



# LINC class embarks on experiential weekend trip

Elisabeth Hornfeck  
Contributor

The weekend of Nov. 16, the LNC Environmental Science, Ethics, and Skills class embarked on a backpacking trip in the Sam Knob area of Pisgah National Forest. The trip provided students with the opportunity to put into practice backpacking skills they had learned throughout the course, with an emphasis on the seven “Leave No Trace” or (LNT) principles. In addition to honing their outdoor skills, students col-

lected data for their final class projects, which focused on assessing water health in the Pisgah region.

The adventure began with a drive to the trailhead on Friday evening. After arriving, the class hiked about a mile on the Ivestor Gap Trail to their first campsite.

Setting up camp in the dark proved to be a challenge, but students quickly got to work setting up their sleep tarps and making themselves comfortable. Afterward, they gathered around camp stoves to prepare dinner in small groups.

Many students were surprised by how delicious the

meals turned out, which included hearty servings of beans, rice, pita pizzas and filling breakfasts of hashbrowns and pancakes.

On Saturday, the class continued their journey by hiking to the second campsite, located along the Sam Knob Trail and Flat Laurel Creek Trail.

After setting up camp, the environmental science portion of the trip

began. Students waded into Flat Laurel Creek to search for macroinvertebrates, which serve as important indicators of water health. They collected water samples to compare the physical and chemical properties of the headwaters with King’s Creek on campus, a key component of their ongoing research projects.

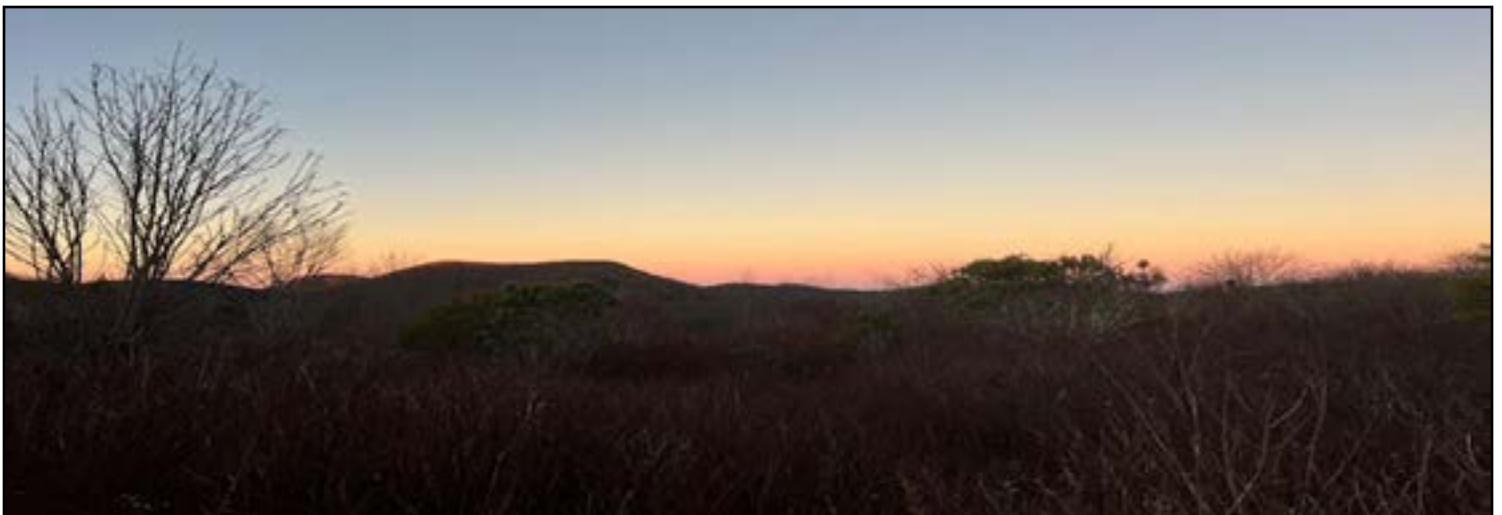
Throughout the trip, students took turns leading lessons on the seven LNT principles. These lessons helped reinforce the importance of environmental responsibility and experiential education. The trip’s focus on sustainability was further emphasized as students practiced the Leave No Trace principles by sticking to established campsites and trails, properly disposing of waste, and minimizing their impact on the surrounding landscape.

