

GASP! Get a Student Pondering

QEP & General Education “Stuff” - *Special Fun Edition!*

It’s all about teamwork...

By Helen Shub and Karen Pain

This edition of GASP will be a slightly different format than usual. Rather than feature the great work of individual faculty or staff, we are instead using this edition to introduce the 2013-14 members of the QEP Implementation Team and the General Education Committee. We also bid farewell to a few cherished members.

As we finish another successful academic year, we can all look back proudly on what has been accomplished. The QEP Implementation Team and Advisory Committee have brought critical thinking to the forefront of everything we do at our College. The General Education Committee has led the College to a clearer

understanding of what a well-rounded education is and how we can develop students to acquire those skills.

This is where the real fun begins. Now that the groundwork has been laid, we can start to see if everything we are doing is actually working. Student success is the reason we are all here—we teach, we test, and we improve—all for the sake of the students. So how do we make ourselves better? Through teamwork! We don’t always think about assessment as a group activity, but at its best, it is!

Sharing ideas in a safe and non-judgmental environment allows us to reach mutual understandings of what our expectations are for

students and how we know they are achieving them, but this practice also generates new and exciting ideas. We’ve seen creativity and enthusiasm skyrocket when faculty have felt the freedom to have honest dialogue. Such discourse opens up the possibility of learning what works and what doesn’t work for others. Faculty can engage in these discussions to figure out how they can apply the successful ideas in their own classrooms.

We’ve seen first-hand that it works and are glad that 2013-2014 will bring more of these collaborative opportunities for conversation about critical thinking and general education. Here’s to another exciting year!

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Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. ~ Helen Keller

Farewell





Rick Reeder, QEP
PSAV Instructor, Trade & Industry
(We'll miss you Rick!)



Marci Pachter, Gen Ed
Associate Professor, Speech
(Moving to QEP Advisory Council)



Lyam Christopher, QEP
Learning Specialist, Reading
(Moving to QEP Advisory Council)



Daniel McGavin, QEP
Professor III, English
(Enjoy your retirement, Dan!)

As we come to the end of this academic year, we have several committee members who are rotating off our committees.

We want to thank each of them for their hard work, dedication and contributions. We will miss you!!!



Meet the General Education Committee

2013—2014



Tcherina Duncombe
Professor I
Biology



Melissa Stonecipher
Associate Professor
English



Warren Smith
Associate Professor
Economics



Ana Porro
Professor III
Mathematics



Helen Shub, Chair
Manager
Outcomes Assessment



Robin Fiedler
Associate Professor
English



Connie Tuisku
Librarian/Associate Professor



Patrick Tierney
Associate Professor
English

Meet the General Education Committee

2013—2014



David Knopp
Associate Dean
Business and Computer
Science



Debra-Anne Singleton
Manager
Student Learning Center



Barbie Edgar
Learning Specialist
Mathematics



Jennifer Campbell
Director
Institutional Research and
Effectiveness



Ginger Pedersen
Dean
Curriculum and Educational
Technology



Karen Pain
Manager
Quality Enhancement Plan



David Pena
Director
Library Learning and
Resource Center



Emma Chow
Associate Professor
Chemistry

Meet the QEP Implementation Team

2013—2014



Deborah Snowberger
Associate Professor
English



Manuel Larenas
Associate Professor
Strategies for College Success



David Wells
Instructional Designer
Early Childhood



Elizabeth Wilber
Associate Professor
Developmental Reading



Carleton Cherekoff
Assistant Professor
Developmental Writing



Karen Pain, Chair
Manager
Quality Enhancement Plan

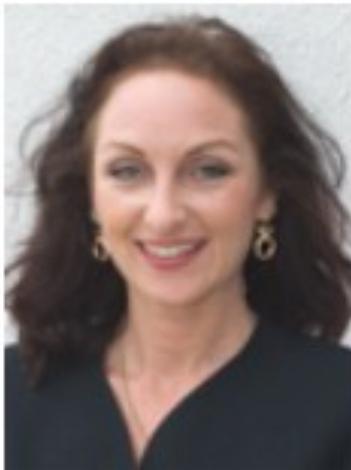
Meet the QEP Implementation Team 2013—2014



Shannon Whitman
Senior Generalist
Human Resources



Kristy Taylor
Professor I
Health



Mindy Yale
PSAV Instructor
Massage Therapy



Eliana Mukherjee
Associate Professor
Teacher Education



Caroll Capers
Professor I
Business (BAS)

Can You Tell Who's Who on Our Committees?

See page 9 for the answers!

