

COMMENCEMENT EDITION 2023

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SERVING BREVARD COLLEGE SINCE 1935

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The BC Class of 2023

Largest class in Brevard College history receive diplomas in 170th commencement

A lot happened on Saturday, May 6.

In London, England, Charles III was formally crowned king in Westminster Abbey, the first new monarch in the United Kingdom in 70 years.

In Louisville, Kentucky, Mage won the 149th Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs after the favored horse, Forte, was scratched because of a foot injury.

And in Brevard, North Carolina, Brevard College celebrated the largest graduating class in the college's 170-year history.

In all, 165 graduates—seven of them master's students—earned degrees in the annual commencement exercises. The number included fall 2022

graduates as well as spring and summer candidates.

While most were physically present to walk across the stage on Saturday morning to receive their diplomas, several of this year's graduates (mainly baseball team members who were competing in post-season play that Saturday) wore their regalia and received their honors at a separate, smaller ceremony that took place on Monday, May 8.

For Saturday's crowd, however, it was a day for graduates to celebrate their achievement with their families, friends, and faculty and staff.

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Photo by Victoria Brayman / BC Communications

As is traditional, members of the BC Class of 2023 posed on the steps of Jones Library for a class photo the morning of commencement May 6. This year's class was the largest in Brevard College history.

Graduation at Brevard College

Continued from [page 1](#)

“Graduates, I commend you. You have worked hard to be here today,” BC President Bradley J Andrews said. “Your dedication to your studies, your passion for academics, athletics and the liberal arts have led you to this day.”

Festivities began with a traditional Baccalaureate & Hooding Ceremony on Friday afternoon, May 5, in the Porter Center for the Performing Arts. The graduation ceremony on Saturday morning took place on the Ives-Lemel Family Field. Both events were live-streamed, allowing family members and friends to enjoy the events from afar. (Video of baccalaureate and of the graduation ceremony can be viewed on the college’s YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@BrevardCollegeNC>.)

President Andrews welcomed everyone and then the campus minister, The Rev. Dr. Sharad H. Creasman, gave an invocation to open the proceedings. Heath Weldon, chair of the Board of Trustees and a

1975 BC graduate, offered greetings from the Board, followed by the announcement of honors and awards by Dr. Jennifer Frick-Ruppert, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty.

Three students received Presidential Awards for Distinction: Rosa Eberhardt, Wesley Fletcher and Sarah Hajkowski. The award recognizes graduates who demonstrate remarkable leadership, service and academic achievement.

Alydia Monahan was honored with the C. Edward and Brona N. Roy Good Citizenship Award for exhibiting a record of moral character, citizenship, leadership and a positive influence on campus.

Jessica Garland, Christian Humphries and Gabriella Herbertz each earned the Presidential Award for Scholarship, which honors the graduating seniors with at least 62 hours of coursework at Brevard College, with the highest academic rank, based on the cumulative grade



Photo by Graham Beasley / BC Communications

Scott Douglas, a theatre major from London, speaks as one of the two chosen Senior Class speakers.



Photo by Burke Ulrey / BC Communications

Gabriella Galvan (front), president of the BC Student Government Association, processes in at her graduation. Galvan was one of the two seniors chosen to address the graduating class.



Photo by Graham Beasley / BC Communications

Ray Henley receives the inaugural Brevard College Lifetime Leadership Award from BC President Brad Andrews.



Photo by Victoria Brayman / BC Communications

Among those who graduated on May 6 were students earning master of science degrees in BC’s new graduate school programs in emergency preparedness and health and human performance.

Graduation at Brevard College

point average for all coursework completed.

President Andrews also presented the inaugural Brevard College Lifetime Leadership Award to Ray Henley, who has been an advocate for the College for many years.

Unlike many colleges who invite a well-known guest to speak at the ceremony, Brevard College engages its students in the process and encourages personal growth by choosing two outstanding seniors to speak at Commencement. Graduating seniors Gabriella Galvan and Scott Douglas delivered thoughtful and heartfelt commencement speeches, encouraging their fellow graduates to unapologetically be themselves and to never give up.

“The 2023 graduating class joins a group of esteemed alumni of Brevard College who all have one thing in common, the basis of Brevard College’s motto: learn in order to serve,” said President Andrews.

Following the awards and speeches, the names of 136 Brevard College graduates were announced to cross the stage and receive their diplomas from President Andrews. More than 40 of the newly-minted graduates hail from Western North Carolina, while the rest traveled from 14 states and four foreign countries to make Brevard their home.

To conclude the ceremony, President Andrews offered a charge to the graduating class, followed by the traditional Brevard College hymn “Guarded Well By Mountains” led by Sarah Hajkowski. Graduates and faculty processed in and out to bagpipe music, a tradition at College.

“Keep in touch with your mentors as you navigate your next steps and beyond. We are here to support you and we will always be eager to acknowledge your achievements,” Andrews said. “Starting with your achievement today: I celebrate each of you as you graduate from Brevard College.”



Sara Gray Poss receives her diploma from Brevard College.



Photo by Burke Ulrey / BC Communications

Brevard College faculty led by chief marshal Margaret Brown march onto the Ives-Lemel Family Field to bagpipe music during the processional.



Photo by Graham Beasley / BC Communications

Graduate Michael Fader.

Environmental Lit students create ebooks

Students in ENG 217, Environmental Literature, this spring produced their own ebooks as part of their final projects for the class, and they are available for you to read.

These ebooks are modeled on John Green's "The Anthropocene Reviewed" and briefly document a few instances where, in the spirit of John Green, our small lives come into contact with the larger

forces of the Anthropocene, according to the course instructor James Everett.

"The absolute breadth of experiences document here is just amazing," Everett said. "From orcas in captivity, beach side tourist attractions, to issues of urbanization, and a good dose of just plain wonder at the world, these students really put themselves, their own, individual, unique lives, onto the page."

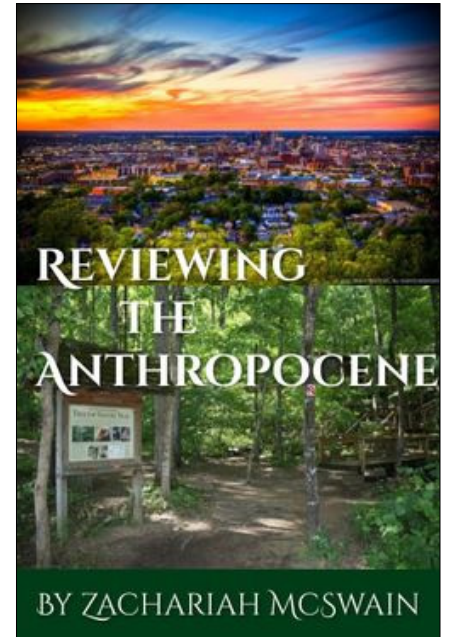
The collection features 22 books made using "Book Creator," an app that allows users to design their own books with images, text, and even embedded audio.

To read these works or to learn more about using Book Creator for your own projects, visit the [ENG 217 library](#) on the Bookcreator website.



Environmental Lit ebooks

A sampling of ebooks in the ENG 217 "Reviewing the Anthropocene" library from this spring are books by Alfredo Sixtos (left), Emme Griffith (below) and Zachariah McSwain (right). In addition to writing the text, Griffith even provided original art to accompany her book, including the cover, a painting of an orca.



Retirees honored at employee appreciation brunch

A spring tradition at Brevard College is the faculty-staff appreciation brunch, during which retirees are honored and other employees are recognized for their years of service.

The ceremony took place on Monday, May 8, in Myers Dining Hall. Food was provided by Sunrise Cafe.

Two retiring faculty were honored at the brunch: art history professor Anne Chapin and Scott Sheffield, a professor of history and former Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty.

Both were honored with live remarks from colleagues who knew them.

Sheffield and Chapin were also honored for their years of service—Sheffield for 30 years at BC and

Chapin for 25 years—but the longest serving employee recognized was Cindy McCall, who works in the Admissions Office.

A video tribute to this year's honorees [can be viewed online](#). Here is the complete list of employees recognized for their years of service to Brevard College:

35 years

Cindy McCall

30 years

Scott Sheffield

25 years

Anne Chapin

Jennifer Frick-Ruppert

10 years

Andrea Boccanfuso

Myranda Nash

5 years

Alyse Bensel

Jim Brooks

Lisa Busche

Amber Cole

Ryan DeGarmo

Phil DeMontmollin

Betsy Galloway

Rachel Hillyer

Kathy Koontz

Jordan Kuck

Joseph Marvin

Juan Mascaro Jr.

Ken McLeskey

Adam Mills

Allison O'Leary

Cassie Osteen

Laura Vance

Joshua Wilkey



Retiring faculty members Anne Chapin (left) and Scott Sheffield (center) were honored at the faculty-staff appreciation brunch on May 8. Right: The brunch was catered by Sunrise Cafe. More photos are available on Flickr at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAD4d9>. (Photos by Sara Schmidt / BC Communications.)

