

Contact

FOR THE FRIENDS
OF PALM BEACH
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

VOL. 14, No. 1 SPRING 2006



The Faces Behind Student Success





Growing Success

Teaching and learning, the heartbeat of the community college, takes many exciting forms. In this issue of *Contact*, we shine the spotlight on a vital part of Palm Beach Community College that supports and strengthens the success that students experience in the classroom. Student Learning Centers offer all students a wide array of resources, including tutorials, software and other learning tools in the computer, math, reading, language and vocational labs. Early on, students also discover the most valuable assets of the SLC – the faculty, learning specialists, tutors and other staff whose primary focus is helping students engage in learning to achieve their educational goals.

At PBCC, we are always mindful of the ways that student success benefits the communities we serve. Nowhere is this more critical now than in the Glades, where we are collaborating with public agencies, the schools and the communities to tackle the critical economic and environmental issues that affect each person each day. In this issue, we explore the challenges and describe the College's new career programs, outreach and customized workforce training to equip the people of the Glades to revitalize their communities.

Finally, if you visit Palm Beach Community College over the coming months, be prepared to “pardon our dust” and to hear the sounds of construction crews hard at work. Following extensive renovations to our Belle Glade facilities last year are new construction projects at other locations. The end results will be dramatic: new science facilities at the Palm Beach Gardens and Lake Worth campuses, a pavilion and campus green at Palm Beach Gardens, and a state-of-the-art humanities and technology building at our Boca Raton campus.

To accommodate the increasing needs of Palm Beach County, our plan to build a campus in the western communities has been approved by the state. The Florida Legislature also recently allocated \$2.4 million to begin planning for the construction of a PBCC public safety training center for our criminal justice, fire and emergency first-response training programs. We continue to grow and to “grow success” in our students and our communities. Your support is helping to make that happen!

Dennis P. Gallon, Ph.D.
President

The Mission

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



www.pbcc.edu

Contact

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

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

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

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ON THE COVER

A small representation of the many people behind the scenes



Expect
more...



The Many Faces of the Student Learning Centers



B



A

A Portrait of



“In every lab, the learning specialists are dedicated and responsible. Everybody is really in tune with working with the students.”

Associate Dean Peggy Adams-King

Student Success

BY VICTORIA I. GREEN

Talk to the staff in any of the Student Learning Centers – at any of Palm Beach Community College’s four locations – and one thing is immediately clear: These people are passionate about student success. Their dedication is expressed through their enthusiasm in describing the innovative projects they are testing. It is evident in the Web sites and pamphlets describing the many services each of the labs offers to students. And it is reflected in the diversity of the dozens of employees who are committed to helping PBCC’s students in any way they can.

The College’s SLCs, or labs, serve

thousands of students by helping them develop skills, providing academic support and serving as a place for students to study and do homework. All of the college’s labs offer a variety of important services to students. (See page 5.) Students in remedial or college preparatory classes are a major focus, but they are by no means the only ones who take advantage of the SLCs. The labs offer tutoring and other types of assistance to those studying everything from math, economics, physics and chemistry to those learning English as a second language, to students preparing for an entrance exam into the nursing program.

Going above and beyond

Each of PBCC’s locations has a unique atmosphere and faces different challenges. The SLCs have responded by developing programs and resources to respond to the needs of their students.

Belle Glade

At PBCC’s smallest location, the SLC staff pride themselves on offering personalized attention to students. Learning specialist John Pierson, who also serves as testing coordinator in Belle Glade, says, “One advantage of our size is that perhaps we get to know the students better.” Pierson says that the staff is able to spend more time with each student.

This personal touch is evident in the interactions between students and staff. Alvin Johnson got his A.A. from PBCC in 2004 and he has been a tutor in the math lab for more than two years. “My name is sort of a household name around here,” says Johnson. In fact, he greets all of the students entering and leaving the lab by name.

Peggy Adams-King, the associate dean who supervises both the Belle Glade and Lake Worth SLCs, says that, “In every lab, the learning specialists are dedicated and responsible. Everybody is really in tune with working with the students.”

Boca Raton

Dr. Joseph Simplicio, associate dean at the Boca Raton campus, praises the staff of the SLCs at that location. “They are among the most professional people I’ve ever worked with,” he says. “Their vision is excellent. Their interaction with the campus is excellent.”

That involvement with campus events is something of which English learning specialist Elizabeth Caulfield is especially proud. She mentions a recent Celebration of Diversity essay contest – one of many contests in which the lab participates. In the math lab, learning specialist Ewa Neginsky was instrumental in organizing events for Math Awareness Week, which took place in April. One function unique to the Boca Raton SLCs is that there is a counselor on staff in the lab, able to address students’ questions on site rather than having to refer them to advising.

continued on pages 4 & 5



Lake Worth

The SLCs at the Lake Worth campus are host to a number of pilot programs, several sponsored in part by the Title III Institute for Student Success.

One of these is the prep math tutor training program, which began its third term of implementation in February, conducted this time by learning specialist Dana Hamadeh. Tutors who participate have their salaries supplemented by the Institute for Student Success. The prep math tutor training is designed to strengthen the connection between the math labs and the classroom. Participants improve and maintain their skill level over the course of the 10 workshop sessions, focusing on the methods and techniques used in tutoring developmental math students.

The Institute for Student Success is

also sponsoring a “rescue pilot” for students who are on their second or third attempt to pass preparatory math. The program is run by Prep Math Lab Specialist Barbie Edgar, who explains that individualized mentoring is available to eligible students. Students in the rescue pilot also will use a computer-based remediation tool called ALEKS, which is still in a trial phase at PBCC.

AskOnline is another pilot being conducted in the math labs in both Lake Worth and Belle Glade. This is an online tutoring program providing group sessions and half-hour online tutoring appointments. According to Dana Hamadeh, students can post their questions to a discussion board and they will receive a reply within 24 hours. Tutors are also available during the evening when the math lab is closed. Learning specialist Yoshua

Carhuamaca, who runs the program and serves as an online tutor, notes that every student taking credit or prep math is eligible to register for the service. He has advertised AskOnline in various classes and has received a good response from instructors.

The Lake Worth math lab also is conducting a Lab Ambassador program, through which tutors visit both credit and prep math classes to explain the services offered in the labs and to encourage the students to visit.

Of all the SLCs at the College, the computer lab at Lake Worth is the largest in terms of both the number of computers housed there and the volume of students served. “I get the most hits of any of the labs during the semester,” says learning specialist Lisa Newton. Last fall, there were nearly 22,400 visits to the lab, says Newton, “and that was slow.”