Despite below-freezing temperatures, the weather remained favorable for the trip. Clear skies and a full moon illuminated the night, allowing students to enjoy the stunning visibility of the stars. After a long day of hiking and data collection, students took advantage of the clear night to write in their journals under the open sky, reflecting on their experiences.

When asked, Ryan Degarmo—who, with Erasme UyiHē, is an instructor in the ILO class—reflected upon his experience: “It was really exciting to see our group come together for a weekend in the back-country and help each other achieve the goals of the course. We spent most of our time trekking above 5000 ft and we had even colder than expected weather. However, thanks to ‘planning ahead and preparing’ and the grit and character of the group, the crew persevered through the challenge with amazing attitudes.

“These attitudes allowed us to immerse ourselves into a lot of unique opportunities that just wouldn’t be possible to experience on campus; opportunities like negotiating setting up camp in the dark and dense fog, seeing a full moon that felt close enough to touch, laughing around a campfire that helped ward off the cold, and seeing forests and creeks that looked like they inspired movie sets. I think being able to connect the real world application of the course content and outcomes really helped to solidify the purpose of what we were trying to achieve.”

I would return to the backcountry with this crew anytime!



Top: Camp on the Ivestor Gap Trail in Pisgah National Forest. Above: The ridgeline in or near Shining Rock Wilderness. (Photos courtesy of Elisabeth Hornfeck)

# Brevard College student chosen for national conference

Brevard College senior Paige Edwards has been selected as a Student Scholar for the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) national conference later this month.

“It’s such an honor to represent the WNC council,” Edwards said. “I’m really excited to be among that group of impressive people.”

According to the event website, “the WACA Student Scholars program empowers 25 undergraduate students to join the WACA National Conference in Washington, DC. Before the conference, students will visit with DC higher education institutions, think tanks, and non-governmental organizations to explore college and career opportunities.”

Edwards’ spark of interest in international affairs ignited after she took a History of Terrorism course at Brevard College last year. “I found it all fascinating,” she said. “I’m looking forward to hearing experts speak about international affairs with the goal to encourage policy that is peaceful.”

Her instructor in that class, Jordan Kuck, says this kind of professional development and networking opportunity is extremely rare for an undergraduate student. “Because the organization selects only 25 students

total, Paige will be able to interact with thought leaders in both formal and informal settings,” he said. Kuck—an associate professor of history, chair of the Humanities Division and director of the Honors Program at Brevard College—attended the WACA conference in 2023 as a panel speaker.

Even before her class experience, Edwards has always been a self-described “nerd,” currently double majoring in psychology and history, with plans to graduate next semester. A cyclist since age 11, she was a member of the Brevard College cycling team before switching gears two years ago to focus more on academics.

“Cycling is what brought me to Brevard and even though I’m not competing anymore, I’m so glad I stayed,” Edwards said. “At one time, cycling was my whole world, and the team has been incredibly supportive of my academic achievements.”

“I am so proud of Paige,” Kuck. “From her intellectual curiosity and commitment to continual improvement, to her eagerness to collaborate with faculty, Paige exemplifies experiential education and what it means to be a Brevard College Honors student.”



Paige Edwards

# Brevard College Wind Ensemble to take us on a Spanish excursion

## Preview of Monday night's concert in the Porter Center

Zoe Hughes  
Staff Writer

The Brevard College Wind Ensemble will be performing Monday, Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Scott Concert Hall at the Paul Porter Center.

