

Contact

FOR THE FRIENDS
OF PALM BEACH
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

VOL. 17, No. 1 FALL 2009



Retool



Discover



Advance



Heal



Emerge



Empower



Create



Collaborate



Perform

PBCC App:
Putting people
back to work

Power technology
degree boosts
energy initiatives

Crossroads extends
career lifelines

Small businesses
get help to succeed

Urgent needs, new directions

When will the economic situation improve? If you have been laid off or your employer has gone out of business, the answer is quite simple: when you land a job. At Palm Beach Community College, we understand the urgency of that need and are mindful of our unique role in helping people to retool, retrain and reposition themselves for today's fiercely competitive job market.

In this issue of *Contact*, you'll learn how PBCC is collaborating with a host of organizations and agencies to help local residents equip themselves for new careers. Workforce Alliance, Workforce Florida, the Palm Beach County League of Cities, Palm Healthcare Foundation, the Small Business Administration, Veterans Administration and Florida Power and Light are just some of the active partners joining with us as we develop and offer programs targeting current and emerging local employment needs. These programs range from occupational certificates for entry-level positions all the way to our new Baccalaureate of Applied Science degree in Supervision and Management.

For years, the College has made a concerted effort to maintain an extensive inventory of college credit and noncredit courses, certifi-



Dennis P. Gallon, Ph.D.
President

cate and two-year degree programs. Classes start this fall for nearly 500 B.A.S. students equipping themselves to advance into managerial positions in business, health or public safety administration. The College also is pursuing state approval to offer a B.S. degree in nursing, again to help meet pressing community needs. Other bachelor's degrees may follow, as we continuously assess the need and demand for such programs.

To reflect the added dimension of baccalaureate level education, Palm Beach Community College also will select a new name in the coming months. In surveys of area residents, business leaders and current and prospective students, the support for a name change is resounding. Please be assured that, while the new name will "close the loop" on our expanded mission, our community role and focus remain unwavering. We will continue to be your open-door community college, offering you access to a comprehensive curriculum to make it possible for you to achieve your personal, professional and economic success.

Dennis P. Gallon

Palm Beach Community 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. Integrally linked to the community through strong partnerships, the College provides associate and baccalaureate degrees, professional certificates, workforce development and lifelong learning.

www.pbcc.edu

The Mission

Palm Beach Community 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.



Contact

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Dennis P. Gallon, Ph.D.

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Palm Beach Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the Bachelor of Applied Science, Associate in Arts, Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Palm Beach Community College.

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

Contents

20



Features

2 RETOOLING THE WORKFORCE

PBCC forges partnerships with local organizations to help get people back to work

6 BEGINNING AGAIN...

Crossroads celebrates 25 years of career help for displaced homemakers

8 CREATING A POWERFUL FUTURE

New program supports national energy emphases

ON THE COVER

PBCC offers a broad array of career "apps" developed specifically to meet the changing needs of our community.

Departments

12 FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Shaping public education

16 FYI PBCC

Small businesses get a big start; PBCC jumps into the social media world; CWCC offers host of services for students; Public safety training center is on target

18 PBCC FOUNDATION

Building the future, honoring the past

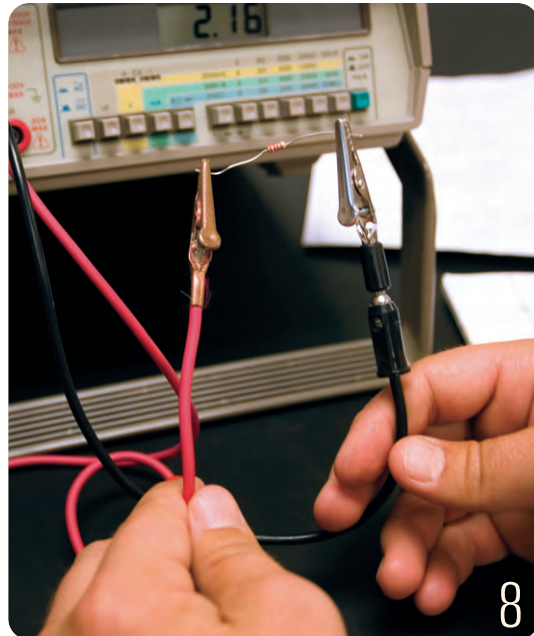
20 ALUMNI CORNER

Hall of Famer: Dusty's road leads to college baseball's highest honor

ALUMNI SUCCESS STORIES

On the back cover

Expect more...



6



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Massage Therapy



Automotive



Heating, A/C, Refrigeration



Landscape & Horticulture

RETOOLING THE WORKFORCE

BY TABATHA B. McDONALD

PBCC strengthens partnership with Workforce Alliance, joins hands with League of Cities to help get people retrained and back to work.



With a nursing degree from Florida State University and a master's in public health from the University of South Florida, Donna figured she would have no problem finding a job.

She had been working as a public health nurse before returning home to Palm Beach County about three years ago. After

more than a year of aggressively searching for a hospital nursing position, she received no offers. Despite her experience and the state nursing license she's maintained for more than 20 years, she said hospitals were reluctant to hire her because she has been away from the clinical setting.

"There's such a need in the hospitals for nurses, I just felt confident I'd be able to get a job," said Donna. "I've been out of the clinical setting for almost 18 years, so a lot has changed. It's hard to get a job."

The job outlook could get brighter for Donna, who enrolled in the three-month RN Refresher

course at PBCC this summer using training dollars from Workforce Alliance, the federal and state funded job assistance agency in Palm Beach County. PBCC has been one of the training providers for Workforce Alliance and its predecessor organizations for nearly two decades.

More than 30 nurses like Donna who hold state nursing licenses but need to refresh their clinical skills signed up for the course. That was far more than the six who enrolled when it was offered last summer, said Karen Horowitz, manager of continuing education health courses. "The day class filled up in three days," she said, attributing the spike to a tough economy in which unemployment in Florida has reached double digits.

The RN Refresher course includes classroom instruction, skills labs and hospital clinical rotations. It is among numerous training opportunities available to job

seekers through PBCC's contract with Workforce Alliance.

Eligible individuals who are out of work, have been laid off or who need to acquire marketable job skills to maintain their current jobs can visit a Workforce Alliance career center and learn if they are eligible to apply for financial assistance from the agency to cover all or a portion of their training costs.

At PBCC, the training options for eligible job seekers include more than 50 certificate and Associate in Science degree programs (*see the chart on page 5*) in high-demand occupations ranging from registered nursing, dental hygiene and law enforcement

to crime scene technology, radiography, surgical technology, welding technology, automotive service technology and diesel technology.

This year, in addition to the RN Refresher course, 18 other "stand alone" continuing education courses, including Microsoft Office 2007, Microsoft Excel Basics, Quickbooks and Adobe Photoshop, were added to the list of short-term certificate and degree programs in high-demand fields that qualify for Workforce Alliance training funds.

"We're not just pulling courses out of a hat. We're providing courses that fulfill a need that's currently in the community for targeted occupations," said Pat Richie, PBCC's dean of business, trade and industry.

For Donna, who asked that her last name not be used, the RN Refresher course and the financial assistance that came with it were a godsend. The training funds paid the almost \$900 tuition bill and covered some book expenses.

"I just really needed something like this to be able to seek employment in a hospital. In this economy, I would like to return to that setting. Hopefully, I'll be able to have a job and not worry about it."

continued on page 4

// As a result of the economic downturn, we're looking creatively and collaboratively at what else we can do to help our community.

Pat Richie, PBCC's dean of business, trade and industry

continued from page 3

The benefits are twofold. "It's really for the betterment of the community because we will have workers ready to work in a field in demand," said Jackie Halderman, director of community relations and public affairs for Workforce Alliance. "We identified a need, we figured out a way to solve it. We want to show the community a number of initiatives like that. We're working together for the good of the community."

