

DIXIE @ DRAWL

PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

101 U.S. HIGHWAY 11 NORTH

POPLARVILLE, MS 39470

OCTOBER, 2005

Homecoming Day a festive event

CURRENTS

Brief, But Important
News Items of Interest

Spanish instructor selected Humanities Teacher of Year

Pearl River Community College Spanish instructor Robin Nix will receive the Humanities Teacher of the Year award this November.

According to Humanities Department Chair Martha Willoughby, Nix was an easy choice.

"Nix was selected as the recipient of the award because of her continued pursuit of scholarly activities in Mexico and Spain," said Willoughby.

Nix has also established a popular Spanish program and has had a positive influence on a huge number of students at PRCC.

"Robin is an extremely popular teacher on campus," said Dr. John Grant, Jr., Vice President for Instruction. "She enjoys teaching and the students enjoy attending her classes. She is an excellent choice for this award." Nix is married to PRCC English instructor Bill Nix and has two daughters.



Nix

Student Support Services gets additional \$100,000 supplement

POPLARVILLE - Pearl River Community College's Student Support Services program has received a \$100,000 supplement award from the Federal TRIO Programs Student Support Services of the U.S. Department of Education.

The supplement award is being made in recognition of the substantial adverse impact the recent hurricanes (Katrina and Rita) have had on students who reside or attend school in the PRCC district.

These funds are to be used to assist SSS Program eligible students, especially those who were adversely affected by the storms.

Earlier this year, PRCC's Student Support Services program received a \$298,263 grant from the Federal TRIO Programs Student Support Services. The grant is for the first year of a four-year program that was approved.

Thirteen institutions of higher learning in Mississippi, including the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi State, received grants, with PRCC receiving the highest amount.

Student Services gets grant; other campus news of interest

■ Dr. Adam Breerwood, Director of Student Services, reports that PRCC received an \$8,000 Federal Grant intended to discourage underage Drinking on College Campuses.

"This grant will pay overtime for our Campus Police Officers to monitor our campus and look for those students who may be involved with alcohol on campus or returning to campus after the consumption of alcohol," said Breerwood. "It's an opportunity to set up sobriety check points throughout campus. We have also been issued funds to purchase two portable breathalysers which will be kept in the Campus Police cars. We have also been given approval to purchase literature and informative videos on the effects of underage drinking."

■ David Armstrong, Program Director of Medical Radiologic Technology at the Forrest County Center, recently received word that "We had a 100 percent pass rate on the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist examination in radiography this year. Our average score was up 3.75 percent from last year."

■ ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Thanksgiving Holidays - Nov. 23-25 at the Forrest County Center in Hattiesburg; Nov. 24-25 at the Poplarville campus, as well as Columbia, Picayune and Stennis Space Center.

Final Exams - Night classes, Dec. 13, 14, 15, 19; Day classes, Dec. 14, 15, 16, 19.

Christmas Holidays - Dec. 20-Jan. 1, 2006.

2006 Spring Registration - Jan. 3-4, day/night registration at Forrest County Center; Jan. 5-6, day/night registration, Poplarville campus; Jan. 9, day and night classes begin.

PRCC museum receives portrait of Supt. Will Jacobs (1911-17)

POPLARVILLE - Pearl River Community College's museum recently received a portrait of the school's second superintendent, Will Jacobs, from members of his family.

Jacobs was superintendent of Pearl River County Agricultural High School from 1911-17.

Under his leadership, the school began obtaining a reputation throughout the state and nation.

By the end of his term, the school had become recognized as a leader in rural education in the United States, having been the subject of national magazine and newspaper articles, and a visit by the U.S. Commissioner of Education (equivalent to the present day Secretary of Education).

"We had little knowledge of Will Jacobs' background," said Ronn Hague, director of the PRCC Museum. "We knew from Poplarville's early newspaper, 'The Free Press,' that his previous job was superintendent of Louisville City Schools, but we didn't know what happened to him after he left the agricultural high school."

Rebecca Jacobs Barlow, Will Jacobs' daughter, her twin brother, Robert Jacobs, and another sister, Sarah Jacobs Woodrow, all of Jackson, visited the PRCC Museum specifically to bring a portrait of their father and to see the school he had helped build. The three Jackson Jacobs and an older sister in Texas are all that remain of the nine Jacobs children.

Will (not William) Jacobs, from Watertown, Tenn., was born May 28, 1880, and educated at Peabody College, the University of Nashville, and the University of Wisconsin.

Homecoming Day (Saturday, Oct. 15) at Pearl River Community College was a successful one, thanks in large part to beautiful weather that made for a festive occasion.

The theme for 2005 Homecoming was "Together We Rebuild," a spinoff from the recent devastation inflicted on South Mississippi by Hurricane Katrina.

It was certainly a much better day than last year. Homecoming 2004 was a wet one, courtesy of Tropical Storm Matthew.

On this day in 2005, reunion meetings went off as scheduled in the morning, followed by the Alumni Luncheon in Olivia Bender

Cafeteria. Tables in the cafeteria were decorated with centerpieces displaying pictures of campus recovery efforts from Hurricane Katrina.

Maude Parish of Columbia and Donald K. Robbins of Carson, both members of the PRCC Development Foundation Board of Directors and PRCC graduates, received alumnus of the year awards.

