New president brings her "A" game to Palm Beach State College
Feeling like Family

Greetings! It is a joy for me to pen my first Contact magazine column as the new president of Palm Beach State College. I recognize that you are reading this message because you care about the College, which immediately gives us common ground. As I am setting into the role of president, I am especially appreciative of the Palm Beach State College family – faculty, staff, trustees, leadership team, students, alumni, community friends – who have been so generous with their time, ideas and support. Through exploration, research and dialogue, we are working together to crystallize the vision for the College. Together, we will build on the remarkable progress achieved in the past and make a great institution even better.

One of my first-year goals as the new family member is to enhance both internal and external communications, to ensure that not only are we listening to our community, we also are telling our story. To that end, I invite each of you to learn a bit more about Palm Beach State through the pages of Contact. You can read about the College’s new cybersecurity programs, preparing students for high-demand roles in the fight against computer hackers. Learn who will be the next internationally renowned guest appearing through our multi-year STEAM initiative supporting science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. (The speaker may surprise you!) And be sure to read the stories of some of our notable graduates, who are achieving success and satisfaction at all stages of their lives.

Speaking of graduates, PBC is exploring new ways to tap into and connect with our vast alumni network, and we welcome your ideas and contributions. Perhaps you could support current students through mentoring and internships or serving on one of our Business Partnership Councils. Send us updates on your accomplishments that we can share with your former classmates. Stay up to date on what is happening at Palm Beach State by subscribing to our online News Center or following us on social media. (See page 19.)

If you are a graduate of Palm Beach State College, we celebrate your successes as our own. Isn’t that what families do? Stay in touch. Ava L. Parker, J.D. President Palm Beach State College

Contact magazine is printed on chlorine-free, Forest Stewardship Council certified and Rainforest Alliance certified paper.

Palm Beach State College, founded in 1933 as Florida’s first public community college, is a diverse, comprehensive institution dedicated to serving the educational needs of Palm Beach County. Integely linked to the community through strong partnerships, the College provides associate and baccalaureate degrees, professional certificates, workforce development and lifelong learning. Palm Beach State College’s mission is to create and sustain a dynamic teaching and learning environment that provides a high-quality, accessible, affordable education, preparing students to contribute and compete ethically and successfully in a diverse global community.

www.PalmBeachState.edu

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Palm Beach State College
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Palm Beach State College
BRINGING HER “A” GAME

Ava L. Parker is Palm Beach State College’s fifth president and first female chief

By Taratha B. McDonald

Dressed in academic regalia on a steamy Friday morning, Palm Beach State College President Ava L. Parker, J.D., stepped to the podium in the packed Duncan Theatre. Within five minutes, she had the crowd of new students on their feet and chanting.

“We are the Panthers,” they roared, following her lead like sports fanatics at a big game. “We are the Panthers. We are the Panthers. Her lead like sports fanatics at a big game.

“We are the Panthers,” they roared, following

Within five minutes, she had the crowd of new students on their feet and chanting. “We are the Panthers.”

“Within five minutes, she had the crowd of new students on their feet and chanting. “We are the Panthers.”

“I’m proud to be here, and I want that level of excitement to be felt throughout our organization,” Parker said. “It will be infectious for the students.”

Genuine leader

Parker has been doing a lot of listening—asking questions and getting input on the College’s priorities. She has taken immediate action on some matters, which generated positive responses. For example, she received booming applause from faculty and staff after announcing, during faculty Convocation that she was reinstating coverage of transportation expenses so they can attend approved professional development conferences. “Who wants to go if you’re not going to pay for me to get there, right?” she quipped. “I want you to see the best and brightest ideas in your areas so you can bring those ideas back to our campus.”

Parker also assured faculty that she will meet regularly with their union leadership to address faculty concerns and create opportunities for the District Board of Trustees to learn more about them and their work.

“I think she’s doing a great job so far, not just because of what she said at Convocation, but she did follow up on all of that,” said Professor Nicholas LaRocca, president of the United Faculty at PBSC. “On top of that, she seems really into what faculty do in the classroom and our roles. She genuinely seems to want to understand our point of view and consider it. It seems that when she says something, it’s the truth.”

While she wants to get input before updating the College’s priorities and agenda, Parker already has laid the groundwork. At every opportunity, she encourages faculty and staff to be “innovative,” to “think outside the box,” and to “bring your A game to work every day.” She also has vowed to improve communication and change the culture of PBSC to reinforce its standing as one college with multiple campuses.

“I am challenging myself to make a good institution better,” she said. “The issues that I am discussing now will be the foundation of whatever we do in the future. We’ve all learned that we are more successful if we collaborate and work together.”