PBCC leaders suspect that as unemployment worsens, there will be a flood of people seeking opportunities for retraining. From January to May, 32 people using individual training accounts from Workforce Alliance enrolled in degree and certificate programs at PBCC to take advantage of retraining opportunities. That brings the total number for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to more than 220.

"I am expecting an influx as people's unemployment runs out. I suspect in the fall there's going to be a push," said Jane Hardell,



Computers



Nursing - RN & LPN

PBCC's workforce advising coordinator, who works specifically with individuals attending PBCC using funds from Workforce Alliance. "Most of what I'm getting now are calls from people asking where can I go?"

To heighten awareness of available training opportunities and resources, PBCC has strengthened its collaboration with Workforce Alliance and also established a partnership with the Palm Beach County League of Cities, allowing all three entities to work closely together.

"The creation of this coalition has enabled the College, Workforce Alliance and the League of Cities to synchronize our core missions to get the unemployed in Palm Beach County back to work," said Dr. Dennis P. Gallon, PBCC president. "By working together, we are in a better place."

"We've always been responsive to the needs of the community," Richie said. "As a result of the economic downturn, we're looking creatively and collaboratively at what else we can do to help our community."

"We work to make sure we have an offering of courses, degrees and certificates that are

appropriate for this region because what's appropriate in Jacksonville may not be appropriate for here," said Halderman.

Making room

PBCC is preparing to assist students attending or returning to school in this tightened economy by expanding facilities and adding seats in a few of its high-demand career programs. It also has added additional short-term certificate programs designed to put people to work fast.

For example, 15 seats were added to the Automotive Service Technology program in the spring and another 15 are planned for this fall, which will increase the program's enrollment capacity from 30 to 60 students per year. In addition, plans are underway to expand the Diesel Technology program facilities and enrollment capacity in fall 2010. The College also restructured the Automotive Service Technology and Diesel Technology programs to allow students to complete the program in phases while gaining essential skills to go to work. Students can complete the first phase of the Automotive Service Technology program, for example, in about a year and work while completing the second phase at night or they can complete both phases in about 18 months.

"The demand has been tremendous," said Luis Tamayo, program manager of the Automotive and Diesel Technology programs. "We do see people who are changing careers."

Workforce Alliance parks its Mobile Resource Unit at PBCC in Lake Worth. The unit is equipped with 12 computers with Internet access, allowing job seekers to conduct job searches and fill out online employment applications.





Diesel Technology



Radiography


PBCC training programs available to those attending the College through financial assistance from Workforce Alliance

“When the employment started slowing down, the enrollment went through the roof,” added Salvatore Manuele, associate dean for trade and industrial programs. “People are being retooled and retrained.”

PBCC’s new Biotechnology College Credit Certificate program, which begins this fall, is another opportunity for people to train in an emerging field. The estimated 18-month program is designed for people who already hold degrees in scientific fields, but who want to pursue a career in biotechnology.

“It is specifically to retool the workforce,” said Dr. Libby Handel, director of biotechnology programs at PBCC. “People who have an A.S. or B.S. degree can come to our program and complete the college credit certificate. That will enable them to do a biotechnology internship and then enter the workforce. Our whole program is geared toward the internship and that internship resulting in a job. Biotechnology is not just about advances in medicine and therapy. It also encompasses other areas like biofuel, biotechnology agriculture, marine biotechnology, forensics and even medical devices. There are a lot of opportunities.”

Interested?

For more information about Workforce Alliance services visit www.pbccalliance.com. To learn more about PBCC’s training programs visit www.pbcc.edu. 

Degrees

Accounting Technology AS	Industrial (Operations) Management Technology AAS
Biotechnology AS	Interior Design Technology AS
Computer Information Systems Analysis AS	Landscape & Horticulture Management AS
Crime Scene Technology AS	Motion Picture and Television Production Technology AS
Dental Hygiene AS (Limited Access)	Nursing AS (Limited Access)
Early Childhood Education AS	Paralegal AS
Graphic Design Technology AS	Radiography AS (Limited Access)
Hospitality & Tourism Management AAS	Respiratory Care AS (Limited Access)
Human Services AS	

AS - Associate in Science
AAS - Associate in Applied Science

Post Secondary Adult Vocation (PSAV) certificates

A+ Certification	Dental Assisting (Limited Access)	Life Health & Variable Annuities Agent	Practical Nursing (Limited Access)
Accredited Claims Adjuster	Diesel Technology	Machining Technology	Property & Casualty General Lines Agent
Architectural Design and Construction Technology	Family Child Care	Massage Therapy (Limited Access)	Real Estate
Automotive Service Technology	Firefighter (Limited Access)	Medical Assisting (Limited Access)	Surgical Technology (Limited Access)
Commercial Vehicle Driving- Tractor Trailer CDL Class A	Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC)	Medical Information Coder/Biller (Limited Access)	Welding Technology
Corrections/Law Enforcement Officer (Limited Access)	Heavy Equipment Mechanics	Medical Transcription	
	Introduction to Construction	Paramedic (Limited Access)	

College Credit Certificates (CCC)

Building Construction Specialist
Cisco Certified Network Administrator
Crime Scene Technology
Drafting & Construction Technology
Information Management
Landscape & Horticulture Professional I & II
Landscape and Horticulture Specialist
Motion Picture & TV Production Technology

Advanced Technical Diploma

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-B) (Limited Access)

Corporate and Continuing Education

MS Office 2007 Basics includes: Word Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook	MS Word 2007 Basics	Adobe Photoshop CS4 (digital imaging)	Bookkeeping Essentials I
MS Outlook 2007 (expand Outlook knowledge)	MS Publisher 2007	Computer Troubleshooting	Bookkeeping Essentials II
MS Excel Basics 2007	QuickBooks 2009 – Basics	Computer Basics	RN Refresher
MS PowerPoint 2007: Create	QuickBooks 2009 Intermediate	Keyboarding Skills	Title Agent
MS PowerPoint 2007: Embellish	Adobe Dreamweaver CS4 (webpage design)	Spanish Computer Basics Course	
	Adobe Flash CS4 (Web site digital animation)		

Crossroads



Beginning again...

Displaced homemaker program celebrates

25 years at PBCC

BY DIANA PALIUCA

education

empowerment

esteem-building

employment



It's an opportunity you can't resist — free workshops on job readiness, career path planning and job search assistance. You will have a group of cheerleaders who will boost your self-esteem and help you fulfill your goals. If you enroll in this program at PBCC, you can even borrow textbooks and receive scholarship assistance.

Where do you sign up? First, you must be eligible for this 25-year-old program. To qualify you must have recently experienced a life-altering change, such as becoming widowed, separated or divorced.

Crossroads at Palm Beach Community College is celebrating its 25th anniversary of helping women start over. One of 17 sites spread throughout Florida community colleges, women's centers and technical schools, Crossroads at PBCC has served more than 4,000 women and currently counsels 250 people annually.

To qualify for Crossroads, participants must be over the age of 35, previously dependent on a family member's income or federal assistance, and either not adequately employed or having difficulty finding a job.

Upon entering Crossroads, each individual is assessed and then referred to holistic career direction workshops. "We take the whole person into consideration because many times, even if a woman hasn't been paid for work in the home or in the community, she could've been very active and

Bobbi Marsh (far left) and her assistant Joal Solaas (right) together have been helping women get back on their feet for over 20 years. Ellen Brown, right, is now CEO of the Alzheimer's Association, Southeast Florida Chapter. Irene Johnson, below, overcame challenges and rose from PBCC student worker to become the Lake Worth campus registrar.




further their education.

Brown entered the nursing program at PBCC after Crossroads, juggling children, finances and

taking care of her sick mother who passed away the night before her graduation. Although she endured a challenging few years, she regained her pride and confidence through Crossroads and worked her way up. She now serves as the CEO of the Alzheimer's Association, Southeast Florida Chapter, and as many participants say, "Crossroads saved my life."

Alumni can return for advice and support and attend yearly events in their honor such as "In Celebration of Women," a women's history month event to celebrate women-focused creative arts and talents among women connected to the program. This year was the 10th celebration where stories were told, art was exhibited and friendships were formed.

