



By the flip of a coin

BC football loses championship eligibility to Huntingdon due to coin toss

Editor's Note: While the content of this article does include the writer's opinion, the decision was made by the staff to run this article on the front page as news rather than in the Opinion section. The situation is surrounded with emotion and to understand the severity of the event, there needs to be some first-hand accounts of the writer and the rest of the BC football team.

By Brady Penn
Staff Writer

The football season for the USA South conference concluded this past Saturday, March 27, after kicking off the season on February 20. It is now time for the conference championship game and, unfortunately, the unquestioned best team from the Western Division of the conference will not be making an appearance.

A press release was sent out on Saturday night, after the conclusion of Brevard versus Maryville, stating that the conference championship would be Methodist versus Huntingdon, after the decision was made via a coin toss. If you do not know why this is absurd, I will provide the necessary context to understand how this is an arbitrary decision against Brevard College.

Huntingdon's resume is as follows: A win on February 20, versus Brevard, 26-18; a loss to Brevard on March 13, 27-3; the season for Huntingdon concluded with an overtime win against Maryville on March 20 with a slim score of 16-13. This leaves Huntingdon at 2-1 overall and in conference, with 58 points allowed (19.3/game) and 45 points scored (15/game).

Now for Brevard: the aforementioned 26-18 opening loss at Huntingdon; a 19-10 win over perennial conference powerhouse Averett University on March 6 (note that Averett is a member of the USA South Conference); the 27-3 beatdown of Huntingdon on March 13.; finally, a 14-3 victory over Maryville on March 27. This leaves Brevard at 3-1 overall and in conference. 42 points allowed (10.5/game) and 78 points scored (19.5/game).

As anyone can see, Brevard has a more

complete and impressive resume, purely based on statistics than Huntingdon. However, some questionable decisions were made that hurt Brevard College and favored the opponent. It was decided that the game against Averett, despite being a member of the same USA South conference, would not count as a conference win for the Tornados because they are not a member of the West Division.

This overruling left a tie for the Western Division Champion, with both Brevard and Huntingdon at 2-1 in conference play. Brevard College Tornados football head coach, Bill Khayat, informed the team that in a USA South coaches' summit, on February 10, he and all other conference coaches were told that in the

case of a tie to "refer to the handbook," by Tom Hart, the commissioner of the USA South conference.

Well, with the logic of following the handbook, the champion should be Brevard. This is because the rules state: "In the event of a tie, the champion will be determined by: A) Head to head competition". Coin toss, according to the handbook, should be the very last resort when deciding who ascends to the championship game.

When comparing the head-to-head matchup, Brevard outscores Huntingdon 45-29, and out gains them in yardage, 651 to 550. Even if

See 'Distraught' on page 2



Photo by Christie Cauble

BC Football stands for the National Anthem before their Senior Day home match against Huntingdon on March 13, 2021.

Dashboard Update

The Brevard College COVID-19 count reached its peak this past week with 20 confirmed cases from the March 22, 23, 24 and 26 round of testing. This comes only a short six weeks before the college's final days of the semester and the in-person commencement ceremony.

Many postponements for BC sports teams were put in place due to positive cases, these sports being men's lacrosse, women's soccer, men's soccer, volleyball, men's tennis and women's tennis. As of March 31, 2021 at 10 a.m., there have been two confirmed positive cases for the testing days of the 29, 30 and 31.

Brevard College stresses the importance of mask-wearing, social distancing and anything else that can help stop the spread of COVID-19 on campus. With only a handful of weeks left for students, it is important to continue these practices even as the year comes to an end.

Brevard College will be offering a COVID-19 vaccination clinic on March 31 to 350 students, staff and faculty that have signed up via the Google Form. This is one step closer to making the campus a safe, COVID-19 free place for residents and everyone who visits.

— Margaret Correll

Distraught Tornados petition to play

Continued from Page 1

you go to the next tiebreaker it is a common opponent, the one common opponent being Maryville. Brevard beat Maryville 14-3, and Huntingdon won 16-13 in overtime, the point differential being ignored in both tiebreakers, and this led to a coin toss.

The coin toss, which the Tornados were vehemently against, worked in Huntingdon's favor and gained them access into the championship game with the flip of a coin, an event predicated off of complete chance and luck.

This is what has dashed Brevard College of their championship hopes. Nothing on the field and nothing based on actual competition; a coin flip. The entire team and coaching staff are currently working to get this absolutely obscene showing of unfairness fixed, giving a few players the chance to weigh in on the decision for The Clarion.

Sophomore running back Damon Rouse stated, "It just feels like an absolute spit in the face. Not only the way we did it, but the fashion we did it in. Strength of schedule numbers, it's all on paper and on film. It hurts the most because we went about it the right way. This has never been done before and they simply took it away from us. They didn't let us play for it, protest for it, or anything. They gave it away on a coin. All of our hard work, blood, sweat, tears, late nights, and early mornings off of a coin. It's awful and simply disrespectful."

Senior safety and team captain, Dante Anderson, stated, "It's a shame that me and my brothers are getting robbed for what we worked for. I have been a part of the Brevard football program for three and a half years and

I've invested blood, sweat, tears, pain, long days and long nights to get to a conference championship, just for it to be taken away from us by someone who doesn't deserve it. I think it is nothing but pure politics within this conference and Brevard College. This is not only not fair to us players, but I feel the most sorry for our head coach Bill Khayat. He has worked so hard to get us to this position and to see it being taken away from us breaks my heart. I think Tom Hart (USA South Commissioner) should resign for his actions of blatant favoritism. I hope the game gets overturned, but only time will tell. If nothing changea then I think my time here at Brevard is up."