This performance is titled "A Spanish Excursion," featuring a wide range of latin tunes. The program includes "Amparito Roca" by Jamie Texidor, "The Legend of Zorro" by James Horner and arranged by Micheal Brown, "A Little Tango Music" by Adam Gorb, "Danza Lucumi" by Ernesto Lecuona, "Danzón No. 2" by Arturo Márquez, and "Adagio" by Joaquín Rodrigo.

"Amparito Roca" is an exciting Spanish march written in 1925 featuring an exciting first strain and dogfight, also referred to as a bullfight for this piece, and a gentle and lyrical trio section.

"The Legend of Zorro" arrangement by Micheal Brown features music from the film "The Legend of Zorro" (2005). The film is an American Western starring Antonio Banderas as the hero, Zorro. The music from this film is full of swelling majestic moments and exhilarating melodies.

"A Little Tango Music" was written in 2007 and mimics the dance of tango from Argentina. The flow of the piece follows the feeling of dancing the tango with a special partner.

"Danza Lucumi" is a part of a six piece composition written between 1929 and 1934. This piece

was made to mimic the feeling and movements of a dance. The rhythmic and upbeat nature of the piece helps give it the dance-like feel .

"Danzón No. 2" is one the most performed Mexican contemporary classical music pieces. Written in 1994, this piece pays homage to danzón genre's musical form and melodic outline.

"Adagio" was written in 1939 as the second part in "Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez." "The Concierto de Aranjuez" is Rodrigo's most famous work and features a lush melody and a poignant beauty throughout.



Duke Ellington's "In a Sentimental Mood," Joseph Zawinul's "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy" and "Freddie the Freeloader" by Miles Davis were some of the numbers performed by the Brevard College Jazz Ensemble Wednesday evening in Ingram Auditorium. Members of the ensemble include Ethan Abraham, Gianluca Graziano, Gracie Gillespie, Jamie Gilson, Libby Huffman, Luke Hanson, Jackson Betsill and Hannah Sonnenberg. The ensemble director is Dr. David Wilken. (Photo by John Padgett)

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### Book Review

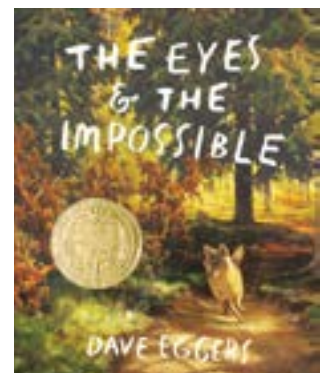
# When nature is jeopardized

Mari Carter  
Staff Writer

If you like books that are fiction and fun with a serious undertone, I'd highly recommend "The Eyes & the Impossible," by Dave Eggers. It covers topics like pollution, our damage and toxic relationship with nature, as well as how animals are affected due to our careless actions without second thoughts.

The book follows a wolf who is known as the eyes of the forest as he maintains equilibrium alongside the oxes who created the system. The wolf has sheltered siblings, and he constantly makes fun of them for giving up their freedom for free food and shelter. He believes they are foolish as it is the joy in obtaining your own resources that keeps you happy and earnest in life.

The dynamic between characters is natural, the underlying messages are poetic, and the overall book is refreshing. "The Eyes & the Impossible" is an easy and thought-provoking read that you should definitely give a chance.



# What can 'A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving' teach all of us?

**Abigail Callahan**  
Staff Writer

Every year, my family and I kick back on the couch on Thanksgiving night to watch "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving." We all squeeze together, get a blanket, cook popcorn and turn the TV on to watch.

It's been a family tradition for as long as I can remember, watching Charlie Brown try to kick the football and seeing what Snoopy and his little yellow bird Woodstock are up to.

The animated show is about Charlie Brown accidentally inviting Peppermint Patty, Marcie, and Franklin over for Thanksgiving, even though he's going to his grandmother's house. Snoopy helps Charlie Brown by making his own version of a Thanksgiving dinner with help from Woodstock. The meal includes toast, pan-fried popcorn, pretzel sticks, jelly beans, and ice cream sundaes.

