casey Mitchell**
Men's Basketball



The Lady Indians celebrate their victory over Gulf Coast to take the title.

Chipola Baseball players advance to Major League play

Five Chipola Indian baseball players were selected in the 2009 MLB First-Year Player Draft on June 9.

Patrick Corbin was selected as the 80th overall pick (2nd Round) by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. During the 6th round, the New York Mets selected Chipola pitcher David Buchanan. Dayne Read, Joey Rapp, and Marc Bourgeois were selected in the 37th, 41st, and 42nd rounds respectively to complete the draft for the Indians.

Chipola finished the 2009 season as the FCCAA State Runner-up with a 31-20 final record.

The latest Indians to turn pro join a growing list of MLB players, the most prominent being Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Russell Martin. He was a 2007 and 2008 NL All-Star, NL Gold Glove Winner and Sliver Slugger Winner.

Martin says, "I grew up at Chipola more than any other time in my life. I came to Chipola a boy and now consider myself a man ready to take on any adverse situation. Not only did I improve my skills as a baseball player, I became a player with much confidence

and more character during my time there. The hard work at Chipola has translated into my pro career, by making the long season feel easier to take on because of Coach Johnson's everlasting drive to get the most out of us as players and people."

Jose Bautista is third baseman and utility player for the Toronto Blue Jays. He says, "Coach Johnson had and still has a great impact in my life. It began from the time I arrived at Chipola at age 18 and continues today in the Major Leagues. His contributions to my development as a player and as a person have been so great that I consider him the individual that has had the greatest influence on me after my parents. To this day, when I'm struggling at the plate, I call him and ask him to watch my 'at-bats' to see what needs to be fixed."

Mat Gamel recently completed his first season with the Milwaukee Brewers. Tyler Flowers was just called up to the Chicago White Sox at the end of the 2009 season.

Four former Chipola players made their marks on Minor League Baseball in 2009. Rene Tosoni, with the Minnesota



Coach Jeff Johnson with Chipola Baseball Alumnus Jose Bautista now playing for the Toronto Blue Jays.



Russell Martin, Los Angeles Dodgers

Twins organization and Tyler Flowers of the Chicago White Sox, both were XM/MLB Futures Game Selections. Ryan

Chaffee with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim organization was a Midwest League Mid-Season All-Star.



Johnson impacts generations

The hundreds of players the late Milton Johnson coached during his career included two father and son sets: (from left) Cody and Zack Taylor from Bonifay, Johnson (center) and Greg and Sydney Granger from Blountstown.

Chipola's Fine and Performing Arts Department presents . . .

The **Chipola** Show Choir
Celebrating 25 years
 presents

JAZZMATAZZ

"My Favorite Things"

Celebrating 25 Years of Chipola Show Choir

Thursday – Saturday

January 7-9, 2010

7 p.m. Chipola Theatre

Tickets: Adults \$10 Children (under 18) \$5

Tickets available from Show Choir Members
 or in the lobby of the Fine Arts Building.

For more information: call Joan Stadskev (718-2301)

Proceeds from the concert will benefit the
 Show Choir Spring Tour.

The Chipola Theatre Department presents



Book by Michael Stewart
 Music by Charles Strouse
 Lyrics by Lee Adams
 Directed and Choreographed
 by Robert Longbottom

Directed by Charles Sirmon
 Choreography by Chris Manasco

March 10-13, 2010 — 7:30 p.m.

March 14, 2010 — 2:00 p.m.

Chipola Theatre

Tickets will be on sale February 24
 in the College Business Office, 718-2220.
 \$7 Adults - \$5 Students



MILTON H. JOHNSON HEALTH CENTER
 MARIANNA, FLORIDA
 CHIPOLA COLLEGE

March Madness returns to Marianna

March 3-6, 2010

when Chipola hosts the

Men's and Women's State Junior
 College Basketball Tournament.

Send Us Your Alumni Story

New job, a promotion, marriage, kids, awards?

Be sure to include the who, what, when, where, why and how.

Name: _____

Graduation Year from Chipola: _____

Degree/Certificate: _____

Street Address _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: (____) _____

What's new? _____

If you need additional room please attach news of your accomplishments.
 Information is published on a space-available basis at the discretion of the editor.

Send news to:

Public Relations ♦ Chipola College ♦ 3094 Indian Circle ♦
 Marianna, FL 32446 or send email to warde@chipola.edu