



Goodbye messages to Le!

Below are goodbye message to Le, a beloved member of the campus life team from people who Le has worked with over the years on campus life and are sad to see her go!

"Thank you Le!! You are a mentor and someone I have looked up to my entire Brevard career. You continue to inspire me and I can't wait to see all the great things you accomplish in Savannah."

-Chloe Proffitt

"Le has many enduring traits. She is funny and even laughs at herself. She's witty even when she doesn't realize she is. She is bright and probably doesn't give herself enough credit for her intelligence. Perhaps best of all she is caring and loving. of everyone. I will miss her alot and wish much success in her new endeavor."

-Shirley Arnold

"I will miss Le very much, although I'm also excited for her. She will meet lots of new people with new chances to say "Yes!" and "No!""

-Jessie Tucker



Photo by Brian Seon

"Le!!! Thank you for your contagious energy and enthusiasm. You always go the extra mile to make sure students get a great experience at every event. It has been a joy to work with you. I wish you well on your next adventure. I know you will make a great impact on your new students!"

-Angela Mascaro

"I couldn't imagine my first year in this profession without your presence. BC will not be the same without you, best wishes <3"

-Emily White

"Le is a special person with a passion for helping others reach their potential. She is always willing to put in the work to make the BC experience a special experience for our students. She will be missed."

-Debora D'Anna

"Le, Working with you over the past 10 years has been a pleasure. I know this next chapter of your life will be full of growth and opportunity. Thank you again for everything you have done for Brevard College, our students and this community! YOU will be very missed! <3

Much love, Nacole, Ken, Laurel and Allie"

-Nacole Ann Potts-Hardwick

"Best of luck in your new life adventure! You will be missed!"

-Kevin George II



Photo by Brevard College

Theatre 'Mixtape' - Two unique nights of the arts

By Sarah Hajkowski
Contributor

That's a wrap! This past Tuesday, Apr. 25 and Wednesday, Apr. 26, Brevard College Theatre's students and faculty presented another semesterly "Mixtape" in the Morrison Playhouse at Brevard's Porter Center for Performing Arts.

It was all hands on deck as students in a variety of theatre courses (all years) came together for two special evenings of performance and sharing, mentored by Theatre Coordinator Andrea Boccanfuso, Assistant Professors of Theatre Abbey and Dan Toot, Associate Professor of Music Dr. Vance Reese, and Instructor of Playwriting Katie Jones.

For those new to the concept, BC Theatre has in the last two years begun a tradition of presenting "Mixtape" to showcase work which students have collaborated on in classes. It's a peek behind the curtain for many who never get to see this side of lighting, sound engineering, designing, acting, directing, singing, dancing, and writing for theatre as it takes place in weekly classes. Mixtapes are open to the public, and Morrison Playhouse welcomed a number of attendees from the campus and surrounding Brevard community both Tuesday and Wednesday to see the work put on by students and faculty.

I was fortunate enough to participate in the evening programming as both performer and writer depending on the night, and doubly lucky to take in the performances and presentations delivered by my peers and faculty.

One memorable moment for me came during Night 2, Wednesday, Apr. 26 when Acting II student Jodi Wyse took to the stage with none other than the course's instructor Abbey Toot, in a scene from nuanced drama 'Grand Concourse' by Heidi Schreck. In this instance, audiences were informed that a student had been obliged to drop Acting II, thus Assistant Professor Toot stepped supportively into their role.

Wyse portrayed soup kitchen volunteer Emma, who dropped out of college, and Toot embodied the kitchen supervisor Shelley, a nun who is no less in touch with harsh realities. Wyse tackled a task somewhat outside her standard wheelhouse, given that she is better known for her outstanding sculptures and

scenic designs, and both student and instructor energized each other to communicate in a complex scene about lies, choices, and how to best help those we care for.

Another standout in an exciting and heartening roster of programming was the very first event in Tuesday's agenda, when Abbey Toot's Movement class presented a five-minute statue show. This entailed students of the class dividing into two groups, and selecting a moment from a known story—film, theatre, etc—to replicate it frozen in time at Mixtape. Audience members were encouraged to leave their seats and explore the sight from all angles as Morrison Playhouse was effectively transformed into a wax museum, the "movement" in question all rooted in breath rather than body.

One student pair, consisting of Michal Lasco ('26) and Gabe Bernhard ('23), mimicked a farcical moment of conflict from 'Pirates of

the Caribbean' while a trio including Grace Dempsey ('24), Sierethene Chepes ('25), and Lyric Contarino ('26) posed as figures from "Jack and the Beanstalk." Audience members tried and failed to make their classmates break their stillness and silence, but the class stayed strong.

This 2023 Theatre Mixtape was a delight to participate in and observe. The dedication and creativity exemplified in full-length mainstage productions can be even more fully appreciated when shown publicly in this way. I for one hope the tradition continues to grow and reach arts appreciators across the BC campus community for years to come.

BC Theatre's season has ended for Spring 2023, but mainstage announcements for the FA '23-SP '24 season were recently shared with students, and Clarion looks forward to what's next for Brevard College theatre.



BC's Dance Tap class shuffle and step to "King of New York" from 'Newsies: The Musical.'



Performers and presenters of Mixtape take final bow on Tuesday evening- (from left to right) Jodi Wyse, Gabe Bernhard, Elijah Hughes, Naomi Firebaugh, Sierethene Chepes, Roxxie Petryshak, Grace Dempsey, Sarah Hajkowski, Anna Ervin, Scott Douglas, Michal 'Mickey' Lasco, Lacey Treese, Lyric Contarino, Assistant Professor Dan Toot and Assoc. Professor of Music Dr. Vance Reese.

Theatre 'Mixtape' - Pictures



Photo by Caroline Hoy

Anna Ervin as Captain Boldman says, "Yer a woman!"



