Snead State Sets Record with Freshmen Enrollment

Snead State Community College set a record this fall with the largest class of freshmen in the school’s history, and the spring semester enrollment indicated more students who attended in the fall also enrolled in the spring.

The freshman class of 1,002 boasts a 4 percent increase over last year and is up 40 percent over 10 years ago.

“I believe more and more people are seeing the value of a two-year degree, and I’m excited to see them choosing Snead State as the first step for their college education. Our focus is for students to finish what they start by not only taking classes at Snead but earning their degree. We want our students to find success,” said Snead State President Dr. Robert Exley.

The College Completion Campaign implemented by Snead is starting to see results with an improved retention rate from fall to spring. Typically, enrollment from fall to spring semesters drops 6-7 percent, but this spring, the enrollment only dropped less than 4 percent.

“Snead State was the first college in Alabama to embrace the national College Completion Agenda. Our faculty and staff worked over the last year to help record numbers of students become Snead graduates. More and more students are seeing a goal to earn their Associate degree, and our faculty and staff are committed to helping them make their goal a reality. Our alumni have helped to get this message across by sharing their own stories of how a Snead State education benefited them,” said Interim Chief Academic Director Dr. Jason Wa...

Snead State Honors Senator Aubrey Carr’s Legacy

In a special ceremony on Oct. 24, the College honored the legacy of the late Senator Aubrey Carr during a special presentation of memorabilia from the Senator’s personal collection donated by his wife, Mary Helen Carr.

“Today we are honoring the memory of one key supporter of Snead who stepped forward at a very critical point in our history, some would say a crisis point, and used his influence to assure that Snead continued to exist,” said Snead State President Dr. Robert Exley.

Senator Carr served Alabama Senate District 7 from 1966-1975. At the beginning of his term, Snead Junior College experienced a drastic decline in enrollment that threatened its existence as a private school.

A community college movement began to sweep Alabama with the creation of a public community college system. Unable to compete with the cost of tuition, Snead experienced a drastic loss in enrollment and funding and struggled to pay competitive salaries and invest in capital improvements.

College officials approached the State Legislature requesting that Snead Junior College become a public junior college. Senator Carr took charge of the initiative and with his guidance and leadership, Snead became a public junior college in 1967.

Mrs. Carr took a few moments to...
Alumni Association hosts Arab Dinner and a Show

The Alumni Association hosted a Dinner and a Show for the first time at the Arab Center on Thursday, Oct. 6. The event served as an opportunity to showcase renovations at the Center, located on Main Street in Arab.

“The Alumni Association has made a goal of supporting all aspects of the College. The Board of Directors saw this as an opportunity to spotlight all the positive things going on at the Arab Center while raising money for scholarships at the same time,” said Alumni Director Shelley Smith. “The event was a success, and we hope that it is the first of many we can host at the Arab location.”

Entertainment was provided by the Arab Musical Theatre group from Arab High School, under the direction of Brian Quillen. The group performed excerpts from their production of “Pippin.” Following their performance, Snead State President Dr. Robert Exley provided information about the success at the Arab Center.

The event was held in the newly renovated multi-purpose room. Renovations, funded through a $60,000 grant received by the City of Arab, were completed Aug 31. The multi-purpose room is used for classes, a study room, and community events.

Alumni Night at the Theater

This fall was a season for “firsts” for the Alumni Association. In addition to the first Dinner and a Show fundraiser in Arab, the group hosted Alumni Night at the Theatre on Thursday, Nov. 17. A special reception was held for alumni and their guests at the Bevill Center prior to the Theatre Department’s presentation of “Oklahoma!” About 40 people enjoyed the light hors d’oeuvres before heading to the auditorium, where special seating was reserved for them.

Business/Fine Arts Division Director Vann Scott recognized the alumni prior to the performance. Those participating were eligible for a door prize. Bill Abernson of Boaz was the winner of a $25 Visa gift card.

Donor Appreciation Dinner Big Success

Snead State hosted the first Donor Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, November 3 in the Student Building. The event was an opportunity to show the College’s appreciation to those who have contributed significantly to the College’s scholarship program. Current scholarship recipients were also invited, so the donors could see firsthand the students their contributions helped.

Snead students majoring in music provided the entertainment for the evening. The Sand Mountain Reporter Publisher Ben Shurett serves as the Master of Ceremonies. The donors who attended spoke highly of the event and of the talented students who performed.
Alabama Leadership Academy Visits Snead State

Twenty participants with the 2011-2012 Alabama Leadership Academy visited the campus on December 1.

Snead President Dr. Exley and members of the President’s Cabinet provided the group with an overview of key initiatives at the College including development and implementation of the Campus Master Plan, the strategic planning process, and development of the Student Success and Career Center. The group toured the recently renovated Norton Social Sciences Building and the Student Success and Career Center before dining in the College cafeteria.