From law to education

Parker came to Palm Beach State from Florida Polytechnic University, where she served since December 2012 as executive vice president and chief operating officer. The Lakeland school was a satellite campus of the University of South Florida in Tampa until state law earlier that year made it an independent institution. Parker was the first administrator hired for the state’s 12th public university, and she was responsible for shaping its mission and vision, overseeing the campus development, and hiring the staff to prepare for the inaugural class in fall 2014 and helping the school pursue accreditation.

An attorney who earned both her juris doctorate and bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Florida, Parker, 52, elevated her career on the policy side of higher education. She was appointed by former Gov. Jeb Bush in 2001 to the inaugural Board of Trustees for the University of Central Florida after state lawmakers abolished the Board of Regents and created boards at each state university. When a 2012 constitutional amendment created the Board of Governors to oversee the state universities, Parker was then appointed by Bush to the inaugural 17-member BOG and reappointed by former Govs. Charlie Crist and Gov. Rick Scott. She served for about 10 years on the BOG, including terms as vice chair and chair, before resigning to take the position at Florida Poly.

A native of Santa Rosa County, she worked as an assistant public defender for Miami-Dade County and served as general counsel for the 11th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and for Edward Waters College in Jacksonville. Married to former State Rep. Joe Gibbons and the mother of 6-year-old boy and girl twins, she most recently worked in private practice as a partner in the Jacksonville firm of Lawrence & Parker.

Parker said her higher education governance and legal experience have prepared her to lead Palm Beach State at a crucial time with the arrival of state-mandated performance-based funding and construction underway for a fifth campus in Loxahatchee Groves.

“Tfeel honored to have the opportunity to lead a complex, dynamic organization at a very interesting time. Higher education is changing to meet regulatory demands and to respond to societal change,” she said. “This is a strategic time in the life of the institution.”

Wendy Link, chair of the District Board of Trustees, said she appreciates the strategic approach that Parker brings. “I believe she brings a new energy to the school and is looking at it . . . 

story continues on page 5
with fresh eyes. She’s looking for that strategic edge as it relates to growth, improvements and partnerships.” Parker said because performance-based funding started while she served on the Board of Governors, she understands the model and is prepared to help the College meet its performance targets. Of the three possible funding levels for the 28 state and community colleges – gold, silver and bronze – Palm Beach State falls in the middle. “Some of the metrics are difficult for an open access institution, particularly when many of our students work and go to school. But the current metrics will make us focus on areas that are important for our students’ success,” she said. “I understand that performance funding is here to stay, and I approach it with the attitude that it’s good for us because it’s reasonable for the state to ensure quality for our students and a return on its investment. We are already analyzing our data, and we are going for the gold.”

Making her mark A 3-D printed model of the Loxahatchee Groves campus sits on a table in Parker’s office. She glances at it and smiles as she discusses how the campus fits into the future of the College and the growing west-central communities it will serve. She knows that the building’s imprint will be connected to her predecessor, Dr. Dennis Gallon, who retired in June after 18 years as president and whose name the campus will bear. However, the direction of the campus and its success falls on her shoulders. “I have a great deal of respect for Dr. Gallon’s work, and I feel a huge responsibility to build on his legacy,” she said. “I’m excited about the opportunities that you have when you start something new, and I’m challenged by the issues, like funding, that we have to pull together to make it happen.”

Responding to labor market data, Parker presented a proposal for science and technology to be the initial focus of the campus, making it the base for existing high-demand health care and technology associate degree and certificate programs and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. The initial phase also will include courses for the Associate in Arts degree. The District Board of Trustees gave her the green light in September. “I see this as a wonderful opportunity for me to refresh the brand for our institution,” she said. “That is why I am so interested in innovative programs. I want Palm Beach State to be known as an innovative, cutting-edge institution that is listening, changing and moving to where the puck is going.”

Parker said getting faculty and staff to consider new ways of doing business and reaching students will be critical for the continued success of the institution and the students. “That’s the only way you can be responsive to the kind of environments that students are going to find themselves in. Our students will need basic skills, but they’re also going to have to know how to think critically and do things differently in order to be competitive,” she said. “If we don’t think like that there’s no way we can bring that to the table for our students. We have to lead by example.”

For more photos and a video interview of President Parker: www.palmbeachstate.edu/Contact

continued from page 3
Students get ready to take on hackers

by Joyce Edelstein

It’s a worldwide war. Every person, organization and government is under threat of attack, and Palm Beach State College has joined the fight.

It’s a worldwide war. Every person, organization and government is under threat of attack, and Palm Beach State College has joined the fight.

Posts grew 91 percent from 2010–2014, a rate three times faster than information technology job postings overall, according to Burning Glass Technologies.