Photo by Caroline Hoy

Jodi Wyse performs with Assistant Professor Abbey Toot in a scene from "Grand Concourse."

THE CLARION

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 Copy Editor Isaiah Collison
 Campus News
 Arts & Life
 Opinion Sarah Hajkowski
 Layout & Design . . Anna Ervin
 Caroline Hoy
 Faculty Advisor . . . John B. Padgett

STAFF WRITERS

Aaron Butts Oreo Ellis
 Brady Penn Savannah Anderson

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The Clarion, Brevard College, One Brevard College Drive, Brevard, NC 28712, or send E-mail to clarion@brevard.edu
clarion.brevard.edu

✉ **Letters Policy:** The Clarion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit letters for length or content. We do not publish letters whose authorship cannot be verified.



Photo by Caroline Hoy

Sarah Hajkowski and Taylor Sparrow, as Queen Gertrude and Hamlet, front and center while Elijah Hughes as Polonius looks on from behind the curtain.

Business & Organizational Leadership Awards

Outstanding Major Award

Bethany Bryan

Ray Fisher Leadership Award

Brett Burchett

Quincy Yancey-Carter

Mount Pisgah Award

Parker Moore

Sustainable Leadership Award

Gabriella Galvan

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 Business and Organizational Leadership

Jackson Betsill

Weston Coop

Outstanding Academic Achievement Awards

Seniors

Francesco Bonometti

Bethany Bryan

Parker Moore

Breanna O'Shields

Juniors

Gabriel Balducci Duarte

Maggie Cox

Anna Goode

Pietro Moratelli

Chyna Pouncey

Jacob Stowe

Sophomores

Emma Barnes

Owen Clark

Lucas Granata

Hayden Jennings

Lexi MacLauchlin

Freshmen

Sergio Diaz Gonzalez

Cameron Kilcoyne

Kelly Lawson

Ivelysse Leighton

Matthew Smith



Photo by J.R. Thomas

Professor J. R. Thomas & Quincy Carter



Photo by J.R. Thomas

Professor J. R. Thomas & Parker Moore



Photo by J.R. Thomas

Professor Cameron Austin & Gabby Galvan

Teacher Education Celebration

Childhood Education

Lindsey Tolle
Alli Kogoy
Mary Margaret Lewis
Rosa Eberhardt
Erin Forrest
Sara Gray Poss

Agricultural Education

Chandler Phillips

Delta Kappa Gamma Grant-in-Aid Scholarship recipient

Tamara Kuykendall-

Music Education

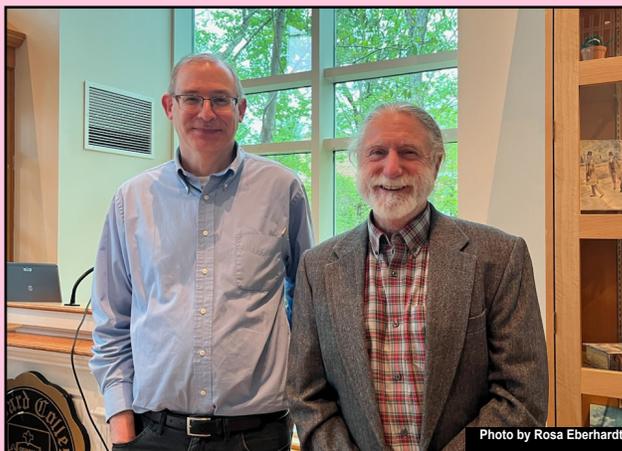
Inducted into Teacher Education program

Eli Bloom Music
Maverick Whitley Music

Cassie Plemmons Math

Licensure seeking candidates

Sara Gray Poss
Chandler Phillips



Charles Wallis and Robert Dye come to support students in teacher education!



Chandler Phillips with family and mentor teacher



(From left to right) Mary Margaret Lewis, Lindsey Tolle, Lael Kafsky, Rosa Eberhardt, and Erin Forrest

BESPYs (Athletic Awards)

Ann Etters Excellence Award -

Emily Denaga

Chuck Dunbar Team Spirit Award -

Scott Douglas

John McKissick Award -

Mitchell Yoder

Female Rookie of the Year -

Olivia Miller

Male Rookie of the Year -

Connor Crosby

Female Perfect Storm -

Brooke Garland

Male Perfect Storm -

Joc Pledger

Female Athlete of the Year -

Makenna Parkins

Male Athlete of the Year -

Ryan Lynch

Team GPA Award -

BC Women's Soccer

Tornado Cup Winners -

BC Women's Lacrosse

David & Lynne Joyce Legacy Award -

Joc Pledger



Photo by Brevard College

Angie Mascaro with Brevard College's next SGA President Lena Hatter!



Photo by Brevard College

Brady Penn and Scott Douglas, two great athletes and sports journalists!



Photo by Brevard College

Women's Tennis represents! From left to right: Brooke Garland, Hamrick Perry, Savannah Anderson, Hannah Hersh, Alli Kogoy, Sophie Trantham

Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Celebration

WLEE - Outstanding WLEE Majors -
Shyvonne Potter and Alex Eaton.

More BESPYPY Pictures!



Autum Wright, Abbie Worsencroft, and Annie Peacock



English Major, Journey Tyler



Women's soccer team, also rumored to be the team with the highest GPA!

Physical Education & Recreation Celebration!

Outstanding Physical Education & Recreation Major -
Annsley Schwab

More BESPYPY Pictures!



Photo by Brevard College

Who's behind the mask...?



Photo by Brevard College

Cheerleading represents!



Photo by Brevard College

BC men's soccer smiles at the camera!

Oustanding in the majors!

