The CLARION
clarion.brevard.edu
Volume 87, Issue 27 *Web Edition* SERVING BREVARD COLLEGE SINCE 1935 April 13, 2022

Brevard College Theatre presents the musical 'Next to Normal'

By Anna Ervin
Editor in Chief

Brevard College Theater has just finished their final production of the season, the musical "Next to Normal," and it has wowed audiences. The musical, whose book and lyrics were written by Brian Yorkey and music by Tom Kitt, was co-directed by BC theatre professors Abbey Toot and Andrea Boccanfuso.

"Next to Normal" follows a mother struggling with worsening bipolar disorder and the effects that managing her illness has on her husband and daughter. The musical addresses grief, depression, suicide, drug abuse, ethics in modern psychiatry and the underbelly of suburban life through its rock styled music.

The set was a whimsical design with many levels including lofts, steps, and a spiral staircase. It was a unique use of the entire space. They also used a blue and purple color scheme that brought the entire set, props included, together.

The musical also included a live band. There were multiple standout performers, but two that really took on the challenge of these roles were Talley Sugg and Kristian Michels.

The mother, Diana Goodman, was portrayed by Talley Sugg. Her portrayal of Diana encapsulated the struggle and reality of Diana's life in an authentic and genuine way that was respectful to those affected by bipolar disorder. Her wide range of both vocals and emotion reeled the audience in and left them stunned.

The father, Dan Goodman, was performed by Kristian Michels. Michels portrayed the ever constant yet complexly tired man in a way that captured Dan and brought together the idea of the family both Diana and Dan had created.

The other cast members are worth celebrating, such as Eli Hughes in their eerie portrayal of Gabe, Scott Douglas as the musical romantic Henry, Naomi Firebaugh as Natalie, the overworked and trying to find herself daughter, and Dr. Madden the doctor and rockstar played by Jamie Gilson.

This performance was nothing less than stellar and everything you would expect from Brevard College Theatre.



Scott Douglas as Henry.



(Left to right) Actors Jamie Gilson, Eli Hughes, Talley Sugg, Scott Douglas, Kristian Michels, and Naomi Firebaugh line up for curtain call.



(Left to right) Natalie (Naomi Firebaugh) and Diana (Talley Sugg) Goodman get ready for the day.

Alumni Spotlight

Matthew Brethen

By Paul Morgan
Contributor

There's a time-honored old saying that goes like this, "If you want something done, give it to someone who's busy." Matthew Brethen is, and has been for much of his life, the epitome of that old saying.

The Class of 2020 BORG major successfully kept many more balls in the air than most while a student at BC, playing soccer for four years, garnering numerous academic awards and scholarships and graduating Magna Cum Laude with a 3.8 GPA.

He worked in various jobs as a grocery associate at Food Lion in his Huntersville home town from 2017 until about a year ago. Bent on a career in public service, and following graduation, he was waiting for his dream job, acceptance into the Peace Corps.

When COVID blind-sided America, shutting down Peace Corps operations worldwide, Matt accepted a year-long assignment with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which partners with AmeriCorps in offering a unique team-based service program that gives 18–24-year-olds the opportunity to serve communities rocked by disasters like floods, hurricanes, tornadoes or, yes, pandemics like COVID-19.

"My FEMA Corps experience was really interesting," Brethen said. "It gave me the chance to see places and things that I wouldn't normally see and to help people who were in real need. I now understand what folks face when disaster strikes, as well as how the many state and federal agencies designed to help them operate."

Matt's FEMA Corps team assignments took him first to Philadelphia, then Utica in upstate N.Y., then to exotic New Orleans, then Atlanta, and finally to his last stop in Kansas City. In his 12 months with FEMA, he did everything from register dazed disaster survivors to distribute water and flood clean-up kits to work in daily operations that facilitated more than 84,000 COVID vaccinations in Philadelphia.

Brethen's FEMA experience will stand him in good stead as he steadily moves toward his goal of a career in public service. Law school may be in his future, but he's now been offered a position with FEMA and is also considering another possibility with the State of North Carolina.

If you want something done, give it to someone who's busy.



Photo of Matthew Brethen smiling at the camera

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IWIL Color Run is a success



Courtesy of BC Life

Students smiling after they finish the run!

The IWIL Color Run was a huge success! This 5k was filled with colorful fun and was enjoyed by many students.


Courtesy of BC Life


Courtesy of BC Life

Bright beautiful colors go flying as students cross the finish line at the first ever IWIL fun run!