Yet despite this critical need, there will be a shortage of 1.5 million cybersecurity professionals by 2020, as projected by the 2015 Global Information Security Workforce Study, conducted by Frost & Sullivan.

This giant gap has spurred public-private collaborations involving academia, industry and government agencies, such as the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security. This gap rapidly expands our cybersecurity workforce.

Home-grown cyberwarriors

Palm Beach State is preparing students for cybersecurity careers, deploying an impressive arsenal of certificate and degree programs, cyber-experienced faculty and a computer lab unlike any other in South Florida.

Of course, PBSC has been teaching computer science for decades, with broad offerings in networking, programming, web technology and information security.

In 2011, the College added a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Information Management with a concentration in Security and Network Assurance. Yet, with cybersecurity an increasingly urgent national priority, it became clear that the College needed to do more.

Help came from Washington, D.C., specifically the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant program. In 2013 a consortium of seven Florida colleges, including Palm Beach State, won a $10.2 million TAACCCT grant to implement their plan, Florida XCEL-IT.

PBSC’s portion of $1.2 million was the fuel it needed to enhance its cybersecurity pathway from beginning to end.

“The XCEL-IT grant has really propelled us,” says Richard Chance, associate professor and chair of the Information Management B.A.S. degree. “This is a very unique time to work on something that’s of national security interest. There’s a dire need, and it’s getting worse. Our programs are going to help meet that need for our region.”

With human and technical resources funded by the grant, Palm Beach State has ramped up the B.A.S. program and the foundational Associate in Science degree in computer networking and programming. The College also launched two cyber-focused College Credit Certificate programs, which along with existing CCC’s, serve as steppingstones to the A.S. degrees or as quicker routes to employment.

A new cybersecurity lab opened in September, designed to raise cybersecurity awareness and share expertise.

Cybersecurity Education. The College is also working toward earning designation as an NSA/DHS National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance. In addition to meeting academic criteria, CAE-IA schools also work with their communities and campuses to raise cybersecurity awareness and share expertise.

Combat Training

Inside Palm Beach State’s new cybersecurity lab on the Lake Worth campus, students face off against real-world attack strategies – found in a 7-inch-high green box.

“We looked at a tool that would differentiate our lab from just a regular computer lab,” says Chance. That tool is the Ixia BreakingPoint Storm™, a state-of-the-art stress tester used to detect vulnerabilities in networks and data centers.

Popular with Fortune 100 corporations and government agencies, Breaking/Point Storm also keeps IT staff sharp with hands-on training exercises built around real-world threats.

Story continues on page 8
Dr. Gary Rogers, right, discusses the technology in PBSC's Cybersecurity Lab with students in his Attack Prevention and Detection class.

The lab also has network servers running various operating systems, virtual machine capability, switches, routers and a soon-to-be-installed video wall that will enable real-time threat visualization on multiple screens. Every session is recorded, so students are able to do analysis as well. “We’re giving students the tools that industry is using,” says Chance. “We want the lab to be one of the most comprehensive in the state, where one day, we can offer these services to area businesses.”

Gary Rogers, Ph.D., a new PBSC professor, guides students as they create virtual networks, evaluate threats and figure out ways to protect their networks. He also splits students into teams: offense and defense.

“I’m a football fan,” says Rogers, who has a cybersecurity background that includes senior positions with the Internal Revenue Service and U.S. Department of Defense contractors. “In football, if you’re going to have a good defense, you need to know what offense is coming at you. Conversely, if you want to be a success on offense, you need to know what defenses are there. We’re teaching students both sides: how to penetrate and then how to defend against those attacks.”

The only other school in Florida teaching with the Ixia BreakingPoint Storm is Eastern Florida State College in Brevard County. This fall XCEL-IT consortium member has challenged PBSC to a “hackathon” this spring to see which school can best tackle cybersecurity issues. No matter who wins, both schools are pioneers in using BreakingPoint Storm for education.

At the lab’s grand opening, Lynne Clark, chief of the NSA National Information Assurance Education and Training Program, said “Congress is very interested in how we produce people who not only have the knowledge but can show that they have the skills. This really is innovative of Palm Beach State College to be at the spearpoint of this new effort, providing a place where students can learn hands-on and not just out of a book.”

From all walks

As word spreads about what the College is doing in cybersecurity, enrollment is growing. A former chef discovered she’d rather cook hackers than recipes. A criminal justice student realized he’s hooked on computers. A mom had to find a better career after her husband was disabled. All are excited about their new pathways.

The XCEL-IT grant gives special categories of students, 24 and older, a leg up, including veterans and displaced workers who are unemployed or underemployed. XCEL-IT students receive support from a dedicated advisor and when they graduate, looking next to building Palm Beach State’s future enrollment, the College is developing plans to start a summer cybercamp in collaboration with John J. Leonard High School. “There is no need now for businesses to go beyond Palm Beach County for cybersecurity workers. We are building them here at PBSC,” says Jose Ortiz, the College’s XCEL-IT grant director.

