

Broward Community College **ON TARGET** →



Opening doors to a brighter future

ISSUE 5, 2004

VOLUME 17

Linda Liberman retires after 27 years at BCC

When Linda Liberman was coordinator of BCC's Women's Center, she'd ask her clients if they could be anything they wanted, what would it be.

More than 25 years later and on the brink of retirement, Liberman asked herself that same question. Her answer?

"Doing historical research for a think tank," the executive administrator of the Holcombe Center says. Now to find a job...

While visiting her sons in St. Louis recently, Liberman stopped by Washington University's prestigious Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government and Public Policy. She quickly landed a job as an analytical researcher, a position she'll assume after she leaves BCC June 30.

"I'm excited. History has always been in my blood," says Liberman, who holds a bachelor's degree in history from Queens College and a master's in history and international relations from City University of New York.

A former high school teacher and guidance counselor, Liberman joined BCC in 1977 as coordinator of the Women's Center on



Central Campus. She also taught psychology and American government classes. In 1979, she became continuing education director, a position she held for nine years. After completing her doctorate at Florida Atlantic University, Liberman moved to the Downtown Center (now the Willis Holcombe Center) where she coordinated the Center's academic programs and served as liaison to the Florida State Legislature. By 1993, she was in charge of academics, business and student affairs at the Fort Lauderdale campus.

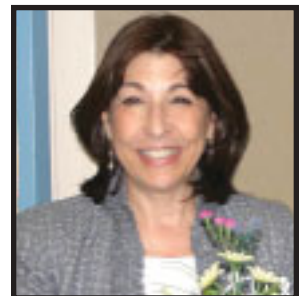
Liberman is grateful for the opportunities she's had at BCC. Highlights include creating Camp BCC, a summer sports program for Broward County schoolchildren; overseeing BCC's design and development of the BCC/FAU Higher Education Complex, which opened in 2001; and working with the Downtown faculty and students.

She looks forward to spending time with her two young grandchildren in St.

Louis, but will always hold fond memories of BCC.

"The people are absolutely magnificent here," she says.

Congrats to BCC's 2004 Endowed Teaching Chairs



A Broward Community College graduate, a former Miami high school teacher, a biologist and two alumni of Brooklyn College have been awarded 2004 Endowed Teaching Chairs.

Chris Casper earned an associate's degree at BCC in 1985 and returned a decade later as faculty librarian and instructor. Before Jose Macia joined the college, he taught English as a second language and chaired ESL departments for Miami-Dade Public Schools.

When biologist Nilo Marin isn't peering through a microscope, he's probably boxing up books for his "Books for Belize" project. Marin donates discarded textbooks to needy students at colleges and universities in Belize.

Ronnie Rothschild and Sharon Rifkin never crossed paths during their undergraduate years at Brooklyn College. Fast forward 30 years... and they're both being recognized for teaching excellence at BCC.

The five winners, chosen from 11 finalists, will receive a \$15,000 professional stipend and \$7,500 for professional development. Each candidate submitted a portfolio, consisting of his or her teaching philosophies, professional achievements, recommendations and student evaluations.

The BCC Foundation was the first community college foundation in the country to complete an Endowed Teaching Chair program. *Read more about this year's recipients inside.*



ENDOWED TEACHING CHAIRS

Chris Casper

Library • South Campus • Causeway Lumber Endowed Chair

"Part of being a librarian comes from a natural desire to help," says Chris Casper, South's faculty librarian since 1994.

Casper does more than toss students books filled with answers. She teaches them to find the answers by searching library databases, reference books and resources.

"The ability to research and use a library is a skill that is not only part of their educational career, but a part of lifelong learning," Casper says.

Granted tenure in 1996, Casper teaches library workshops and orientations for English, speech, economics, aviation and technical writing classes. She also assists faculty members with research projects.

A contributor to numerous library publications, Casper is a member of the Southeast Florida Library Information Network. In 2002, she received SEFLIN's Committee Leadership Award, and in 2003, she was selected to participate in the SEFLIN Sun Seekers Leadership Institute program.

