

COMMENCEMENT EDITION 2021

The CLARION

clarion.brevard.edu

Volume 86, Issue 32

Web Edition

SERVING BREVARD COLLEGE SINCE 1935

May 17, 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Graduates' [BC memories](#)

[Advice](#) to other students

Photos!

[Voice of the Rivers](#)

The Class of 2021

More than 130 awarded degrees in BC's 168th graduation

As perhaps is appropriate for a college with "tornado" as its mascot, this year's graduation at Brevard College was quite the windy event, with flying hats, fluttering pages of speeches, and flags flapping and billowing in the breeze.

Fortunately, no one was struck by airborne debris, and that Saturday's winds only served to heighten the pomp and circumstance of the Brevard College commencement ceremony.

Oh, and one more thing: We did it twice.

Following an academic year that presented unprecedented challenges because of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, Brevard College celebrated the 168th commencement exercises in the college's history on Saturday, May 8 at Ives-Lemel Family Field on the BC campus. A grand total of 135 college graduates walked across the stage in one of the two ceremonies to receive their reward: a Brevard College diploma.

"The most significant recognition we bestow today is the Brevard College diploma itself," said the Reverend Dr. David C. Joyce, president of Brevard College. "The diploma signifies a level of education that the vast majority of people in this world, and even in this country, may never have the opportunity to obtain."

The 2021 ceremonies took place in-person after last year's commencement was postponed and eventually conducted virtually in December 2020 as a result of the pandemic. After the spring 2020 semester concluded

with on-line classes, Brevard College resumed in-person learning for the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters. Through perseverance, unity and sacrifice, the academic year was successfully completed with final exams concluding May 7. The year culminated with an in-person commencement that was simultaneously livestreamed and later posted to [the college's YouTube channel](#) to allow family and friends to witness the joy of the new Brevard College graduates.



Photo by Brianna Rodibaugh

Brevard College President David Joyce welcomes graduates to their commencement ceremony.

Twice the usual celebration

To reduce crowds and allow for social distancing protocols, this year's commencement was split into two ceremonies. The first ceremony, which

Continued on [page 2](#)



Members of the class of 2021 gathered in the stands of the Ives-Lemel Family Field Friday afternoon for a pandemic-era socially distanced class photo.

Graduation at Brevard College

Continued from [page 1](#)

began at 8 a.m. ET, was for graduates receiving degrees in Business & Organizational Leadership, Criminal Justice, Education, Psychology and Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education. The second ceremony began at noon for graduates receiving degrees in Art, Biology, English, Environmental Studies, Exercise Science, Health Science, History, Integrated Studies, Mathematics, Music, Philosophy & Religion, and Theatre.

The second ceremony also included several graduates from the class of 2020 who were unable to experience an in-person commencement last spring.

The 168th commencement ceremony took place for the first time at the newly expanded Ives-Lemel Family Field located on the Brevard College campus. A stage graced midfield where the graduates walked across to receive

their diplomas. Families were seated in the new grandstand at Ives-Lemel Family Field with the graduates seated on the stadium turf in front of the stage. Attendees of the event were asked to wear masks, and social distancing was implemented to ensure a safe environment for the once-in-a-lifetime event.

Each ceremony began with the piping sounds of bagpiper Cameron Nixon (class of 2016) as a sea of black regalia greeted beaming family members awaiting the commencement. A welcome from President Joyce, along with an Invocation from class of 2021 graduate and Christ Club President Cody Dillon Ingram, opened the proceedings.

"We come here this morning to salute the outstanding achievements of the graduating class of 2021 as well as the class of 2020," Joyce said. "These two classes have persevered and sacrificed in so many important ways that will never be forgotten."

The 2021 graduating class earned an abundance of accolades throughout the students' years at Brevard College. During their tenure, this class took Brevard College's motto—"Learn in Order to Serve"—to heart and provided the community with over 8,500 hours of community service in their four-year span.

Brevard College student-athletes showed their strength in numbers. A total of 43 student-athletes walked at graduation with 35 graduates wearing the Scholar-Athlete senior stoles for academic and athletic



Photo by Victoria Brayman

Flags for three foreign nations in the commencement ceremonies represent the home country for three members of the class of 2021: North Macedonia (above), carried by Aia Andonovska; the Dominican Republic and Brazil (right), carried by Jose Sanchez Martinez and Joao Suarti, respectively. Other flag bearers were Gabrielle Lachney and Caitlyn Cloud-Morton (U.S. flag); Benjamin Melton and Solomon Turner (North Carolina flag); Kiara Carson and Cody Ingram (Christian flag); and Hannah Weatherall and Jennifer Cox (the B.C. Alumni Banner).



Photo by Brianna Rodibaugh



Photo by Victoria Brayman



Courtesy of Dee Dasburg

Above: President Joyce and his wife Lynn, Dean D'Anna, and Dee Dasburg pose with Rakeem Sweezy's brothers, Raquan and Rashawn, and another Sweezy family friend, Essence, after commencement on Saturday, May 8. Top: A front-row chair with Sweezy's graduation robe and photo honored his memory.

excellence. The Women's Tennis team, graduating three seniors, earned the highest GPA for all athletic teams, while three seniors were inducted into the prestigious National Football Foundation Hampshire Honors Society.

The direct, hands-on experiences and focused reflection these graduates received has led to internships and jobs within several industries, acceptance to and assistantships at several esteemed graduate schools, jobs within law enforcement, and with theatre companies, to name just a few post-graduate opportunities.

Transylvania and surrounding counties in Western North Carolina can claim 25 of the newly minted graduates, while the remainder traveled from 17 states and three foreign countries (Dominican Republic, Brazil and North Macedonia) to make Brevard College their home.

Continued on [page 3](#)

Graduation at Brevard College

Continued from [page 2](#)

With just 750 students, Brevard College remains purposefully small in order to offer unique and challenging experiential learning opportunities for all students. The College employs 52 full-time faculty and 190 full-time staff.

Student commencement speakers

While most colleges invite a well-known guest speaker to their graduation ceremonies, Brevard College stays true to its mission to engage its students in the process and encourage personal growth by choosing two outstanding seniors to speak at Commencement.

Graduating seniors Rebecca Rojas and K'nique Eichelberger delivered heartfelt messages to their fellow graduates as this year's commencement speakers. Each senior class speaker was introduced by fellow graduate and Student Government Association President Caitlyn Cloud-Morton.

Rojas, a native of Murrieta, California, earned her degree in Business and Organizational Leadership with a minor in Pre-Law. One of the most accomplished women's soccer student-athletes in school history, Rojas served as SGA Treasurer and as a peer leader for first-year students. During her time at BC, she earned both the Dr. Barbara Boerner Emerging Leader Scholarship Award and the Sustainable Leadership Award. A Dean's List student every semester, Rojas plans to pursue a Master's degree in Business Administration at Los Angeles Pacific University.

Rojas gave her remarks in the earlier ceremony. She opened her speech by recalling a moment in February during a women's soccer game and their first home win on the new athletic field—the same field where she was now speaking.

"I remember standing in goal during the game, as a goalkeeper, looking at my teammates, look-

ing at the fans sitting in this new stadium—while wearing masks, as I may add—and thinking to myself, Are we really playing right now?," she said. "That is how I am feeling at this moment."

Rojas said much of her speech would serve as a "final reflection," alluding to the last step of the experiential learning cycle. She recalled several of the "once-in-a-lifetime experiences" that she and her classmates had during their years at BC, which included a total solar eclipse in 2017, a full-size igloo near the Villages in the winter of 2018 courtesy of WLEE students, and last year, "a whole extra week of spring break, which was then followed by free tutorials on how to learn through Zoom and Google Meet."

Rojas also commented on the numerous accomplishments by members of the 2021 class as well as the challenges and sacrifices that everyone has had to face during the past year.

"We are here today because of the sacrifices the people surrounding us have made," Rojas said. "This diploma may have our name on it when it is presented, but it's not just for us. It is for our communities that we will guide. Our education and challenging experiences that we encountered this past year have demonstrated that we can change the future to what we envision it."

Eichelberger, a native of Columbia, South Carolina, earned his degree in Music and Theatre. As a senior at Brevard College, he was named the Outstanding Theatre (Performance) Major and Outstanding Music Major. His recent credits include "The Last Five Years," "Little Shop of Horrors," "Into The Woods" and "A Streetcar Named Desire." After graduation, Eichelberger will work as a resident actor with the Charleston Stage in Charleston, South Carolina.

