

Adventure Training Hosts Newport Group



The Adventure Training Center at EACC recently hosted the Newport Chamber of Commerce 'New Vision' leadership class.

The Adventure Training Center features a state-of-the-art, outdoor challenge course that provides the ultimate training experience for teambuilding and leadership development. Participants strengthen their communication and problem solving skills while developing their leadership potential through adventure-based experiential programming. Training sessions are tailored to meet the specific needs, desires and physical abilities of any group.

The Newport 'New Vision' leadership class has scheduled their annual retreat on the EACC campus and Adventure Training Center since 2007. This was the fifth consecutive year for EACC to host this group.

The Adventure Training Center provides the ultimate training experience for building a successful team and improving self confidence. For more information contact the Director of Continuing Education at 870-633-4480 ext. 289 or 347.



Newport Chamber of Commerce 'New Vision' Leadership Class



The Newport Group participating in the 'Spiderweb Element' Exercise

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Campus News
October/November 2011



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Campus News



Blind Boys of Alabama 'High Road Tour'

The EACC Fine Arts Center presents *The Blind Boys of Alabama with special guests Sara and Sean Watkins* on Thursday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m. as part of the Season II Spotlight Series.

Much in the world has changed since the original version of the *Blind Boys of Alabama* first raised their voices together. That was in 1939, when the members were just kids at the Alabama Institute for the Negro Blind in Talladega, Ala. Today, more than 70 years later, founding member Jimmy Carter can look back on a career far beyond what

he and his colleagues could imagine at that time. The group has won a long list of awards; including Lifetime Achievement honors from the Grammys and the National Endowment for the Arts, entertained around the world, been profiled on *60 Minutes*, sung for two Presidents at the White House and been inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

Throughout this long adventure, they kept one secret to themselves. "All my life, I've loved country music," confesses Carter. "I was raised up around it. Back in the 1940s, I remember listening to Hank Williams and so many others. Their voices were great. The writers were great. And every song had a meaning. I still have loads of country music in my home and I play it all the time. As a matter fact, I've got it on XM radio as we speak."

Though the group has recorded and performed with a few country artists, along with others as diverse as Ben Harper, Tom Petty, Peter Gabriel and Prince, they never crossed the line and committed to doing a project inspired by the country genre until now, with the release of *Take the High Road* on Saguaro Road Records. This landmark recording draws from modern and traditional country to enrich the group's gospel-rooted sound with fresh and illuminating insight.

For years the Blind Boys had imagined such a pro-

ject. But it wasn't until they were voted into the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in 2010 that their plans began to coalesce. The catalyst was their meeting rising country music star Jamey Johnson, who sang

"Down by the Riverside" with them at the induction ceremony in Montgomery. Johnson, whose gifts as a songwriter and performer match his fierce commitment to country music's history and tradition, is a longtime admirer of the Blind Boys. The experience of sharing the stage with him

prompted the Blind Boys to seek his services to help bring their dream of doing a country gospel album to life.

Johnson was pivotal as well in lining up many of Nashville's top country singers and A-list musicians for the sessions that resulted in the album *Take the High Road*. All it took was a personal call to bring Vince Gill, Willie Nelson, the Oak Ridge Boys, Hank Williams Jr. and Lee Ann Womack onboard. Each of these guests brought a distinctive perspective into the mix, but according to Carter, aside from being icons of country music, they all had one thing in common. "When we bring people in to our projects, we look for those that have some soul in their singing," he notes. "All these folks, they bring soul. That's why it sounds so good. That's what it's all about."

Singer/songwriter/fiddle player Sara Watkins will join the group for the performance. Watkins is best known as a founding member of the Grammy Award-winning band Nickel Creek. She will be appearing with her brother, Sean Watkins, guitarist for Nickel Creek.

The EACC Fine Arts Center is located at 1700 Newcastle Road in Forrest City right off of I-40. Tickets for *The Blind Boys of Alabama with special guests Sara and Sean Watkins* are \$35 and will available online October 3rd at www.eacc.edu or by calling 870-633-4480 ext. 352.

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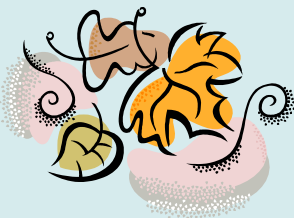
The Blind Boys of Alabama

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Their 'High Road Tour' is part of the Fine Arts Center's Season II Spotlight Series.

Upcoming Events

... Ellen Alderson Art Exhibit October 3-31 Fine Arts Center Gallery
 ... AATYC Break October 17-18 (no classes)
 ... October 31 Last Day to Drop with a "W"
 ... Spring Early Registration Begins November 7
 ... Blind Boys of Alabama November 10 @ 7:00 p.m. Fine Arts Center
 ... November 23-25 Thanksgiving Break (students)
 ... Thanksgiving Holiday November 24-25 (College Closed)
 ... 'Collections Old and New' by Andrea and Larry Luger November 2-January 6 @ Gallery



Ellen Alderson Exhibition in Gallery

The EACC Fine Arts Center Gallery will host an exhibition of paintings by Arkansas artist, Ellen Alderson from October 3 – October 31. The show is titled *Eclectic Collection* and will feature a number of works depicting scenes of the Arkansas Delta from her series *Front Porch Memories*.