Business partners are excited, too. “Security is a huge challenge, so having an education partner focus on training people at a high level is awesome,” says Mark Smith, chief operating officer of 3Cinteractive, a mobile marketing company in Boca Raton. “It’s critical for us as we grow to have access to local talent.”

Mark Smith, COO, 3Cinteractive, Boca Raton

“Security is a huge challenge, so having an education partner focus on training people at a high level is awesome. It’s critical for us as we grow to have access to local talent.”

To learn more: www.palmbeachstate.edu/Cybersecurity
The paintings are part of an expansive project to preserve RJC's history. The oral history project was also served simultaneously as the principal of Roosevelt High School. Although the District Board of Trustees named the Social Science Building on the Lake Worth campus in honor of Beuthien, some RJC alumni and staff, still hurt by the abrupt closure of their college, felt that more work was needed to keep its history alive. So, now retired Palm Beach State president Dennis P. Gallon, who had joined the College in 1997, worked to advance the efforts started before his predecessor, Dr. Ed Eissey.

With the outreach events for RJC alumni and staff and all the initiatives to preserve the RJC history and incorporate it into the College, RJC students and alumni say that they feel more a part of the College, and they credit Gallon.

“We’re happy now,” said Bettye Dawson, who was in RJC’s first graduating class. “He did a good job of merging us. I really do feel a part of Palm Beach State College. I never felt like that before Dr. Gallon came.”

“I give Dr. Gallon all the credit. We wouldn’t have that history and the community wouldn’t have that much information about the history,” said Mary McGee, a 1963 RJC graduate whose grandchildren currently attend Palm Beach State College.

“The College has been very instrumental in sponsoring events as part of keeping before the public the merger of the two institutions,” said Paul Butler, who served as dean and registrar at RJC. “Dr. Gallon has had a continuous series of events that intensifies the fact that there was a merger.”

Brian Kelley, Palm Beach State Lake Worth campus library director, led the oral history project with Juanita Hook, employment manager and assistant to the president for equity programs. Kelley said the history of RJC is important to the overall history of the College.

“I’m very proud to have been a part of it,” Kelley said. “It was an educational experience for me to learn more about the history of Roosevelt Junior College and to actually get to know some of the people involved.”

“One of the most important initiatives the College has launched is the RJC oral history project,” Hook said. “This is an aging population, and so we definitely want to preserve their experiences as spoken by them. The oral history project was a very critical way of ensuring that those experiences good or bad were documented first-hand. That’s going to be so beneficial in looking back.”

Shifting demographics

In the 50 years since the merger of the two junior colleges, Palm Beach State has seen a significant shift in its demographics. With 58 percent of the student population now minorities, including 26 percent black and 28 percent Hispanic, Palm Beach State is one of the most racially and ethnically diverse colleges in the Florida College System and the state. That trend is expected to continue.

Dawson said this is partly why she’s happy that RJC’s history has been preserved. “We know that as long as we’re alive we will always know that we were a part of it. But if it’s there, some of the young people are going to look at it and question and read more about it,” she said. “I want them to know our history.”

Palm Beach State College
ome say colleges would be safer if people were allowed to carry firearms on campus. For others, however, the idea sounds dangerous.

A weighty issue for sure, and one a group of 30 Palm Beach State College students didn’t shy away from debating last April on the Florida State Senate floor as part of the College’s new Mock Legislature Program.

“My opinion is that it is a Second Amendment right, and that students would feel a lot safer knowing they can protect themselves in situations they would rather not be in,” said Jon Carter, a sophomore who served as a mock senator during the debate. “However, I didn’t vote in favor of it because I had talked to quite a number of students on the Boca Raton campus that were against it, and I was up there to represent them and be their voice.”

Their debate was lengthy, and at times heated, but in the end the mock bill failed to pass by just one vote. Mock bills that succeeded called for eliminating tuition surcharges on excess credit hours and providing in-state tuition for children of undocumented immigrants, among others.

While they rejected or adopted bills in symbolic fashion only, the students got an experience that mirrored a real day in the Legislature. They not only debated issues among their peers but actually performed the roles of the key players in the legislative process, including committee chairs, senators, delegates, the speaker of the house, the president of the senate and the governor.

“It gives them a better understanding of the freedoms laid out in the Bill of Rights and state and federal constitutions,” said Robert Van Der Velde, J.D., PBSC associate dean and the program advisor. “With every mock bill came an opportunity to express their opinions freely.”

