

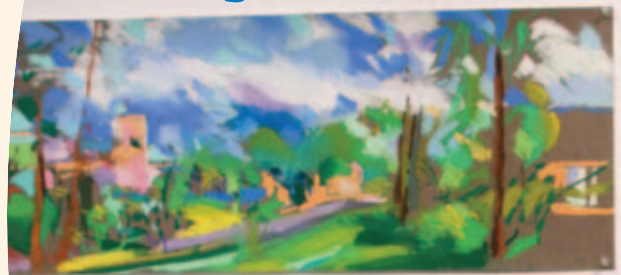
# Contact

FOR THE FRIENDS  
OF PALM BEACH  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

VOL. 15, No. 1 SUMMER 2007



Creating vibrant  
learning environments







Dennis P. Gallon, Ph.D.  
President

## Learning Environments

**A**t Palm Beach Community College, we create and nourish vibrant learning environments to help our students engage and succeed, inside and outside the classroom. These students may be enrolled in a course offered on one of our campuses or enrolled in one of many Internet-based courses and living in another country as far away as Australia or the Netherlands. They may exchange ideas and debate their viewpoints face-to-face or communicate through online chats, videoconferencing or handheld electronic devices.

The advancements of instructional technologies have made it possible for students to become engaged with their fellow students and teachers in new learning environments unimaginable just a few years ago. This issue of Contact describes some of these innovations and their use in addressing a variety of learning styles. By increasing interaction and giving instructors instant feedback, these tools are contributing to an environment of excitement in learning that transcends the traditional classroom, lecture hall or laboratory.

Technology advances also infuse the learning environments in PBCC's outstanding career

programs. With support from our Business Partnership Councils, we offer instructional facilities and experiences that reflect best practices in the work environments that our students join upon program completion. In these pages, we are proud to share success stories from several degree and certificate programs, including our automotive, dental health services, sonography, teacher education and emergency medical services areas. We also proudly shine the spotlight on our art faculty, two of whom have teamed up to share their talents and energy with the community.

Learning environments at PBCC are supported both by public and private sources. The College was awarded \$11.8 million in the current state budget to complete ongoing construction of new campus buildings and to renovate and remodel many classrooms, laboratories and libraries. We continue to work closely with our legislative delegation and state officials to advance high-priority projects, including a public safety training center for law enforcement and firefighting students and a new workforce training facility in the Glades. Generous donors provide support for facilities, scholarships and programs to enhance student learning. You can learn more in this issue about the PBCC Foundation's successes and how you can lend your support to these initiatives.

Who benefits from all of these efforts to create vibrant learning environments at PBCC? Most directly, our students do. Over the long term, however, the entire community and society at large reap the benefits of the knowledge, skills and services that these individuals contribute as a result of the learning that takes place here.

# Contact

## PBCC PRESIDENT

Dennis P. Gallon, Ph.D.

## DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Susan K. Baumel, Chairperson  
Carolyn L. Williams, Vice Chairperson  
Kenneth B Kirby  
Larry L. Pelton  
David H. Talley  
Nina G. Wills, Student

**Contact** is produced by the Office of College Relations and Marketing, Palm Beach Community College, 4200 Congress Avenue, Lake Worth, FL 33461. Please call 561-868-3122 for further information or to obtain additional copies of **Contact**.

## EDITOR

Grace H. Truman, Ed.D.

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Gwenn Adams  
Tabatha B. McDonald  
Toni Wolf

## ART DIRECTOR

Kari W. McCormick

## CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Gwenn Adams  
Alan Luby  
Kari W. McCormick  
John Rickson  
Randy Smith

Palm Beach Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award the associate in arts, associate in science and associate in applied science degrees.

Palm Beach Community College is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status or sexual orientation.



## The Mission

*Palm Beach Community College, a richly diverse comprehensive two-year institution with a history of achievement since 1933, is dedicated to serving the educational needs of the residents of Palm Beach County by providing the associate in arts, associate in science and associate in applied science degrees, professional certificates, workforce development and lifelong learning.*

[www.pbcc.edu](http://www.pbcc.edu)

of Palm Beach Community College is to provide an accessible and affordable education through a dedicated and knowledgeable faculty and staff, a responsive curriculum and a strong community partnership, which together will enable students to think critically, demonstrate leadership, develop ethical standards and compete effectively in the global workplace.

# Contents



## Departments

- 16 PBCC FOUNDATION**  
Gifts to PBCC hit all-time high
- 19 FYI PBCC**  
Bidding farewell to a visionary provost / Campus theaters celebrate milestones
- 20 ALUMNI CORNER**  
Historical novelist resurrects intriguing women from the past

### ON THE COVER

Art Professors Susan Urbanek and Alessandra Gieffers

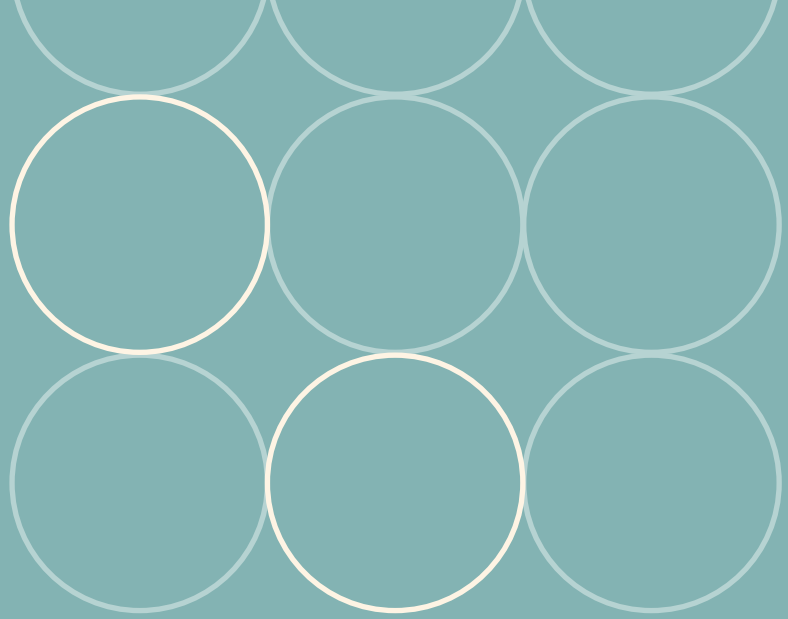
## Features

- 2 NEW TECHNOLOGY ENHANCES STUDENT LEARNING**  
Interactive classroom tools engage students and offer instant feedback
- 6 FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**  
Art faculty collaborate to create dynamic exhibit
- 10 AUTOMOTIVE: RARE BREED**  
Demand is high for PBCC-trained technicians who learn mechanical, business and people skills
- 12 BRIDGING THE DENTAL GAP**  
PBCC partnerships connect students and local dentists with the community
- 18 GOOD FIT**  
PBCC and FAU give prospective teachers early classroom experience

CONTACT

Expect more...





## New technology enhances student learning

BY TABATHA B. McDONALD

**T**elelevision game shows and court TV programs have used some form of audience response system for decades. Now, palm-size wireless response keypads are gaining popularity among professors at Palm Beach Community College who use them to get instant feedback on students' comprehension of material and to involve even the shyest student in the classroom discussion.

