



No one ever writes to me anymore!

I received a letter in the mail the other day. Yes, a letter, delivered by the United States Postal Service. It was addressed by hand, in an elaborate, but careful manner. In retrospect, I think what struck me most was the realization that this was something both unusual and special. Someone took the time and had the patience to write me a real letter! Why, I haven't had one of these in ages! This required immediate attention. I quickly threw down the "junk mail," the bills, the ads, even my bank statement to examine this most unusual correspondence. Upon opening the letter I found what I had anticipated and hoped for: a hand-written, thoughtful, correspondence from a friend.

I can't recall when we seemingly switched to e-mail, faxes, cell-phones and all those "other" means of communication. Is it any wonder our students can't write? Since students seem to like e-mail so much I struggle to understand their apparent aversion to using our college e-mail system. The e-mail I get from students is often replete with grammatical errors, Internet "jargon," obscene abbreviations and other gross examples of how to mangle the English language. Heck, they can't even spell correctly using "spell check!" That, I believe, is a shame. Shame on them for sending such "junk" to me and shame on me for letting them send it!

Is there any doubt of the importance of our students knowing how to communicate properly and effectively in writing, e-mail or otherwise? I could cite numerous benefits to students for just having and using College e-mail. Could we use College e-mail to help teach our students how to communicate effectively and appropriately? Would it make a difference? I'd like to know your thoughts.

In the meantime, I'm thinking that the next time I receive an ill-written e-mail from a student, I will "return to sender" with the message that I cannot accept such an u n d e c i p h e r a b l e correspondence. Maybe I should ask them to hand-write a letter and mail it at their local Post Office?

R.S.V.P.

with Hank Martel

R.S.V.P. is a new feature in *Southern Breezes*. The main purpose of the feature is to stimulate discussion on any issue affecting academics at the College or on campus. These discussions might lead to the sharing of successful strategies some faculty have implemented in their classrooms to deal with a particular issue (e.g., tardiness suppression). Dr. Martel has written the first column as an example. What he hopes the campus can get out of his submission are other, possibly "counterpoint" opinions, suggestions, uses, etc., with regard to student use of their college e-mail account. If we have a number of people respond to an issue, we would print them all.

SCIENCE & WELLNESS GET-TOGETHER/LUNCHEON –

By Joyce Nemeth

On Friday, October 15, 2004, the South Campus Science and Wellness Departments held their annual Get-Together/Luncheon. Prof. Joyce Nemeth, the new Interim Associate Dean for the Math, Science, and Wellness Departments was the hostess for the event, and she greeted the students as they arrived. She introduced the invited guests: Dr. Martel, Dr. Holden, and all of the faculty/staff in the Science/Wellness Departments.



Joyce Nemeth Addresses the Crowd

At the beginning of the luncheon, the students were given raffle tickets and sheets of contest questions from the different Science disciplines by Prof. Alvarez and Prof. Durand. Toward the end of the event, the contest questions and the raffle tickets were selected by Prof. Durand, Prof. Mulchan, and Prof. Osterhoudt for prizes. These prizes included items such as books, back packs, CD packages, South Campus bookstore gift certificates, restaurant gift cards, etc. They were generously donated by some of the book publishers whose books are used in many of the Science Courses. Upon exiting the luncheon, the students were able to select “complimentary” books, videos, and other Science related materials donated by members of the Science Dept.

One of the highlights of the event was when the Science Dept. announced the newest addition to the Wall of Fame, 2004 recipient, Henry Kumala. Henry is a graduate of BCC who was an exemplary student and is now attending Harvard University. A brief history about the development of the award was related by Prof. Searcy. Even though Henry was unable to be present at the luncheon to accept the award, he sent an impressive video tape that was viewed by the audience.