Lake Worth is the only location with a learning specialist dedicated to English for Academic Purposes (EAP), or English as a Second Language — Mayetta Lee. She says that students across all disciplines may need assistance with improving their English or their pronunciation.

“Many vocational students are second language learners,” says Lee. “We’re excited about what we can do with lab support for our students.”

Palm Beach Gardens

The Student Learning Center on the Palm Beach Gardens campus has one major difference from the labs in the other locations: It’s an all-in-one lab. According to Associate Dean Allen Witt, the “open lab concept” has increased usage immensely. “Students want to stay there,” he says. “It’s a place you want to be.”

Witt also points out that all of the math professors now have their offices on the same floor as the SLC, which he says makes a difference in student success. “Mathematics is the worst challenge for our students,” says Witt. “I tell them, don’t give me any excuses. Go live in the lab.”

Learning Specialist Cathy Seyler concurs. “The good thing about our lab is that it’s one-stop shopping,” she says. “No matter what [the students] need, it’s all right here. It makes it easy for staff to work together.”

As on the Lake Worth campus, the Title III Institute for Student Success is participating in a pilot program in Palm Beach Gardens. Learning specialist and tutor Panama Red serves as the Title III representative. She is using the ALEKS online tool to run a two-phase program to assist prep math students. In the first phase, students who have tested into prep math two (MAT 0020) take a diagnostic





“Mathematics is the worst challenge for our students. I tell them, don’t give me any excuses. Go live in the lab.”

Associate Dean Allen Witt

test through ALEKS and are then counseled by Red. In the pilot’s second phase, students in certain classes are using the tool for further remediation.

Learning Specialist Gail Burkett explains that ALEKS is “an alternate delivery system for those who need more than just classroom instruction.”

Red adds, “We try to do everything we can for our students.”

The Faces Behind the Success

Across all the campuses and all the labs, there is a tremendous diversity among the staff. Tutors and learning specialists range in age from their late teens to their 80s. Some are current students and some have Ph.D. degrees. They are from dozens of countries and ethnic backgrounds. In the Lake Worth math lab, for example, staffers speak 12 different languages. Many of the tutors and learning specialists at the College used the labs when they were PBCC students. This wide range of experiences means that the SLC staff is well-equipped to deal with the diversity of PBCC students who come to them every day for assistance.

A	Namrata Thakkar
B	Yoshua Carhuamaca
C	Barbie Edgar
D	Gail Burkett
E	Espe Noble
F	Mayetta Lee
G	Carlos Ramos
H	Dana Hamadeh
I	Marjorie Simon
J	Tafadzwa Nemuseso
K	Leslie Sherman
L	Allen Witt
M	Lisa Newton
N	Blacki Milhose
O	Cathy Seyler
P	Lyam Christopher
Q	Panama Red



Student Learning Centers offer:

- Learning specialists and tutors
 - Supplemental instruction
 - Lab assignments for remedial classes
 - Scheduled review sessions
 - Workshops and seminars on dozens of topics
 - Space for small group study
 - Computers for general and academic use
 - Internet access and Web resources
 - Computer software on many topics
 - Printed resources such as text books, solution manuals, dictionaries and handouts
 - Math tutorials on CD and video
 - Calculators
 - Videotaped lectures
- and much more!



Teacher Certification Program Helps Fill Critical Need

BY GWENN ADAMS

Florida will need to hire more than 30,000 teachers per year for the next three to five years, yet the state is only graduating about 6,000 teachers per year, according to the Florida Department of Education. Even basic math scholars can tell those numbers don't match up, but Palm Beach Community College now offers several ways to simplify the equation.

The newest offering is the Teacher Certification Program, which gives professionals with non-education bachelor's degrees the opportunity to change careers and lives in as little as one year or less.

This program, established by the 2004 Florida Legislature, prepares those with non-education bachelor's degrees to move into K-12 teaching careers without having to start their education all over again. Candidates must meet subject area requirements, have a minimum 2.5 grade point average, interview with a program coordi-

nator and complete a self assessment for teaching. This program is also open to current teachers working with a three-year temporary certificate.

Comprised of seven courses and two field experiences (21 credit hours), the PBCC program helps students develop the competencies and skills needed to succeed in the classroom.

"With Teacher Certification, prospective teachers can complete all their requirements right here at PBCC. All our faculty members have their master's degrees as well as a strong background in K-12 education, a combination that makes them an excellent teachers and mentors," said Susan Caldwell, associate dean at PBCC.

Helping to fill the critical need for teachers is not new to PBCC. Other programs offered at the College have already placed more

than 170 teachers in classrooms throughout Palm Beach County.

Transition to Teaching, PBCC's forerunner to the Teacher Certification Program, was begun with a grant in 2002 as a way to help fill the need in critical shortage areas, such as mathematics and science in the middle and high school setting. Prospective teachers studying under the TTT program are required to commit to a specific subject matter in one of the critical shortage areas and teach at a "high need" school for three years.

Teachers who earn their teaching certificates from programs like these have an advantage in the K-12 classroom, according to Caldwell. They are more mature, diversified and knowledgeable about the real world while also having that "hometown" advantage so they can relate to the students.

"My prior life experience makes me better in the classroom," said Tommy Tucker, a science teacher

"Real-life stories from the workplace help me better communicate the importance of education to my students."



at John F. Kennedy Middle School who earned his teaching certificate in the Transition to Teaching program at PBCC. “The experiences acquired from a long life and experience in the world outside of education brings a different perspective than that of the lifelong professional educator. Real-life stories from the workplace help me better communicate the importance of education to my students.”

Another advantage to the teaching student is the affordability of the program. Most students can complete the coursework necessary for state teaching certification for approximately \$1,200 plus textbooks. Scholarships and financial aid are available for most of the courses offered, many covering all or most of the tuition for qualifying students.

While the requirements for the Transition to Teaching program vary slightly from the new Teacher Certification Program, they have at least one thing in common: They help fill a need for the prospective teacher and the public school system.

“The Transition to Teaching Program made this happen for me. There was no way I could have made it through the bureaucracy at the school district and the Florida Department of Education without their guidance. The classes at PBCC provided a great foundation and were invaluable in preparing me for the challenges of teaching. The instructors were seasoned veterans of the system, and their insights and encouragement were critical to my current success,” Tucker said.