*continued on pages 4 & 5*



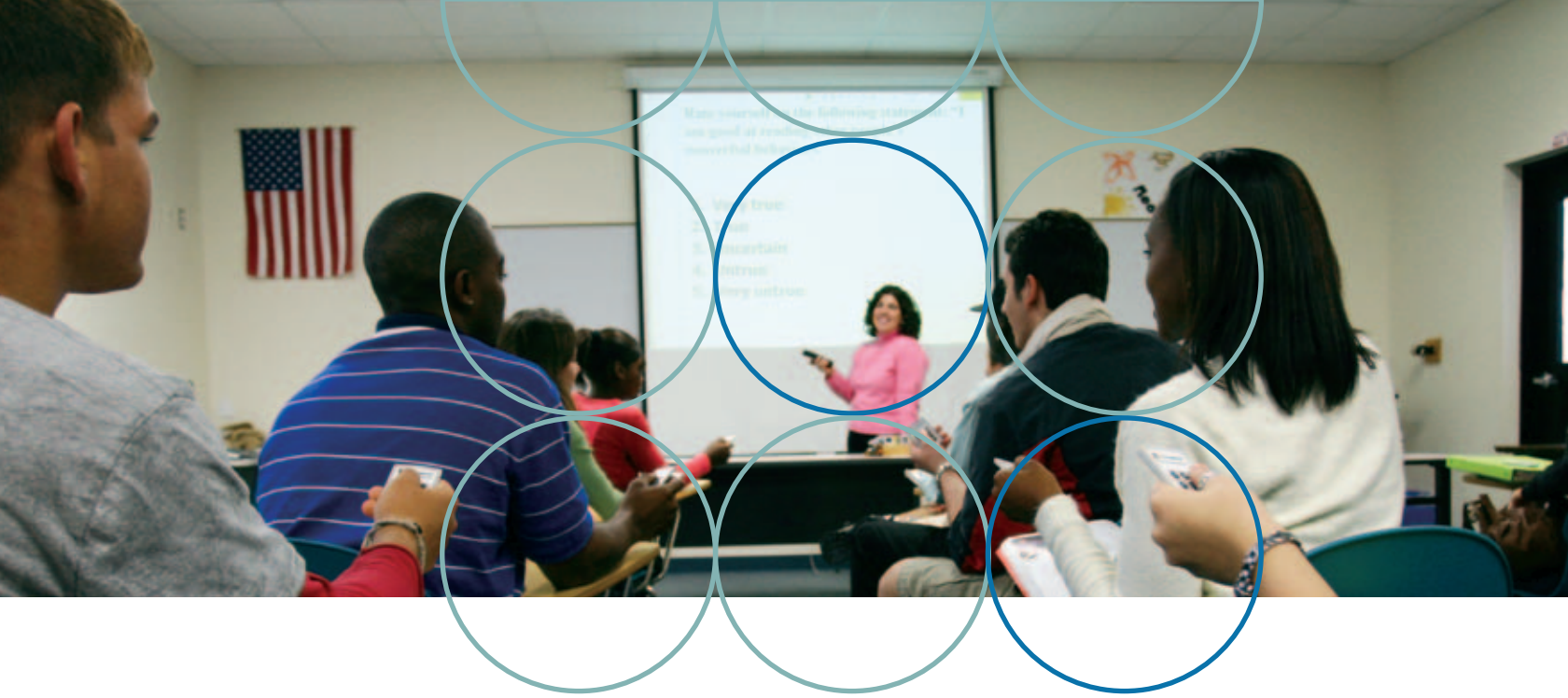




hi-tech

Wireless response keypads or “clickers” keep students engaged!

learning



These wireless response keypads, nicknamed "clickers," are among a variety of ways that PBCC faculty are integrating technology into the classroom to improve learning and engagement with a new generation of technologically savvy students. Other high-tech methods used to enhance learning include podcasting, WebCT, green screen simulations and interactive games.

Professor Lori Crane (*above*) successfully integrated clickers in her Fundamentals of Speech Communication classes last summer. "I found that some of my students who perhaps are a little more hesitant to speak up feel that they can participate anonymously," she said. "My hope is that it will be a small step for them to eventually participate a little more. They can do it without the feeling of 'what if I get the answer wrong.'"

age of students who chose the other incorrect answers, show in a chart on a screen. "It helps me to figure out whether we need to spend more time with a subject. Students feel very comfortable telling why they picked the answer they did," she said.

"To them, it's like a game. I think they really like comparing their answers to the rest of the class in an anonymous way," said Professor Lourdes Marx, who periodically uses the clickers in her English Prep and Reading Prep classes to review course material.

Dr. George Rogers, professor of horticulture, said the clickers are excellent for certain classes like his Plant Identification class. "Using the clickers gets everyone involved. It gets the sleepers in the back involved. It gets the people who normally wouldn't put up their hands involved, and it gives the teacher a quick way to find out how you're doing," Rogers said.

"You know instantly what the awareness level in the class is. The clickers are really just a way to bring the PowerPoint to life."

Students agree that the clickers are a great way to keep them alert in class and to know immediately if they are comprehending the information.

"It keeps your attention. Instead of one person responding, everyone responds, and you get to see whether the answer you give is correct

or not," said Derek Haupt. "I don't think people feel stupid if their answer is wrong because no one knows who answered what."

"It makes the class very interactive, and it's unlike the other teachers who just lecture," said Kerry Remy. "It just makes students more alert. It keeps you focused."

## Goodbye microcassette, hello podcasting

Last year, PBCC introduced podcasting, which allows students to download their professors' lectures to their iPod, MP3 player or other audio device and listen to them on the go.

It is a shift from years ago when students often went to class toting microcassette players to record lectures. With podcasting, students can review their professor's lectures without the hassle of a recorder. The College also podcasts interviews with guest speakers.

More professors are jumping on board with podcasting. Dr. Colleen Fawcett, professor of early childhood education, plans to podcast the orientation to her Overview of Child Care Center Management class. In the orientation, she explains the group assignments to them and all of the course requirements. Students who miss the orientation still can get the information from the podcast.

Adjunct Professor Sandy Oakley was using the podcasting last year to fulfill a requirement that students in her online Spanish classes meet in person at least three times during a term. For students who work or live outside the county or state, that is difficult,

**“ It keeps your attention. Instead of one person responding, everyone responds, and you get to see whether the answer you give is correct or not. ”**

Derek Haupt, PBCC student

In a matter of seconds with the clickers, Crane can determine the percentage of students who answer a multiple-choice question correctly. The results, including the percent-



she said. She used podcasting as an alternative. She recorded questions or a message in Spanish and students were required to record a response, upload it and send it to her.

Last fall she piloted a new Web-based program called “Tell Me More” to assess students’ comprehension of the language and pronunciation.

“It gives them an assessment of their pronunciation. They listen to the dialogue. They receive an assessment based on their response. It is immediate feedback, and the students really love it,” said Oakley, who teaches all of PBCC’s online Spanish classes. “This works better for what I need, which is to evaluate their comprehension and pronunciation of the language.”

## WebCT

Another technology becoming more popular among professors is WebCT/Blackboard® or Web Course Tools, which professors use for classes with online learning components. Currently about 130 faculty are using

“WebCT has a white board where an instructor can demonstrate a math equation and load audio and video files.”

Anne Guiler, distance learning coordinator

WebCT. PBCC now requires all incoming faculty to receive WebCT training.