"It's an unbelievable program and the number of success stories are countless," Brown said. Reflecting on her experience with Crossroads and her dedication to the program, the most important thing she learned was to "believe in your ability to succeed and overcome challenges, never losing sight of the fact that life gives us fleeting moments of joy, with many bumps in the road along our journey."

Learn more about Crossroads at www.pbcc.edu/crossroads.xml or call 561-868-3586 

Light at the end of the tunnel

Crossroads participants are encouraged to look at high-demand occupations so they can get their foot in the door, apply their newly discovered skills and move up the ladder.

That is exactly what Irene Johnson did after she was referred to Crossroads by her family's case worker. At the time, Johnson was working two low-paying jobs on nights and weekends as a divorced single parent of four children. She enrolled in PBCC's business administration and management program and was a student worker at the College, Johnson says, where it all began. When she was done, Johnson was hired full-time at PBCC and continued her education through to earning a master's degree.

"It was tough and there were many challenges," said Johnson, admitting she couldn't have made it through college without Crossroads. "I'd still be working low-paying jobs without being able to be with my children. It got me off public assistance, made me become self-sufficient and taught me how to keep my chin up." Now the PBCC Lake Worth campus registrar, Johnson never forgets what she had to do to get to where she is today.

Like many in Crossroads, Ellen Brown was financially and emotionally fragile. When she found herself divorcing with three children under the age of 12, she called around to find support groups for women in her situation. With a counseling and psychology background, Brown knew there had to be something out there. Although she had a master's degree, she had been an unpaid stay-at-home mom for 13 years out of the 21 years she was married.

The four "E's"

Empowerment, esteem-building, employment and education – these keywords motivate women to move forward with their lives. Since PBCC is an institution of higher education and Crossroads is located on the Lake Worth campus, it's more accessible for the participants to finish the program and then

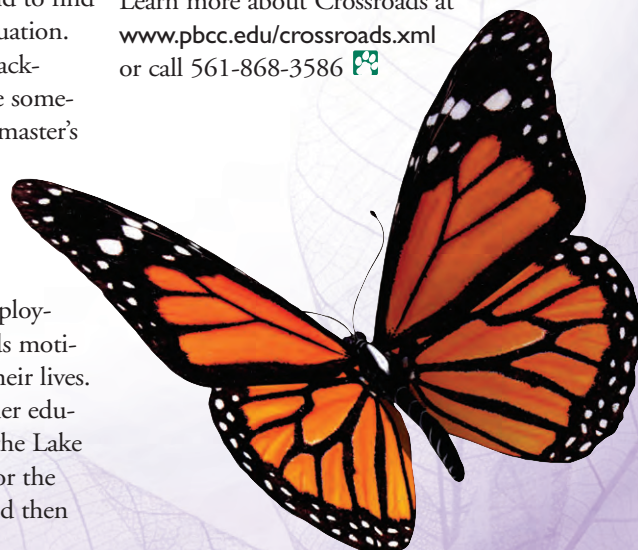


very involved," said Bobbi Marsh, Crossroads program coordinator. "Often times it's difficult to see the value of that work and how those skills are very transferable and marketable in the workforce."


The program is funded through the Displaced Homemaker Trust Fund and administered by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. Thirty years worth of marriage license and divorce filing fees in Florida have been and continue to go into this trust fund to support its performance-based programs.

"As an alumna of the Crossroads program myself," said Marsh, "I can attest personally to the value of the program."


Marsh has been professionally involved with the program for the past 21 years and has worked with women who continuously overcome barriers. "Through persistence and determination, these women become strong independent individuals who learn to support themselves and their children, while contributing in many positive ways to our community," she said. "Their inspiring stories provide encouragement for the current Crossroads participants who are getting in touch with their own strengths and transitioning through challenging times with the help from the program."



$V_s = 10 \text{ V}_{pk}$
 $\omega f = 10 \text{ KHz}$
 $T_p = \frac{1}{10 \times 10^3 \text{ Hz}} = 100 \mu\text{sec}$



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Creating a powerful future

BY DIANA PALIUCA

New program supports national energy emphases

The future of the nation's energy supply has been a hot topic, especially with the direction of President Barack Obama's energy independence initiatives. With those needs in mind, Palm Beach Community College is preparing tomorrow's energy workforce through its new Associate in Science degree in Electrical Power Technology.

"We are going to take a moon shot on energy independence. The unifying agenda of our nation is energy," said President Obama's Green Team secretary of the interior, Ken Salazar, in a recent *Vanity Fair* article introducing the team. "Failure is not an option."

Through this agenda, the Green Team is focusing on creating 5 million new jobs over the next 10 years. By 2012, the Green Team wants 10 percent of the nation's electricity to come from renewable sources and 25 percent by 2025.

A key component to accomplishing this exciting expansion is the need for trained technicians. This desire to create more jobs and renewable energy careers (green-collar jobs) is at the top of the list. The need for new power as well as the dedication to energy and green initiatives helps put the Electrical Power Technology degree program in the forefront, and energy companies know this.

The Electrical Power Technology program concentrates on fossil fuels as well as alternative and renewable energies. With classes held in PBCC's state-of-the-art BioScience Technology Complex in Palm Beach

Gardens, students are preparing for future careers in fossil fuels and industrial settings.

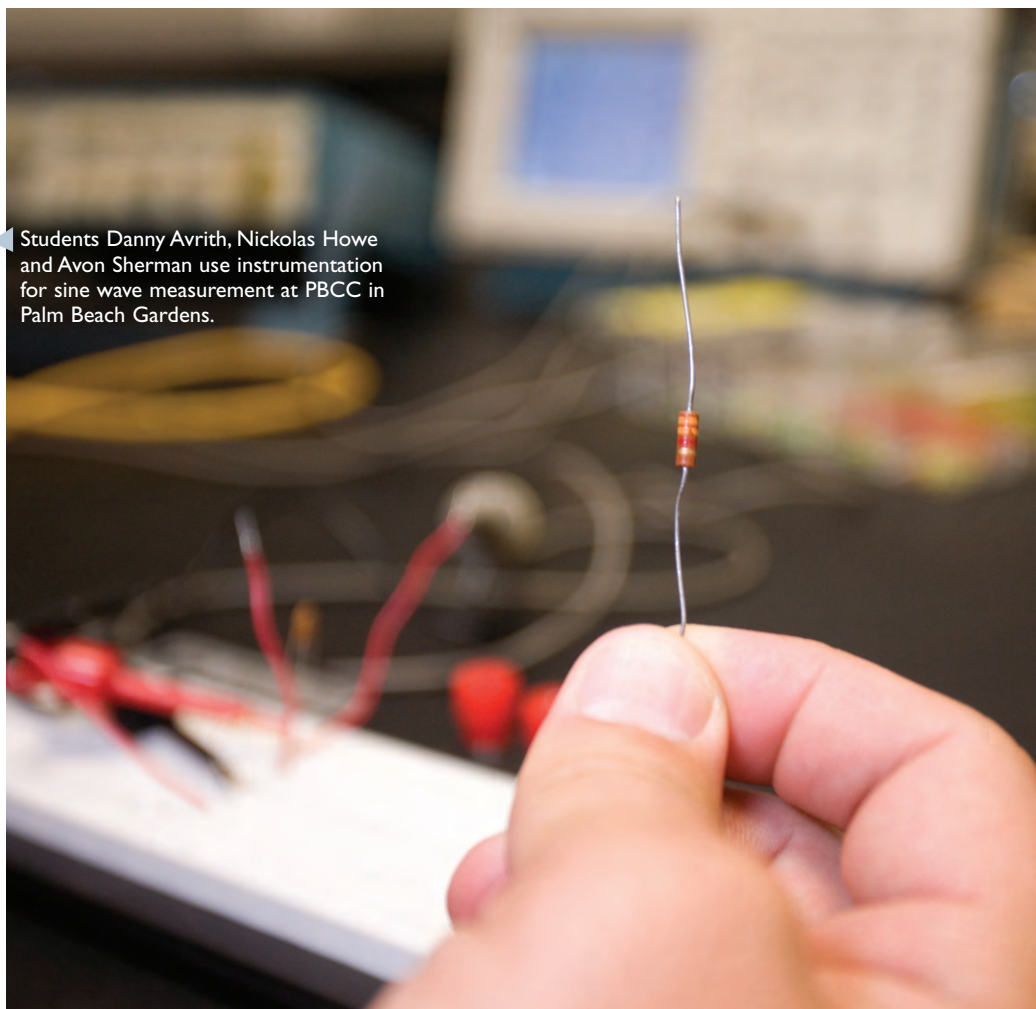
The new program is attracting a diverse group of students such as Crystal Womack, one of many from different career backgrounds with a passion for alternative energy, looking for new opportunities and/or career advancement.