Tucker has been positively affected by his experience at PBCC, and, in turn, his students at JFK Middle School are benefiting. During his first year of teaching (under a temporary teaching certificate), Tucker started “GrooveLab,” a program for at-risk students. Using his prior computer programming experience and much of his own recording equipment, Tucker recruits “difficult” students who are interested in creating their own music and strikes a deal with them. The students sign a contract promising better grades in exchange for Tucker’s production of their music and releasing it on a compact disc. The first compact disc “Raw,” was a huge success and, more importantly, all



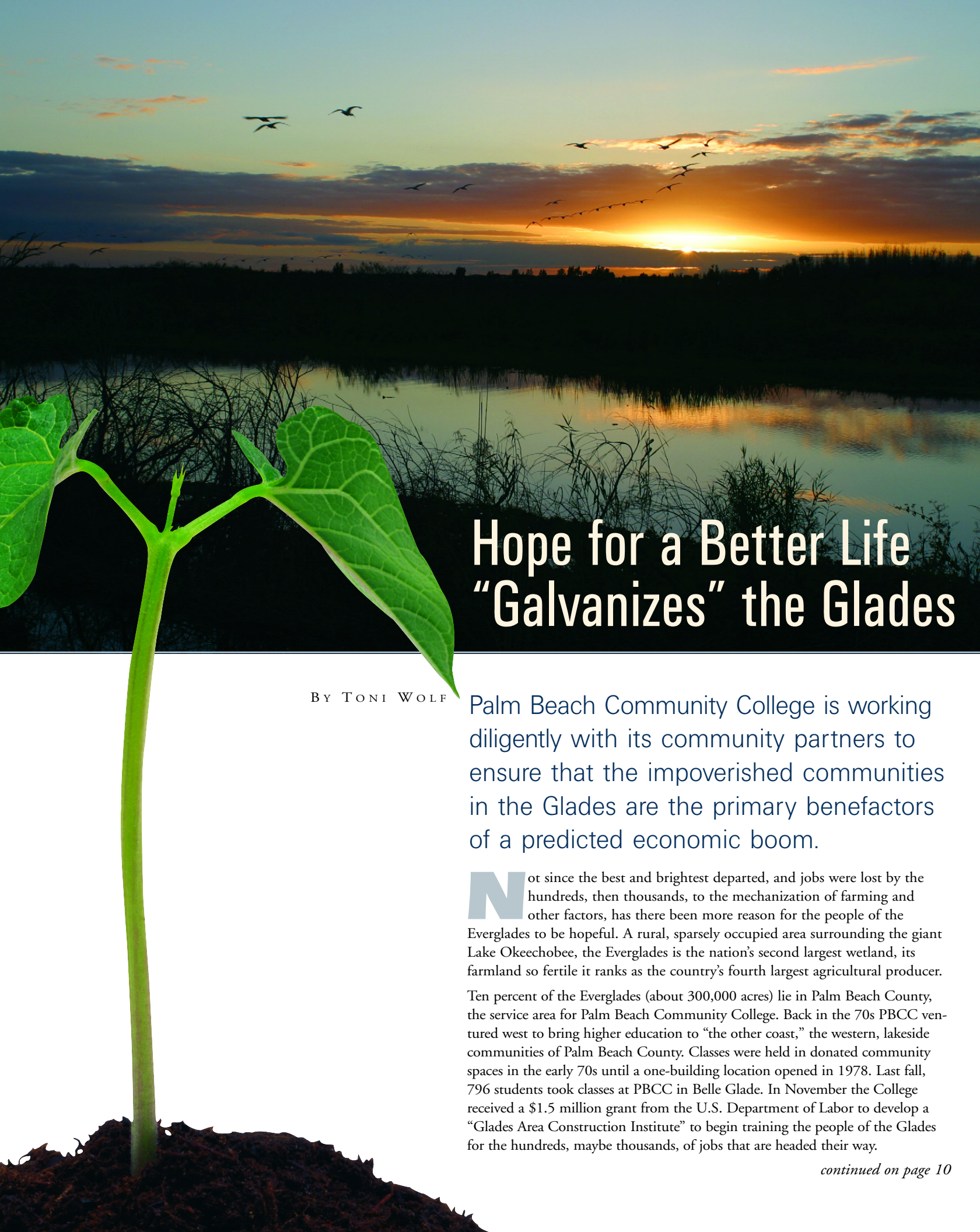
the student/artists passed. Tucker is already working on this year’s release.

The need for enthusiastic teachers is great in Palm Beach County, and so is the impact a teacher can have on the future.

The first JFK Middle School CD “Raw,” was a huge success!

For more information or to register for classes, call the Institute of Teacher Education (561) 868-3823 or visit www.pbcc.edu/TeacherEd





Hope for a Better Life “Galvanizes” the Glades

BY TONI WOLF

Palm Beach Community College is working diligently with its community partners to ensure that the impoverished communities in the Glades are the primary benefactors of a predicted economic boom.

Not since the best and brightest departed, and jobs were lost by the hundreds, then thousands, to the mechanization of farming and other factors, has there been more reason for the people of the Everglades to be hopeful. A rural, sparsely occupied area surrounding the giant Lake Okeechobee, the Everglades is the nation's second largest wetland, its farmland so fertile it ranks as the country's fourth largest agricultural producer.

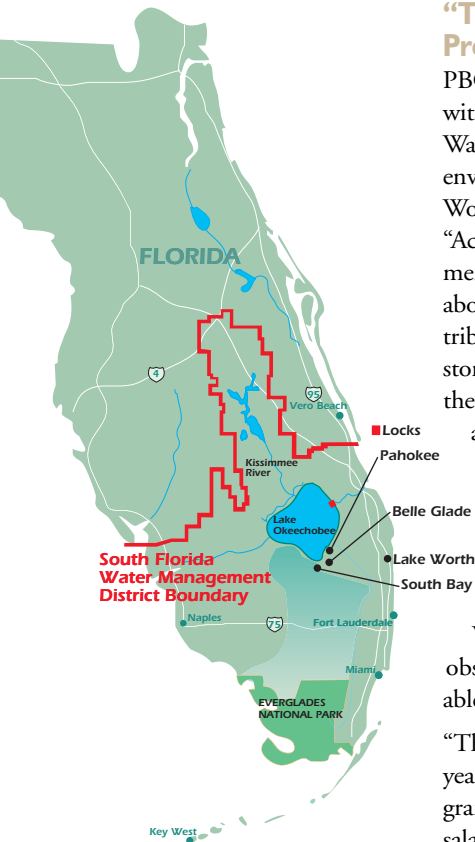
Ten percent of the Everglades (about 300,000 acres) lie in Palm Beach County, the service area for Palm Beach Community College. Back in the 70s PBCC ventured west to bring higher education to “the other coast,” the western, lakeside communities of Palm Beach County. Classes were held in donated community spaces in the early 70s until a one-building location opened in 1978. Last fall, 796 students took classes at PBCC in Belle Glade. In November the College received a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to develop a “Glades Area Construction Institute” to begin training the people of the Glades for the hundreds, maybe thousands, of jobs that are headed their way.

