

# Westminster Arts Center

# Celebrating



Full Count Big Band performing at the Van Fossan Theatre.

## New Family Series a Big Hit for Westminster

As a part of the College's Family Series, the Westminster Arts Center hosted an array of performances during the months of January, February and March.

*Full Count Big Band*, one of New Jersey's Premiere contemporary big bands performed on January 26, *The Crabgrass Puppet Theatre*,

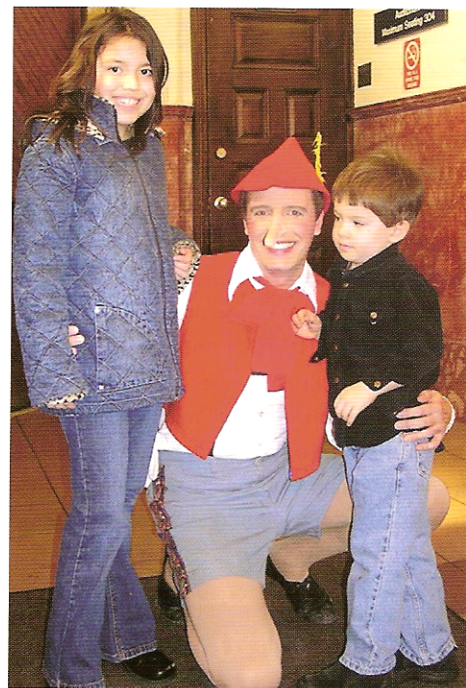
an award-winning touring puppet theatre performed on January 27, and the *Yates Musical Theatre Company*, the same company that brought, *A Christmas Carol* to the Westminster Arts Center in December, brought *Pinocchio* to life on stage on March 10. The Family Series is a new program which features different theatrical events geared towards families. Over 200 members of the community including students, faculty, staff and their families attended each of the three live performances.

*Full Count Big Band* performed music spanning many decades that included the Big Band of the 40s to James Taylor to Earth, Wind and Fire. This particular performance

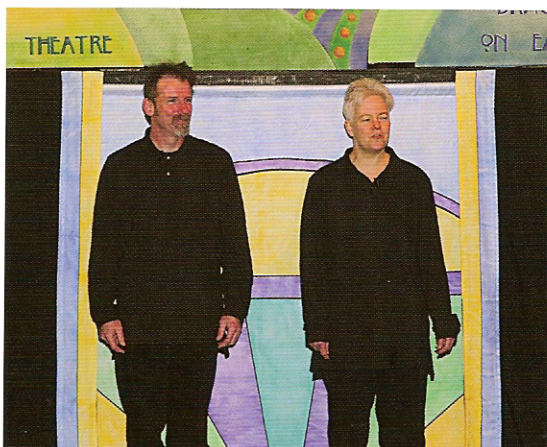
included music from the Count Basie Band, Buddy Rich Big Band, Ray Charles, Maynard Ferguson, and a special guest appearance by Jazz vocalist, Aubrey Parasolle.

*The Crabgrass Puppet Theatre* performed "The Last Dragon" a performance which focused on a princess who did not need to be rescued and a prince who was to kill the very last dragon on Earth.

Through song and dance, *The Yates Musical Theatre Company* performed the hour long "Pinocchio," the wonderful story of the wooden boy who longs to be human.



Pinocchio meeting members of the audience after the show.



Members of the Crabgrass Puppet theatre on stage at Westminster.

Gregory G. Allen, Artistic Director of the Westminster Arts Center says the family series has really taken off since it started in December. "With each production we do, our audiences continue to grow as families are looking for something exciting and live to take their children to on the weekends," Allen said. "To have a family-based theatre company performing for our families at Westminster makes it all that more special."