

Freshman year tips

How to get the most out of your first year at Brevard College

By Matt Lynch
Staff Writer

College will most likely be the first time in most students' life that they are independent and can make their own decisions. Incoming freshmen start college with a clean slate and the decisions and actions you take play a huge role in your college social and academic experience.

As much as a college student may enjoy that freedom, here are some tips from some fellow classmates and alumni here at Brevard College to help incoming freshmen find success in their college experience.

Go to Class

Although skipping class and sleeping in sounds so much better than going to an 8 a.m. on a Wednesday, attendance plays a huge role in a student's grade here at Brevard College. "Freshman year is fun, but don't forget about class and doing assignments; getting an education is the whole reason you're in college in the first place," Brevard College alumnus Drake Black said.

Get involved around campus

One of the biggest problems new students face is becoming "homesick." Consider joining

a group or a club around campus. If you are on a sports team, get to know the upperclassmen. You'll feel more connected to the school and even make new friends along the way.

"Don't stress about the whole college thing—yes, there is a lot more work and studying compared to high school, but you also have more free time in college to get your work done," says Brandon Whitfield, a sophomore at Brevard College. "Be safe, do your homework and live a little. Time flies faster than you think."

Know course requirements and important dates

Meet with your advisor and get familiar with the requirements freshman need at Brevard College. You don't want to be taking classes that don't meet a freshman's requirements; then you are just wasting your time. Knowing due dates will help you out a lot—it helps you stay on track of assignments and you'll see a huge difference in your academic performance.

Have Fun

Most importantly, have fun! Jake Christian, a Brevard college alumnus said, "You only have four years and they go by pretty fast, so go to class and have fun."



Photo by Thomas Kennedy

Freshmen pose in front of the J.A. Jones Library during this year's CREEK Week festivities.

Trail Review

Bracken Mountain Preserve Trail

By Jeni Welch
Editor in Chief

Bracken Mountain Preserve Trail is located near the Brevard Music Center and is open to both mountain bikers and hikers. The moderately difficult trail head leads hikers through the Bracken Preserve and into Pisgah National Forest, specifically only seven miles shy of the Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education, also known as the fish hatchery.

The Bracken Mountain Trail is 4.20 miles one way but using the other two trails, Brushy Creek and Mackey Ridge, allows an option to loop around and explore the Brushy Creek waterfalls and learn more about the Preserve property from the educational signs posted along the trail.

The connecting of the trails makes the round trip hike close to five miles. The beginning of the

See 'Trail Review' on page 6

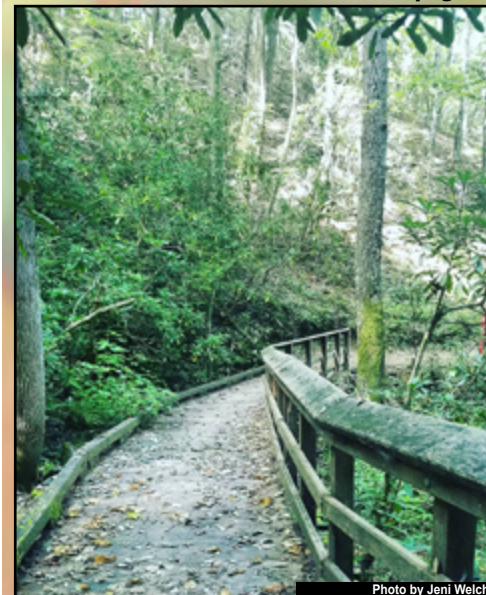


Photo by Jeni Welch

The loop combining the Bracken Mountain trail and the Brushy Creek trail offers running water of the Renzulli Falls and the Brushy Creek Watershed.

Emotional Support Animals on the rise

How students, faculty are coping with changing times

By Mary Lewe
Copy Editor

Since 2013, the presence of animals on college campuses has been increasing. “The growth has been rapid, on our campus anyway, for the request and approval for ESA’s,” Dean of Students Debbie D’Anna said. “Because it’s happened so quickly we’ve had to figure things out quickly.”

The transition has been tough to manage particularly due to the number and variety of animals which can be considered ESA’s. “Some of the challenges are the types of ESA’s that are on campus, the number that are on campus, and then figuring out how do we balance that with other students’ needs,” D’Anna said. “We’ve had a variety of requests — not just dogs or cats.”

While dogs are the most common type of ESA, any animal that “provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person’s disability” can be an ESA, Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity John Trasviña wrote in a 2013 notice from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“It’s very confusing because there’s different laws that cover things about animals,” Director of Student Accessibility and Disability Services at Brevard College Kathy Koontz said. “One is the ADA, Americans with Disabilities Act.

“The Americans with Disabilities Act is about service animals - and that means service dogs. In rare instances there are miniature horses that could be approved as a service animal, but honestly I have never seen one, never met one. They are totally impractical for indoor purposes,” Koontz said.