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Building locks on Lake Okeechobee near Belle Glade, like these on the northeast end of the lake, will revitalize the economy by providing easier access to what residents call the “undiscovered jewel of the Everglades.”



continued from page 9



“Farming is the economic engine of the Glades, and it will continue to be.”

Judy Sanchez, U.S. Sugar



“The Largest Environmental Project in the World”

PBCC already had begun training workers with grant money from the South Florida Water Management District for the “first tier” environmental restoration of the Everglades. Workers for the initial project, known as “Acceler8,” will build 20,000 acres of treatment marsh to clean polluted waters and above-ground reservoirs to control water distribution from Lake Okeechobee and stormwater runoff. Jo Ann Hyres, director of the department of public information at the agency, described the magnitude of the restoration—and where PBCC fits in.

“This is the largest environmental restoration project in the world, and it could take 30-40 years,” Hyres explained. “The College has worked with South Florida Water Management to understand the obstacles to developing a viable and sustainable work force.”

“The residents have experienced years and years of East Coast professionals writing grants, using most of the money for their own salaries, and walking away,” explained Dennis P. Gallon, Ph.D., president of PBCC. “But they do have trust in what PBCC is doing, and we are careful who we partner with.”

The mainstay of PBCC offerings in Belle Glade has been the associate in arts degree (the foundation for a bachelor’s degree), and work force training programs have been growing in welding, diesel mechanics, commercial truck driving, corrections and counseling training for the two area prisons, child care, English and Spanish for the workplace and practical nursing. The registered nursing program began in January this year with an enrollment of 23. With the three-year Department of Labor grant, PBCC will train 460 Palm Beach County residents in building construction and trade apprenticeships (electrical, plumbing, etc.). The College will establish a “career pathway” for supervisors of the Everglades restoration. The training will help Glades residents participate in the construction boom those on both coasts predict is inevitable.

“The western part of the county holds the last large pieces of affordable land that’s available,” said Kelly Smallridge, president of the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, Inc. “We have realized that the area is the next land of opportunity. Residential developers are scouting the area feverishly.”



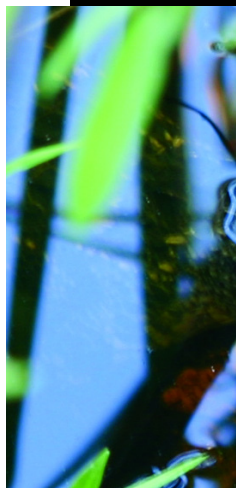
“Black Gold” Slated to Go Platinum

That worries Glades business owners and farmers who want to keep the Glades rural and not another jam-packed version of the East Coast. Although many have left, others have stayed to enjoy the rural quality of life and the small town atmosphere in Belle Glade, South Bay and Pahokee. The sign at the entrance to Belle Glade: “Her soil is her fortune” tells it all.

“There’s a saying in the Glades: ‘Plant a seed and jump back,’” said Denny Abbott, employer services executive for the Workforce Alliance in Belle Glade. Commonly referred to as “muck” and “black gold,” the wetlands soil is so ideal for farming, agriculture makes a \$4 billion a year economic impact in Florida, said Judy Sanchez, director of corporate communications for U.S. Sugar. “Farming is the economic engine of the Glades, and it will continue to be.”

Economic experts for the area don’t dispute that, but say the economic changes that are coming will provide more diverse employment choices, including ecotourism of Lake Okeechobee and yes, residential and commercial construction.

“We’ve spent seven years developing strategies for this,” Smallridge said. Hired by the county, consultants Herb Marlowe and Larry Arrington in 2002 published the “Business Plan for the Glades,” which won an international award.



continued on pages 12-13



Port Mayaca locks



The Army Corps of Engineers is building a “cutoff wall” to contain seepages in the Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee.

PBCC at Belle Glade Provost Beverly Robinson is gearing up for “a new day in the Glades.”

PBCC Construction Institute instructor Jerry Smith discusses class schedules with Diana Barboni, who oversees PBCC’s construction grant projects in the Glades.



Damage from Hurricane Wilma is still a major problem months after she tore through Palm Beach County.

continued from page 10

"Now is the time to bring the plan out and start making things happen," Smallridge said.

"A lot is happening that's never happened before, and the residents need to have a say, or it will overrun us," Abbott said. Abbott is a "business broker" who connects Glades businesses with opportunities to expand. "We don't have a skilled labor force, and that hurts us badly. The Glades will improve when we have a two-way bridge between the west and the east coast that has the expertise. In the nine years since I've been there, this is the first time I've seen the Glades citizens and business owners so galvanized."

An economic forum earlier this year solicited residents' opinions on forming the nonprofit Glades Economic Alliance, joining business, government and education to oversee the anticipated development. Government agencies in the area are armed with a mandate at the state and federal levels to hire local workers. "My staff is incredibly passionate about bringing locals into the process," said Hyres at SFWMD.

The Soweto of Palm Beach County

That passion is no doubt stirred by a firsthand look at the extent of poverty in the Everglades. Abandoned migrant workers' shacks and trailer parks dot the countryside along with trailer parks in which residents live next to trailers that have collapsed. Small, prefab homes pass for middle class housing in the cities. The major damage to homes, RV parks, boats and marinas from Hurricane Wilma last year just



made a desperate situation worse, residents say. "There's always been a lot of despair; Wilma's just exposing it," said Diana Barboni, who oversees PBCC's new federal grant and SFWMD monies for "Acceler8," a state effort that began last year to jumpstart Everglades restoration with eight large projects designed by the federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project.

Some ethnic minorities are eking out a living on small specialty farms among the sugarcane. In the cities, though, the poorest of the poor, people of color and immigrants, both legal and illegal, live in jaw-dropping squalor...the Soweto of Palm Beach County. People of color who've grown up in generations of poverty inhabit the southwest section of Belle Glade. There's only one successful way to reach the residents, and that's one-on-one, said Beverly Robinson, the new provost at PBCC in Belle Glade who has done extensive research on community revitalization.

