

## B-CU WELCOMES FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE TO CAMPUS

*University to Host Denomination for Annual Conference Event*

From June 10-13, Bethune-Cookman University will host the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church (UMC) for its annual conference event. More than 2,000 attendees, including clergy, lay leaders and congregants of United Methodist churches, are expected to participate in the gathering.

According to the Daytona Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau, the estimated economic impact of the event is approximately \$1.8 million.

“We are delighted to welcome The Florida Conference to our campus,” commented B-CU President Trudie Kibbe Reed. “Bethune-Cookman has an 85-year history with The United Methodist Church – a relationship that informs our values as an institution.” Dr. Reed is a former high-ranking administrator with the UMC and currently serves on the church’s General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

The Florida Conference is one of 63 regional bodies of the UMC in the United States. It stretches more than 700 miles, from just west of Tallahassee to the Florida Keys, and includes 740 churches with more than 310,000 members.

The annual conference event brings together clergy and lay members from United Methodist churches for worship, fellowship, and to conduct the business of the conference. Typically, during these sessions, members of the conference hear reports of past and ongoing work, adopt future goals, programs and budgets, and ordain clergy members as deacons and elders.

This year, clergy members and lay members elected from conference congregations will vote on amendments to the denomination’s constitution, which must be approved by two-thirds of all the regional conferences to be adopted. A memorial service Thursday

*(cont’d on page 2)*



**CHERISHING THE CREATION**  
2009 FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE EVENT  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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morning, June 11 at 11 a.m., will honor clergy of the conference who have died in the previous year. In addition, there will be evening worship services and a number of bible study sessions. Ordination, licensing and commissioning of United Methodist clergy are also on the agenda.

Approximately 69 vendors will set up as the annual conference event's EXPO, including the Cokesbury Bookstore – a leading nationwide retailer of Christian resources.

All plenary sessions, worship services, and the EXPO are open to the general public.

In keeping with the event's theme – Cherishing the Creation – an environmental film festival will be held on Wednesday, June 10, from 2:30 to 10 p.m., at the B-CU School of Nursing. The festival will feature a series of short films on the environment and the responsibility of the church including the topics of energy use, how food systems impact the environment, waste disposal, what local congregations can do and eco-justice. A panel discussion will follow each film. The film festival is open to the public.

Bethune-Cookman University is one of two United Methodist-related colleges in the state of Florida and one of eleven United Methodist-related historically black colleges and universities across the country that together make up the Black College Fund.

The institution's connection to the UMC dates back to 1872, when the Cookman Institute of Jacksonville, Florida, was established and named for the Reverend Alfred Cookman, a well-known Methodist minister. Following the merger of the Cookman Institute with Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune's school in Daytona Beach, the school, which became known as Bethune-Cookman College, affiliated with the UMC in 1924.

As a United Methodist-related institution, Bethune-Cookman University shares a common set of values and educational principles with the UMC and its other church-related colleges and universities. Among these are:



- Emphasis on special quality of care for students, realized through residence-hall life, faculty commitment to students, special programs and performances, counseling services and an active chaplain's office and religious life council on campus.

- A commitment to academic excellence, with resources dedicated to support student achievement including learning labs, programs for students with special needs, and faculty devoted to teaching and helping students to learn.

- A demonstrated relationship with the church, shown through the quality of academic and community life; a sensitivity to the religious life concerns of students; scholarships for United Methodist students; hosting church events on campus; making faculty and staff available to local churches; and, doing community or international service projects.

- A focus on the University as a community, understanding that this community will produce many of the leaders in our churches, cities, nation, and world.

In addition to sharing the common values and principles of all United Methodist-related institutions, the colleges and universities of UMC, which in Florida includes Florida Southern University in Lakeland, create a supportive environment that recognizes and nurtures the potential of every student, and instill a commitment to service – and an expectation of leadership – in their students.