Eichelberger spoke in the second ceremony, opening by joking he didn't know if he wanted to sing or recite a Shakespeare soliloquy—and then offering the audience a brief performance of each. In the end, he decided to do neither and instead speak from his heart.

He referenced a quote his mom once told him, "Say what you want, until you see what you say," and noted that he and his classmates had done exactly that during their years at BC.

"Today we see the results of our dedication," Eichelberger said. "Today we see the fulfillment of our accomplishments. Today, our paths will begin to diverge and for many of us it is unclear where our paths will lead next. Wherever our paths may lead, they started right here at One Brevard College Drive."

Both speakers alluded to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ways that BC students, staff, faculty and administrators have labored to carry out the college's educational mission. Rojas



K'nique Eichelberger

praised college employees for their patience, support, and willingness to make hard decisions to preserve the value of education and to keep everyone safe. "If it were not for our ability to preserve a unique way of living, truthfully, I don't think we would be here this morning," she said.

Eichelberger also praised those who had helped graduates make it to this day: "I salute you for the sacrifices made—for our essential workers doing what they do every day on the front line, for our educational institutions finding ways to make a somewhat normal educational or college experience, for students, bending but never breaking, and for you, our families, who supported us every step of the way—we thank you!"

Both speakers also paid homage to Rakeem Sweezy, a beloved Brevard College student who died unexpectedly of natural causes Dec. 8, 2017 at the end of his third semester. Sweezy, who was an active member of the BC Theatre program and recipient of the Outstanding Freshman Award in the spring of 2017, would have graduated with the class of 2020 last year, but because the pandemic forced last year's ceremony to be canceled, Sweezy was honored and remembered in this year's ceremony by an empty seat bearing photographs of him and draped by his graduation gown. Sweezy's family was also presented with a certificate of honor.

Other honorees

Following the opening remarks and invocation by Joyce and a greeting from Barbara Hulsey, Chair of the Board of Trustees, five graduates were recognized for academic excellence by Scott Sheffield, Vice President for Academic



Rebecca Rojas

Continued on [page 4](#)

Looking Glass Rock Writers Conference

Public readings online as conference goes virtual

After being canceled last year because of the pandemic, the Looking Glass Rock Writers Conference will resume this year, albeit in a virtual environment, May 20-23.

But even though the conference participants won't be together in a single place, an important and festive part of the conference—the public readings by its faculty writers—will take place online for free to anyone who registers for it.

The conference, a joint venture by Brevard College and the Transylvania County Library, was founded in 2016 as a way to foster reading, writing and creativity. Exploring the theme “A Sense of Place,” small select groups of conference attendees experience working under the guidance of notable writers.

The visiting writer faculty this year include Silas House (fiction), Paisley Rekdal (poetry) and Rick Bragg (nonfiction). Although most of the conference workshops are open only to conference participants, the public readings by the three writers are open each year to the public at no cost.

The two public readings this year will be on Friday, May 21 and Saturday, May 22, both at 7 p.m. Friday's event will feature Rekdal and House, while Saturday will feature Bragg.

To attend the virtual event, you must register on the conference website, www.lgrwc.org. You will be sent a link that will work for both evenings. You will need to give your name and email address, but you can register once and attend either or both nights. You will not need a camera or microphone to participate.

Rick Bragg is the author of eight books, including the best-selling “Ava's Man” and “All Over but the Shoutin'.” He won the Pulitzer

Prize for Feature Writing in 1996 for his work at The New York Times. He lives in Alabama and is a writing professor at the University of Alabama's journalism program

Paisley Rekdal is the author of a book of essays, “The Night My Mother Met Bruce Lee”; a hybrid photo-text memoir, “Intimate”; and five books of poetry: “A Crash of Rhinos,” “Six Girls Without Pants,” “The Invention of the Kaleidoscope,” “Animal Eye” and “Imaginary Vessels.” She is a Distinguished Professor at the University of Utah, and in May 2017, she was named Utah's Poet Laureate and received a 2019 Academy of American Poets' Poets Laureate Fellowship.

Silas House is the nationally bestselling author of six novels: “Clay's Quilt,” “A Parchment of Leaves,” “The Coal Tattoo,” “Eli the Good,” “Same Sun Here” (co-authored with Neela Vaswani) and “Southernmost.” His writing credits also include plays and creative nonfiction. He is former commentator for NPR's “All Things Considered.” His writing has appeared recently in Time, The Atlantic, and Oxford American, as well as in anthologies such as “Best Food Writing, 2015” and “New Stories From the South, The Year's Best: 2004.” House serves on the fiction faculty at the Spalding School of Creative Writing and as the NEH Chair at Berea College.

Graduation at Brevard College

Continued from [page 3](#)

Affairs and Dean of Faculty.

The C. Edward & Brona N. Roy Good Citizenship Award was presented to Brittany Franks, a biology major from Belmont, North Carolina.

The Presidential Award for Distinction was awarded to Eichelberger.

The Presidential Award for Scholarship went to three students: Kurt Cope, a philosophy and religion major from Waynesville; Solomon Turner, a biology major from Snow Camp, North Carolina; and Carson Waddell, a business and organizational leadership major from Brevard.

The most recent Exemplary Teacher Award recipients were also honored. Last year's recipient was Dr. Hernan D. Biava, Assistant Professor of Chemistry. The 2021 honoree was Dr. Sarah A. Maveety, Assistant Professor of Biology.

Normally recognized during the traditional baccalaureate ceremony the night before graduation, Biava and Maveety both spoke to the graduating class, one in each ceremony.

Additionally, the hooding ceremony that is normally part of the baccalaureate service was incorporated into this year's commencement program, in which graduates are hooded by a faculty or staff member of their choice who impacted their educational experience during their time at Brevard College.

Walking across the stage...

After the awards were given and the speakers had finished their remarks, the names of the graduates were announced and they came forward to be hooded and then crossed the stage to receive their diploma from President Joyce and Dean Sheffield. Included with this year's

class were some graduates from last year who returned to Brevard to walk across the stage and be recognized during the live ceremony.

To conclude each ceremony, President Joyce offered his traditional charge to the graduating Class of 2021, followed by the traditional Brevard College hymn “Guarded Well By Mountains” led by Eichelberger and fellow graduate Sydney Windham.

“And now, members of the Classes of 2020 and 2021, it is time for you to head off to the new careers and the new lives you will be fashioning for yourselves,” declared Joyce. “We trust that you leave here a better version of yourself because of your time at Brevard College.”

More from this year's commencement can be found later in this issue and on the Brevard College [Flickr page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

'Let's collaborate':

BC launches new pedagogical initiative that will focus on collaborative learning

"Let's collaborate.
Together, we can do more."

This fall, those words will be commonplace on the Brevard College campus as the college begins a major new focus on collaborative learning as a way to improve upon the college's already robust commitment to experiential education.

On Wednesday, May 12, the entire faculty and staff gathered—most of them in person—to formally kick off the initiative with a series of training workshops and discussions using the principles of collaborative learning, which can be defined briefly as two or more people working together to pursue inquiry and growth in order to solve a problem, complete a task, generate new knowledge or create a product. At the heart of this week's roll-out was a campus-wide discussion on five elements crucial to effective cooperative learning:

- **Positive interdependence:** individuals perceive that they depend on others and others depend on them to be successful
- **Individual accountability:** a sense of personal responsibility understood as needed to work toward group goals or outcomes
- **Face-to-face promotive interaction:** support and encouragement offered to facilitate one another's efforts toward completion of goals and outcomes
- **Interpersonal and small group social skills:** skills to provide effective leadership (decision making, trust building, communication, conflict management)
- **Group processing:** reflection on group work to analyze functionality and plan to improve work processes and social skills.

BC's focus on collaborative learning is the mainstay of the college's latest Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that is currently underway as part of its re-accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The QEP is a key requirement in the accreditation process, which occurs every 10 years to assure educational quality and continually improve the effectiveness of member institutions.

BC's previous QEP a decade ago was the development of "Brevard College Pedagogies," which led directly to the college's

current mission statement and its emphasis on experiential education. The new QEP will provide a transformational vehicle for the college and in turn the student experience, both in and out of the classroom, through the concept of collaborative learning as a further improvement to the experiential education experience already in place at Brevard College.