Established in 2000, the Alabama Leadership Academy is co-sponsored by the University of Alabama College of Continuing Studies and Education in cooperation with the Alabama Community College System, the University of Alabama System, and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. The mission of the Alabama Leadership Academy is to prepare community college leaders by enhancing their leadership and management skills for an environment to change and to promote active partnership within postsecondary education. “The Alabama Leadership Academy involves up-and-coming leaders in community college education. We appreciate the opportunity to share with them our efforts to promote student success through our plan process and our programs,” said Dr. Exley.

Senator Carr continued from Page 1

describe Senator Carr to the more than 100 Snead faithful in attendance.

“I married a genius. He was the nicest man I ever met,” she said. “He was a renaissance man who excelled in music, excelled in art, and played golf. What a wonderful man he was. He loved Snead and Sand Mountain very much. Because of Aubrey, we now have the state parks. It is rare that a legislator is recognized after death, and Aubrey would want us to carry on with his vision and his dream.”

Dr. Exley challenged those in attendance to follow the example of Senator Carr and consider that legacy they would wish to leave. “At Snead State, the best legacy we have are all of the opportunities available to us to invest in the lives of our students,” said Dr. Exley.

Senator Carr passed away in 2007, but his memorabilia, currently housed in the Student Success and Career, is a testament to his legacy.

Upon the completion of the renovation of the Administration Building, the memorabilia along with other pieces representing Snead’s history will be housed in a special Heritage Room.

Alumni Office Welcomes New Staff member

The Snead State Alumni Office welcomes Barbara Kilpatrick to the staff as the new Alumni Assistant.

Barbara is a familiar face to the College. Before retiring this fall, she worked as the Human Resources Specialist.

Barbara began her career at Snead in the business office in 1974. She has also served as secretary to the Dean of Instruction, secretary to the Dean of Student Services, and Administrative Assistant to the President.

“Barbara has always been a supporter of the Alumni Association, and we’re excited to have her as part of our staff. She already has shared several ideas for alumni events and projects that will be opportunities to engage our alumni. Her enthusiasm is contagious, and she has hit the ground running in her new position,” said Alumni Director Shelley Smith.

Donations are currently being accepted to purchase a grand piano that will be housed in the newly renovated Fielder Auditorium in the Administration Building. If you wish to contribute, contact the President’s office at (256) 840-4101.
In Memoriam ..........

Dr. William H. Osborn, 78, died Sunday, January 8, 2012, at Hospice of Marshall County-Shepherd’s Cove.

Dr. Osborn served as President of Snead State from 1977-1996. He retired in 1996 with 18 years of service—the longest term in the history of the College. Soon after his retirement, he was named President Emeritus of Snead State Community College and is the only former President to hold this title.

During his administration, the campus grew to include the Tom Bevill Continuing Education Center, the Chalmus Weathers Business Building, and the William H. Osborn English Building. Dr. Osborn established the Snead State Foundation and guided Snead through the transition from a junior college to a community college.

"I am deeply saddened by the passing of our former president, Dr. William Osborn," said current President Robert Exley. "We have a great College and Dr. Osborn certainly contributed to what we are today."

The Administration Building renovation project continues to move forward on schedule toward the estimated completion date of summer 2012. About 30 employees toured the facility Nov. 21. The building will become the new home of the Math Division, and the offices of the President, Academic, and Institutional Research will return to the building. Visit the website to see renderings of what the exterior will look like when it’s completed.

The Theater Department held auditions January 5-8 for the production of Charley’s Aunt to be presented May 3, 4, 5, and 6 in the Bevill Center Concert Hall.

Phi Beta Lambda students competed against students from colleges and universities across the country in economics, accounting, computer applications, sports management, and marketing at the National Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL.

Fine Arts Department students volunteered at Boaz Elementary to assist with music and art education after the school lost music and art teachers to budget cuts. Adjunct music instructor Janet Burton works with the elementary students two days per week. Snead art students are also working with BES to provide art instruction.

The College Bowl team brought home a first place trophy in the season opening tournament at Faulkner State. They placed second in the Bevill State Invitational where Evan Riley was named the Most Outstanding Player. They will participated in the NAQT Sectional Tournament at Jeff State on Jan. 20. The Sectional Tournament is the qualifying tournament for the NAQT two-year College National Championship.

The 2011 Chancellor’s Award nominees, Chief IT Officer Randy Maltbie, Science Instructor Matt Snyder, Nursing Instructor Lisa Brock, and Assistant to the Student Services Officer Amy Holmes represented the College at the annual Alabama Community College System Chancellor’s Awards Luncheon in Montgomery on Oct. 26.

Speech/Philosophy/Religion Instructor Dr. Jonathan Watts earned received the designation of Oxford Foundation Fellow through the Graduate Theological Foundation. Oxford Foundation Fellowships are designed as short-term, independent study opportunities for established academics desiring to take advantage of residency and research facilities in Oxford, England.

History/Political Science Instructor Grover Kitchens attended a National Endowment for the Humanities workshop on Thomas Jefferson in Washington D.C. in July. Mr. Kitchens was chosen from community college instructors nationwide and was one of only 50 participants in this particular workshop. He had access to some of the most historic documents and items in the life of Jefferson.

Know of someone who should be a member of the Alumni Association? Contact us with the person’s name and contact information.

Like us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/sneadstatealumni