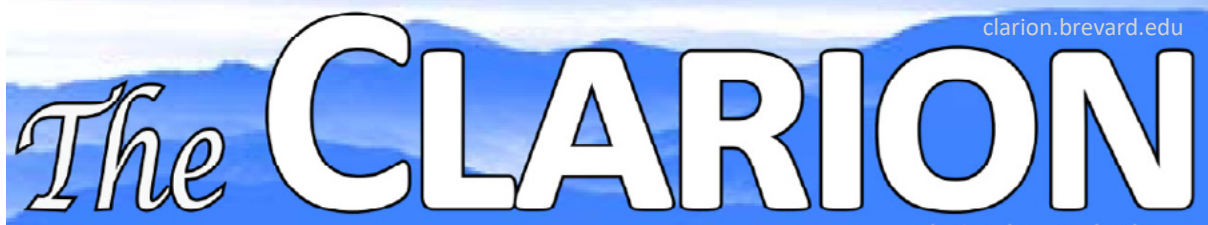


CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2020!



Volume 85, Issue 32

Web Edition

SERVING BREVARD COLLEGE SINCE 1935

May 21, 2020

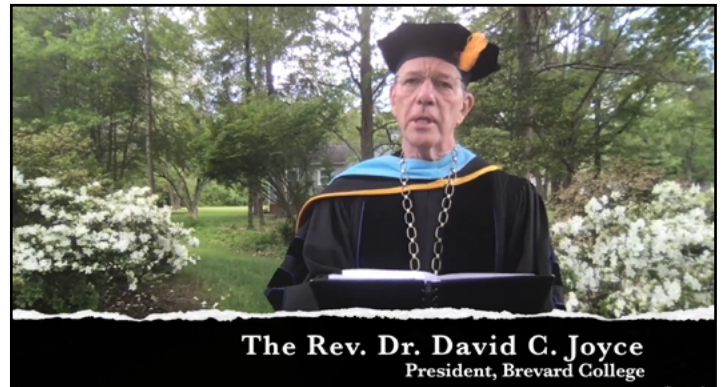
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Graduates' BC memories
Advice to other students
Photos!
Retiring faculty profiles

A tribute to BC seniors

You could not gather this month to be hooded at Baccalaureate by a faculty or staff member, pose on the steps of the library for a class photo, or line up next to Dunham to march through the bell tower for commencement, but nonetheless you were honored together in a special video tribute that premiered May 9, the day you would have walked across the stage in the Academic Quadrangle to receive your diploma.

That video, featuring your names, many of your photographs, and congratulatory messages from faculty, staff and college administrators, can be accessed online at www.facebook.com/LifeatBC/videos/566900587219864/.



The Rev. Dr. David C. Joyce
President, Brevard College

BC president David Joyce dressed in full regalia to "welcome" seniors to their virtual celebration video on May 9. An in-person ceremony has been scheduled for Sept. 19, 2020.



The Brevard College Class of 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic may have prevented graduates from assembling for a class photo for now, but in the meantime, here is a photo collage of the seniors honored in the tribute video on Facebook. Included in the video was one student who would have been among this year's graduates: Rakeem Sweezy (who can be seen at the far left on the next-to-last row). Sweezy died unexpectedly from a previously undiagnosed illness in December 2017 during his sophomore year. (Click the image to open a higher resolution JPEG of this photo collage.)



An aerial view of construction on the new BC athletics field house on the Brevard College campus. The new field house will include offices, classroom and meeting space, and locker room facilities for student-athletes in five team sports. It is scheduled to be completed in time for the fall 2020 semester. For a short video showing the construction of the facility, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMxBbOxtkHw.

Field house construction underway

The COVID-19 pandemic may have disrupted in-person gatherings on the Brevard College campus, but it is not slowing planned changes on campus, which includes construction for a new, state-of-the-art athletics field house.