Examples of collaborative learning will include intensive learning experiences such as the Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education major's immersion trips, the annual new student experience of CREEK Week and the Learning in Community (LINC) program. Collaborative learning initiatives will extend into BC's athletics department with projects ranging from an improved Academic Study Hall program to new experiences for student-athletes within the team environment. These experiences will prepare the BC students to be more effective collaborators during both their college experience and in their post-graduate careers.

Next up for Brevard College in the QEP process will be a rollout of the Collaborative



Sample classroom poster touting collaborative learning at BC.

Learning QEP in the fall of 2021, followed by ongoing assessment to allow for continual improvement. As the Collaborative Learning QEP continues to evolve, BC students will continue to benefit from these transformational improvements upon the already existing cornerstone of experiential education.

"The QEP of collaborative learning will invite us as a campus community to deepen our experiential mission," Josh Wilkey, a member of the QEP steering committee, said. "This renewed focus will make it even more meaningful for our students to engage in experiential education for the years to come."



Photo by Christie Cauble

The entire BC faculty and staff met on Wednesday, May 12, to begin discussing ways in which the college will roll out its newest pedagogical initiative on collaborative learning starting this fall.

Brevard College announces policy to require COVID-19 vaccines for all in 2021-2022

It's official: Brevard College will require all students, staff and faculty to be vaccinated for COVID-19 for the upcoming 2021-2022 academic year.

The announcement was made to the college in an email on April 28 from BC President David Joyce. His letter has since been [posted to the college's website](#).

In making the announcement, Brevard joins only a handful of other North Carolina colleges and universities, including Duke and Wake Forest, who will require the vaccine.

Carolina Public Press published [an article on May 4](#) about North Carolina colleges and universities weighing the decision of whether to require the vaccine next year. Most schools in the state, the article states, will likely not require vaccines as a condition for enrollment or employment this fall, and instead "will continue to follow protocols set forth by the CDC to help stop the spread of COVID-19."

The University of North Carolina, for instance, which operates 16 campuses across the Tarheel State, has so far not issued a requirement for the vaccine.

"The UNC System strongly recommends the vaccine for students but is not requiring it," the system said via a statement from UNC Vice President of Communications Jane Stancill. "We urge our students and all North Carolinians to be vaccinated at the earliest opportunity."

North Carolina state law requires college students at both public and private institutions to receive vaccinations for several diseases—diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B and varicella—before reporting to campus, according to the Carolina Public Press article. Some schools also have requirements for flu vaccines each year.

Nationwide, more and more schools are starting to announce they will require COVID-19 vaccines as a condition for admission or enrollment. The Chronicle of Higher Education is [tracking institutions who will require a vaccine](#) and so far has identified 356 colleges and universities, most of them in the Northeast and in west coast states like California.

The Chronicle lists only five North Carolina institutions which will require the vaccine so far. In addition to Duke and Wake Forest, the other North Carolina institutions include Shaw University and Union Presbyterian Seminary at Charlotte.

South Carolina and Tennessee each have only one institution listed by the Chronicle that have announced plans to require the vaccine: Wofford and Maryville College, respectively.

Below is the text of Joyce's letter to the BC community:

I am writing to share our plan to implement a policy that will require the COVID-19 vaccination for all students, faculty, and staff so that we can resume some reasonable semblance of pre-pandemic campus life at Brevard College.

Looking ahead, we know that COVID-19 vaccinations are our best way back to a normal learning environment. Once the vaccinations are fully approved by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA), we will require all students, faculty, and staff to be fully vaccinated by the opening of the Fall semester. Students will have to be fully vaccinated by August 15, 2021. We will also require all faculty, staff, new and returning students (including commuters), to show proof that they have received a COVID-19 vaccine prior to the start of the Fall semester. Documented exemptions will be accommodated on a case-by-case basis.

Going forward, our mission is to continue to deliver an "experiential liberal arts education that encourages personal growth and inspires artistic, intellectual, and social action." To do so, we must be person-to-person, actively engaged, and creatively reflective with one another to achieve the educational outcomes inherent in our mission statement and to maintain the communal spirit at the heart of our educational community. The best way we can deliver on the BC promise and keep our campus and community safe is to require that everyone be vaccinated against COVID-19.

More information, including a vaccine verification/registration form will be provided soon. If you have any questions about COVID-19 vaccines or this new requirement for faculty, staff and students, please email them to covid19@brevard.edu.

This year has been a challenge for everyone and collectively you have stepped up with kindness, patience, and perseverance. I ask that each of you now commit to what can only be described as "social action" by getting vaccinated. You will not only protect yourself but will help protect others from contracting the COVID-19 virus. This is our best hope for an academic year with face-to-face teaching and learning, concerts, theatre performances, athletic contests, symposiums, and gatherings with friends. Please get your vaccination.

Thank you, again, for your extraordinary efforts to be safe and keep others safe. Together, we will make 2021/22 our best year ever!

Sincerely,
David C. Joyce,
President, Brevard College

Staff, faculty honored at luncheon

The college recognized staff and faculty retirees and others for years of service at an appreciation luncheon May 12.

Because the 2020 luncheon was canceled due to the pandemic, those who would have been honored last year were included in this year's luncheon.

Retirees

Darlene Blackstock
John Buford
Clyde Carter
George Stahlberg
Nancy Williard

40 Years

Belton Hammond

25 Years

Thomas Bell

Margaret Brown

20 Years

Mel Bringle
Stanley Jacobsen

Jennifer Kafsky

15 Years

Robert Cabin
Kathryn Gresham
Amy Hertz
Kyle Lusk

Nacole Potts
Jubal Tiner
Charles Wallis

10 Years

Cindy Bryson
Christie Cauble
Megan Keiser

5 Years

Sharad Creasman
Sydney Folger
Richard Gorry
Anna Grant
Mary Harris
William Heinz
Kristen Hewitt
Kathryn Holten
Jeffrey Joyce

Angela Mascaro
Craig Miller
Lissa Padgett
Molly Penland
Eric Peterson
Gina Raicovich
Sarjit Singh
Beverly Smith

The Brevard College Class of 2020–2021

Listed below are fall 2020 and spring 2021 graduates and candidates for graduation later this year. Not included are graduates from the 2019–2020 academic year, even those who may have walked in this year's graduation ceremonies.