A BCC graduate, she holds a bachelor's degree in American history from University of Florida and a master's in library science from Florida State University.

She plans to buy library computer equipment with the professional development portion of her award.

Teaching Philosophy: *"Once they (students) learn how to access the information, I want them to come away feeling empowered and confident they can do the research themselves."*

Student referring to Casper's library orientations: *"This was a wonderful orientation. I found the librarian very helpful and I will surely use what I learned ..."*



Jose Macia

English as a Second Language • North Campus • Knight Foundation Endowed Chair



Jose Macia says understanding the connection between "culture" and "learning" has made him a more effective teacher of English as a Second Language.

"Culture does not simply imply ethnicity and race ... culture is all that has shaped a student's unique identity," he says.

Macia selects topics for reading and composition classes that are relevant to a student's personal experiences—an invaluable way to engage students in the learning process.

Hired in 1999, Macia was granted tenure in 2002. A 2003-04 North Campus Professor of the Year, he's served on BCC's Equity Committee, North's Multicultural Committee and presented numerous papers on ESL at professional conferences. Macia also co-chaired the SACS Diversity Committee during the recent BCC SACS Self-Study.

Macia holds a doctorate in higher education from Florida International University and a master's degree in English and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) from Barry University.

With the professional development portion of his award, he plans to attend professional conferences to keep abreast of new approaches to teaching ESL, and organize workshops to help BCC better serve ESL students.

Teaching Philosophy: *"A community college instructor is more than a teacher who imparts knowledge; the 21st Century professor recognizes the importance in connecting relevant knowledge to students' cultural realities."*

Student Comment: *"Excellent. Always came prepared... He's one of the best teachers I've ever met."*

Nilo Marin

Natural Science and Wellness • Central Campus • Buehler Trust Endowed Chair



Nilo Marin looks forward to the butterflies he gets in his stomach at the beginning of each semester. "It tells me I am not taking my profession for granted," he says. "I consider (teaching) an awesome responsibility."

Marin's goal is to create an atmosphere of enthusiasm, mutual respect and academic integrity in the classroom.

Hired in 1987, Marin teaches biology, anatomy and physiology, environmental science and serves as environmental science technology program manager.

A member of BCC's Right Click Academy, Marin has written numerous grants to enhance technology in the classroom, and lectured on effective ways to blend technology and teaching. He's also coordinator of the "Living on the Edge of the Everglades" seminar series, a faculty technology mentor, and co-developer of BCC's general biology distance learning course.

Granted tenure in 1997, Marin has a bachelor's degree in biology from University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and a master's in physiology from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

With the professional development portion of his award, Marin plans to buy instructional multimedia supplies and laboratory equipment for classrooms.

Teaching Philosophy: *"Teaching to me is about sharing--sharing of my knowledge, experiences, and enthusiasm for a subject and profession that I love."*

Student Comment: *"He made biology fun and interesting... He is what all teachers should be."*

Sharon Rifkin

Social/Behavioral Science and Education • South Campus • Jan R. Cummings Endowed Chair

Sharon Rifkin strives to keep abreast of current technologies in education as she guides the development of future teachers.

"As a community college professor of education, I have a responsibility to uphold the highest standard of teaching," she says.

Rifkin, who joined BCC in 1989, instructs wellness education and educational technology classes. She is one of the college's first faculty members to create fully online courses for students, and as a faculty technology mentor, she helps her colleagues set up their own online courses.

Rifkin has also served on numerous BCC committees and presented papers on e-learning and online course development at national education conferences.

Granted tenure in 1993, Rifkin has a bachelor's degree in physical education from Brooklyn College, a master's in physical education from University of Connecticut, and has done postgraduate work in educational technology at Florida Atlantic and Florida State universities.

Rifkin plans to spend a portion of the professional development award to buy computer equipment for her education classroom, and to attend the International Conference on Teaching and Learning.

