

## Expert to Discuss Rising Sea Levels at Brevard College

Western Carolina University professor Rob Young will speak on “Sea Level Rise, Global Change and the Public Debate” at Brevard College on Wednesday, April 7.

The 7 p.m. presentation, which is free and open to the public, will take place in the Francis Pavilion of the Porter Center for Performing Arts on the campus of Brevard College. A question and answer session will be held after the talk.

Young is professor of geosciences and director of the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines at Western Carolina. He is also co-author of a new book, “The Rising Sea,” which warns that rising ocean levels brought about by global warming is not something that might happen in the future, but is happening already.

Young wrote the book along with Orrin H. Pilkey, a pioneer in the study of American shoreline development policy who holds the position of professor emeritus in the Nicholas School of the Environment at

Duke University. Both scientists say that scientific data indicate that over the last decade seas worldwide have risen an average of slightly more than one-eighth inch per year, and reliable research indicates oceans may climb as much as seven feet in the next 100 years.

Although the topic may seem remote to a mountain community, sea level rise affects everyone since tax dollars subsidize flood insurance for coastal properties. All along the country’s coasts, tides will rise and fall on massive seawalls or ruined roads, homes, businesses and public buildings.

Coastal cities such as Miami, New York, Charleston, Boston, Baltimore, New Orleans and many others around the world will be forced to enact a policy of retreat. Rising seas are inevitable, Young says, but despair is not:

Lives and communities can be saved, but only by facing hard and controversial choices, including abandoning storm-

damaged property, changing where and how we build and developing a national exit strategy from our coasts.

Young, who earned his doctorate in geology at Duke University, is a much-sought-after expert on the topics of hurricane impacts and coastal management. He has written approximately 100 technical publications and serves on the editorial board of three international journals, including the *Journal of Coastal Research*. Young currently oversees more than \$2 million in grant-funded research projects related to coastal science and management. He is a coastal advisor to the U.S. National Park Service where he was a Sabbatical Fellow in 2004. He is also president of Sialia Environmental, Inc., a firm that provides environmental consulting and restoration design.

Young’s presentation is co-sponsored by Brevard College and the Pisgah Group of the Sierra Club.

## Faculty Promotion and Tenure Approved by Trustees

Four Brevard College faculty members were recently granted promotions by the College’s Board of Trustees.

Dr. Resa Chandler, Dr. Kristina Holland and Dr. John Padgett were promoted to associate professor with tenure. Dr. Amie Scheidegger, who already holds the rank of associate professor, was also granted tenure.

**Dr. Resa Chandler**

Chandler, who has been on faculty at Brevard College since 2007, specializes in exercise and medical physiology; cell and molecular biology; carbohydrate metabolism and diabetes; ergogenic aids and sports nutrition; and weight training.

She is a member of Brevard College’s Division of Science and Mathematics and coordinates the Exercise Science major. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Chandler also earned a master’s degree and her Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Dr. Kristina Holland**

An alumna of Brevard College, Holland joined the faculty in 1990. She

teaches British, world, environmental and women’s literature in addition to freshman composition, linguistics and film courses.

Holland serves as the chair of the College’s Academic Support Committee and directs the writing services offered through the College’s Academic Enrichment Center.

She has participated in the Appalachian College Association’s Teaching and Learning Institute, and has received several fellowships and grants, including a grant that enabled Holland and two Brevard College students to travel to London and Paris.

Holland received her bachelor’s degree in Speech Communications from Wake Forest University and master’s degree in English from Western Carolina University. She earned her Ph.D. in English/Rhetoric and Linguistics from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

**Dr. John Padgett**

Padgett, who has been on faculty at Brevard College since 2004, teaches American and British literature, particularly courses focusing on the American South, Gothic literature and the environment.

He also teaches courses in journalism and mass communication and serves as the faculty advisor for the student newspaper, *The Clarion*. Padgett received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English from Clemson University.

He earned his Ph.D. in English from the University of Mississippi.

**Dr. Amie Scheidegger**

Scheidegger joined Brevard College in 2006 to develop and implement the College’s Criminal Justice Program.

She teaches a variety of courses in both criminology and criminal justice. Scheidegger is an active member of several professional organizations, including the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and the Southern Criminal Justice Association.

Her research has been presented at both regional and national conferences and her publications appear in a variety of sources.

Scheidegger received her bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from Illinois State University and her master’s degree in Criminology from Florida State University. She earned her Ph.D. in Criminology from Florida State University.