Outstanding Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education Major:

Shyvonne Potter

Outstanding Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education Major:

Alex Eaton

Outstanding Physical Education & Recreation Major:

Annsley Schwab

Outstanding Art Major:

Gwyn Jennings

Outstanding Music Major:

Ann Marie Bates

Outstanding Theatre Major:

Seth Chepes

Outstanding English Major:

Sarah Hajkowski

Outstanding Integrated Studies Major:

Miles Schafer

Outstanding History Major:

Reagan Lane

Outstanding Biology Major:

Christian Humphries

Outstanding Environmental Studies Major:

Trenten Anderson

Outstanding Exercise Science Major:

Nina Machnowski

Outstanding Health Science Studies Major:

Jami Stewart

Outstanding Mathematics Major:

Trystan Wallace

Outstanding Physics Major:

Cassie Plemmons

Outstanding Graduate Student in Health and Human Performance:

Destiny Williams

Outstanding Health and Human Performance Major:

Brooke Garland

Outstanding Graduate Student in Emergency Management:

Destiny Hall

Outstanding Criminal Justice Major:

Anthony Martino

Outstanding Psychology Major:

Paige Lewis

Outstanding Business & Organizational Leadership Major:

Bethany Bryan

Narnia in the Attic!

Many of y'all may have heard about the magical land of Narnia taking over the attic. This was made possible by the students of the C.S. Lewis LNC class taught by Dr. Mel Bringle and Dr. James Everett. The class did an amazing job bringing the seven book chronicles to life! One could go on and on about how well the class did, but the pictures speak for themselves!

Students in the C.S. Lewis class:

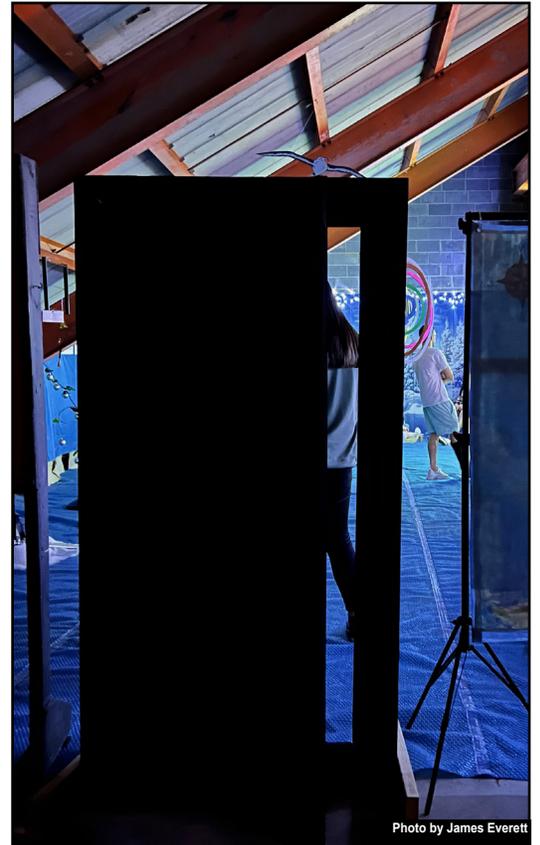
- Ashlyn Baumann,
- Alexis Blanchard,
- Giuseppe Capello Real,
- Iulia Cerguta,
- Bray Coleman,
- Anna Goode,
- Caitlin Hagarty,
- Baylee Hallas,
- Jack Hicks,
- Alli Kogoy,
- Bailey Lance,
- Anna Long,
- Mason Lyon,
- Nina Machnowski,
- Nathan Mahoney,
- McDonald, Kyle
- Kaitlyn Pressley,
- Tristan Robinson,
- Brian Seon,
- Vincil Spencer,
- Nathan Stone,
- Sophie Trantham,
- Krista Tucker,
- Trystan Wallace, and
- Linsey Wike



The map



The castle from "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe."



People entered through the wardrobe from the first book to enter Narnia



Narnia was alive for a tour open to the school. It felt like stepping into a magical land. The students did a great job!

Weekly Horoscopes!

By Anna Ervin
Co-Editor in Chief

Aries, take this time to renew your confidence. You can and will do well, you just have to have faith and put in the work to get there. Starting is always the hardest part; don't let your lack of confidence get in the way of that.

Taurus, big transitions are coming your way. This is both exciting and scary. Part of bravery is being scared and doing it anyway.

Gemini, get ready to think on your feet. New situations that arise may catch you off guard, so think outside the box when things get wild.

Cancer, new opportunities are on the way. Be patient and continue on your path. You will find your place, but it can take time.

Leo, you may be feeling restless. Try something a little spontaneous, and take a

break from your routine. Fun is important to thriving too.

Virgo, you are in a stuck situation. The right answers aren't always the one you want. You know how to get out of the stuck situation, so take a deep breath and go.

Libra, you have studied long enough. Go out and talk to people. You need to be around people to get out of your funk. Others bring encouragement.

Scorpio, you're both intensely emotional and seeing growth right now. Remember that it's okay to feel and that it's okay to let people know how you're feeling.

Sagittarius, take a leap of faith. Chances are part of life, and not knowing the answer

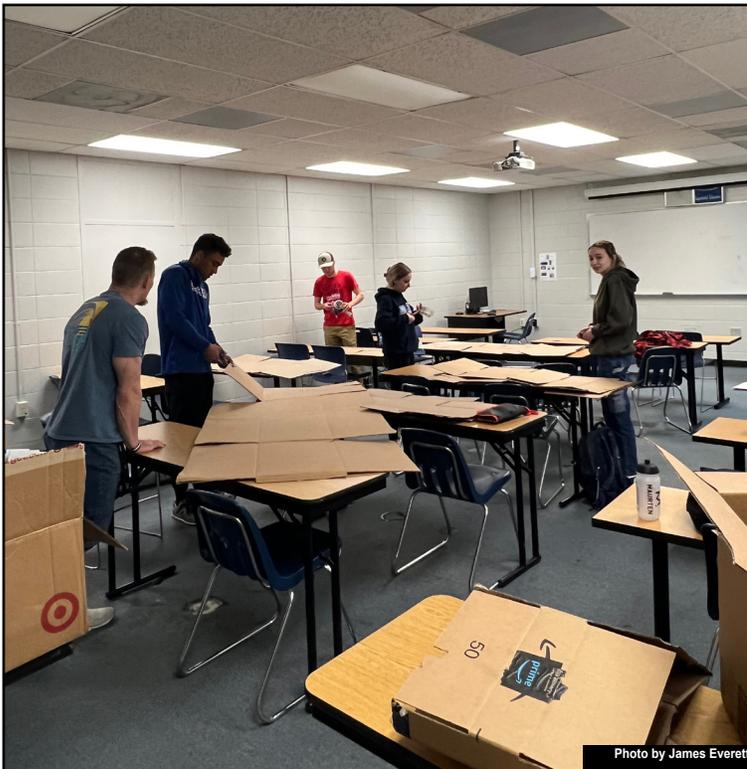
to "what if" will eat you alive.

