

Students explore uncertainty in BCE 111

By Sarah Bowers
Staff Writer

Interested in chaos theory? Are you a fan of the movie *The Butterfly Effect*, starring Ashton Kutcher? Then BCE 111 class, *Chaos in Life, Learning, and Literature*, taught by Dr. Charles Wallis could be the class for you!

The class explores how the chaos theory or “butterfly effect” contributes to the outcome of changes in everything, everyone, everywhere. “We have an opportunity to include a blend of science, science fiction, art, music, mathematics, and a play among our studies,” says Dr. Wallis. “I hope students come away from the course with the idea that even small positive actions on their part can potentially have a significant

positive impact.”

The inspiration for Dr. Wallis’ class came from a friend of his at Western Carolina University. She, in turn, received her inspiration from a professor at Chapel Hill. Thinking aloud, Dr. Wallis wonders, “I wouldn’t be surprised if there are several previous generations of the course of which I’m not even aware.” It seems that the butterfly effect is at work.

“I like how we incorporate art into the class,” says art major Tonya Rocha, of the course. “I also think it will give me a better appreciation for math!” she says with a smile, “and I think it will help me have a better understanding of how my decisions, big or small, can have an effect in my life and the world around me.”

The chaos theory was established in the 1960’s

by an American mathematician named Edward Lorenz. The theory states how seemingly miniscule changes in certain systems can have significant and unpredictable consequences later on. The chaos theory is also being used in medical studies with patients of epilepsy to see if it can help predict the random episodes of seizures the patients experience. The theory has also been applied to predict the weather, and many other things.

“You know, every day is different; and that’s what is fun about this course,” explains Dr. Wallis. “Who knows when a word kindly spoken or some small courteous gesture might make an impact that we could never predict?”

Dr. Oliphant and BORG prepare to go abroad

By Patrick Veilleux
Contributor

Michael Oliphant, assistant professor of business and organizational leadership, has worked with a tour agency and the BORG faculty, to produce a unique course and study tour vacation. Professor Oliphant announced at an information meeting on Sept. 16 that the course is called *Business and Culture in Europe*.

Don’t be fooled, Dr. Oliphant also stated that, “The business part of it will be something we develop and invent as we go, it will really depend on what your interest is. If you’re a theater major, your chosen business will be something to do with theater. If you’re an art major, your focus could be art galleries, or individual artists.”

The trip will consist of a flight to Amsterdam, Holland. The tour group will visit the Royal

Palace of Amsterdam, and Rembrandt Square (Holland’s equivalent to Times Square.) The fourth day, the sight-seeing would extend to Brussels, Belgium to see various European Union buildings and the Atomium, a monument located at the sight of Europe’s 1958 World Expo.

The fifth day will complete the continental Europe tour by spending two days in Paris, France; with a visit to the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and a walk through the Latin Quarter, where college student life thrives in Paris.

The final part of the tour will consist of a ride via the underwater railway system set up between London, England and Paris. There will be opportunities to see Piccadilly Circus (which is England’s equivalent to Times Square) as well as the Tower of London and the Parliament Building. On the ninth day, the tour group leaves

from London International Airport to return to the United States.

It’s not too late to enroll; the deadline to pay the course fee (\$2,721) is November 5 and the 3 credit hour course will be both fun and informational. As a class it will meet once a week next semester, and the trip will take place over Spring Break (March 4-11 2011). The tour group will leave Friday March 4 after classes are done for the day, and would return on Saturday March 11 so students taking part would not be in danger of missing any classes. You can sign up for the course (ORG 390) during registration and enroll in the study tour by calling 1-800-873-2250, or going online at www.efcollegestudytours.com/enroll. If you have any questions, ask Michael Oliphant (oliphaml@brevard.edu).



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