



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Palm Beach Community College honors professors for excellent teaching

(Lake Worth, Fla. – Aug. 22, 2006) –The new academic year got off to a great start for some PBCC professors who were honored for their outstanding teaching.

PBCC administrators presented the annual Gimelstob Professor of the Year Awards during Convocation Monday. The honorees and their campuses are: Professors Brian Findley (Boca Raton); Stephen Gibson (Belle Glade); Gail Burkett (Palm Beach Gardens) and Lynn Erickson (Lake Worth). Annette Orangio, a nursing professor in Lake Worth who resigned recently from her full-time post, also was honored. She remains on board as a part-time instructor. Karen Pain (Lake Worth) received the award designated for an adjunct professor.

The recipients were chosen by their peers after nominations were submitted last spring by students, faculty and staff. Nominees were judged on five criteria: delivers clear and easy-to-understand instruction; is well organized and manages time effectively; promotes interest, enthusiasm and active learning; uses various techniques, methodologies and technologies and engages in student and student success-related activities.

The PBCC awards, which include \$500 and a gold medal, are named in honor of Herb and Elaine Gimelstob, a Boca Raton couple whose generosity helped establish the Gimelstob Faculty Award Endowment.

About the honorees:

Findley, of Royal Palm Beach, worked as an adjunct instructor at PBCC before becoming a full-time health professor in Boca Raton four years ago. He holds a master's degree in exercise science and wellness education from Florida Atlantic University and a bachelor's degree in the same subject from Slippery Rock University. He is pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership from FAU.

Gibson, of Royal Palm Beach, has been teaching English at PBCC's Belle Glade location since 1983. He has authored several books of poetry. This isn't the first time Gibson has been honored. He also was named a PBCC Professor of the Year in 2003. Recently, he received the 2006 Robert E. Lee and Ruth I. Wilson Poetry Book Award, a national competition organized by

Margie/IntuiT House Poetry Series. He received \$2,500 and his winning manuscript, "Masaccio's Expulsion," selected by Pulitzer Prize finalist Andrew Hudgins, will be published next year by Margie/IntuiT House Poetry Series. Gibson holds a master's degree in English and creative writing from Syracuse University and a bachelor's degree from State University of New York at New Paltz.

Burkett, of Jupiter Farms, teaches math prep at PBCC in Palm Beach Gardens. She holds a master's degree in education from Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. and a bachelor's of science in psychobiology from Albright College in Reading, Pa. She began working at PBCC as adjunct instructor in 1990 and became a full-time professor in 2000.

Erickson, of The Acreage, began working at PBCC as an adjunct professor of nursing in 1996. She became a full-time nursing professor in fall 2001. She holds a master's degree in nursing education from Florida Atlantic University and a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of South Florida. She also holds a nursing diploma from Jackson Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Miami.

Pain, of West Palm Beach, began working at PBCC in 2000 as an English and math tutor. She became a math prep adjunct professor in 2004. In 2005 she was named academic success coordinator for PBCC's federally-funded Title III grant program. She begins this term as a full-time professor of math prep. Pain got her higher educational start at PBCC where she received an associate in arts degree. She holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Florida Atlantic University.



Front row from left: Karen Pain, Gail Burkett and Brian Findley. Back row: Lynn Erickson and Stephen Gibson.

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