The decision has been met with extreme criticism on social media from parents, fans, players and coaches alike. Senior tight-end, Gabe Rebollar-Catalan, stated via his Instagram: "It's hard for me to take this all in. It's my senior year. I will never touch a football field again. To go out knowing that my chance to play in a conference championship game was decided by a coin toss and not our record...and that hurts the most."

The team and coaches are looking to try and have this resolved. The USA South conference and Tom Hart need to make this right and give Brevard the opportunity that they earned. A year and some change after winning a ring last season, the Nados lost out on another one due to a coin toss. An event with a 50/50 chance that has nothing to do with success, talent, or football results.

A petition has started on Change.org attempting to correct the decision made by the USA South conference. It has reached 1,300 signatures as of March 30, 2021 at 11:30 a.m.

THE CLARION

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✉ **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 Christie Cauble

The Tornados huddle up before their game against Huntingdon on March 13, 2021.

Don't forget to register for classes!

Students are reminded and encouraged to meet with their advisers and register for classes for the upcoming Summer and Fall 2021 semesters.

Register at midnight using the following dates:

Sunday, March 28 -- Registration for Seniors with 92+ credits earned begins

Monday, March 29 -- Registration for Juniors with 60+ credits earned begins

Tuesday, March 30 -- Registration for Sophomores with 28+ credits earned begins

Wednesday, March 31 -- Registration for Freshmen with 27 or fewer credits earned begins

**Registration for each group opens on MyBC at midnight 12:00 a.m. on the day noted.

If you've planned your Fall or Summer schedule, you have to come back to MyBC and Add/Drop to "check out" and register for your courses. Planning courses will not

— Eleanor Flannery

Special topics classes for Fall 2021

Here is a combined list of special topics classes scheduled for Brevard College students during the fall semester of 2021.

Discuss with your advisor or the course instructor if you have questions about any of these classes.

Biology

BIO 190, Paleoecology, Rachel Hillyer, 4 credits, MR (9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.) and R (2 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.)

BIO 390, Bioethics, Diane C. Adler Wailes, 3 credits, MR (8 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.)

Criminal Justice

CRJ 290, Special Topics Seminar, Brevard College Staff, 3 credits, TF (12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.)

CRJ 390, Special Topics Seminar, Brevard College Staff, 3 credits, MTWRF (6 p.m. to 10 p.m.). This class will be a three-week long, intensive study opportunity.

CRJ 390, Special Topics Seminar, Michael Jame Moreschi, 3 credits, TF (9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.)

English

ENG 330, Road Literature: Advanced Studies in Literature, John B. Padgett, 3 credits, TF (11

a.m. to 12:15 p.m.)

Organizational Leadership

ORG 390, Sports Finance, John R. Thomas, 3 credits, TF (9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.)

Physical Education

PHE 190, Yoga for Stress Relief, Brevard College Staff, 1 credit, W (11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.)

PHE 290, Yoga and Mindfulness, Brevard College Staff, 1 credit, W (10 a.m. to 11 a.m.)

Political Science

PLS 190 01 and 02, Intro to Political Science, Brevard College Staff, 1 credit, TF (9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.) or TF (12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.)

— Margaret Correll



Graduation update

Dear BC Community,

We are excited to share more information about our in-person Commencement plan and we thank you for your patience as we work with campus and local officials to make sure that we are following the health and safety guidelines and policies during the pandemic. Due to the regulations, there are some changes from our previous ceremonies so please see the following information below as well as the Commencement Schedule attached.

Brevard College Commencement is scheduled for Saturday, May 8th on the Ives-Lemel Family Field, rain or shine.

Due to the health and safety of others and to allow for us to gather in person, we will split the graduates by majors into two ceremonies. Graduates will be contacted about their assigned ceremony in early April. All diplomas will be mailed; graduates should ensure that the Registrar's Office has their correct mailing information on file.

Commencement Ceremony #1 will begin at 8 a.m. (Active Thunderstorm Reschedule Time 4 p.m.)

Commencement Ceremony #2 will begin at 12 p.m. (Active Thunderstorm Reschedule Time 7 p.m.)

Due to the health and safety of hosting an in-person Commencement, only four guests (this includes children of any age), are allowed per graduate. The Ceremony will be live-streamed and it will continue to be available for viewing on Brevard College's YouTube and Facebook platforms. Commencement tickets and parking passes to enter the stadium for each ceremony will be distributed the first week of May to each graduate. Guests will need a parking pass to enter campus and tickets in order to receive their wristband which will allow admission to the seating for the ceremony.

More detailed information will be sent out in April to each aspect of the ceremony and we ask that everyone continue to monitor their Brevard College email.

— The Brevard College Commencement Team

Look out for The Hilarion

The annual April Fool's issue of The Clarion will be printed and distributed around campus tomorrow, April 1, 2021. Prepare for lighthearted, satirical articles bound to put a smile on your face!

— Eleanor Flannery



Denouncing racism & violence against Asian communities

Dear BC Community,

We are saddened that we have witnessed yet another violent attack targeting a minority group on American soil. When will it stop?

Our Brevard College community, along with people everywhere, have expressed outrage and grief for another deadly display of bigotry and gun violence in our country. The attacks in Atlanta, once again, exacerbate a nationwide rise in violence, xenophobia, and discrimination against people of color, Asian, Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities. We stand in support and solidarity with these communities

who have been and who continue to be systematically oppressed.

Racism and hatred have no place at Brevard College. Our strength is embracing one of our core values, "Be the Change." We value education in service of social justice and social action. We stand together against intolerance and violence. We must demonstrate that our campus is a "beacon of light in a dark world." Let us actively seek ways to show the world that we care.