S. Brook Corfman interview

By Caroline Hoy
Managing Editor

S. Brook Corfman, a nonbinary poet, is an unique author with a writing style like no other. In Dr. Bensel's poetry class, the students read "My Daily Actions", or "The Meteories" by Corfman, and the class fell in love with the unique writing style and modern themes. Corfman also did a virtual visit to Brevard College. The class was able to interview Corfman and learn all about their writing and who they are!

When Corfman was growing up, they weren't necessarily interested in poetry. Their area of writing was actually fiction. Corfman said they weren't the greatest at fiction because of having to make a plot, but they didn't need that with poetry. Now Corfman is known for their prose poetry. Prose poetry is a unique style of poetry that is a mixture of prose writing and poetry which is utilized in Corfman's work.

Corfman has won awards for their works, one of which was from the New York Times. They said it feels kind of amazing knowing that there is someone out there who understands their books.

Corfman is originally from Chicago, right next to Lake Michigan. They spoke of how many times they were inspired by Lake Michigan and Chicago in their poetry. They also brought up the fact that they were inspired by the ocean and LA when they lived there, but in a different manner. Currently, they live in Pittsburgh, which is where they have been for the last seven years.

Corfman is working on their next book, but it is stalled. The main difference between this next book and their previously written work is that the poems in the next one will have titles.

Corfman's first book was about them having an identical twin. Their twin is now a lawyer in Chicago. Corfman said it was weird and made them question their gender because of how biologically similar twins are.

When Corfman isn't thinking about writing ideas or actively writing, they can be found listening to music, reading a book, hanging out with friends or watching TV. Also, they are most known for being a chatty extrovert who likes to have meaningful conversations. Something unique about Corfman is that they write and zoom from a round room which gives their writing "round room energy."

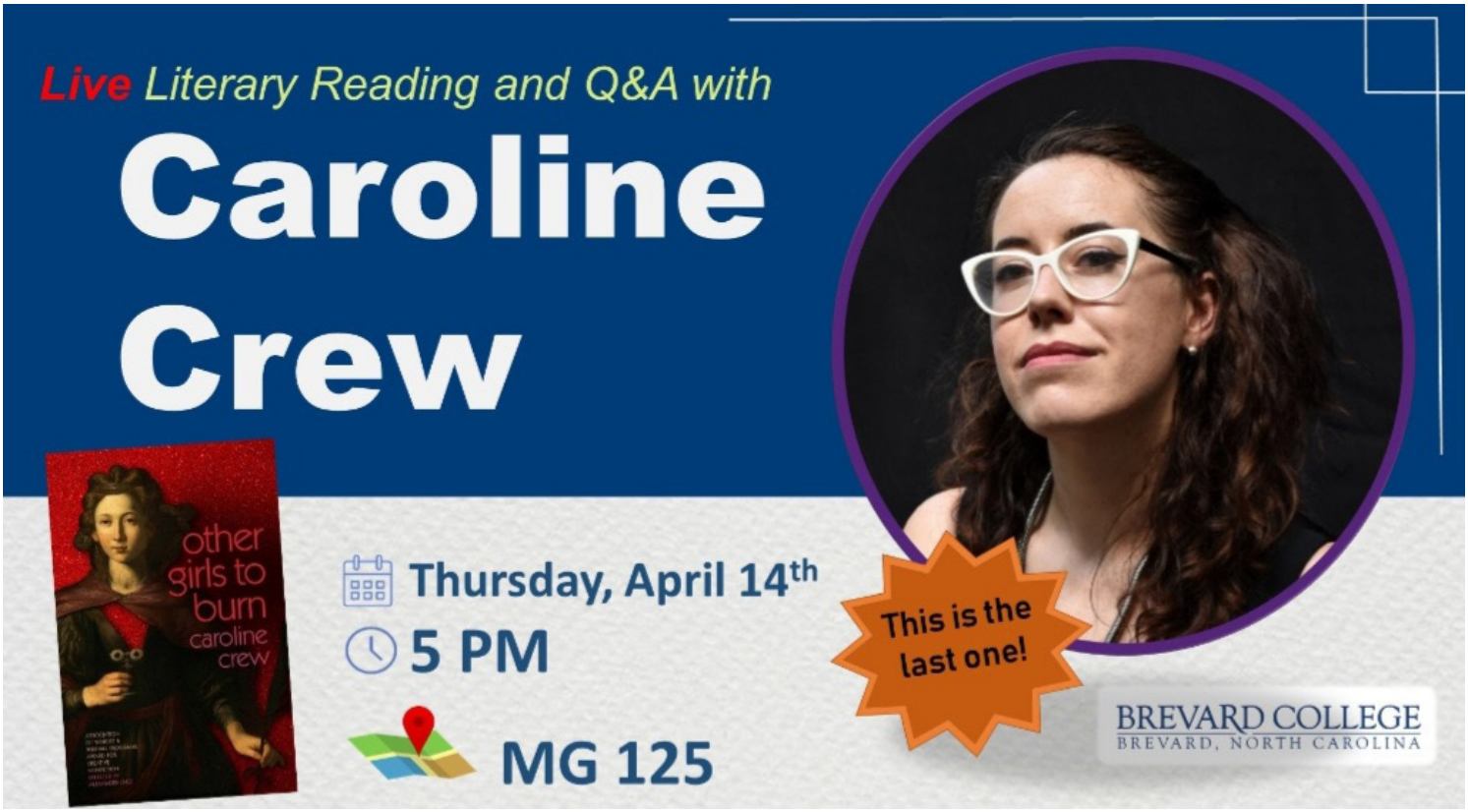
Corfman says they are currently reading "Generations", a memoir about Lucille Clifton.