Master of Science Graduates

Gabriel Christian Covington	Health & Human Performance
Brittany Alicia Franks**†	Health & Human Performance
Destiny Lynn Hall	Emergency Management
Holden Michael Turner	Emergency Management
Emma Christine White	Emergency Management
Destiny Alexis Williams***	Health & Human Performance
Sarah Brook Woodbury	Health & Human Performance

Bachelor of Arts Graduates

Freddie Lee Aiken III	Business & Organizational Leadership
Caroline Graylin Andrews**	Art
Kendrick McClain Austin***	Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education
Zion Matthew Barjolo	Business & Organizational Leadership
Jerome Louis Bass	Criminal Justice
Ann Marie Horner Bates***	Music
Gabriel Albert Bernhard*	Theatre
Savannah Elizabeth Blankenship	Criminal Justice
Elijah Caine Bloom	Music Education
Bryant Joseph Bole	Business & Organizational Leadership
Francesco Bonometti**	Business & Organizational Leadership
Victoria Dola Brayman	Art
Cedric Charles Brooks	Business & Organizational Leadership
Meredith Beard Brown*	Psychology
Bethany Lynn Bryan***†	Business & Organizational Leadership
Brett Thomas Burchett*	Criminal Justice, Business & Organizational Leadership

John W Burton III	Criminal Justice
Aaron Lee Butts	English
Daquan Jamaal Cain	Business & Organizational Leadership
Zion Tyler Cain	Psychology
Brian Cardona	Business & Organizational Leadership
Hannah Marie Carpenter*‡	Psychology
Ashton Elaine Cashwell	History
Iulia Cerguta*	Criminal Justice
Dalton Avery Cole	Exercise Science
Paris Idris Crawford	Business & Organizational Leadership
James Parker Crews*	Business & Organizational Leadership
Stamati Antonio Damalos	Exercise Science
Benjamin Douglas Davis	Theatre
Cassandra Nicole Dayton	Theatre
Luis Guilherme Dos Santos	Exercise Science
Scott Kennedy Douglas*	Theatre
Raleigh Jordan Durham	Music
Alexander McClellan Eaton*	Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education
Rosa Alicia Eberhardt	Childhood Education: Elementary (K-6)
Michael Allen Fader	Criminal Justice
Kaitlynn Jule Farmer‡	History
Reese Morgan Finnie	Integrated Studies
Reed Michael Forman	Business & Organizational Leadership
Mary Margaret Frail	Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education
Riley Thomas Freeman	History
Peter A Fumero	Business & Organizational Leadership
Jacob Riley Funderburgh*†	Business & Organizational Leadership
Adan Gallardo-Ortiz	Criminal Justice
Gabriella Ariana Galvan	Business & Organizational Leadership
Alex Christopher Glaze	Criminal Justice
Kimberly Morgan Graham	Art
Sarah Nicole Hajkowski***†	Theatre, English
Jakob Alexander Hamilton	Psychology
Tyler Glenn Harrison	Business & Organizational Leadership
Damon Matthew Hewitt	Criminal Justice
Tayla Len Hutchings*	Criminal Justice
Tammie Elizabeth Hyatt	Criminal Justice
Jarrett Carl Isaac	Criminal Justice
Gwyn Piper Jennings**‡	Art
Casey Durham Jones*	Art
Elijah Thomas Kessinger	Exercise Science
Allison Louise Kogoy	Childhood Education: Early Childhood (B-K)
Reagan Ashley Lane**	History
Ann-Renae Paige Lewis***†‡	Psychology
Mary Margaret Lewis	Childhood Education: Elementary (K-6)
Corinne Louise Lipman	Art
Anthony Joseph Martino Jr. ***	Criminal Justice
Timiah Alazae McGhee	Business & Organizational Leadership
Colin Patrick Miller	Theatre
Alydia Yvette Monahan**†	Psychology
Parker Elizabeth Moore**	Business & Organizational Leadership
Jaden William O'Leary	Criminal Justice
Breanna Nichole O'Shields**	Business & Organizational Leadership
KatLynn Abigail Olive*	Criminal Justice
Jesus Antonio Olmedo Martinez	Business & Organizational Leadership
Agustin Onetto Ithurbe	Business & Organizational Leadership
Landon Jason Perlman	Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education
Mary Waite Perry	Physical Education & Recreation
Jah'Quih Bernard Pledger	Exercise Science
Sara Gray Poss***	Childhood Education: Elementary (K-6)
Shyvonne Kathryn Potter***†	Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education
Alexandria Ann Proksch	Criminal Justice

Christian Alexander Ramsey*	Business & Organizational Leadership
Joshua Alan Rankin	Criminal Justice
William Cody Reep	Exercise Science
Nicole Resendiz Trejo	Criminal Justice
Serena Pearl Rodgers-Luckey	Criminal Justice
Nisa Fernanda Rosales***	Criminal Justice
Reece Torres Rubio*	Business & Organizational Leadership
Nathan Eugene Sanders**	History
Miles William Schafer	Integrated Studies
Ansley Elizabeth Schwab**†	Physical Education & Recreation
Daniel Jeremiah Shook**	History
Hannah Michelle Stepp*	Criminal Justice
Starling Allison Sturm*	Integrated Studies
Aurora Grace Teague	Criminal Justice
Jessica Sierra Tenjhay	Psychology
Kymberlie Nicole Thacker	Criminal Justice, Psychology
Lindsey Renee Tolle***	Childhood Education: Early Childhood (B-K)
Caleb Michael Trent	Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education
Zachary Denton Trent*	Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education
Jamie Kenneth Turner	Business & Organizational Leadership
Journey Nichelle Tyler**	English
Brandon Edward Unangst	Criminal Justice
Joel Anthony Vacchiano	Criminal Justice
Elizabeth Marie Vassey***	Psychology
Alyyah Alexandria Belle Vaughan	Criminal Justice
JaMarcus Devon Walker	Business & Organizational Leadership
Elizabeth Nicole Weathers***‡	Psychology
Joshua Cole Whetstone	Criminal Justice
Maverick Shane Whitley	Music Education
Jonte Hazel Wilkes Jr.	Exercise Science
Joseph Daniel Wilkinson Jr.	Exercise Science
Samantha Marie Wilson	Childhood Education: Elementary (K-6)
Zachary Ernest Wolfe	Exercise Science
Quincy Keshawn Yancey Carter	Business & Organizational Leadership
Mitchell Kweku Yoder	Art
William Taylor Young	Theatre

Bachelor of Science Graduates

Trenten Lee Anderson**	Environmental Studies
Bryce Eugene Bowers	Health Science, Business & Organizational Leadership
Blake Jeffrey Burchett*	Environmental Studies
Lindsey Gail Burgess***	Health Science
Owen Reid Campbell	Environmental Studies
Giuseppe Capello Real	Exercise Science
Hayden Seth Cassell	Exercise Science
Savannah Marie Colliver	Exercise Science
Carl Stanley Cressman	Exercise Science
Jael Rennee Ehman*	Biology
Reginald Maurice Everett Jr.	Applied Physics
Wesley Bryce Fletcher**	Health Science, Psychology
Haley Marie Flippin†	Biology
Dylan Boyce Freeman	Environmental Studies
Jessica Brooke Garland***†	Exercise Science
Emma Grace Gooch*†	Health Science
Michaela Roseanna Gray***†	Biology, Criminal Justice
Autumn Marie Hegner	Biology
Alyssa Lynn Hetherington**	Biology
Caroline Marie Hoy	Environmental Studies
Christian Cheyenne Humphries***†	Biology
Sarah Jane Hutchens*	Environmental Studies
Taylor Zane Kennedy**	Environmental Studies
Autumn Jay Kraemer	Health Science
Yuri Tortoza Leal	Biology
Noah Christian Martin	Biology
Martin Phillip McMahon***	Health Science
Tyler Patrick Miranda**†	Exercise Science, Mathematics
Ashley Marie Mitchell	Exercise Science
Joshlyn Nicole Mitchell	Biology
Toby Benjamin Naylor	Exercise Science
Samuel Graham Denis O'Callaghan*	Exercise Science
Chandler Seth Phillips	Environmental Studies
Grace Alyssa Pukas***†	Exercise Science
Breanna Paige Queen	Exercise Science
Daniel Raposo Martins Ribeiro	Environmental Studies
Amber Nicole Saunders**	Health Science
Martin Laundry Schroeder**	Biology
David Immanuel Sealy	Exercise Science
Jami Rene' Stewart***	Health Science
Hannah Elizabeth Treglia	Biology
Keydy Lizeth Vergara*†	Health Science
Trystan Kohl Wallace**†	Applied Physics, Mathematics
Curtis Reed Windham	Environmental Studies

*** 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, 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 29 graduates. 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!



Me and Gracie Davis showing off our bowl rings from the 2019 bowl game. (Photo courtesy of Bethany Bryan)



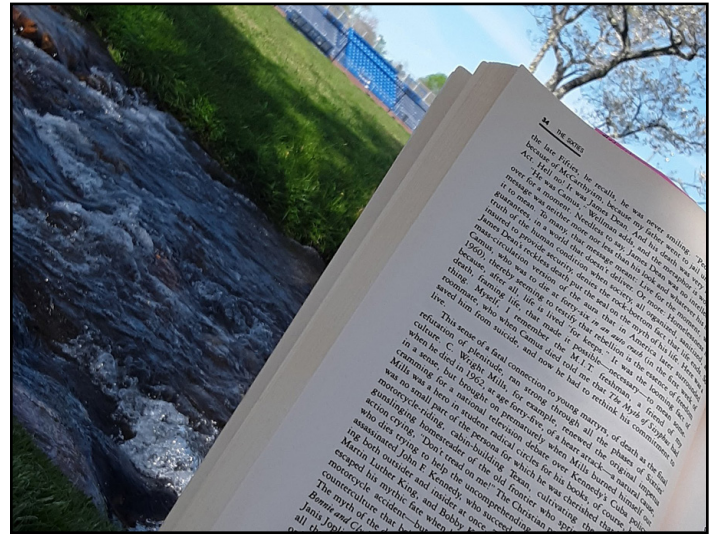
An afternoon at Brevard Rock Gym. (Photo courtesy of Journey Tyler)

One of my favorite memories I have was the 2022 Spring Formal. My pod and I had the whole day to hangout and prepare for later that night, and just being together was something I can never forget. Dancing the night away with my best friends and teammates was the highlight of my time at Brevard!

—Alyssa Hetherington



Visitation Day, Fall 2023 - Reagan Lane, Nado, Emily Fisher, and Gabe Burris. (Photo courtesy of Reagan Lane)



A favorite memory of mine is reading and relaxing by King's Creek; this was Fall 2020. (Photo courtesy of Sarah Hajkowski)

Sitting out by the creek with friends while talking and listening to music. I would leave sunburnt.

—Autumn Hegner



The Bepsys with the women's basketball team. (Photo courtesy of Journey Tyler)



Spring 2023: me and Abbey Duncan wearing matching shirts during our yearly (semesterly?) llama photo tradition. (Photo by Isabell Musser, courtesy of Tayla Hutchings)



A few Chamber singers after the Spring 2023 concert - from back left: Mackenzie Douglas, Ish Parsons, Ann Marie Bates, Ellie Hedgepath, Grace Vaught, Tamara Kuykendall, Patrick Yang. (Photo courtesy of Ann Marie Bates and Mackenzie Douglas)



Fall 2022 Chamber Tour - from back left: Ellie Hedgepath, Grace Vaught, Mackenzie Douglas, Ann Marie Bates, Dr. K, Tamara Kuykendall, Emme Griffith, Dr. D, Maverick Whitley. (Photo courtesy of Ann Marie Bates and David Gresham)



An image taken at graduation of me posing with my beloved theatre faculty: Andrea Boccanfuso, Dan Toot, and Abbey Toot. (Photo courtesy of Gabe)



A cephalopodian selfie with friends Caroline Hoy, Anna Ervin, and Dr. Adam Mills after the Chiaroscuro launch in Spring 2022. (Photo courtesy of Sarah Hajkowski and Caroline M. Hoy)

One of my favorite memories would have to be when my friends and I would always get together and hang out. We would always have a blast with lots of laughs involved.