For additional support or assistance reach out to your campus community:

-Dee Dasburg, Counseling Services-
dasburg@brevard.edu 828-641-0597

-Debbie D'Anna, Campus Life- dannadl@
brevard.edu 828-641-0597

-Campus Security- campussecurity@brevard.
edu 828-577-9590

-SALT (Social Action Leadership Team)-
salt@brevard.edu

God bless the victims, their families, and anyone who has suffered from violence, bigotry, or hatred. And God bless you for your efforts to end the hatred and violence.

— Katherine Parnell

Tornado rips through Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi

There were at least 23 tornadoes that tore through Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia this past Thursday. From these tornados, there were six people that died between the three states. One person died in Coweta County, Georgia, where the damage was a little heavier. Five people lost their lives in Calhoun County, Alabama, after the state was hit with 17 reported tornadoes.

Three of the people that were killed were a part of one family that were together in the home during the tornado. There was one tornado that traveled a stretch of 100 miles. A family in Birmingham, Alabama was interviewed and stated, "they were in their house as the tornado got closer, they began to feel the house shake then everything caved in on them."

In the Western Georgia town of Newnan on Friday, and among several communities in Western Atlanta, they were greatly devastated by the storms. The smell of pine and the whir

of electric saws filled the neighborhood as volunteers lugging their own tools helped carve up fallen trees.

The person that died in Georgia was not due to the tornado, but was due to a medical emergency that was going on and they could not get to the home in time. The person passed away due to a heart attack.

Other parts of the country were also affected with flooding and dangerous thunderstorms in Tennessee, Kentucky and the Carolinas.

In both Alabama and Georgia, the firefighters and community came together and began cleaning up the debris and helped unblock roads that were blocked due to the fallen trees caused by the twisters.

—Harell Mitchell III



Cargo ship stuck in Suez Canal

By Aia Andonovska
Copy Editor

The Suez Canal is an artificial waterway in Egypt that connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea. It is vital for Asian-European commerce, and as of last week, business in the Suez Canal has come to a halting stop. Unfortunately, a giant container ship became stuck in the canal. The ship is called the Ever Given, and its owners say that a gust of wind, caused by a sandstorm, pushed the ship and its huge cargo of 20,000 shipping containers sideways in the canal, this past Tuesday, March 23.

As of Saturday, March 27., the cargo ship has been stuck for five days, with all attempts to free the vessel failing. Authorities are now preparing to make new arrangements to get the ship unstuck. This is crucial, as the Suez Canal back-up has caused a major marine traffic jam. Around 280 vessels have been stuck outside the Suez Canal; some have had to change course, while others are basically stranded and waiting the problem out.

At least two attempts were made Saturday to free the ship once high tide went down. Shoei Kisen President, Yukito Higaki, told a news conference at company headquarters in Japan that 10 tugboats have been deployed to assist the situation as the high tide starts to go out. President Higaki also said in a statement that the company was considering removing containers to lighten the cargo ship, but this would be a difficult operation. Late Saturday evening, tugboat drivers sounded their horns in celebration of the most visible progress made on the Ever Given, thus far. Cranes have also aided the process by digging the ship's rudder out of the mud.

The White House has offered their services to the company, with President Joe Biden addressing the matter. "We have equipment and capacity that most countries don't have and we're seeing what we can do and what help we can be," President Joe Biden told reporters Friday.

Closure of this crucial waterway could cause delays in the global shipment chain. 19,000 vessels passed through the canal last year alone. About 10 percent of world trade goes through the Suez Canal, which also contributes

to transporting oil, one of its most important factors. The closure could potentially affect oil and gas shipments to Europe from the Middle East. It remains unclear how long this blockage will last. Even after the canal reopens, and commerce resumes, ships will likely be arriving at busy ports where they will face additional delays to unloading their cargo. The government of Syria has announced they will be rationing oil as the delays in the Suez Canal have affected critical oil shipments for the war-riddled nation.

To make matters worse, with most ships being diverted and sent on different routes, they might deal with piracy. Most ships are rounding the southern tip of Africa in order to reach their destinations. The Financial Times reported on Friday that a number of shipping companies have contacted the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet over maritime concerns for ships that do choose to sail around Africa. This would put these ships in the waters off Africa's eastern coast, which has had a long history of piracy.

"Africa has the risk of piracy, especially in east Africa," Zhao Qing-feng of the China Shipowners' Association in Shanghai, told the Financial Times. He also said ships need to hire extra security forces to come along on their vessels before making the extended journey around the continent. This just adds to

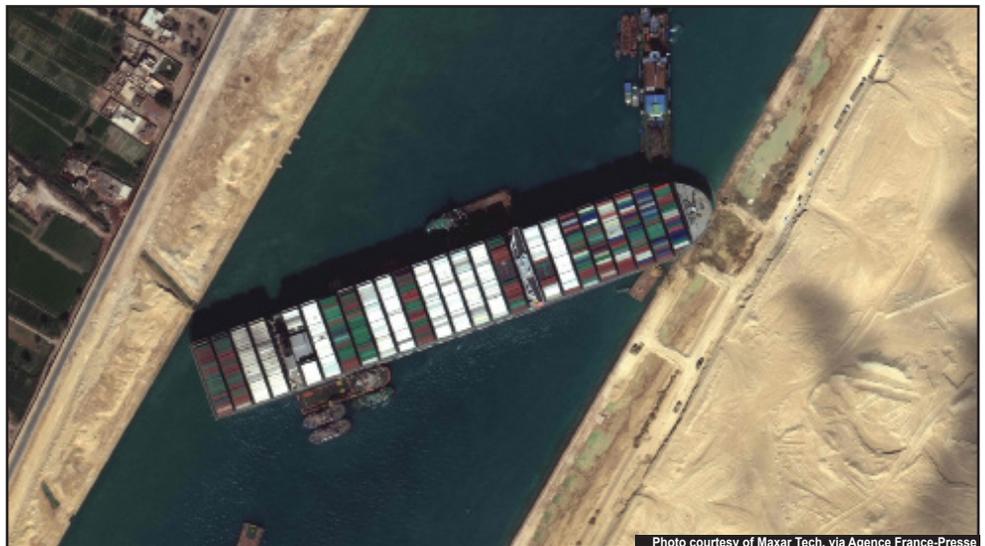
the variety of issues that have arisen since the ship became stuck.