“The emotional assistance animal is not delegated just to be a dog, it can be any kind of animal that can be safe in the residential environment and does not cause a disruption to the residential environment,” Koontz said.

But of course it isn’t horses that are now populating BC’s campus. The increase in dogs on what is not a pet friendly campus has created issues for some. “Probably the most negative issue that we have to deal with is people not picking up after their pets, and that’s very frustrating for other students and faculty and staff,” D’Anna said.

The other big issue for the campus is managing the needs of every student — including those without animals on campus. “We always have students with different types of allergies or fear of different animals as well,” D’Anna said. The responsibility of managing each student’s

needs falls on the housing staff, Kathy Koontz and Associate Dean of Students Michael Cohen.

“You’ve got to make sure that your people with allergies and people who just hate animals and don’t want to be near one are not placed in close proximity to people who have animals,” Koontz said.

“The process that we have in place tries to approach it [handling the needs of non-animal lovers] in a proactive way instead of a reactive manner, but sometimes it just falls through the cracks,” D’Anna said.

Planning this is not an easy or simple task. The school or the manager of any other dwelling has up to 60 days to make arrangements for someone who has proper documentation for their animal. But it’s been a lengthy process for some who have tried to have animals approved.

“I want people to sign the guidelines before they ever bring an animal onto campus,” Koontz said.

“They need time, and we need time,” Koontz said. Students need to begin the process early in order to give the school time to accommodate the request. Koontz is planning to change some of the school’s guidelines in order to make this possible. Currently the process is not published online. “Legally you really need your policies online and transparent to people,” Koontz said.

Koontz hopes that having the information more accessible will help clear up questions for people ahead of time so that the whole process is smoother for everyone involved. “Our most important task is making sure that someone who comes and asks me about it knows up front what the guidelines are and can answer yes or no to whether or not they can meet those guidelines,” Koontz.

The two questions anyone trying to have an ESA needs to be able to answer “yes” to according to the law are: (1) “Does the person seeking to use and live with the animal have a disability- i.e., a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities?” and (2) “Does the person making the request have a disability-related need for an assistance animal? In other words, does the animal work, provide assistance, perform tasks or services for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provide emotional support that alleviates one or more of the identified symptoms or effects of a person’s existing disability?”

In addition, the school is legally allowed to ask for proof of the disability as long as it is not something clearly visible and identifiable.

See ‘Emotional Support Animals’ on page 8



Photo courtesy of anonymous BC student
Seven-month-old puppy MiLo loves to play in King’s Creek with his owner, who benefits greatly from his presence. Guidelines for ESA’s on Brevard College’s campus will soon require that animals be at least six months of age before moving into residence halls so that they can be spayed/neutered ahead of time.

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Brevard Faculty**Hernan Biava***International professor's first year in review*

By Zach Dickerson

Campus News Editor

Chemistry Instructor Hernan "Ernie" Biava, an international professor from Argentina, successfully finished his first year of teaching at Brevard College in the 2017-2018 academic year.

Biava's interest in studying chemistry started at a young age. "My first 'lab' was on my grandparents' farm," Biava said. "They came from Italian and bought a farm and I was just fascinated by plants and rocks and I was wondering 'What are things made of?' and 'How do things work?' and that got me into this mentality of wanting to know the nature of life in detail. Just trying to know how our physical world works."

"I originally started teaching General Chemistry in Argentina and I worked there for about eight or nine years," Biava said. "Working on my PhD I had a chance to go to France and I was there for a little over a year and was mainly just doing research there and not really teaching."

"After my getting PhD I went to Germany," Biava said, "where I taught more Organic Chemistry and was doing a combination of research, supervising undergraduate students in labs, and some online teaching as well and I lived in Germany for a little less than seven years."

"I was always doing more research than teaching, but I always felt that my passion was more teaching than research," Biava said.

"One thing that I can say about the city of Brevard is that I love it," Biava said. "I came here for a visit around two years ago and I thought it was such a cool town and that one day I would like to live there and now that I do I love it."

"It's a small town, so, it has many of the benefits of that, but it is also a very dynamic town," Biava said. "Which mean that there are a lot of activities and events that are interesting to me that I couldn't find in a place like Germany or a big city."

"We also have all this nature around us," Biava said, "and I really enjoy hiking and biking and trying to learn more about the different species that live here and I'm just really fascinated."

"For me teaching at Brevard College was like finding home somehow," Biava said, "because one of the things that I complained about were how the scientific systems were very competitive and I felt the scientists were

**Hernan "Ernie" Biava**

lacking some sort of more integrated human perception of their job and what they do. When I heard about the liberal arts here I fell in love with that model and I thought that the fact that you're not just educating the professional but also the human being, and I think that's what education should be, not just preparing yourself for a job, but also preparing you to be a citizen that can do something good for the world."