Bills drafted by students ranged from controversial to thought-provoking, often reflecting the major issues being debated in the real Legislature. Participating students got to meet with individual legislators and attend education sessions detailing how the Legislature runs. They also had gallery seats to observe actual proceedings when the House was in session.

For Carter, who is studying mass communications and political science, the trip to Tallahassee was a reminder of how important it is to be civically engaged.

“I learned three important things while I was there,” said Carter. “The first was that we have a voice, and it has a lot of weight that we just don’t use like we should. The second was that we need to vote, and the third was that the House and Senate are two different animals. In the House, representatives would go back and forth mocking each other’s bills and in the Senate the discussions were a little more civil.”

For fun, students also engaged in a hand-shaking contest to boost their first impression performances.

“It needs to be strong and firm, but not bone crushing,” advised Van Der Velde.

The trip to the Capitol is the program highlight, but students also spend time throughout the year organizing their own mock sessions on campus, and visiting other Florida colleges to meet and interact with students. In October, students got to serve as House representatives and state senators among their peers from each of the 28 Florida colleges at the 2015 Florida Model Legislative Conference in Orlando. At the

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two-day event, students debated such topics as minimum wage, textbook affordability, terrorism education, boating under the influence, police body cameras and more.

“The Model Legislature has given me a lot more confidence to address the issues,” said student Alyssa Latulippe. “It has given me valuable tools to make me a more powerful speaker and a more organized and relatable speaker. It’s also made me more comfortable in knowing how to behave around lawmakers.”

Van Der Velde said the program has a powerful impact on students, showing them that they can make a difference even at a young age.

“They come into the program with only a minimal understanding of how the Legislature works, and they come away with a very rich and detailed understanding by both doing it themselves and going to Tallahassee and witnessing the process,” said Van Der Velde. “Now, they are not only better informed citizens, but more importantly they are prepared to be civically engaged for their entire lives.”

As students learn what goes on in the state, they also get opportunities to understand how the national legislative process works through the Congress to Campus program, which brings a bipartisan pair of former members of Congress to campus every other year. The most recent guests, former Congressmen Martin Lawrence (D) of North Carolina and Tom Petri (R) of Wisconsin, met with students in classes, held forums and conferred with student government leaders during their three-day stay.

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PBSC student Vintwon Jones joins in the debate.
Sonography students benefit from Patty Braga’s experience, passion

By Joyce Edelson

Photos by AL Evans

It was a crisp autumn day in 1969 and 17-year-old Patty Braga was driving the family Mustang on River Road in Passaic, N.J. With a girlfriend in tow, they were on their way to Willowbrook Mall for a day of shopping. Unfortunately, at the end of a miscalculated turn, a tree at the end of a driveway arrived. A radiologist asked ‘who wants to learn medical sonography?’ Braga, now associate professor and chair of Palm Beach State College’s Sonography department, recalls the day when she volunteered to learn this new technology.

"I was working in the x-ray department at St. Joseph’s when the hospital’s first ultrasound machine arrived. A radiologist asked ‘who wants to learn this?’ and I said ‘I’ll do it.’ Honestly, that’s how I started. It was on-the-job training because there wasn’t such a thing as an ultrasound school in 1976."

At St. Joseph’s, Braga teamed up with early adopters to get the rest of the physicians on board with sonography. "That’s where my first teaching experience came from because I actually had to teach the doctors and OB-GYN residents how to use the ultrasound equipment."

While sonography still provides those thrilling first images of babies in utero, it is now widely used in most medical specialties. Because no radiation is involved, it’s considered ‘gentle imaging’ and is often the first choice in determining a diagnosis.

When ultrasound schools began cropping up, Braga earned a certificate to expand her knowledge. As a diagnostic medical sonographer, she felt “a little bit of everything,” becoming certified in OB-GYN, abdomen, cardiac and vascular sonography.

Patty Braga was one of the first to graduate in 1976, so now director of imaging for Pre-Birth Centers of America. The high-risk pregnancy practice, headed by Dr. Rud T. Stoessel, is a clinical training site for PBSC Sonography students, and Sangauro, who supervises 10 sonographers at three locations, has hired many of them. "The program gave me all of the knowledge that I needed to be successful," says Sangauro. "Patty brings so much to the table. Her students are ready to go."

For Braga, it’s simply a matter of giving back. "This profession has been really good to me. For Braga, it’s simply a matter of giving back. "This profession has been really good to me. Students notice and benefit. "She comes to class in her uniform because she’s going to work right after this," says Laura Faza. "I can’t imagine having a better teacher for this program. Shuler notes that few full-time professors can juggle both, which makes Braga unique. "I really admire her ability to do it all."