WebCT is an online learning environment with a variety of components in which professors add learning modules, lectures, assignments, quizzes, homework or an exam. PBCC is upgrading to a new version called Campus Edition 6® and will go completely to that version this year.

Adjunct Instructor Pat Ott handles the training for the new users and helps train those currently using WebCT for the

transition to the new Campus Edition 6.® She also teaches some online education courses.

“This is an entirely new version that has many features that the old versions did not have,” Ott said, noting that it’s important for professors to learn to use the technology. “I think it’s so important because online learning is growing very rapidly not only at Palm Beach Community College but also at every college and university. WebCT is not only convenient for the students, it’s convenient for the instructor as well.”

“WebCT tools are much more effective than just having a text page, which is really what a lot of Web pages are. WebCT has a white board where an instructor can demonstrate a math equation and load audio and video files,” said Anne Guiler, WebCT administrator and distance learning coordinator at PBCC.

## Addressing learning styles

In addition to engaging students in the learning process and keeping up with technology, another benefit for introducing the various technology in the classroom is to help address the different learning styles of students, said Jeannine Burgess, PBCC director of instructional technology.

Dr. Roger Ramsammy, (*right*) professor of microbiology and anatomy and physiology, said he goes the extra mile to make his classes interesting using green screen technology and other interactive games and programs. He has been at the forefront of introducing technology in the class even before the college-wide push. With green screen technology, he can visually engage students in discussions on such topics as DNA. The green screen technology, for example, makes it appear as if he is climbing the DNA strand as he discusses the topic on videos housed on his WebCT. He also builds a variety of competitive and interactive games like Jeopardy, crossword puzzles and solitaire for the students to test their knowledge of science concepts.

“What I try to do is accommodate all different learning styles. At least one of them (the various technologies he uses) will be able to help a student,” Ramsammy said.



interactive

immediate

# Art faculty collaborate to create dynamic exhibit

BY TONI WOLF

## As artists,

Alessandra Gieffers and Susan Urbanek are very different. As art professors, both are passionate about training the next generation of artists at PBCC. Their joint exhibition, "Southern Crossings II," in The Gallery at Eissey Campus earlier this year, was a result of their friendship and mutual admiration of each other's work.

Susan Urbanek





Alessandra Gieffers

Labeled as a “new abstract expressionist in town” by Palm Beach Post art critic Gary Schwan when she arrived in South Florida 20 years ago, Gieffers mounted an exhibition at PBCC in Lake Worth she called “Southern Crossings I.” Her work reflected her personal and artistic transition to a challenging new environment in the subtropics.

Since coming to South Florida, Gieffers’ encaustic, oil, collage and chalk paintings have used color to define physical space. They are lush with tropical flowers and vegetation, vivid and harmonious in shape and color, “painted images of visual delight.” Her 2005 exhibition in The Gallery at Eissey Campus featured rich dark and light layers of color that criss-cross a picture plane of tropical images. Those chalk works were microscopic views of her garden.

Her most recent series for “Southern Crossings II” uses similar intense color alternating with dark, receding shadows that form the sensation of walking through a garden. The landscapes burst with lush green vegetation, overlapping hot peach, orange-red and terracotta pathways leading to distant architectural structures and peeks at the Intracoastal Waterway near her studio-cottage.

“There is a sense of tranquility in these new semi-abstract landscapes,” she explained. “It is as if I’m revisiting a private garden—the garden of my heart—in yet another transition called ‘Southern Crossings II.’”

Gieffers so admires the work of ceramic sculptor, painter and PBCC Professor Susan Urbanek, who started the ceramics program in 1992 on the Boca Raton campus, that she invited her to join the exhibition. She has two of Urbanek’s whimsical sculptures in her office on the Palm Beach Gardens campus where Gieffers established the art gallery there in 1995. The other half of “Southern Crossings II,” Urbanek’s work also reflects the world around her, but in a satirical way, leading Gieffers to describe their joint exhibition as “a celebration of artistic diversity and identity.”

Urbanek’s artistic identity is that of social critic, humorously portraying human absurdities and foibles. She could be called an “editorial cartoonist” of sculpture. Urbanek has sculpted figurines of former President Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky on their knees on either side of a seated Pope, bending both his ears. To be evenhanded, she created a Noah’s ark guarded by small plastic military figures, the upper deck inhabited by President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, former Defense Secretary Donald

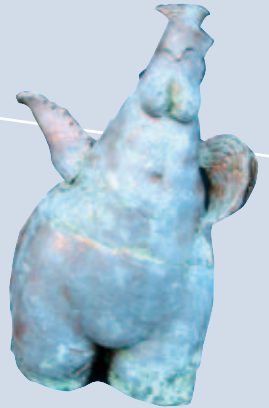
*continued on page 8*

“...in the last 20 years, South Florida’s once limited professional environment for artists has totally changed. There’s a new artistic energy here.”



*continued from page 7*

Gieffers says it’s time for a new “Southern Crossings” because in the last 20 years, South Florida’s once limited professional environment for artists has “totally changed. There’s a new artistic energy here.”



South Florida has become more artistically sophisticated, Urbanek agreed. “People are becoming more perceptive to post-modern art and to something outside the mainstream that deals with serious issues.”

## PBCC professors share their passion for art

When you teach art, you have to tap into your students’ innermost beings to help them understand art and then create it. For an artist who also teaches art, treading that emotional territory and teaching skills and techniques at the same time can be exceptionally rewarding. The experience also changes students.