—Sara Gray Poss



Senior pinning ceremony with head basketball coach Donald Hudson. (Photo courtesy of Journey Tyler)



A photo from the play "Legacy of Light" (February 2022) of the end of the sword duel involving myself, Anna Ervin, and Brian Barboza. (Photo by Matt Queen, courtesy of Gabe Bernhard)



Me and Sara Gray Poss at the 2022 Spring Fest. (Photo courtesy of Bethany Bryan)



Spring formal includes myself, Lena, Hatter, Haylea Layne Miller, & Julianna W. (Photo courtesy of Gabriella Galvan)

Some of my favorite moments at Brevard College were the experiences I had through playing football. The road trips, meetings, meeting new people who would eventually become lifelong friends. I have gained so much from these past four years and football has definitely had the biggest impact on my experience at Brevard.

—Josh Whetstone



Me and Maggie Cox at the 2023 Business Awards. (Photo courtesy of Bethany Bryan)



Business award photo includes myself, Parker Moore, Mia McGee, Quincy Carter & JR Thomas. (Photo courtesy of Gabriella Galvan)

Getting the chance to visit a local pharmaceuticals laboratory as a part of some research I was performing with the help of a professor for my senior project.

—Christian Humphries

Choir rehearsals and performances.

—Ann Marie Bates



"BC Theatre- Tilly" -a selfie from BC Theatre's virtual production era of Spring 2021. In 'She Kills Monsters: virtual realms', I played the cast role of Tilly, a fierce paladin. (Photo courtesy of Sarah Hajkowski)



Volunteer Camp group photo includes myself, Haylea Layne Miller, Abigail Hutchenson, and Savannah Wilkinson. (Photo courtesy of Gabriella Galvan)



Graduation with two of my professors who I worked closest with during my time at Brevard: Dr. Sarah Maveety and Dr. Hernan Biava. (Photo courtesy of Christian Humphries)



A picture of my best friend Casey Jones hitting a nuclear dab on a hike we took in 2021. (Photo courtesy of Gabe Bernhard)



Pod 230 Fall 2022 (Photo courtesy of Alyssa Hetherington)



(Photo courtesy of Stamati Damalos)



Honors Recital Performers, Spring 2021 - from back left: Talley Sugg, K'nique Eichelberger, Maverick Whitley, Eli Bloom, Ann Marie Bates, Mackenzie Douglas, Caitlyn Cloud-Morton Sydney Windham. (Photo courtesy of Ann Marie Bates and Brevard College Fine Arts Department)

My favorite memory at BC was when the girls' tennis team went to Olive Garden and Brooke was crying because she was laughing so hard, and all of us were laughing at the way I put sauce directly in center of breadstick.

—Alli (Alleycat) Kogoy

Chiaroscuro launch party.

—Caroline M. Hoy

My favorite memories at BC are built around some super great people I met along the way! Tennis has played a huge role in my time at BC too and it is an experience that I would never take for granted!

—Brooke Garland



A photo from the play "The Liar" (October 2019) involving myself as Alcippe and Anthony Zuniga as Dorante. (Photo by Matt Queen, courtesy of Gabe Bernhard)



Mason Griffin, Grace Bartlett, me, Allen Wilfong at 2022 semi-formal (Photo courtesy of Bethany Bryan)

Getting to know some new friends.

—Hamrick Perry

I remember chances to be creative with friends at BC!! Time spent on The Clarion, Chiaroscuro, and theatre productions are wonderful memories where I worked with friends to make something awesome!

—Sarah Hajkowski



Tennis team after we won matches!! (Photo courtesy of Alli Kogoy)



Sarah H. and I did the 4 course meal challenge and for the drinks at Sonic. (Photo courtesy of Caroline M. Hoy)



Hiking in Pisgah to Daniel Ridge Falls. (Photo courtesy of Bethany Bryan)



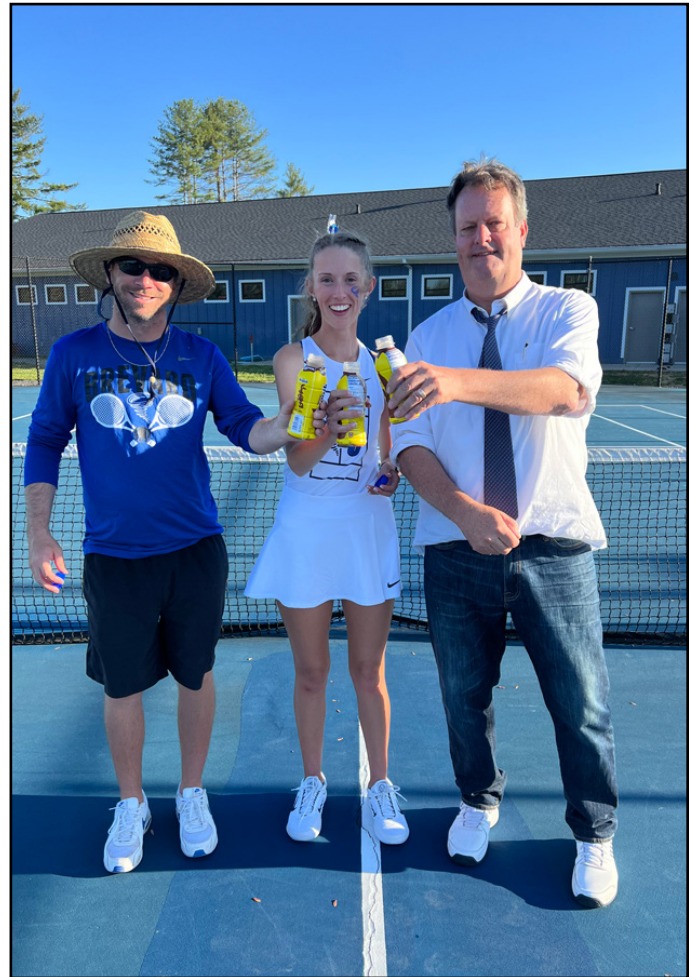
Graduation 2023 with Miah McGee and Gabby Galvan. (Photo courtesy of Sara Gray Poss)

Spring semester of my first year after transferring here was and will always be the best time of my life. From long volleyball bus rides, delusional 6 a.m. practices, “team bonding,” sparks fly, behind the scenes, COVID quarantines, the formation of the Quad (aka 4 fo 4), meeting my best friend and village 6 shenanigans, it’s impossible to pick one.

—**Tayla Hutchings**



Fall 2021 (Photo by Tori Brayman, courtesy of Alyssa Hetherington)



Cheering to a chocolate milk after senior day with Coach Jones and Jimmy. (Photo courtesy of Brooke Garland)



(Photo courtesy of Stamati Damalos)

I was walking along the creek next to the gym parking lot when I heard someone trying to get my attention. I look up to a young woman coming towards me with a rose in her hand. She gave me the rose since it was Valentine’s Day. I didn’t think that this would happen to me since I usually just keep to myself. Needless to say, this gesture made me happy.

—**Caroline Andrews**



Semi Formal 2022: Starling and Mary Lewis. (Photo courtesy of Starling Sturm)



I used to go meet my cousin in Asheville and we would go get pizza and then eat it on the parkway. (Photo courtesy of Caroline M. Hoy)



Graduation with my family. (Photo courtesy of Quincy Carter)



Celebrating the big homecoming win. (Photo courtesy of Brooke Garland)



(Photo courtesy of Gabriella Galvan)

My favorite memory from Brevard was going to the WNC State fair with my group of friends back in 2019. The girlfriend of my friends invited some of her friends that she played soccer with. We started walking into the fair and I noticed one of her friends and told myself that I needed to get to know her. Now that girl is my wife and we are building a life together.

—Josh Rankin



First day of school with Allie Kogoy and Mary Lewis. (Photo courtesy of Sara Gray Poss)



(Photo courtesy of Stamati Damalos)

One of many of my favorite memories at Brevard was Creek Week. It was scary for me since it was my first time away from family, but that first week, I got to meet many great people and overall it was a fun experience.

—Nicole Resendiz Trejo



Cheering on BC Football. (Photo courtesy of Brooke Garland)



A group photo with Le includes myself, Mia McGhee, and Sara Gray Poss. (Photo courtesy of Gabriella Galvan)



Graduation 2023 with Gabby Galvan. (Photo courtesy of Sara Gray Poss)



Spring 2023: Abbey Duncan and Grace Pukas with me at Brevard FD where I have worked for the last two years; right before formal. (Photo by Aeden Belflower, courtesy of Tayla Hutchings)



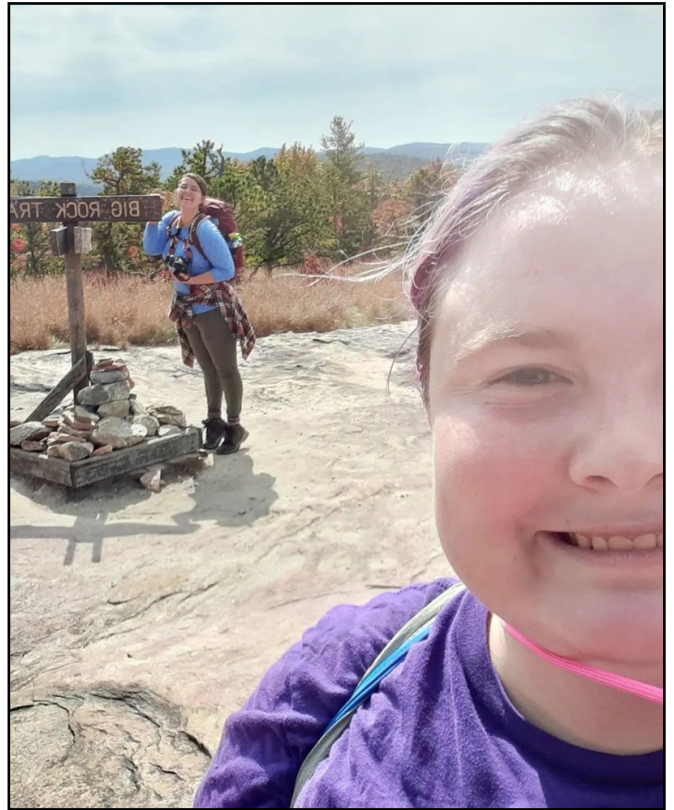
Celebrating a winning record in Hilton Head. (Photo courtesy of Brooke Garland)



Senior picture. (Photo courtesy of Journey Tyler and Timiah McGhee)



"Llama time" -Sarah Hajkowski pictured with llama at Spring Fest 2023. (Photo courtesy of Sarah Hajkowski)



Reagan and I went on a long hike in Dupont for me to collect data on trees for my senior project. (Photo courtesy of Caroline M. Hoy)

Winning the USA South Tournament twice.
—Francesco Bonometti



BCWS 2022 (Photo by Tori Brayman, courtesy of Alyssa Hetherington)



Baccalaureate Hooding Ceremony, Spring 2023 - Ishmael Parsons, Tamara (Photo courtesy of Autumn Hegner)



Hooker Falls, Spring 2023. (Photo courtesy of Autumn Hegner)

Spending time with friends and the faculty in my work-study position.

