Chipola College alumnus of the year Jose Bautista is major league baseball’s homrun leader for the second straight year. The Toronto Blue Jays outfielfder finished the 2011 regular season with 43 home runs. After hitting an incredible 54 homers in 2010, Bautista is the first back-to-back home-run champion since Alex Rodriguez in 2002 and 2003.

Bautista played at Chipola before being drafted in the 20th round by Pittsburgh in 2000. He signed his first professional contract in 2001 and led the Indians to a second place finish in the state tournament.

After leading MLB in homruns in 2010, Bautista signed a five-year contract worth $65 million. During his breakout season, Bautista was named to his first NL All-Star team. He repeated as an All-Star in 2011 and led all players in fan voting with 7.4 million votes. During his time in the majors, he also has played for the Pirates, the Orioles and the Royals.

Bautista is quick to credit Chipola baseball coach Jeff Johnson for contributing to his success. “Coach Johnson has and still has a great impact in my life. His contributions to my development have been so great that I consider him the individual that has had the greatest influence on me after my parents,” Bautista said.

In 2010, Bautista won three awards from the Toronto chapter of the Baseball Writers’ Association including the club’s Player of the Year and Most Improved Player. He also received the John Cerutti Award, given to “a person associated with the day-to-day workings of the Blue Jays who displays goodwill, cooperation and character.” Coach Jeff Johnson, said, “This is a real testament to Jose’s quality as a person. Not only is he a great athlete, he’s also a great guy who people look up to and enjoy being around.”

During the 2011 season, eight alumni represented Center for the Arts opens September 2012

Continued on page 2
Indians celebrate Homecoming

Alexa Sanchez was crowned Chipola College’s 2011 Homecoming Queen and Cody Hughes was crowned Mr. Chipola at the homecoming game on Feb. 19, 2011. Members of the court were, from left: Rachel Pelt of Sneads, Zach Gilmore of Marianna, Shonyae Clark of Campbellton, Daunta Bell of Marianna, Alexa Sanchez of Marianna, Cody Hughes of Malone, 2010 Queen Sylvianna Garrett of Greenwood, Piper Williams of Bonifay, Austin Pettis of Vernon, Marcus Gowan of Teleogia and Stephanie Calix of Chipley.

Bautista Alumnus of the Year, continued from page 1

Chipola in major league baseball including Orioles manager Buck Showalter, Russell Martin (NY Yankees), Adam Loewen (Toronto Blue Jays—now with the Mets), Tyler Flowers (Chicago White Sox), Rene Tosoni (Minnesota Twins), Mat Gamel (Milwaukee Brewers), Darren Ford (San Francisco Giants) and Steve Clevenger (Chicago Cubs). Chipola retired the jerseys of Bautista and Orioles manager Buck Showalter in 2011.

Bautista and other former Chipola players are scheduled to return to the college on Feb. 10-11, 2012 for the Chipola Baseball Alumni Weekend. Events include a golf outing and social on Feb. 10.

Bronze statue to honor memory of legendary coach

The people who knew him best are taking the lead in creating a life-size statue of legendary Chipola College basketball coach Milton H. Johnson. Friends and former players are raising the funds for the bronze likeness of Coach Johnson that will be erected at the entrance to the gymnasium that bears his name on the Chipola campus.

During four decades of coaching basketball at Chipola and Campbellton High School, Johnson’s teams won over 800 games. Between 1955 and 1961, his Campbellton teams won three state championships and recorded an incredible 55-game winning streak. His Chipola teams won 628 games from 1961 to 1993 and played in seven national tournaments. He was named Division Coach of the Year nine times, Region VIII Coach of the Year six times and Florida community college Coach of the Year four times.

Following Johnson’s death in 2009, many of his former players and friends expressed interest in finding an appropriate way to preserve his legacy. Former player Robert Trammell is coordinating the project for the Chipola Appreciation Club. “The statue of Coach Johnson is being funded entirely by private donations,” Trammell said. “The donors want to recognize Coach Johnson for the contributions he made to their lives by establishing a lasting memorial to this great man.”