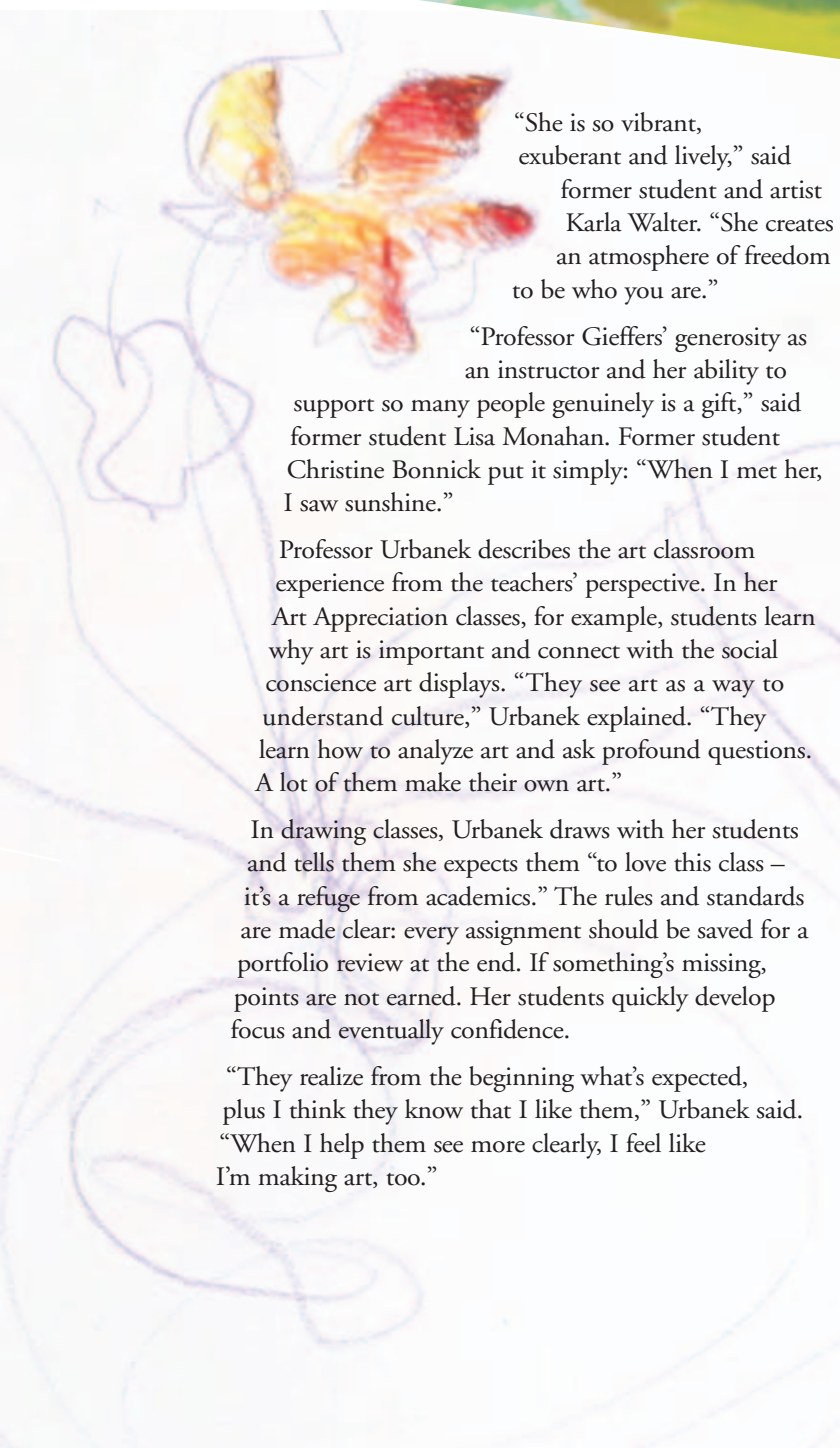
“When you’re in Professor (Alessandra) Gieffers’ class, the whole world seems limitless,” said former student and Jupiter artist Maryjane Andrew. “She helps everyone find that piece of themselves that can be creative in such a spontaneous, happy way. People open up and do these amazing works.”

Rumsfeld and other Bush Cabinet officials. The title of that work, “Ship of Fools,” refers to what Urbanek describes as the Middle Ages practice of exiling shiploads of mental patients who are never allowed to dock.

You can’t describe Urbanek’s work, though, without mentioning her fierce defense of women and their struggle for equality. Commenting on the “silly, antiquated” rule that a Catholic queen must wear white when meeting the Pope, Urbanek portrays Queen Elizabeth on the way to meet the Pope, wearing her crown, her purse on her arm, dressed in a blousy camp shirt and very white shorts. Some of her more humorous works in the PBCC exhibit portray how women are empowered by using tools, from traditionally male tools to lipstick.







“She is so vibrant, exuberant and lively,” said former student and artist Karla Walter. “She creates an atmosphere of freedom to be who you are.”

“Professor Gieffers’ generosity as an instructor and her ability to support so many people genuinely is a gift,” said former student Lisa Monahan. Former student Christine Bonnick put it simply: “When I met her, I saw sunshine.”

Professor Urbanek describes the art classroom experience from the teachers’ perspective. In her Art Appreciation classes, for example, students learn why art is important and connect with the social conscience art displays. “They see art as a way to understand culture,” Urbanek explained. “They learn how to analyze art and ask profound questions. A lot of them make their own art.”

In drawing classes, Urbanek draws with her students and tells them she expects them “to love this class – it’s a refuge from academics.” The rules and standards are made clear: every assignment should be saved for a portfolio review at the end. If something’s missing, points are not earned. Her students quickly develop focus and eventually confidence.

“They realize from the beginning what’s expected, plus I think they know that I like them,” Urbanek said. “When I help them see more clearly, I feel like I’m making art, too.”





# PBCC Training Rare Breed of Automotive Service Professionals

BY GWENN ADAMS



Everyone seeks them. Many say they are a rare breed, elusive even: **automotive technicians you can trust,**

not only to do a great job but to do so with integrity. Palm Beach Community College's Automotive Technology and Automotive Body Repair programs are adding to this breed and preparing students for what career analysts list among the most high-demand careers in today's job market.

The programs boast an impressive hire rate. Nearly 90 percent of the graduates have been snapped up by the local automotive industry since the programs started in January 2004, according to program manager Luis Tamayo. Many PBCC students are even hired before they graduate and then continue their automotive education through their employers.

"PBCC's program is teaching the job skills that are attractive to the dealerships," said Don Barbier, field service engineer for BMW North America. "The students coming out of this program have the right attitude and desire along with the knowledge. We've hired several from the program and have been very happy. They're also hungry to learn more, and they are very successful in our sequential training program."

Local industry leaders attribute much of that positive attitude, knowledge and hunger to excel to the program instructors. They bring many years of experience and knowledge to the classroom. Automotive Service Technology instructors Michael Dennis, Ron Nocenti (adjunct) and Jay Safford have more than 40 years of combined teaching experience, and Automotive Body Repair instructor Steve Horlick has been in the industry 30-plus years.

They teach their students more than just the mechanical skills needed to succeed. "When Braman Motors came here to visit our program, we asked them what they would like us to concentrate on in our teaching. Their answer was 'You teach them the job skill and give them a good foundation in basic mechanics and electricity, and we will do the rest.' We believe we need to teach them more," said Dennis.

That more includes work skills, the ability to think in a concise manner and work as a team player, according to Dennis. Safford adds to that honesty, integrity, self-discipline and reliability. Horlick says, "Teaching the craft' also includes how to get along with other people and how to treat customers. After all, without customers and good communication, we don't have a business."

Being able to hire well-qualified technicians from the local area and continue their training is an added benefit for the employer, according to Barbier. "We can train technicians in our Texas facility and move them here but after about two years they're ready to go back home. The technicians we train from here have a loyalty not only to the company but also to the community."



PBCC's automotive facilities in Lake Worth







Palm Beach Land Rover has also directly benefited by hiring one of PBCC's automotive technology graduates. Austin Enos (*above*) recently passed the last of eight required National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) tests and is now a certified Master Technician. Enos will also be sent to Land Rover's automotive school for further training. They also committed to an additional dollar per hour for each ASE test passed, raising his pay to more than \$20 an hour upon completion.

Students are well positioned to pass these tests because the PBCC automotive service technology program is ASE certified and National Automotive Technician Education Foundation (NATEF) accredited. Competencies covered in the College's curriculum help prepare students for the ASE examinations. These designations also benefit the students because ASE certification requires two years of work experience in addition to passing the ASE certification examinations. Graduates from ASE Master Certified educational programs such as PBCC's are able to substitute their training for one year of work experience toward the ASE two-year work requirement.

At least one graduate would agree there is no substitute for knowledge. Amir Ayoub, an international student with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Egypt's Helwan University, recently graduated from the PBCC automotive technology program

with the intent of furthering his engineering career. "It can be hard to deal with mechanics because they do everything by hand; engineers just give orders. If the engineer doesn't understand what the mechanic is doing, how can they give orders? I want them to respect me," Ayoub said. "That's why I delayed my marriage in Egypt to finish this course. In my country, if we have mechanical problems we get Americans to fix them because they know what they're doing. The United States is the best place to learn these skills."