# NATIONAL ALUMNI CONVENTION TO TAKE PLACE IN WEST PALM BEACH



Soon, alumni from around the country will convene in West Palm Beach to celebrate their Wildcat spirit. The 41st National Alumni Convention of the National Alumni Association (NAA) will be held June 17-June 21.

This year's theme is One Vision, One Purpose, One Direction. The convention promises to be a spectacular showing of alumni pride, progress and perseverance.

The event will be kicked off on the 17th with a Welcome to West Palm Beach Reception featuring hors d'oeuvres and jazz music and the opportunity to connect with fellow alumni and local and state elected officials.

Other events throughout the weekend include an executive committee meeting, a Spoken Word and Vibe night featuring live entertainment, a corporate breakfast with a keynote speaker, an alumni mixer, alumni awards, the coronation of the MsAlumna and more. There will also be a workshop featuring Dr. Evelyn Bethune, granddaughter of B-CU founder Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune.

On Friday, President Trudie Kibbe Reed will give a State of the University address at the B-CU/NAA Presidential Luncheon. On Saturday, there will be a B-CU/NAA Celebrity Golf Tournament featuring NFL Hall of Famer and B-CU alumnus Larry Little. The weekend will close with a worship service and necrology ceremony.

To see the full event schedule, visit [www.bcu-naa.com/about\\_the\\_convention.htm](http://www.bcu-naa.com/about_the_convention.htm).

## about the association

B-CU's National Alumni Association and its members play an important role supporting the mission of the University and strengthening the lifelong bonds B-CU alumni have to each other and the institution. Through fundraising initiatives like the Life Membership Campaign, the annual Ms. Alumna contest, and targeted efforts to increase alumni contributions, the association helps meet the needs of today's students. The NAA also helps us find the B-CU students of tomorrow through recruiting efforts at the local chapter level.

At all levels, the NAA works to ensure the positive reputation of the Great Bethune-Cookman University. Over the past few years, the association with the support of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Committee Chairpersons and members, have accomplished many goals of the great B-CU.

Some of the group's accomplishments include:

- Given gifts of over \$400,00 in support to the institution
- Purchased the Naming Rights of the Defensive Coach's Office in the soon-to-be-built Larry R. Handfield Athletic Training Center
- Established an Endowed Scholarship Account of \$100,000 in perpetuity with the interest funding 10 student scholarships
- Established an Endowed Pre-Alumni Restricted Account of \$20,000 in perpetuity with the interest assisting the Pre-Alumni Council with activity expenses

Visit the organization online at [www.bcu-naa.com](http://www.bcu-naa.com).

## MEAC ANNOUNCES 2009 COMMISSIONER'S ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM

Recently, 58 B-CU student athletes were named to the MEAC 2009 Commissioner's All-Academic Team which, this year, recognized 593 student-athletes from the conference's 12 member institutions who achieved academic success during the 2008-09 academic year. The team honors student-athletes, including sophomores to seniors, with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better.

### FEMALE ATHLETES HONORED

**Basketball:** Jasmine Daniels, Brittany Jackson, Keturah Newkirk; **Bowling** - Valori Poovey; **Track & Field:** Tavia Burke, Christina Roundtree, Analisa Austin, Maketa Ruffin, Alfreepha Stubbs;

**Cross Country:** Jacqueline Flowers; **Golf:** Maria Garrido, Fern Grimshaw, Maria Urquiola; **Softball:** Brittani Austin, Ashton Hinds, Tamekia Jones, Elizabeth Parrish; **Tennis:** Reijina Hopkins, Monika Musilova, Andrea Paez, Jeneice Ward; **Volleyball:** Talisha Balck, Reina Carson, Danielle Goodrum, Shanicka Reddick, Daryl Rodriguez, Chelle Ticeson