When they arrive, Peppermint Patty isn't impressed because she expected an actual Thanksgiving meal. While at the table, Linus shares the first Thanksgiving story and gives a prayer.

Charlie Brown, feeling generous, asks his grandmother if his friends can meet them for their family gathering. Snoopy and Woodstock stay

behind and split a wishbone together and a "traditional" Thanksgiving meal.

During the show, we are treated to the soothing music by Vince Guaraldi. We witness Charlie Brown open his home and his heart to his friends, and his attempt to provide them with a meaningful afternoon, yet fails miserably. He is rewarded with an angry Peppermint Patty.

Instead of kicking his friends out of his home, he finds a solution. He brings them along to his grandmother's home again, opening himself to his friends. This story reminds me that every holiday, people are looking for a place to be welcomed.

Thanksgiving is overlooked in favor of the extravagance of Christmas. We are barely awake on Thanksgiving morning before the Macy's Parade (another program my family always watches every year) is over and Christmas is upon us, but Charlie Brown's Thanksgiving reminds us all on a small-scale the importance of this holiday.

Charlie Brown welcomes his friends even when they have not been kind to him. As we begin this holiday season, I hope we can all give the grace that this young boy gives to the world and offer ourselves to others.

## Thank you!

As we prepare for Thanksgiving next week, the staff of The Clarion would like to thank all those here at Brevard College who made a difference in those harrowing days immediately after Hurricane Helene.

Our communication lines were down, as they were for almost everyone in our area of western North Carolina. On Friday, Sept. 26, as we were waking up, we didn't know how the rest of the world was doing or if classes would continue the next week.

Over the next several days, we gradually learned of the greater devastation in other parts of Transylvania County and in the counties and states around us. We saw and heard helicopters overhead delivering food and supplies to other areas cut off by washed out roads and bridges. In front of the Caf, someone thoughtfully had set up a radio so we could hear emergency weather reports and news.

Thankfully, most of the campus did not lose power during the storm, including the cafeteria, and to everyone's relief, trucks soon made it to campus to deliver more food. Even before that, however, every effort was made to ensure students, staff, faculty and their families were provided meals in the immediate aftermath of Helene, especially those without power or any way to travel.

During those first few days after the storm when so much was in turmoil, Myers Dining Hall was a busy place, with steady lines out the doors. Just as they did yesterday for the Thanksgiving luncheon, cafeteria managers, employees and student workers served all of us during those trying days after the storm with patience, professionalism and politeness. For that, we thank you.



Members of the Brevard Fire Department (at left) join with others to partake of Brevard's Thanksgiving luncheon yesterday in Myers Dining Hall. (Photo by Esther Padgett)



Left: Kelly Lawson, a junior majoring in business and math, and Shannon McCarthy, a senior majoring in wilderness leadership and experiential education, sip festive holiday drinks at the Thanksgiving luncheon in Myers. This year's event included a trendy drink station in addition to the usual beverages: a hot chocolate bar with options of chocolate chips, marshmallows and crushed peppermint and a red merrry mocktail, "Turkey Day Smash," which consisted of ginger ale, cranberries and mint. (Photo by Esther Padgett)



Regina Drouse shows off her plate of food provided by Myers Dining staff (Photo by Regina Drouse).

# Speak up and power down: a social crisis

**Amy Clyburn**  
Copy Editor

In today's world, technology is omnipresent, and it is difficult to escape its influence. Smartphones and tablets have altered our reality and social interactions, and social media platforms constantly vie for our attention with a continuous stream of information on display. This bombardment of content shortens our attention spans and distracts us from real life.

