B-CU's New Master's Degree in Integrated Environmental Science

B-CU has announced a big addition to its summer academic calendar.

In June, the School of Graduate and Professional Studies is launching a brand new Master of Science degree program in Integrated Environmental Science (MSIES).

The University received news of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for the program in February.

The director of MSIES is Dr. Michael Reiter, nationally renowned environmental scientist who also serves as department head of B-CU's undergraduate department of integrated environmental sciences.

Curriculum for the new degree explores environmental topics with a foundation in the natural and physical sciences, while integrating social, economic, and political aspects of environmental topics to develop functional approaches to address environmental issues. Hands-on, service-based, and interdisciplinary, the MSIES seeks students who want to learn to make a difference.

Reiter has many things to look forward to this summer.

“We have conceptual model development going on to assist National Estuarine Research Reserve sites in Mississippi and Texas with developing resource management plans, and other work pertaining to campus sustainability issues. We also have some research going on concerning rare snails in Blue Spring,” he said. “The other exciting thing for the summer is that two new faculty members will come on board by then – Dr. Yong Tian and Dr. Charles Kidd.”

Dr. Yong Tian comes from the University of Massachusetts at Boston, where he was responsible for designing and overseeing the GIS and Remote Sensing programs and degrees. He has an active grant-based research program in Florida involving the transport of dissolved organic carbon in the Apalachicola River, which he will transfer to B-CU and continue. He also has academic strengths in applied mathematics and ecology. He will be responsible for the ecology courses, GIS and Remote Sensing, and the statistics and modeling courses. He will also be designing a GIS Certificate Program to be offered by IES.

Dr. Charles Kidd hails from Medgar-Evers College of the City University of New York, where he was University Professor of Environmental Science and Technology. He has also served as a university president and CEO in his career. His specialty is in environmental health and technology issues. He will be responsible for Environmental Regulations, Experimental Design, Toxicology and Risk Assessment, and similar courses in both the undergraduate and graduate programs.

Applications are now being accepted for fall 2011. Individuals interested in the MSIES at B-CU may contact Dr. Reiter at (386) 481-2695 or by email at reiterm@cookman.edu.

B-CU Builds Momentum for Home Depot Competition

B-CU is vying for the top spot to earn the major grant award of $50,000 in the 2011 Home Depot Retool Your School Campus Improvement Program. The winner will be selected based on grant proposals and the number of votes at http://www.retoolyourschool.com/vote-now.aspx.

This year, B-CU is competing to win the major grant to update the Parlin Student Center. A $10,000 minor grant award would be used to create walking paths and the extension of sidewalks in areas of heavy foot traffic on campus. Please VOTE TODAY to show your Wildcat Pride and take us to the top!

SAVE THE DATE: National Alumni Convention


Faculty Focus: Dr. Michael Reiter

Title: Chair, department of environmental science

Began teaching at B-CU: 2007

Education: Ph.D. Environmental Sciences (Ecology), 1988: The University of Virginia, Charlottesville

Honors & Awards:
- J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State, and the Council for International Exchange of Scholars. 2001-2006. Passed review and approved for five-year candidacy as a Fulbright Senior Specialist in environmental science.

Currently teaches: A wide range of graduate and undergraduate environmental science courses, including the Gateway course for the new IES major.

Greatest accomplishment as a professor: Building the department of integrated environmental science and its undergraduate and graduate programs from the ground up.

Favorite part of teaching at B-CU: Finding the "diamonds in the rough" among the student body and helping them make the most of their potential.
The program is now web streaming all home games.

Men’s team finished 7-10 after a 0-4 start.

B-CU’s recruiting class was ranked 2nd nationally among HBCU’s by Box to Scott Garner named Black College Baseball Pitcher of the Week (3/29).

Team currently leads MEAC Southern Division with a 6-0 mark; has given up B-CU successfully hosted the inaugural Beach Invitational meet on April 9, Kimberly Wong has won four medalist honors this season. Eric Cray finished second in 60m at MEAC Indoor Championship;

Coach Brian Jenkins signed one of B-CU’s most promising recruiting classes Allie Garcia named MEAC Player Of The Week. Katrina Szaboova won 9 straight matches and 10 of final 11 to finish 10-8; Peter O’Brien named MEAC Player of the Week (3/22, 3/28), PJ Biocic

Wildcats currently leading in MEAC standings with a 6-0 mark and a 19-16 overall record. B-CU has won MEAC games by a margin of 61-25, taking the current MEAC opponent winning streak to 31 games Peter O’Brien named MEAC Player of the Week (3/22, 3/28), PJ Biocic (3/28) and Montana Durapau (4/5) earned MEAC Rookie of the Week, and Scott Garner honored as MEAC Pitcher of the Week (3/28). Scott Garner named Black College Baseball Pitcher of the Week (3/29). Peter O’Brien was named to the Johnny Bench (National Catcher of the Year) Award watch list.

In addition to co-founding the journal Assessing Writing and co-editing it for seven years, she has authored, edited, or co-edited eleven scholarly books and two textbooks as well as over 70 articles and book chapters. Her extensive experience as a teacher and researcher of writing and composition is a great asset to B-CU as we carry out our, which focuses on writing.

During her presentations and discussions with the faculty, Dr. Yancey shared her research focused on composition studies, writing research, writing assessment, and on the intersections of culture, literacy and technologies. Her wealth of knowledge, specific ideas and tips that can be put into practice on campus were well received.

The NEH is a federal agency that each summer supports seminars and institutes at colleges, universities, and cultural institutions, so faculty can work in collaboration and study with experts in humanities disciplines.

The B-CU departments of religion and philosophy and speech communication, theatre and visual arts are sponsoring the Howard Thurman Spring Lecture scheduled on Monday, April 18 at 7 p.m. in the University’s Heyn Chapel.

Speakers will include: Dr. C.W. Dawson, assistant professor of philosophy; Dr. Raphael Jackson, assistant professor of history; and Dr. Paula McKenzie, associate professor of communication.

QEP & CASS Partner To Host Scholar For Faculty Development

On April 1, representatives of the Quality Enhancement Plan, Center for Academic Support Services and the Faculty Development Office, joined resources to conduct a full-day workshop on three primary areas of writing across the curriculum.

The featured consultant was Dr. Kathleen Blake Yancey, a Kellogg W. Hunt Professor of English and the director of the graduate program in Rhetoric and Composition at Florida State University.

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