Capricorn, you need to take a little more risk within what you're doing. Too much planning and staying within the bounds can lead to an unsatisfying result.

Aquarius, take this time to reflect on what you've done and gone through. You are who you are today because of the experiences you have had. If you need help, always ask. You have support.

Pisces, are you really getting what you need from every relationship? Ponder how healthy things are for you. If there is no communication and no resolution to continuous problems, that might not be where you should be.

The process of making Narnia



The students used a little of cardboard...



The students made seven rings to represent the seven with their 7 plants



The making of the map

2023-2024 SGA Executive Board



Lena Hatter, President

- 2022-2023 SGA Vice President
- BC Women's Soccer Player
- Beam Hall RA
- Peer Leader

Haylea Layne Miller, Vice President

- 2022-2023 SGA Treasurer
- BC Cross Country Athlete
- BC Track and Field Athlete
- IWIL Member



Taylor Richardson, Secretary

- Villages Senior RA
- BC Women's Soccer Player
- CAB Secretary
- Peer Leader

Makenna Parkins, Treasurer

- Villages RA
- BC Women's Basketball Player
- BC Volleyball Player
- Peer Leader



Hannah Hersh, Speaker of the Clubs

- 2022-2023 SGA Secretary
- BC Women's Tennis Player
- IWIL Member
- Peer Leader

Graduating seniors: We want your pictures!

Attention Graduating Seniors!

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



Send us your feedback!

To all readers of 'The Clarion,'

Do you have feedback for our 'Clarion' staff? Amid another active and newsmaking semester, 'Clarion' wishes to remind all readers that our publication gladly accepts anonymous and signed Letters to the Editor. Letters to the Editor are a major means of getting in touch with 'Clarion' and getting your voice heard! We want to hear from our readers about issues that are meaningful to them.

Past Letters have directed valuable attention to campus controversies, appreciation for faculty and staff members, and more. Is there an event or issue we should feature more? Are there areas where 'Clarion' should focus on improvement?

Whether anonymously or signed, we publish any Letter which is not factually incorrect or deemed in violation of BC's Code of Conduct. Consider writing to 'The Clarion' at clarion@brevard.edu today!

We hope to hear back from anyone and hope everyone has a good rest of the semester!

Congratulations to everyone on the new SGA Board!

What Happened to the Ecusta Railroad?

The Story of Brevard's Railroad line

By Evey Perrey
Contributor

In the year of 1880, a railroad was built between the western North Carolina towns of Hendersonville and Brevard. However, the route was never finished until the early 1890s. In 1891, the route became part of the Hendersonville & Brevard Railway, Telegraph & Telephone Company, going through, as the name suggests, Hendersonville and Brevard, via the small settlements of Horse Shoe and Etowah. The line had troubled construction because the wooden trestle between Horse Shoe and Etowah collapsed on first use. By the time the line was finished, the company was sold to another company, called the Toxaway Company, and the railroad was named the Transylvania Railroad. By 1900, the line expanded further west to Lake Toxaway, an artificial lake, with a station at the town of Toxaway along the way, now called Rosman.

The company anticipated an expansion to the town of Seneca, South Carolina, but the plans never came to fruition. In 1906, the railroad was absorbed into the larger conglomerate of Southern Railway, the largest railroad company in the Southeastern United States.

Rail traffic on the line grew for the transport of lumber in the region. Livestock and paper were also frequent commodities. Passengers from Asheville were also common. As the railroad grew busier, Southern Railway designated the line as the Transylvania division before absorbing it into the Asheville division.

During the Great Flood of 1916, the artificial lake known as Lake Toxaway burst, damaging the Toxaway Inn. This resulted in service cuts between Asheville and Lake Toxaway. The railroad continued to flourish and expand into Mills River after the founding of the Carr

Lumber company in the 1920s.

The sale of the Toxaway Inn in 1947 closed off the entire line to passengers, as well as the closure of the railroad between Brevard and Lake Toxaway. By the 1950s and 1960s, the United States saw a decline in passenger railroad traffic as the automobile became the dominant method of travel. Southern Railway merged with Norfolk & Western to form the railroad giant known as Norfolk Southern, while the Asheville and Hendersonville tracks were sold off to Blue Ridge Southern Railroad, a smaller company. The Ecusta Paper company continued to use the railroad until 2002. After that year, the tracks began to lie dormant. In 2022, the portion in Brevard was torn apart as portions of it were turned into a cycling trail while the Lake Toxaway segment was forgotten about.





Photo by Destini Pettit

Plant Production students donated and planted plants grown in class this semester to El Centro Comunitario for their garden plots.



Photo by Destini Pettit

8 days to graduation

BREVARD COLLEGE
CLASS OF 2023

The Silent Rockstar Vol. 13: Endurance

By Isaiah Collison
Managing Editor

Endurance is the power of suffering through an unpleasant and difficult situation without folding. The suffering is what creates strength. Strength, though sometimes intangible, can carry you through any situation if you develop it. Determination and will are endurance beyond the limits we place on ourselves.

