

Pancake Break!

By Caroline Hoy
Co-Editor in Chief

A semi annual tradition at Brevard College is the famous pancake break. It is a way for the staff and students to celebrate the end of the semester and the start of exam season. Pancake break this year was held inside Myer's Dining Hall and had the staff serving the pancakes to the students in two separate lines.

Students could get as many pancakes as they liked, but most people had about two to three

pancakes. Toppings to be on pancakes included banana custard,sparkles, white chocolate chips, strawberries, chocolate chips, whipped cream and more. The event lasted from 9:00 p.m. until 10 p.m. on May 1 and had quite the showing.

During the event there were raffle tickets for different gift cards or someone could take a survey to earn raffle tickets for different gift cards. There were also two competitions to earn

gift cards. Someone could enter the dance/ sing like Shakra or do your best tornado impression. The winner of the tornado impression was Oreo Ellis for his never ending tornado.

Overall everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and are so happy this long standing tradition has stood the test of time and is still loved by students, staff and faculty alike. Can't wait for it again in December!

Mental Health Event!

By Caroline Hoy
Co-Editor in Chief

On Friday, April 28 at 6:30 p.m. Brevard College hosted one last mental health event for the school year. The event lined up perfectly for the exam week that started two days later on Sunday.

The event featured a giant bounce house slide which was enjoyed by people of all ages. There were also therapy dogs who were very happy to be pet and pet by people. They also had painting fun for all!

A big part of the event was the escape room. A pirate ship was brought in and people were given 10 mins to escape from the ship. While people were waiting there were activities such as a giant battleship, finding the buried treasure, bean bag toss and those were just for around the ship!

A favorite of people was the rage room. People were given plates and markers and told that they were given the choice to decorate the plates or just smash the plate to take the rage out. The room was a tent set up with rocks in it and people smashed the plates on the rocks making a great shattering sound.

There were also fun stations set up including SAFE, a location family shelter, doing a

wellness give away with a spin of a wheel. PSI CHI also had a coloring station where students could do a coloring page or two.

Overall the final mental health event this year was a smash hit! This event will be hard to live up to next year!



Photo by Caroline Hoy

The people working the event were super kind!



Photo by Caroline Hoy

Abbie Worsencroft smashes the plate!



Photo by Caroline Hoy

Everyone's favorite lady of the career center slides down the slide!

Attention graduating seniors

Attention Graduating Seniors!

Every year, 'Clarion' wipes a tear and collects photos of the four-year student experience from our graduating class. Please consider submitting either photos or a short video of your time at Brevard using the survey link [here](#). Help us give the Class of 2023 an exciting and meaningful sendoff with photo memories of Pancake Breaks, athletic events, study sessions, Campus Life events, chill times and anything more that represents your time at BC. We're sad to see you go, but excited to see what's next in your futures!



FRIDAY, MAY 5

- 12:45 pm Commencement Rehearsal for Graduates & Junior Marshalls**
Candidates for Graduation assemble Ives-Lemel Family Field
Rain Site for Rehearsal: Scott Concert Hall, Porter Center
- 4:00 pm Assemble for Baccalaureate**
Candidates - Porter Center Main Hallway
Faculty and Staff- Scott Commons
- 4:30 pm Baccalaureate & Hooding Ceremony**
Scott Concert Hall, Porter Center

Saturday, May 6

- 7:30 am Breakfast Biscuits Available**
Myers Dining Hall
- 8:00 am Class Photo of Candidates for Graduation**
J.A. Jones Library, Front Steps
- 8:30 am Assemble for Commencement Ceremony**
Candidates- Aux Gym
Faculty, Staff, ELT, & Board of Trustees –Performance Gym
- 9:00 am Commencement Ceremony**
Ives-Lemel Family Field



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Remembering Jim Reynolds

Geology professor left a lasting legacy at Brevard and beyond

By Jennifer Frick-Ruppert

The passing of Jim Reynolds leaves a gap in the world. He was ambitious, hard-working, critical and outspoken, in short a complex and interesting human being. Jim loved teaching, and his reputation among students was excellent. He was recognized more than once by various student groups with teaching awards.

Jim also loved to travel, and he combined these two passions (for teaching and for travel) into a series of field courses that involved both regional and international travel. These courses encouraged students to experience other cultures and ecosystems with direct observation and exploration, and students provided positive feedback about these experiences.

Jim was also a respected scholar. While at Brevard College, he traveled internationally in the summer months to continue his research into geological features of South America, primarily Argentina. He was awarded a prestigious Fulbright scholarship and published several professional papers with international colleagues.