—Leviathan Tini



Graduation 2023 with Mary Lewis. (Photo courtesy of Sara Gray Poss)



I dressed up as a fairy for Halloween Freshman year. (Photo courtesy of Caroline M. Hoy)



Tennis team after we won matches!! (Photo courtesy of Alli Kogoy)

After 4.5 years at Brevard I'm leaving with a great group of friends that are like brothers and family to me now.

—Stamati Damalos

I formed a D&D group with some close friends that ran from freshman year to the end of senior year. Our last session will always stay in my mind as one of the best experiences of my life.

—Gabe Bernhard



Spring 2021: volleyball team during the national anthem. (Photo courtesy of Tayla Hutchings)



Abbey Duncan and I during our Valentine's Day best friend photo shoot (Photo by Thom Kennedy, courtesy of Tayla Hutchings)

My favorite memory at Brevard College has been working with the admissions team and getting to talk with future Nados! It's been very gratifying to see the students I talked with all summer graduate high school and make their way onto campus. I feel like a proud parent!

—Reagan Lane



Leadership awards 2023. (Photo courtesy of Starling Sturm)



Hanging by the Creek, Spring 2023 - Reagan Lane, Joslyn Mitchell, Caelyn Murphy, Kaitlyn Connerly, and Christine Keever. (Photo courtesy of Reagan Lane)



Visitation Day! - Reagan Lane, Alexis Blanchard, DaQuan Cain, and Nado.
(Photo courtesy of Reagan Lane)



Spring Formal 2023: Starling and Taylor Richardson. (Photo courtesy of Starling Sturm)

Senior pinning.

—Quincy Carter

The connections I established with not just students, but with professors and other personnel at the school. I will treasure the memories I made on the Brevard campus.

—Rosa Eberhardt



Pastimes Club Meeting, Spring 2023 - Reagan Lane, Imani Singleton, Brenden Palmer, Blayne Morton.
(Photo courtesy of Reagan Lane)

I loved going to Atlanta with Vance's and Sharad's music and religion course. I loved meeting some of the best friends I'll ever have. I loved having classes with Allison O'Leary and Lisa Busche, the sweetest and most intelligent mentors I've ever had the pleasure of knowing.

—Paige Lewis



Pre match selfie with the seniors. (Photo courtesy of Brooke Garland)



Spring Formal 2022 (Photo courtesy of Alyssa Hetherington)



Graduated the day after getting married! (Photo courtesy of Leviathan Tini)



A picture of my friend group: Myself, Macks Rabsatt, Casey Jones, and Rowe Davis on a nighttime trip up to the parkway in 2020. (Photo courtesy of Gabe Bernhard)

My favorite memories during my time at Brevard College would be uncontrollably, laughing with friends until I can no longer breathe.

My favorite memories at Brevard College is not only building connections with absolutely everyone on or off campus, but also making memories that I will take with me after my time here.

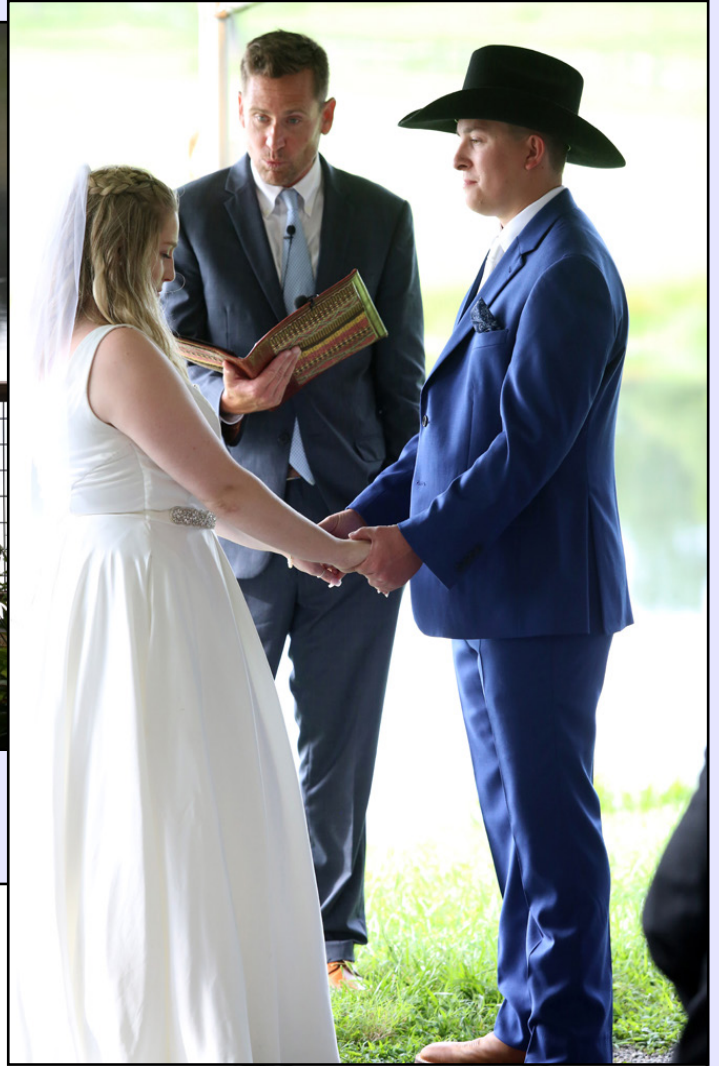
—Gabriella Galvan



Spring 2021: many of the volleyball girls in me and Caelyn Murphy's room enjoying the weekend together. (Photo courtesy of Tayla Hutchings)



Photos from my wedding where I got to marry the love of my life and my Best Friend, Haley Gilbert-Rankin. Surrounded by my friends and family. (Photo courtesy of Josh Rankin)





Silent disco 2021: Hope, Samantha, Starling. (Photo courtesy of Starling Sturm)

Cheering at the bowl game in Pittsburgh!
—Bethany Bryan

Winning the 2019 Scotty Whitelaw
Bowl my freshman year.
—Jarrett Isaac



Halloween with Chad Holt (Alexis Blanchard), David Volrath (Reagan Lane), a Shark (Savannah Wilkins), and Gabe Burris. (Photo courtesy of Reagan Lane)

Coming soon:
**The Class of 2023
VIDEO RETROSPECTIVE**

In the next few days, be sure to check out The Clarion's YouTube channel for a special video compilation of your photos and video submissions.

<https://www.youtube.com/@bcclarion>



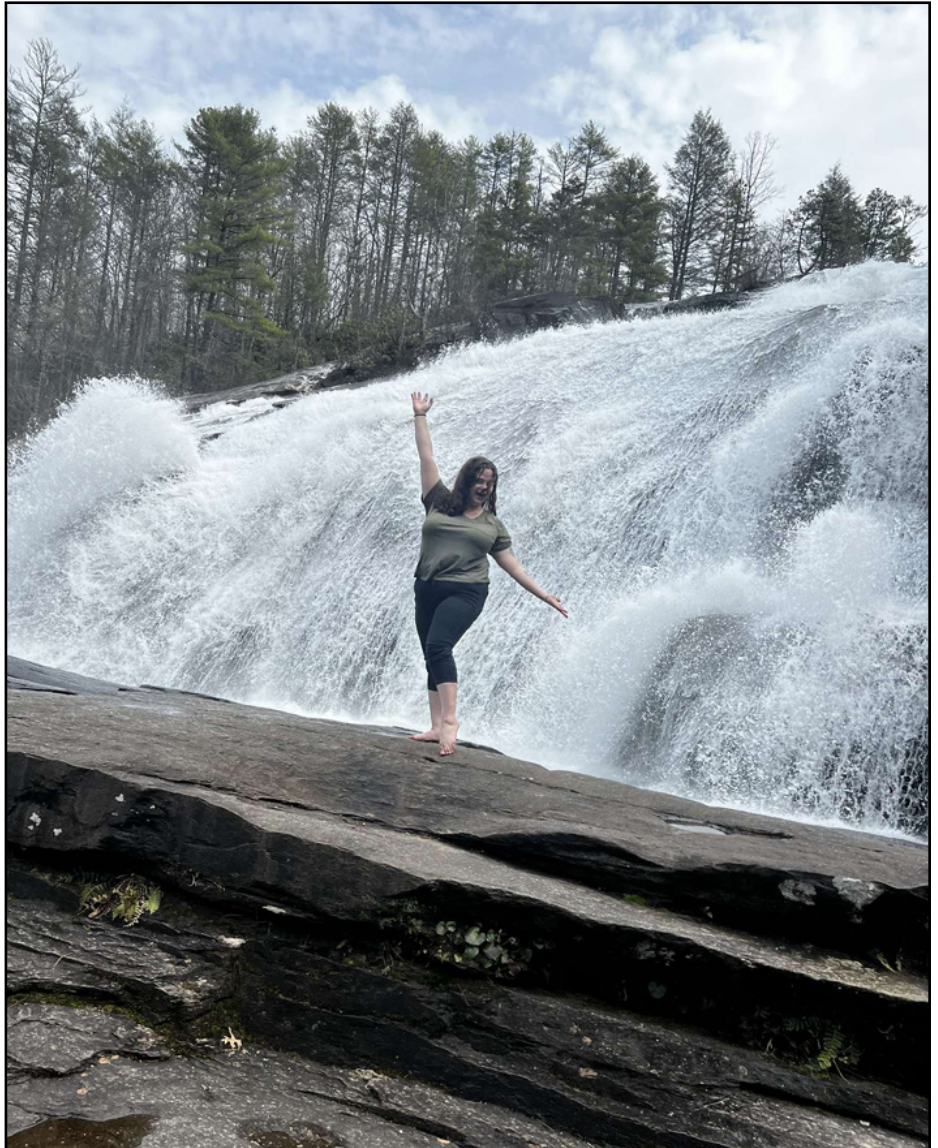
Creek Week 2021: members of Campus Life Activities board. (Photo courtesy of Starling Sturm)



Kuykendall, Patrick Yang. (Photo courtesy of Autumn Hegner)



Fall 2018 (Photo courtesy of Alyssa Hetherington)



High Falls, Ellie Hedgepath, Spring 2023. (Photo courtesy of Autumn Hegner)

Plans after graduation...