Biava has also begun teaching a First Year Experience (FYE) class this year as well. "It's different from everything that I have taught in the past," Biava said, "but as a scientist I have always been involved in other activities besides being a scientist, so, one of the things I have done in the past was doing courses in life coaching so now I have the opportunity to bring some of those skills into my academic job and I'm really excited and curious at the same time to see how things are going to be at the end of the semester."

"Brevard is a small school and I hope the students can realize how wonderful it is to be so close to faculty and the sense of community," Biava said. "Because in other places that doesn't exist, you're just a number and you're trying to adapt yourself to your college and also the same time there is no one there to help you and the fact is that here we are a community and everybody wants to help everybody else and I hope they can take advantage of that opportunity because I didn't have it."

Important updates from Campus Security

Suspicious individuals spotted Tuesday

By Zach Dickerson

Campus News Editor

On Tuesday, Sept. 4, Brevard College Campus Security sent out two separate emails to the campus in order to notify them of two suspicious individuals that Brevard College needs to be aware of.

The first email was sent out at around noon and dealt with an individual named Sean Cooper.

Cooper has a No Trespass Letter issued against him that says that he is restricted from Brevard College property by Campus Security and the Brevard Police Department. It was reported by a female student that he was following her and making her feel very uncomfortable. He is not affiliated with the college in any way, he is not considered dangerous and it is believed that he will not return to the campus.

Cooper is a white male with short facial hair. He drives a blue Chrysler minivan with a New York license plate. His vehicle has several stickers on the back and a large dent on the right side of his tailgate.

If anyone should observe Cooper or his vehicle, please contact Campus Security immediately so the police can be notified and can charge him with "trespass after being forbidden."

The second email came at close to 5 p.m. and dealt with an unknown individual.

A female student reported on Tuesday morning that an unknown white male, possibly in his 40's, heavy build, thin short blond or red hair and short facial hair. He was driving a white pickup truck with a license plate (possibly from North Carolina).

The individual stopped on the roadway as the female student was walking between Myers Dining Hall and Beam Residence Hall and called out to her, "It looks like a heavy bag you're carrying" before driving off.

If you observe anyone on campus fitting these descriptions, please immediately contact Campus Security at (828)-577-9590.

Dog poop and stigma

How lying to get your pet on campus is damaging

By Mary Lewe
Copy Editor

It is common knowledge that there are many dogs living on the Brevard College campus this year, and the number is continuing to rise as more students inquire about the pets or are beginning the process of bringing an Emotional Support Animal approved.

While many students and faculty are happy to see so many sweet animals on campus, primarily dogs, there are some who worry about whether or not students are truly equipped to manage caring for an animal in addition to the hustle and bustle of college life.

Not only is it possible, in most cases students do an excellent job taking care of their animals. But according to Director of Student Accessibility and Disability Services Kathy Koontz, there are some who are getting in over their head, and that makes things difficult for everyone else.

“That’s [students not taking good care of their animals] been rare, that might be 10 percent of people - which is still significant - 90 percent of people who are approved do a good job of taking care of their animal,” Koontz said.

But she’s right, 10 percent is significant, and it’s contributing to stigma on campus, and could set BC back from moving forward in ways that could make life easier for animal lovers with and without diagnosable issues.

When people walk around campus and see dog poop on the ground, it sends the message that someone has a dog who isn’t willing to go through the proper steps to follow simple guidelines that allow him/her to have that animal. It also shows a lack of respect for the beautiful green spaces we have, as well as lack of respect for fellow residents and visitors to campus.

It’s not surprising then that some people might lose a bit of respect for people with animals on campus when they see this laziness and littering, and that attitude doesn’t just affect the 10 percent who aren’t putting in the effort — it affects all 100 percent of dog owners on campus. In order to get respect, you have to give it.

Another issue some people have is accepting that some people truly get relief from symptoms of a diagnosable emotional disorder by caring for and spending time with an animal. Stigma toward people dealing with mental illness is not new, and although society has improved in many ways, those attitudes are still alive and well.

That stigma is compounded when people lie in order to get their pet approved to be on campus. It creates doubt in the minds of those who, if not for knowledge or suspicion of deception, may have simply gone about their day without

passing undue judgement onto ESA owners.

It can be tough to see someone else enjoy a privilege you yourself are not entitled to, and on a campus that is not pet friendly yet is home to many pets, that can become a bigger issue. But there are other ways to handle pet envy without lying about your needs and undermining the credibility of an already vulnerable population.

Dean of Students Debbie D’Anna has expressed that transitioning to becoming a pet friendly campus could be in BC’s future. Already many colleges across the country are choosing to take that route, usually designating specific dorms as “pet friendly” or “no pets allowed,” and that could be a major draw for some prospective students.

According to D’Anna, when families come to visit Brevard and see so many animals on campus, the assumption is that we are already a pet friendly campus. Lees McRae College has been pet friendly for seven years now, and Pfeiffer University became pet friendly at the beginning of 2018. But there are some guidelines and restrictions in place in order to keep all students, including those who dislike or are afraid of animals or who have allergies, comfortable.