Sonography programs are an Associate in Science degree and a College Credit Certificate – focus on developing medical knowledge as well as technical precision in operating the equipment. Intensive hands-on training starts in the College’s well-equipped lab and extends to clinical rotations at local hospitals and physician practices.

"Medical ultrasound relies heavily on the skill of the sonographer. As Braga teaches, a sonographer’s job is to ask ‘why’ and investigate the possibilities of what that image means and where you go next.”

In the lab, students learn how to operate ultrasound equipment, with classmates and staff acting as patients. Students also perform scans using a life-size female mannequin and simulation technology, which lets them discover abnormalities and compare the 2-D ultrasound images against 3-D anatomical images on a split screen. This helps students think critically about anatomy, physiology and disease processes and honor their ability to look at 2-D images, yet think 3-D – a crucial skill in capturing the correct images.

"This is a tough field,” says Braga, who believes everybody’s capable of learning. "When students have issues, I try to counsel them and give them the confidence that they’ll be able to do this work.”

"Professor Braga calmed all of our fears and anxieties,” says student Marji Engle, a former dental assistant. "I see that she has a caring touch with her students, which helps them develop the same passion for ultrasound that they’ve done. It’s great for students to see that.”

Robert Van Der Velde, J.D., associate dean of academic affairs for the Palm Beach Gardens campus, visits Braga’s classes and has been scanned by the students. "I see that she has a caring touch with her students, which helps them develop the same passion for ultrasound that they’ve done. It’s great for students to see that.”

"Being involved in SDMS and accreditation is a way to show the younger generation how much ultrasound can do for them,” says Braga. "I take my students to conferences so they can see people like me, who get up and talk with enthusiasm about their work. “You’re the interesting studies that they’ve done. It’s great for students to see that.”

For Braga, it’s simply a matter of giving back. "This profession has been really good to me. I truly love ultrasound.”

For more information:

www.palmbeachstate.edu/Programs/Sonography

Palm Beach State College offers a bachelor’s and master’s degree. “It was a little bit of everything,” becoming certified in OB-GYN, abdomen, cardiac and vascular sonography.

As a diagnostic medical sonographer, she felt “a little bit of everything,” becoming certified in OB-GYN, abdomen, cardiac and vascular sonography.

At St. Joseph’s, Braga teamed up with other early pioneers and, as the only full-time radiologist, she was able to train other radiologists.

"I was working in the x-ray department at St. Joseph’s when the hospital’s first ultrasound machine arrived. A radiologist asked ‘who wants to learn this?’ and I said ‘I’ll do it.’ Honestly, that’s how I started. It was on-the-job training because there wasn’t such a thing as an ultrasound school in 1976."
PBSC grads win prestigious scholarship

Two recent Palm Beach State College graduates won the coveted Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship that pays up to $40,000 a year to cover tuition, living expenses, books and required fees to complete their bachelor’s degrees. Ana Guevara and Patricia Medina, who both earned Associate in Arts degrees last May, were among only 90 students nationwide selected from more than 2,000 applicants. While a total of seven PBSC students have won this scholarship over the years, this was the first time that two PBSC students won in the same year.

The duo traveled to Virginia last summer for the Foundation’s Scholars Weekend, where they met 400 other previous and current scholarship winners and heard from such speakers as Colin Powell, former U.S. Secretary of State, and Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education. They say earning this scholarship is a dream come true. “It really has changed my life and my education because without the scholarship I would not be able to attend the University of Florida,” said Guevara, 21, who is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in finance. Medina, 41, a married mother of twin teens, is pursuing a bachelor’s degree at Stetson University with a major in communications and minor in political science. She plans to go to law school. “I’m grateful for the scholarship, but I’m even more thankful for the networking,” she said.

BSN, ophthalmic programs accredited

Earning specialized accreditation is a crucial step for any new health science program. It’s a rigorous, lengthy process that requires a school to prove that its program meets or exceeds national quality standards. Once achieved, accreditation validates the program and opens professional doors for students.

In 2015, two Palm Beach State programs reached this milestone: the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program and the Associate in Science degree in Ophthalmic Medical Technology.

The B.S.N. program earned accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, the accrediting body for all types of nursing education recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and several other organizations and governmental entities. The B.S.N. degree is an increasingly important and preferred credential due to the complexities of health care delivery.

The Ophthalmic Medical Technology program, the first of its kind in South Florida, prepares students for careers in vision care. It was awarded accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Ophthalmic Medical Programs, which accredits four levels of technician training programs. Palm Beach State is among just 30 programs nationwide to earn GA-OMT accreditation and one of only five accredited for Ophthalmic Medical Technologist training, which is the highest level.