"The Electrical Power Technology program at PBCC is an extremely exciting and challenging one with a lot of math and science," said Womack, who has a background in energy efficient programs, public administration and education. "My career plans are to combine power plant technology education with public policy administration within a regulatory agency or utility company to evaluate public utility operations."

continued on page 10



Students Danny Avrith, Nickolas Howe and Avon Sherman use instrumentation for sine wave measurement at PBCC in Palm Beach Gardens.



continued from page 9

This is only the beginning of a powerful program with unlimited opportunities. As the country's energy needs change, the program will change. PBCC is prepared to enhance and modify the degree to incorporate the latest technology.

In the near future, these students can choose to prepare for careers in bio-fuels, wind, solar and hydropower. Also, new tracks in mechanical and electrical maintenance are planned, in addition to the Instrument and Control track currently available. Some of the current power generation courses cover power plant fundamentals, AC/DC circuits, industry safety, power plant science, micro-processors, fluid and pneumatic controls and electrical project engineering.

Location, location, location

Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) is the second largest energy company in the U.S. and happens to be in the backyard of PBCC's Palm Beach Gardens campus. In 2006, discussion started between FPL and PBCC about a partnership, which soon developed into the Professional Training

“This is the cutting edge of opportunity in both economics and education; the potential and payoff are worthwhile.”

Crystal Womack, PBCC student

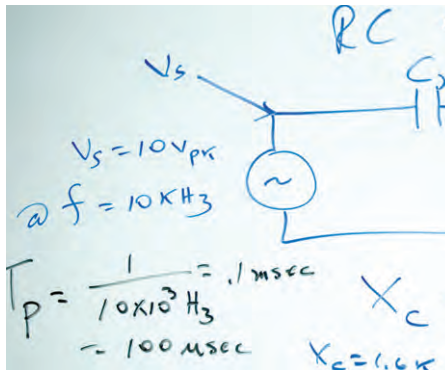
Pipeline program, with a \$30,000 donation from FPL to start the career program. The pipeline was created to support the training and education of current workers as well as a new generation of workers for the energy industry.

“PBCC's relationship with business partners in technical programs is essential and this is an excellent example of a public-private partnership in action,” said Ed Willey, dean of academic affairs in Palm Beach Gardens. “Having FPL at the table to offer input in curriculum development is crucial to successful program outcomes.”

A large percentage of FPL's workforce is expected to retire within the next five years. The need for power generation is vital, but the growing demand for energy trained technicians is even higher.

FPL is the parent company of NextEra Energy, one of the nation's largest providers of electricity-related services, which creates a lot of nationwide opportunities for students in the program. This is a win-win situation for both students and the power industry. Willey says that PBCC is positioned to be a key player in meeting the workforce training needs of the power industries locally and beyond.

Students can choose to do an internship for six credits or take two elective courses to learn the ins and outs of internal operations. The six-credit internship gives students the opportunity to work in a local FPL facility or travel outside of Florida to a wind turbine facility, a hydropower plant, or other alternative energy technologies. Although students have to pay their own way to get to the internship site and for room and board, most of these positions pay an hourly rate.



Roxanne Kennedy, FPL director of production assurance, and Chris Johnson, FPL training program coordinator/instructor, discuss future plans to develop training in bio-fuels, wind, solar and hydropower. In addition to helping develop the program, FPL provides instructors and internships and intends to employ graduates.

Student Crystal Womack measures sine waves in a DC circuit lab.

“Internship placement, where the culmination of applying didactic and lab competencies is demonstrated, is the goal of our enrolled students,” Willey said.

The Florida Department of Education formed Greenforce Florida to help create alternative energy career programs, like the Electrical Power Technology program at PBCC, so that communities have access to higher education, advanced training and opportunities for career advancement. Made up of industry, labor and education leaders, Greenforce Florida supports the future of the emerging green industry in Florida and collectively across the globe.

With limited program opportunities nationwide, training programs like this are even more limited at the community college level. However, other beneficiaries of Greenforce Florida have similar programs at Lake-Sumter Community College, South Florida Community College, Miami Dade College and Indian River State College.

Inquire within


Not only are the Electrical Power Technology partnerships fulfilling the needs of the energy industry, they also are addressing the uphill battle of job loss in the struggling economy. Up to 20 graduates of the program will be hired by FPL per year, and others may obtain employment in fossil fuels plants, the cruise line industry and other large energy companies.

After successfully completing the program, graduates can become technicians in electric, electronics, power generation and distribution, engineering, instrumentation, relay, testing, rotating machinery, research and development, calibration, or engineering aides or assistants.

“Once you enter the power plant, you are entrusted with safety and responsibility for yourself, the public and others,” Womack said. “Safety and trust are in your hands, and the program prepares you for that. This is the cutting edge of opportunity in both economics and education; the potential and payoff are worthwhile.”

In efforts to secure these internships and jobs, current Electrical Power Technology students developed a club to get involved with the “green community” to network and develop partnerships for their future as well as the future of the industry. The students get the opportunity to attend and host conferences that put them in front of potential community partners. In addition, they get real-life experience developing business partnerships while improving education opportunities for themselves and future Electrical Power Technology students.

“So far, it’s been so exciting to be involved in the program,” said student and Energy Club President Patrick Ryan, “especially when one of President Obama’s three major initiatives is energy.”

For more about the Electrical Power Technology program, visit www.pbcc.edu/ept.xml 

Shaping PUB

BY TABATHA B. McDONALD

When Bill Graham and Dr. Sandra Richmond were first elected to the Palm Beach County School Board, there were only 80 public schools. FCAT and iPods didn't exist. Cell phones were considered a luxury, and no one imagined the need for a dress code banning underwear as outerwear.

Under their watch, as school board members for more than two decades, the School District of Palm Beach County has morphed into the 12th largest district in the country with 184 schools and more than 168,000 students. That growth, along with rapid advances in technology, new federal and state policies and even some of the latest fashion trends, has led to a mound of challenges and some heated board meetings lasting into wee hours of the night.