The 10,375 square foot field house will provide locker room, offices, storage and meeting space for five Brevard College sports as well as classrooms and a laboratory for the college's Exercise Science program.

"The addition of our new field house is the latest example of the growth at Brevard College," BC President David C. Joyce said. "This new, state-of-the-art facility will be a major benefit for our student-athletes while also providing valuable classroom and meeting space. We are proud to offer this new resource to our exceptional student-athletes at Brevard College."

The BC football, baseball, softball, men's soccer and women's soccer teams will all have locker rooms in the new field house, which is conveniently located next to Ives-Lemel Family Field on campus. The field house is set to be complete by the start of the 2020 fall semester.

The building of the field house also corresponds with the start of an expansion of Ives-Lemel Family Field, which will allow for the Tornado football team to play games on the Brevard College campus.

"We are thrilled to be able to provide these major facility upgrades for Tornado student-athletes," director of athletics Myranda Nash said. "The addition of the field house is an important piece as we continue to build championship programs at Brevard College. Moreover, we are excited to start the expansion of Ives-Lemel Family Field and in turn bring the Tornado football program on campus."

In addition to the locker rooms, the field house will also house a football equipment room, an athletic training room and a laundry facility. Five offices for football coaches as well as offices for men's soccer, women's soccer and softball coaches are also part of the building's design. Additionally, there is ample space for team meetings and film sessions.

The classrooms and new exercise physiology laboratory will enhance the Exercise Science

program at Brevard College, providing students with an ideal location for experiential learning. The program provides engaging assignments, in-class activities, skills and knowledge in physiological testing both in a laboratory and field setting, as well as field experience and internships to ensure its majors have the knowledge and skills necessary for immediate employment following graduation.

Brevard College Exercise Science majors can choose a Bachelor of Arts (for future coaches, personal trainers and teachers) or a Bachelor of Science (for future physical and occupational therapists, athletic trainers, strength and conditioning coaches, researchers, and other exercise science professions). A minor in Coaching and a minor in Exercise Science are also available as part of Brevard College's Exercise Science program.

Plans for a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new field house and the expanded Ives-Lemel Family Field will be announced at a later date.

Goodbye Sakai, hello Canvas

BC to transition to new LMS software starting summer 2020

Sakai, Brevard College's learning management software for more than 10 years, is soon to be no more as the college switches to a different LMS, Canvas.

The decision was actually made before the rapid transition to online classes during spring break, but the experience of online classes—and the possibility of more online or hybrid classes this fall, depending on how the pandemic proceeds—makes all the more important the need for a reliable and robust learning management software.

To explain the switch to Canvas and what students and faculty should expect, The Clarion conducted an email interview with James Brooks, the campus educational technologist, who is taking the lead in the college's transition to Canvas.

When does BC's switch to Canvas begin?

The switch to Canvas has already begun. Faculty and staff are already using Canvas and they're crafting courses in Canvas right now. Students should have access within a few weeks if not sooner.

What do you see as the main benefits of BC's switch to Canvas?

Canvas is better than Sakai in many ways. First, Canvas helps organize classwork so it is easy for students to at a glance see exactly what needs to be done for all of their classes. It's

simple to navigate and easy to personalize. In addition, Canvas has an app that allows access to class from a mobile device.

What are some key ways that Canvas will help BC students, whether in online, hybrid, or face-to-face classes?

I think students are really going to love the calendar. All course assignments will be listed there so a quick glance can give you insights into what is due when. The calendar easily integrates with their personal calendar.

What factors led to the decision to drop Sakai in favor of Canvas?

Last November, we started with an analysis of exactly what we wanted out of an LMS (learning management tool). Then, we researched a large variety of LMS's and narrowed our options down to two. In February, faculty and the student government were invited to view demos of each LMS and vote on which they preferred. Canvas was the clear winner.

How is Canvas an improvement over Sakai?

