

New physics minor approved

By Hannah Cook
Staff Writer

"We are immersed in physics every day," explains Dr. Michael Castelaz, a physics professor at Brevard College. "Physics has driven the technological revolution we are in right now."

Because of the practical use of understanding the physical world around us and the ability to problem solve that physics allows us to develop, Brevard College has approved Dr. Castelaz's proposal for the addition of a physics minor, scheduled to begin in the fall of 2015. This minor will consist of 19 credit hours, 12 of which are to be made up by a required base of three foundational courses: PHY 103: General Physics I, PHY 104: General Physics II and PHY 205: Modern Physics.

"Modern physics is a new course we are offering," says Castelaz. "It gets into the very strange world of relativity." Topics such as quantum mechanics, special relativity and the speed of light will be covered in this course. Though these required classes may sound 'rigid' from their course descriptions, Castelaz notes that "they are not dry, all are experiential learning. There is



Mike Castelaz working with students.

room for creativity." These statements is fully supported by students of Dr. Castelaz's current PHY 104 class in which students design and test their own experiments instead of doing traditional labs.

After the 3 foundational classes have been

completed, students are able to pick between several other physics courses to cover the remaining 7 credit hours required, including PHY 102: Astronomy, PHY 302: Astrophysics, PHY 304: Electricity and Magnetism and PHY 204 Cosmology, (a current course that is offered by Dr. Clarke Wellborn).

Additionally, this minor will include an opportunity for an independent study, PHY 389. This minor may appeal most to math majors, biology majors, and even business majors. Castelaz explains that for a business major, this would show potential employers that he or she would be competent in interpreting and working with data and would show problem solving abilities of the individual. However, anyone who is curious about the workings of the world would benefit from a physics minor.

Dr. Castelaz emphasizes that humans are naturally curious creatures, made to discover. "Physics gives us that outlet to explore the world around us. It's not just that physics is important. It's that physics is part of our lives." This minor can be declared by students as they make their schedules for the coming fall semester.

Psych students represent BC at SEPA conference

By Jordan Laws
Staff Writer

The Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA), had their 61st Annual Meeting in Hilton Head, South Carolina from March 18-21 and a group of BC students along with Dr. Dan Moore, Coordinator of the Psychology Major at BC, presented research there.

Hanna Leonard (junior Theatre and Psychology Major), Savannah Calvert (junior Psychology Major), Currin Sessions, Leslie Scholl and Heidi Kaartinen attended the conference and presented their research. They created four posters that represented their research and as people walked around the conference they could stop and ask these students about their work and discoveries.

"Psych isn't a major that gets together a lot," Calvert said. "SEPA is cool. It's one weekend where people can be openly nerdy about psy-



From left to right: Sessions, Scholl, Leonard, Calvert and Kaartinen at SEPA conference

chology."

Savannah is a veteran of SEPA conferences. She has attended the past three and presented four posters at the events. Posters are representations of their research.

SEPA is where psychology enthusiasts from all

backgrounds meet to discuss current research and developments. Students, graduate students, and professors alike, attend SEPA's Annual Meetings to discuss anything about psychology. This is an incredible story for BC because these aforementioned students have worked hard to obtain entry

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