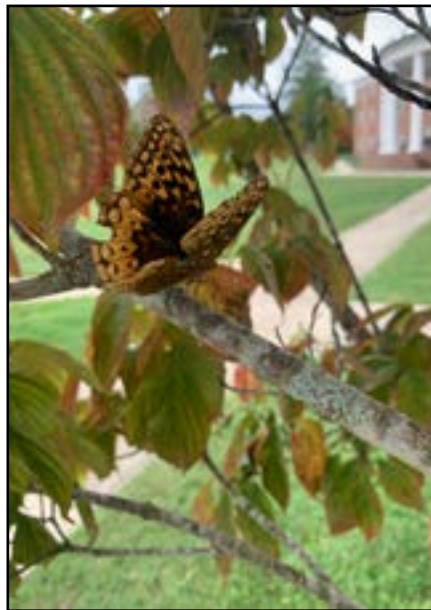
We are facing a social crisis—though this statement may seem exaggerated, it holds truth. Consider this: Do you find yourself waving and greeting those who pass by, or are you engrossed in your phone? In this era, technology is so pervasive that it's almost impossible to live without it. We have become dependent on screens for our daily needs.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, internet use surged as lockdowns and remote work shifted our interactions online. According to the AMA Journal of Ethics, this increased reliance on technology has negatively impacted our ability to connect with others and foster a sense of community.

Research demonstrates that individuals who spend several hours a day on the internet and social media are more prone to anxiety, depression, and loneliness compared to those who use these platforms solely for communication purposes. A

digitaldetox.com article states that technology promotes a sedentary lifestyle, which is one of the biggest drawbacks of our device-filled world. As people constantly engage with video games and online content, physical exercise becomes secondary.

What often starts as a quick peek through social media can quickly turn into a two-hour doom scroll session.



The more time we spend on our devices, the less time we spend outside doing other activities. Technology is a constant source of distraction, and our electronic devices have almost every answer in the world to any question we ask.

This makes it difficult to even hold a regular conversation. The constant flow of information is overwhelming, and it is doubtful that technology will slow down anytime soon. While technology can be a useful and efficient tool, its potential harms cannot be overlooked.

It's time to speak up and power down. Here's a challenge: Set aside some time away from your smartphone. Take a walk on campus, engage in conversations with people around you, partake in a favorite activity, or simply go outside and appreciate life.

Cherish every moment, and don't forget the importance of genuine human connection in our increasingly digital world.

Photos by Autumn Jones.



# Tornado season ends with a bang for Brevard College!

DeVon Taylor  
Staff Writer

Using a combination of rushing and receiving touchdowns, field goals, a pick-six, and a career-high performance by graduate running back Chancellor Lee-Parker, the Brevard College football team (6-3) closed its 2024 campaign with a decisive 45-21 victory over Kentucky Christian University (2-9) on Saturday afternoon at KCU Stadium in Grayson, Kentucky.

Brevard's 2024 season concludes with six victories, marking the program's first six-win season since 2021. Saturday's 45-point effort represents the fifth time the Tornados have scored 40 or more points this season, and BC's 2024 win percentage is the fourth-best in program history.

Lee-Parker, playing in his final collegiate game, amassed a career-high 208 yards on 28 carries, scoring his ninth and 10th rushing touchdowns of the 2024 season. Lee-Parker's 208-yard performance is only the fifth 200-plus yard individual effort in program history and ranks second in single-game DIII history, trailing only Mitchell Yoder's 220-yard mark set on October 30, 2021, at Methodist.

Lee-Parker's illustrious Tornado career concludes with 2,215 rushing yards and 23 rushing touchdowns, both of which are far and away tops for a BC running back since the program transitioned to NCAA DIII.

Overall in program history, Lee-Parker trails only Kelvin Jeter (3,358 yards, 2010-14) and Jordan Ollis (2,568 yards, 2012-14) in yards, and ranks second only to Ollis (34 touchdowns) in all-time rushing TDs.

Graduate wide receiver Zackary Orr capped off his stellar five-year Tornado career on Saturday, recording six catches for 79 yards and a touchdown, bringing his 2024 totals to 837 yards and 10 touchdowns - marks that rank second in program single-season history. The BC all-time record holder for receptions (123) and receiving yards (1,893), Orr finishes

his career second in receiving touchdowns with 19.

