Heroic Actions Save a Life

Heroic actions by Broward College students John Cacciato, Donald Clarke, Rakeem Johnson and Lens Lubin saved a man’s life earlier this month. The students were walking to their cars after class when they witnessed a man in distress dangling over the edge of the seven-floor parking garage adjacent to the college’s Willis Holcombe Center. The students pulled the distraught man back from the edge and held him while summoning emergency assistance. The students were recognized by the Broward College District Board of Trustees for their bravery, concern, compassion and quick-thinking. The City of Fort Lauderdale will also formally recognize the students for their heroism.

Student Success Initiatives Receive Additional Funding Push

While the college’s strategic plan focuses on student success, the actions of college staff and administrators and the Board of Trustees puts the concept into practice. Each quarter the college’s budget is reviewed and at this month’s meeting, an amendment was made to the budget for the 2014 fiscal year. The amendment contained items that are tied directly or indirectly relating to supporting student success.

Some of the items highlighted were funds for a mandatory student orientation; additional support to the Collegiate Alliance and Recruitment System (CARS), which is an outreach system that has called, emailed or texted more than 30,000 students to help them register for classes, manage their financial aid issues and touch base with them on their progress. The system has effectively helped retain students so far this academic year. Additionally, the budget amendment will allow the college to hire new part-time staff members, continue to fund the Broward College Academy for Excellence (BCAE) and more.

“The funds resulted in an enrollment increase beyond our budgeted amount and the strategic reallocation of $2 million dollars from the administrative side of the college,” said Provost and Senior Vice President for Academics and Student Success Dr. Linda Howdyshell. “Everyone understands that the budget is a plan and these are one-time funds. All the items specifically support student success.”
Positive Report from SACS COC Visit

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools’ Commission on Colleges (SACS COC) visited Broward College earlier this month as part of the college’s decennial reaffirmation process. The onsite visit committee was comprised of professional peers selected from colleges throughout the region who assess Broward College’s strengths and weaknesses.

During an exit meeting, the committee stressed how effectively the college addressed all core requirements, comprehensive standards, federal requirements and the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). They particularly liked the QEP topic of “Question Every Possibility – Think Critically” and saw how it fits our mission and addresses a documented need for our students and the community. The team also specifically noted the quality and commitment of the students, faculty, staff, leadership team and Board of Trustees.

Only two matters remain for the College to address in a follow up, both technical and easily fixed. These will be addressed in the days to come leaving us with no recommendations to address in any kind of follow up report — a first in College history. The process concludes in June 2014 with a final evaluation on the college’s application for reaffirmation of accreditation.

Broward College Named Military-Friendly School

For the fifth consecutive year, Broward College has been included in the Military Friendly Schools List. The list, presented by Victory Media, recognizes the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country doing the most to recruit and retrain military service members, veterans and their spouses as students, and ensure their success on campus.

To serve student military personnel, veterans and their families, Broward College provides a variety of academic, advisement and financial support, including priority registration, accelerated learning options and credit for military experience. In addition, Broward College provides veterans affairs coordinators at each campus, career counseling and advising. More at www.broward.edu/veterans.

Shoemaker Ranks No. 2 on RateMyProfessor.com

Behavioral Science Assistant Professor Melinda Shoemaker recently ranked number two on mtvU’s RateMyProfessors.com’s list of “Top 25 Professors at Junior and Community Colleges.” This marks the second year that Shoemaker was ranked as a high-rated professor by RateMyProfessors.com.

“I am so pleased to be recognized by my students,” said Shoemaker. “In my classes, we examine the evolution of human behavior from various perspectives. I do my best to make class interesting and enjoyable so students excel.” The rankings are based entirely on students’ input, which the site believes is an authentic overview of daily life at each school. Students rate professors on several dimensions, including clarity and helpfulness. RateMyProfessors.com is the highest-trafficked U.S. college professor rating site.

View the video at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HB-VHSXcHrfc

Student Publications Wins State Awards

The Observer student newspaper and P’an Ku literary arts magazine both won numerous awards during the 54th annual Florida College System Publications Association (FCSPA) awards banquet and convention held this month in Tampa. Broward College students attended a variety of journalism workshops on topics such as social media reporting, sports, transferring to a university journalism program, photography and videography for journalists and business reporting — as well as receiving critiques of their writing. The Observer won 3 first-place (including feature photo, editorial and humor writing), 7 second-place and 2 third-place awards. P’an Ku won 3 second-place and 1 third-place awards.
Steve Forbes spoke at the inaugural lecture of the Broward College Fort Lauderdale Speakers Series. The former presidential candidate and chairman & editor-in-chief of Forbes Media discussed taxes, the Affordable Healthcare Act and a gold standard for the U.S. dollar.