Besides the streamlined student experience

and their app, Canvas has proven itself to be innovative. One place of innovation is their implementation of LTI tools. You can think of LTI tools as similar to apps for a phone. Anyone can create an LTI tool that can seamlessly be added to Canvas. So, Canvas is constantly becoming better.

With access to Sakai ending on June 30, what should BC students do if they want to save their submissions or graded work in their Sakai courses?

This is important. After June 30, faculty and students will no longer have access to Sakai. There is no way to bulk export student work, so if something exists within Sakai that a student wants to use in the future, they'll need to download it now.

What, if anything, should BC students do to prepare to use Canvas in the summer or fall?

Within the next few weeks, students are going to all receive an invitation to the "Passport to Canvas" course within Canvas. It'll show students how to set up the app, personalize their notifications, and use Canvas's tools.

If there is anything in Sakai you would like to save (e.g., graded exams or papers, Forums posts, and the like), you must do so BY JUNE 30. Sakai will not be accessible after June 30.

Update: Fall semester to start, finish early

BC will emulate other schools to finish before Thanksgiving with no fall break in hopes of avoiding COVID-19 outbreak or having to switch to online classes

Like many other colleges and universities, Brevard College is adjusting its fall semester academic calendar in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that has disrupted virtually every aspect of life around the world, including the rapid transition to online classes here after spring break.

As of right now, the college plans to have in-person classes this fall, but the semester will start and finish before Thanksgiving with no fall break in an attempt to end before the traditional start of cold and flu season in December.

Brevard College has been working with all the residential colleges and universities in the region to coordinate fall semester opening plans and provide recommended protocols to keep our students, faculty, staff,

and community safe during the pandemic. In addition, area colleges have been working with the Mountain Area Health and Education Center (MAHEC) to come up with a customized and comprehensive protocol in the next few weeks for implementation on each of our campuses.

Specific plans for the fall semester right now are as follows:

- Classes begin on Aug. 17, 2020 and end on Nov. 20, 2020.
- Fall Semester exams will begin on Nov. 21 and end by Nov. 25, 2020.
- Due to the condensed semester, there will be no fall break

Check-in days in August will also be staggered:

- Students will be notified over the summer as to their individualized check in date.

New students will be scheduled to move in between Aug. 9-12 and Returners will be scheduled between Aug. 13-16.

- Students need to limit their guests to two persons on check in date and time.
- Volunteers will assist students with moving into the residence halls.

Faculty and administration are looking at options for the starting and ending dates for the spring semester.

Plans are still being made for student-athletes for the coming school year. The USA South athletic conference is developing a plan for the 2020-2021 athletics schedule following the NCAA guidelines to minimize opportunities for exposure to the Novel Coronavirus.

BC literary and arts journal now available online

Chiaroscuro, the Brevard College literary and arts journal, has been published for the 2019-2020 academic year with more than 25 contributors of poetry, fiction, theatre, nonfiction and visual art.

The coronavirus pandemic disrupted plans to print and distribute copies this spring, but an ebook edition (in PDF format) is available online at bit.ly/chiaroscuro-2020e. Print copies have been ordered, and they will be distributed in the fall when we reconvene on campus.

The issue is the culmination of a year of work by Chiaroscuro staff under the leadership of editor Alexis Henley, a senior English major from Mount Holly, North Carolina. In addition to Henley, other staff graduating from BC this year include Carmen Boone, Zach Dickerson and Chance Holbrooks.

The issue is dedicated to Bret James Stewart, a Brevard College bookstore employee and BC alum (as well as a past contributor to Chiaroscuro) who died in February at the age of 46.

Published annually, Chiaroscuro has served as the student-run literary magazine at Brevard College at least since 1972, when this title—an art term meaning the treatment of light and shade to produce the illusion of depth—was first used for the campus magazine. An earlier magazine titled “Confetti” was produced in the 1960s and early ’70s.