“We just have to make sure that we have everything in line to be able to support that,” D’Anna said. “And right now we’re not certain that we can support being pet friendly. But as the numbers increase, I think it makes sense to move [in] that direction.”

So, becoming a pet friendly campus could help alleviate some of the pressure some ESA owners are feeling and help remove the incentive to lie about documentation, but it could increase some of the bad behaviors already being seen on campus.

Overall, both animal lovers and those who want space from animals can create a campus that suits everyone’s needs, but only by being respectful of each other and the campus, and tolerant of the inner differences we all experience. It seems so easy to forget, but just because someone looks like they’re okay, there can be a great deal of turmoil inside them that they carry. And they often carry it alone.

If you have ideas about how Brevard College could move in a pet friendly direction while still respecting the needs of other students, please reach out to Dean of Students Debbie D’Anna and share your opinion. And, whatever you do, respect the needs of your fellow students, the administration and, especially, the needs of the animals themselves, who have no voice at all in the matter.

Is it too late to fix N.C.’s gerrymandered districts?

Election year politics in the Tar Heel State

By Julie Carter
Staff writer

A three-judge panel for U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina ruled that N.C. Republicans illegally drew up U.S. congressional districts to help their own party, indicating that new lines must be drawn before November’s midterm election.

There is one major flaw in this proposition: It is almost impossible.

One of the judges on the panel, James A. Wynn Jr., stated that the court was leaning against allowing the North Carolina legislature another chance to redraw district lines. Wynn instead proposed appointing a special master to draw new districts.

Early voting for the midterm elections in North Carolina begins on October 17 and ends on November 3. This gives the special master 37 business days to create a new, unbiased congressional map for North Carolina.

Judge Wynn also proposed holding the primaries on Election Day, November 6, and having the final election held sometime between then and when Congress meets in January. The original primaries that were held in May would be thrown out as they were decided in unconstitutional districts.

This would cut typical campaign time in half.

The plaintiffs in the case against the gerrymandered map “reluctantly concluded” that the prospect of redrawing the map by November was impractical. The lawyers for the plaintiffs stated in a brief filed with the court, “attempting to impose a new districting plan in time for the 2018 election would be too disruptive and potentially counterproductive.”

This leaves many questions for North Carolina voters. What comes next? Will predominantly liberal cities like neighboring Asheville be forced to vote in districts deemed unconstitutional?

The decision will most likely be handed over to the Supreme Court. However, the midterm elections can heavily sway the Supreme Court as Justice Anthony Kennedy, the swing vote in many cases, recently retired.

Due to these intricate workings, it is uncertain just how North Carolina will get out of this gerrymandered mess.

Club Fair

Busy students make time for fun activities, encouraging others

By Kenny Cheek
Staff Writer

Brevard College offers many things for students to do around campus: open mic nights on Sundays, different competitions, plenty of diverse classes, and even a variety of clubs to join. On August 29, different varieties of clubs met to attempt to coax shy or indifferent students to have a taste of something new.

The different clubs that meet all around campus have a wide choice of things for students to do; Bio Club, Diversity Pride, Business Club, BC Serves, Paddling and Outing Clubs, the Fine Arts Club, Fly Fishing Club, Young Life, Agriculture Club, DWBC (Diverse Women of BC), and Canterbury Club were all available for sign-up during the fair.

However, from the abundant amount of work offered from classes, jobs or work study, and sports available for students, what is the point of joining a club? Many different club members shared their reasons for participating despite being busy students.

"It offers lots of opportunities," Lilyan Lund of the Diversity Pride Club said. "We've helped with pride festivals and even drag shows."

"Interacting with other students you share common interest with and coming together," Mckayla Robinette stated when asked what she thought was the use of joining the Agriculture Club.

Different tables, such as the Paddling Club and the Diverse Women of Brevard College, all seemed to share a common goal: getting people involved in their interests or even making new hobbies all while hanging out with like-minded individuals. Another big factor for many of the clubs was getting out and simply enjoying life and nature.

The Diversity Pride Club plans to hold more Pride Festivals in the spring, and the Paddling Club plans to go on a river clean up on Sep. 8. Many other tables have interesting events planned for their corresponding clubs, and are still looking for new members.

For those with full schedules, "Clubs are like stress relievers," Ben Mooney said. For others like Latessianna Byrd who have time to fill, "It's something to do with people like you," Byrd said.

The best part about all of the clubs is that anybody can join, even if you have no experience or tools available for the adventures that lie ahead. Many clubs meet once a week, or even once a month.

All in all, clubs are not just another hectic thing to add to your busy schedule; they are fun things that can help you to settle in more to the community and to open up to people just like you.



Photo by Kenny Cheek

Students share information about each of Brevard College's clubs and recruit new members at Wednesday's Club Fair outside of Meyers Dining Hall.