S. Brook Corfman

Corfman recommends reading Paul's Trans's "All the Flowers Kneeling" and Camille Guthrie's "Diamonds".

You can learn more about Corfman by looking at their website: http://sbrookcorfman.com/about.



Men's Basketball Spotlight

Alex Glaze

By Journey Tyler
Staff Writer

Alex Glaze is a six foot senior forward from Columbia, South Carolina. He joined the Brevard College men's basketball team as a freshman during the 2018-2019 season.

Glaze spent four years as a part of the men's basketball program. During that time, he appeared in seven games and averaged 1.6 points per game while shooting 36% from the field and 33% from behind the three-point line.

Alex's favorite memories as a part of the basketball team were his senior day game against LaGrange College where he was honored and made his first career start, as well as the team achievement of earning a spot in the postseason for the first time in his collegiate career.

Glaze chose to attend Brevard College because he wanted the experience of going somewhere that was a different environment than he was used to, and he thought an area near the mountains would be a good fit. He ultimately made his decision after attending his visit to the campus. He felt that attending Brevard College would help him grow as a person and become a better teammate.

Along with basketball, Alex has also been active in the Brevard College community in other ways. He is a member of the tennis team, the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, and the Black Student Union.

On the academic side of things, Glaze is a Criminal Justice major. After graduating from Brevard College, he aspires to either work in the law field or become a United States Marshal.



Alex Glaze playing basketball





Don't forget to attend the fun school events coming up! If you do happen to miss them, then keep an eye out on the Clarion to see what you missed!

Weekly Horoscopes

By Anna Ervin
Editor in Chief

Aries, failure doesn't have to mean the end of something. You tried and it didn't work, so now is time for a new beginning.

Taurus, what do you want? It's not really that you're unsatisfied with how much you have. You are searching for something different; try something new this week.

Gemini, you are not lost. You are creating your own path and exploring new places. You are allowed to search without a specific goal.

Cancer, stop being a hermit. Go and see people. You may be nervous about starting, but once you are there you will have a lot of fun.

Leo, if you continue to stress about whatever you're doing being perfect it will never get done. Breathe and restart.

Virgo, you don't need a reason to do something, nor do you have to justify your feelings. You are allowed to have emotions and express them in a healthy, communicative way.

Libra, people choose you for a reason. You are valuable, so stop doubting your self worth, especially as it pertains to your career.

Scorpio, take a chance on someone. It could lead to something you never knew you wanted.

Sagittarius, your fear of change has caused you to be halted. Look at the big picture, and try to step outside of your comfort zone.

Capricorn, how has your need for control affected those around you? Take a tep back and leave room for others. It may improve your relationships.

Aquarius, things are still, but this stillness is not always a bad thing. Use this time to reconnect with what you enjoy.

Pisces, you are ready to take the next steps as far as your career is concerned. You have made a plan, now you just need to go for it.



New Lego Star Wars brings all films into one game

A new Star Wars game was released this past week, and as another collection of the lego series, it adds some comedy and extra personality to the star wars franchise.

"Lego Star Wars: The Skywalker Saga" is the most recent addition to Traveler's Tales collections of Lego games of licensed properties. The "Skywalker Saga" takes all nine films and places them under one game, and allows you to take part in epic battles and exploration of the star wars galaxy in lego form. Play through the nine films, and explore the different planets and gather more lego studs to unlock new characters and ships.

Play through story missions to complete the many star wars films, and once done living through the films, explore the galaxy, complete side missions to unlock kyber bricks and more lego studs, take part in space battles and gain access to massive capital ships as you continue to explore. If you want to buy a Death Star and fly it, you can do that in this game.

I recommend this as a fun way to waste time and if you want to relive some nostalgia with some not so subtle humor of the lego series. Good luck, and may the force be with you.

— Kellen McGeorge