Members of the PBCC Business Partnership Council for both programs would be quick to agree. Local business men and women are actively involved in promoting the programs as well as hiring students or helping them get hired. The business partners know the needs of the industry and are eager to fill those needs.

Council members also have been very active in organizing and promoting "Tricked-Out Cars and Hooked-Up Careers," a combination car show and career expo (*right*). The event draws many prospective students to the Lake Worth campus, giving them the opportunity to learn more about the many careers that begin at PBCC. Through sponsorships, the show is also able to establish a fledgling scholarship fund to help put more automotive, auto body and diesel technicians into the job market.

The programs continue to expand to meet the growing needs of the industry. Still, the instructors see each class as a group of individuals with like goals, and they pride themselves in "growing" those individuals. "To see students come here with no basic skills and leave with the ability to get a high-paying job and see the pride they have as their skills increase is very rewarding," Dennis said. "It is like watching your children grow and knowing that you had a large part in their success."







# Bridging the dental gap

PBCC partnerships connect students and local dentists with the community.

BY TABATHA B. MCDONALD

**W**ith no dental insurance, Fran Spiegel didn't know how she was going to pay for the root canals and other extensive dental work she needed. Then she heard about the Atlantic Coast Dental Research Clinic at Palm Beach Community College.

"I'd probably have false teeth in my mouth because I don't think I'd ever be able to afford it. Either that or my dentist would own me," the 66-year-old Jupiter woman said with a chuckle. "It's rough because you can work on your car, but you can't work on your own teeth."

Spiegel was at the clinic at PBCC's Lake Worth campus one recent Wednesday afternoon getting a loose crown repaired. The clinic was spotless and busy. At each of the nine high-tech dental units, a patient was being treated by dentists from the nonprofit clinic.



Seventeen dental assisting students dressed in white lab coats hovered around the dentists, passing dental instruments, listening and learning. On this day, the clinic was open for patients who needed evaluation for cosmetic and adhesive dental work, such as fillings. Dr. Paul Klein, who chairs the Cosmetic and Adhesive Dentistry section, was in charge.

Since it opened more than 40 years ago, the Atlantic Coast Dental Research Clinic has collaborated with PBCB to do three things: help local dentists hone their skills through accredited continuing education, provide dental assisting students with hands-on experience and offer quality, low-cost dental care for people in the community who otherwise may not be able to afford it. Patients who receive treatment pay about half of what they would pay in a private practice.

“You get a lot of experience, you work with actual patients and you get a better idea of what it’s going to be like to work with an actual dentist when you get in the workplace,” said Iliet Lorenzo, a student in PBCB’s nine-month dental assisting program.

“This program is a big-time learning experience,” added Juan Gomez, another student, who plans to follow in his uncle’s footsteps and become a dentist. “They show you what they’re doing, and they explain why they’re doing it.”

Dentists affiliated with the clinic say it’s a win-win situation for them, too. To maintain their licenses, dentists are required to complete continuing education, and PBCB

has state-of-the-art facilities suitable for the training.

“The research clinic and the community college have a symbiotic relationship where we help each other out,” said Dr. Klein. “We’re able to give continuing education to practicing dentists, and during the clinic hours, we’re able to help the dental assisting students in all of the disciplines that we have taught for the day.”

“I enjoy doing it because it’s a close relationship we have with the college,” said Dr. Rory Mortman, president of the Atlantic Coast Dental Research Clinic, which includes about 120 local dentists. “PBCB is known for producing high-quality dental assistants in the area.”

Every month from late October through April, the Atlantic Coast Dental Research Clinic holds nine individual clinics or training sessions. A dentist skilled in procedures such as crown and bridge, periodontal treatment and oral surgery and implantology oversees the training for that particular area. Dentists spend the morning in a lecture where they learn new techniques to dental procedures. In the afternoon, they treat patients who need care in the areas studied and train dental assisting students. To obtain the continuing education credit, the dentists are required to participate in both the lecture and the clinic.

“All of the doctors have been patient with us, and that helps build our confidence so we can be better assistants,” said student Danita Robinson, who plans to become a

*continued on page 14*



**“You get a lot of experience, you work with actual patients and you get a better idea of what it’s going to be like to work with an actual dentist when you get in the workplace.”**

Iliet Lorenzo  
student, dental assisting program

PBCB dental assisting student helps local dentist work on a patient.



dental hygienist. “Assistants who decide to become hygienists will be better prepared because of their assisting experience and knowledge. You get to see a lot more variety as an assistant.”

Professors and staff in PBCC’s Dental Assisting program said besides the quality training students receive, the service to the community is a plus. About 44 to 45 percent of Americans are without dental insurance, according to the National Association of Dental Plans.

“Dentistry is very expensive today, and if people don’t have insurance or other means of paying for it, this is the best option. We let them know that this is a learning experience so patience is of the utmost importance,” said dental assisting adjunct instructor Cindy Clements.

“A lot of these patients wouldn’t have any treatment at all if they didn’t come here,” said Kathleen Rooney, dental assisting clinician.

Vincent Mastrogiacomo, who has no dental insurance, said he’s been going to the clinic for five years. “They do excellent work. Everybody’s nice and courteous. You get treated with dignity and respect.”

The Atlantic Coast Dental Research Clinic treats about 100 patients each year, many of whom also receive dental care through PBCC’s Dental Hygiene Clinic. In that 24-chair clinic, dental hygiene students provide prophylaxis (cleaning) and X-rays to the public from September through June.

The cost is \$40 for adults and \$20 for children 17 and under, which is less than half of what they would pay at a private practice. PBCC employees and students also pay \$20.

Spiegel estimates that she’s saved as much as \$400 a year on dental work since she began using the two clinics at PBCC four years ago. “It’s a big savings because I know how much it is outside,” she said.

PBCC’s partnership with the Atlantic Coast Dental Research Clinic is just one of several that offer dental services to the

community. The Dental Hygiene Clinic partners each year with Head Start and the Palm Beach County Health Department to provide free dental screenings for more than 400 children in Head Start. In addition, dental hygiene students perform free oral exams weekly at the Morse Geriatric Center in West Palm Beach. The dental hygiene students also provide prophylaxis and dental assisting students assist dentists with patients at the Caridad Health Clinic in Boynton Beach.

“The students are getting the experience, the patients are getting the care and the centers are getting help and volunteers,” said Professor Colleen Bradshaw, chair of PBCC’s Dental Services department. “It’s a win-win for everyone.”



“Dentistry is very expensive today, and if people don’t have insurance or other means of paying for it, this is the best option. We let them know that this is a learning experience so patience is of the utmost importance.”

Cindy Clements  
dental assisting adjunct instructor



Through a partnership with the Atlantic Coast Dental Research Clinic, PBCC dental assisting students work with local dentists to treat patients in the PBCC lab.



Dental hygiene students provide free dental screenings for children in Head Start and teach them how to brush properly.



# Foundation

## Gifts to PBCC hit all-time high

BY TONI WOLF

Students and programs at Palm Beach Community College are getting a boost from a record-breaking year of fundraising by the PBCC Foundation.