Album Review

'The Pounding System' by Dub Syndicate

By Thomas Wilkins
Staff Writer

Dub is an instrumental form of reggae that usually appears on the B-sides of reggae records, where a producer would typically take an existing track and strip the vocals.

Then they would use the mixing board to create a whole new song, or "riddim," spicing it up with heapings of reverb, delay, and in some cases a few licks of keyboard, horns or a melodica.

The man behind the boards on The Pounding System is Adrian Sherwood. Sherwood, a London based producer, created his own label On-U sound which brings its own sounds to dub.

The two main acts of On-U records, Creation Rebel and African Head Charge, perform the instruments. Adrian Sherwood much more wizard than producer casts spells of effects, creating spacious tracks that ooze a serious, giddy, excitement.

This record, unlike traditional jamaican dub, really brings the horns and the keyboards up front and center. Even the drums are more hard hitting, filter with reverb to create an absolute earthquake of a sound.

Tight rhythms, soft bopping bass lines, reverb soaked guitar riffs, effect spliced melodies, and divine horns. All fill the album with warmth, and an uplifting spirit.

But don't be mistaken, those drums can really pack a mean punch, breaking up the mix, then soon dissolving as fast as the arrived.

Each track chatters with chirps, and effect laden melodies. This album feels like a space journey through an alien coastal paradise.

Whether you are a die hard punk, metal head, dubstep fanatic, or just a casual admirer of music, I promise you, you will not be disappointed if you put on The Pounding System. Released in 1982, this album sounds like it could be released today, and it would still jam!



Photo from uncarved.org

Adrian Sherwood

'Trail Review'

Continued from page 1

hike is the quickest gain of elevation. Constant switchbacks and a steady incline dominate the beginning of the trail until the Brushy Creek trail branches off.

According to an article in the Henderson Times, City Planner Daniel Cobb said, "from the parking lot up to the tip-top, it's 1,000 feet of elevation gain."

The Bracken trail has blue markers and the Brushy Creek trail is in red.

Go to the right and begin following the red markers of the Brushy Creek trail. The hike levels out and becomes much more laid back. The trail does not offer a grand overlook but is enclosed with foliage and educational markers.

The educational markers allow for the path to be even better followed. They add a new element into the hike that is not seen in DuPont State Forest or in Pisgah National Forest. On each marker is a different bit of information that pertains to the locations.

This information varies from the different wildlife found in the area to information about gold being found in the river.

One of the kiosks reads, "It was Laughing Water and Tom who first settled this mountainside sometime in the early 1860's."

The history and culture that is shared along the trail is a refreshing take on the other hikes in the area. Reading the information grants time for a small break and seems to slow down the speed

of the hike which can be completed quickly within 2.5 hours.

The best part about adding the Brushy Creek trail into the hike is the inclusion of the water that runs through the preserve. The path leads over the creek in four different places including Renzulli Falls and the Brushy Creek Watershed.

The Brushy Creek trail is 2.78 miles before connecting with the yellow markers of the Mackey Ridge trail. This trail is only 0.14 miles and is used as a connector path between the red and blue markers. Turn left onto Mackey Ridge and follow the path back onto Bracken Mountain trail.

The hike is relatively moderate apart from the initial beginning. If a longer hike is wanted, the Bracken Mountain trail to connect with Cat Gap Loop at the fish hatchery.

The blue markers will end at the connection of Forest Service road 475C. The path opens up from a single trail to the service road. There are seven more miles from that point to reach the fish hatchery.

The Bracken Mountain trail is relatively new to the area. The trailhead is only six years old, opening in 2012.

To get to Bracken Mountain Preserve Trail from Brevard College take N Broad St. and turn right onto Probart St. After 1 mile turn right onto Music Camp Rd for 0.3 miles and finally veer a slight left up Pinnacle Rd. At the top of the hill is a gravel parking area.



Photo by Jeni Welch

Sun shines through the trees on a meandering path.

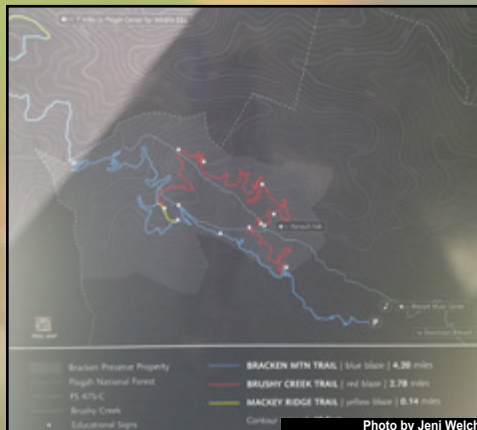


Photo by Jeni Welch

The well marked Bracken Mountain Preserve offers different trails for hikers and mountain bikers.



Photo by Jeni Welch

A small waterfall on the Bracken Mountain Preserve Trail.

THIS WEEK @ BC

Wednesday 9/5

Pool Tournament

7 p.m.