Verlene Norton Cole, a 1951 graduate of Pearl River Community College, received the PRCC Distinguished Service Award. She is a native of Lamar County and played a major role in helping form the Forrest-Lamar chapter of the PRCC Alumni

Association in 2003.

Cecelia Sones, a 1967 graduate of Pearl River Community College, was honored as 2005 Volunteer of the Year. Sones retired in 2000 from PRCC after 25 years as the school nurse. Her husband, James, retired from PRCC as the Dean of Vocational-Technical Education.

Sports Hall of Fame inductees Earl "Mutt" Watts and Paul Oliver Highstreet, both of Hattiesburg, Adam Breerwood of Poplarville and the late B.A. "Bama" Falls of Chattanooga, Tenn., were recognized.

Also recognized were PRCC football players Chris Lowery of

Petal and Ben McGilton of Carriere.

Lowery is the 2005 recipient of the Dobie Holden Scholarship at PRCC. Ben McGilton of Pearl River Central is the 2005 recipient of the Keith Daniels Scholarship. Lowery and McGilton are sophomores.

The Homecoming court, featuring queen Chastity McLemore of Picayune, were recognized before the start of the football game.

The Homecoming football game also produced the kind of results that were pleasing to the home team. Final score: PRCC 40, Southwest 7.

The Wildcats improved to 4-0.



Homecoming celebration

The Spirit of the River marching band, along with the award-winning String of Pearls, entertained the sun-drenched crowd during halftime of the PRCC-Southwest football game. Joining the halftime show were Girl Scouts from the Pine Belt District.

INSIDE

- Homecoming court, page 4
- Homecoming photos by Mitch Deaver and Pamela Luke, page 5
- Forrest County Center news, page 6
- Hancock Center photos, page 8
- Sports coverage, pages 9-10

PRCC bouncing back from Katrina

The affects of Hurricane Katrina continue to be present at Pearl River Community College even though the storm passed through Pearl River County back on Monday, Aug. 29.

Damage estimates have now risen to more than \$50 million.

M.R. White Coliseum was severely damaged, the Moody Hall auditorium was demolished, Lamar and Marion residence halls had major damage and the vehicle maintenance shop was destroyed.

Twenty-seven buildings had roof damage. Blue tarps are already beginning to show signs of wear as they wave with the wind.

Insurance adjustors and engineers have yet to present their final report.

Between 400 and 500 of the school's 4,300 students before the storm have since dropped out, resulting in lost tuition and state funding, which is based on enrollment counts, although more than 200 students have signed up for on-line mini-semester courses that run from Oct. 24 through Dec. 16.

"The 2005-06 school year had begun with much promise," said PRCC President William Lewis. "We had record enrollment. The largest band in our school's history and a football team that was ranked

No. 1 in the country in the pre-season polls were precursors to a fantastic school year. The year held much promise and still does."

Indeed, the news is not all bad this fall.

The Wildcat football team has qualified for the state playoffs for the fifth straight year, with an eye on a third straight state title.

Homecoming 2005 was a success from the reunions to the alumni luncheon, to the football game, which the Wildcats won 40-7 over Southwest. It was a glorious day filled with lots of sunshine, pomp and pageantry.

The men's and women's soccer teams won the South Division championship and the women's team, under coach Patrick Hayes, went on to win its first MACJC State Championship.

Construction work on two new dormitories on the Poplarville campus and a classroom-library building at the Forrest County Center that began before Katrina is going strong today.

The facility at the Forrest County Center will include five new classrooms, a learning center, expanded library and academic offices. Completion is expected sometime in late spring, 2006.

The new dorms on the Poplarville

campus, one for the men and one for the women (282 rooms in all) are still on schedule to be completed in time for students to move into by July, 2006.

Many questions have yet to be answered.

■ Such as where to hold spring graduation exercises and the annual River Extravaganza, two events held in White Coliseum.

■ Such as what happens to the theater group's plans, which before the storm included a major performance, "The Music Man," in Moody Hall. Plans are now being scaled back to a selection of Broadway acts that will be performed in the cafeteria.

Clint Tapper, Director of the Physical Plant has had nothing but praise for his staff during the Katrina recovery period.

"They have all done a wonderful job, gone above and beyond," said Tapper. "They never questioned anything we were doing. They just did it. I have been extremely pleased and satisfied with their performance."

While all the debris has been cleaned up on campus, the situation regarding damaged buildings on campus remains unsettled. "We are still waiting on the insurance settlement," said Tapper.

However, some work is ongoing

and more work is planned. Work has begun on repairing grandstands and dugouts in the athletic complex. Fence repair is going on throughout the campus.

Bids for a new roof on Seal Hall will be opened on Nov. 3. Bids are starting to come in for shingle roofs on Hancock Hall, the Honors dormitories and faculty housing.

Set up work continues on the nine classroom trailers on campus. Tapper says they should be ready for use for the spring semester.

"Work could begin in December on the new courtyard here on the main campus," said Tapper. "That plan has been approved by the state. New lighting in the athletic complex for baseball, softball and soccer has been approved and work could begin as soon as December, too. We expect to have new lights in place for the start of baseball and softball seasons."

The road to full recovery will be a long one for all in South Mississippi.

"We are determined and I am convinced that great things will come from this adversity," said Dr. Lewis. "More than ever before the services that Pearl River Community College provides are needed by the citizens of south Mississippi. PRCC will help our region of the state to re-build, to become more productive and beautiful than ever."