Junior quarterback Ethan Beamish threw two touchdown passes to Orr and Joseph Cuellar (17-yard TD), while Hugo Taylor kicked two field goals and five extra points in his final collegiate contest. Former USA South Conference Defensive Rookie of the Week Brandon Broughton notched his first collegiate interception, while Dre Burton - playing in his first varsity contest for the Tornados after being a member of the Futures program this season - picked off a pass and returned it 40 yards for a touchdown.

Robert Dorsey ended his 2024 season with six tackles and three-and-a-half quarterback sacks, bringing his season total to a conference-leading 11.5. Jags Ferguson, Nikolas Shultis, and Ernest Smith II each recorded solo sacks, with Trey Williams teaming up with Dorsey on a QB stop in his final collegiate contest. Kentrayle Holloway led all Tornados with nine total tackles, and Shultis forced a Knight fumble.

After a scoreless first quarter, Taylor drilled a 20-yard field goal to give the Tornados a 3-0 lead. Lee-Parker then scored his first of two touchdowns on the next drive, punching the ball in from five yards out as BC extended its lead to 10-0. Following KCU's fumble recovery TD that cut the Tornado lead to three, Orr caught a 66-yard touchdown pass from Beamish, putting the Tornados back up by 10 at halftime.

Lee-Parker opened the second half with a 27-yard touchdown run, extending the Tornado lead to 24-7. Cuellar then caught his third touchdown of the season, as Beamish connected with the second-year Tornado for a 17-yard score. Taylor's second field goal of the day, a 41-yarder, gave Brevard a commanding 34-7 advantage heading into the fourth quarter.

Despite the Knights outscoring the Tornados 18-7 in the final period, the effort proved too little too late as Burton's pick-six sealed BC's 45-21 triumph.

# College football playoff picture

## Boise State nears a first-round bye in new 12-game structure

James Laycock  
Staff Writer

Boise State surpassed BYU in the third College Football Playoff (CFP) selection committee rankings on Tuesday night, positioning the Broncos for a potential first-round bye ahead of the Big 12 champion.

The top five teams remained unchanged with No. 1 Oregon leading, followed by No. 2 Ohio State, No. 3 Texas, No. 4 Penn State, and No. 5 Indiana. The most significant shift occurred when BYU dropped eight spots from No. 6 to No. 14 following a 17-13 loss to Kansas, ending their unbeaten season. Boise State (9-1) now sits at No. 12, just ahead of the Cougars.

Under the current rankings, Oregon (Big Ten), Texas (SEC), Miami (ACC), and Boise State

(Mountain West) would be the four highest-rated conference champions, securing first-round byes in the 12-team playoff. BYU (Big 12) would enter the playoffs as the fifth-highest-rated conference champion, claiming the No. 12 seed and competing in the first round.

Boise State holds a better loss record than BYU, having fallen on the road to No. 1 Oregon as the Ducks kicked a game-winning field goal at the buzzer. In contrast, BYU suffered a home defeat against 4-6 Kansas. BYU managed a miraculous comeback victory over Utah the previous week. Notably, the Cougars have yet to face any Big 12 teams ranked in the current Top 25, although they are set to play at No. 21 Arizona State on Saturday.

BYU's most impressive win came against SMU, a team with an identical 9-1 record.

Despite the head-to-head victory, BYU sits one spot behind No. 13 SMU, keeping them just outside the playoff picture.

Notre Dame (No. 6), Alabama (No. 7), Miami (No. 8), Ole Miss (No. 9), and Georgia (No. 10) complete the Top 10. First-round matchups would consist of No. 12 BYU at No. 5 Ohio State, No. 11 Georgia at No. 6 Penn State, No. 10 Ole Miss at No. 7 Indiana, and No. 9 Alabama at No. 8 Notre Dame.