### MALE ATHLETES HONORED

**Baseball:** Drew Clark, Matthew Crane, Justin Dah, Devin DelaRosa, Ryan Durrence, Chris Lauriello, Joseph Munoz, Aaron Patterson, Andrew Tilka; **Football:** Ekow Acquah, Devin Bradley, Corey Council, Ryan Griffin, Phillip Kirkland, Cody Reider, Travis Roland, Donald Sprenkel, Joseph Stitt, Jaermal Walls, Joseph White; **Golf:** Chris Dunn, Sean Edey, Juan Ronderos, Daniel Venema; **Tennis:** Cristian Cruz, Craig Johnson, Kristopher Martin, Emil Vassilev; **Basketball:** Tyrel Adams, Kene Anusionwu; **Track & Field:** Craig Johnson



## WILDCATS WIN FOURTH STRAIGHT MEAC TITLE

*10 MEAC Titles In Last 11 Years For Wildcats*

The MEAC Conference dominance continues for Bethune-Cookman University winning its fourth straight MEAC title and 10 championships in the last 11 years beating North Carolina A&T 15-9.

B-CU's Ryan Durrence was 2-5 with a home run and five RBI to lead the 15-run, 12-hit attack against the Aggies. Freshman pitcher Ali Simpson (won his seventh consecutive game, pitching 5 innings and three relievers. Joseph Munoz, Rayan Gonzalez, and Felix Machado pitched the final four innings.

For Head Coach Mervyl Melendez, it was his ninth MEAC championship in ten years as the head coach and his 2009 team has peaked at the right time.

"We have been playing well the last 2-3 weeks and this is the team I envisioned earlier in the year – we saw that team today and this weekend," said Melendez of his 2009 MEAC champions (now 32-26 on the season with four straight wins, including the 5-2 win at #15 Miami to end the regular season). "We need to continue to peak, continue to swing the bats like we've been and continue to pitch well. We will savor the moment, enjoy the victory. I am proud of everything we have done as a team. I am very satisfied and happy winning the MEAC again."

"I love this team and I love coaching these kids," said Melendez following the championship game. "I enjoy coaching this team. They all understand it is about the team and not as individuals. They get along and work hard."

## ■ top honors ■

B-CU's head tennis coach Trey Bogue was named MEAC Women's Coach of the Year and co-Men's Coach of the Year for 2009. This year, Bogue also registered his 200th career coaching win. In his eight years as Wildcat coach, 28 of his players have earned All-MEAC honors.



## ■ ideas? ■

*Wildcat Connections* is produced twice a month by the Office of Institutional Advancement. You can send news items, comments and suggestions to: [connections@cookman.edu](mailto:connections@cookman.edu).

You may also call 386.481.2990 or email Liz Poston [postone@cookman.edu](mailto:postone@cookman.edu), Meredith Rodriguez [rodriguezmr@cookman.edu](mailto:rodriguezmr@cookman.edu). The B-CU Sports Information team also contributed to this issue.

## BETHUNE-COOKMAN AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP GRANT FROM PALM BEACH COMMUNITY TRUST

The Palm Beach Community Trust Fund continued its long tradition of support for Bethune-Cookman University (B-CU) this month when it awarded the university \$88,000 for student scholarships.

Since 1993, the Trust Fund has given more than \$400,000 in scholarship grants to B-CU.

The fund, established in 1955, has given millions of dollars to organizations around the country, with most of their gifts going to those in Florida. Along with higher education, their main areas of interest are children/youth services, family services, health organizations, hospitals, human services and museums.

“Thanks to funds such as the generous Palm Beach Community Trust Fund, Bethune-Cookman can continue to educate talented, deserving students who might otherwise be unable to attend college,” stated Shirley Q. Range, vice president of institutional advancement. “These programs allow us to continue to our campus tradition of faith, scholarship and service.”



### ■ kudos ■

**Dr. Paula McKenzie's** panel discussion, “Educating American Citizens? Free Expression 101,” has been reviewed and accepted for presentation at the National Communication Association’s 95th Annual Convention taking place this fall in Chicago, Ill. McKenzie is a B-CU assistant professor of speech communication & theatre arts.