Freeing the Ever Given is a delicate mission. Salvage crews have to move the ship without unbalancing it or breaking it apart. The ship is sagging in the middle, because its bow and stern are caught in positions that they were not designed for. The hull has become vulnerable to stress and cracks, according to experts. High tide brings hope that this stress will be released, while low tide puts new pressure on the vessel. Teams of divers have been inspecting the hull during this mission, and luckily have not been able to find any signs of damage.

"This is a very big ship. This is a very big problem," said Richard Meade, the editor in chief of Lloyd's List, which is a maritime intelligence publication out of London.

Lieutenant General Osama Rabie, chief of Egypt's Suez Canal Authority, said on the matter, "A significant incident like this is usually the result of many reasons: The weather was one reason, but maybe there was a technical error, or a human error."

As of this past Monday, March 29., efforts to refloat the boat during the high tide have been successful. The vessel is still not completely free, but progress has been made. Business should resume like normal soon in the Suez Canal.



Satellite image of the Ever Given stuck in the Suez Canal with tugboats trying to free it.

Photo courtesy of Maxar Tech, via Agence France-Presse



King Soopers supermarket parking lot flooded with police in response to shooting, Boulder, Colorado.

10 dead after mass shooting in Boulder supermarket

By Eleanor Flannery
Opinion Editor

On Monday, March 22, 10 people, including one police officer, were killed by a shooter at the King Soopers supermarket in Boulder, Colorado. The gunman was 21-year-old Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa, from Arvada, and was charged on Tuesday with 10 counts of first-degree murder; he will face a life in prison without chance of parole.

According to the New York Times: “The gunman was armed with both a military-style semi-automatic rifle and a pistol... A police affidavit made public on Tuesday said that last week he bought a Ruger AR-556 semiautomatic pistol — essentially a shortened version of an AR-15 style rifle, which fires the same small-caliber, high-velocity ammunition, first developed for battlefield use. Statements from the police and the charging documents did not make fully clear what models of weapons he used in the attack, and whether the Ruger was one of them.”

The FBI, reportedly, already knew of Alissa because “he was linked to another

individual under investigation by the bureau,” according to law enforcement officials. Alissa was previously convicted in 2018 of a misdemeanor, as a high school student at Arvada West High, for “assault against another student in a classroom” in retaliation against alleged “insults and ethnic taunts” within the classroom, sources from the New York Times said. Alissa’s brother described him as a “mentally ill, paranoid and antisocial” person.

Officer Eric Talley, of the Boulder Police Department, was among the 10 victims who lost their lives due to the massacre. Officer Talley arrived on the scene in response to the many 911 calls he received surrounding the shooting. He was 51-years-old.

Nine other individuals were identified by authorities as Denny Stong, 20; Neven Stanisic, 23; Rikki Olds, 25; Tralona Bartkowiak, 49; Suzanne Fountain, 59; Teri Leiker, 51; Kevin Mahoney, 61; Lynn Murray, 62; and Jody Waters, 65.

Since the attack, CNN has reported that Colorado’s state lawmakers are in the “early

stages” of discussing gun reforms. “We’re talking probably a couple of weeks before we introduce substantial policy, but it’s all very much a working process,” Colorado Senate Majority Leader Steve Fenberg told CNN, adding that many “Democrats are considering several ideas including a statewide assault weapons ban and mental health reform.”

According to the New York Times: “Democrats on Capitol Hill called on Tuesday for fast action to enact stricter gun laws, a plea that was immediately met with a blockade of opposition by Republicans.” President Biden wants to take “common sense steps that will save lives in the future,” by moving forward with passing stricter background checks and closing gun show loopholes by banning assault-style weapons.

“This is not and should not be a partisan issue — it is an American issue,” Biden said. “We have to act.”

Fine Arts Gala

By Ann Farash
Staff Writer

The Friends of the Fine Arts (FOFA) hosted the 11th Gala this past Saturday night. The Master of Ceremonies were none other than Brevard senior, K'niq Eichelberger and First Lady of BC, Lynn Joyce. The annual event manned by Brevard College seniors is usually a raucous black-tie dinner affair with a live auction. Think Met Gala in Brevard, Birkenstocks are replaced by stilettos and lots of sequins and glitter.

Somehow with theatre and musical magic, Joyce clicked her ruby slippers and transported the attendees to an intimate evening of song and revelry. To add to the evening festivities; you could order take-out from the Blind Mule or Falls Landing. Everyone's creative juices must have been in overdrive to make such a successful virtual event.

The opening piece sung by Eichelberger was from the Broadway musical "Pippin." We've got magic to do. Magic there was from Handel's Messiah to Gershwin's Embraceable You.

Eichelberger and Joyce made the evening flow with their banter and choreography. Joyce's remarkable closeness to the students was evident by her many shared memories with the students. The finale was a bittersweet tribute from the musical "Rent" by the theatre department. "Seasons of Love" was personalized for the President David and Lynn Joyce for his upcoming retirement from Brevard College. By the end of the evening Joyce was tearful "for this season of love" at Brevard.

The night opened with pledges of over \$46,000. The FOFA funds The Dream Appeal. This included stipends for summer programs, sponsorship for students to attend conferences,

upgrades in art and theater equipment. Included were many past student testimonials.

