



Holcombe says retirement is *"right decision"*



"I'm having a few withdrawal feelings," admits Will Holcombe on the eve of his retirement. He was sitting in his downtown office, sipping a Diet Coke and talking about leaving the job he loves.

"Leaving now is the right decision for the college and me," Holcombe says.

He could stay another three years until his DROP retirement date of 2007, but says BCC is embarking on new goals and challenges. They include raising \$6.5 million for the Will and Jo Holcombe Institute for Teaching and Learning Excellence and replacing 111 full-time college employees, who'll retire by the end of 2007. "It's best to have a person in place who can lead that effort," says Holcombe.

When BCC's new president, Larry Calderon, takes the reins Feb. 1, he'll find that Holcombe has left the college in good shape.

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Holcombe carries the Olympic torch across the Las Olas Bridge in Fort Lauderdale as the torch makes its way through Broward County July 5, 1996.



Holcombe and wife Jo surrounded by their family at the Oct. 17, 2003 gala event/fundraiser for the Will and Jo Holcombe Institute for Teaching and Learning Excellence.

Hundreds attend holiday party

Desserts, dancing and door prizes were highlights of BCC's annual holiday party Dec. 5 at the Signature Grand in Davie.

More than 350 BCC employees brought gifts, toys and food to assist Broward County's needy children, families and the SOS Children's Village in Coconut Creek.

BCC Community/College Affairs Committee members presented retiring President Will Holcombe with a Harmony acoustic guitar for bringing "harmony" to BCC for 17 years.



Will Holcombe and his guitar, a gift from the Community/College Affairs Committee



↑ *The Community/College Affairs Committee worked tirelessly to plan the holiday party. Front row all from left: Tracy Porter, Jillian Krueger Printz, Anne Keeler. Second row: Yvonne Machado, Pam Shaw, Hedy Sarbey. Third row: Sue Mattson, Pat Senior, Marilyn Lameck. Fourth row: Fran Fletcher, Rick Leffel. Back row: Damon Davis, George Masforroll. Not Pictured are Angela Wilson-Easy, Carolane Williams, and Judy Srygler.*

SPOTLIGHT ON...

NEW EMPLOYEES



Henry Allen
Center Manager
Learning Resources
Central Campus



Henry, who joined BCC in July, has 15 year's experience as a computer systems administrator and technical trainer in the public and private sectors. A Microsoft certified systems engineer, he has a master's degree in educational leadership from Troy State University and a bachelor's in political science.

Tracie McGann
Science Lab Technician
Biology
North Campus



Tracie, a graduate of BCC's nursing program, worked in the cardiac unit at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale before becoming office manager of Little Learner's College in Coconut Creek. She's also worked as a computer lab attendant, teacher's aide and pharmacy technician. Tracie joined BCC in August.

Pauline Anderson
Research Associate
Institutional Research
Downtown Center



Pauline was a senior research associate at University of Miami before joining BCC in July. Before moving to America three years ago, Pauline was a research associate at University of Birmingham-England. Schooled in England, she has a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's in race and ethnic relations.

Desiree Musilek
Microcomputer Technician
Computer Science
Central Campus



Desiree joined the college in August. She completed her Microsoft A+ computer certification and is working on additional certifications. She is currently enrolled in BCC's networking services technology program. Before joining the college, Desiree worked at a Dania Beach restaurant and for Home Depot. Desiree attended high school in Delaware.

Karen Guy
Annual & Alumni Gifts Officer
Development
Downtown Center



Karen joined BCC in July. Three years prior to joining the college, she was director of donor relations and major gifts for the American Red Cross of Greater Miami and The Keys. A University of Miami graduate, Karen is the former development director of the Miami-Dade Affordable Housing Foundation.

Noel Myrie
Landscape Technician
Physical Plant
South Campus



Noel's duties at BCC include maintaining the South Campus grounds, walkways and repairing equipment. He worked as a carpenter for a South Florida real estate company and as a driver for a Miami business before joining the college in July. Noel attended vocational technical school in Jamaica.

Orville Harvey
Microcomputer Technician
Information Technology
North Campus



Orville joined BCC full time in July after graduating from the college's computer engineering technology program. While attending school, he worked part-time repairing computers on North Campus. Orville is a former technician with a Hallandale computer company and holds numerous computer certifications.

Fernando Perez
Enrollment Services Officer
Counseling & Advisement
North Campus



Fernando was a student advisor at Miami Dade College before joining BCC in July. He's taught sociology classes at University of Miami and criminology courses at Miami Dade. Fernando, who has a master's degree in criminology from Florida State University, is working on a doctorate in sociology at University of Miami.

The Many Faces of Will

Continued from cover

Not only has the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reaffirmed BCC's accreditation, but enrollment is at an all-time high of 60,000 students. The college also enjoys strong community support and a national reputation for excellence.

He urges Calderon, former president of California's Ventura College, to "listen, get to know people and draw on the strengths of faculty, staff and administrators."

Born in Iron Mountain, Mich., 58 years ago, Holcombe grew up in the small factory town of Defiance, Ohio. After graduating with double majors in English and physical education at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, he headed to University of Florida in Gainesville. There, he earned a master's degree in education and a doctorate in community college administration.

Holcombe joined BCC as an English instructor in 1974, and then served as assistant to the president, academic dean and Central Campus provost. In 1981, he became vice president of Brevard Community College in Cocoa, Fla. In 1987, he returned as BCC's fourth president.

After 17 years, Holcombe's legacy is enduring. He was instrumental in setting up the Endowed Teaching Chair program, the College Academy, and establishing library partnerships with Broward County and Florida Atlantic University. "If BCC succeeds, the whole community succeeds," he says, proud of the college's role in providing training and educational opportunities in Broward County.



Will Holcombe addresses the audience at 1988 Colleague Recognition Day.

Holcombe and wife Jo, a former high school French teacher, will never stray far from South Florida's education community—even in retirement.

However, the first thing on their list? Taking a four-month trip through Alaska and spending more time with the grandkids.

A good-natured Holcombe donned jumpsuits, wigs and sideburns for starring roles in numerous Colleague Recognition Day skits.



"Elvis" (1999)



Holcombe in Star Trek spoof--BCC: The Next Generation (1991)



TV psychologist Dr. "Phwil" McGraw (2003)



In Memory

The BCC family mourns the loss of Central Campus math professor Daniel Abbey, 59, who died suddenly at his Pembroke Pines home early Thanksgiving morning. He joined the college in 1977, working as a part-time instructor and becoming full time in 1989.

Mark Your Calendars!

Colleague Recognition Day is Friday, Feb. 20 on Central Campus. New at this year's awards ceremony is a walk down memory lane, highlighting national and BCC milestones every five years since 1968. Expect an assortment of professional development workshops too. Staff development is preparing a list of employees who've completed 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service with BCC (not the Florida Retirement System). To verify your years of service, call 954-201-7549.