Emilie Joy Abbott.....	Wilderness Leadership & Exp Education	Taryn Rae Ledford.....	Business & Organizational Leadership
Emily Marie Alberg.....	Biology	Michaela Giselle Lemmon.....	Health Science
Aia Faith Andonovska***†	History, English	Brandon Leon Lewis.....	Criminal Justice
Elisabeth Arrona*.....	Theatre	Michael Liam Lowry.....	Wilderness Leadership & Exp Education
Monica Michelle Avery***	Psychology, Criminal Justice	Lilyan Lund**.....	Art
Max Bryson Beeler.....	Integrated Studies	Payten Ann Maness.....	Environmental Studies
Justin Richard Bell***	Criminal Justice	Steven Anthony Marascalco.....	Wilderness Leadership & Exp Education
Amber Lynn Blanton***†‡	Psychology	Pablo Javier Mascaro**.....	Business & Organizational Leadership
Shad Shaquille Blanton.....	Exercise Science	Emily Danielle Massing.....	Wilderness Leadership & Exp Education
Clint Austin Bolin*.....	Criminal Justice	Matheus Masukawa.....	Business & Organizational Leadership
Mckenzie Leanne Bowman†	Psychology	Micayla Diane McCoy.....	Exercise Science
Raheem Derrall Brown.....	Criminal Justice	Benjamin Cole Melton*.....	Business & Organizational Leadership
Clark Allan Brucken.....	Criminal Justice	Katherine Sun Meng†.....	Psychology
Kiara Latrice Carson**.....	Criminal Justice	Daniel Bradshaw Miller.....	Health Science
Caleb Jay Chandler.....	Business & Organizational Leadership	Jameiya D'Wanshai-Inez Mills.....	Health Science
Bobby Aubrey Clerisier.....	Business & Organizational Leadership	Jesse David Money†.....	Applied Physics, Criminal Justice
Caitlyn Zene'a Cloud-Morton†	Music	Kelsie Koffman Morgan.....	Psychology
Meghan Renee Coggins.....	Childhood Education	Jasmine Bregayle Myers**.....	Art
Kurt Randal Cope***	Philosophy & Religion	Jonathan Luke Netherton.....	Environmental Studies
Margaret Olivia Correll**.....	English	Charles Edward Odom II.....	Criminal Justice
Gabriel Christian Covington.....	Exercise Science	Elise Barton Owen.....	Health Science
Jennifer Rose Cox.....	Art	Holly Christine Owen.....	Health Science
Ashlyn Rebecca Crisp.....	Criminal Justice	Samuel Luis Parrondo.....	Business & Organizational Leadership
Dalen Tyrek Curtis.....	Criminal Justice	Kouri Dajah Peoples.....	Art
Russell Rayshawn Cuthbertson.....	Business & Organizational Leadership	Talli Brooke Poe.....	Psychology
Claudia Dahlman.....	Theatre	Kathleen Margaret Bigelo Post*.....	Music
Jillian Gracie Davis***	Criminal Justice	Lauren Olivia Presley.....	Criminal Justice
Nia Danielle Davis †	Integrated Studies	Hayden Brock Price.....	Criminal Justice
Jakob Lawrence Dennis.....	Health Science	Chloe Michaela Quick.....	Criminal Justice, Psychology
Marquis Anthony Dickerson.....	Exercise Science	Haven Lois Rainey***†‡	Criminal Justice, Psychology
Jacob Alexander Dixon.....	Business & Organizational Leadership	Madison Nicole Ramsey.....	History
Jason Brady Doroski.....	Wilderness Leadership & Exp Education	Julian Gabriel Rebollar Catalan**.....	Exercise Science
Madison Hayes Dossey.....	Biology	Tanner Keith Revis.....	Exercise Science
Lauren Alexandria Dowell***†	Health Science	Laura Jorden Rice***.....	Integrated Studies
Sam Thomas Duffie.....	Business & Organizational Leadership	De'ja Renee Riddick.....	Exercise Science
DeVon George Edge.....	Exercise Science	Harrison Jennings Roberts.....	Criminal Justice
K'unique Tyrese Eichelberger**.....	Music, Theatre	Allison Brooke Rogers***†	History
Rubianne Nicole Ely.....	Music	Rebecca Marie Rojas***†	Business & Organizational Leadership
Nicholas Ryan Eubanks.....	Criminal Justice	Arianna Fawn Ruiz.....	Music
Austin Dean Fisher.....	Criminal Justice	Nicole Christine Rusden**.....	Environmental Studies
Jonathan Paul Flynn.....	Environmental Studies	Tabor McBride Ryan.....	Health Science Studies
Makayla Ann Foster***	Criminal Justice	Jose Alfredo Sanchez Martinez**.....	Business & Organizational Leadership
Brittany Alicia Franks**.....	Biology	Ryan Matthew Sargent.....	Exercise Science
Emma Caroline Meilin Godino.....	Criminal Justice, Theatre	Beau Douglas Shealy.....	Environmental Studies
Lucas Samuel Gomez**.....	Theatre	Raley Lyn Shirey.....	Health Science
Perla Karina Gonzalez**.....	Business & Organizational Leadership	Silas Walker Sitton.....	Environmental Studies
Mariah Aime Grande***†	Psychology	Mickayla Kathleen Smith*.....	Psychology
Victoria Lenox Green*.....	Business & Organizational Leadership, Criminal Justice	Matthew David Stephens*.....	Wilderness Leadership & Exp Education
Norman Huntley Hacker.....	Business & Organizational Leadership	Joao Pedro Suarti.....	Business & Organizational Leadership
Harrison Thomas Hawk.....	Criminal Justice	Ryan Mitchell Terte.....	Business & Organizational Leadership
Jordan Kacie Hawk*.....	History	Neil Christopher Tesnow.....	Exercise Science
Martigus Vershon Henley.....	Criminal Justice	Qadhafi Khadir Turner.....	Exercise Science
Marissa Joelle Henson.....	Exercise Science	Solomon Sterling Turner***†	Biology
Austin Cornell Highley***	Integrated Studies	Carson Gray Waddell***.....	Business & Organizational Leadership
Samuel Rodgers Hipp.....	History	Micheala Renee Watkins.....	Psychology
Madison Taylor Hogan***†	Applied Physics, Mathematics	Hannah Frances Weatherall***†‡	Criminal Justice
Steven Tyler Hogan.....	Exercise Science	John Travis Wheeler**.....	Criminal Justice
Alyvia Faith Holland**.....	Criminal Justice	Emily Drew White.....	Criminal Justice
Cody Dillon Ingram.....	Biology	Brandon Paul Whitfield.....	Criminal Justice
Brenna Alana Innis.....	Childhood Education	Jonte Hazel Wilkes Jr.	Exercise Science
Evan Walker Ippolito.....	Criminal Justice	Kelly Elizabeth Grace Wilkins.....	Exercise Science
Quentin James Jackson.....	Business & Organizational Leadership	Destiny Alexis Williams***.....	Health Science
Shawn-Christian Everett Jackson*.....	Criminal Justice	Sydney Ann Windham***.....	Music
Katherine Elizabeth Jarvis**.....	Art	Syerria Ann Winters***†	Criminal Justice
Zachary Martin Johnson.....	Criminal Justice	Andreas Latrell Wyatt.....	Criminal Justice
Amy Cecilia Juarez Villatoro.....	Business & Organizational Leadership	Claire Elise Wylie†.....	Theatre, Music
Thomas Joseph Kennedy.....	Business & Organizational Leadership		
Alexis Madison King.....	Art		
Gabrielle Elise Lachney.....	Wilderness Leadership & Exp Education		
Cannon Michael Lamb.....	Business & Organizational Leadership		
Mackenzie Lautenschlager**.....	Environmental Studies, Criminal Justice		

*** Summa cum laude

** Magna cum laude

* Cum laude

† Honors Program Graduate

‡ Institute for Women in Leadership Graduate

By policy, summer and designated fall candidates may march in the spring commencement ceremony (and hence, be included in this listing), but GPA-based honors are not bestowed until all of the student's final grades have been posted.

BC Memories...

Each year for our commencement edition, The Clarion invites graduating seniors to send us some of their favorite memories and photos from their time at BC, their immediate plans after graduation, and their advice for other BC students. This year, we received submissions from 21 people. Their contributions, lightly edited, are on the following pages.

Many thanks to everyone who sent us contributions. And congratulations to all of this year's graduates!



Photo courtesy of Deja Riddick.

My favorite memory at Brevard college was to spend four of the best years of my life, meeting great friends and people that have made me learn and experience life in an awesome level, also having the opportunity to play the sport that I love as well as to pursue a degree. To conclude I want to thank God, my parents and all my friends and people I have met during these four years—you have made my life full of excitement and wellness as a whole. Love you and let the party begin.

—José “Fish” Sánchez



Riding Ridgeline, April 2018. (Courtesy of Solomon Turner)



Building a snowman! (Courtesy of Rubianne Ely)

Going to football games with friends. On-campus activities like building a bear and pancake break.

—Nia Danielle Davis



Claire hugging Milky White prop from "Into the Woods" in 2018. (Courtesy of Claire Wylie)



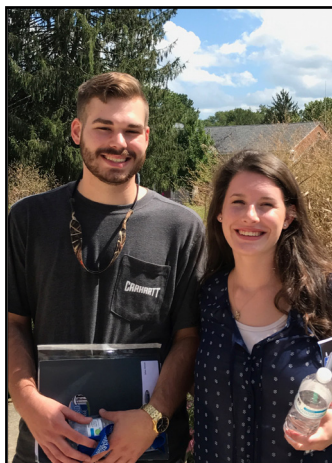
Photo courtesy of Clint Bolin.



Pictures taken over the course of my four years at Brevard. I have grown to love every single individual in these pictures, and I wish them the best as we progress forward. (Photo courtesy of Caitlyn "Cat" Cloud-Morton)



A very cold photo after taking a plunge at Sliding Rock on April 1, 2018. (Left to right) Jen Cox, Breanna Allen, Margaret Correll, Florian Peyssonneaux and Tom Mittring. (Courtesy of Margaret Correll)



Jorden Rice and me near the Bell Tower, Fall 2017 during CREEK Week our freshman year. (Courtesy of Silas Walker Sittton)



Jorden Rice and me at Commencement on May 8th, 2021. (Courtesy of Silas Walker Sittton)

Getting to meet wonderful people and making lifelong friends!