Robinson has spent her first few months asking community residents what programs are needed most. She's securing space throughout the cities to meet those needs, from customer service training for Pahokee city workers in the Fidelity Federal Bank building to Construction Institute classes at the West Tech facility. PBCC's Continuing Workforce Education (CWE) staff is customizing programs for farmers and other businesses, even classes for FEMA trailer park residents at the community room

in South Bay. After meeting with local farmers, business owners and government officials, the CWE staff has established training programs that began in April, plus summer and fall course offerings. (*See page 13*)

Gallon has met regularly with Glades residents since he began his tenure at PBCC, organizing the Glades Partnership Council to advise him and remove barriers to higher education. He's encouraged by planned infrastructure improvements, such as two new Florida Power and Light plants, a sewer system near Canal Point and a long overdue water treatment facility in Belle Glade to open in 2008.

With outreach programs for middle and high school students and dual enrollment for juniors and seniors to earn college credit, PBCC continues to find ways to help Glades youth overcome the many obstacles to higher education and a better life.

"To be successful, the citizens will need an education, and the jobs will come," Gallon said matter-of-factly, although he, too, confesses to being shaken by the despair of the Glades. "When I speak to groups, I tell them about the opportunities for economic stability. We keep identifying barriers, and then we make it happen."





New PBCC courses will strengthen the community:

- Customer Service Fundamentals
- Creole for the Workplace
- English for Speakers of Other Languages for Child Care Workers
- Commercial Truck Driving
- Traffic School
- Keyboarding & Computer Basics
- Computer Basics in Spanish
- Landscape Certification Review
- What's New for Turf Pros
- Adolescence/addiction crisis courses for professionals
- Family Issues/Counseling
- Crisis Intervention



rather than doing it for them. It would be easy for me to just tell them what to do but it's better to encourage them to solve the problems, both

in scheduling classes and in life. I make them think for themselves, but I am always an advocate for them," the Jupiter resident explained.

Being an advocate for students has helped Peters further FACC's mission to promote, represent and support Florida's 28 public community colleges, their staffs and faculties in their endeavor to provide state residents with the best possible comprehensive community college system.

"I see the FACC as a way of empowering those who work for our community colleges to make the system work," Peters said. "We need the support of college administration from the top down. People must be given the chance to be involved with FACC. I am very thankful to Dr. Gallon for allowing me the time to be president. It wasn't an easy year, especially since I still needed to be involved with my students, but the PBCC administration was very supportive, and that made all the difference."

The theme for Peters' presidency was "Dare to be Great," and he certainly did. During his year as president the FACC hired a new chief executive officer, bought and moved into a

new building, set up the Futures Task Force and successfully lobbied for key issues for the community college system. One of Peters' main focuses was to increase membership, and he was very successful in that area.

The FACC now has more than 8,700 members, the highest membership in the organization's 56-year history. There was a net gain of 835 members last year and eighteen colleges now have

memberships that exceed 50 percent of their full-time employees.

"We need to stay focused on increasing professional development opportunities while also working on legislative issues that directly affect our community colleges," Peters said. "A membership strong in numbers and voice is crucial to carrying out FACC's purpose."

Peters will stay involved with the FACC, even beyond his one-year, post-presidency term on the Board of Directors. "I don't know how you can be involved in education if you aren't passionate about it. It's the same way with the FACC, and I definitely have a passion for both."

Daring to Be Great

BY GWENN ADAMS

As president of Florida's only lobbying organization for the more than 10,000 community college employees, Jeff Peters had his job cut out for him, not to mention also holding a full-time position as a counselor at Palm Beach Community College. Still, serving as president of the Florida Association of Community Colleges for one year and on the executive board for six years has given Peters a confidence he may not have had five to 10 years ago.

"Now I'll take on things I may not have even considered before I served on the executive board for FACC. Being president has taught me better leadership and interpersonal skills and made me a better person in general," Peters said. He had plenty of training for his presidency, serving as an exemplary practice judge and exemplary practice chair for the Student Development Commission prior to a three-year stint as vice president for commissions followed by his term as president-elect for one year before assuming the presidency.

Peters began his involvement with FACC on the Student Development Commission as a fill-in for a co-worker in 1989, the same year he started working for PBCC as a counselor. His master's degree in counseling, coupled with his experience as a counselor at the Center for Family Services and in private practice, has helped shape Peters' approach to counseling students.

"I teach students how to work the system,

"I teach students how to work the system, rather than doing it for them.... it's better to encourage them to solve the problems, both in scheduling classes and in life."

Jeffrey C. Peters

PBCC Associate Professor and Counselor

Immediate past president, Florida Association of Community Colleges





Suellen Mann is at helm of PBCC Foundation

BY TABATHA B. McDONALD

On the money

It's just after 1 on a Tuesday afternoon, and Suellen Mann is rushing out of the Administration Building at Palm Beach Community College in Lake Worth on her way to another meeting.

"I haven't had lunch yet," she says hastily, pausing barely a moment to stop. "I'm going to have to burst open a can of Pepsi and head up to Palm Beach Gardens."

Since beginning the job Jan. 2 as the new executive director of the Palm Beach Community College Foundation, Mann has been busy getting to know the College and the Foundation. She and her staff also have begun formalizing plans to find donors for two of the Foundation's most pressing projects: the new state-of-the-art BioScience Technology Complex slated for construction this year at PBCC in Palm Beach Gardens and the public safety training center the College plans to build in western Palm Beach County.

These may not be simple tasks, but Mann, a credentialed certified fund-raising executive, says she is up for the challenge. She has more than 25 years of advertising, mar-

keting and public relations experience to prove it.

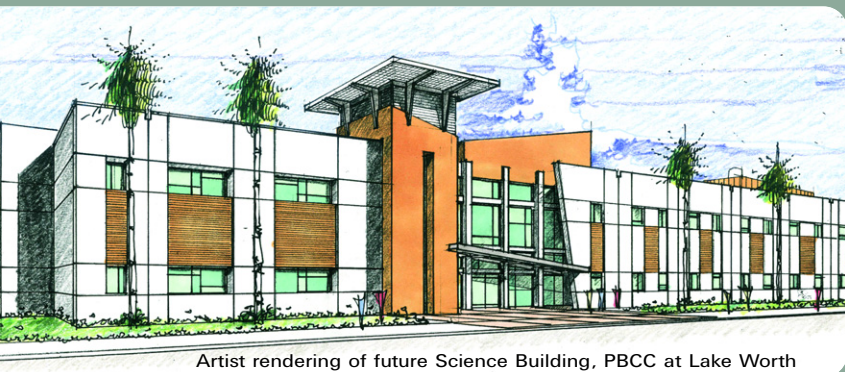
She came to PBCC from the Jupiter Medical Center Foundation where she served for more than five years as director of development. Prior to joining the Jupiter Medical Center Foundation, she worked for more than two years as development director for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America – Gold Coast Chapter. She began her fund-raising career in 1998 after taking a two year-break from a marketing career in the banking industry to have her daughter. She had spent 21 years working at three of the country's largest banks: as a regional marketing director/vice president for NationsBank/Bank of America, regional marketing director/vice president for Southeast Bank/First Union and in various positions, including director of corporate communications, for The Bank of Miami.