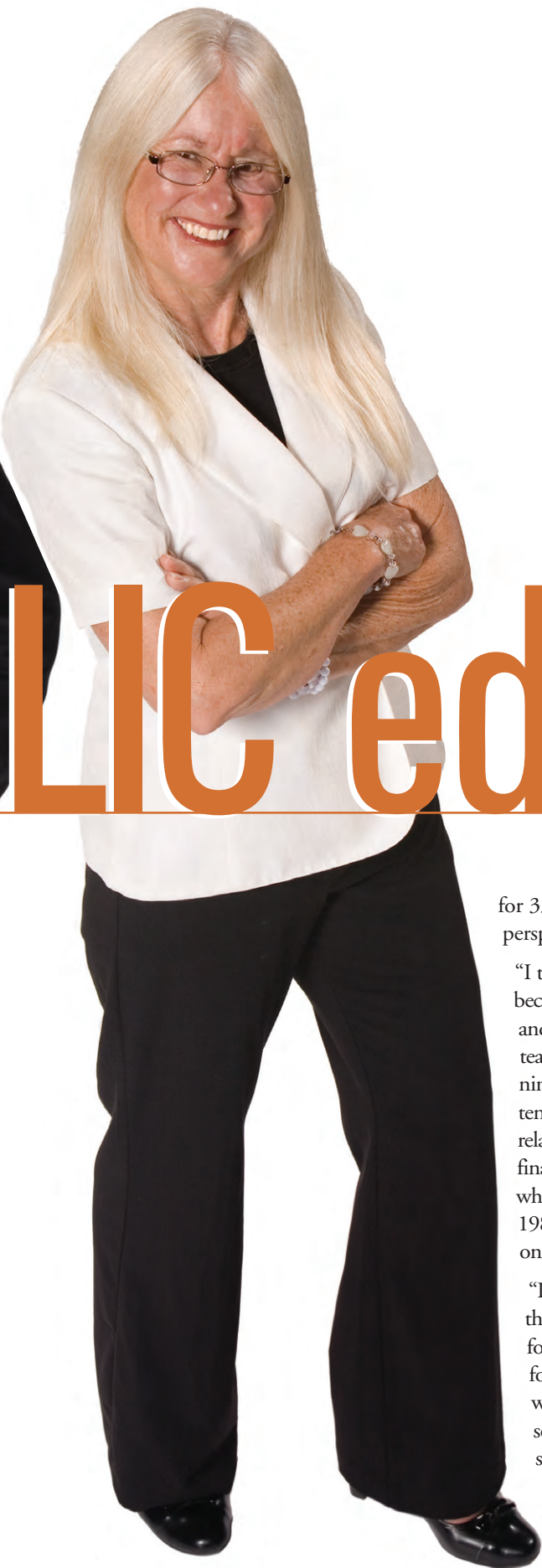
However, the two longtime Palm Beach Community College professors said despite the ups and downs, they do not

regret one minute of the nearly 44 combined years they have spent on the board shaping public education in Palm Beach County.

Having served for 23 and 21 years, respectively, Graham and Richmond are among the longest serving school board members in Florida. Now, for the first time, they're leading the school board together as chair and vice chair. Their peers elected them to the top two spots last November as part of an annual restructuring of the seven-member school board. Graham is in his third consecutive year as chair. While they each have served in the top positions in the past, they have never done so together.

With Graham's experience as a professor of real estate and business for 34 years and a former partner in a Century 21 franchise and Richmond's background as a professor of education, sociology and psychology





**Two longtime
PBCC professors
have been school
board members
for more than
two decades**

LIC education

for 33 years, they each bring a different perspective to the board.

“I think we complement each other because Sandy’s more into actual programs and curriculum because she’s involved in teaching classes for people who are planning and preparing to become teachers. I tend to get involved in all of those facility related issues, like buying land, and the financial and tax matters,” said Graham who was elected to the school board in 1986. “It’s like having different specialties on a ball team.”

“I think we have different styles. He has that great business sense and keeps the focus in a business-like manner. I like to follow his lead on that,” said Richmond who was initially elected in 1988. “I’m a sociology and psychology kind of person. I’m more into bringing people together to take action such as the teacher education initiative at PBCC and the Palm Beach County

Education Commission,” in both of which she played a key role. “I like to focus on specific education-related issues. He doesn’t cry at meetings, but I would,” she chuckled.

Getting started

“You know who’s responsible for me being on this board? This gentleman right here,” Graham said, pointing at Lou Eassa’s name on papers in his PBCC office one recent Tuesday afternoon as he discussed his decision to run for a seat in 1986. Eassa was a school board member and an adjunct real estate professor at PBCC who knew Graham as a neighbor and through the College. Graham began teaching as an adjunct professor in fall 1975 before becoming full time in January 1977.

A \$317 million bond issue to build and renovate Palm Beach County schools was going before voters that year. Eassa was not seeking re-election, and because of

continued on page 14

“It’s worth the time and the longevity to see the changes through and to see us move forward. You can’t walk away when there’s work still to be done.”
Dr. Sandra Richmond

continued from page 13

Graham’s real estate background, he wanted him to run for office. They met one evening to discuss the idea.

“I agreed to run for his seat. That was the start. There were five of us who ran for that seat,” recalled Graham, a Lake Worth High School and PBCC graduate who moved to the area with his family when he was 9 years old. The Paul W. Graham Continuing Education building on PBCC’s Lake Worth campus is named in honor of his father who retired in 1984 after 25 years as an administrator.

Graham joined the board at a critical time for the school district with the construction plans underway. “We built over 30 new schools in the next seven or eight years because they were so crowded.”

He never imagined while growing up that he would become a policy maker for the school district that gave him his foundation. He continues to seek re-election because he wants to give back and make a difference. “I keep enjoying working with people to improve what we have and the relationship with the community college. When we get to the end of the school year, year after year, and get to go to graduations, it’s very rewarding to see people being recognized for completing their studies.”

Richmond, meanwhile, said Graham inspired her to run for the board. “I saw what a positive impact he was having. “It was something I wanted to do to at least make the contribution of running. I felt like even if I didn’t get elected, it makes other people move. You have an influence.”


She also was a frustrated mom who, even as a college professor, faced difficulty finding help for her son who has Down syndrome. He was 4 years old when she first ran for office and often accompanied her on the campaign trail.

“I didn’t know how to get help and support. It was a big struggle. I felt like if I couldn’t find it, how would other people find it?” she said.

One of the most important accomplishments she said has been a move toward ensuring equity in education and facilities, and that remains one of her primary concerns. “I want to ensure we have equity and all students are learning.”

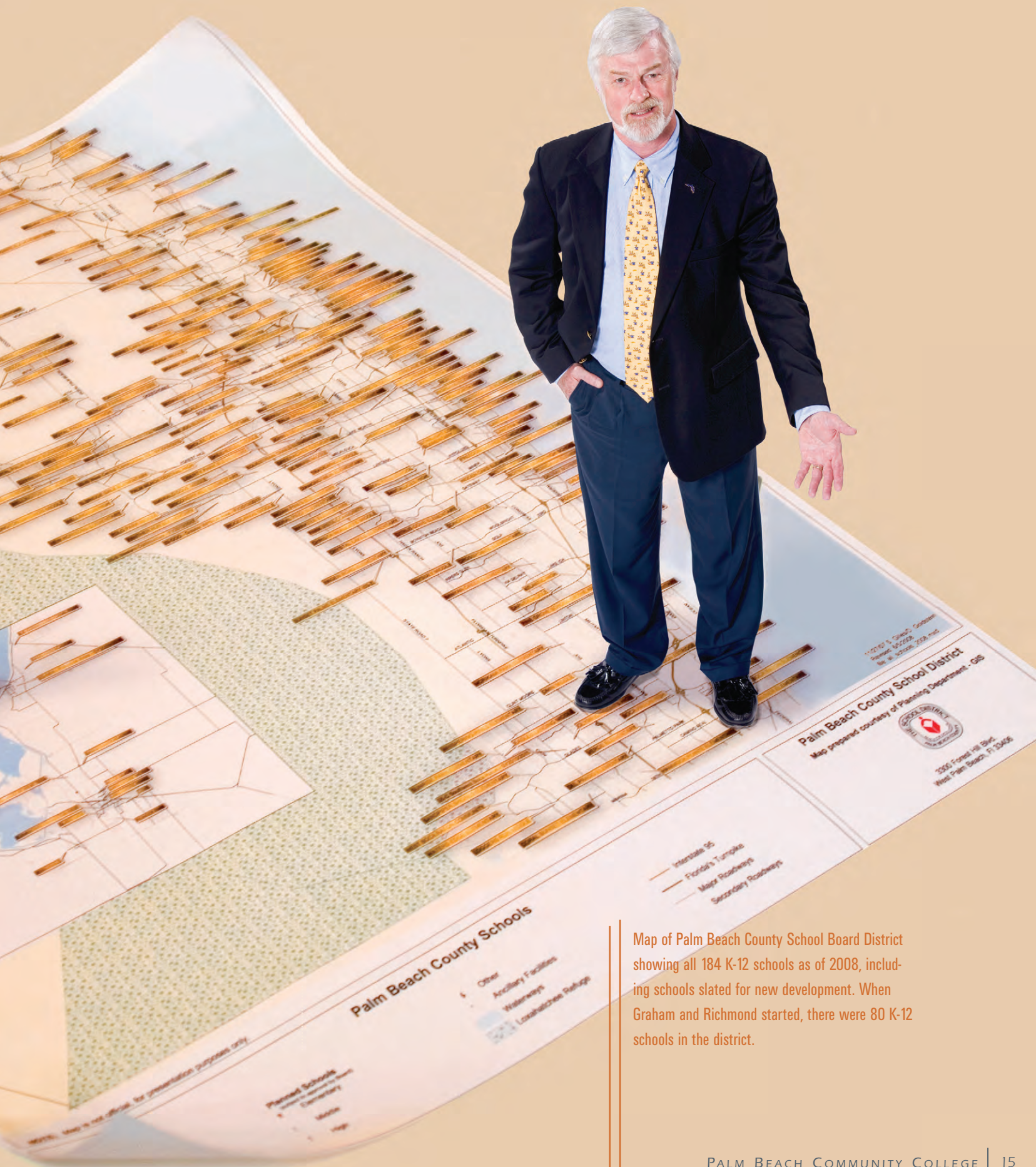
Despite the enormous responsibility and the challenges the district has faced and continues to face on everything from the FCAT, declining funding and student achievement, Richmond said she will continue to serve as long as voters elect her.