Alderson, a resident Forrest City, graduated with a Masters of Art degree from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Her work has been featured at the Palmer Gallery in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

One of her paintings was chosen for the 2009 Arkansas Artist Engagement Calendar Competition which is sponsored by the Arkansas Governor's Mansion Association. In 2007, she won 'Best of Show' at the 22nd Annual Helena National Bank Watercolor Art Show in Helena, Arkansas. She has also been chosen to exhibit her work for several years at the Mustard Tree Arts Festival in Little Rock and the Crittenden Regional Art Show in West Memphis. Alderson's work was recently chosen for the Louisiana State University, Animals in Art show and the Arts in the Air exhibit sponsored by the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute on Petit Jean Mountain in Arkansas.

"In my art series "Front Porch Memories", the use of arbitrary colors in the tenant houses and background play whimsically against the more realistic rendering of women, said Alderson. "I wanted to pay tribute to those women past and present. I

believe that the generations of today can learn a lesson from these women. Their strength, wisdom, and dignity of character held their families together."

"Tenant houses have always been interesting to me," said Alderson. "About three years ago, I began taking photographs of local tenant houses. I wanted to preserve these



'Hot Cotton Blues' by Arkansas Artist Ellen Alderson

vanishing icons of the Delta through my art. I began a series of paintings called, "Light in the Delta". I didn't want to depict the tenant houses in the usual way. Most art that I saw portrayed these tenant houses in a very realistic style. I wanted to depart from that style completely. My houses 'rock and roll' and come alive with bright colors and fanciful shapes," said Alderson.

She is a life-long resident of eastern Arkansas, has taught adult and children's classes at East Arkansas Community College for over twenty-two years. Daily

hours for the Fine Arts Center Gallery are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. or as scheduled for special group tours. There is no charge for admission. For more information call 870-633-4480 or visit our website at www.eacc.edu.



Early Registration for Spring 2012 Semester

Early Registration begins Nov. 7. Monday-Thursday will be 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Friday is 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Regular Registration is January 3-6 (Jan. 3-5 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. & Jan. 6 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).

Main Stage Named in Fine Arts Center

EACC has announced the EACC Fine Arts Center Auditorium's Main Stage has been named the *Jan C. Haven Stage* for longtime EACC employee Jan Campbell Haven. Her family, including her husband Buzz, daughter Dana Haven Crisp, and son Bart Haven, provided the generous gift to the EACC Foundation in her honor.

Haven joined EACC as a full-time instructor in 1982. She has served as Mathematics Coordinator, Math/Science Department Chair, Executive Department Chair, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Business Affairs, Assistant to the President, and is currently serving as the Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs.

"Jan Haven has been instrumental in the growth and success of EACC as well as being a tireless advocate for the college and its mission," said Dr. Coy Grace, EACC President. "She has served the college in countless capacities and continues to do so. She retired last year and we felt her loss at many levels. We were so grateful to her when she agreed to come out of retirement to serve as the Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs. Her support and expertise crosses over into all departments at the college and she is such a source of inspiration and admiration to her coworkers. Jan Haven is a model employee and an example to us all," said Grace.

"The naming of the Main Stage marks an important milestone for the Fine Arts Center and the Foundation," said Grace. "The Haven family's generous support of the college has benefitted EACC in so many ways. This naming opportunity is tangible evidence of the role Jan has played throughout the years in making EACC what it is today. The generosity of this

gift and the legacy this creates will remind future generations the importance of giving back to their community and what a difference one person can make," said Grace.



Dana Haven Crisp, Buzz Haven, Jan C. Haven, and Bart Haven

Jan Haven received bachelor and master's degrees in Mathematics from the University of Mississippi. She began her community college career as an Instructor of Mathematics at Northwest Mississippi Jr. College in Senatobia, Mississippi. She also served as an adjunct mathematics instructor at Okaloosa Walton Jr. College in Valparaiso, Florida. She has served on the Arkansas Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ACTM) Executive Board, the Arkansas Association of Two Year Col-

leges Executive Board, the Arkansas Association of University and College Mathematics Chairs, Arkansas Statewide Systemic Initiative Task Force, Ark. P-16 Education Task Force, ACCESS ARK Steering Committee, Forrest City Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, Delta Teacher Education Consortium Executive Board, and the Arkansas Dean's Association. She has served as the EACC Coordinator of the NCA Self-Study, Chair of the EACC Honors Program, Director of the ACTM Regional Math Contest, and Co-program Project Investigator for the Arkansas Delta Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Project (ADSTEM), Crossroads Coalition Leadership Committee, and as an (ADTEC) Project Investigator. Professional awards she has received include the EACC Distinguished Teaching Award, and the National Chair Academy Regional Leadership Award.

Additional naming opportunities exist at EACC. For more information contact the Director of Development at 633-4480 ext. 352.

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Dr. Coy Grace