Learn more:
www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/BSN-Nursing
www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/UMT

Grant boosts STEM work-readiness

Demand for skilled professionals in science, technology, engineering and mathematics has reached a critical level nationwide and in South Florida. With an $868,105 grant from the National Science Foundation, Palm Beach State College is doing something about it.

PBSC’s project, titled “InnovATE” (with a nod to NSF’s Advanced Technological Education grant program), aims to spark student interest in STEM fields through a continuum of outreach, education and guidance, leading them ultimately to satisfying, high-demand careers. The three-year project provides intensive academic support and customized laboratories for students in the College’s Engineering Technology and Electrical Power Technology Associate in Science degree programs. Plus, higher education pathways are under development to enable these A.S. graduates to pursue STEM-related bachelor’s degrees at Florida institutions.

InnovATE also promotes STEM careers to selected middle and high school students attending Title I schools in the School District of Palm Beach County. The goal is to build a pipeline of graduates, particularly underrepresented minorities and women, ready to study STEM disciplines at Palm Beach State.

“We are looking forward to all of the exciting things that we’ll be doing with the school district and the great support of our industry partners,” says Professor Oleg Andric, InnovATE co-principal investigator and head of the Electrical Power Technology program (shown above with EPT students). “Starting with middle school, we’ll always be in their face, doing something fun with them and showcasing that engineering, science and technology are not scary... hopefully that results in some significant increases and interest in these fields.”

For more information:
www.palmbeachstate.edu/NSF-InnovATE

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Hoops coach brings young, energetic vibe

By Kristi Sorrow

As a young boy in Hopewell Junction, N.Y., Martin McCann always had a basketball in his hand—at the mall, his siblings’ sporting events or even the airport. “I wanted to play all day, every day,” said McCann. “Carrying the ball around was definitely a comforting thing and a sign of my passion. I always wanted to play and improve my game.”

McCann’s love of basketball was shared among his family members who introduced him to the sport. His father didn’t play beyond high school but was devoted to the game and began coaching McCann and his two older brothers on youth teams.

McCann’s dedication and his skills increased. This passion continued with him all the way to college where he became a four-year letter winner at NCAA Division III Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y. “Playing at Hartwick was an unbelievable experience,” said McCann. “I had the opportunity to play for two excellent coaches in Paul Culpo and Todd McGuiness. Both were influential in my development as a player and as a coach. While at Hartwick, I was blessed to be on some very good teams and a few times with the hope to instill a passion in our players during practice and games. I hope to build teams that are committed to our defensive principles, while also playing邈lly and freely on the offensive end. Off the floor, my style is to create quality relationships with my players that will last well beyond their basketball careers.”

He and his Panthers team experienced a number of highs and lows in 2016–17. Although they weren’t able to reach the state championship, they achieved some memorable moments including 20 wins, two wins against top 10 nationally ranked opponents, and ranking for numerous weeks in the top 10 in the state.

This season, Palm Beach State basketball fans can expect to see an exciting brand of basketball. The team consists of five returning players and nine newcomers, including three Division I transfers and three former Division I signees.

On the defensive end, fans should expect to see full court pressure and a variety of defensive schemes. Offensively, the team expects to deliver a high-powered, high-scoring offense with contributions from the entire roster.

“My style on the basketball court is one of high energy and enthusiasm at all times with the hope to instill a passion in our players during practice and games. I hope to build teams that are committed to our defensive principles, while also playing邈lly and freely on the offensive end. Off the floor, my style is to create quality relationships with my players that will last well beyond their basketball careers.”

Meet Tony Richmond

Check out a men’s basketball team practice or game at Palm Beach State College, and you’re sure to see Tony Richmond.

For more than a decade, Richmond has been the team’s volunteer manager, and his dedication is beyond question. He attends every practice and game, carefully watching down observations of each player’s performance from his courtside desk. His service in this role has become a valuable asset to the players and coaching staff.

“Tony’s participation with the team has been very beneficial,” said Head Coach Martin McCann. “You’re another set of eyes on our players while they practice is just another way to catch areas for improvement that we as coaches don’t always see. Ultimately, it makes our team better as a whole.”

Richmond joined the team in 2001 while attending a PBCC summer basketball camp, where a coach noticed his passion for the game and asked if he wanted to assist the team. Richmond gladly accepted.

With the partnership, it seemed as though basketball was meant to be a part of Richmond’s life. After he was born, his first gift was a T-shirt with Little League baseball on it given by then PBCC Vice President Elizabeth Erling, for whom the gymnasium is now named. Erling had become close friends with Richmond’s mother, Sandra, a College faculty member. Sandra still sits at the College as a adjunct professor teaching sociology.

Richmond says the reward of working with the players and seeing the team improve through the years is what keeps him participating. He hopes to continue in this role for many more years.