I am currently looking for a job.

Caroline Andrews
Mills River, NC

I plan to open a home studio for teaching singing and hope to continue to sing in the community.

Ann Marie Bates
Fletcher, NC

I've got a full time job in Chapel Hill.

Gabe Bernhard
Monroe, NC

Finding a job.

Francesco Bonometti
Paderno Franciacorta, Italy

I'm going to App State to get my masters degree in business administration.

Bethany Bryan
Boone, NC

Graduate school.

Quincy Carter
Decatur, Georgia

Graduating with a BA in Exercise Science. I'll continue to stay involved in the sports world, while also pushing to go pro in football.

Stamati Damalos
Tarpon Springs, NC

My plan is to seek employment in the field of education, either as a college campus life staff member or as a kindergarten teacher.

Rosa Eberhardt
Cleveland, Georgia

I am a finalist in the Lead for NC. which is a paid fellowship in the local government for recent college graduates. As well working to get my MBA.

Gabriella Galvan
Hendersonville, NC

Finishing my Masters in Human and Health Performance while I play tennis for another year and then moving onto get my Doctorate in Physical Therapy!

Brooke Garland
Canton, NC

I will be working with the Magnetic Theatre in Asheville on one of their fall productions. I dream of grad school one day-- playing it by ear!

Sarah Hajkowski
Putnam Valley, New York

I am taking a year off from college and am going to save up before going on to get my Masters in Biology.

Autumn Hegner
Leland, NC

I am working as a Naturalist Science Guide off in Juneau, Alaska. I'll be teaching people about whales and forests around the Mendenhall Glacier!

Alyssa Hetherington
Marietta, Georgia

I am going home to take care of my grandmother.

Caroline M. Hoy
Charleston, SC

Taking time off to get patient care work experience, then applying to PA school.

Christian Humphries
Rutherfordton, NC

I am going into the New Hampshire police academy, and after that I will be working for a local department back home.

Tayla Hutchings
Silver Lake, NH

I am employed full time with the Catawba county sheriffs office

Jarrett Isaac
Maiden, NC

Hoping to get one of the Kindergarten TA positions at Blowing Rock Elementary School.

Alli (Alleycat) Kogoy
Boone, NC

I have a summer job as a Program Leader for Camp Hanes and I plan to pursue a career with the National Park Service after grad school.

Reagan Lane
McGrady, NC

My plans are to go into domestic violence prevention and to seek out my master's degree (eventually).

Paige Lewis
Taylorsville, NC

I want to be a PE teacher.

Hamrick Perry
Hendersonville, NC

I plan on moving back to Alabama and becoming an elementary school teacher.

Sara Gray Poss
Birmingham Alabama

I am going to work at the Henderson County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy.

Josh Rankin
Charlotte, NC

Being a wife for a little while :)

Leviathan Tini
Seneca, SC

I plan to go to law school.

Nicole Resendiz Trejo
Hendersonville, NC

I plan to attend Graduate School to receive a Master's of Arts in Teaching.

I also accepted a job to be an assistant high school girl's basketball coach.

Journey Tyler
Knoxville, Tennessee

I am currently working as a police officer for the Kernersville Police Department.

Josh Whetstone
Kernersville, NC



Graduation with Coach AB, graduate student Destiny Williams, myself, and Coach Hudson. (Photo courtesy of Journey Tyler)

Advice to other BC students...

Give yourself time to take a break from your school work.

Caroline Andrews
Art

Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.
Mark 12: 30, 31

Ann Marie Bates
Music

Prioritize yourself. Keep yourself safe and happy and be very careful who you trust.

Gabe Bernhard
Theatre

Enjoy life and be yourself.

Francesco Bonometti
Business and Organizational Leadership

Stay focused. Don't be afraid to try new things.

Quincy Carter
Business and Organizational Leadership

Do not over stress presentations. I learned a simple saying that made them so much easier: "More pictures, less words." Dr. Hewitt told me that once and it stuck with me forever.

Stamati Damalos
Exercise Science

Manage your time effectively: Create a schedule and stick to it. Prioritize your assignments, projects, and deadlines.

Get involved: Participate in extracurricular activities that interest you. Join a club, volunteer, or attend events on campus.

Build relationships: Connect with your peers, professors, and advisors. They can offer guidance, support, and networking opportunities.

Take care of yourself: Get enough sleep, eat healthy, exercise, and manage your stress levels. Self-care is essential for your physical and mental well-being.

Pursue your passions: Explore your interests and pursue opportunities that align with your goals and values. Don't be afraid to take risks and try new things.

Remember, college is a time for growth, learn-

ing, and self-discovery. Embrace the experience, be open to challenges and change, and enjoy the journey.

Rosa Eberhardt
Elementary Education

You should absolutely step outside of your comfort zone! Yes, it's going to be super scary and very uncomfortable.

Once you have taken that big step, you will soon be able to find so many different things that you will love and enjoy. You will also find so many amazing people, and have so many fun memories to take with you as well stories to tell.

Be willing to listen and learn new things, because you never know when you will need to know how to tie a truckers knot.

Go and adventure out: take the VOR LINC class during the summer. It will be an experience that you will never forget.

Talk to everyone, whether they are staff, faculty, or student. All of these people will someday help you, and someday you will help them.

Build connections with everyone, and always stick up for yourself. Remember you are living for you—no one else.

Enjoy every moment for you and get the most out of what you want to get out of the college experience. Because one day you will look back and either wish you would have done more or be happy with everything that you have done.

And remember to smile; a smile goes a long way.

Gabriella Galvan
Business and Organizational Leadership

Take the challenges that may come your way as an opportunity to grow, and even when school seems like a lot, soak it all in!

Brooke Garland
Exercise Science

Stay open to new experiences! You can always grow and change from who you might think you are!

Sarah Hajkowski
English, Theatre

Study hard but also make sure to take time for yourself. Burnout is real and it is hard to dig yourself out after.

Autumn Hegner
Biology

Balance is key in life, but don't forget to push yourself out of your comfort zone every once and awhile

Alyssa Hetherington
Biology

Keep going! You can do it!

Caroline M. Hoy
Environmental Studies

Study study study, then study more. Then, repeat.

Christian Humphries
Biology

We've heard it many times: "it goes by fast," but it never stuck how it should've despite it being true. Enjoy where you are. The tough days pass, the memories of the good ones stick.

Tayla Hutchings
Criminal Justice

Do your homework early in the week.

Jarrett Isaac
Criminal Justice

Get work done ahead of time, meaning do not procrastinate because it just causes you even more stress.

Alli (Alleycat) Kogoy
Early Childhood Education

My advice would be to put yourself out there and get involved!

Reagan Lane
History

If you can, do an ILO with Dr. Vance. Make at least one best friend (it won't be hard).

Paige Lewis
Psychology

GO TO CLASS!

Hamrick Perry
Physical Education and Recreation

Always have fun. Take mental health days if you need to. Life is too short to stress.)

Sara Gray Poss
Elementary Education

Always believe in yourself and take in the moments that bring you happiness because they pass too quick.

Josh Rankin
Criminal Justice

It's important to have fun and not take everything too seriously. You should definitely get involved on campus by going to events and asking for help when you need it. Don't be afraid to make mistakes!

Starling Sturm
Integrated Studies

Don't procrastinate!!

Leviathan Tini
Psychology

Study hard, but give yourself time to de-stress.

Nicole ResendizTrejo
Criminal Justice

Meet people and don't pass up an opportunity to learn or socialize.

Josh Whetstone
Criminal Justice



(Photo courtesy of Freddie Aiken II)

Academic honors and award recipients, 2022-23

Here is a compilation of academic honors and awards for the 2022-2023 academic year. Awards were given throughout the month of April.

Criminal Justice Award Recipients

Outstanding Major Award: Anthony Martino
Outstanding Leadership: Nisa Rosales
Citizenship Award: Damon Hewitt
Promise in the Field of Criminal Justice:
Joshua Rankin, Tayla Hutchings

Theatre Program

Highest Grade Point Average:
Freshman: Mickey Lasco; Sophomore: Naomi Firebaugh; Junior: Anna Ervin; Senior: Sarah Hajkowski
Newcomer's Award: Roxxie Petryshak
Ensemble Award: Grace Dempsey
Excellence in Collaboration: Patrick Miller
Personal Growth Award: Anna Ervin
Excellence in Initiative: Sarah Hajkowski
Personal Responsibility Award: Taylor Sparrow

Rakeem Sweezy Award (Student Voted Inspiring Colleague): Grace Dempsey
Outstanding Theatre Major: Sierethene Chepes

Art Program

Highest Grade Point Average:
Freshman: Mia Diaz; Sophomore: Annette Peacock; Junior: Julia Lusk; Senior: Sydney Raber

Outstanding Art Awards:
Digital Art: Kenz Schinsky
Photography: Mitchell Yoder
Painting & Drawing: Jules Lusk & Nicole Bradbury

Sculpture: Sydney Raber
Foundations Year: Ren Schroeder
Art Advancement Awards:
Digital Media: Mitchell Yoder
Time Based Media: Gwyn Jennings
Photography: Gunnar Ensign
Painting & Drawing: Alison Holland
Sculpture: Shay Rose
Foundations: Annie Peacock
Outstanding Art Major: Gwyn Jennings

Music Program

Highest Grade Point Average:
Freshman: Lyric Contarino; Sophomore: Gabby Lujon; Junior: Emme Griffith, Jonas McCanless & Kayleigh Miller; Senior: Ann Marie Bates
Excellence in Music Theory: Emme Griffith
Excellence in Music History: Ann Marie Bates
Outstanding First Year Student: Hannah Sonnenberg
Peer Inspiration Award: Ishmeal Parsons
Choral Ensemble Award: Tamara Kuykendall
Instrumental Ensemble Award: Jonas McCanless
Music Ambassador Award: Ishmeal Parsons and Hannah Sonnenberg
Outstanding Music Major: Ann Marie Bates