—Rubianne Ely

My favorite memory at Brevard has to be the bus rides to and from away games as a Brevard College Baseball Player!

—Tanner Keith Revis



Graduation photo (courtesy of Sydney Windham, photo by Joe Hernandez)

Friendships...



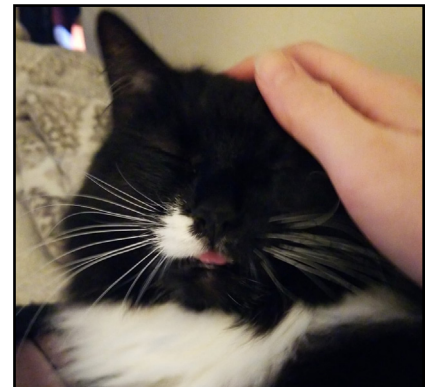
Pictures taken over the course of my four years at Brevard. (Photo courtesy of Caitlyn "Cat" Cloud-Morton)



Each picture summarizes my time at Brevard College, making great friendships and working as a leader. (Courtesy of Nia Davis)

During my time at BC, I made friendships that I know will last a lifetime. These friendships carried me through my four years here. I knew I could always rely on those friends for anything I needed. My junior year, I really got into hiking and exploring the local gems. I am so glad that I took this opportunity to get to know the area more. Also, the close-knit community at BC has proven to be very beneficial. I am so happy that I was able to become close with my professors and build relationships with them.

—Aia Andonovska



My cat Blackey; she has gotten me through my junior and senior year. I love her. (Courtesy of Mickayla "Mick" Smith)

The friendships that I've made and my time with the Women's Basketball team.

—Meiyaa Mills



Suitemates, future roommates and soon-to-be longtime friends Margaret Correll (right) and Haven Rainey (left) pose in front of the pride flag at BC's pride festival on April 13, 2018. (Courtesy of Margaret Correll)



Photo courtesy of Meiyaa Mills.



Claire with friends Syerria and Amber during the snowstorm. (Courtesy of Claire Wylie)

One of my favorite memories was when we first arrived on campus fall of 2017, we had CREEK Week and I met so many friends at that time. At the end we all joined together in the quad and had a pow wow.

—Mekenzie Bowman

Learning about myself and the world around me within the woods and in school.

—Mickayla “Mick” Smith



Photo courtesy of Clint Bolin.

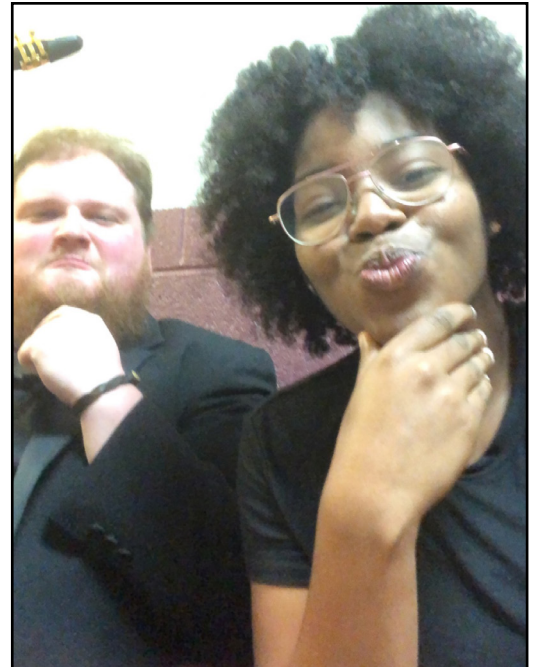


Photo courtesy of Caitlyn “Cat” Cloud-Morton.



Clint with Ben, Jakob, and Hayden. (Courtesy of Clint Bolin)



Me with Carrie, my first roommate here at BC. (Courtesy of Michaela Lemmon)

Learning...



The second we got back to the van after being in the woods for three days. (Courtesy of Michaela Lemmon)



Singing a solo with the Chamber Singers, spring 2018 (courtesy of Sydney Windham, photo by Peter Trench)

So many things I could say but probably WLEE 101 trip. Mel flipping her boat in the river, Isaiah always falling over something, my shoe getting stuck in the mud and leaving it, the canoe games, learning how to use a map properly, and testing your mental strength out in those woods. We had such a diverse class it made it so much fun. We didn't know what to expect when we went out in the woods but the memories made out there I'm definitely never going to forget.

—Michaela Lemmon

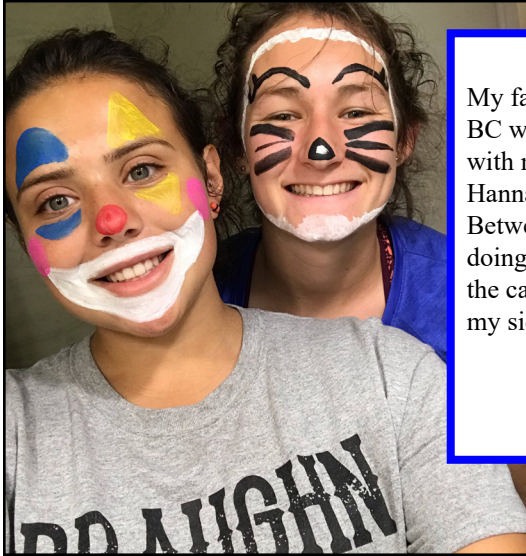


Pictures taken over the course of my four years at Brevard. I have grown to love every single individual in these pictures, and I wish them the best as we progress forward. (Photo courtesy of Caitlyn "Cat" Cloud-Morton)



Late night shenanigans with Solomon Turner, Zach Dickerson, Lisa Arrona, and Savannah Valley. (Courtesy of Solomon Turner)

Fun times...



My favorite memory at BC was spending time with my best friend Hannah Weatherall! Between bingo nights and doing jumping jacks in the cafe, she has been by my side through it all.

—Rebeccah Marie Rojas

Hannah Weatherall and Rebeccah Rojas painting each other's face in May of 2018. (Courtesy of Rebecca Rojas)



1990s party, fall 2019! In photo: Rubianne Ely, Jaden Ochs, Cory Earp, Eleanor Flannery, and Mary Ragan Clark. (Courtesy of Rubianne Ely)



Photo courtesy of José "Fish" Sánchez.

Experiences...



Photo courtesy of Meiyaa Mills.

The Chamber Singers go on an annual tour in the fall semester (with the exception of fall 2020 due to COVID). These trips provide time for the students to bond with one another while showcasing their talents to high school students. My junior year tour was my favorite not only because we went to Knoxville, but because of how close everyone was with each other! From exploring downtown Knoxville to hanging out at the hotel pools, we were practically inseparable!

—Kathleen Post



Bio Club Harvestfest 2019 - Brianna Thomas, Solomon Turner, Chris Gepfert, Taylor Scoval. (Courtesy of Solomon Turner)

One of my favorite memories at Brevard was going out and camping in Pisgah National Forest!

—Margaret Correll



Skinny Dip Falls this spring, when the water was pretty and green. (Courtesy of Aia Andonovska)



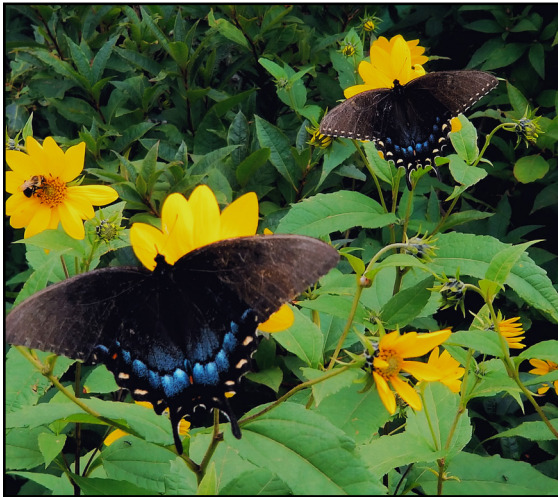
Photo courtesy of Clint Bolin.



Downtown 2021 Snow Night. (Courtesy of Solomon Turner)



Graduation photo (courtesy of Sydney Windham, photo by Joe Hernandez)



Butterflies on the Blue Ridge Parkway, August 2020. (Courtesy of Mickayla "Mick" Smith)

One of my favorite experiences at Brevard College was playing Cinderella in "Into the Woods." This musical is one of the only shows that I would go again in a heartbeat if given the chance.