Senior art work

The Spring 2020 issue of Chiaroscuro (front cover, right) features poetry, fiction, theatre, nonfiction, and full-color photographs and other visual art, including these pieces by graduating seniors. (Click the images to open the online edition.)

Below: “Brookgreen Gardens,” by Carmen Boone

Bottom, far left: “Enlightenment,” by Alexis Henley

Bottom, middle: “Mushroom Zombie,” by Caroline Vargas (theatrical make-up); 2nd place winner in the Halloween contest

Bottom, far right: “Ma’am, we are finished here,” by Grace Kelley (photography)



Senior Profile

Say goodbye to the Editor!

The Clarion's Zach Dickerson to graduate

By Carmen Boone
Copy Editor

Zach Dickerson is a senior at Brevard College. His major is integrated studies in communication and political science.

Dickerson is originally from Concord, North Carolina and has lived there all his life. His family is very important to him. His dad works customizing and repairing cars, and his mom works in banking and loans. His sister, three years older, works in sales.

Dickerson also has an Australian shepherd. She is a border collie mix that he's had since middle school. "I love her so very much," said Dickerson.

Dickerson first heard about Brevard when his sister's friend played soccer for the college. He looked a little more at Brevard College when a college fair came to his area. "I had already loved the region of Western North Carolina, but, when I came to tour the campus, I loved the environment and the look of it, how close it was to parks and forests and Asheville," said Dickerson. "I also loved the small size of the campus and classes and the ability to make closer and more meaningful connections to professors and others who worked on campus."

He also toured NC State University with his sister, where she went to school. He ultimately decided Brevard was the better choice for him. "I think the education that I got, the people I met, connections I made, and experiences I had were very much worth it and I don't think I would have been able to have it the same way if I went somewhere else," Dickerson said.

Some things that Dickerson enjoys are video games, drawing, photography, spending time with friends, hiking and just being out in nature. He is also a big fan of film, so he watches lots of television shows and movies.

Dickerson has been very involved on campus. He was part of BC Serves his freshman year. As a freshman, sophomore and junior he was in the Diversity Pride Club. Since sophomore year, he has served on the Chiaroscuro staff at least one semester each year.

He has been the most invested in the Clarion at Brevard. "I have been a part of the staff of the Clarion since my second semester of freshman year where I have served on the positions of staff writer, Campus News Editor, Managing Editor,

and now Editor in Chief," said Dickerson. He is very proud of his work for the newspaper.

There are several awards Dickerson has received over the years. He mentioned just a few he is most proud of. He gets an award every year for his service to the Clarion, which he loves. From Dr. Joshua Wilkey, he received an award in "Reacting to the Past" for the French Revolution.

He also got an award in a class that he helped start called "Banned Books," taught by Dr. John Padgett.

Some important influences on Dickerson that have been the biggest help to him are emeritus professor Dr. Ralph Hamlett and Dr. John Padgett. "Both of them really treated me, and other students, as people and more than just students and were a big help with getting (and staying) on track with academics and just talking about life in general," said Dickerson. "Hamlett and Padgett helped to introduce me to my love of all things communication and helping me grow in that field." They were a big help in putting

together and helping him complete his major.