Business & Organizational Leadership

Outstanding Major Award: Bethany Bryan
Ray Fisher Leadership Award: Brett Burchett & Quincy Carter
Mount Pisgah Award: Parker Moore
Sustainable Leadership Award: Gabriella Gal-

van and Reece Rubio

Grace Roy Award: Otis Kahar & Pietro Moratelli
Dr. B. Barbara Boerner Emerging Leadership Scholarship Award: Maggie Cox, Chyna Pouncey
Sidney J. Gunst Jr. Award in BORG: Jackson Betsill & Weston Coop

Psychology

Outstanding Major Award: Paige Lewis
Outstanding Service to Psi Chi: Vanitas Hamilton
Citizenship Award: Alydia Monahan
Promise in the Field of Psychology: Elizabeth Weather
Rising Star in Psychology: Chloe Banner

Service to The Clarion

Editors-in-Chief of the Clarion: Anna Ervin & Caroline Hoy
Clarion Staff: Savannah Anderson, Aaron Butts, Isaiah Collison, Oreo Ellis, and Brady Penn

Service to Chiaroscuro

Editor-in-Chief of the Chiaroscuro: Caroline Hoy
Chiaroscuro Staff: Aaron Butts, Rowe Davis, Baylee Hallas, Jackson Inglis, Casey Jones, Sara Laboe, Reagan Lane, Evey Perrey, and Riley Sinclair

Humanities

Outstanding English Major: Sarah Hajkowski
Outstanding History Major: Reagan Lane
Outstanding Integrated Studies Major: Miles Schafer

Political Science

Best in American Government: Nicholas Clark
Best in Political Science: Dominic O'Brien
Best in Political Philosophy: Daniel Shook

Physical Education Award Recipients

Outstanding Major Award in Physical Education & Recreation: Annsley Schwab
Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education (WLEE) Award Recipients
Outstanding Major Award in WLEE: Alex Eaton & Shyvon Potter

Writing Award Recipients

Best Writing Projects in First Year Writing: Savannah Anderson, Mia Diaz, Signe Thorsen
Best in Fiction: Casey Jones
Best in Poetry: Sarah Hajkowski & Gwyn Jennings
Best in Creative Nonfiction: Sara Laboe
Distinctive Voice Award: Isaiah Collison

Literature Award Recipients

Best in Literary Criticism: Jake Kassel
Best in Contemporary Shakespeare Studies: Journey Tyler
Best in Environmental Literature: Sara Barnes & Amelie Jones
Best in Science Fiction & Fantasy Studies: Gabriel Bernhard
Best in Gothic Literature: Evey Perrey & Sarah Hajkowski

History Award Recipients

Outstanding Major Award in History: Reagan Lane

Up-and-Coming Historian: Paige Edwards, Dominic O'Brien

Outstanding Writer in History: Sara Barnes
Outstanding Critical Thinking in History: Daniel Shook

Environmental Studies

Outstanding Major Award: Trenten Anderson
Highest GPA in Environmental Science: Rachel Hughes

Biology Award Recipients

Outstanding Major Award: Christian Humphries
Citizenship Award: Alexis Blanchard
Highest GPA in Biology: Christian Humphries

Math

Outstanding Major Award: Trystan Wallace
Citizenship Award in Math: Cassie Plemmons
Highest GPA in Math: Kevin Wright

Physics

Outstanding Major Award: Cassie Plemmons
Citizenship Award in Physics: Trystan Wallace
Highest GPA in Physics: Rachel Hughes

Health & Human Performance

Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Health & Human Performance: Brooke Garland
Outstanding Graduate Student in Health & Human Performance: Destiny Williams

Exercise Science

Outstanding Major Award: Nina Machinowski
Citizenship Award: Tyler Miranda
Highest GPA in Exercise Science: Davis Bryson, Brooke Garland, Haylea Layne Miller & Cesar Rodriguez

Health Science Studies

Outstanding Major Award: Jami Stewart
Citizenship Award in HSS: Lena Hatter
Highest GPA in Health Science Studies: Daniel Brew, Hannah Hersh, Sophia Ogawa & Calli Wells

Graduate Program

Health and Human Performance: Destiny Williams
Emergency Management: Destiny Hall

Student Leadership

Outstanding Work-Study: Sarah Hajkowski
Outstanding Resident Assistant: Kat Kramer
Outstanding Peer Leader: Quincy Carter
Outstanding Student Health Ambassador: Abbie Worsencroft
Community Service Award: Parker Moore
Community Service Award: Gabriella Galvan
Mary Elizabeth & G. Scott Francis Community Service Scholarship: Victoria Sylvester
Richard A. Adams Outstanding Ambassador (Admissions): Reagan Lane
Outstanding Freshman: Hannah Achilles
Outstanding Sophomore: Haylea-Layne Miller
Outstanding Junior: Devon Brodmyer
Outstanding Senior: Giuseppe Capello Real
Rising Star: Julianna Willoughby
Above & Beyond: Abbie Worsencroft
Outstanding Student Organization of the Year: The Clarion
Outstanding Faculty: Jessie Tucker
Outstanding Staff: Angie Mascaro
Sweezy Award: Lena Hatter

BC Theatre announces their 2023-24 season

William Shakespeare's 'Macbeth,' Tennessee Williams' 'The Glass Menagerie' to be staged next year

Brevard College Theatre has announced their four mainstage shows for the 2023–2024 academic year, a slate which includes two icons of theatre: Tennessee Williams and William Shakespeare.

Grace Dempsey will direct “Karl The Magnificent” by William Missouri Downs as her Senior Capstone Project. Performances will be Oct 5–8, 2023.

Next will be Bock and Harnick’s classic musical romantic comedy “She Loves Me” Nov. 16–19, 2023. This production will be directed by theatre professor Dan Toot and music directed by Vance Reese.

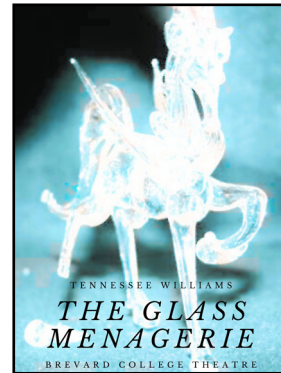
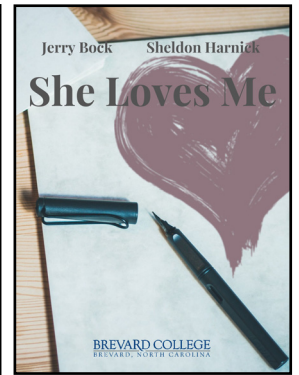
In the spring semester, Abbey Toot will direct Tennessee Williams’ American classic “The Glass Menagerie.” Performances will be Feb. 29–March 3, 2024.

BC Theatre will conclude the year with William Shakespeare’s tragedy “Macbeth” on April 18–21, 2024.

Initial auditions for “Karl The Magnificent” and “She Loves Me” are open to all Brevard College students and will take place Wednesday, Aug. 23. Contact BC theatre professors Abbey Toot, Andrea Boccanfuso and/or Dan Toot for more information.

Also planned for 2023–2024 will be student-produced work and for the holiday season our solo-version of William Leach’s adaptation of “A Christmas Carol,” in addition to our Mixtape evenings and lots of other exciting projects. Stay tuned!

For a “trailer” of next year’s BC Theatre shows, visit this YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/4rXKRPyznHI>.



Alumni Spotlight:

Board of Trustees member Wayne Gilbert West '81

Gil West grew up in the mountains further west of Brevard, and when he was choosing a college, he knew he wanted to be close to home, his friends, and of course to play basketball.

From his leadership experience on campus as the captain of the Brevard College men’s basketball team, to a successful career as Chief Operating Officer of Delta Air Lines, and now in his role as Chief Operating Officer of Cruise Automation, Gil is not only leading the automotive industry through innovation but also giving back to his alma mater through his service as a Trustee.

As many of our students, Gil was unsure of what he wanted to do in life when it came to his education and career. However, he had an uncle who was an engineer and because Gil figured he was at least decent in math and science, he thought “why not”.

During his time here at Brevard College, he built his foundation in education and in creating a community on campus which is still his approach in the workforce today. “No matter how big they are, there is a circle of people and you develop a relationship,” he said.

At Brevard, students connect with faculty and staff and even years later, Gil remembers fond relationships with classmates and professor Preston Woodruff who just always did things a little differently. Gil has held leadership roles with multiple airline companies and recently retired as Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President with Delta Airlines throughout his career.

Growing up around his dad’s automobile store,

he developed a love for transportation. Currently, Gil is the Chief Operating Officer with Cruise, an American self-driving car company, a subsidiary of General Motors.

Along with the advanced technology, Cruise is the first company to offer rides without a driver in a major public city and received California’s first driverless Deployment Permit this summer and as of this fall is expanding to Phoenix, Arizona and Austin, Texas. “What we are doing in San Francisco, is not way in the future, it’s now,” he said. “It’s truly a magical experience. Initially, you can’t believe it, then you quickly settle in and you have all of the space to yourself. I am living the dream for sure.”

As many of our alumni, Gil always recalled the importance of friendships and how special the community was during his time on campus. “Brevard College was a great experience; it prepares you for the rest of your life,” he said.

Gil currently serves on a few boards, including our Brevard College Board of Trustees. “All of us give back in life in some form,” he said. “Vision and leadership is key. Tapping into experience and wisdom creates the right environment to blossom, it’s great to be a part of that.”

“Brevard has stood the test of time and I think the future is really bright, and it’s an honor to give back. I still remember when I graduated, looking back, there is a marathon ahead, it’s just the beginning, but if you continue to learn and absorb and grow as a person, that’s a great accomplishment.”



Wayne Gilbert West '81

BC students have an afternoon at the opera

by Vance Reese
Contributor

In February 2020, I applied for a mini-grant from Brevard College Pedagogies (BCP) to take some music students to see the opera “Agrippina,” by Handel.

We went, and it was a memorable experience—made more memorable since it was one of the last times in a theater before the March shut-down. I thought I would apply again this semester to give my music history students a chance to have a similar summative experience.

Six Brevard College students, and I went to see the performance of Terence Blanchard’s “Champion” Saturday afternoon, April 29, at the Biltmore Grande movie theater, off Long Shoals Road in South Asheville.

Blanchard has a career as a trumpet player, a pianist, a composer for over 40 film scores (includ-

ing a longstanding collaboration with Spike Lee), and has most recently supplemented that career by composing operas. With these credentials under his belt, one expects his operas won’t sound like Handel, Mozart, Verdi, or Puccini, though there are distant influences of all these composers.

The story centers around Emile Griffith, at one time a champion boxer. The students reflected on this experience.

