Georgia Highlands College opens library in old courthouse

From Staff Reports

Georgia Highlands College, which has been a presence on the town square in Dallas since 2009, finally reached its goal of providing more than a virtual library to its students on the Paulding campus. On March 11 college officials and David Austin, chairman of the Paulding County Commission, cut the ribbon on a real library in the historic county courthouse, situated on the square in Dallas, adjacent to the college’s academic building.

The new library will house 3,500 titles covering history, literature, art, music, science and all other areas of the college curriculum. It also includes a rotating collection of current best-selling fiction and non-fiction, as well as newspapers and magazines. Visitors to the library will have access to over 80,000 e-books, more than 13,000 online videos, and the full-text contents of more than 37,000 magazines, journals, newspapers and other publications through the library holdings in GALILEO, a statewide library access resource. Kennesaw State University, an educational partner with the college at Paulding, donated a number of books to the collection.

Elijah Scott, director of libraries for the college, said, “Our continual growth on the Paulding campus and the increased requests by students prompted us to seek a facility where we could house a physical library.”

David Austin and the Paulding County Commission worked tirelessly to help us procure space in this beautiful, historic building so that the library would be easily accessible to our students. We are pleased that we can be a part of revitalizing important buildings to make them useful and relevant once more. Doing so preserves the heritage of Dallas, yet keeps her moving into the future.”

The library will be open to the general public, too. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The college is a state college in the University System of Georgia, serving more than 5,600 students at five campuses in Rome, Cartersville, Marietta, Dallas and Douglasville.

From left, librarian Susanna Smith, interim President Renva Watterson and Campus Dean Cathy Ledbetter cut the ribbon at the door of the new library on the campus of Georgia Highlands College-Paulding.