She said she never imagined that a newsletter she created and mailed to friends and family describing her daughter's first two years of life would lead to a career in fund raising, but it did. "A friend of mine at the Crohn's & Colitis

continued on page 16

Foundation called and said, 'If you can do this, you can do my newsletter.' I started writing a newsletter. As I got to know more about fund raising, I thought, 'This is a great career path,' "said

there are a variety of opportunities to match donors' interests with a program. We have so many different directions to go in," she said. "We also have the ability to match funds (through the state's



Artist rendering of future Science Building, PBCC at Lake Worth

Mann, who holds a bachelor's degree from Barry University and an M.B.A. from the University of Miami. "I went to work for the foundation and learned more about fundraising. I began studying, and then I took the Certified Fund Raising Executive exam. I believe if you're going to pursue a career, you pursue it at the highest level possible."

At PBCC, she maintains that commitment, having already established goals for the nonprofit, 501-c-3 Foundation, which oversees \$14 million in endowments and is governed by a nearly 30-member community-based board of directors. Those goals include: raising the awareness both internally and community-wide of the Foundation, the fundraising arm of the College; establishing an annual-giving program with multiple facets, including giving clubs and year-end appeals; establishing an honorarium/memorial donor program and revitalizing alumni relations.

"The great thing about the community college is we offer such a variety of different programs that

"I think a lot of people don't realize the money we get from the state is not enough to be able to grow and develop, take things to the next level..."

matching gifts) program, which is very helpful and makes the donors' dollars that much more valuable."

With limited funds from the state for facilities and programs, finding donors for projects like those at the top of the Foundation's to-do list is crucial. "I think a lot of people don't realize the money we get from the state is not enough to be able to grow and develop, take things to the next level," Mann said.

In the meantime, PBCC broke ground April 20 on the \$17.9 million, 92,000-square-foot bioscience complex that will help to strengthen the College's science and biotechnology programs and position PBCC for the expanding

biotech industry. The College already has received \$10 million from the state for the building and is expecting to receive its final allocation on July 1. The Foundation is seeking additional funding of \$2 million to \$4 million for equipment and furnishing.

While construction is still perhaps a few years away, PBCC also is making plans and seeking donations for the public safety training center that will provide a permanent location for all of the College's fire, police and EMS training academies. The 125,000-square-foot facility, which would include an indoor shooting range and a fire training apparatus garage and fire tower, is estimated to cost \$30 million to \$40 million. Palm Beach County officials are working on a plan to purchase approximately 20 acres at the intersections of State Roads 80 and 880, informally called 20-Mile Bend, from the South Florida Water Management District and donate it to the College. The goal is to receive a private donation or donations of \$5 million, which would be matched by the state, doubling the figure to \$10 million. That would give the College more leverage when it seeks funding from the legislature for the facility.

"I'm happy to be here," Mann said. "I think there's a tremendous amount of potential. We have a lot of exciting programs coming, and I look forward to everyone's participation."

Call today to help!

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



BY TABATHA B. McDONALD

With her mother having just about everything a woman could

want, Dr. Nancy Levin wanted to find another way to thank her for the support she's provided through the years.

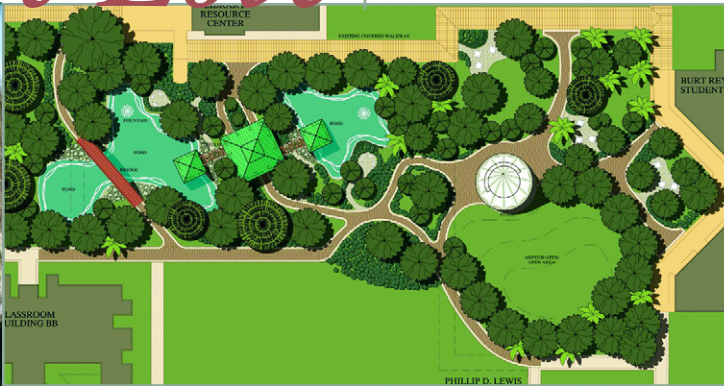
Her quest to do something extra special for her mom has turned out to also be a boon for Palm Beach Community College and its students.

Levin, a professor of speech communication at PBCC in Palm Beach Gardens, has pledged \$350,000 to the College, \$105,000 of which will be used toward the initial cost of constructing a pavilion on that campus. It is being named the Myrna Rubenstein Pavilion in honor of her mother. The remainder of the gift will establish the Nancy R. Levin Fund to continue the pavilion and the Levin Endowment Fund to enhance academic programs in Palm Beach Gardens.

"I wanted to give something in honor of my mother, and I wanted to do it while she's alive," said Levin, who began teaching at PBCC in 2000. "I was trying to figure out something unusual to do because my mother is special to me. I can buy her anything, and it wouldn't mean a lot. This, I think, will mean a great deal."

Daughter's Love

Dr. Dennis P. Gallon, Dr. Patricia Anderson, Myrna Rubenstein, and Dr. Nancy Levin break ground.



Dr. Nancy Levin is Donating \$350,000 to Honor Her Mother

The College broke ground on the pavilion at the Palm Beach Gardens location April 7 in a ceremony that included Rubenstein and some of her closest family and friends, PBCC students and employees and members of the community.

"Research shows that providing opportunities for students to socialize, meet in small groups and interact increases their retention. This pavilion is the first step to the overall development of the central quadrangle on the campus that we're calling the campus green," said Dr. Patricia Anderson, provost of PBCC at Palm Beach Gardens. "It's really exciting that a faculty member would see the need for that kind of space and make such a generous donation."

"Dr. Levin's gift is an incredible testimony of her dedication to both PBCC and her mother," added Pat Lord, major gifts director for the Palm Beach Community College Foundation. "While there are times when estate gifts reflect this level of commitment, academic institutions don't often realize such gifts from teaching faculty or staff. The Myrna Rubenstein Pavilion and Dr. Levin's two additional gifts will make a real difference to the College. We are all grateful for her generosity."

Professor's Pledge Will Help Build Campus Pavilion

Levin said the gift is in keeping with her mother's philanthropic spirit, and it's the least she could do to honor her. "My mother has always taught me to look out for other people," she said.