—Sydney Windham

My favorite memories are the trips that I took with my classes, from going to the French Broad in WLEE 101 to taking a trip to Sierra Nevada and touring the brewery. I also enjoyed the time in-between classes when Jorden Rice (now my wife) and I spent time going on adventures together and trying different places to eat.

—Silas Walker Sitton



Each picture summarizes my time at Brevard College, making great friendships and working as a leader. (Courtesy of Nia Davis)

Accomplishments...



Last farewells to Dr. Knott (Courtesy of Deja Riddick)



Aia Andonovska and Margaret Correll after winning the Outstanding English Major award this year. I couldn't ask for a better person to share this award with. (Courtesy of Aia Andonovska)



Photo courtesy of José "Fish" Sánchez.

One of my favorite memories at Brevard is when my teammates and I would have dance parties in the locker room before games to get hyped up and ready to play.

—Madison Hogan

Getting sworn as a police officer

—Clint Bolin



Unforgettable bond with coach Hudd and me (Courtesy of Deja Riddick)



Claire in a "Drowning Girl" bathtub for her senior project in 2021. (Courtesy of Claire Wylie)



Second day in the woods with Croft. (Courtesy of Michaela Lemmon)



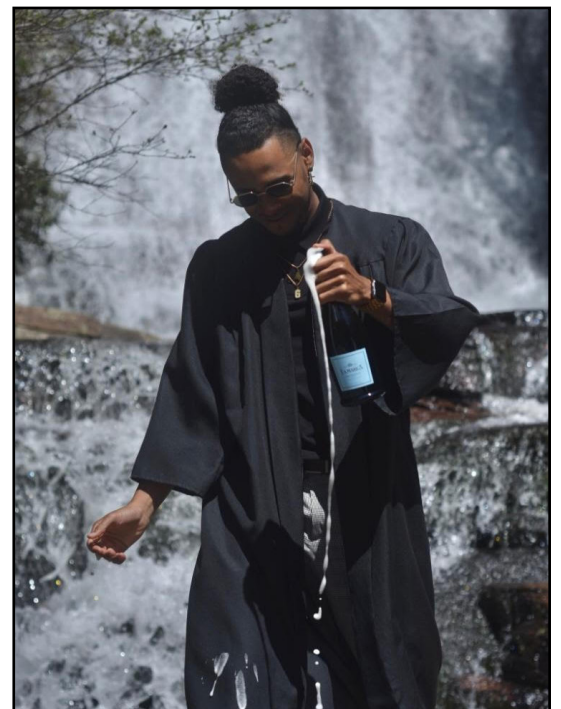
Spring formal, 2019. Smiling for the camera! In photo: Kathleen Post, Cory Earp, Mary Ragan Clark, Jaden Ochs, Joe Zub, Preston Fender, Rubianne Ely. (Courtesy of Rubianne Ely)



Last free throw in Brevard gym. (Courtesy of Deja Riddick)



Photo courtesy of José "Fish" Sánchez.



Connestee Falls, spring 2021. (Courtesy of DeVon Edge)

Athletics...



Volleyball team huddle on senior night Spring 2021. Included: Kaitlyn Pressley, Makenna Parkins, Madison Hogan, Breanna Queen, Caelyn Murphy, and Raley Shirey. (Courtesy of Madison Hogan, photo by Victoria Brayman)



Davidson game, Fall 2018. (Courtesy of DeVon Edge)



Photo courtesy of Meiyaa Mills.



Spring 2021 (Courtesy of DeVon Edge)

Winning the game vs Huntington, allowing us to make it to the playoffs

—Deja Riddick

Scoring the touchdown to put us up in our game against Allen University my last year playing. That later on was the score that we held over them to get the win.

—DeVon Edge



The three tennis seniors say goodbye after removing their nameplates from the locker room. (Left to right) Margaret Correll, Jen Cox and Kenzie Bowman. (Courtesy of Margaret Correll)



The 2018-2019 men's and women's tennis team celebrated their successful season at the Hickory Tavern in Asheville on April 30, 2019. The women's team was one of two teams to have a winning season that year. (Courtesy of Margaret Correll)

Living at BC...



Floating in the water during my canoeing exam, fall 2020 (courtesy of Sydney Windham, photo by Robert Dye)



Each picture summarizes my time at Brevard College, making great friendships and working as a leader. (Courtesy of Nia Davis)

My favorite memory of Brevard is stepping outside of my comfort zone by gaining the opportunity of going on the Voice of the Rivers trip during the summer of my sophomore year. I went with a van full of strangers and left with a van full of acquaintances.

—Caitlyn “Cat” Cloud-Morton



Spring 2021: I pose with a mural of Beethoven in downtown Brevard. (Courtesy of Rubianne Ely)



Commencement Ceremony. (Courtesy of DeVon Edge)



Fall choir concert 2019. In photo: Cory Earp, Justin Queen, Preston Fender, Rubianne Ely. (Courtesy of Rubianne Ely)



Zach Dickerson and Solomon Turner during COVID online pancake break, Spring 2020. (Courtesy of Solomon Turner)



Claire and her friend Molly on the floor during tech for "The Life of Galileo" in 2020. (Courtesy of Claire Wylie)



Each picture summarizes my time at Brevard College, making great friendships and working as a leader. (Courtesy of Nia Davis)



Graduation day with Robert Dye. (Courtesy of Michaela Lemmon)



Photo courtesy of Nia Davis.



Allen game, Fall 2018. (Courtesy of DeVon Edge)



Photo courtesy of José "Fish" Sánchez.



Playing Cinderella, fall 2018. (Courtesy of Sydney Windham, photo by Bobby Bradley)



Photo courtesy of Meiyaa Mills.



Sam Knob Trail, October 2020. (Courtesy of Mickayla "Mick" Smith)

What are your plans after graduation?

Medical school to become a Travel Nurse.

Meiyaa Mills

I have accepted a teaching assistantship at Ohio University, where I will earn my M.M. In Voice Performance.

Sydney Windham

After graduation I plan to teach at a summer camp in Arden and then proceed to go home and focus on building my brand for my business.

Caitlyn "Cat" Cloud-Morton

I am attending Western Carolina University in the fall to continue my studies with history. I have been given a research assistantship position as well. I will also be pursuing my interest in archaeology at WCU.

Aia Andonovska

I plan on opening my own music studio teaching piano and voice.

Rubianne Ely

I will be attending Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering. I will pursue my Master's degree in Applied Mathematics and Statistics.

Madison Hogan

Taking a break for one semester and then graduate school in Spring 2022.

Mickayla Mick Smith

Working with the police department and possibly going federal.

Clint Bolin

Work in the sports industry but most importantly enjoy life.

José "Fish" Sánchez

I plan to attend grad school at Los Angeles Pacific University.

Rebeccah Marie Rojas

This summer I will be working at Brevard Music Center as the Props master/ Scenic Charge. In August I will be moving back to Georgia. Then I will be working in Atlanta and living with friends. I will be working in film for props.

Claire Wylie

Get an internship and then go to NC State for a Master's in Soil and Crop Science.

Solomon Turner

Work as a veterinary assistant while taking more classes towards pre-vet school.

Nia Danielle Davis

Become a physical education teacher.

Deja Riddick

I'll be attending Graduate School as I pursue my degree in Physical Therapy!

Tanner Keith Revis

I plan on coming back to Brevard and continuing to pursue my coaching career with the football program.

DeVon Edge

I started working in December for NC State Mountain Horticultural Research Station in Mills River, NC. This is the one job I wanted to get while working through college to get my degree.

Silas Walker Sitton

I will be staying locally and working at SylvaSport.

Margaret Correll

I plan to take a gap year before going into graduate school for voice and musicology!

Kathleen Post

My plan is to remain here in Brevard. I'm working at a local rehab center but hope to pursue a career in social work doing Child Protective Services.

Mckenzie Bowman



Blue Ridge Parkway. (Courtesy of Aia Andonovska)

What advice would you give to other Brevard College students (and future graduates)?

Make those connections. Talk to your professors and do not be afraid to ask for help. You learn by asking questions; do not be afraid to look stupid! Also, get outside. Go see a waterfall and go on a hike. You are really missing out if you do not take advantage of this beautiful area!

