MEAC/SWAC Challenge Kicks Off 2011 Wildcat Football

The seventh annual MEAC/SWAC Challenge presented by Disney – featuring Bethune-Cookman of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) against Prairie View A&M of the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) – will be Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011, at Florida Citrus Bowl Stadium in Orlando, Fla.

The yearly event, which features teams from two prominent Historically Black Colleges and Universities conferences, will be aired on ESPN at noon.

The Challenge will be the first meeting between Bethune-Cookman and Prairie View A&M, and also the first time the programs will be participating in the event. Bethune-Cookman had one of its most successful years last year as the Wildcats finished the year 10-2 and played in the NCAA FCS Playoffs. Prairie View A&M finished the year with a 7-4 record.

The MEAC/SWAC Challenge recently announced the six nominees for the fourth annual Walter Payton Achievement Award. The award is an honor annually given to a player from each school participating in the Challenge.

Three finalists from each school were selected by a committee of academic advisors and coaches. Bethune-Cookman nominees include: Natiel Curry (Sr., C); Nesly Marcellon (So., DB); and Jean Fanor (Sr., DB). Fans will determine the winners via online voting at www.meacswacchallenge.com from July 27-Sept. 2. The winners will be announced and honored at the MEAC/SWAC Challenge Kickoff Banquet on Friday, Sept. 2, at Disney’s Hollywood Studios.

Several additional events will take place around the game, including a high school career panel and the halftime Battle of the Bands. B-CU is also hosting several events for alumni, students and friends (see box below).

Tickets for the 2011 MEAC/SWAC Challenge presented by Disney are on sale now at all Ticketmaster outlets. Tickets are $30 for reserved seating and $20 for general admission, plus applicable taxes and fees. Travel options including discounted hotel accommodations, game tickets and specially-priced Theme Park Tickets are available through Anthony Travel, the official travel provider of the MEAC/SWAC Challenge. Please visit AnthonyTravel.com or call (888) 632-6951.

For more information about the MEAC/SWAC Challenge, or to join the event’s following on Facebook and Twitter, please visit the event’s official Web site at www.meacswacchallenge.com or at www.espnplus.com/msc.php.

Alumni: There’s More to the Challenge than Just the Game

PRE-GAME PRAISE WITH CARTER TABERNACLE C.M.E. CHURCH
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Tinker Field at the Citrus Bowl

THE GREAT “HEART & SOUL” TAILGATE PARTY
Sunday, Sept. 4,
9 a.m. - 7 p.m. at McCracken Field at the Citrus Bowl.

Pre-tailgate from 10 a.m. to game time (noon) and post-tailgate after-party from 3:30 - 7 p.m.

SIGN UP TODAY FOR THE MEAC/SWAC Collard Green Cook-Off:
If you, your grandma, favorite restaurant or best friend “got it goin’ on” in the collard green pot, encourage them to participate in our collard green contest. Participants get to test their skills against some of the best cooks in the South.

This contest is open to individuals, caterers and restaurateurs this year. Participate for bragging rights, trophy, and a feature article that will include the winning recipe.

Collard greens will be provided. For contest rules and sign-up information go to www.candoonlinevents.com.

The entry fee is just $25. Entry must be received before Monday, August 15, 2011. Your name as a contestant will be posted on the Tailgate website.
WELCOME, WILDCATS!

The B-CU campus came back to life this week as students began their fall invasion. The Marching Wildcats can be heard training from their practice field near the Bronson residential complex, football players are sweating it out getting ready for their first game on Sept. 4, and new students and their families are filling the Performing Arts Center for fall semester check-in.

IN MEMORIAM

The entire B-CU family is mourning the tragic loss of one of its students.

Kayla Graham, a senior accounting major, passed away on Aug. 9 following a car accident in Melbourne, Fla.

B-CU’s grief counselors are available for one-on-one sessions to students, faculty and staff in need of support.

Please keep Kayla’s family and friends in your prayers as they continue life without their loved one.

SPOTLIGHTS

Dr. James Huger, chair of the B-CU/UNCF campaign and for whom the joint campaign is named, was recently interviewed on campus for a documentary set for national broadcast on BET on Aug. 28 at 7 p.m.

Huger shared stories of his role as general secretary of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity in the 1950s and his relationship with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Hosted by actor and writer Hill Harper, the documentary will showcase Dr. King and his relationship with the fraternity during his rise to prominence. He was a member of the fraternity and spoke at many of their events. Huger told many stories of King and shared his memory of the day he was assassinated in 1968.

Dr. Masood Poorandi, B-CU’s associate professor of computer science and mathematics, has been accepted to participate in this summer’s UNCF/Mellon Teaching and Learning Institute.

The institute, entitled, “Extending a Legacy of International Presence and Outreach - Social Justice and Educational Policy in the 21st Century” will be held at Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia.

The goal of the event is to bring together administrators, faculty, and staff to discuss issues, share success stories and challenges facing colleges and universities while preparing students to be global citizens in the 21st century. The participants will also explore visions for students and the roles they potentially play as global citizens of a swiftly changing world. In addition to discussing participants’ existing and past programs, they will enjoy access to the Hampton’s archives and begin a dialogue about a potential collaborative, exchange program between the participating campuses and, possibly, the University of the Virgin Islands.

Invited Guest Lecturers include:

- Dr. Hoda Zaki, Professor of Political Science, Co-Director of African-American Studies and the Honors Program at Hood College, Author of Civil Rights and Politics at Hampton Institute: The Legacy of Alonzo G. Moron;
- Dr. Solomon S. Kabuka, Director of the Institute for Global Leaders at the University of the Virgin Islands;
- Dr. Carlyle Corbin, Representative for External Affairs, Government of the US Virgin Islands.

Participating institutions include Spelman, Xavier, Tuskegee Dillard, Clark Atlanta and Florida Memorial.