The Foundation raised \$2.7 million in 2006, the most in its 30-year history. The total raised in 2005 was \$1.9 million, an all-time high at that time. Part of last year's total included \$100,000 for the First-Generation-in-College Scholarship Fund, a special fund created by the state legislature. These gifts and contributions are matched by different state funds at varying levels.

Money raised through the Foundation is allocated for scholarships, program funds (which includes equipment) and capital improvement (building funds). In 2006 the amount of scholarships awarded to students increased by \$300,000.

The first half of 2007 was filled with Foundation events that reach out to the community to acquaint potential donors with PBCC. The year began, though,

with the college community by honoring over 170 staff and faculty donors with a "Success Circle" celebration breakfast. PBCC staffers donated more than \$17,000 in 2006.

"It's truly rewarding to see the level of support for Palm Beach Community College," said Suellen Mann, director of the PBCC Foundation. "It is wonderful to realize we are recognized for the contribution the college makes to the welfare and education of our community."

### Community activities increase awareness of PBCC

The Foundation sponsored a "topping off" ceremony Jan. 19 for the Countess de Hoernle Humanities and Technology Building at PBCC in Boca Raton. "Topping off" indicates the building is halfway complete; the building will be ready for classes during the 2007-08 academic year. Later in January the Foundation organized a "PBCC Day" at the South Florida Fair with entertainment on the community stage to increase awareness and provide a gathering for alumni.

This year the Foundation revived the Visiting Scholars program on March 13 with guest speaker Nancy Ellison Rollnick. Photojournalist, painter and celebrity portraitist, Rollnick is the author of many books, including "Starlet," "Barbie Live," and The American Ballet Theatre's "The Ballet Book." Her photographs have appeared in numerous publications, among them Vanity Fair, Vogue and the New York Times Magazine. She and her husband, David Rollnick, are art patrons and philanthropists who have chaired Palm Beach's International Red Cross Ball and support the Presidential Scholars Foundation and numerous other educational programs.

### Visiting Scholars Program

Nancy Ellison Rollnick, photojournalist, painter and celebrity portraitist, spoke at PBCC in March.





March brought a spring gala for potential donors at the Palm Beach home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Eigelberger. On April 20, donors and scholarship recipients met for the annual scholarship luncheon at the Kravis Center.

**2007 Golf Classic & Finer Things is huge success!**

The Palm Beach Community College Foundation netted about \$60,000 at the annual Golf Classic held at the BallenIsles Country Club in Palm Beach Gardens. The funds from the May 17 event are used for PBCC student scholarships, programs and facilities.

"The annual golf tournament is a cornerstone of our fundraising efforts and with the addition of 'The Finer Things,' we are able to introduce individuals to the educational program and student scholarship needs," said Mann.

The team from Gerrits Construction of Boca Raton won first place among the 21 foursomes in the golf tournament. A team from STH Architects won second place and WRMF 97.7 FM radio station won third place.

The "Finer Things" delighted participants with a sensory wine tasting, sushi and saké demonstration, massages, makeovers, floral



arranging and belly dancing demonstrations. Palm Beach Gardens businesses presented the sessions including WineStyles, RA Sushi, Stampar Jewelers, Lane Spa and Alexa Personal Dance Studio. Students in PBCC's Massage Therapy and Cosmetology programs also showcased their talents by creating a spa ambience. The festivities culminated with a cocktail reception where WRMF radio personality Jennifer Ross served as emcee.

Pepsi was the title sponsor. Other major sponsors included The Palm Beach Post, Balfour Beatty Construction (formerly Centex Rooney), James A. Cummings, Inc., The Weitz Company, The Schumacher Automotive Group and WRMF 97.9 FM.



**PBCC Golf Classic 2007 Winners**

**1st Place – Gerrits Construction**  
Tom Heffernan, Ross Lumsden, David Gerrits and Todd Lumsden with PBCC President Dennis Gallon.



**2nd ce-STH Architects**  
Ignacio Reyes, Jennifer Johnson and Fernando Delgado



**3rd Place–WRMF**  
Tim Kovocavage, Bob Neumann, Kevin Malys and Danny Czekalinski (not in photo)

Upper left, PBCC massage students create a spa atmosphere

**It's so easy now to help**

The Foundation also has made it easier for donors to contribute online at [www.pbcc.edu/makeagift](http://www.pbcc.edu/makeagift). This convenient method, which takes all major credit cards, also allows donors to access a record of their online giving. They will receive an instant reply e-mail for tax deduction purposes.

Other ways to give and help PBCC students are memorials and honorariums, that is, donating in memory of someone or to honor someone. The Foundation is working on establishing charitable gift annuities by next year.

**Call today to help!**

PBCC Foundation  
Suellen Mann, executive director  
**561-868-3450**

[www.pbcc.edu/makeagift](http://www.pbcc.edu/makeagift)



# New Teacher Program a Good Fit for Everyone

BY GWENN ADAMS

**M**aking the decision to step into the classroom as a teacher can be intimidating, especially to a young college student. As many as half of freshman education students change their major within the first two years of college, partially because they do not have the opportunity early on to experience first-hand the impact they can have on young lives. A new program offered at Palm Beach Community College through Florida Atlantic University gives prospective teachers that opportunity.

Project Good FIT (First Introduction into Teaching) places students in a professional experience one day per week as paid instructional interns working with local teachers. “A lot of people are fearful of that classroom experience until you show them what it can be like. Once they have the opportunity to touch the life of a student, they realize teaching is a very special calling,” said Samantha Wallace, PBCC’s site coordinator for the program. The college has 55 students currently enrolled in the program. The students are paid \$500 for an 8-week internship and \$1,000 for 16 weeks.



Being an education major is not a requirement for participation in the program since one of the objectives is to let students see if teaching is the right career choice for them. Students are matched with mentor teachers in local schools for the internship and “put in a situation where they actively work with children, helping them learn,” according to Glenn Thomas, executive director of educational programs at FAU and initiator of Project Good FIT.

“I was a psychology major when someone from Project Good FIT talked to my math class about the program. Now that I’ve had the opportunity to work with the students and mentors at both Pahokee Elementary and Pahokee High, I am definitely going into education,” said Marquitta Lawler, a student at PBCC at Belle Glade. “Working with the 3rd graders was fun and adventurous, but I learned from them and my mentor teacher. Once you

have the one-on-one interaction with the students you become pretty close to them. They look forward to seeing you, and you can see the effect you’re having in their lives.”

Another expected effect may be felt by Florida’s public school system. The state will need to hire 20,000 teachers each year for the next 10 years to keep pace with rising student enrollment, an aging teacher force and the state’s constitutional requirement to reduce classroom sizes, according to recent statistics. With seven school districts and two other community colleges on board for this program, “home-grown” teachers will be available to help fill Florida’s critical teacher shortage, according to Dr. Gregory F. Aloia, dean of FAU’s College of Education.

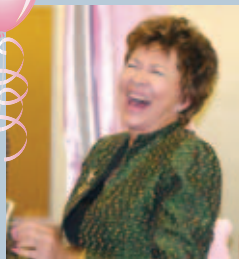
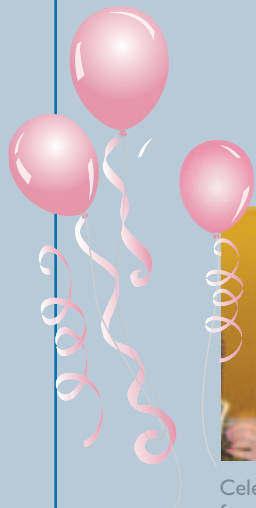
Project Good FIT seems to be a great fit for education students, the state education system and public school students. For more information or to sponsor a Project Good FIT student, call Wallace at 561-993-1192.



