



Stephanie Norman/The Bat

Instructor Mike Barnett a PJC student 30 years ago, encourages his students the way his mentor encouraged him.

## PJC Profile

# Mike Barnett brings science to life

**STEPHANIE NORMAN**  
Co-Editor

In 1978, Mike Barnett was enrolled in E.C. Hancock's biology class at PJC.

"His enthusiasm for the subject inspired me to study biology further and his continued guidance led me back to PJC to work for him as an instructor," Barnett said.

Hancock and Barnett formed a strong relationship and it grew over the years. Barnett said he was "kind of a father to me." Eventually, Hancock, now retired, was Barnett's supervisor as well as an idol.

"I have been fortunate to have several lifetime influences," Barnett said. Norman Seeliger, a former employer, is also a great friend of Barnett's. John, Barnett's brother, was also a great role model while

growing up.

Barnett said, "My father died when I was 10, and all of these special people played a big role in giving me guidance and advice when I needed it."

Building cars, ranching, baseball and his teaching career as a biology and geology instructor are a few things, which make Barnett the man that he is today.

He has a degree in both agriculture and biology from A&M Commerce.

Barnett was born in 1953 in Paris. Then at the age of 15, he began working as an automobile mechanic. He attended PJC off and on after high school, and then graduated from the junior college in 1979.

He took up an interest in street and drag racing a while back. Even building the racecars was a great deal

for Barnett.

He participated in the vamping of a '63 Corvette, which was raced through the National Hot Rod Association.

His first son, Ben, was born in 1982, and is a graduate from Baylor University. His youngest son, Randy, born in 1986, will be graduating this semester from Texas Tech. Barnett's wife, Terry, has been a second grade teacher at Aikin Elementary for 27 years.

Barnett goes bicycling and works out daily, and enjoys training his American Brittany "Roxie."

"In the summer, I'm president of Paris Teen League Baseball Association. I spend my nights at the ball field making sure everyone has what they need and keeping the league going," he said. "We provide quality

league play for about 120, 16 to 19 year-old players."

As an instructor, Barnett takes pride in his teaching career. He believes that education is a very important key in life.

Ever since his college biology instructor impacted him, he likes to pass that excitement on to his students through his lectures.

Barnett jokes all the time that he makes up half of what he talks about in his biology classes, but he really does take teaching serious.

His techniques really do benefit his students; maybe they don't realize it now, but in the future they may.

"One student in particular I remember. I was teaching an Organic Chemistry lab and I was finding it difficult to convince him that the techniques we were learning would pay off when he

transferred to a university," Barnett said.

"About a year later, I ran into him at a conference I was attending. The first thing out of his mouth was 'thank you.' He explained that when he started his senior biomedical courses, he was the only student that already knew how to set up the experiments in his class. His instructors were impressed and surprised that he was a junior college transfer student that was better prepared than his classmates."

Barnett claims that "returning to college and finishing school" has been his greatest achievement in life so far.

"I'm finishing my 26<sup>th</sup> year here," he said. "With the economy the way that it is, I'll probably continue to teach a few more years."

## The Bat is online

**MARTA GOERTE**  
Co-Editor

The student newspaper of Paris Junior College, *The Bat* is now online on the PJC website.

There will still be printed copies will still be available, but students and staff will also have the option of viewing current and past newspapers online.

"The biggest advantage of having *The Bat* online is that we know many people, students in particular, no longer read a paper newspaper," says Sharon Dennehy, *The Bat* adviser. "Although there is still a place for a paper newspaper on our campuses, I think we will reach more students with campus news in an online version."

The link to *The Bat* is found in the "Current Students," area under "Important Informative Links." It is also available on the WebCT homepage.

*The Bat* is published by students as the lab portion of journalism classes.

## Need money?

**MARTA GOERTE**  
Co-Editor

There are funds available for college tuition.

PJC offers department scholarships as well as grants. Financial aid applicants must fill out the PJC General Scholarship Application and the Pell Grant Application – the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, (FAFSA).

"FAFSA helps students apply for federal as well as state aid," says Linda Slawson, Director of Financial Aid. "Be sure to fill out your FAFSA early, in order to have a better chance of receiving money." There is no exact deadline for the FAFSA application, but the sooner you get it in, the better.

For the PJC General Scholarship Application, students have the option of which departments they want their application sent to.

In order to be eligible for both the Pell Grant and any of the scholarships, students must be enrolled in a full course load of at least 12 hours. Both applications can be found on the PJC website under the "new students" link at the top of the home page, or at the PJC admissions office.

The General Scholarship priority deadline is April 15.