Fine Arts Division Chair, Kathryn Gresham is most proud that "We have been able to keep students engaged in their art pursuits during the pandemic." The Fine Arts Department nailed creativity and resiliency during this COVID-19 time that shuttered live performances around the world.

There was a common theme from the students of gratitude for the guidance, caring and mentoring from the faculty. The upside of this virtual event was that alumni and friends of the college could attend this free event across the nation. As of now and money is still coming in and the total raised is currently over \$82,000. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

Ag Club introduces campus farm

Brevard College is known for its experiential learning and soon it will be adding a new program that will be very hands on. After years in the works, Brevard College is installing a campus farm.

The farm on campus will be located at the back of campus right off of Neely Rd. Currently, trucks are working on removing the giant mount where the farm is going. The farm is being installed as a living laboratory for the agricultural program.

According to Juan Mascaro, Vice President for Finance and Operations and Chief Financial Officer, the farm should be operational for classes in the fall. He also said that the hardest part of the project thus far has been removing the giant dirt mount.

The construction team will be working through the summer to finalize the farm and once it is done students will be the ones taking care of the plants. Much of the staff is very excited for the farm to be ready.

This farm will be a big addition to the college

and will be a big step for the agriculture program. Once the farm is in place, students from all sorts of majors at Brevard will be able to get down and dirty in the dirt.

Everyone so far on campus is very excited for the farm and it will just make Brevard College a much more exciting place to learn.

— Caroline Hoy



Senior Profile

Haven Rainey to graduate

By Margaret Correll
Editor in Chief

Haven Rainey, a sociable and outgoing double major in Psychology and Criminal Justice from Burlington, North Carolina, is preparing to say goodbye to Brevard College and look towards her future. After four long years in school, she is ready to take on the world and leave the little town behind.

Her first day at Brevard College was spent meeting her roommate and suitemates all while getting to know the campus. This was the day she met some of her first friends at Brevard College.

This experience, living in such a bustling town, was very new to her. "I lived on a farm back home, so I didn't have such easy access to restaurants and the grocery store (it would be about a 20-30 minute drive)," Rainey said. Now, as a commuter student, she gets to experience some freedom from on-campus living coupled with the closeness of living in a neighborhood for the first time.

"I was also able to learn more and create my own ideals separate from my family," Rainey said. She used the opportunity of living far away from everything she had known to expand her horizons and find a life of her own.

Her life at Brevard College brought along some great memories and great people that Rainey will cherish for the rest of her life. The best memories, according to Rainey, were of those friends that she has made while being a student. "The first year we had the smoking bench crew. They were just a ragtag bunch of people that were all so different, yet we all had a fun time; My second year, I was living in the villages with Margaret Correll and, living with fewer people, we were all able to connect and look out for one another; My third year was when we had a co-ed living space and Jesse lived underneath us, so Margaret and I would jump and stomp on the floor to irritate him; My fourth year was when

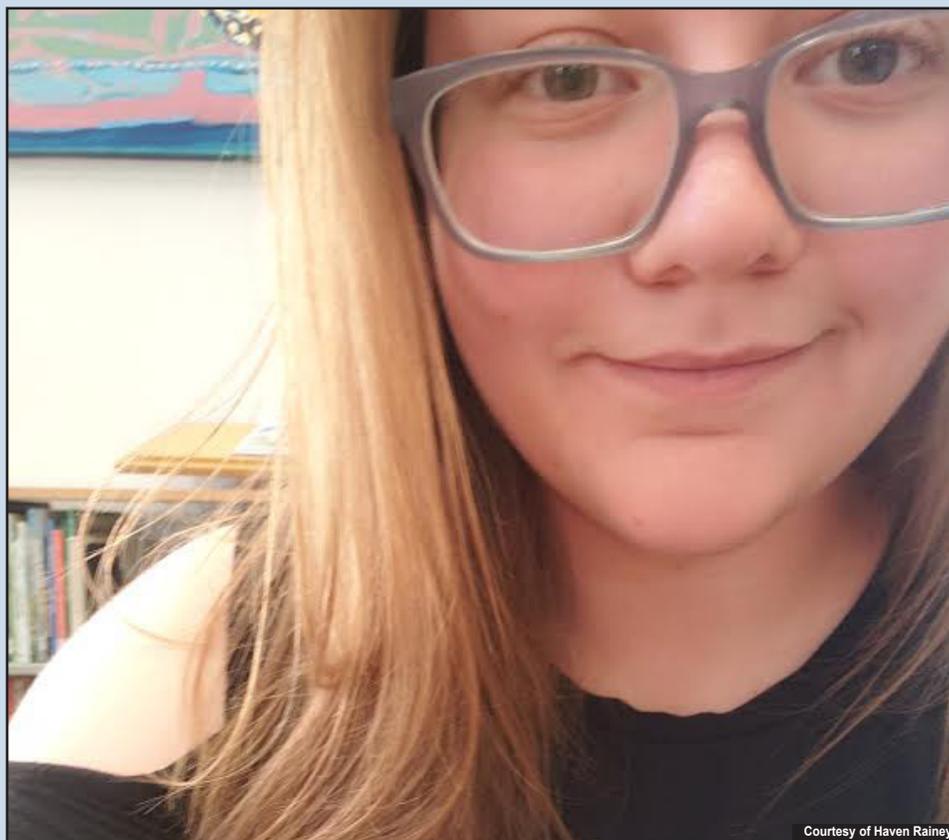
I moved off campus and started paying rent. It has been challenging, but so rewarding. I have experience with working an outside job, going to school and also attending an internship. This experience is so valuable and will prepare me for the future," Rainey said.