Both before and after his retirement from Brevard College, Jim worked with organizations including the Smithsonian Institution as a trip leader to such interesting geological and ecological locations as the Galapagos Islands.

Jim was a strong environmental advocate, and again brought to bear his close bonds with students. He was the faculty sponsor for the student club BC Recycles for several years and, along with student leaders, was instrumental in getting recycling institutionalized on campus. He helped get a grant to install solar water heaters on the roof of the cafeteria, and he worked with the Student Government Association and the Board of Trustees to divest our endowment away from fossil fuels.

Through all these efforts, Jim was an unrelenting and formidable voice, a strong advocate for student views and environmental stewardship. The world seems a little dimmer in his absence.

Jennifer Frick-Ruppert is Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, and Dalton Professor of Biology and Environmental Science at Brevard College.

Obituary

Jim Reynolds, emeritus geology professor, dies at 70

By John Padgett
Contributor

Jim Reynolds, a longtime geology professor at Brevard College who took students literally around the world as part of his teaching before he retired in 2019, died April 20, 2023. He was 70.

His death was reported on Facebook by his daughter, Elena Bean Reynolds, who called him “the most intelligent man I know, with a brilliant sense of humor, easy going attitude, and the best father a girl could ask for.” Almost immediately, tributes by those who knew him began popping up on social media for “JR,” as he was affectionately known, often from students who were not science majors.

One of those was Chrisi Gaskill, who wrote that she went into his geology class thinking it would be a breeze. “I did terribly. I mean, REALLY bad,” she wrote, adding, “this was the first time I remember feeling so incredibly challenged as a student, completely knocked off my pedestal.”

Even so, she wrote, “I admired the hell out of JR, even when on more than one occasion he would use my home [on Ocracoke Island, North Carolina] as an example of what would be lost to climate change in 50 years (he’s not wrong). He was sharp, funny, and he absolutely radiated intelligence.”

Davis Whitfield-Cargile had a similar experience. A music major, he signed up for geology thinking it would be easier than other sciences offered at BC. “Boy was I wrong,” he wrote. “He challenged the heck out of us and suffered no fools, but he also inspired me as much, if not more, than any of my professors. He sparked in me a passion for environmental policy and an interest in the law that I did not know I had.

“He’s the reason I switched gears from working on my audition C.D. for masters programs in music to law school. I am forever grateful for the profound influence he had on my life. He was so much more than a professor.”

In his 20 years teaching at Brevard College, Reynolds was perhaps most famous for his field trips, which included local destinations such as the Blue Ridge Parkway but also international trips ... especially if they had volcanoes.

“I had the opportunity to accompany JR



Jim Reynolds in Patagonia, Chile, in February, as part of a Smithsonian Journeys tour.

on one of his trips to Iceland, and he was a close colleague in our Division,” math professor Charles Wallis said. “JR seemed to be particularly well-liked by students. Although we did not have a geology major, JR’s passion for the subject inspired many geology minors.”

Wallis said the only time he ever saw Reynolds upset was when he was informed that the geology minor would be discontinued at BC after his retirement. “He cared very much about his students, the geology minor, and about environmental issues,” Wallis said.

James Howard Reynolds III was born Feb. 13, 1953 to James and Shirley Reynolds in Hamilton, New York. His father was a longtime psychology professor at Colgate University, but both his parents went to Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, which JR would repeat for all of his college education between 1971 and 1987, when he earned a Ph.D. in geology.

One of the turning points in his life occurred Oct. 12, 1980, when at the age of 27 he suffered a stroke that left him with paralysis on his left side. He was eventually able to restore most of his movement, though he walked with a limp for the rest of his life.

He wrote about the experience eloquently

over the years, even finding a kind of peace with it, writing, “I do not regret the stroke. I like the person I am. Most of my real accomplishments took place after I had the stroke. I wonder if I would be as driven as I am had I not had the stroke. My guess is probably not. I can’t imagine what life would be like if it had never happened.” He would regularly commemorate the anniversary of the stroke as his “rebirthday.”

He taught at a number of colleges and universities, including Colgate and Western Carolina University, before joining the faculty at Brevard College in 1999. During his 20 years at BC, he was always a passionate advocate for environmental issues, even leading the initiative for BC to divest its endowment away from fossil fuels.

(For more about his legacy at Brevard College and beyond, be sure to read the reflection by Jennifer Frick-Ruppert, who before being named Vice President of Academic Affairs was a longtime colleague of Reynolds in the Science and Math Division.)

