

Lake Land College to celebrate Alumni Park grand opening

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MATTOON -- The Lake Land College Alumni Association Board of Directors invites all alumni and friends of the college to join in the celebration of the grand opening of Alumni Park at 4:30 p.m. April 19.

In recognition of the college's 40th anniversary, the Alumni Association recently established the Distinguished Alumni Society and will induct its first 45 inductees. During the ceremony, alumni over the past four decades will be recognized.

Dave Cox, director of foundation and alumni, said alumni from across the country are expected to return to campus for the induction ceremony and grand opening of Alumni Park.

"The Alumni Association is very excited about the establishment of the Distinguished Alumni Society and the inaugural inductees. This group is truly a model of excellence and success that we strive for at Lake Land College," Cox said.

Alumni Mike Yager, Mid America Works president and chief cheerleader, and Larry Smith, sports anchor for Headline News, will speak on behalf of the 45 Distinguished Alumni Society members.

The ceremony will celebrate the grand opening of Alumni Park that includes an elevated 10-foot sculpture accented by a water feature, donor's names engraved on seven tables and 12 benches and the names and personal messages of alumni, friends and employees etched on brick pavers lining the park.

A multi-level amphitheatre serves as an outdoor theater for instruction and entertainment. Shading the park are 50 trees chosen by the science faculty that will also be used for educational purposes.

Donors who contributed to park tables are Coles Moultrie Electric Cooperative; Floyd and Chlotilde Curl Memorial; First Mid-Illinois Bank Mattoon; Howell Asphalt Company; Mike and Laurie Yager and Family, Mid America Motorworks; L.J. Swinger & Sons, Inc.; and The Upchurch Group.

Donors who contributed to park benches are Ameren; Commercial Electric; Consolidated Communications; Craig and Craig; Steven Dillier Memorial; The Gregory and Gina Grunloh Family; Midland States Bancorp, Inc.; RR Donnelley; Rural King; Lowell and Lucille Samuel Memorial; Effingham and Mattoon Wal-Mart; and West & Company.

"Alumni Park is a wonderful addition to Lake Land's campus," said Pam Crisman, vice president for development. "It offers a place for students, faculty and visitors to enjoy the true beauty of campus. The Alumni Association is deeply indebted to the many donors and alumni who have made Alumni Park a reality. The park has virtually changed the physical appearance of the Lake Land campus. We believe it will be frequently used by many employees and friends of the college for a variety of campus and community activities."

A reception with refreshments will be held following the ceremony.

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