The bronze statue of Johnson is being created by sculptor Bradley Cooley, of Lamont, Florida, who also has molded images of coach Bobby Bowden, entertainers Ray Charles and Otis Redding, and golfer Bobby Jones. The Johnson statue will be unveiled in a special ceremony at Chipola’s Homecoming basketball game on February 25, 2012.

“We’re off to a great start raising funds for the statue,” Trammell said, “but we still need additional support to complete the project. We are grateful for all contributions, large or small.”

Tax-deductible contributions should be mailed to the Chipola Foundation, 3094 Indian Circle, Marianna, FL 32446. For information, contact Julie Fuqua in the Foundation office at 850-718-2478.
Polston brothers return to Chipola

Two of Chipola College’s most successful alumni, brothers Ricky and Lamar Polston, recently returned to their alma mater to speak to students in the Chipola Honors program. Ricky Polston is a Justice on the Florida Supreme Court. Lamar Polston is a retired Insurance. Originally from Graceville, the brothers discussed their careers and offered advice to the students. Here, Chipola president Dr. Gene Prough (right) presents college portfolios to Ricky (center) and Lamar (left).

Marks completes residency

Dr. Shellie (Davis) Marks, former Chipola cheerleader (2000), recently completed her Dermatology Residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham where she served as Chief Resident. She recently joined Inverness Dermatology and Laser in Hoover, Alabama, a suburb of Birmingham.

Ivey wins Kirkland Award

Chipola history professor Robert Ivey was chosen by his peers to receive the Kirkland Award for Excellence in Teaching. Ivey has been teaching history classes at Chipola since 1993 and has been an educator for over 30 years. In addition to teaching history and social science courses, he serves as an adviser to the Chipola’s Honors Program. As a member of the Ivey Brothers band, Robert performs at an annual dance to raise funds for the Honors program. The Kirkland Award was established by brothers, J.R. Kirkland and David Kirkland (pictured right), in honor of their parents, Carolyn (pictured center) and the late Willis Kirkland of Marianna. The award provides $1,000 to the annual recipient.

Jumper graduates Ole Miss pharmacy

Chipola Alumnus Kara Jumper recently graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy.

Jumper was awarded a Taylor Medal, the highest academic honor bestowed on Ole Miss students, was selected to be marshal of her class and was selected by her peers to serve as president of the pharmacy student body.

Prichard and Alderman named Academic All-Americans

Chipola 2011 graduates Caitlyn Prichard and MaryBeth Alderman were featured in USA Today for their nominations to the 2011 All-USA Community College Academic Team. Portraits of the students were unveiled at the press conference and will be added to Chipola’s Academic Wall of Honor. Prichard is attending the University of Florida where she plans to attend law school and become an advocate for the agriculture industry. Alderman is attending UF majoring in Food Science and Human Nutrition. She plans to attend medical school to specialize in pediatrics.
Chipola College Theatre presents
one of the biggest Broadway successes of all time...

Feb. 29, Mar. 1-3, 2012  7 p.m.
Mar. 4, 2012  2 p.m.
Chipola Theatre

Book by John Michael Tebelak
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
Based on The Gospel According to St. Matthew

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March Madness returns to Marianna!

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New job, a promotion, marriage, kids, awards?
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Chipola wins state baseball tourney

The Chipola College Indians defeated the Northwest Florida State Raiders 6-5 in the championship game of the FSCAA State Baseball Tournament on May 11, 2011.

Chipola and Northwest were neck-and-neck all season and it came down to the final out in an 11-inning battle between the conference rivals. Robby Coles earned the win for Chipola pitching 7 innings and giving up only one run with four strikeouts. It was Coles’ second win in the tournament. James Boddicker was 3 for 6 for Chipola. Sasha LaGarde was 2 for 5.

The Indians finished the season with a 39-20 record. Chipola and Northwest finished the league race with identical 16-8 records to share the Panhandle Conference title.

The Indians finished fifth in the NJCAA National Baseball Tournament on June 1 in Grand Junction, Co.