@ the Underground

Men's Soccer vs. Montreat

@ 7 p.m.

Thursday 9/6

Self Defense Class

Women 8 p.m.

Men 9 p.m.

@ Beam Lounge 2nd Floor

Friday 9/7

Volleyball vs. Meredith College

@ 2 p.m.

90's Night during Volleyball game vs. Emory & Henry - wear your best 90's costume!

@ 6 p.m.

Faculty Art Exhibition Opening Reception

5:30 p.m.

@ Sims Art Center

Saturday 9/8

Women's Soccer vs. Meredith College

@ 1 p.m.

Sunday 9/9

Open Mic Night

8 p.m.

@ the Underground

THE BREVARD COLLEGE ART DEPARTMENT

Invites you to the opening of the
BC Art Faculty Group Show

In the Spiers
Art Gallery

On display
Sept. 7-28

LORI PARK	Takahiro Suzuki	Kristen Necessary
	Vincent Warren	
AARON ALDERMAN		
BILL BYERS	Ken McLeskey	
	Jo Pumphrey	

Submissions Wanted

The Chiaroscuro is accepting submissions for the 2018-2019 literary journal!

And we want YOU to be a part of it!

To submit please contact:
Short Stories:
 hagase@brevard.edu & sentelgs@brevard.edu

Photography/Visual Art:
 dickerz@brevard.edu

Poetry:
 henleyak@brevard.edu & booneca@brevard.edu

Questions or Concerns?
 contact: hagase@brevard.edu



Horoscopes

by Mary Lewe

Virgo Thursday will bring a good dose of creativity to your life. You may have another chance with a missed connection. Or, you might connect with a therapist.	Libra With Venus in Libra, you may be wearing your heart on your sleeve lately. Things aren't perfect, but calm will come to your relationships soon. Have a deep conversation one on one.	Scorpio You think you're being crystal clear until it's obvious you've been misunderstood. Take a step back, come up for air, and perhaps those near you will begin to understand you.	Sagittarius This is a good week to celebrate. You may have found yourself sacrificing a lot lately, but give yourself a break. Whether you go to the party of the year or just enjoy a fun time with one friend.
Capricorn Congratulations! You've been making progress, and it's about to get even better. You're always hard working, but not always so appreciated. Enjoy it, and maybe try to live a little.	Aquarius You should feel less confused beginning on Thursday. Romance could blossom on a trip or adventure - with someone new or maybe an old flame.	Pisces People have been expecting a lot from you lately, and maybe you're worried you haven't been living up to the expectations. Get ready for a respite, and cut yourself a little slack.	Aries If you haven't already ambitious Aries, try not to bite off more than you can chew. Mediocrity is not your strong suit, but it's also okay to just focus on what's most important to you.
Taurus The adventure you were hoping for that never happened could be revived on Thursday. Involve your best friend or significant other and don't let the opportunity pass you by again!	Gemini Let go of the past in order to move forward. Promises aren't your strong suit, but you've been overcommitting lately anyway. You resent your free time until you've given it all up.	Cancer It's time to get you groove back. Communication with your friends or significant other will become easier this week. Stay close to home this week, save your money, and get back to what you love.	Leo Thanks to Venus you will be focused on matters close to home for the rest of the year. You've gotten someone's attention finally, but you'll lose them if you let them down. Check up on your physical health.

UCI Mountain Bike World Championships



Courtesy photo via BC Communications

Carson Beckett (above) is one of three Brevard College students who will compete in the 2018 Mountain Bike World Championships September 5-9.

'Emotional Support Animals'

Continued from page 2

That being said, it is illegal for them to request medical records or extensive information pertaining to the specific disability. "You're not supposed to be getting a lot of detailed information about a person's disability, all you need is confirmation that there is a condition," Koontz said. "I have to evaluate the whole picture, and I also need [individuals] to look at the guidelines ahead of time and not it be something that they're signing when they show up with the animal. That's not going to happen anymore."

There are many guidelines that both students and the school must abide by according to both the ADA and the Fair Housing Act. For those disabilities that aren't readily identifiable, students need to provide documentation from a physician, psychiatrist, social worker, or other mental health profession who is familiar to the student.

Unfortunately, there are many people looking to profit from students who wish to receive this documentation. A quick Google search will fetch many results for websites which advertise quick and easy ESA letters for a fee. "Do not pay any money to any website. It is not necessary and will not help you," Koontz said.

It seems that most people with ESA's on campus have not fallen prey to these scams. Although Koontz has not yet approved every request this semester, so far students have been doing a good job with the process. "I've actually seen some tremendous documentation from students that absolutely is valid and fair, I haven't seen any fake letters," Koontz said. "The ones I've seen have been legit."

But not all requests can be approved, such as requests from students who are away from campus frequently. "You can't leave it overnight, you can't leave it locked up in the bathroom. That's not fair to the animal, that's not meeting the guidelines," Koontz said.