Teaching Philosophy: *"I believe that critical thinking is one of the most important skills we can teach our students. It is also important for students to be able to work collaboratively with others as well as on their own."*

Student Comment: *"Professor Rifkin is an extraordinary professor. She possesses good communication skills, creative tactics and an 'open door, always available policy' that helps all students."*



Ronnie Rothschild

Behavioral Science/Psychology • Holcombe Center • Sheldon Schlesinger Endowed Chair



Take one of Ronnie Rothschild's psychology classes and you'll learn more than academic theory. You'll learn about life.

"What is gained from education is to be brought into and used in the world, preferably as a combination of knowledge and wisdom," this classroom veteran says.

Granted tenure in 1999, Rothschild has taught psychology and human behavior at BCC since 1982. She's also conducted yoga, stress management, math anxiety, self-esteem and test-taking workshops for BCC staff and students.

Active outside the classroom, Rothschild has served on numerous BCC faculty and administrative committees, including health and safety, curriculum, textbook and Student Life.

A licensed Florida mental health counselor and certified hypnotherapist, Rothschild holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and education from Brooklyn College in Brooklyn, N.Y., and a master's degree in psychology from the New School of Social Research in New York City.

With the professional development portion of her award, Rothschild plans to buy remote control software for computer classrooms at the Holcombe Center. The software will allow instructors to demonstrate concepts on individual computers from a central location.

Teaching Philosophy: *"Teaching is a service, and my way of giving back all the blessings that have been given to me."*

Student Comment: *"Ms. R. is a great teacher who prepared students for future psychology or related courses, and she gave a lot of good advice on real world situations."*

SPOTLIGHT ON...

NEW EMPLOYEES



Liliam Brito
Research Analyst
Registrar's Office
Holcombe Center



Liliam worked four years as a senior programmer and systems analyst for Sungard Insurance Systems in Miami before joining BCC in November. A graduate of Miami Dade Community College, she has a bachelor's degree in computer science from Florida International University.

Gerri Romero
Enrollment Services Officer
Registrar's Office
South Campus



A BCC graduate, Gerri holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Florida Atlantic University. Previous jobs include student services specialist at Palm Beach Community College in Lake Worth and student services director at Florida National College in Miami. Gerri joined BCC in December.

Alexandra Buyea
Operations Coordinator
Industry Based Training
South Campus



Alexandra joined BCC full time in November. She has five years experience in the retail and restaurant industries, including working as assistant manager of Claire's Boutique in Sunrise. Alexandra, who has studied elementary education at BCC, is proficient with numerous computer applications.

Dimitry Sicard
Storekeeper I
Bookstore Administration
Central Campus



Dimitry worked in the warehouse for Manpower employment services in Plantation and served as a sales representative for a Sawgrass Mills clothing store before joining the college in November. A graduate of Piper High School in Sunrise, Dimitry has attended classes at BCC.

Jacquelyn Loftus
Curriculum Support Specialist
Learning Resources
Central Campus



Jacquelyn, who holds a master's degree in humanities from Florida State University, joined BCC full time in January. She's taught religion classes and tutored English grammar at BCC since 2000. Jacquelyn has also taught humanities at Nova Southeastern University and University of Phoenix.

Stephanie Thomas
Cashier II
Cashier's Office
South Campus



Hired in December, Stephanie has more than 10 years experience in data management and customer service. Previous jobs include office assistant at Workforce One in Pompano Beach and cashier supervisor at Florida Atlantic University. Stephanie has a computer certificate from FAU.

Hernando Pacheco
Campus Safety Officer
Campus Safety
South Campus



Hernando was a police officer with the U.S. Department of Defense in Key West, New York and Fort Worth, Texas, before joining BCC in December. A graduate of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia, N.M., he holds numerous training certificates in law enforcement.

Joy Vaughan-Brown
Disability Services Specialist
Disability Services
Central Campus



Joy, who joined BCC in January, is a former counselor and community liaison for ASPIRA Youth Leadership Charter School in North Miami and a visiting clinical instructor at Florida International University. She has a master's degree in special education from Columbia University.

News



Around Campus

North Campus celebrates cultural diversity

A fire-eater, a belly dancer and people parading around on stilts were featured entertainment at the second annual North Campus Multicultural Festival.