The memories involving her friends have made a special place in Rainey's life. "Margaret Correll, Mickayla Smith, Payten Maness and Jesse Money are people that have been a huge part of my life. Margaret was my first friend and my roommate in my sophomore and junior year. We always had honest conversations and we always had a good laugh. Mickayla was also my first friend and she is someone

that will call me out on my crap. Payten Maness and I became friends my junior year when we worked together at Starbucks. We became roommates off campus and we have supported each other and become very good friends. Jesse Money, someone who came here with me, was fundamental to being here. We are now engaged and without him I would have lost my mind already," Rainey said.

On top of friendships, other relationships that have been formed at Brevard College are one's that Rainey will cherish. Her relationships with her professors are extremely impactful to her life and her future career. "Both of my psychology professors,

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Courtesy of Haven Rainey

Haven Rainey

Rainey looks forward to a break before Grad school

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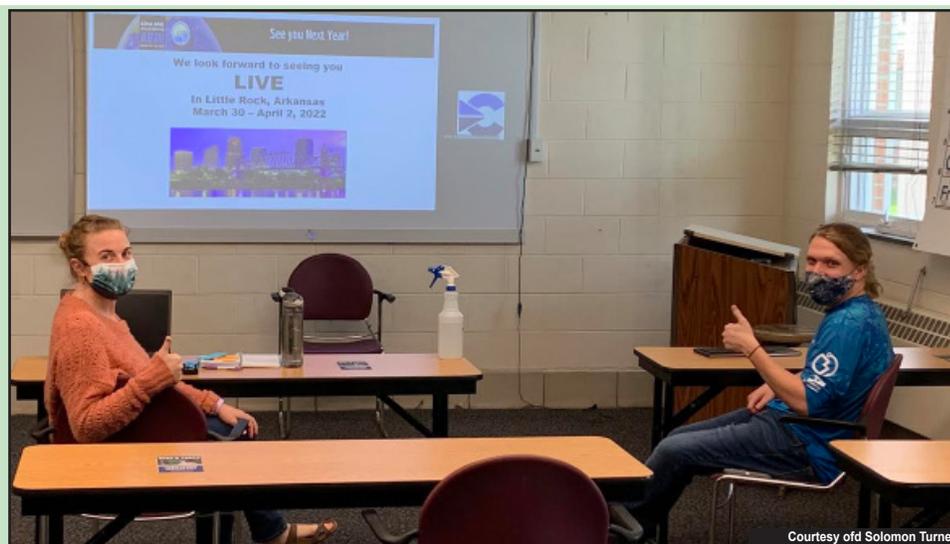
Allison O'Leary and Lisa Busche, have had major impacts on my college career. They are both such kind and compassionate teachers who truly care for their students. The Psychology program that they have been working on is truly amazing and I am so glad to have been fortunate to be a part of it. My criminal justice professors, Tim Powers and Michael Moresci, have been just as important. They have taught me so much about the criminal justice system and done it in a unique way. Another professor was Rosemary Peek, a Religion teacher, was someone that allowed me to ask hard questions about religion. She accepted what I had to say and offered her opinions as well," Rainey said.

Another perk about living in such a diverse area for four years is the free time that can be spent travelling around, camping and taking spontaneous trips to the Blue Ridge Parkway. "I would go with some friends to Blue Ridge late at night and we would watch the stars. It gave me such peace to sit there in the dark and laugh with my friends. All our adventures with the smoking bench crew in Pisgah were all crazy and fun times," Rainey said.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been many things that Rainey has missed out on during her senior year. "I miss having dinner parties with my friends and camping with them. Also, going to bars. I also hate that we missed going on field trips with some of the classes," Rainey said. This has not stopped her from getting excited about the rest of the year, "I am excited to be graduating and getting fully vaccinated so I can see my friends before I leave," Rainey said.

After college, Rainey plans on applying to graduate school, but not before taking a well deserved break from school for a while. To take care of a few personal things, she plans on moving back to the Burlington area with her fiance, Jesse.

Rainey has many fond memories of her time at Brevard College and she is happy to finish this chapter in her life. "I will miss the friends I have made and the professors that helped me to get where I am today," Rainey said.



BC Biology professor, Sarah Maveety (left) and Solomon Turner (right), attending the Association of Southeastern Biologists' Virtual 2021 Symposium presentation from March 24 to 27.

Solomon Turner presents Senior project research at ASB Symposium

By Solomon Turner
Contributor

Most STEM majors know that between their junior and senior year at Brevard, they have the opportunity to conduct and present their own experimental work. While this is a very involved and demanding endeavor, it is definitely not without its rewards. Senior students are able to showcase their unique work in a professional setting on campus, and for some, off campus as well.

Ever since my sophomore year, I've been planning different projects I could do looking forward to my final year, where I could take this opportunity and do my own independent research. With the assistance of Sarah Maveety, I was able to narrow my research and formulate my experimental design. My final product was a study on The Effect of Invasive Plants on the Soil Bacterial Diversity on Brevard College's campus.

With the continued help of my project advisor Maveety, along with the support

of Brevard College Pedagogies (BCP), my project was accepted by the Association of Southeastern Biologists to be presented at their Virtual 2021 Symposium during March 24 to the 27. This gave me the privilege to share my work with likeminded peers from all across the Southeast, each of whom performed their own research.

The ASB Symposium was more than just a way to present my work on the invasive plant's effect on soil bacteria. It was an opportunity to discuss my work with others, compare methodology and explore shared interests with students from other colleges. It also provided the opportunity to sit in on forums for Master's and Doctorate level research and ask questions regarding their own work.

For my own forum, hosted by Tribeta the Biological Honors Society, I was privileged to share my work alongside Irene Kuriakose, from Queens University of Charlotte, who

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ASB Symposium

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shared her work on bacteriophages, and Ryan Frericks, from Augusta University, who shared his work on glioblastomas, a form a brain cancer. This proved to be an enlightening experience and has me rushing back to my data to perform further analysis.