“It takes a lot,” she said of being on the board. “It’s like having another child because it’s there 24-7, and it’s always on your mind. When you care about what’s going on, it’s sometimes overwhelming and a juggling act to make sure you’re doing the right thing.

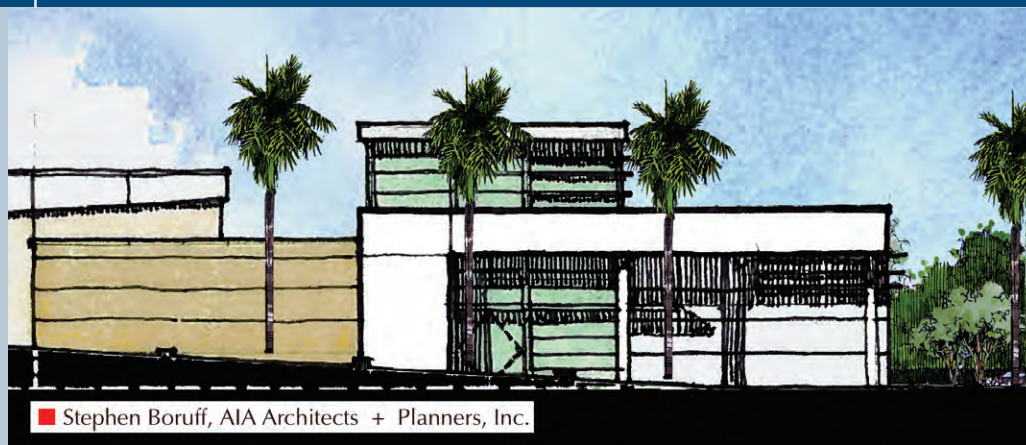
“It’s worth the time and the longevity to see the changes through and to see us move forward,” continued Richmond who grew up in Fort Lauderdale. “You can’t walk away when there’s work still to be done. I really feel strongly that everyone is here for a purpose. As long as I’m getting re-elected, I feel my purpose is to serve the children of Palm Beach County and make sure they have the best education possible.” 

“I tend to get involved in all of those facility related issues, like buying land, and the financial and tax matters. It’s like having different specialties on a ball team.”
Bill Graham





Map of Palm Beach County School Board District showing all 184 K-12 schools as of 2008, including schools slated for new development. When Graham and Richmond started, there were 80 K-12 schools in the district.



■ Stephen Boruff, AIA Architects + Planners, Inc.

Public safety training center is on target

Construction is now underway on the first phase of the \$33 million public safety training center on a parcel of land bordering John Prince Park at the PBCC Lake Worth campus.

Ground was broken in June on phase one of the project, a 22,000-square-foot criminal justice facility, featuring a 24-lane indoor firing range, classrooms, offices and storage space. The \$6 million building is expected to be completed by January 2010.

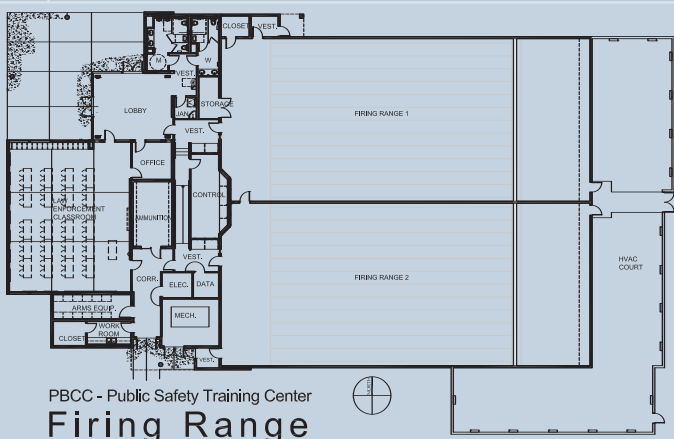
"The complex will be a consensus-building component for the different public safety programs that have to interact with one another much as they would in the real world, especially in dealing with homeland security issues," said Kirk Stetson, PBCC's facilities planning manager.

Plans for the complex include classrooms, offices and a lecture hall for the fire academy, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) programs. It will have a covered loading zone to train students in moving patients from ambulances. Also on the drawing board are a fire training tower and "burn building" to allow fire academy students to practice advanced firefighting techniques.

The criminal justice program will have specialized labs and state-of-the-art equipment for crime scene technology students, a tactical training gymnasium and wellness center and a mock courtroom to teach corrections and law

enforcement officer trainees how to move prisoners from jail to court.

Included in the design are a ceremonial courtyard and a large "green" space leading into the complex. ■



PBCC - Public Safety Training Center
Firing Range

The original concept for the public safety training center was a facility to be built at 20-Mile Bend located in western Palm Beach County. Those plans fell through when the College was unable to work out a deal with the county on an equitable land swap on the 22 acres the county owned at the site.

The training center will be completed in five phases over the next five to seven years, and will consolidate all public safety programs in one location. Stephen Boruff, AIA Architects + Planners, Inc. is the architect for the project and Balfour Beatty Construction will build it.

Under pressure? Start here.

The new College Wide Counseling Center offers help for all PBCC students in dealing with pressures of work and life.

The counseling center was established in September 2008 after PBCC President Dennis Gallon set a goal to provide on-campus services for veterans returning from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. The center's mission was quickly expanded to provide counseling and services for all students.

According to Ric Zazzi, the center's coordinator, PBCC is one of only a few community colleges in the state that have dedicated counseling centers.

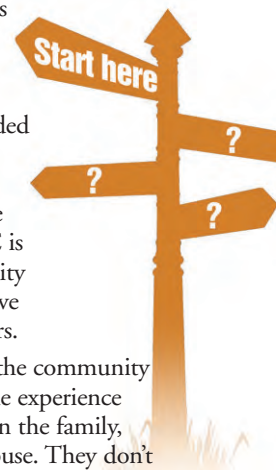
"PBCC is a microcosm of the community at large," said Zazzi. "People experience home foreclosures, deaths in the family, substance abuse, spousal abuse. They don't leave their problems at home when they come on campus. We're here to help and we don't turn anyone away."

"We help students deal with everything – testing anxiety, time management skills, career choices, standing in front of a class."

The center is staffed by Zazzi, who has over 33 years experience as a licensed clinical social worker and supervisor, an administrative assistant, and two part time graduate interns from Barry University. It's a busy office, with an average of 25 students a week meeting with Zazzi or the interns.