The March 31 festival celebrated the cultural diversity of North's employees and students. Participants set up booths displaying the food, art, literature and clothing of their native lands or displayed items they'd gathered from world travels.

"Events like this allow us to demonstrate our respect and appreciation for the various cultures represented on our campus," says North's Provost Carolane Williams.



U.S. Virgin Islands' Mocko Jumbie Stilt Dancers entertain at North's Multicultural Festival.



Accounts Payable Recognition Week—Members of BCC's Accounts Payable department pose with BCC President Larry Calderon. March 15-19 was Accounts Payable Recognition week sponsored by International Accounts Payable Professionals, Inc. Front row (l to r): Alfreda Manuel, Ann Kennedy, Sharon Stern Back row (l to r) Tia Bethea, Vicki Dipsey, Gwen Williams, Susan Gabriel

BCC hosts technical education networking event



Associate Vice President for Technical Education Debra Allen welcomes participants to networking event.

BCC hosted its first technical education "Faculty to Faculty" networking event March 26 to give local high school and technical center teachers the opportunity to meet with their BCC counterparts. Teachers toured classrooms and labs on South, Central and North campuses and at the Willis Holcombe Center. They discussed curriculum and the most effective ways to prepare students for the transition into BCC's technical education programs.

Central holds final Career Day

Who could turn down free Krispy Kreme doughnuts and a chance to rub elbows with some of South Florida's top employers in the business, healthcare and computer industries? Dozens of students and BCC employees attended Central Campus' Career Day on March 23. Held in the Student Affairs building, the event was the last in a series of five mini job fairs that targeted specific industries and professions.



Holy Cross Hospital was one of 15 employers attending Central's Career Day.



2004 Corporate Run —Dozens of enthusiastic BCC employees crossed the finish line in the seventh annual Fort Lauderdale corporate walk/run April 1 at the Office Depot Center. Proceeds from the 3.1-mile event benefited the South Florida Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

FOOD AND COMPUTERS: two good things in one place

Who says food and computers don't mix? They were a winning combination at the fourth annual Faculty Technology Mentor Expo April 8 on South Campus.

While munching sandwiches, fruit and cookies, Expo guests had the opportunity to view 30 faculty projects that integrated teaching, learning and technology. Projects included interactive Web sites, e-learning courses and PowerPoint presentations.

"The Mentor Program is a real 'win-win' situation for both the mentors and the mentees," says Steve Obenauf, mentor project coordinator.

"We all benefit—faculty who are learning how to apply technology, faculty who are mentoring their colleagues, and students who reap the benefits of engaging, 21st century learning strategies," says Russ Adkins, associate vice president for Instructional Technology.



Chemistry professor Laura Choudhury (middle) explains her technology project to Central Campus Provost Lois Bolton (front), biology professor Idelisa Pujols-Ayala and Honors Institute Director Irmgard Bocchino (standing) at Technology Mentor Expo.

RIGHT CLICK ACADEMY CELEBRATES 3rd ANNIVERSARY

Seventy faculty members and administrators gathered on Central Campus April 9 to celebrate the successful integration of technology into teaching and learning at BCC. Sixteen faculty and five administrators were recognized for their participation in and support of instructional technology initiatives.

Honoring the new "Right Clickers" were BCC President Larry Calderon, Vice President for Academic Affairs Eileen Holden and Associate Vice President for Instructional Technology Russ Adkins, who bestowed certificates and "thumb drives" (tiny computer storage devices) on the Right Click Academy's new members. In its third year, the Academy has recognized 116 faculty and staff for their contributions to our Instructional Technology program.



From left: Fred Searcy, Suzanne Lambert, Bob Buford and Terri Hayes (all South Campus)

People in the News

Xiao Wang, (English-Central), is serving on a committee charged with creating guidelines to prepare two-year college English faculty for the classroom. Called "Guidelines for the Academic Preparation of English Faculty at Two-Year Colleges," the document is intended for faculty, administrators and staff, who're involved in the hiring and training of two-year college English instructors.