He also addressed career advice for many of the Broward College students attending the talk by reminding them to “keep at it” after graduating. “You may feel adrift,” Forbes offered. “Stick with it. You’ll get your footing.” He reminded students that school is a very structured environment and the work world can be much less so – particularly at first.

One Broward College student may have jump-started a career with Forbes. Including a name and phone number on the reply card used to pose questions during the post-lecture Q&A, the student asked about internships with one of Forbes’s businesses. Forbes announced: “You took a risk. And it worked” — and tucked the comment card away in his pocket for follow-up.

Find out more about future speakers in the series at www.fortlauderdale-speaker-series.com

Access the Arts at Broward College

The college’s Bailey Hall hosts its 2013-14 Signature Art Series featuring an assortment of accomplished artists from comedians to Grammy-Award winning musicians, as well as a diverse array of master classes, workshops and lectures. Artists include Second City Comedy, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Kronos Quartet, Paula Poundstone, Symphony of the Americas, Michael Wiley as Emmitt Till, Paul Taylor 2 Dance Company and Ira Glass. More info and tickets at www.baileyhall.org.

B.SOCA on South Campus will host a series of events during the fall semester that creatively examine the intersection between social activism and art while providing the community with innovative and exciting opportunities for cultural awareness and engagement. Scheduled are short-film screenings, a Dorothy Gillespie Tribute, Overheard: Emergency! (slam poetry, multi-character transformation and music) and Eargasm: Holiday Funk Concert. Most events are free — visit www.bsoca.org.

The Broward College Visual and Performing Arts Department features events from modern dance, classical music, outrageous art exhibits, cool jazz and vibrant theater. Explore the arts by reviewing the calendar at www.broward.edu/news/Documents/VPAseasonCalendar201314.pdf
Police Cadets Provide Supplies for Elementary School

Members of the Institute of Public Safety’s current police academy cadet class recently presented school supplies and visited with students at Horizon Elementary School in Sunrise.

The community-service project aligns with the servant-leadership model the cadet-training program uses that seeks to create leaders who share power, puts the needs of others first and allows leaders to develop and perform at as high a level as possible.

Astronomy Day Delivers Fun, Learning

Some 450 people, including many families, joined 200 early childhood education teachers at Astronomy Day earlier this month at Buehler Planetarium on the A. Hugh Adams Central Campus. The teachers — on campus for a workshop — and others found out about the planets on the planetary walking trail, made fizzy and compressed-air rockets and attended planetarium shows. “This was our third Astronomy Day in 2013,” said Susan Barnett, director of Buehler Planetarium. “They’ve proved very popular. People are thrilled by what they learn about astronomy.”

Support the American Dream Scholarship Luncheon, Nov. 7

Broward College keeps tuition rates low and offers high-quality educational experiences. Many students however, still struggle with finances and are forced to choose between paying for their education or paying household expenses. Though they may qualify for some federal educational assistance, they may not receive what is really needed to cover all the costs of college attendance.

The American Dream Scholarship provides students the support they need to continue their studies. The American Dream Scholarship Luncheon on Thursday, Nov. 7 at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six in Fort Lauderdale is an opportunity to support the scholarship.

For more information, call 954-201-7414 or email events@broward.edu.
Broward College’s South Campus soccer complex opened last month to a standing-room only crowd of more than 400 with a men’s soccer match against East Florida State College. The site features Field Turf XM60 and measures approximately 145,000 square feet, including the field, scoreboards, seating areas for teams and 300 spectator seats. An athletic facilities building will soon be completed. The complex was designed by architect Orestes Rodriguez of the Miami Lakes architectural firm of Rodriguez, Peterson and Porras and built by ABC Construction of Miami.

New Soccer Complex Opens

Pinterest Contest Features Student Street-Style
Terri Justice Retires

Terri Justice — a distinguished alumna, former interim provost, dean of academic resources and a 35-year employee of the college — was recognized by the Board of Trustees for her contribution to Broward College, having announced she plans to retire. “Terri Justice loves Broward College and its mission,” said South Campus President Dr. Sean Madison. “This love is reflected over and over and over in her selfless giving of her time and her resources.” Justice, a Stranahan High graduate, first came to Broward Community College as a student. After Broward, she attended FAU for her bachelor’s degree in music and later went on to earn her master’s degree at Nova Southeastern University.

Justice also announced a gift back to the college: a check for $25,000 to create an endowed scholarship for second-year nursing students.

YouTube Channel Features Professor Spotlights

Follow the multi-part video profiles of outstanding Broward College faculty by visiting the BC Spotlight.

Recent profiles include Assistant Professor of Spanish Claudia Sahagun, Associate Professor in Visual Arts Leo Stitsky and Director of the Robert “Bob” Elmore Honors Institute Tai Hauser. Subscribe to keep the profiles coming.