"Everyone brings their personal 'stuff' to school," said Shannon Leith, one of the center's graduate interns. "We help students deal with everything – testing anxiety, time management skills, career choices, standing in front of a class. It's a good experience seeing all the hard work that goes into establishing a counseling center pay off."

Among the services offered at the CWCC are crisis intervention, referrals to outside agencies, assessment, brief therapy, life skills and life choices counseling. The center also offers individual and group counseling provided by graduate trainees. All the services offered at the center are free of charge. ■





PBCC jumps into the social media world

No matter what your age, chances are that you either log on to social networking sites or you hear about them daily from friends, family, coworkers and now the news media.

With the growth of these sites, it was inevitable that Palm Beach Community College would join in to keep students, faculty, staff, alumni, prospective students and the public informed and connected to the College. PBCC first embraced the social networking world by creating a MySpace and a Facebook page, followed by a Twitter page. PBCC students can also download course information like podcasts and PowerPoint presentations on iTunesU.

With an overwhelming response with friend requests and messages, communication and interaction with the PBCC family just got easier.

Plans to create more pages on various sites and multimedia pages, like a YouTube channel, are in the works. PBCC's College Relations & Marketing staff will help you stay in touch. Join our social networks now at www.pbcc.edu/socialmedia.xml ■

Giving a helping hand

A philanthropist's \$1 million gift to PBCC has helped ease the transition to life in the United States for hundreds of people.

Through the generosity and vision of Dr. Kathryn W. Davis, the College launched a one-stop education and resource center to help immigrants living in Palm Beach County become acclimated in the U.S. Since opening its doors in 2007, the Dr. Kathryn W. Davis Global Education Center located on PBCC's Lake Worth campus has provided more than \$106,000 in scholarships to 85 students and provided educational advisement and referral services to more than 700 immigrants from 52 countries. So far 13 of the scholarship recipients have graduated from PBCC and are pursuing degrees at other universities.

The Center's staff advises students graduating from the school district and assists newly arrived immigrants who want to pursue a college education. They help immigrant professionals enroll in English classes through the PBCC Language



Mervin Curry (left) receives business advice for his tutoring company from Certified Business Analyst Phil Scruton.

Small businesses get a big start

Some business owners struggle to learn as they go, while aspiring entrepreneurs don't know where to start. PBCC at Boca Raton now houses the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for small enterprises in Palm Beach County, providing counseling at no cost and training in all areas of business management to help small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs grow and prosper.

The SBDC at PBCC provides assistance with finances, marketing, production, organization and feasibility studies, in addition to many other business services. As one of the 33 Florida SBDC sites funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration, PBCC's center links education with community outreach to aid in the development and education of Florida's entrepreneurs and small business community. "Through partnerships with Corporate and Continuing Education at PBCC and local stakeholder organizations, we play a vital role by

helping small business clients open businesses, create and retain jobs, win contract awards, acquire capital for business formation and expansion, and enjoy higher sales," said Jacie Keeley, director.



For small businesses preparing to work with the government, the SBDC offers counseling and training assistance through its Procurement Technical Assistance (PTAC) program, where specialists offer counseling to firms on how to

acquire local, state and federal contracts.

Although assistance is open to all Palm Beach County residents, minority members of socially and economically disadvantaged groups, veterans, women and the disabled are especially encouraged to seek assistance from the SBDC at PBCC. For more information, call 561-862-4725 or visit www.pbcc.edu/sbdc.xml ■

Connections Institute and provide degree transcript evaluation services for those wanting to continue their education in the U.S. A recently launched mentoring program matches the center's students and provides an avenue for them to work on their academics and engage in conversation to improve their English skills.

Students receiving scholarships, which help cover the cost of their academic courses at PBCC or classes to enhance their English language skills, are required to follow the center's program requirements. Those requirements include meeting with the center's advisor for educational advisement and counseling, attending monthly student program meetings, maintaining good grades, volunteering for community service projects and participating in the mentoring program. Some of the students say without the scholarship they would have no way to fund their education.

"I am pleased to be working with PBCC through the Global Education Center, and their successes over the past two years have been heartening to observe."

Dr. Kathryn W. Davis



The center provides a place where immigrants can get information on education, legal, health and dental services and various other services available through partner agencies in Palm Beach County.

"We're kind of like the gatekeeper for them to help them integrate into the American society," said Dr. Jeannett Manzanero, an advisor at the center.

The concept for the center fits with the interests of Davis, a seasonal Florida resident who has spent much of her life as a philanthropist working to improve American understanding of world culture and politics.

Interested in learning more? Call 561-868-3973 or visit www.pbcc.edu/globaleducation.xml ■

Foundation

Building the Future, Honoring the Past

BY MARK UDRY

Despite a weakened state and national economy the PBCC Foundation continued to serve the College in funding both scholarships and building projects through its philanthropic efforts. A record 1,776 students received aid totaling \$1.9 million through the more than 160 named scholarships managed by the Foundation. Foundation scholarship recipients and donors mingled at the annual Skelly Foundation Luncheon in March and the annual Scholarship Luncheon in April.

The Foundation recognized a select group of 32 outstanding contributors at the inaugural Founders & Grand Founders Installation Dinner at Bear Lakes Country Club in May. Founder and Grand Founder donors have provided a minimum of \$100,000 and \$500,000 respectively over the years in funding support for PBCC.

The newly renovated Binks Forest Golf Club in Wellington was the setting for the PBCC Foundation Annual Golf Classic April 17. The tournament drew more than 100 golfers and raised over \$95,000, with proceeds to fund student scholarships and support College programs.

Nearly two years after construction began on the first step to create a "campus green" in the middle of the PBCC Palm Beach Gardens campus, the Myrna Rubenstein Pavilion was officially dedicated Feb. 6. Initial funding was secured with a pledge from Dr. Nancy Levin, professor at the Palm Beach Gardens campus. The pavilion is named in honor of her mother.



Founders and Grand Founders Installation Dinner

Bear Lakes Country Club May 21

1 PBCC Foundation Board Chair Vicki Chouris, Countess Henrietta de Hoernle and PBCC President Dennis Gallon.

2 PBCC President Dennis Gallon presents Stanton Collemer, director of major gifts at Palm Healthcare Foundation, with a medallion.

PBCC Scholarship Recipients

3 Carrie B. Bridwell Memorial Scholarship recipient Marilyn Amilcar, left, and donor Margaret Richardson.

4 From left: Christa Martelli, Latasha Samuels, Chris Gallucci and Stacie Poon at the PBCC Foundation annual scholarship luncheon April 3.

5 PBCC Students Brandon Stephenson, Lenore McHugh and Jerrica Mendelson with Dr. Dennis Gallon.

6 From left: PBCC students Sumeia Naggat, Vernesa Hanson, Julia Doria and Daisy Franco.



Skelly Foundation Luncheon

7 PBCC nursing student Cynthia Alceus talks with Erik Joh of the Gertrude E. Skelly Foundation at the annual Skelly Foundation luncheon at the James L. Wattenbarger Center.

PBCC Foundation Golf Classic
Binks Forest Golf Club in Wellington - April 17

8 The winning foursome of the annual PBCC Foundation Golf Classic, with PBCC President Dennis Gallon *from left*: Doug Todd, Perry Diamond, Dr. Gallon, Ryan Powers and Kyle Henderson from FastTrack MCI.

9 During the Golf Classic, Andre Wade challenged adult golfers to a long distance drive contest: "Beat the Junior Golfer."

10 Mike Geary of Pirtle Construction (*left*) and Tony Parziale of PBCC on the 16th green.

Myrna Rubenstein Pavilion

11 The Myrna Rubenstein Pavilion is now the "in place" to study in the center of the Palm Beach Gardens campus.

Endowments

12 Executives of Lotspeich Co. of Florida establish a \$27,500 endowment for scholarships with the PBCC Foundation. (*From left*): Jerry Ligon, Michael Fee, Mark Tribble, Suellen Mann, executive director, PBCC Foundation; Steven Lewis, Dr. Dennis Gallon, Bob Gordon and Jeff Fees.

