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AND MARKETING

4200 Congress Avenue
Lake Worth, FL 33461-4796

561-868-3122
561-868-3123

www.PalmBeachState.edu
crmarket@palmbeachstate.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Palm Beach State College to remember legendary professor Watson B. Duncan III Oct. 24

Lake Worth, Fla. (Oct. 18, 2013)—One of the most beloved figures in Palm Beach State College history, Watson B. Duncan III, will be honored Oct. 24 during a special program planned as part of the College's yearlong 80th anniversary celebration.

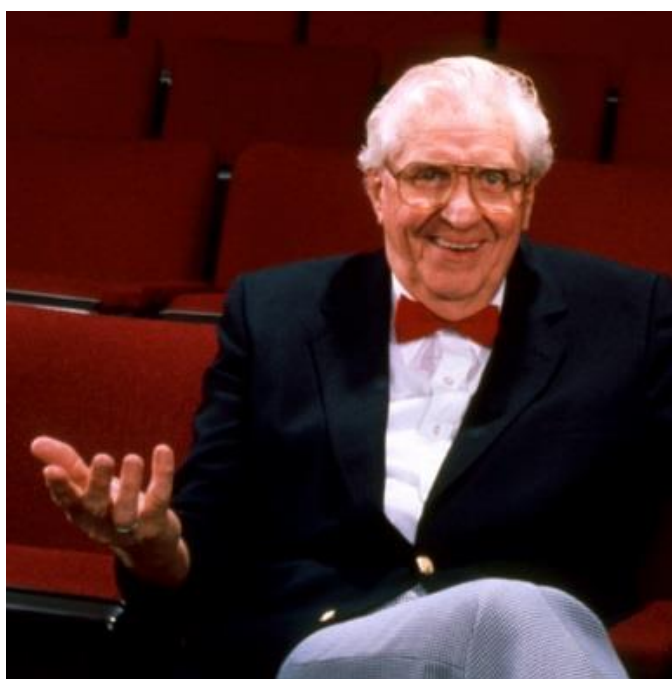
"A Tribute to Watson B. Duncan III" will be presented from 2 to 3 p.m. at the theatre that bears his name on the Lake Worth campus at 4200 Congress Ave. It is being organized by the campus Library Learning Resource Center, which has spearheaded the development of the College's historical collections and digital archives.

Admission is free and open to all. At the event, former students and colleagues will describe their experiences and share their memories of Duncan. A scholarship in his name also will be announced.

Duncan, who passed away at the age of 76 in 1991, inspired and instilled a love of literature and drama in a generation of students during his distinguished teaching career.

Duncan joined the faculty of Palm Beach Junior College in 1948, teaching English, economics and political science. He started the theatre program in the early 1950s and concentrated his teaching efforts in literature and drama in later years.

Students vividly recall how he brought literature to life through dramatic interpretations, bold costumes and stirring renditions in the classroom. He did not just teach, he performed. Professional actors Burt Reynolds and Monte Markham are two of his former students who largely credit Duncan with first setting their successful career paths in motion. "He is and was and will always be, I think, the finest teacher in the United States," says Reynolds of his mentor Duncan.



"We are reaching out to all of the College family, and especially to former students of Professor Duncan who remember him with such reverence," said Brian Kelley, LLRC director. "This tribute will include excerpts from actual recordings of some of his great presentations so that today's students can get a feel for what it was like to be in his classroom."

"He was the only man who could make me weep reading the great letters of Shakespeare, all the while dressed as an Easter egg," Markham recalls.

In addition to receiving several Outstanding Teacher awards at the College, Duncan was also recognized on the state and national level, winning the Distinguished Floridian of the Year award in 1980 and national Community College Professor of the Year award in 1985.

At age 76, Duncan was still teaching literature and was the College's Distinguished Chairman of Arts and Letters.

For more information, contact Brian Kelley at kelleyb@palmbeachstate.edu or 561-868-3800.

Serving 48,000 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.

Media contact:

Kristi Sorrow
College Relations and Marketing Specialist
(561) 868-3120