As in the past, this event was a big success. It afforded students the opportunity to meet faculty, staff, and administrators in a casual atmosphere, learn something about programs available to them, and mingle with other students. The luncheon, which was held in the Southern Breezes Café, featured an assortment of sandwiches, salads, cookies, and beverages which were arranged for by Prof. Davis and compliments of Kathi Schaeffer from Student Life. Approximately 75 students attended along with 20 faculty/staff and guests. Special thanks go to the Science Administrative Assistant, Judy Carlan, for helping to organize this annual event and taking the photographs of the festivities.

Musical Notes

Kenneth Benoit, an adjunct in the Humanites Department who teaches Music Appreciation, learned that a musical composition of his has been selected for inclusion in a regional conference. His piece, “Sonata for Basson and Piano,” has been chosen for the SCI Region IV Conference at the University of San Antonio. Congratulations Kenneth.



Annual Leukemia and Lymphoma Luncheon By Charlie Grau

The annual Leukemia and Lymphoma Luncheon was a huge success again, as Dr. Miller's Honor's Biology Class raised over \$800 in this year's Light the Night Walk. In South Florida alone, \$125,000 was raised to battle blood cancer. After walking two miles at North Hollywood Beach Park along side Leukemia and Lymphoma survivors, Dr. Miller's Honor's Biology class hosted a luncheon at the Southern Breezeway Dining Room for students and faculty.



Dr. Miller's Class

Upon entering the luncheon, guests were able to sign up for a raffle that included various prizes such as t-shirts and sumo wrestlers' towels. Students Earl Domingo and Jonathon Calheiros played a Spanish guitar melody, while students and faculty participated in an ice breaker game that made each other find someone who had certain qualities or characteristics.

Following the game, the audience learned about what Light the Night means and how Dr. Miller has her Honor's Biology class do a group project for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Every year has been a huge success Dr. Miller said. This project brought the class together and also stressed the idea of cooperative and service learning.

With the aroma of fajitas floating in the air, the audience served themselves fajitas, salad, rice, and

abundance of sweets. While everyone was enjoying their meal, cancer survivor Connie Caldwell told everyone her story about her fight with cancer. Although she fought a tremendous battle that could have taken her away from her son, she remained optimistic and refused to let the disease get the best of her.

After she told her story, many people in the audience asked her questions about her disease and looked at pictures that she had taken during her battle with cancer.

With the luncheon coming nearly to an end, audience members participated in a raffle in which everyone at the luncheon won a prize. Although this Leukemia and Lymphoma Luncheon proved to be success, Dr. Miller and her students hope that they continue to get better each year.

Unconventional

BCC hosted the 44th annual Florida Community College Press Association Convention and Awards Banquet October 14th and 15th at Rolling Hills. The event was planned and coordinated by Dr. Patrick Ellingham and Lynne Farber, former adviser to *The Observer* and now a professor at FIU. Dr. Shouan Pan welcomed all the participants from the other community colleges all across the state. Dr. Lillian Kopenhaver, the Dean of the School of Journalism and Communication at FIU, was the keynote speaker. There was a series of workshops held over the two days, and many members of the BCC conducted them. Thanks go to Elisa Albo, Dianne Lamb, Neil Plakcy, Suzanne Lambert, Jerry Elam, Cindy Thuma, Vicky Santiesteban, and Jeff Staab for his technical support. Neil Cohen and Alisa Mohamed were also there to provide moral support.

For many, the highlight of the event was the awards banquet. BCC did well at this. *P'an Ku* won 13 awards. *The Observer* garnered eight awards. Many students from the magazine and the newspaper attended the event, as did *Observer* adviser, Jennifer Shapiro. Everyone seemed to have a good time. Next year's convention is in Daytona Beach.

News From Student Affairs

It is an exciting time in student affairs as we gear up for the new registration period. We are seeing some staff move on professionally, but we are certainly grateful for the many productive years that we spent together. We would like to thank **Lisa Thomas** for the eight wonderful years she spent as an advisor and a member of our south campus community. She will be missed and we wish her the best of luck at St. Thomas University.