Pray for pride and resilience. Life is a brutal weight to fight against. It's as if you have to push a piano up an escalator dragging you down to hell. If you stop, well. If you play sorrowful songs, the piano gets heavier. Don't ditch your piano because then there'd be no record of your life, and your soul would forever wander. I suggest you thank the new age you didn't fight in the battle of Verdun where soldiers couldn't stretch. German artillery and snipers played Whack-a-mole with the Frenchmen.

I found a French journal from a World War 1 battlefield. Verdun. It survived 107 years. Its only signature was the date.

1916, The Year it Rained Shells

These bony hands used to play the violin before the Great War. In Paris. Sweet Paris.

But now I'm holding onto a rifle. A rifle that sings in agony and brings death. In Verdun. Sour Verdun. Every now and then I crap in my hands. It didn't start this way. We could go above ground. One day, a soldier we'll call Pierre stepped over the trench. He got pegged by a sniper while he was relieving himself. We don't leave the trench anymore. If I'm being honest, it's more of a hole. German artillery barrages turn trenches to holes. They collapse and bury Frenchmen alive. Where's the love?

The countryside turns into swamps. We live in a huge fort with gentle slopes towards the Germans. The steep, reverse slopes are ours. We are confined. Only rats are free. We use the last treasure; there's no more toilet tissue. We've been in Verdun for weeks. My undergarments are full. Baby me like a baby. That's what we say to the ones who complain. It means, "Hey, buddy? My dungarees are filled with grown man crap too!" The conditions in Verdun make men curl up in a ball. We may as well be sitting in the womb.

I have to make it to the finish line. My nerves

are blown out. I breathe slowly. I shake like salt and pepper from your dinner table. Thoughts of horror ran through my veins. The nightmares. Some of my DNA will stay behind in Verdun. Not all of it. I won't end here. Even with all the millions of shells who met the clouds and were rejected by the heavens. Their smoke is poison and they fade the most unfadeable. We all thought they couldn't get touched. "The Great War will be an experience to see the world!" Then Verdun. I can't remember anyone's name after they die. 1916 will go on record as when ghosts grew out of the rain. Every shell they will clean up has the soul of a man in it. Pierre.

How do I have what it takes to endure the spew of artillery? Cramped in such a little space? Artillery contains the word art. Immediately following it is the word ill. With that, I let it become "the art of ill from above." That leaves 'ery. I leave all the misery, suffering, and pain exactly where it belongs. On this page in the mud.

I can still see the sky through the rain. Pierre.

BC Post Office | Important Information



**LAST DAY TO
RECEIVE
MAIL/PACKAGES
THIS SEMESTER
IS May 5th**

Mail received after May 5 will be returned to sender

For special arrangements,

contact garrena@brevard.edu

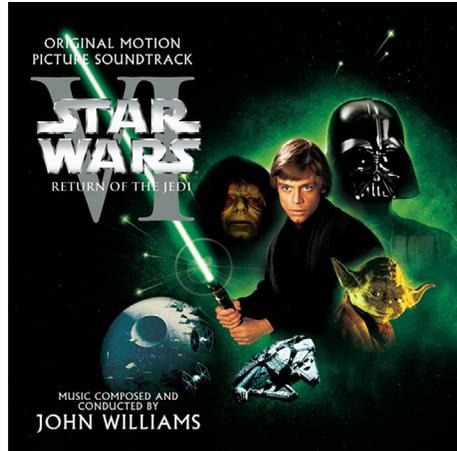
The following are movie reviews from the film class and were all written by students in the class.

Movie Review: Return of the Jedi

By Sydney Raber
Contributor

If Star Wars Celebration Europe, the global fan convention held this year April 7-10 in London, England, told us anything about the direction this beloved franchise is taking, it's that there are big things just over the horizon. However, amidst the trailers, clips, and even the announcement of three new films, which aim to flesh out more of the timeline in this galaxy far, far away, one thing really stood out from the pack for me: from April 28th to May 4th in select theaters, the third and final film of the original Star Wars trilogy, "Return of the Jedi," will return to the big screen for its 40th anniversary, and as a fan and self-proclaimed Ewok lover who hasn't watched it in years, I thought this news was the perfect opportunity for a break from studying to rewatch an old favorite.

Set roughly one year after the events of The Empire Strikes Back, George Lucas, with the aid of writer Lawrence Kasdan and director Richard Marquand, decided to wrap up the Skywalker saga (circa 1983, of course) with our band of characters reuniting to face off against an alien crime syndicate, join forces with new cuddly, forest-dwelling allies, and finally take on the emperor himself and his new larger and far more powerful Death Star. The events of this film may briefly take us back to familiar locations like the sandy dunes of Tatooine or the swamps of Dagobah, but the real fun and spectacle begins with the introduction of Endor and the looming



threat of the Empire's newest battle station, which is all interspersed with classic Star Wars humor and filled with atmosphere and a gorgeous score by John Williams.

However, there are some flaws in the plot and pacing that, while minor, do stand out compared to the previous two episodes, many of which stem from the film's 1997 remaster, which added style, but not much else: was Sy Snootles and the other slightly terrifying members of the CGI alien band in Jaba the Hutt's palace really necessary? And no spoilers, of course, but some plot points highlight the rushed preproduction phase and

do stand out more than others in how they impact the established character dynamics and canon information at play (if you know, you know).

Luckily, all this is made up for with the culmination of Luke Skywalker's hero's journey and his final confrontation with Darth Vader and Emperor Palpatine, which has you on the edge of your seat for the last third of the film. Mark Hamill's performance throughout the trilogy is incredible, but Return of the Jedi takes this up a notch in his portrayal of Luke's character development and internal struggle between the light and dark sides of the force. Look no further than the scenes with Yoda and Vader in particular for concrete proof. In addition, Carrie Fisher, Harrison Ford, and Anthony Daniels are all great in their roles, like usual, whether they're slaying massive slug monsters or convincing alien teddy bears about their divine status.