“Once you have the one-on-one interaction with the students you become pretty close to them. They look forward to seeing you, and you can see the effect you’re having in their lives.”

Samantha Wallace  
PBCC’s site coordinator





Celeste Beck, Ed.D., former provost of PBCC at Boca Raton, at her retirement party.

## Visionary PBCC provost retires after 27 years of service

To some, Celeste Beck, Ed.D., was known as the organizing impetus for distance learning at Palm Beach Community College. To others, she stood out as a supportive leader of her faculty and staff at PBCC in Boca Raton who made everyone feel special. During her 11 years as provost in Boca Raton, she became an influential community leader as well, and last year Mayor Steve Abrams dedicated July 1 as "Dr. Celeste Beck Day" in Boca Raton for her leadership gifts. (Beck became provost on July 1, 1995.)



Because Beck was committed to the community at large, she championed the Office of Community Involvement that houses the Summer Youth College, Learning Unlimited and After School Youth College.

Over PBCC's four locations, Beck was known for her leadership in "distance learning"— classes delivered via the Internet, video-

tapes and television; Internet classes eventually dominated distance learning at PBCC. Dr. Beck began encouraging the faculty to offer distance learning classes by establishing summer training for them, and her steadfast leadership caused distance learning to grow every semester it's been offered.

When the Countess de Hoernle Humanities and Technology Building opens, a permanent plaque will be placed in the building to acknowledge Beck's influence in designing innovative learning spaces based on current "best practices" brain research on how people learn.

## Two Palm Beach Community College theaters celebrating milestones this year

Homer Hand with PBCC at Belle Glade "extended family" Debra Bowles, Provost Beverly Robinson and Theater Manager Leigh Woodham.



Dolly and Homer Hand, at the 25th Anniversary Gala, are presented with new portraits for the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center lobby.

The Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center at PBCC in Belle Glade, the oldest of PBCC's three theaters and a landmark in the Glades community, celebrated its 25th Anniversary Season on April 17 with a concert featuring opera and country music artist Gary Morris followed by a black tie gala.

Morris' original rendition of *Wind Beneath My Wings* won both the Country Music Association and the Academy of Country Music Song of the Year Awards in 1984. Leigh Woodham, theater manager, said with Morris being the guest performer it was fitting to dedicate the season series themed "Celebrating Silver" to the theater's patrons and supporters because

they are the wind beneath the theater's wings.

"The celebration was a 'thank you' to everyone for their years of support," Woodham said. More than 250 people attended the gala. "It was a spectacular event!"

PBCC dedicated the theater, named in honor of philanthropist Dolly Hand, on April 17, 1982. It has become a focal point in the community for not only cultural arts, but also the site of weddings, receptions, banquets and other events.

The Watson B. Duncan III Theatre, named in honor of PBCC's longtime and beloved theater and English literature professor, celebrated its 20th Anniversary Season. To honor the memory of Duncan, who was a Shakespeare scholar, the theater held a concert Feb. 28 featuring Ensemble Chaconne with guest artist Pamela Dellal, who performed the music of Shakespeare plays. Chaconne is known for its dramatic period-instrument concerts of Renaissance and Baroque music.

The Duncan Theatre also hosted MASS Ensemble for a residency and performance March 21-24. MASS Ensemble is an internationally known performance group that combines the creative

forces of artists, musicians, composers and choreographers. The combination of violin, bass, cello, flute, sculptural drums and other invented instruments create a powerful musical experience that is balanced by the intricate symphonic sounds of the long stringed instruments.



During the three-day visit, the ensemble installed its outdoor Earth Harp and conducted several residency projects, including a family instrument-making workshop, sound and yoga class and lecture/demonstration on the creative process for building instruments, as well as a main stage concert.

For upcoming performances, visit:

[www.pbcc.edu/arts](http://www.pbcc.edu/arts)



# Historical novelist resurrects intriguing women from the past



West Palm Beach native  
and PBCC alumna has  
published eight novels

BY TONI WOLF

**P**BCC alumna ('62) Lucia St. Clair Robson credits her outstanding PBCC professors with much of her success as a historical novelist. She was particularly influenced by Professors Frank Leahy, Watson B. Duncan and Sally Ratliff Taylor. In fact, she dedicated her first novel, "Ride the Wind," to Taylor, "a smart, strong, opinionated, incredible teacher." "Ride the Wind" made the New York Times best-seller list in 1982 and is now in its 24th printing. Unfortunately, Taylor died before it was published.

For those who might remember, Robson drew editorial cartoons for The Beachcomber that featured her alter ego, "Far Out Fanny." She was involved in many college activities, including a drama group where she met Leahy. She played a small role as a servant in "Medea," and Leahy emphasized that all characters, even the minor ones, have a point of view. It was a lesson that Robson the writer never forgot.

After PBCC, Robson earned her bachelor's degree in sociology at the University of Florida and later a master's degree in library science at Florida State. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in Venezuela for two years and an Army wife who spent a year in Japan while her husband served in Vietnam. One of her novels, "Tokaido Road," is set in feudal Japan. She taught underprivileged

## LUCIA ST. CLAIR ROBSON '62

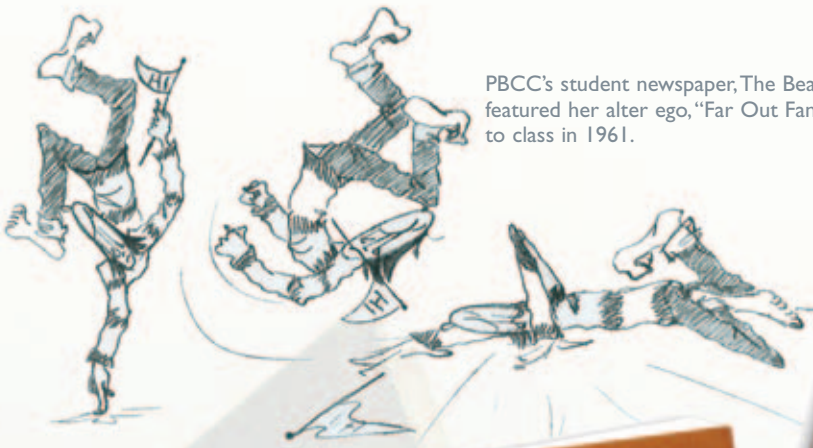
children in Brooklyn, and in 1979, by then divorced, she fell in love with a science fiction writer, Brian Daley, who set her on her path to become a novelist. Daley is best known for his Hans Solo books.

"I am a writer because of Brian," Robson said. "His editor connected me to another editor to have 'Ride the Wind' published. Brian gave me such incredible support, and he was always proud of me. He influenced me with his voracious curiosity about everything. Brian's motto was 'Every day a holiday, every meal a feast.'"

Robson began to distinguish herself as a historical novelist whose protagonists were women who "jumped the fence" to live their lives in ways that were not expected of them.