After earning a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University, Rubenstein, 75, who lives half the year in Boca Raton and half in New York, never went into the work force. Instead, she was a stay-at-home mom who spent her life raising her two children and taking care of her husband, who is now deceased.

"In truth her kids were her life, and I recognize it," said Levin, who has a younger brother. "I've been fortunate. She really made a lasting impact on me, and I want to indicate how lasting it was."

Levin, who holds a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University, a master's degree in speech communication from the University of Michigan and a juris doctorate from Chicago-Kent School of Law, practiced law in Syracuse for 18 years before joining the faculty at Palm Beach Community College. In addition to the \$350,000 pledge, she also established the Nivel (her name

spelled backwards) scholarship fund in January 2004, which distributes two \$800 scholarships each year.

"I'm very proud of this College. I think it's important that this school gets the recognition for what it is," Levin said.

"Dr. Levin's gift is an incredible testimony of her dedication to both PBCC and her mother."

Pat Lord, major gifts director,
PBCC Foundation.

Yvonne Boice: Friendship with *flair!*

BY GARY SCHWEIKHART

Successful entrepreneur. Community leader. World traveler. Film fan.

All of these phrases describe local philanthropist Yvonne Boice, and so does another one: Friend of Palm Beach Community College.

The indefatigable Boice has been particularly busy over the last year. As president of Boca Raton-based Fugazy International Travel, she has visited numerous exotic spots around the globe; as board chair for the Palm Beach International Film Festival, she brought the 10-year-old movie festival to new heights of public support and critical acclaim; and as vice chair of the Center for the Arts in Boca Raton, she is helping turn Mizner Park into a real cultural Mecca. And every time you pick up a newspaper, there's Yvonne Boice — chairing a fund-raising campaign or hosting a major community or cultural event.

As busy as she is, Boice took the time to co-chair two recent special occasions for PBCC: a luncheon in June 2005 honoring Countess Henrietta de Hoernle for a \$1 million gift to the College toward a new building on the Boca Raton campus and a gala “ground-breaking” event for that building in November.

Scheduled for completion in 2007, the \$7.5 million, four-story Countess de Hoernle Humanities & Technology Building will house graphic design, painting and architecture laboratories; several art appreciation areas; innovative and general education classrooms; media classrooms and a technology support suite; plus conference rooms, various offices, a main floor exhibition hall and a garden courtyard.

Dr. Celeste Beck, provost of PBCC at Boca Raton, credits Boice with helping the College secure generous gifts such as the Countess’ that provide countless benefits to students. She points to the recent pledge by the Zonta Club of \$60,000 over the next



three years for scholarships, and a \$100,000 pledge from Madelyn Savarick of Boca Raton.

“Not only does Yvonne help by giving us visibility and exposure, through her efforts we have been blessed with additional gifts from the community,” Beck explained.

How does she do it? Beck credits Boice’s strong vision for the community college, her hard work and her flair for throwing grand events and getting the crowd out. Formalizing her role, Boice also has begun serving on the PBCC Foundation Board of Directors, giving her opportunities to cultivate additional gifts to help the College continue to meet community needs in innovative ways.

Dr. Dennis P. Gallon, PBCC president, cites her generous spirit and her commitment, saying, “Yvonne Boice’s most important gifts to PBCC are her time, her talents, her skills, her creativity and her genuine love for her community. As a PBCC Foundation board member, she actively reaches out to other like-minded, generous persons who share her desire to contribute to the College’s mission. She focuses on giving students every opportunity to succeed, and their success is her reward.”



Yvonne Boice at the Shifting Sands groundbreaking event in Boca Raton. Above, from left to right, are the Countess Henrietta de Hoernle, Madelyn Savarick, Dennis P. Gallon, Yvonne Boice and Celeste Beck pouring sands.

PBCC honors four individuals at King celebration

Palm Beach Community College has presented its 2006 Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Awards to four individuals who have helped better the lives of others in Palm Beach County.



Bishop Harold Calvin Ray
founder and senior pastor of
Redemptive Life Fellowship Church
in West Palm Beach;

Lillian "Lee" Sutterfield, Palm
Beach County Sheriff's Deputy

Javier Rodriguez PBCC student

Jean-Albert "Johnny" Pun
Delray Beach Police Officer

The awards were announced during PBCC's seventh annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast in January where Juan Williams, senior correspondent for National Public Radio and political analyst for Fox News Channel, was the keynote speaker. This year's recipients are: Bishop Harold Calvin Ray, founder and senior pastor of Redemptive Life Fellowship Church in West Palm Beach; Palm Beach County Sheriff's Deputy Lillian "Lee" Sutterfield; PBCC at Belle Glade student Javier Rodriguez and Delray Beach Police Officer Jean-Albert "Johnny" Pun, who was honored posthumously.



Ray, who also is the founder of Redemptive Life Urban Initiatives Corp. (RLUIC) and the National Center for Faith-Based Initiative, has been intimately involved in economic development in the county. As part of the Homes of Coleman Park initiative, RLUIC, in collaboration with the city of West Palm Beach, has developed and constructed 22 homes planned for low-income residents in the highest impoverished demographic area in West Palm Beach. A similar housing initiative is planned for Belle Glade.

Lee has been employed by the Sheriff's Office since 1993 and is the senior advisor and coordinator of Explorer Post 611, which operates in western Palm Beach County. She works with young people, providing leadership, guidance and unmatched compassion for the children. She

spends many long hours throughout the year, especially during the holiday season, helping less fortunate families.

Rodriguez, a freshman at PBCC in Belle Glade, has been involved in community service in the Glades since he and his family moved there from Mexico six years ago. While learning English and getting acclimated in school, he also became involved in the Sheriff's Office Explorer Program, which involves youth in many community service projects, including volunteering for the Red Cross, delivering food to those in need and cleaning up. After Hurricane Wilma, he volunteered to help the American Red Cross at local shelters in Belle Glade with Spanish translation and delivering food.

Pun, who was killed in an off-duty accident in Sept. 10, 2005, was a well-loved officer known for his work with troubled youth. In 2002, he helped establish the Delray Youth Vocational Charter School, which gives at-risk youth a second chance by providing training in automotive repairs and helping them obtain a GED.

PBCC's vocal jazz ensemble performs in Carnegie Hall

Celebrating their tenth anniversary last year was a milestone, but the Palm Beach Community College Troubadours, a 13-member vocal jazz ensemble, accomplished even more with an invitation to perform at Carnegie Hall April 17.