Following their 31-17 loss to the Bulldogs, Tennessee fell four spots to No. 11, leaving them as the first team out of the 12-team playoff. With Alabama, Georgia, Ole Miss, and Tennessee all holding 8-2 records and various head-to-head victories over one another, the competition for playoff spots remains fierce.



Above: BC cycling team members pose with their medals at USA Cycling's Collegiate Mountain Bike Championships in Arkansas last weekend. In all, Brevard riders won six individual championships and the team relay national championship and ended with 17 podium finishes, including second in the overall team omnium.

Top right: BC cyclists Owen Clark and Kiara Lylyk are interviewed by WLOS-TV sports anchor Marvin Parker for a news segment about their success at the national championships in Arkansas last weekend. The segment aired on local TV yesterday and is [now online](#).

Right: Matthew Leliveld rides to a national title in the men's varsity downhill in Arkansas.

## 2024 USA Cycling Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championships

Brevard College results – Nov. 14-17, Coler Mountain Bike Preserve, Bentonville, Arkansas

Note: BC podium finishes are in **BOLD**

### Varsity Team Omnium (All-Around Team)

1. Colorado Mesa University, 674 points – NATIONAL CHAMPION
- 2. Brevard College, 664 points**
3. Fort Lewis College, 592 points
4. Marian University, 549 points
5. Lees-McRae College, 477 points

### Team Relay

- 1. Brevard College (Owen Clark, Cole Punchard, Kiara Lylyk, Nicole Bradbury) – NATIONAL CHAMPION**
2. Colorado Mesa Univ.
3. Fort Collins College

### Brevard College cyclists' results in Individual Events

#### Men's Varsity Individual Omnium

(Top All-Around Rider)

- 1. Cole Punchard – NATIONAL CHAMPION**
- 3. Owen Clark**
- 5. Matthew Leliveld**

#### Women's Varsity Individual Omnium

(Top All-Around Rider)

- 1. Kiara Lylyk – NATIONAL CHAMPION**
- 2. Nicole Bradbury**
6. Madeleine Pollock
7. Mya Dixon

#### Men's Varsity Cross Country

- 1. Owen Clark – NATIONAL CHAMPION**
- 2. Cole Punchard**
22. Ned Broersma
23. Matthew Leliveld
31. Kevin Vereecke
35. Cade Pummil
36. Kyle McDonald
43. Dylan Richardson

#### Women's Varsity Cross Country

- 1. Kiara Lylyk – NATIONAL CHAMPION**
6. Nicole Bradbury
8. Ayana Gagne
14. Madeleine Pollock
19. Mya Dixon
35. Breanna Goff

#### Men's Varsity Short Track Cross Country

- 1. Owen Clark – NATIONAL CHAMPION**
- 2. Cole Punchard**
17. Ned Broersma
23. Cade Pummil
27. Matthew Leliveld
36. Kyle McDonald

#### Women's Varsity Short Track Cross Country

- 3. Kiara Lylyk**
9. Nicole Bradbury
12. Ayana Gagne
18. Madeleine Pollock
32. Mya Dixon
34. Breanna Goff

#### Men's Varsity Downhill

- 1. Matthew Leliveld – NATIONAL CHAMPION**
- 3. Cole Punchard**
6. Matt Mitchko
9. Watt Hackney
24. Gunnar Ensign
49. Owen Clark

#### Women's Varsity Downhill

- 4. Olivia Hyde**
8. Madeleine Pollock
9. Kiara Lylyk
13. Mya Dixon
22. Nicole Bradbury

#### Men's Varsity Dual Slalom

8. Matthew Leliveld
9. Cole Punchard
12. Matt Mitchko
18. Watt Hackney
30. Owen Clark
32. Gunnar Ensign

#### Women's Varsity Dual Slalom

- 4. Nicole Bradbury**
16. Kiara Lylyk
18. Olivia Hyde
20. Kelly Lawson
21. Madeleine Pollock
26. Mya Dixon