

★ NEWS ★

Robin Nix wins Humanities Teacher of the Year award

The Mississippi Humanities Council recently selected Pearl River Community College Spanish instructor Robin Nix as Humanities Teacher of the Year.

Upon acceptance of the award, Nix gave a presentation entitled "Una Vista de Espana (A View of Spain)" at the Poplarville campus.

The presentation emphasized the four weeks she spent this summer at Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Nix completed an intense course in advanced Spanish grammar at the university.

Nix has a Bachelor's in international studies, a Master's in teaching languages, and a Masters in British Literature, all from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Nix, who has taught Spanish and English at PRCC since 2002, believes it is important for students to study a foreign language.

"Learning the languages of other



Robin Nix

cultures teaches historical links to modern-day events, and we become better neighbors if we can understand other languages," said Nix. "Also, we should learn just for the sake of learning."

According to Martha Willoughby, Chair of the PRCC Humanities Department, Nix is an ideal choice for the award.

"Robin was selected as the recipient of the award because of her continued pursuit of scholarly activities in Mexico and Spain. Also, Robin has established a popular Spanish program at PRCC, and she has had a positive influence on a huge number of students."

Student Robert Jackson, a 67-year-old retired New Orleans police officer, is currently taking beginning Spanish with Nix.

"My daughter is a Spanish teacher, and after I came back from a mission trip to Mexico I wanted to learn to speak Spanish. Ms. Nix is an excellent teacher. It's especially difficult for me to learn another language since I'm older, but she gives good, clear instructions. She practically handles each student on an individual basis because she is always makes herself available in her office."

According to Dr. Martha Lou Byrd, PRCC institutional research specialist and former developmental reading teacher, Nix is a perfect choice for the award.

"As a person, Robin is energetic and always carries a welcoming smile," said Byrd. "She is kind-hearted and willing to listen whenever someone appears at her door."

"As an instructor, she carries that energy into the classroom where she makes learning fun. Learning a second language is an intimidating experience, and Robin has the ability to bring calm to frightened students. I have great respect for her both as an individual and as a professional."

The Mississippi Humanities Council supports activities that help all citizens understand themselves and others by furthering their knowledge of history, literature, philosophy, and other disciplines concerned with human values and experiences.

The Mississippi Humanities Council works in conjunction with other local and statewide organizations and institutions, such as museums, libraries, historical societies, schools, colleges, and universities, to increase their effectiveness and enrich the lives of the people they serve.

Her parents are George and Jan Burge of Poplarville, and she is married to PRCC English instructor Bill Nix with two daughters, Phoebe, six, and Penelope, five.



One of Officer Sharie Collier's primary duties is helping people. While taking a break from patrolling the campus, Collier gives directions to Forrest County Center student Annie Walker.

Female officer joins PRCC campus police department

The Pearl River Community College Campus Police has a new member on the force.

Sharie Collier joined the department in November.

Collier's employment brings the number of officers on the campus to seven full-time officers and one part-time officer.

Collier has eight years of law enforcement experience through service with the Pearl River County Sheriff's office as the Terminal Access Coordinator and at the Picayune Police Department in dispatch. While there, she received hands-on experience dealing with inmates and participating in search warrants where a female officer was required.

Some of Collier's duties at PRCC include issuing parking and college violation tickets, patrolling the campus, and room checks.

According to Dr. Adam Breerwood, dean of student services, Collier's presence is a valuable addition to the Campus Police.

"The first priority in our police department is to help all of our students have a safe and positive experience while enrolled here at Pearl River Community College,"

said Breerwood. "The addition of a female officer better equips our department to handle different situations that may arise."

"Officer Collier provides the capability to have more supervision of the female dormitories on campus, and I know that many of our students will feel more comfortable discussing a situation with a female officer. I believe she will create great relationships with all of our students, and I look forward to her success on our campus."

Collier is excited about her job at PRCC. "Working at PRCC is perfect for me," said Collier. "I really enjoy being around young people, and I think being a role model for young people is important."

"One of my primary duties on campus is to assist with situations involving female students. In the past, male police officers have always dealt with room checks and campus violations dealing with female students. I think my presence on the campus allows girls an opportunity to feel more comfortable reporting incidences and crimes that they may have felt uncomfortable reporting to a male. I am not here just to deal with fe-

males, but if young women have a problem, I want them to know that I'm here."

Collier is married to Captain Danny Collier of the Pearl River County Sheriff's Department.

The phone number for the PRCC Campus Police Department is 601-403-1300.

College fines

Did you know:
 ■ The fine for possession of alcohol on campus is \$100 for the first offense, dismissal for the dorm for the second offense.

■ The fine for vandalism is \$100 (plus cost) for the first offense and expulsion for the second offense.

■ The fine for disruptive behavior (including fighting) is \$100 for the first offense and expulsion for the second offense.

■ The fine for loud music is \$25 for the first offense and \$50 for the second offense.

■ The fine for profanity is \$50 for the first offense and \$100 for the second offense.

■ The fine for smoking in a prohibited area is \$25 for the first offense and \$50 for the second offense.

Teacher Profile

NAME: Mark Hugh Malone

RESIDENCE: Hattiesburg

FAMILY: Married to Betty Sharp Malone, Professor of Music at USM; daughter, Megan; son, Kent.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: B.S., Florida State University; B.A., Rollins College; M.M.E., FSU; Ph.D. in Music Education, FSU

PRESENTLY TEACHES: Director of Choral Music, conductor of The Pearl River Singers (Concert Choir); Director of River Road (Show choir); Director of "The Voices"; teaches Music Literature, Music Appreciation and Music for Elementary Majors.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE: 31 years

FAVORITE BOOK: The Mitford Series, by Jan Karon

FAVORITE FOOD: Pizza


POSITIVE ASPECTS OF TEACHING: Working with students is very rewarding, challenging and stimulating. It is obvious that I enjoy the educational setting, as I entered preschool at age three and I am still in school 50 years later.

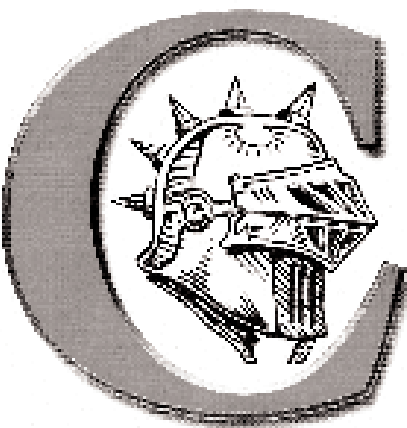
ADVICE FOR STUDENTS: Persistence! Keep trying; do not give up. Meet failure with renewed motivation to succeed. Don't be afraid to make mistakes or encounter difficulties in life. Significant learning occurs by dealing with tedious situations and marvelous personal growth often emerges from facing life's challenges with determination to succeed.




Malone


William Carey College





Hattiesburg
Gulfport
New Orleans





For more information,
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www.wmcarey.edu