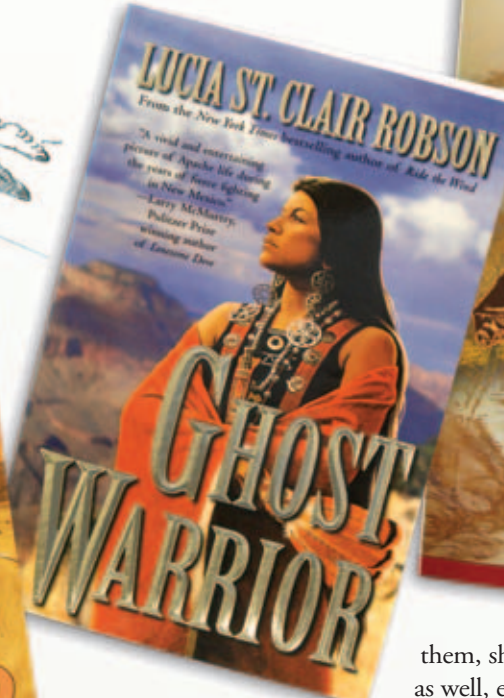
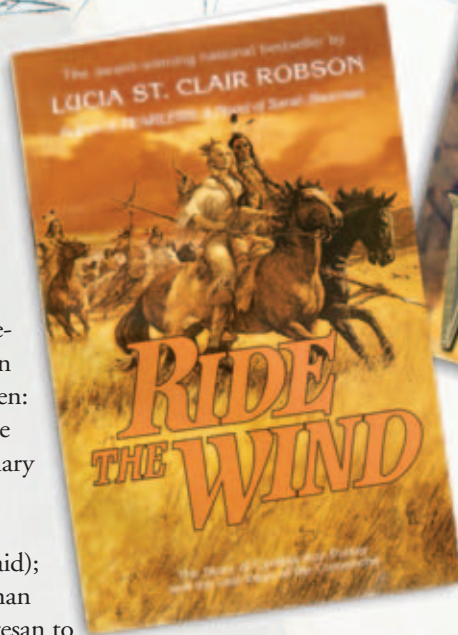






PBCC's student newspaper, *The Beachcomber*, featured her alter ego, "Far Out Fanny," running to class in 1961.

She has now published eight novels. Through her study of library science, she is an expert in uncovering cultural and historical details and weaving them into vivid, feel-as-if-you're-there tales of remarkable women history should not have forgotten: a Quaker woman who aided the rebellion during the Revolutionary War in "Shadow Patriots" (the woman was real, but she wasn't necessarily a Quaker, Robson said); a (fictional) Japanese noblewoman who disguised herself as a courtesan to avenge her father's death in "Tokaido Road"; a European-American woman (Cynthia Ann Parker) who was captured by the Comanche in "Ride the Wind"; a Cherokee, Tiana Rogers, who fell in love with Sam Houston



his family and "Ghost Warrior," a tale of the Apache wars that features Lozen, the sister of Warm Springs Apache Chief Victorio. The nomadic Robson has settled in Maryland and also written a novel of two vastly different women pioneers who settled the state: "Mary's Land."

"I like to write about people who haven't been done to death," Robson explained. "I look for people who surprise me, who did extraordinary things." She recently found the memoirs of two women who were part of the Mexican Revolution, the subject of her novel in progress.

"What I do is extremely arrogant: putting words in dead people's mouths," she admitted humbly to a PBCC audience where she spoke last year. "Historical research is like interviewing witnesses at an accident that was only 200 years ago, but some of their spirits come through in the history."

Robson's characters share certain traits in common: they are strong, courageous, pioneering, powerful and essentially good. Like

them, she has had to be strong as well, especially after losing Daley to cancer in 1996. Yet her novels not only continue to reflect her impeccable grasp of details, but also her ribald sense of humor. She has merited rave reviews, like that written by writer Marlin Fitzwater, who was press secretary to Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush:

"There are so many ways to love this book: for its rollicking view of the American revolution, for the intrigue of spies in petticoats, for the lure of the period, or for Lucia St. Clair Robson's spicy humor. 'Shadow Patriots' is historical fiction that lets you smell the corn cakes in the oven as the muskets are loaded."

To find out more about Robson, go to [www.luciacclairrobson.com](http://www.luciacclairrobson.com). Some of her rave reviews can be found at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).



Robson signs autographs after the College's "Meet the Author" series event at PBCC in Palm Beach Gardens.

before the Trail of Tears in "Walk in My Soul"; and Sarah Bowman, who worked as a laundress for the army Zachary Taylor assembled to invade Mexico in "Fearless." Robson also wrote two more novels on American

# Alumni Corner



# Alumni Success Stories

## Expect More.

Palm Beach Community College salutes these graduates and takes pride in their success stories. If you are an alumnus, we would love to share your accomplishments as well.

Please contact us at [crmarket@pbcc.edu](mailto:crmarket@pbcc.edu)

**PBCC at Belle Glade**  
1977 College Drive

**PBCC at Boca Raton**  
3000 Saint Lucie Avenue

**PBCC at Lake Worth**  
4200 Congress Avenue

**PBCC at Palm Beach Gardens**  
3160 PGA Boulevard

**561-967-PBCC**



**MARGARITA PINKOS, Ed.D.**  
A.A., PBJC, 1973  
B.S., FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY  
M.A., Ed.D., FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

**D**r. Pinkos is a senior policy advisor for the U.S. Department of Education and deputy director of the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA). She advises Education Secretary Margaret Spellings on Title III of the No Child Left Behind Act, and she administers Title VII of the Improving America's Schools Act for linguistically and culturally diverse students.

Pinkos emigrated with her family from Cuba when she was 16. She has held various teaching and administrative positions locally and was the executive director for the Palm Beach County school district's Multicultural Education Department when she received the presidential appointment.



**WILSON BRADSHAW, Ph.D.**  
A.A., PBJC, 1969  
B.A. & M.A., FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY  
Ph.D., UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

**D**r. Bradshaw has been the president of Metropolitan State University in Minneapolis/St. Paul since 2000. He "came up through the ranks" as a faculty member, researcher and administrator in Florida, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Ohio. Before going to MSU, he was provost and vice president for academic affairs at Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania.

Bradshaw has taught psychopharmacology, psychology, neurophysiology and biological bases of motivated behaviors and has published widely in these fields. Just one of his accomplishments as president of MSU has been promoting a program to prepare teachers for urban school settings.



**LESLIE MANES HAAG, PHARM.D.**  
A.A., PBCC, 1998  
PHARM.D., PALM BEACH ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

**A**fter raising four children, this former printing production coordinator enrolled at PBCC in her late 40s. With strong faculty support, she excelled in her studies, was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa honor society and received scholarship offers to continue her education. "It was at PBCC that I grew to be a different person who began to believe in herself," says Dr. Haag, citing professors Allen Hamlin and Janette Campbell and Crossroads coordinator Bobbi Marsh among those whose encouragement fueled her success. She was the first student admitted to PBAU's new pharmacy program, completing her degree in 2005. She is now a licensed pharmacist for CVS.

CRM 0807-0138

## Contact FOR THE FRIENDS OF PALM BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Palm Beach Community College  
College Relations and Marketing  
4200 Congress Avenue  
Lake Worth, FL 33461-4796

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
WEST PALM BEACH, FL  
PERMIT NO. 1388