While perhaps not as polished as the rest of the original trilogy, Return of the Jedi is an entertaining watch and an incredibly satisfying conclusion to this period of the main saga and has served as a great launching point for new spin-off shows and content in recent years. If you're a Star Wars fan on the fence about taking the time during exam week to see it on the big screen, I say go for it; I'm confident in giving this entry a solid 4.5 out of 5 stars.

PANCAKE BREAK

May first from 9pm
in Myers Dining Hall



The following are movie reviews from the film class and were all written by students in the class.

Movie Review 1:

The Super Mario Bros.

By Logan Jones
Contributor

The movie “Super Mario Bros. Movie,” the beginning of the beautiful creation of the NCU or Nintendo Cinematic Universe, was released on April 5, 2023. It was directed by Aaron Horvath and Micheal Jelenic. It is the movie origin story of Nintendo’s most recognizable character Mario. With the help of his friends in Princess Peach, Toad, and his brother, Luigi, must defeat the big bad Bowser and save the Mushroom Kingdom.

With a diverse cast composed of famed actors such as Chris Pratt, as the main man and the hero of the story, Mario. Anya Taylor-Joy is the “damsel in distress” Peach. Musical mastermind Jack Black is the big bad Bowser. Even hilarious comedians Keegan-Micheal Key as the lovable little guardian and friend, Toad, and Charlie Day as the little brother, Luigi.

This movie is something to watch with the whole family and talk about different references that can be found throughout the

entire film. For the parents you can find the original voice actor for Mario as a random character playing an arcade game saying Mario’s original catchphrases. For teens, we have specific character songs such as “DK Rap” and Mario Kart. It even creates new experiences for kids such as Bowser’s song “Peaches.”

Before the movie came out it was destined to flop in the box office, mostly with the voice of Chris Pratt as Mario dismissing the Italian accent that the original character is notoriously known for. But as soon as it was released, it was all over social media. Personal reviews and opinions were mostly happy with the film’s idea to work out that Mario has lost his Italian accent and has a more Brooklyn accent. Jack Black out did himself with the creation of Bowser singing a song to Princess Peach called “Peaches.”

This movie was not made without the help of co-directors Pierre Leduc, Fabien Polack,

and Christelle Balcon. The music was made by Koji Kondo who created the original Nintendo themes, and Brian Tyler created original music. Production designs were done by Guillaume Aretos, and the art was directed by Matthieu Gosselin. Last but not least Eric E. Osmond was over the film editing.

Now it is time to talk about the number one reference that was talked about everywhere. The song by Jack Black took culture to new heights. The fast pace song with a catchy chorus gets stuck in your head and lives rent free. It struck a home run when Jack Black got dressed up in a Bowser inspired suit and performed on a piano inside a mushroom with Peach wallpaper. When this came out everyone was claiming that Jack Black went above and beyond in playing this song, hopefully laying down the foundation for Bowser to come back in the next movie and make another banger with the help of some friends.

Movie Review 2:

The Super Mario Bros.

By Sara Laboe
Contributor

The newly released ‘Super Mario Bros. Movie’ features an abundance of both subtle and obvious references to the classic games on which it’s based, and will leave you feeling satisfied and deeply nostalgic as you leave the theater. The story is packed with side plots and details that will leave the viewer thinking about this film for weeks after watching it.

If you’re like millions of Americans, you grew up with various gaming systems and Mario Brothers games. Many of us became intimately familiar with Super Mario 64, an outrageously popular game for the N64 system released in 1996 that is still referenced and well-loved today.

The animation style in the new movie seems to closely resemble that from Mario 64. The character design is also clearly modeled after the sensational 90’s game. Fans of the Super

Mario franchise will be thrilled with the storyline and accuracy to the characters and plot from the games.

Also contributing significantly to the layers of nostalgia is a fantastic musical score of recognizable pieces, sound effects, and phrases spoken by the characters. One notable piece from the movie is an original song sung by Jack Black as Bowser proclaiming his love for Princess Peach. This clever addition to the plot by the writers of the film is brilliantly funny and is already at the top of the list of mentionable moments from viewers.

In past years, there have been several attempts to develop and release a successful movie featuring the Mario Brothers, but most received lackluster reviews and much criticism. Universal Pictures clearly took their time to do this one right, and a part of that is the casting.

You will hear many recognizable voices that add to the overall success of the film. These include Chris Pratt, Seth Rogan, and perhaps the most talked-about voice actor of the film, Jack Black as Bowser.

Even if you are not one who grew up playing the Nintendo games, I would venture to guess that the names Mario and Luigi are instantly recognizable to all, and this movie is made not just for fans of the games but for anyone who enjoys light fun humor, richly developed characters, and fantastic animation. This film will leave one and all smiling and desiring to watch it again.

By the way, Super Mario Bros Movie is playing right here in downtown Brevard at our Co-Ed Cinema! Be sure not to miss out on this memorable film; go see ‘The Super Mario Bros Movie’ this weekend.

The following are movie reviews from the film class and were all written by students in the class.