In addition to altering the school's guidelines regarding ESA's, the school seems to be moving in a more pet friendly direction. "We are definitely looking at ways to become pet friendly," D'Anna said. "I don't know the timeline for that, but we feel like that would help some of the issue if students had the opportunity to bring their pet at some point."

Pet friendly campuses have been popping up more and more. Lees McRae College in Banner Elk, NC has been pet friendly since 2011 and Pfeiffer University near Richfield, NC implemented a pet friendly policy in January 2017.

One issue with having so many animals living on campus occurs when prospective



Louie, a 5-year-old German Shepherd/Blue Heeler mix is an ESA at Brevard College. At his last visit, Louie's vet said that he is extremely healthy and that he only sees a dog in such great shape about every six months. His owner keeps him active by taking him hiking regularly and feeding him homemade dog food.

students and their families visit, "People come on campus and assume we're just a pet friendly campus," D'Anna said. This typically leads to parents and students inquiring about how to bring their pets with them to school.

While D'Anna herself has two dogs loves being around animals, she understands there is a lot to think about when it comes to the idea of making BC pet friendly. "The challenge for me in my role is I would love to be able to provide that opportunity for students, regardless of the reason why," D'Anna said.

"Because for me, my dogs are part of my family and I understand having to leave those pets behind when you go off to college and the stress that could put on someone," D'Anna said. "Not everyone is like that, and so to be able to provide them a space that is safe and comfortable for them is very important," she said.

"We just have to make sure that we have everything in line to be able to support that, and right now we're not certain that we can support being pet friendly," D'Anna said. "But as the numbers increase, I think it makes sense to move [in] that direction."

There are still many questions about what exactly a pet friendly Brevard College would look like. For example, whether or not having specific dorms that allow pets would meet the standards of the Fair Housing Act, since ESA's require that a dwelling waive its "no pets" policy.

"We want to be able to provide the best environment that we can for all of our students," D'Anna said, and to make that happen, she wants to get ideas not only from students who love animals, but those who don't as well. "We

would love to have input from students about how to make our campus more pet friendly," she said.

For now, however, only approved ESA's and service dogs are allowed to reside on campus, and even for students who have proper documentation, there are concerns for both students and their animals that have to be addressed.

Associate Dean of Campus Life and school counselor Dee Dasburg worries that students may be using ESA's as a crutch, missing out on opportunities for personal growth through the typical struggles of being a college student. "Is this actually taking away from students' ability to develop their emotional management skills?" Dasburg said she sometimes wonders.

Dasburg says the key is to also participate in consistent counseling and to make the ESA part of a therapeutic treatment plan. "Along with the support they're getting from their animal they're also getting to know themselves," Dasburg said.

That being said, she does believe ESA's can be helpful for certain students. "I understand that some people really do benefit from the companionship of an animal and that having an animal and caring for that animal can be very therapeutic," Dasburg said.

Although few students have ever asked her to write a letter, Dasburg does not focus on diagnosis in her therapeutic work and says that if someone did she would have to decline. "If someone is being treated for anxiety, it's never this idea that you're going to 'cure' the anxiety," she said.

See 'Emotional Support Animals' on page 9

'Emotional Support Animals'

Continued from page 9

Instead Dasburg tries to help students "make friends" with their anxiety, teaching them coping skills and encouraging them to discover more about themselves through the trials of college life. "It [anxiety] doesn't have to bully you or push you around," she said.

There are certainly students who do struggle with diagnosable issues, however. Meaning that the disorder is pervasive, affecting every area of the student's life, existing for longer than 6 months in most cases and interfering with a person's daily functioning.

"Claiming the need for an ESA when there's not an actual real, documented need - I feel like that takes away from the people who really do need that," Dasburg said. "Especially in a residence hall, I also get concerned about what's best for the animal."

Most students with ESA's are keenly aware of the needs of their companions, and part of the process of obtaining a letter of recommendation from a practitioner should focus on whether or not a person is capable of caring for the specific animal.

"We talked about what a big responsibility it is and all the right steps to take," one student said about talking to her counselor. "He goes for at least 3 walks a day," she said about her dog. "I like to get out and walk. Taking walks with her is very calming. When I'm doing homework, she'll make me take breaks."

"They're a big responsibility and not a toy. It's no joke," another said about caring for her dog.

Students are very aware of the frustration and stigma some hold toward animals on campus, and they have some of their own frustrations as well. "I've seen people in the past try to sneak animals on campus and still neglect them," one said.

One shared that the reason she initially got a dog was due to suicidal ideation during a long bout with chronic physical illness. She was given the choice of having a person sit with her all day and night, or getting a dog. She chose the dog and was not disappointed. She found the dog helped with her physical and emotional symptoms, "I had vertigo symptoms and she laid on me and kept me from getting out of bed," she said.