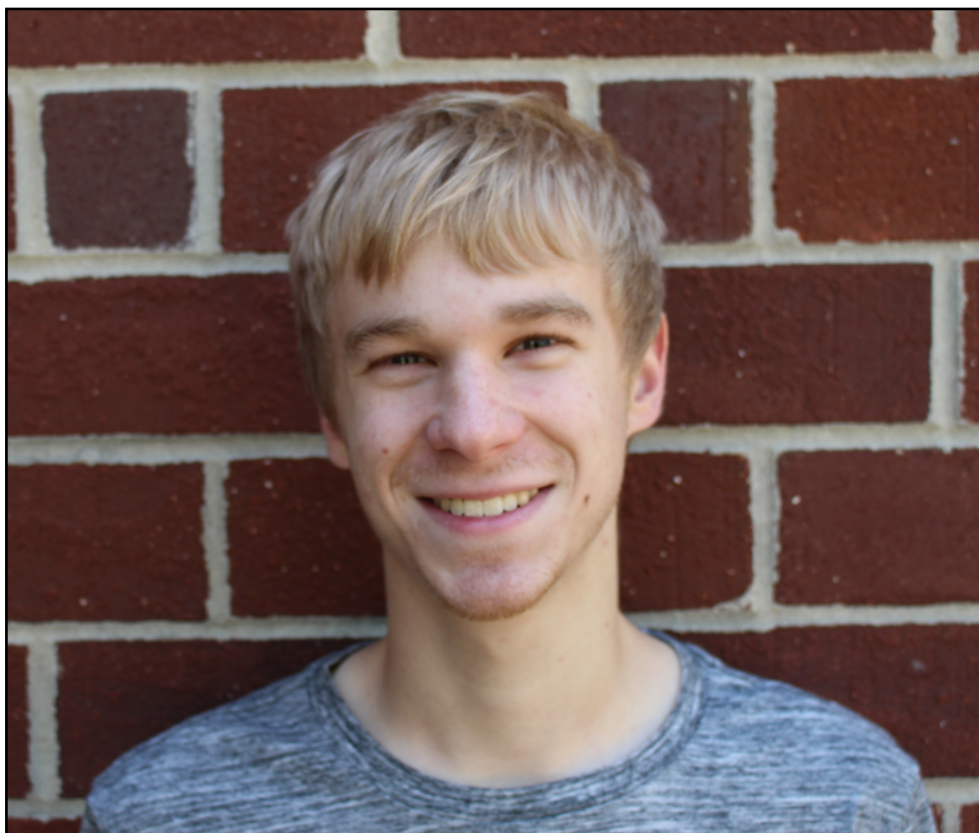
Dickerson worked with Hamlett every semester after his TA position in Hamlett's "Introduction to Communication" class second semester freshman year. He took almost every class that Hamlett offered until his retirement.

Padgett's classes had a big impact on him as well. "Padgett helped introduce me to my love of newspaper and writing in general. I mostly just took his communication classes, it wasn't until later on that I realized I also loved his English literature courses as well," said Dickerson.

He also mentioned Mary Harris and Cindy from housekeeping as a joy to see every day. He could escape to Harris' office to just talk and take a break from everything.

Of course Dickerson enjoyed every class he had with Hamlett and Padgett, but he also loves looking back on some other memorable moments. "It's hard to think of specific events

See 'Editor' on page 6



Zach Dickerson

The Irish repay a 150-year-old debt

By Aia Andonovska
Arts and Life Editor

In 1847, the Choctaw people and Navajo First Nation dug deeply into their pockets and hearts and were the first to help the Irish during the great potato famine. Together they collected 170 dollars to send to starving families. They had heard about their struggles from across the Atlantic and graciously decided to help. Now, 173 years later, the Irish have graciously returned the favor.

Over 40 people have fallen victim to the COVID-19 virus in the Navajo nation. There has been a spike in cases related to the water crisis as well. An estimated 40 percent of the Navajo do not have running water and the current drought in the southwest has not helped this issue at all. As this crisis has intensified, the Navajo and Hopi together have set up a GoFundMe in an effort to raise money for bottled water.

Hundreds of Irish have donated to the cause and as of May 5, the fundraiser has collected more than 1.8 million dollars to aid with clean water, food and health supplies to the Navajo Nation and Hopi Reservation. Many of these Irish donors have cited the kindness that occurred in 1847 as the cause of their generosity now.

"I'd already known what the Choctaw did in the famine, so short a time after they'd been through the Trail of Tears," Sean Callahan, 43, an Apple administrator in Cork City who made a donation, said on May 5. "It always struck me for its kindness and generosity and I see that too in the Irish people. It seemed the right time to try and pay it back in kind."