The ASB Symposium culminated in an Awards Ceremony to recognize students and their yearlong work. At this ceremony I was awarded third place and Honorable Mention.

The opportunity to share my research at a professional platform was immensely beneficial and is one that I cannot take for granted. I could not have been able to make it this far without Dr. Maveety's help and encouragement every step along the way or without BCP's financial support to attend the Symposium.

I'd like to encourage all current and potential STEM majors to take advantage of the opportunity the senior project gives you to perform your own independent research. It opens many doors for growth and networking and gives you an invaluable opportunity to showcase your own individuality, interests and dedication to your field of study. The work is not necessarily easy, but the rewards are numerous.

Biden's Gun Control Policies

After two shootings in Atlanta in the span of a week and one in Boulder, Colorado, President Joe Biden has pushed for the Senate to pass a gun legislation that has already passed the House. He wants to change background check laws.

The Bipartisan Background Checks Act would expand background checks on firearm sales, closing a gun show and online sales loophole. The second act would expand the background check review period from three days to ten. Biden has also voiced support in banning assault weapons.

I am fully in support of these potential motions. According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, gun violence killed nearly 20,000 people in 2020.

This is not an act to take away guns, this is an act to regulate and maintain the weapons that are brought into our society. The average person has no need for semi-automatic weapons that replicate weapons used in the military.

If we are giving civilians the opportunity to mimic weapons used for war, we have to expect that people will use them for their intended purpose.

In 1994, there was gun restriction. Andrew Morral, a RAND senior behavioral scientist, found that the incidence and severity of mass public shootings, meaning the number killed and injured, has increased over the last decade, after the ban had expired.

If this initial ban proved to help and is redone to better fit the time and applies the knowledge that is now known because of it, it seems like there will be more benefit than loss. Even if the restrictions aren't successful, there still is not much harm that would be done by applying it.

Overall, I hope to have a future with better gun safety laws and restrictions and a population that does not have access to semi-automatic weapons.

— Anna Ervin

Offensive Humor

The do's, don'ts, and what to completely stay away from

By Jackson Inglis
Staff Writer

You've probably heard someone complain about how millennials and zoomers are "offended by everything" nowadays. Everytime I watch George Carlin, Bill Hicks, Filthy Frank, "South Park" or any other old piece of media that was considered "edgy," I have to ask myself if it could be made in today's climate. Then I realized it. The problem with dark/offensive/shock humor is not that it exists, but rather the fact that so many people don't know how to pull it off correctly.

Humor is subjective, and this whole article is just my opinion. You should never let someone tell you that you aren't allowed to laugh at something. I don't know about you, but I don't want to live in a world where the only jokes that are allowed to exist are lame dad jokes and kindergarten knock-knock jokes; I kind of like when someone's feelings are hurt every once

and a while. However, if you're going to make a joke that's at the expense of a certain race, religion, sexuality, gender, disability, political alignment or anything else, there is a correct and incorrect way to do it.

Here's a popular race joke that you probably heard all the time in middle school: "What's the difference between a black guy and a pizza? A pizza could feed a family of four." You may not like this joke, but this does work as a joke. First, there's a clear and obvious setup and punchline; anyone who hears this knows that this meant to make you laugh. Second, it takes the harsh reality that black people are disproportionately poor and flips it on its head. It spreads awareness of an unfortunate stereotype while making you laugh instead of cry. This is how you do it correctly.

Sadly, a lot of people (especially on the internet) don't get this and think that being offensive "ironically" is comedy. If you go on

the internet or in public and say overtly bigoted and then claim it's a joke just to get funny reactions, that doesn't count as a joke. First, there's no setup or punchline; how do we know this is a joke? How do we know you're not an actual racist? Second, what's your objective? You're not trying to make a serious point or message with your comedy or even just trying to be funny; you're just being offensive for the sake of attention. This is where people fail at shock humor.

There's a reason comedians George Carlin and Bill Hicks as well as online entertainers like Filthy Frank and iDubbz were successful. They know how to offend people in a clever way while actually making a point about certain topics. So many people today have lost grip of that art, and that's a big reason dark humor is not as profitable anymore. It's not just because "millennials are snowflakes." It's deeper than that.

March Madness

After having no March Madness tournament last year in 2020, there was a lot of excitement about having one this year. On March 19, 2021, the tournament started with half of the 64 teams playing. On March 20, the rest of the teams competed to decide who would be in the round of 32.

There were a few major upsets in the first round, including Oral Roberts beating Ohio State, North Texas beating Purdue, Ohio beating Virginia and Abilene Christian beating Texas.

The second round started on March 21, with Loyola Chicago knocking off the number one seed Illinois. Oral Roberts also had another upset beating Florida to send them to the Sweet Sixteen. The second half of the second round played on March 22, and only had one huge upset with Oregon beating the two seed Iowa 95-80.

Sunday, March 27, started the Sweet Sixteen and it wasn't what anyone would have expected it to be. Several low-seeded teams had made it this far and the lowest of them was 15 seed Oral Roberts.

After the first four games were played, the only upset was Oregon State beating Loyola Chicago. The last four games were played on March 28, having one upset with the two seed Alabama losing to 11 seed UCLA in overtime.

There are eight teams remaining in the tournament. Oregon State will be facing Houston, Arkansas will face Baylor, USC will face Gonzaga and UCLA will be facing Michigan. These teams will go into this round hopeful for a chance to be one of the final four teams remaining and maybe even have the chance to play in the National Championship game on Monday, April 5.

— Jake Moore

Tornados persevere, outlast Scots in Conference Finale

By Joseph Marvin
Digital Media Director

MARYVILLE, Tenn. – Despite a near two-and-a-half-hour lighting delay, the Brevard College football team (3-1, 2-1 USAS) outlasted Maryville College (1-2, 0-2 USAS), 14-3, on a rain-soaked Saturday afternoon at Honaker Field in Maryville, Tennessee.