Hand selected by conductor Phil Mattson, an internationally known figure in vocal jazz, the PBCC Troubadours were one of just ten ensembles Mattson chose from around the world to sing at the MidAmerica Vocal Jazz Festival in New York. The Troubadours director is Prof. Michael MacMullen.

"It's quite an honor to be chosen," said Jonathan Griffith, principal conductor-in-residence for

MidAmerica Productions. "This excellent ensemble received this invitation because of the quality and high level of musicianship demonstrated by the singers and the exceptional recommendation given by Mr. MacMullen's choral colleagues."

www.pbcc.edu/arts



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www.pbcc.edu/arts



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561-868-3309



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- Stage West
- Jan & Gary Dario Gallery

PBCC at Palm Beach Gardens

- The Gallery at Eissey Campus

www.pbcc.edu/events

Social Butterfly Transforms the Local Landscape

BY TONI WOLF

It's hard to picture a former beauty queen up to her elbows in paint and home repairs, but Joanna Aiken is unusually devoted to her dream of a better Palm Beach County. The Lake Worth native and PBCC alumna (class of '76) is the community service coordinator for the Solid Waste Authority, a position she created after the SWA saw how well she worked with other agencies.

As the agency's first female field inspector 18 years ago, Aiken handled service calls, complaints and inspections. Her work brought her in contact with the county sheriff's office and agencies in charge of code enforcement, roads and bridges, parks and recreation and other public services.

"We began to streamline our procedures and educate each other," she recalled. "I became

a liaison
between the

agencies to share knowledge so we could be more efficient and a reliable source of information for our customers. My supervisor received a lot of positive calls about me, so I was asked to write a job description that would take the lead in making the community better. I was given permission to create new ways to find solutions."

Community service is a new industry that other agencies have copied, Aiken said. Her hard work and influence led to the establishment of the "Illegal Dumping is unLAWFUL" signs around the county, curbside recycling and the recycled paint program and neighborhood beautification programs such as "Paint Your Heart Out,"

"Adopt-a-Spot" and "Rebuilding Together." She successfully enlists the help of hundreds of local volunteers each year to improve the living conditions of low-income, elderly and disabled residents. When people need help, they call Joanna Aiken.

"One phone call to me can mean two weeks of work," she said. "Some of their stories are so sad, you hang up in tears.



PBCC alumna
Joanna Aiken
and volunteers
painted 500
homes last year.





“Joanna is a dynamo who is absolutely committed to helping people improve their quality of life. She may be a beauty queen, but she’s not afraid to pick up trash alongside everybody else.”

Colonel Mike Gauger,
Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office

JOANNA AIKEN PBCC ALUMNA '76

They ask me, ‘What are your rules and regulations?’ and I say, ‘What do you need?’

“Joanna’s projects like ‘Paint Your Heart Out’ have grown so much that people come out of the woodwork wanting to volunteer because she’s so much fun to work with,” said Gail Vorpagel, senior code enforcement officer for the county. “She’s a bundle of energy and very organized. She loves to educate people and get neighborhoods looking better. She inspires people.”

Aiken and her volunteers painted 500 houses with recycled paint last year. “We get involved in many partnerships with other agencies,” she said. “Habitat for Humanity

builds new houses, and we paint the houses next to them.”

The former “Miss Palm Beach County” and “Miss South Florida Fair” earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Florida, where she stayed an extra semester just for football season so she could continue performing as a “Gatorette” (majorette).

“I’ve always been a very social person,” Aiken reflected. “In school I joined every club I had time for, but I always loved helping people.”

Colonel Mike Gauger with the county sheriff’s office met Aiken in the late 80s when the sheriff’s office began community policing, and both joined the Countywide

Community Revitalization Team.

“With her effervescent personality, Joanna is able to motivate others, and she has a great sense of humor,” Colonel Gauger said.

“With what we deal with every day, you need levity or you can easily be discouraged. Joanna is a dynamo who is absolutely committed to helping people improve their quality of life. She may be a beauty queen, but she’s not afraid to pick up trash alongside everybody else.”



Alumni Corner

Alumni Success Stories

Expect More.

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

Please contact us at
crmarket@pbcc.edu

PBCC at Belle Glade
1977 College Drive

PBCC at Boca Raton
3000 Saint Lucie Avenue

PBCC at Lake Worth
4200 Congress Avenue

PBCC at Palm Beach Gardens
3160 PGA Boulevard

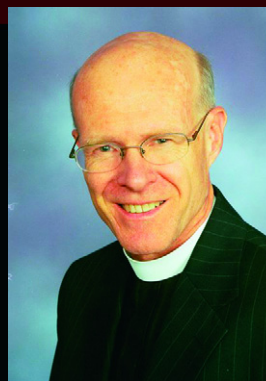
561-967-PBCC



MARGARET H. PEASLEE, Ph.D.
A.A., PBJC, 1956
B.S., FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE
M.S., Ph.D., NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Dr. Peaslee recently retired from the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville, where she was vice president for academic affairs and professor of biology. She previously served as zoology department head at Louisiana Tech University, following faculty roles at the University of South Dakota and Florida Southern.

She has published more than 25 research papers on endocrinology and pigment cells. She has directed four Study Abroad programs to the Czech Republic, and she plans to continue her research and writing on the history of science, with special emphasis on genetics. She and husband David reside in Camp Hill, Pa.



THE REVEREND FRANK BALTZ
A.A., PBJC, 1964
B.A., FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
M.Div., M.Theol., NASHOTAH HOUSE SEMINARY

Aself-described "lifelong learner", the Rev. Frank Baltz was ordained to the ministry of the Episcopal Church in 1969. He first served as an assistant rector at St. James Episcopal Church in Ormond Beach, then rector at St. John's Episcopal Church in Kissimmee. For the past 20 years, he has been rector at St. Jude's Episcopal Church in Marietta, Ga., while indulging his love of learning through reading, continuing education seminars and international travel. He met Ginny, his wife of more than 40 years, at FSU. The couple has three sons and five grandchildren.



GRACELYN V. STUART, C.P.A.
A.A., PBJC, 1983
B.B.A., M.Tax., M.Acc., FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Professor Stewart has taught accounting at PBCC in Boca Raton since 1988 and has served as an FAU adjunct professor. She also has developed accounting resources and taught taxation at St. George's University in her homeland of Grenada.

A member of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Stuart has served as a Deerfield Beach Housing Authority commissioner, volunteer counselor for the Small Business Development Center and income tax instructor for the Internal Revenue Service. She lives with her husband, W. Gary Tuggle, in Boca Raton.

Contact FOR THE FRIENDS OF PALM BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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