1. _____ I love to play Spider Solitaire.
2. _____ I play conga drums and love traditional and classical jazz.
3. _____ I don't smoke cigars, but I own a cigar company.
4. _____ I used to work for Jimmy Buffet and had a heated discussion about Mark Twain. He was wrong; I was right.
5. _____ I enjoy the study of plant, hiking, yoga and poetry.
6. _____ I used to work in a planetarium doing star shows.
7. _____ I enjoy poetry, music and Golf
8. _____ Proudest Nana with a black belt in Karate that I know.
9. _____ Stand-up comedy is a guilty pleasure of mine!
10. _____ I am Brazilian/American. My husband is from India. Our two daughters were born in Costa Rica. Globalization manifested!
11. _____ I taught English at the University of Wuerzburg in Germany this past year!
12. _____ I was an Air Force military training instructor in healthcare management prior to becoming a professor at Palm Beach State College.
13. _____ During my adult life I have lived in seven states, four regions (North, South, Midwest and Southwest) in 1 country overseas.
14. _____ When President Reagan was still in office, I worked at his alma mater, Eureka College. When I first started there, I was told that I would get a Christmas card from the President, so I'm thinking I'm something special. When the card arrives, on the envelope, it's addressed to Donald Krapp. Talk about bursting my bubble.
15. _____ I have a secret addiction to zombie literature and feel confident in my ability to survive a zombie invasion.
16. _____ I was once mistaken for Eric Northman, a vampire character from True Blood (when I happened to be dressed up as him).

Can You Tell Who's Who on Our Committees?

See below for the answers!

17. _____ I once sang on TV with Pete Seeger in a CBS Christmas Special.
18. _____ I grew up in the same teeny, tiny town in Michigan as Connie Tuisku.
19. _____ I love skydiving, riding a motorcycle and traveling
20. _____ I'm currently owned by six stray cats
21. _____ I host moonlight historical tours of West Palm Beach's Woodlawn Cemetery. Proceeds go towards restoration of cemetery grounds.
22. _____ My first job was at Big Angus Steak Barn where I worked my way up to grill cook.
23. _____ I really love to laugh, sing, dance and teach and sometimes I do them all at the same time!
24. _____ I love to play the banjo!
25. _____ I have traveled to four out of the six continents. (Antarctica doesn't count!)
26. _____ I am the most competitive soccer mom in the YMCA's 3 & 4 year old division.
27. _____ I went to Homestead Correctional Institution this semester to meet the women with whom my graduate class, Rhetorics of Incarceration, has been corresponding.
28. _____ I enjoy making comic strips about physiology :)
29. _____ I won a special commendation while in the Navy for working more than 33 continuous hours, hand fitting a 20 inch diameter propeller shaft bearing on a guided missile cruiser while underway in rough seas.
30. _____ I live in the moment when I ride my bike – no cares, no worries. It's just me being me in nature.

Answers to Who's Who—Don't peek if you haven't even tried!

1. Therina Duncombe; 2. Warren Smith; 3. Ana Porro; 4. Melissa Stonecipher; 5. Connie Tuisku;
6. Patrick Tierney; 7. Carol Capers; 8. Carleton Chernekoff; 9. Manuel Larena; 10. Eliana Mukherjee;
11. Deborah Snowberger; 12. Kristy Taylor; 13. David Wells; 14. David Knopp; 15. Marc Pachter;
16. Liam Christopher; 17. Helen Shub; 18. Jennifer Campbell; 19. Emma Chow; 20. David Pena;
21. Ginger Pedersen; 22. Robin Fiedler; 23. Barbara Edgar; 24. Karen Pain; 25. Debra-Anne Singleton;
26. Shannon Whitman; 27. Elizabeth Wilber; 28. Mindy Yale; 29. Rick Reeder; 30. Daniel McGavin

*About **GASP!***

Palm Beach State College

The idea behind *GASP!* is pretty simple. We all want students to think! As faculty and staff, we appreciate ideas that will make it easier for us get students thinking, and we want to better understand how assessment can help us know we're on the right track. *GASP!* may come in the form of a single fact sheet, a newsletter, or sometimes perhaps, something more journalistic.

The QEP and General Education Committees want to use *GASP!* as a platform to

- feature faculty and staff who have or are using strategies that help students demonstrate achievement of any of our general education learning outcomes, including critical thinking;
- update readers on important issues related to assessment, accreditation, or the QEP;
- promote College events related to critical thinking, assessment, or professional learning opportunities for faculty or staff that will lead to improved student learning.

So what do you think? Have an idea? We're listening!

Please contact us if you have something to share!

Karen Pain: paink@palmbeachstate.edu

Helen Shub: shubh@palmbeachstate.edu

Who's Who?

Assessment Chair: Helen Shub

QEP Chair: Karen Pain

2012-2013 Committee Members

Assessment	QEP Implementation
Jennifer Campbell	Kimberly Allen
Tcherina Duncombe	Caroll T. Capers
Robin Fiedler	Carleton Chernekoff
Robin Hoggins-Blake*	Lyam Christopher
David Knopp	Brian Findley
Marcie Pachter	Manuel Larenas
Ginger Pedersen	Daniel McGavin
David Pena	Eliana C Mukherjee
Ana Porro	Richard Reeder
Debra-Anne Singleton	Kristy Taylor
Warren Smith	David Wells
Melissa Stonecipher	Elizabeth Wilber
Patrick Tierney	Mindy Yale
Connie Tuisku	

* Deceased



VISIT US ONLINE!

<http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/qep>

<http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/learningoutcomes/>