

## **Spotlight shines on Palm Beach State faculty** **Six selected by students for excellence in teaching**

(Lake Worth, Fla. – Aug. 18, 2011) With classes at Palm Beach State starting Friday, dozens of students are on campus, standing in line for registration, buying books at the campus bookstore or paying tuition at the cashier's office.

None were present at Convocation on Wednesday, where faculty and staff annually gather to launch a new academic year. But their presence was felt by a select group of professors and instructors chosen to receive this year's Gimelstob Student Choice Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

This year's honorees are: Professor **Lilian Jordan**, who teaches physics at the Palm Beach Gardens campus; Professor **Garfield Basant**, a math teacher at the Lake Worth campus; Professor **Barbara Sharp**, who teaches math at Boca Raton, and Professor **Nicholas Larocca**, who teaches English at Belle Glade and a Gimelstob Award recipient for the second consecutive year. Professor **Bonnie Manley**, an adjunct math teacher at Lake Worth, and **Traci Kirby**, a practical nursing program instructor at Lake Worth campus, were also honored.

This year more than 400 students on four campuses nominated faculty and instructors for the Gimelstob Awards. The nominees were judged on the following criteria: clear and easily understood instruction; organization and time management skills; enthusiasm and promoting active classroom learning; and use of innovative techniques, methods and technology in promoting students success.

"For a professor or an instructor at Palm Beach State, few things are more satisfying than being honored by our students," said Dr. Ginger Pedersen, dean of curriculum and research. "Students recognize and appreciate their love of teaching and sharing knowledge. The Gimelstob Awards epitomizes excellence in the classroom. These honorees set the bar for the rest of us at the College."

The awards, which include a gold medal and a monetary gift of \$500 for full-time faculty and \$250 for part-time faculty, are named in honor of Herb and Elaine Gimelstob, a Boca Raton couple whose generosity helped establish the Gimelstob Faculty Award Endowment.

*Serving more than 51,000 students annually, Palm Beach State College is the largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, providing bachelor's degrees, associate degrees, professional certificates, career training and lifelong learning. Established in 1933 as Florida's first public community college, it offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.*



**Editor's Note:** Pictured from left: Barbara Sharp, Nicholas Larocca, Lilian Jordan. Garfield Basant, Bonnie Manley and Traci Kirby are not pictured. Please contact College Relations and Marketing for high resolution photos of the honorees.

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