Two art majors, Alison Holland and Jules Lusk, also went. It was their first time seeing an opera. Alison writes, “There were no viking helmets and people singing in foreign languages. Instead Champion incorporates jazz into its music and uses intricate design elements into its costumes to bring everything to life.”

Jules adds her appreciation of the importance of the sets, costumes and props to the story-telling. “To experience it live on stage was thrilling.... Even though we were not in the actual opera house,

I could feel the excitement.”

Music Education majors Ish Parsons and Patrick Yang reflected on this experience as part of their Final Exam in Music History. Ish wrote that the composer wrote very thoughtfully and strategically for this production. He pointed out that the use of color of the voices” is an important compositional tool. “The baritone quality of older and current Emile and his opposer Benny really give way to manhood and strength.” He noted the qualities of other voices, too, one of them being the club owner’s sultry jazz-oriented vocal style.

Patrick noted the themes of abandonment and dementia, the latter brought on by Griffith’s bouts in the boxing arenas and exacerbated by a beating from a gang of thugs outside a gay bar.

Patrick sums up all of our feelings: “I want to give thanks for this opportunity for the grant that was given for us Brevard College students. I really enjoyed the opera and the experience that I had.”



From left to right: Eli Hughes, Autumn Hegner, Ish Parsons, Patrick Yang, Vance Reese, Jules Lusk, and Alison Holland pause for a picture after seeing Terence Blanchard’s opera “Champion,” broadcast in HD at the Biltmore Grande Theater in Asheville. (Photo by Harper Reese)

Voice of the Rivers exploring the Neuse River watershed

by **Abi Fuesler and Robert Dye**
Contributors

On May 8, 2023, the Voice of the Rivers team departed from Brevard College for the Neuse River watershed.

This team of 10 students and 4 faculty and staff began their journey at Falls Lake Recreation Area near Wake Forest, NC, and will paddle in sea kayaks just over 200 miles to reach Flanners Beach on the coast of North Carolina.

Voice of the Rivers (VOR) has a long history at Brevard College, with students participating in interdisciplinary "Learning in Community" courses along a river since 1997. These trips offer students the traditional 6 academic credit hours they earn in a LINC course, with the addition of spending 18 days learning and living together while exploring a watershed.

On the first VOR, the team started on the French Broad River and over the course of a semester paddled the Tennessee, Ohio and Mississippi rivers

before finishing at the Gulf of Mexico.

Since then, VOR teams have paddled the Haw and Cape Fear, Yadkin-Peedee, Savannah, Sewanee, and many other rivers, including the Rio Santa Cruz and Rio Negro in Patagonia.

The expeditionary LINC course is being led by Ryan DeGarmo, who is teaching River Recreation, Education, and Conservation, and Dr. Destini Pettitt, who is teaching Explorations in the Riparian Corridor. Clayton Sheehand, the WLEE logistics manager, and Maggie Frail, a recent WLEE graduate, have assisted in the planning process.

The students include Gunnar Ensign (junior, Art major), Eamonn Hunter (junior, Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education major), Julianna Willoughby (junior, Environmental Studies major), Maddy Elliott (senior, Biology major), Catherine Schroeder (sophomore, Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education major), Chantal Camenzind (senior, Exercise Science major), Hayley Kenney (junior, Criminal Justice major), Channing Barker (senior, Environmental Studies major), Tom Riches

(senior, Integrated Studies major), and Matt Zuniga (senior, Business & Organizational Leadership major).

Regarding the first full day of paddling, Zuniga says, "it was a beautiful day on the water and we are all getting used to our boats. 16 miles of paddling later, we arrived at our first campsite, a primitive island on the river—getting close with the bugs and mud, and really immersing ourselves in the outdoors."

To hear more from Zuniga and the rest of the 2023 Voice of the Rivers team, you can receive updates on their journey on the Brevard College Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education - WLEE Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/BCWLEE>.

Students who are interested in going on the 2024 VOR should keep an eye out for announcements of when applications will open in January 2024. Faculty with questions about Voice of the Rivers can contact Dr. Jenny Kafsky to learn more.



The 2023 Voice of the Rivers team. They departed on their journey down the Neuse River on Monday, May 8.

Photo by Sara Schmidt / BC Communications

Le Tavoloni heading 'South'

by Paul Morgan
Contributor

Some folks make a job change that takes them from one familiar situation to another. BC's Associate Dean for Students Alessandra (Le) Tavoloni is taking that big step, but, in many ways, is moving to an entirely new and uniquely different professional universe.

In her case, this is no surprise. Tavoloni is not known as someone who shrinks from a challenge—quite the opposite in fact.

Her personal roots are in Sao Paulo, Brazil. She grew up passionate about the game of soccer, a passion that still burns and continues to play a major role in her life. Following high school, Tavoloni's Brazilian coach connected her to Union College (Kentucky) Coach Helio D'Anna in 2002.

The result was a spectacular college career that included All Appalachian Athletic Conference and All American honors as she twice led her teams to NAIA national tournaments. She was inducted into the Union College Hall of Fame, having scored 106 goals (the 106 th on a bicycle kick) and joined an earlier Union graduate as the only two NAIA women players to have scored more than 100 goals up to that time.

Upon graduation, and having also completed a Master's degree in Education and Health, Tavoloni signed on as Director of Student Activities at Union, reporting to current BC, and former Union Dean of Students Debbie D'Anna.

Yes, that means that Tavoloni has twice worked for Dr. D'Anna, which tells one something about that special relationship.

Tavoloni's new position, which begins this month, is that of Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at South University in Savannah, Georgia. Her responsibilities will include orientation, clubs and organizations, career fairs and graduation activities in the school's pharmacy program.

If you are not familiar with South, it is a professional school with several East Coast locations, offering health-related Ph.D degrees and boasting enrollment of some 10,000 students, many of whom study online.

"One of the things that drew me to the new job," Tavoloni said, "was the amazing diversity of both the faculty and administrators and the student body. I will be moving from working largely with younger, mostly regional, undergraduates to the challenge of working with more mature, career-focused

students from all over the world.

"I feel that this is the perfect career move for me at this time," she continued. "I know that I will miss my BC experience, my colleagues, and the many special people here. My memories of campus life have involved the pleasure of connecting, one on one, with students and doing my best to make their BC experience as rich as possible."

No matter where Le Tavoloni lands, soccer is sure to continue to loom large in her life. During her eight years at BC, she has played club soccer, refereed local high school and middle school matches and, for the past three years, served as the volunteer organizer of referees for the thriving Transylvania Youth Soccer Association.

"Le has many qualities that make her the perfect student affairs professional," said Dean D'Anna.

However, the one quality that stands out the most is her compassion for others. She has the heart to want to help others succeed.

"This quote by business and leadership author Ken Blanchard describes Le perfectly," D'Anna said. "Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those who are in your charge. Servant leadership is about making goals clear, and then rolling up your sleeves and doing what it takes to help people win. In that situation, they don't work for you, you work for them."

"I have long known that Le is a special person," D'Anna continued. "I have been lucky to have worked with her for so many years. She will be missed more than words can express. I am proud of her for taking on this new challenge. South University is very lucky to get her."

Former BC President David Joyce echoed D'Anna. "Lynne and I have known Le for many years, both as a student and now as a professional," he said. "She is a woman of great energy and work ethic. She has a creative mind and is completely dedicated to student success. While we will miss her on the Brevard campus, we know that she will thrive as she takes this next step in her professional career."

Le Tavoloni's life journey has truly been an amazing one, from teenage soccer dreams in Brazil to All American and Hall of Fame honors as an American undergraduate to a Master's degree and meaningful jobs in two U.S. Colleges.

Might the best be yet to come?

Stay tuned!



Alessandro "Le" Tavoloni

BC Athletics highlights for 2022-2023

Right: Junior Makenna Parkins in action earlier this year at the Boshamer Gymnasium. BC Women's Basketball earned a trip to the USA South Conference Championships for the third straight year. Brevard defeated Methodist 84-76 to advance to the conference finals for the second straight year.

Center: The BC Women's Lacrosse set team records for most wins, conference wins, goals, assists and longest win streak in the most prolific season in program history. The Tornados clinched their first-ever appearance in the USA South Conference postseason tournament.

Bottom: The BC men's soccer team won the USA South Conference championship and earned the school's first-ever berth into the NCAA Division III national championship tournament.



BC Student-Athletes honored at 2022-23 BESPYS

The Department of Athletics hosted the 2022-23 "BESPYS," the college's annual athletic awards banquet on April 20 at the Boshamer Gymnasium.

The BESPYS were presented by the Brevard College Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) with student broadcasters Scott Douglas and Brady Penn serving as event MC's.

Several major awards were presented to standout student-athletes over the course of the evening in front of an audience of over 400 members of the Brevard College community.

The Ann Etters Award is given annually to the underclassman student-athlete who best displays excellence athletically, academically, and through dedicated service to the BC community. The 2022-23 Ann Etters Award was presented to **Emily Denaga**, a sophomore women's lacrosse student-athlete.

The John McKissick Award, presented annually to the most outstanding football senior student-athlete both on and off the field, was awarded to senior running back **Mitchell Yoder**. The Chuck Dunbar Team Spirit Award was presented to men's soccer senior **Scott Douglas**.

Additional award winners included USA Cycling individual omnium national champion **Cole Punchard** (Cyclist of the Year), women's basketball student-athlete **Olivia Miller** (Female Rookie of the Year) and baseball student-athlete **Connor Crosby** (Male Rookie of the Year). In addition, an award presentation went to senior baseball student athlete **Blake Burchett**, who won the NCAA Division III stolen bases crown in 2022.

The Brevard College Perfect Storm awards are given to the most outstanding overall Tornado

student-athletes both in sport and in the classroom. **Brooke Garland** of women's tennis won the Female Perfect Storm Award, while football and baseball dual-sport athlete **Joc Pledger** was named the Male Perfect Storm Award winner.

The Female Athlete of the Year was presented to junior **Makenna Parkins**, a dual-sport student athlete from volleyball and women's basketball. **Ryan Lynch**, a junior men's soccer student-athlete, was named the Male Athlete of the Year.

The second annual David and Lynne Joyce Award was presented to **Pledger** of baseball and football. The award is presented to the graduating senior student-athlete who displays superior performance in competition, in the classroom and in the community over an entire four-year career at Brevard College.

The **women's lacrosse team** recaptured the Tornado Cup, given to the team that accumulates the most points in the Tornado Cup Challenge with the components of Academic Excellence, Athletic Excellence, Personal Development, Community Service and Athletes Supporting Athletes.