Movie Review:

Avatar 2: The Way of Water

By Luis Dos Santos
Contributor

In the movie “Avatar 2: The Way of Water,” the direct sequel to “Avatar” (2009), Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) lives peacefully with his family and his tribe 10 years later. He and Ney’tiri (Zoe Saldana) have formed a family and are doing everything to stay together, now learning perhaps the hardest lesson ever imagined: the responsibility of being good parents. When a threat from the past resurfaces seeking only and sole revenge, Jake must fight a harder war than he ever imagined. For now, it is not only his safety that is at stake. In the midst of difficulties, he goes in search of new allies and will have to relearn the meaning of union and family. Even with an imminent outbreak of war, Jake and Ney’tiri will have to do everything to stay together and take care of the family and their tribe. Director James Cameron is well known for structuring his films with a lot of creative freedom and having complete control of his actions. When released in 2009, “Avatar” was a technological revolution, being the first feature film shot entirely with special equipment for a 3D experience. Much is said about this film to this day, positively the perfection of visual quality that even today is still superior to current productions. There is some negativity, such as the fact that the work has only that, and holds on to a simple and weak script. Without a doubt, the sequel lives up to the original. Technically, it is flawless. In this case, the film – almost entirely – is made with computer graphics and, once again, James Cameron surprised us with incredible quality. Everything is beautiful. The characters who have very real expressions as well as the texture and lighting, which give it an air. When characters are interacting in aquatic environments, even the viewer will be tempted to hold their breath for a few seconds. The environments are very well located at all times. And this idea is very valid, since we know several new places. The action scenes are divided between day, night, sky, land and sea, between explosions, shots and arrows. 3D is necessary, giving even more life to what is already beautiful combined with a soundtrack, which shows that films of this magnitude are still valid and cause a shiver, as well as an immense replay factor in the desire to review this masterpiece. The

film still manages to leave some loose ends in an intelligent way, showing that the “Avatar” saga is just beginning. This sequel has been expected for a long time. It was supposed to be released in 2020, however, with the arrival of the pandemic, the film was not released and also underwent more technical improvements to finally be released at the end of 2022. But, after all, was the feature film really necessary to have a continuation after so long? And knowing the works of James Cameron and his fascination with water, would this be another new technological revolution or not? In “Avatar 2: The Way of Water,” the graphical evolution presented here (the previous film’s strong suit) is evident at first glance. The world of Pandora that James Cameron created has its own set of rules, as do the fauna and flora. It’s a living ecosystem full of color and one that we’ve learned to appreciate, but how do you continue a long-criticized story and convince audiences to once again embark on a journey on Pandora with the people of Na’vi?

That’s where the film gets a big highlight. James Cameron knew how to demonstrate the passage of time for his audience, who became more anxious, and adapted that to now. The characters are much stronger emotionally and the cohesive script addresses many issues

that give depth to the story. The structure of the script makes the film, which is just over three hours long, energetic. At every moment something very important happens, and we are directed to a new problem that needs to be solved. This is very similar to a what television series does nowadays. Right from the start, we have the introduction to this world along with a brief retrospect of what has happened so far. How things are now; how Jake and Ney’tiri need to learn how to be good parents; and how the world of Pandora is going to take a toll on them too. In addition, the children, who are new characters in the plot, gradually take up a lot of space and for a few moments, even become protagonists in the story. This time, the big threat is something completely personal and aimed at Jake Sully. The motivations and how the villain orchestrates this are pretty convincing, as we have time to understand his purpose. And the film does not try to speed up this process, giving the audience time to understand the reasons, even putting the fight between the two on an equal footing. But this time, it involves much more than just ego, and that, now, Jake can no longer think only of himself because even though he is the great savior and leader of the tribe, he will have to learn a lesson. Perhaps the hardest of all.



Shrug Things Off

By Isaiah Collison
Managing Editor

A reflection.

Dear College Student,

You have the right to defend yourself from both miniature and complex attacks on your mental health. What determines a threat to your mental health? In this day and age, that is a good question. I'm no licensed therapist.

I've been around the track a few times. Over the years I've learned a thing or two about mental health. The most important lesson I learned is that it's my own responsibility to achieve whatever goals I have. My missions are far out, so it is up to me right now. I can only trust the young man in the mirror. Along the way I have deflected various obstacles and will continue to do so. The beauty in being independent is that I have no problem telling myself when my mental health is suffering.

I do not, however, give myself the excuse to back down from my calendar when things get tough. Why? I plan ahead, get my calendar full of things I can realistically do in the first place. That way I know what I can say yes to. The purpose is to have mercy on myself. Being an adult comes with a newfound definition of the word "no."

Stop stressing over trivial things you can say no to. Shrug them off.

When my mental health is thrashed, I take care of it because shutting down is not an option. Though I am only temporarily separated

from my parents when I come to campus, in order to prepare for life on my own I attempt first to solve my problems myself. Watch as things that used to get you fall down by the wayside.

Mental toughness allows us to handle more, well, booboo. There is no cute definition. Sad to say, the problems we all face as college students are not even close to how complex they will become once we graduate. At that point, the foundation of guaranteed housing, food, and extended deadlines is gone. Out in the real world, you should not expect such minute luxuries that college has for us. Making and spending money will be solely on us.

I want to expand on this last item: Why would your boss give you a deadline extension when you agreed to the first deadline? Before you dig through your cabinet for a honey-dipped excuse with a cheerio on top, think about how the agreement went. "[insert your name], I need that report by next Tuesday." "Yes, I can do that." Where in that response was there pushback? So the boss doesn't want any now that it's Tuesday. Bluntly, now that it's Tuesday and you remember you have ADHD, ADD, diabetes, anxiety, depression, a pinched nerve, or a tight back, it's too late for the boss to care. They sound like excuses.

Stating real life issues that hinder your work up front means you have a working backbone.

If you cannot stand up for yourself when you know you are overworked, you need spine surgery.

Take the scenario from the beginning. "[insert your name], I need that report by next Tuesday." Now, if you have a serious issue, say "I'm not sure if I can do that because of..." Your boss's response will show you what type of character they are: "We can work around that. Tell me what you need." or "Get it done." One of these responses demonstrates mutual respect. The other is spoken like a true capitalist. Capitalists do not have sympathy for your mental health because they are out of their own minds.

We live in capitalist America where regular people often have no value beyond the work they provide to keep the system running. Only exploitation matters once the gloves are off. Internal value and self-worth come from the individual who stands up for themselves. The opportunists who run our country and institutions see dollar signs when they see you. That's it. They don't see all of the conditions you need addressed.