We are also delighted to announce the newest additions to the student affairs division. **Kobitta Chopra** and **Nekisha Lester** have joined our team as Faculty Advisors. Kobitta Chopra is a bilingual SLS instructor who brings exceptional international and higher education experience to our office. Nekisha Lester is an Attorney at Law that also has advanced credentials in the areas of Mathematics and English. She is currently teaching English courses at South Campus. We are thrilled to have these multi degreed, highly professional instructors join our team as we look forward to the next semester.

We would also like to announce the hiring of a part-time academic advisor to primarily work in the evening hours. **Cristinia Hernandez** is currently employed by the Broward County Public School system as a grant coordinator for the career and technical programs. Her expertise in career counseling coupled with her bilingual skills with certainly be an asset to our division and campus community. A great welcome to all of our new staff members, we are thrilled to have you.

Student Affairs is on the move and looking forward to the upcoming year. We certainly feel fortunate to have worked with our previous employees and the future looks bright with our new team members.

Other Notes-

Continuing student registration begins on November 2. Students must check their registration appointment date before attempting to sign up for classes. All students are encouraged to check their registration date by signing in on the BCC home page.

New student orientation and registration begin November 23. Please contact the advisement/counseling center if you have any questions. The advisement/counseling center is now on an appointment system to decrease wait time and better serve our students. Students please call 954.201.8875 to schedule an appointment at a time that is convenient for you!

Kevin O'Rorke

Career Center News

Welcome to **Karamo Rowe**, Job Developer/Placement Specialist, 68/105, Career, Counseling & Job Placement Center, x8057

Karamo began full-time on Oct 18 as the Job Developer/Placement Specialist. He will be assisting students with job search strategies, resume critiquing, workshops and more, particularly students in technical and certificate programs. This position was formerly filled by Shermone Flowers who moved on to an new position within Carl D. Perkins, Technical Education Specialist, to be located DT in the new year.

Karamo is known to many of you due to his long part-time tenure in academic advising, first beginning in Feb 1999. He holds an AA degree from Burlington CC, Pemberton, NJ, in the Philadelphia area. He is completing his Bachelor's at FAU, Marketing major, May 2005.

Congratulations also to Karamo and Mindy, formerly of Registration (a romance that sparked on the campus) on your upcoming February wedding!

Kathleen Rhoad

Pines Center Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Over 60 students attended the closing luncheon for Hispanic Heritage Month on Wednesday, October 13th. The luncheon was hosted by Pines Center Student Life and featured guest speaker the honorable Angelo Castillo, Commissioner for Pembroke Pines District 4. Mr. Castillo shared his life story and the struggles he faced before becoming Commissioner for the city of Pembroke Pines. He discussed the importance of Hispanic Heritage Month and emphasized that this wasn't a celebration just for the Hispanic people, but for everyone to celebrate and embrace each others cultural diversity. Some of the issues he highlighted were:

- Follow your dreams and find a career that would make you happy. Happiness is more important than the amount of money you make.
- Interviewing someone in the career or field of interest can help you decide on what to major in and what path you may need to take.
- Have a 5 and 10 year plan to guide you through your educational career.
- The importance of voting and having your voice heard.



Students and Faculty enjoy the luncheon and join our guest speaker Mr. Castillo.



Dr. Husain & Commissioner Angelo Castillo

Students gave a very warm welcome to Mr. Castillo and were inspired by his journey and accomplishments. Dr. Husain, Pines Center Director, thanked students for their participation and encouraged them to keep in touch with Mr. Castillo. Dr. Pan, South Campus Provost, was also in attendance at the luncheon. He emphasized Mr. Castillo's insight and encouraged students to take his advice by playing an active role in their future and finding a career that would be fulfilling and bring them happiness. Dr. Pan ended the luncheon by encouraging young people to vote.

Article written by Karen M. Young
Pines Center - Enrollment Services Officer

Special thanks to Myrna Bomser, Barbara Cipriano, Dr. Husain, Renee Pleus & Lucinda Smith



Dr. Husain, Angelo Castillo & Dr. Pan