The BC **women's soccer team** earned the Highest Team GPA with the highest cumulative grade point average amongst BC's athletic teams.

Members of the USA South Conference champion **men's soccer team** were presented with their conference championship rings in a ceremony that included Brevard College President Bradley J Andrews, Director of Athletics Myranda Nash, Head Men's Soccer Coach Helio "L" D'Anna and Assistant Coach Mario Pinto.

The event included a special tribute dedicated to the late Dr. Stephen E. Knott, the beloved Faculty

Athletics Representative at Brevard College, who tragically passed away last August.

As part of the program, BC graduating senior student-athletes received their senior gifts and graduates with a GPA of 3.0 or higher also received a scholar-athlete graduation stole to be worn at the upcoming Brevard College Commencement.

In addition to the major Brevard College awards, a plethora of conference and national awards were also handed out to the Tornado student-athletes.

To follow the latest news and updates surrounding Brevard College Athletics, follow the Tornados on Twitter/Instagram @BCTornados, subscribe to 'Brevard College Tornados' on YouTube and SoundCloud, and follow 'Brevard College Tornado Athletics' on Facebook. In addition, follow 'brevardcollege' on Flickr for photos from BC events.

SAAC Executive Board

JaMarcus Walker, Men's Tennis – President
 Brooke Garland, Women's Tennis – Vice President
 Caelyn Murphy, Volleyball – Secretary
 Cassidy Hutto, Women's Lacrosse – Community Engagement
 Sly White, Men's Basketball – Marketing Coordinator

2022-23 Brevard College Athletics Awards

Tornado Cup – Women's Lacrosse
Highest Team GPA Award – Women's Soccer
Ann Etters Excellence Award – Emily Denaga, Women's Lacrosse
John McKissick Award – Mitchell Yoder, Football
Chuck Dunbar Team Spirit Award – Scott Douglas, Men's Soccer
Cyclist of the Year – Cole Punchard
Female Rookie of the Year – Olivia Miller, Women's Basketball
Male Rookie of the Year – Connor Crosby, Baseball
Female Perfect Storm Award – Brooke Garland, Women's Tennis
Male Perfect Storm Award – Joc Pledger, Baseball/Football
Female Athlete of the Year – Makenna Parkins, Volleyball/Women's Basketball
Male Athlete of the Year – Ryan Lynch, Men's Soccer
David and Lynne Joyce Legacy Award – Joc Pledger, Baseball/Football

Conference/National Awards (as of 5/11/23)

Women's Soccer

Nicole Arroyo, USA South Rookie of the Week
 Channing Barker, CSC Academic All-District
 Grace Black, CSC Academic All-District
 Maddy Edwards, CSC Academic All-District
 Olivia Griswood, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team



Baseball

The 2023 BC Baseball team completed one of the most successful seasons in the program's 15-year NCAA history as the Tornados finished with 22 wins and earned the program's first two USA South Conference tournament victories.

Complete BESPYP award recipients (continued)

Alyssa Heatherington, CSC Academic All-District

Mackenzie Lozano, USA South Defensive Player of the Week

Abbie Mayer, USA South Player of the Week and All-Conference Honorable Mention

Kiara Porcelli, USA South Rookie of the Week

Abbie Worsencroft, CSC Academic All-District

Autumn Wright, CSC Academic All-District

Men's Soccer

Rocco Barbon, CSC Academic All-District, 1st Team All-Conference, USA South All-Tournament Team

Francesco Bonometti, CSC Academic All-District

Igor da Silva, CSC Academic All-District, 2nd Team All-Conference, USA South All-Tournament Team and USA South Tournament Most Valuable Player

Luis dos Santos, Second-Team All-Conference
Tom Dussauge, USA South All-Tournament Team

Rodrigo Garcia, USA South All-Tournament Team

Ryan Lynch, 2-Time USA South Player of the Week, 1st Team All-Conference and USA South All-Tournament Team

Daniel Morgan, USA South Rookie of the Week

Sam O'Callaghan, CSC Academic All-District, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team, 1st Team All-Conference

Matheus Rossi, 2-time USA South Defensive Player of the Week, USA South All-Tournament Team

Cross Country

Zoe Capps, All-Sportsmanship Team

Dalton Hawley, USA South Runner of the Week, All-Sportsmanship Team

Football

Luis Alvarez, CSC Academic All-District

Stamati Damalos, 4-Time USA South Conference Special Teams Player of the Week, 1st Team All-Conference

Obidiah Grimes, USA South Defensive Rookie of the Week

Miles Hayes, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Cooper Hogan, CSC Academic All-District

Toby Naylor, USA South Defensive Player of the Week, 2nd Team All-Conference

Justin Parker, CSC Academic All-District, NFF Hampshire Honor Society

Reece Rubio, NFF Hampshire Honor Society

Ernest Smith II, USA South Defensive Player of the Week

Brandon Unangst, 2nd Team All-Conference

James Woods, USA South Special Teams Player of the Week

Mitchell Yoder, USA South Offensive Player of the Week

Volleyball

Bailey Lance, CSC Academic All-District

Caelyn Murphy, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Makenna Parkins, USA South All-Conference Honorable Mention

Kaitlyn Pressley, CSC Academic All-District

Grace Pukas, CSC Academic All-District

Men's Basketball

Jadon Carnes, 2-Time USA South Rookie of the Week

Quincy Carter, USA South Conference All-Sportsmanship Team

Garrett Sutherland, CSC Academic All-District

Kavan Horton, 2-Time USA South Rookie of the Week

Sly White, USA South Player of the Week

Women's Basketball

Olivia Miller, 3-Time USA South Conference Rookie of the Week, USA South Conference Rookie of the Year and USA South All-Conference Honorable Mention

Makenna Parkins, CSC Academic All-District, 2-time USA South Player of the Week and First Team All-Conference

Chyna Pouncey, CSC Academic All-District

Makayla Street, 3-Time USA Conference Rookie of the Week

Journey Tyler, CSC Academic All-District, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Calli Wells, CSC Academic All-District

Women's Lacrosse

Emily Denaga, USA South Player of the Week

Xan Hill, USA South Rookie of the Week

Autumn Kramer, IWLCA D3 National Co-Offensive Player of the Week, USA South Player of the Week

Paige Kneubuhler, 2-Time USA South Rookie of the Week

Lex MacLauchlin, USA South Defensive Player of the Week

Parker Moore, IWLCA D3 National Co-Offensive Player of the Week, 2-Time USA South Player of the Week

Nicole Volk, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Men's Lacrosse

Drew Pond, USA South Rookie of the Week

Ben Wilhelm, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Baseball

Blake Burchett, USA South 2nd Team All-Conference, USA South Player of the Week

Connor Crosby, USA South Rookie Pitcher of the Week



Cycling

Sophomore Cole Punchard won the USA Cycling Individual Omnium National Championship last fall in Durango, Colorado. As a team, Brevard placed third at the national championships, the highest finishing program located east of the Mississippi.

Complete BESPYP award recipients (continued)

Year, 3-time USA South Rookie Pitcher of the Week

Lucas Granata, D3Baseball.com Team of the Week

Hayden Jennings, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Frankie Vasquez, USA South 1st Team All-Conference, USA South Player of the Week

Softball

Karley Queen, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Men's Tennis

Noah Lewis and Ethan McGee, USA South Conference Doubles Team of the Week

JaMarcus Walker, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Women's Tennis

Brooke Garland, CSC Academic All-District, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Hannah Hersh, CSC Academic All-District, 1st

Team All-Conference, 2-Time USA South Player of Week

Hannah Hersh and Alli Kogoy, 2-Time USA South Conference Doubles Team of the Week

Sophie Trantham, CSC Academic All-District

Men's Track & Field

Luis Alvarez, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team, 3rd Team All-Conference (4x100 relay)

Brooks Ashford Jr., 3rd Team All-Conference (4x100 relay)

Devon Brodmyer, 2nd Team All-Conference (800 meters), 3rd Team All-Conference (5,000 meters)

Gabriel Covington, 2nd Team All-Conference (Shot Put)

DeShawn Curtis, 3rd Team All-Conference (4x100 relay)

Dalton Hawley, 3rd Team All-Conference (1,500 meters)

Garrett Spangler, 3rd Team All-Conference (10,000 meters), 3rd Team All-Conference (3,000 meter Steeplechase)

Reginald Taylor II, 3rd Team All-Conference (100 meters), 3rd Team All-Conference (4x100 relay)

Jaxsen Wilkerson, 2nd Team All-Conference (110 hurdles), 3rd Team All-Conference (High Jump), 3rd Team All-Conference (Triple Jump), 3rd Team All-Conference (Long Jump)

Women's Track & Field

Channing Barker, 2nd Team All-Conference (800 meters)

Haylea Layne-Miller, 3rd Team All-Conference (100 hurdles), 3rd Team All-Conference (400 hurdles)

Isabell Musser, 2nd Team All-Conference (Discus)

Grace Pukas, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Makayla Street, 2nd Team All-Conference (High Jump), 3rd Team All-Conference (200 meters)

2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS

Men's Soccer

12-6-3 Record

- USA South Conference Champions
- 1st Ever NCAA D3 Tournament Appearance

Cross Country

Women's: Fourth Place at the USA South Cross Country Championships

Men's: Second Place at the USA South Cross Country Championships

Women's Tennis

14-6 Record

- Second Round USA South Tournament

Men's Lacrosse

- Won the Battle of the Blue Ridge

Women's Lacrosse

11-6 Record

- First Round USA South Tournament
- Most Wins, USA South Wins & Goals in program history

Women's Soccer

10-5-5 Record

- First Round USA South Conference Tournament

Volleyball

- Closed season with USA South Tri-Match sweep

Football

- 5-2 in conference play
- Won 4 of last 6 games

Men's Basketball

- Second Round USA South Tournament
- 1st USAS Conference Tournament Win in program history

Men's Tennis

- First Round USA South Tournament

Baseball

22-21 Record

- Advanced in USA South Tournament
- First postseason victory in NCAA-era history

Cycling

Third Place at the USA Cycling Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championships

- Cole Punchard won the Men's Varsity Mountain Bike Individual Omnium national title

Women's Basketball

16-10 Record

- Second Round USA South Conference Tournament

Track & Field

Hosted the USA South Conference Men's and Women's Track & Field Championships
Women's: Collected 6 podiums, Sixth place overall

Men's: Collected 12 podiums, Third place overall

Softball

- Secured conference wins over Southern VA & Salem