Tony Richmond

Hometown: Loxahatchee
High School: Dreyfoos School of the Arts, West Palm Beach

Q: How long have you been the volunteer manager? 14 years. I have assisted six head coaches during my time.

Q: What do you enjoy about working with the team? I just love basketball and bring at the College.

Q: What do you think of Martin McCann’s coaching style? He is a fast-paced coach, and really makes his players work hard. He is the youngest coach that I have worked under, and he is really relatable to our players. I can’t think of a better person to be running our program right now than him.

Q: Did you play basketball as a child? No, I just loved watching sports. Other than basketball, I especially love college and professional football.

Tony McCann further explains that players’ goals are different between divisions.

“At the NCAA level, players are motivated to have success and hopefully have a chance to play professionally. At the junior college level, athletes are playing for the team’s success but at the same time are working to earn a scholarship at the NCAA level. This factor keeps players hungry and motivated to improve and perform.”

Supported by Assistant Coach Odell Witherspoon and volunteer manager Tony Richmond, McCann and his Panthers are ready to roar.
Imagine driving hundreds of miles for hours at speeds between 160 and 200 mph. Now picture doing it with 42 other drivers who would like nothing more than to leave you chomping on their exhaust fumes.

There’s no question that to be a successful race car driver, you must like to go fast and have a high tolerance for risk, but you also have to endure great physical and mental strain and have talent and determination.

Danica Patrick has proven she can handle the pressure. Patrick has not only immersed herself in the male-dominated world of professional motorsports but has also set several records, including becoming the first woman to lead the Indy 500 and the first woman to win the pole position at the Daytona 500.

“I’ve gotten to where I am today because I didn’t think of myself as being different,” said Patrick. “When I was a kid, I never thought to try to be the best girl driver. I just wanted to be better than everyone else — I wanted to be the fastest driver on the track.”

On Feb. 10, Palm Beach State College will welcome her to the Kranos Center for the Performing Arts as part of the College Foundation’s STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Initiative. Past speakers have included astrophysicist Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, two-time Oscar nominee John Lithgow and Silicon Valley icon Steve Wozniak. The initiative, chaired by local philanthropist Yvonne Boice, supports STEAM educational programs at the College.

At the STEAM event, Patrick plans to discuss her past experiences with Danica Patrick to propel 2018 STEAM initiative

PBSC’s new Engineering Technology A.S. degree program allows students to explore career paths in robotics, 3-D printing, alternative energy and other advanced technologies.

“It's important to hear about all the opportunities that are available at Palm Beach State,” said Patrick. “There are a whole lot of people that are taking on their own initiative to do something. And that’s sometimes one of the hardest things in life — just discipline and just trying to do things yourself. It's great to hear that so many people want to be better and are taking the time to do that and using the resources that are provided. I look forward to visiting the campus.”

Follow her on Twitter, try to keep up... @DANICAPATRICK

HAROLD HINSON PHOTOGRAPHY

On the track. “When I was a kid, I never thought to try to be the best girl driver. I just wanted to be better than everyone else — I wanted to be the fastest driver on the track.”

Racing toward Support for STEAM!

Your ticket purchase will support PBSC student scholarships and academic program enhancements. For tickets, please call 561-868-3450 or go to the Foundation website.

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Start your engines... www.palmbeachstate.edu/Foundation

To learn more about scholarships and program support or other ways to contribute, please call the Foundation office at 561-868-3450.
Six years ago, Lia Larrea was a business student at Palm Beach State College. On the cusp of earning an associate degree, and uncertain what she wanted to do with her life. In need of additional credits, she decided to take a painting class with instructor Clarence “Skip” Measelle. The course had prerequisites, and as she had never done painting and drawing since she was a child in Ecuador, Larrea sought permission to bypass those classes.

“I brought in my portfolio of projects from high school, and I showed it to the dean and to Mr. Measelle,” she says. “They reviewed it and let me into the class.”

“In the 10 years I was at the school, we only gave two or three students permission to do what Lia did,” says Measelle. “She was confident and cool and positive about succeeding. Early on, she chose an ordinary sex shell to paint, which is a challenge even for an accomplished painter because of the various planes, textures, shadows and depth. But Lia had the gift of seeing the nuances and rendered the form so realistically that it transcended its simplicity. This ‘seeing’ the nuances and rendered the form so realistically that it transcended its simplicity. This ‘seeing’ the nuances and rendered the form so realistically that it transcended its simplicity. This ‘seeing’ the nuances and rendered the form so realistically that it transcended its simplicity. This ‘seeing’ the nuances and rendered the form so realistically that it transcended its simplicity. This ‘seeing’ the nuances and rendered the form so realistically that it transcended its simplicity. 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