Aia Andonovska

Don't take things too serious. College is short.

Clint Bolin

Really just live in the moment. As soon as you blink, your time is done and you're graduating. Enjoy the little things and don't let anyone hold you back from what YOU want to do.

Mckenzie Bowman

Don't restrict yourself to just studies. Expand and explore different things instead outside of your comfort zone. You never know what you may find on the other side, And you don't want to wait until it's too late.

Caitlyn "Cat" Cloud-Morton

I would say something that you have to do is go and explore the area. There is so much to do when you just go outside and a lot of people somehow miss this opportunity. Pisgash, Asheville, Hendersonville and even little downtown Brevard has a lot of stuff to do!

Margaret Correll

Work hard because it all pays off in the end. I did and so can you.

Nia Danielle Davis

Always remember why you started when you get tired and don't feel like doing it.

DeVon Edge

Go to class!!!

Rubianne Ely

Take advantage of every opportunity you're given! You never know what awesome thing could come from it.

Madison Hogan

Go to class. Don't skip. Start studying a week before the exam. Respect your professors. Have fun while doing so.

Michaela Lemmon

Enjoy these four years of college and get involved in clubs.

Meiyaa Mills

Communication is KEY at Brevard College. Having an open line with other students and the professors is critical to staying in the know and leads to lifelong friendships!

Kathleen Post

Study hard and go to class; the professors at this school are your friends as much as your teachers. They'll listen if you have a problem, and guide you should you need help.

Tanner Keith Revis

Remember why you're in college. Don't waste a good opportunity for something temporary.

Deja Riddick

Be involved! There are so many opportunities to serve your community. Be fearless and don't be afraid to make mistakes. Work hard and don't forget to smile through it all.

Rebecca Marie Rojas

Continued on [page 25](#)



Photo courtesy of Clint Bolin.



Pictures taken over the course of my four years at Brevard. I have grown to love every single individual in these pictures, and I wish them the best as we progress forward. (Photo courtesy of Caitlyn "Cat" Cloud-Morton)

What advice would you give to other Brevard College students (and future graduates)?

Continued from [page 24](#)

Take things seriously but remember that your happiness, enjoyment and memories are more important than any grade.

José “Fish” Sánchez

Always make sure to study hard and do not put off projects till the last minute.

Silas Walker Sitton

When there is silence throughout the classroom, be that person who speaks up. Nine times out of 10 there is someone that has the same questions you do. You are not paying thousands of dollars to sit and look pretty, and say nothing. Make your dollars worth it and speak up.

Mickayla “Mick” Smith

Take Dr. Frick’s Plants and Animals of the Southern Appalachians. It will really give you a feel for the natural world around Brevard!

Solomon Turner

Take some WLEE classes! We live in such a beautiful place and we have the opportunity to learn about and experience nature.

Sydney Windham

Enjoy your time in Brevard, because it goes by so fast! Even more than you realize it!

Claire Wylie



Senior night! (Courtesy of Deja Riddick)



Me in my graduation robes. (Courtesy of Aia Andonovska)



The Clarion's 2020-2021 Editor in Chief Margaret Correll (right) finishes her role with a picture with The Clarion's faculty advisor, Dr. John B. Padgett (left) at graduation on May 8, 2021. (Courtesy of Margaret Correll)

Campus Life announces 2021 Outstanding Student Leader Awards

The 17-year tradition of recognizing one student from each class for the Outstanding Student Leader Award began when Campus Life recognized that many BC students are leaders, whether or not they are in a formal role. Below is the awards script for this year's recipients.

The students recognized were nominated and selected by faculty and staff members. These students are role models who encourage and motivate other students to better themselves while striving to make Brevard College a better place to live and learn.

Freshman:

This year's Freshman Outstanding Student Leader award goes to **Wendel De Lima**.

Wendel demonstrates respect for others, professionalism, and a strong work ethic, on and off the field.

He is looked up to by his peers because even as a freshman, he is someone who inspires his peers to mirror his determination, hard work, and charisma. As an international student athlete, he may sometimes struggle with the language barrier, but he often exceeds expectations at his campus job and he is always willing to learn. He is on time for work and practice, he is accountable to others and very consistent.

In the words of his coach, "while Wendel is a vocal leader who expresses his thoughts and opinions, always with respect and with sensitivity to others, above all, he is a servant leader and is always there when anyone needs a hand."

Sophomore:

The recipient of this year's Outstanding Sophomore student leader radiates an upbeat, positive attitude. **Gabriella Galvan** arrived on campus her freshman year, very quiet, but with a keen desire to get involved on campus.

So she did. Faculty, staff and other students have seen this student blossom through various leadership roles on campus. She is a member of the Institute for Women in Leadership, is an RA, and her involvement with our Student Government Association has led her to run for, and be elected to, the office of Vice President of the SGA.

She loves to help others and embodies the spirit of a true servant leader. She gives of her time, energy and resources because she cares about others and lives her life with a connection to gratitude.

A staff member remarked, "She has become a dynamic member of our Brevard College campus and I am excited to see what she can accomplish with her remaining time here."

Junior:

Our Junior Outstanding student leader is a relatively new face on campus, but has made quite an impression on the faculty and staff at Brevard College. A transfer student from Minnesota, **Gabriella Herbertz** is stellar student in all aspects, she takes the lead in collaborative classroom work, helping other students in a quiet and unassuming manner.

Her faculty see her as a motivated student who is responsible and conscientious. Additionally, she volunteers her time and energy to impact kids in their development.

She is a member of the Institute for Women in Leadership, where the women are currently involved with mentoring kids at the Transylvania

County Boys and Girls Club. She also spent quite a bit of time last fall mentoring an eight year old for multiple hours during the semester doing everything from Art projects, to Geocaching around campus and town, to going to the public library to read with the child.

She is employed at our campus coffee house and is currently conducting her senior internship on a local farm, working with animal husbandry and land restoration projects.

She is an amazing student and leader, as well as a future educator. She is going to do great things in life!

Senior:

It is highly unusual to choose two students for the Outstanding Student Leader honor; however, this year we made an exception to the rule. Both students take initiative in and out of the classroom. Both students demonstrate exceptional leadership skills and both students are positive role models in various aspects of campus life, all while being extremely dedicated to their studies.

Our first recipient, **Emily Fisher**, is a quiet and unassuming leader, while being a role model for her peers in and out of the classroom.

Not all students arrive on campus ready to jump in to leadership roles. This student was perceived as a bit shy and even reticent in the classroom. However, taking risks over time, she found her way by saying yes to opportunities which have led her to the many campus activities she is involved with, which include the role of teaching assistant, learning consultant, student ambassador, senior RA, and student health advocate.

Respected by faculty and her peers, she is always willing to lend a hand and is often the first to volunteer to help meet a need. She has the heart of a helper.

According to one of her professors, Emily is always looking for more productive ways to help and support her peers, which is the best quality of a student leader. She leads by example and works to find meaningful ways to help other students. I think that attitude speaks volumes about her commitment to our College's mission: learn in order to serve.

Our second recipient, **Rebecca Rojas**, has been described as "an amazing asset to our campus." Her dynamic skill set has allowed her to strive as a leader in both executive positions as well as simply being an involved member.

Her leadership has been demonstrated in the various roles she has served on campus: an FYE peer leader, a team captain for the women's soccer team, as an RA, and serving this year as an RD, in the Business club, the Outing club, and in our Student Government Association.

She is positive, encouraging, and enthusiastic which have been some of her hallmark qualities since her freshman year. Her upbeat personality brings a smile to everyone's face that she interacts with, and she goes above and beyond to offer assistance to any student, faculty, staff, or community member.

A professor commented, "She reflects effectively on her leadership opportunities and strives to find ways to improve not only her skills through reflection, but also the tangible, on-campus opportunities for her peers."

A good friend summed her up this way: "She was determined to make a positive impact on Brevard College and I believe she has done that and much more."

Voice of the Rivers takes on Okefenokee, Suwannee River

As one more sign that we are slowly returning to how things were before the pandemic, one very important experiential education program at Brevard College is happening this year: Voice of the Rivers.

Last year's trip was canceled due to COVID-19. This year, however, 11 students and two Brevard College professors departed campus the Monday after graduation to take on the latest river system by canoe: the Suwannee River in Florida.