Another student shared about the benefits she gets from her non-dog ESA "I have PTSD so it helps with anxiety attacks, it helps with



Photo courtesy of anonymous BC student

While Service Animals are almost always dogs, an Emotional Support Animal can be many different types of animal. This cat lives on BC's campus along with other ESA's.

my nervousness. I'm really antsy and have a lot of anxiety for someone who's had so much therapy," she said. "He makes a consistent noise at night. Watching him breathe, letting him sleep on me."

That student also has an autism spectrum disorder and says that her ESA has helped her deal with a period of loneliness. "All last semester of my sophomore year I had no friends. I don't want to have a lonely semester like that again," she said. "I have so much to offer, I want to learn things, and it's hard to find people who will accept me."

Although awareness about mental health issues has been increasing among the general public, those who have those struggles are all too aware of persisting attitudes regarding them, and dealing with bullying and criticism can compound what is already a challenge. "At the end of the day, you're not in my body and you don't know what I need," one said.

"I think the one thing people need to understand is that an ESA is there to help with some issue a student is dealing with," D'Anna said. "For some people it can be stressful to have to explain."

D'Anna said that students, faculty and staff should be aware, tolerant and accepting and understand "that this is what some people really need to be successful in college."

Athletics in the community Social at Brevard Health & Racquet Club Raises Money for BC Tennis Teams

By Carmen Boone
Arts & Life Editor

On Saturday, Sept. 1 from 9-11 a.m., the BC tennis team held a social event at the tennis courts on campus. The event was to raise money for the team and to help the tennis players get to know people in the surrounding communities.

The event had 15 guests from not only Brevard but people from Connestee, the Brevard Health & Racquet Club, and several other areas near Brevard that came to play tennis with the students. The team had 16 members come including Coaches Evan Schreiner and Jimmy Wynn. Two of the full 18 members could not make it. The team and the guests added up to a total of 31 people enjoying friendly matches of tennis.

The event consisted mainly of four rounds of up the river, down the river mini-matches. Each round lasted about 20-30 minutes. How it worked was a team member paired up with someone from the community to play doubles against another pair. It was a very casual hit around and the weather made for a great couple of hours with lots of fun.

Not only did everyone play tennis but there were also snacks including pastries, a bundt cake, and some other breakfast foods to enjoy while socializing. Schreiner said of the event, "We use this opportunity to raise money for the tennis program and introduce the new tennis players to the community."

Overall everyone had a great time and made some great connections with one another at the event. The team gained a lot of new supporters while reuniting with the current ones as well. Schreiner said the social event raised over 1,700 dollars for the program to put towards uniforms, traveling costs, equipment and any other expenses the team might have.

Hughes drives home a pair of goals as Brevard storms past Guilford, 2-1

By BC Tornados

Greensboro, N.C. – The Brevard College Women’s Soccer team improved their record to 2-1 as they traveled to Greensboro to match up with the Guilford Quakers. The game entered into a lightning delay at the 11:15 mark, and the delay lasted around 30 minutes.

Ashley Hughes came out of the delay firing on all cylinders. She highlighted a strong outing for the Tornados, scoring her 2nd and 3rd goals of the season. These two goals marked Hughes’ first ever multi-goal game.

Hughes had a knack for finding the goal with her shots today. Out of her 6 shots taken, five found the goal, good enough for an 83% SOG mark.

Both goals were set up by Caroline David, as she has now reached 7 career assists. She is only one assist away from matching her single-season career high of three assists.

Rebecca Rojas started her third game of the regular season. Her record improves to 2-1-0 on the year and improving to an 11-6-1 mark on her career.



Photo from BCTornados.com

Ashley Hughes tallied the 9th career goal of her Brevard career by way of an early second-half strike. Hughes sent a pass from Caroline David sailing into the goal from 16 yards out, giving the Tornados some insurance to their lead.

BC on the move to help others!



Photo courtesy of BC Communications

Dick Pahle, Executive Director of the Philip L. Van Every Foundation, David C. Joyce, President of Brevard College and BC students Ryan Johnson, Zachary Lowden, Tim Coffey and Head Cycling Coach, Bradford Perley rode in the Tour de Saints to support Cooperative Christian Ministry (CCM) in Concord, NC.

CCM provides immediate assistance to members of Cabarrus and southern Rowan Counties. They serve those in the community who are experiencing crisis in the areas of Hunger Relief, Emergency Shelter, or Transitional Housing and Financial Assistance while engaging them in a series of actions that will empower them to move beyond the crisis.

Ping pong face off!



Photo by Christopher Phipps

The 2018 ping pong set off Thursday, August 30, at 8 P.M. There were three groups Beginner, mediocre, and experienced. The two finalists featured in this picture are Jason Jucker (left), coming from the mediocre group versus, the experienced Owen Campbell (right). The championship match was best of two out of three games to 25 points. Jucker comes up from the bottom of the mediocre group to beat the experienced Campbell in a close 3-2 to become the 2018 ping pong champion, winning a \$25 Starbucks gift card.