You can make them a dollar or you can make yourself important. Money isn't real anyway. People who live for money are dead. Take that how you want. Decide where you put your love, where you put your heart.

SGA & SHA are teaming up to spread awareness about Mental Health. We are making personalized Mental Health Grams that will be personalized to help spread love, positivity and let others on campus know that someone is thinking of them.

SCAN TO SUBMIT A MENTAL HEALTH GRAM FOR A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY




GOOD LUCK
ON
EXAMS
YOU CAN DO THIS!



How I lead, and why I do so

By Anna Ervin
Co-Editor in Chief

If you do not know me, my name is Anna. I am currently Co-editor in Chief of the Clarion. I have been in this position for about two years now, as well as leading and planning events outside of the college and working on numerous staffs and experiencing different leadership styles. Though some may not agree how I lead, I have learned and seen it produce positive results.

There are many different ways to lead, so I will describe a few and then explain my style.

Authoritative leadership includes having a vision, and letting everyone around you follow (this is not authoritarian leadership). There is not always room for others' opinions in this, and can lead to micromanaging. This is not always a bad thing; sometimes it's important to be stern, but it can lead to discourse among your staff if they do not agree with the leader.

Transactional leadership works on a reward based system. It emphasizes a lot of structure, and is very focused on efficiency. There is a lot of routine in this style.

Transformational leadership is a style that

emphasizes change and transformation. This is very good for places looking to completely change an aspect of their organization. It focuses on the future and people.

My style of leadership, specifically for The Clarion, is very dependent on the needs of who I may be working with. I give grace when asked for extensions or mistakes are made. This is because, as a student led organization, we are all learning. I make mistakes too.

When I let my staff communicate their needs with me, I am fostering a positive environment between staff and those in charge of it. If an article is going to be past the deadline, I cannot stop that. I would much rather have a late article than none at all. They follow the deadline we worked together to create, and I get a good article.

As a small staff, we work incredibly hard to produce quality work and content and produce enough to fill the paper. This can be taxing along with all of the other responsibilities of a student, and I understand that.

I also encourage the staff to write about topics

they enjoy. I think when you are passionate about what you are writing about, it makes the entire process infinitely easier. This does not mean I don't encourage people to branch out. It does mean that when I ask for an event to be covered, my staff is more likely to say yes. I want those on my staff to enjoy their time on it.

I also believe it's important to take in the opinions of others, as I am not perfect. I have made and continue to make mistakes. We are a team, and I want everyone to remember that.

I am not at liberty to fire anyone, but even if I was, we are in a learning environment. I wouldn't fire anyone if I wasn't forced to. It is part of my job to put the paper together, and part of my job to help my staff find their place within our team.

Within my leading, it has never been a competition to me. We all have different skills and assets that I want to utilize to curate the best possible paper. I want quality, not quantity. If it takes longer to produce a better article, so be it. My staff communicates with me, and that is what I value.

A Brevard College Reflection

By Aaron Butts
Staff Writer

No movie review from me this week y'all; I know you're terribly disappointed. But I just wanted to take some time and reflect on my five year career here at Brevard College as an undergrad student. Time really does fly when you're having fun.

I came here to Brevard in 2018 as a wide eyed, nervous freshman not knowing what the next 4-5 years would bring for me. It took me quite a while to even declare a major. It's funny to think about it now, but the only reason I ever came to BC was to play college football, and I only lasted a year playing the sport I had loved playing for 10+ years.

I can remember almost transferring out after that season, and just wanting to be at home close to my family. But that's not what God intended for me. Flash forward a year later, and I was the happiest I'd ever been in my life, I found my calling to be here, I had a girlfriend, and things just seemed to be going right for me.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit. I, as well as everyone that attended school here, was forced to go home. Let me tell you, that was by far the lowest point of my life. I was away from my friends, my girlfriend, and was locked out from the outside world wondering if it would ever go back to the way things were. The fall of 2020 came around, and it was finally time to

go back to school. That's when I met my best friend for life. I still give him a lot of credit to this day for saving me from a dark time in my life. Me and my now ex didn't work out, and he was always there to give me a good laugh and we just always had a good time together anytime we would hangout. I got involved with the Brevard College Cheer team that same year. Little did I know that would be one of the biggest blessings in my life to date, and now it has led me to securing a job as an assistant cheer coach starting next fall! But I instantly fell in love with it, became more confident within myself and if anything, I got to hang around pretty girls all of the time. I've developed friendships that will last a lifetime, and I am proud to say that I only had 1 drop ever in my three year career as a Brevard College Cheerleader. Just know, when times get hard, it's building character.

Later that semester I found out over Christmas break that I was faced with the possibility of being academically suspended from this institution. Luckily, I prevailed. Thanks to the good Lord above I was let back in so I could showcase that I am worthy, and can earn a degree from Brevard College. Since then I have been named to the A-B honor roll, and have

never been in danger of failing a class again.

I finally decided on English as my major really late into my Brevard College career, because I discovered that I was a decent writer, and could maybe find a job in writing after college, maybe even teach High School students? It turns out that isn't the direction I'm going. Although I do enjoy writing, it's in a different form than you would think. I've decided to try my luck in the music industry as a country music singer/songwriter. That's even what I have based my whole final senior project on.

My point in all of this is that I always knew that I was here for a reason. I may not have known it going into college, but God had a plan for me. Come May 6th I'm gonna walk outta here with a degree in my hand. It's been a wild ride Brevard, and this place will always hold a special place in my heart for years to come. I'll always be thankful for all of the friendships, my advisors, mentors, and professors that pushed me to be a better student and a man. I hope to stay in contact with you all as we go our separate ways in our lives. I will truly miss this little tourist town, but I am grateful I won't have to eat at the Caf anymore. I'll leave you with this, Nado Nation...Let's Ride!