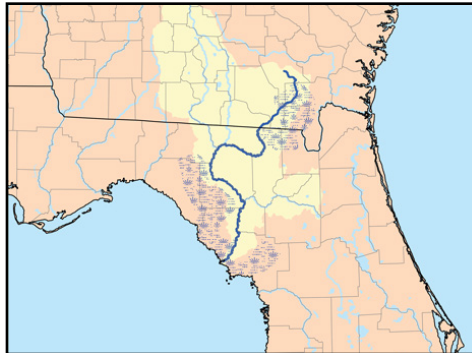
This year's expedition is headed by Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education professor Robert Dye and music professor Vance Reese. By doing VOR, students earn six hours of academic credit as they explore a river from its source to the sea, learning about the river along the way and practicing leadership and outdoor skills and ethics.

The team started the expedition by exploring the Okefenokee swamp in south Georgia on May 11. The next day, they started down the river proper, a 17-mile paddle in canoes to their first campsite on the river.

In all, they will paddle 235 miles in 18 days

to the river's end in the Gulf of Mexico near Suwannee, Florida.

Dye and Gaby Lachney, the student logistics coordinator for this year's VOR, have already posted several photos from their first few days of the expedition on Facebook. "So far we've been met with beautiful sunsets, light rain showers, swarms of dragon flies, grazing deer, a bear and her cub, very talkative alligators, and clouds of mosquitos that you can hear before you can see," Lachney wrote in a Facebook post on May 11.



The Suwannee River watershed in Georgia and Florida. (Source: Wikimedia Commons.)

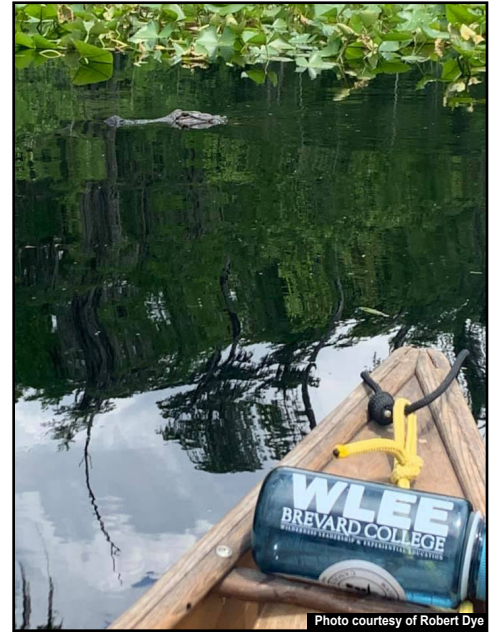


Photo courtesy of Robert Dye

A Brevard College WLEE water bottle in the bow of a canoe in the vicinity of an Okefenokee Swamp alligator.



Photo courtesy of Jenny Kafsky

The 2021 Brevard College Voice of the Rivers team pose for a photo in front of their canoes May 10 before departing for the Okefenokee Swamp and the Suwannee River in southern Georgia. After exploring the swamp on May 11, the team set out on their 235-mile journey down the Suwannee on Wednesday, May 12.

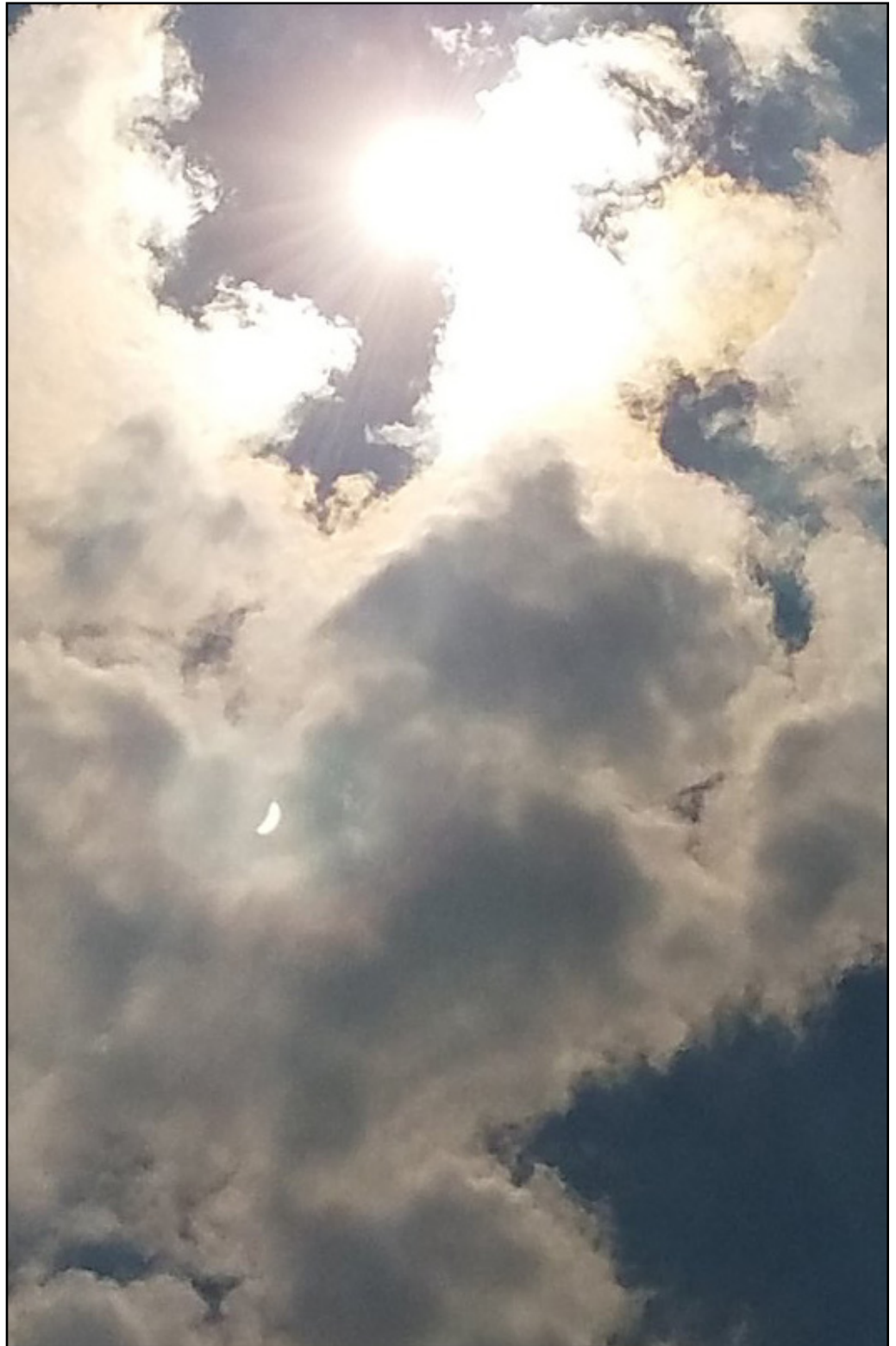
Most students in the class of 2021 began their four years at Brevard College by witnessing a total solar eclipse, an astronomical event which was, as commencement speaker Rebecca Rojas put it, one of several “once-in-a-lifetime” events they would experience during their time here.

For that reason, it seems fitting to end this special commencement edition of The Clarion dedicated to the Class of 2021 with this photo by Mickayla Smith, who also had the distinction of serving as this year’s editor of **Chiaroscuro**, the arts and literary magazine at Brevard College.

Because of production delays beyond our control, print copies of this year’s magazine have not yet been delivered, but they should be arriving soon, and we plan to distribute them in the fall. [Video of the virtual launch party and reading](#) is available now on the English Program’s YouTube channel, and you can also download an [e-book version](#) of this year’s issue.

Thank you for reading **The Clarion** this year, and we look forward to continuing to serve the college when we resume regular publication in August for the fall semester. Meanwhile, you can follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) for occasional updates over the summer.

Send all correspondence to clarion@brevard.edu or visit our website, <http://clarion.brevard.edu>.



Solar eclipse, August 2017: This was during CREEK Week when I was a freshman. Such an impactful moment for me. (Courtesy of Mickayla “Mick” Smith)

Thank you to all of our faculty and staff for making Commencement Day happen this year. We know there were a lot of moving pieces, changes from the traditional commencement, and two ceremonies to attend and we are so thankful to everyone for their patience as we prepared for an in person/pandemic commencement.

—The Commencement Team