He retired from Brevard College in 2019 and was named professor emeritus of geology, but he continued to travel the world to educate others. He posted photos on Facebook of his 70th birthday earlier this year in Patagonia, Chile, one of his favorite places in the world.

In recent years, his health began to take a turn for the worse, which he often posted about on Facebook, but he never let his health problems prevent him from doing the things he loved to do.

No services have yet been announced, but according to his daughter Elena, “We will be planning a very special memorial, probably in the fall, since he was so special for so many people.”

In his tribute on Facebook, Whitfield-Cargile concluded, “Thank you, J.R., for all you’ve helped me and so many others accomplish in life, and for instilling in us a profound appreciation for the world around us. You will be missed greatly, but your legacy will remain for a long long time through your daughters, your family, and all of the people—young and old—you’ve inspired in your time on earth. What a meaningful life you lived.”

A reflection of my time at Brevard College

By Caroline Hoy
Co-Editor in Chief

I have been at Brevard College for 8 semesters and came here one semester before COVID hit. I enjoyed my time at Brevard College and am quite happy I chose to go to school here, but there have been a few things about that truly irked me to the core.

Brevard College has some amazing professors. Freshman year, I was looking at transferring schools, but it was the fact that my professors had been overall great that I stayed.

However, during the last 4 years at Brevard College, my viewpoint on this has unfortunately changed. I have had the pleasure of meeting a few too many faculty and staff who don't seem to treat students with respect. I know what you may be thinking, but I believe that respect is a two way street.

The good part is that this wasn't the majority of faculty and staff. In fact, the majority of people were amazing and wonderful to be around. The bad part is that it happened enough that I feel like I have too many examples. For the sake of privacy none will be shared.

Also, talking about how students were treated, mental health at Brevard College felt like a joke sometimes. They host events and say mental health is important, but myself and some of my peers constantly feel pressure caving in on us from classes, sports, or extracurriculars. Many of the professors didn't seem to understand that the amount of pressure many of us go through doesn't create senioritis, it just made me want to leave. It creates burnout where I am physically sick from this amount of work.

One of my peers was even told by a faculty member that "they are too high achieving to have anything wrong with them" and this wouldn't be so bad if it was once or twice... but I have spoken with at least 7 students who had said that someone on campus said something like this to them.

Whenever I talk with someone about my concerns here, this is how I feel it works: they pull out a broom and leave the rug, take the broom and sweep all the words that are out of my month under the rug.

There is one thing that has happened to me while here that makes me really upset. Every year, except my sophomore year, I had horrible mold in the bathroom showers. While at Brevard College I have lived in Jones (Freshman), Stanback (Sophomore), Villages (Junior) and Green (Senior). Every year I would spray the showers, quite often with mold killer, and it never seems to go away. The asthma attacks in the shower were not fun.

Now I do have to point out that whenever I did put in a maintenance request, they were good about coming out and were very timely in coming. But when students always have mold even in Central Village, which is brand new, that's when there is a problem.

I have one more thing at Brevard College that has very much irked me. This part is particular to being a staff of the Clarion, particularly as an Editor. Now I love writing about the amazing events the school puts on, like my article this week about mental health. But the job of The

Clarion isn't always to make the school look good. We want to speak truth, and part of that may also be covering bad things.

This means that when we cover not so happy events, some faculty and staff can get mad. Not all of the faculty and staff know me and understand that it's not the goal to make the school look bad.

I have seen someone throw a Clarion on the ground and stomp on it, and I have received emails about how unprofessional I was for having errors and how I could do better, but there weren't any errors. They were just not used to the formatting of the paper.

Many people often complain about the WIFI and Caf at school. Now the WIFI nor the Caf is the best I have ever had, but the school is working to improve these two things and I greatly appreciate that and hope that these turn out to be great.

I don't want this to feel like every single person at Brevard College is mean and will destroy students. Many people at this school are quite a delight and I would recommend Brevard College to new students... just be prepared. This school has so many great parts like the tutoring center, some amazing professors who I will cry saying goodbye to and the experiential learning! Everywhere has its faults, including Brevard College, but all in all I wouldn't have changed my mind and would go here all over again. My friends and support I have earned here have mean the world and no place is without issues!

Dear Readers, this year has been a year of many ups and downs, and we thank you for continuing to read and enjoy our work. Have a groovy summer, and we will see you in the fall. For those we won't see, good luck to you in all that you do. Tata for now!

— Anna Ervin and
Caroline Hoy



Photo by Brevard College

Caroline Hoy and Anna Ervin