This edition of GASP will be a slightly different format than usual. Rather than feature the great work of individual faculty or staff, we are instead using this edition to introduce the 2013-14 members of the QEP Implementation Team and the General Education Committee. We also bid farewell to a few cherished members.

As we finish another successful academic year, we can all look back proudly on what has been accomplished. The QEP Implementation Team and Advisory Committee have brought critical thinking to the forefront of everything we do at our College. The General Education Committee has led the College to a clearer understanding of what a well-rounded education is and how we can develop students to acquire those skills.

This is where the real fun begins. Now that the groundwork has been laid, we can start to see if everything we are doing is actually working. Student success is the reason we are all here—we teach, we test, and we improve—all for the sake of the students. So how do we make ourselves better? Through teamwork! We don’t always think about assessment as a group activity, but at its best, it is!

Sharing ideas in a safe and non-judgmental environment allows us to reach mutual understandings of what our expectations are for students and how we know they are achieving them, but this practice also generates new and exciting ideas. We’ve seen creativity and enthusiasm skyrocket when faculty have felt the freedom to have honest dialogue. Such discourse opens up the possibility of learning what works and what doesn’t work for others. Faculty can engage in these discussions to figure out how they can apply the successful ideas in their own classrooms.

We’ve seen first-hand that it works and are glad that 2013-2014 will bring more of these collaborative opportunities for conversation about critical thinking and general education. Here’s to another exciting year!

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. ~ Helen Keller
Farewell
As we come to the end of this academic year, we have several committee members who are rotating off our committees. We want to thank each of them for their hard work, dedication and contributions. We will miss you!!!
Meet the General Education Committee
2013—2014

Tcherina Duncombe
Professor I
Biology

Melissa Stonecipher
Associate Professor
English

Warren Smith
Associate Professor
Economics

Ana Porro
Professor III
Mathematics

Helen Shub, Chair
Manager
Outcomes Assessment

Robin Fiedler
Associate Professor
English

Connie Tuisku
Librarian/Associate Professor

Patrick Tierney
Associate Professor
English
Meet the General Education Committee
2013—2014

David Knopp
Associate Dean
Business and Computer Science

Debra-Anne Singleton
Manager
Student Learning Center

Barbie Edgar
Learning Specialist
Mathematics

Jennifer Campbell
Director
Institutional Research and Effectiveness

Ginger Pedersen
Dean
Curriculum and Educational Technology

Karen Pain
Manager
Quality Enhancement Plan

David Pena
Director
Library Learning and Resource Center

Emma Chow
Associate Professor
Chemistry
Meet the QEP Implementation Team
2013—2014

Deborah Snowberger
Associate Professor
English

Manuel Larenas
Associate Professor
Strategies for College Success

David Wells
Instructional Designer
Early Childhood

Elizabeth Wilber
Associate Professor
Developmental Reading

Carleton Chernekoff
Assistant Professor
Developmental Writing

Karen Pain, Chair
Manager
Quality Enhancement Plan
Meet the QEP Implementation Team  
2013—2014

Shannon Whitman  
Senior Generalist  
Human Resources

Kristy Taylor  
Professor I  
Health

Mindy Yale  
PSAV Instructor  
Massage Therapy

Eliana Mukherjee  
Associate Professor  
Teacher Education

Caroll Capers  
Professor I  
Business (BAS)
Can You Tell Who’s Who on Our Committees?
See page 9 for the answers!

1. I love to play Spider Solitaire.

2. I play conga drums and love traditional and classical jazz.

3. I don’t smoke cigars, but I own a cigar company.

4. I used to work for Jimmy Buffet and had a heated discussion about Mark Twain. He was wrong; I was right.

5. I enjoy the study of plant, hiking, yoga and poetry.

6. I used to work in a planetarium doing star shows.

7. I enjoy poetry, music and Golf

8. Proudest Nana with a black belt in Karate that I know.

9. Stand-up comedy is a guilty pleasure of mine!

10. I am Brazilian/American. My husband is from India. Our two daughters were born in Costa Rica. Globalization manifested!

11. I taught English at the University of Wuerzburg in Germany this past year!

12. I was an Air Force military training instructor in healthcare management prior to becoming a professor at Palm Beach State College.

13. During my adult life I have lived in seven states, four regions (North, South, Midwest and Southwest) in 1 country overseas.

14. When President Reagan was still in office, I worked at his alma mater, Eureka College. When I first started there, I was told that I would get a Christmas card from the President, so I’m thinking I’m something special. When the card arrives, on the envelope, it’s addressed to Donald Krapp. Talk about bursting my bubble.

15. I have a secret addiction to zombie literature and feel confident in my ability to survive a zombie invasion.

16. I was once mistaken for Eric Northman, a vampire character from True Blood (when I happened to be dressed up as him).
Can You Tell Who’s Who on Our Committees?

See below for the answers!

17. ________________ I once sang on TV with Pete Seeger in a CBS Christmas Special.
18. ________________ I grew up in the same teeny, tiny town in Michigan as Connie Tuisku.
19. ________________ I love skydiving, riding a motorcycle and traveling
20. ________________ I’m currently owned by six stray cats

I host moonlight historical tours of West Palm Beach’s Woodlawn Cemetery. Proceeds go towards restoration of cemetery grounds.
21. ________________
22. ________________ My first job was at Big Angus Steak Barn where I worked my way up to grill cook.

I really love to laugh, sing, dance and teach and sometimes I do them all at the same time!
23. ________________
24. ________________ I love to play the banjo!
25. ________________ I have traveled to four out of the six continents. (Antarctica doesn’t count!)
26. ________________ I am the most competitive soccer mom in the YMCA’s 3 & 4 year old division.

I went to Homestead Correctional Institution this semester to meet the women with whom my graduate class, Rhetorics of Incarceration, has been corresponding.
27. ________________
28. ________________ I enjoy making comic strips about physiology :)

I won a special commendation while in the Navy for working more than 33 continuous hours, hand fitting a 20 inch diameter propeller shaft bearing on a guided missile cruiser while underway in rough seas.
29. ________________ I live in the moment when I ride my bike – no cares, no worries. It’s just me being me in nature.
30. ________________

Answers to Who’s Who—Don’t peek if you haven’t even tried!
The idea behind GASP! is pretty simple. We all want students to think! As faculty and staff, we appreciate ideas that will make it easier for us to get students thinking, and we want to better understand how assessment can help us know we're on the right track. GASP! may come in the form of a single fact sheet, a newsletter, or sometimes perhaps, something more journalistic.

The QEP and General Education Committees want to use GASP! as a platform to

- feature faculty and staff who have or are using strategies that help students demonstrate achievement of any of our general education learning outcomes, including critical thinking;
- update readers on important issues related to assessment, accreditation, or the QEP;
- promote College events related to critical thinking, assessment, or professional learning opportunities for faculty or staff that will lead to improved student learning.

So what do you think? Have an idea? We’re listening!
Please contact us if you have something to share!

Karen Pain: paink@palmbeachstate.edu
Helen Shub: shubh@palmbeachstate.edu

Who’s Who?
Assessment Chair: Helen Shub
QEP Chair: Karen Pain

2012-2013 Committee Members

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<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Campbell</td>
<td>Kimberly Allen</td>
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<td>Tcherina Duncombe</td>
<td>Caroll T. Capers</td>
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<td>Robin Fiedler</td>
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<td>Robin Hoggins-Blake*</td>
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* Deceased

VISIT US ONLINE!
http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/qep
http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/learningoutcomes/