"Evening in the Garden"

Pan's Garden in Palm Beach - March 26

13 (*From left*): Mary Ann Fraser, David Miller, Ray Wakefield and Joan Brewer.

14 (*From left*): Cheri Pavlik, Yvonne Boice, Al Zucaro, Rebecca Moore, Dale Hedrick.

Want to help?

Contributions to the PBCC Foundation support the College's mission of affordable, quality education:

561-868-3450
www.pbcc.edu/makeagift.xml

Hall of Famer: Dusty's road leads to college baseball's highest honor

BY MARK UDRY

In his 40 years of coaching baseball on the collegiate and professional level, Dusty Rhodes can point to a number of accomplishments that give him pride (see chart).

The former PBJC baseball player and coach received one of collegiate sports' highest honors in January when he was inducted into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame during its annual convention in San Diego.

"It was a great honor because it seems everybody who was anybody in college baseball is in the ABCA Hall of Fame," said Rhodes. "You're nominated by a group of your peers, guys in this profession that have helped me in my career, guys that I've coached against and beat."

Dusty Rhodes was a three sport (baseball, football, basketball) all-star athlete at Palm Beach High School, concentrating on baseball when he came to Palm Beach Junior College in 1965. The athletic teams were called the Pacers at that time. In his two years as a Pacer, Rhodes played shortstop and outfielder and "when we got thin in the bullpen, I ended up having to pitch," he said.

Rhodes then transferred to Florida Southern, graduating in 1969 and staying on as an assistant baseball coach. In 1974 Rhodes returned to PBJC as an assistant and the next year was named head coach. He credits former president Edward Eissey with giving him his first big break.

"When Ed Eissey became president of PBJC, that's when things started happening," said Rhodes. "He had a vision of what place sports had at PBJC, placing it on the same level as academics. There was more community involvement with the College thanks to him. He was really instrumental in promoting athletics at PBJC."

Rhodes compiled an impressive 303-118 record as coach of the PBJC Pacers from 1975 - 82, including a number one junior college ranking in



Dusty Rhodes - PBJC '69

1979 and wins against both the University of Florida and Florida State University. "Back in those days junior colleges could play the Division I schools," said Rhodes. "There were a lot of good baseball players in Palm Beach County, but they were leaving to play somewhere else. When I got to PBJC I wanted to keep the really good local players here and that made a big difference in our success as a baseball program."

He was named a junior college All-Star coach in 1976, 1977 and 1980. In recognition for his achievements as a player and coach at PBJC, Rhodes was inducted into the Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame in 1989.

After a four-year stint as an assistant coach at UF, Rhodes was selected in 1987 to build the baseball program at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. It was a program he literally built hands-on, from the ground up.

"The only thing I had to start with when I got to UNF was a patch of ground that had been bulldozed," said Rhodes. "I came in and laid out the field, helped build the dugouts and the stadium."

He also pieced together a squad that began play in 1988 as an NAIA team, the lowest rung on the collegiate sports ladder. UNF won 47 out of 64 games, a record that still stands for a first-year college baseball program on any level. The Ospreys did even better the following year, going 53 - 18 and achieving a third-place finish in the NAIA World Series.



Rhodes quickly turned UNF into a small-college baseball power, finishing first six times in their division. He then carried the program up the ladder, moving to NCAA Division II play in 1994 and Division I in 2006. In his 22 years at UNF, Rhodes' teams have finished under .500 only three times. He accomplished all of this without the benefit of athletic scholarships and blue-chip players.

"It's a unique situation here at UNF," said Rhodes. "There are no academic exceptions for athletes, we have guys here who are true students. They have to get in based on their academic ability, not their athletic ability."

In addition to his successful collegiate coaching career, Rhodes spent his summers coaching in professional and international amateur baseball ranks. He was a manager in the New York Yankees and Milwaukee Brewers organizations, coaching in Class A and Rookie Leagues, totaling a 294 -189 record over five seasons.

Rhodes was also named head coach of the Greek national team for the 2004 Olympics in Athens and returned in 2005 to coach the team in the European Championships. He also served as an assistant coach for the 1996 Australian Olympic team and was an assistant coach for the USA national team in 1993, 1994 and 2001.

In an interview before a doubleheader this season, Rhodes was asked what his formula was for all the success he's enjoyed over the years. Rhodes grew quiet, staring for a long time out at Harmon Field, where the Ospreys were soon to take the field against Florida Gulf Coast University. A smile crossed his face.

"I got to know a lot of people over the years, who helped me when I needed it. I surrounded myself with good players and good coaches. I just worked hard, didn't get fired, kept winning games and it all worked out," he said.



“I just worked hard,
didn’t get fired, kept
winning games and
it all worked out.”

Dusty Rhodes
Head Coach, UNF Baseball

Dusty Rhodes career highlights:

🏆 American Baseball
Coaches Association Hall
of Fame inductee: 2009

🏆 Has coached 24 All-
Americans and 22 Major
League Baseball players

🏆 Palm Beach County
Sports Hall of Fame
inductee: 1989

🏆 Led UNF to three No. 1
rankings in NAIA and the
No. 1 ranking in NCAA
Division II from 1999 –
2002

🏆 NAIA District 25 Coach
of the Year: 1988, 1989,
1991

🏆 Peach Belt Conference
Coach of the Year: 1999,
2000, 2001, 2004, 2005

Alumni Corner



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

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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.

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3000 Saint Lucie Avenue

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4200 Congress Avenue

PBCC at Palm Beach Gardens
3160 PGA Boulevard

561-967-PBCC

Alumni Success Stories



TAMI PLEASANTON
A.A., PBJC, 1976
B.A., FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY, 1979
M.S., WALDEN UNIVERSITY, 2002

Tami Pleasanton, head of school at St. Joseph's Episcopal School in Boynton Beach, is an award-winning teacher and educational administrator who has been shaping young minds for more than 30 years.

The former elementary, middle and high school mathematics and computer teacher was named South Carolina's Teacher of the Year in 1984. Returning home to Florida, she served in several classroom and administrative posts before advancing to the highest position at St. Joseph's last year.

Pleasanton has facilitated professional workshops in brain-based learning, learning styles and innovative teaching methods and co-authored "The Study Skills Tool Kit," which offers practical advice for parents, teachers and students. The Delray Beach resident is currently pursuing her doctorate in administrative leadership from Walden University.



AL LAMBERTI
A.S., PBJC, 1977
B.A., FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY, 1981

When Al Lamberti graduated from PBJC and began working as a Broward County Jail deputy in 1977, he had no inkling that 30 years later, he would be running the entire agency. As sheriff since 2007, Lamberti heads the nation's largest fully accredited sheriff's office, with 6,300 employees and an operating budget of almost \$700 million.

He rose through the ranks as a road patrol deputy and sergeant, then lieutenant, captain and deputy director of the Organized Crime Division. There, he supervised specialized teams for narcotics, air/marine interdiction, racketeering and white collar crime, as well as task forces on Colombian organized crimes and Jamaican gangs.

Lamberti also graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard and as an intelligence and law enforcement agent for the Coast Guard Reserve.



DR. VICTOR MARTEL
A.A., PBJC, 1978
B.A., UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA, 1980
D.M.D., UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY OF NEW JERSEY, 1984

As a cosmetic dentist in Palm Beach, Dr. Victor Martel practices a specialty in which patients are eager and excited to avail themselves of his services. "I have been able to provide patients with smiles that not only look beautiful but inspire positive changes in their lives," he notes.

In addition to his rewarding practice, Dr. Martel is active in providing advanced training opportunities for South Florida dentists. He serves on the Atlantic Coast Dental Research Clinic Board of Directors, is a founding member of the Florida Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry and is on the faculty of The Dawson Center for Advanced Dental Studies. He also lectures nationally on the topics of aesthetic dentistry and occlusion. "My colleagues and I share innovations that help us stay on the leading edge," he said. "It's important to contribute everything I can – to my profession, my patients and the community."