Brevard's defense, which has not allowed a touchdown in 11 consecutive quarters of play, forced three interceptions, two sacks, and six tackles-for-loss while limiting the Maryville offense to under 150 yards of total offense and holding the Scots to 2-of-10 on third downs. The BC offense out-gained Maryville, 246-147 in total offense, while BC's special team's unit averaged 40.8 yards-per-punt.

Senior defense back Quentin Jackson picked off a pair of Maryville passes, bringing his career interception total to nine – a mark that ranks second all-time in the history of BC Football. Sophomore defensive back Joc Pledger added an interception, while Jerome Bass led all Tornados with a five-tackle performance that included a sack. Sophomore linebacker Toby Naylor recorded four tackles and a sack, while Steffon Canady recorded a team-best 1.5 tackles-for-loss.

Senior quarterback Steven Hogan stepped in and delivered 99 yards passing and an 18-yard touchdown to Cedric Brooks, who hauled down four catches for a game-high 50 yards. Jamerial Parks caught four passes for 43 yards receiving, while Justin Pendergrass caught a game-long 40-yard pass from freshman quarterback Eli Carr.

BC's running game logged 91 yards, led by Aaron Bennett who rushed nine times for 50 yards – with 5.6 yards-per-carry. Damon Rouse punched in a five-yard touchdown run midway through the fourth quarter to help put the contest out of reach.

Sophomore punter/kicker Damon Hewitt helped flip the field on the Scots, launching five punts for 204 total yards – a 40.8 average – with a long of 54.

Carr helped lead the Tornados down the field on their first possession of the contest, going 3-for-3 with 56 yards passing to set the

Tornados up in the red zone. Hogan was called upon and answered right away, throwing an 18-yard strike to Brooks in the right side of the end zone to give the Tornados a 7-0 lead early.

Maryville got on the board at the beginning of the second quarter, as a nine-play, 55-yard drive was capped off with a 22-yard field goal that cut BC's advantage to a 7-3 margin.

MC's next possession was cut short, as Pledger racked up his fourth interception of the season gave BC the ball near midfield. A three-and-out forced the Tornados to punt back to Maryville midway through the second quarter.

With 5:24 left to play in the first half, BC strung together a nine-play, 48-yard possession that found the Tornados in the red zone. However, the drive would halt after Maryville's Bo Herring intercepted a pass to effectively end the half as Brevard clung to a 7-3 lead at the intermission.

A two-hour and 37-minute lightning delay would ensue, as Brevard and Maryville resumed play at 6:02 p.m.

Both sides traded punts on their first two possessions of the third quarter before Jackson snagged his first interception of the contest, setting up the Tornados in Maryville territory. The Scots would force a fourth-down stop before Jackson secured his second-consecutive interception, returning it 26 yards to set the Tornado offense up in the red zone.

Rouse burst forward for a five-yard touchdown to put the Tornados on top by 11 points, 14-3, while the Tornado defense got a fourth-down stop on the ensuing Maryville possession. BC's offense milked the final 4:08 off the clock to wrap up the pivotal conference victory in the regular-season conference finale.

The Tornados will now prepare for a non-conference matchup vs. fellow USA South member NC Wesleyan College at Ives-Lemel Family Field on Saturday, April 3, with time to-be-determined. BC will be scheduled to conclude its Spring 2021 season on Saturday, April 10 with a trip to Sewanee, Tennessee to face Sewanee University at 4 p.m.



Quentin Jackson picked as USA South's Defensive Player of the Week

By Joseph Marvin
Digital Media Director

BREVARD, N.C. – Senior defensive back Quentin Jackson added to a long list of accolades over the course of his Brevard College career, securing a nod as the USA South Football Defensive Player of the Week following a two-interception performance in a 14-3 victory over Maryville College this past Saturday.

The selection marks Jackson's second Defensive Player of the Week honor of his Tornado career to go alongside a pair of D3Football.com Team of the Week selections and a 2018 USA South All-Conference First Team honor. The former dual-sport athlete at BC also earned numerous Track & Field honors, including a first-place finish in the 4x100 relay at the 2019 ECAC Track & Field Championships.

Jackson, a Columbia, Maryland native, produced two key interceptions for BC's defense in the victory. Jackson's second interception was returned 26 yards, setting up the Tornado offense to score their second touchdown of the day and put the contest essentially out of reach, as BC pulled through with the 11-point triumph.

With the two picks on Saturday, Jackson continues to climb closer to the Brevard College

all-time record for career interceptions. Jackson has secured nine picks over his Tornado career, ranking second all-time behind Michael Gist (2008-11), who picked off 11 passes over the course of his career at BC.

Brevard College Tornados selected as USA South Athletes of the Week (2020-21 season)

Rebecca Rojas, Women's Soccer, USA South Defensive Player of the Week (two-time)
Taylor Richardson, Women's Soccer, Rookie of the Week

Trenten Anderson, Baseball, Rookie Pitcher of the Week

Eli Carr, Football, Offensive Rookie of the Week (two-time)

Vinicius Giannaccini, Men's Soccer, Player of the Week

Ethan McGee, Men's Tennis, Player of the Week

Ashley Royster, Women's Soccer, Player of the Week

Zach Allison, Baseball, Player of the Week
Ernest Smith II, Football, Defensive Rookie of the Week

Quentin Jackson, Football, Defensive Player of the Week

The Tornados are scheduled to return to Ives-Lemel Family Field on Saturday, April 3 for a home matchup vs. NC Wesleyan College, with kickoff scheduled for 12 p.m.

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.