Gary Batton, chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, said in a statement on Tuesday that the tribe was "gratified and perhaps not at all surprised to learn of the assistance our special friends, the Irish, are giving to the Navajo and Hopi Nations."

"We have become kindred spirits with the Irish in the years since the Irish potato famine," he said. "We hope the Irish, Navajo and Hopi peoples develop lasting friendships, as we have."

The Navajo Nation has had one of the worst coronavirus outbreaks in the United States. There have been more than 2,700 cases and at least 70 deaths as of May 4. The high rate of diseases such as diabetes and scarcity of running water as well as several generations living under one roof enabled the virus to spread at an exceptional speed.

It is not surprising that the ordeals of Native American tribes resonate with people in Ireland. It is estimated that one million Irish people, mainly poor tenant farmers, died of hunger or



The Kindred Spirits Choctaw Monument in Midleton, Ireland. (Courtesy of Ognyan Yosifov)

disease from 1845 to 1849, and another million emigrated in that period or shortly afterward.

A sculpture stands in Cork to commemorate

this friendship between the Choctaw and the Irish that began in 1847. It was dedicated in 2017 in Midleton, Ireland.

Editor

Continued from page 5

because every time all my friends and I were together, in the dorm, around campus, or even off campus in places like Asheville, were so much fun and great to be a part of, and they will be memories I will keep for a very long time," said Dickerson. "Some people say that the friends and connections you make in college are ones you will keep for a lifetime, and I really and truly believe that. I am so happy and grateful for everyone I met and interacted with during my time at Brevard College."

Dickerson's senior project was quite an interesting one. His project was titled "Chaos in Kentucky: The Trial of Bob Madon." "I worked with Julie Carter to create a Reacting to the Past style role-immersion game in order to act as a pedagogical tool to help teach other disciplines, such as communication, political science, and criminal justice, other than just history," said Dickerson. It centered around Robert Madon, the former mayor of the small town Pineville, Kentucky, and his first trial. They learned about in a LINC class with Wilkey.

One important lesson Dickerson has learned during his time at Brevard is not to take things too seriously. He says to get work done but don't spend too much time worrying about it. Once it's done, spend time with friends and enjoy yourself.

He also says college is a great place to grow

as a person. "I really learned a lot about viewing myself, people and my friends in many different ways that I didn't before," said Dickerson. He experienced different viewpoints in different situations and learned a lot about himself that way. "Through all of my experiences and interactions that I have had at BC, I have really learned to have much more confidence in myself and everything I do," said Dickerson.

He has some advice for younger students at Brevard and those looking to attend. "Spend as much time outside on campus, off campus, and in the community as much as possible with friends. When you think back on your time in college, you want to think about the time with friends and experiences you had more than just the work you did," said Dickerson. "Also, experience as much as you can, be as involved and as active as you can, participate in almost anything and everything and make the most of the four years that you have."

Dickerson is unsure of his path for the future. After graduation he has given some thought to studying communication and/or English in graduate school. Marketing and advertising have also been something he has thought about going into.

No matter what he does, he is determined to continue with his passion. "I want to do writing, whether it's in journalism, creatively, or a combination of the two," said Dickerson.

The Brevard College Class of 2019–2020

The following list includes fall 2019 graduates, spring 2020 graduates, and candidates for graduation later this year (who have not yet completed all of the requirements for graduation). The commencement ceremony originally scheduled for May 9 has been postponed until Sept. 19, 2020.

Emilie Joy Abbott.....	Wilderness Ldrshp/Exped	Xavier Enrique Mariduena***	Business & Org Ldrshp
Caroline Bradley Addams	Integrated Studies	Kristen Rayann Martinets	Art
Michael Anthony Anton.....	Criminal Justice	Kaitlyn Elizabeth McBriar*.....	Integrated Studies
Hannah Grace Arensman.....	Exercise Science	Heaven LeJoy McCormick.....	Art
.....	Wilderness Ldrshp/Exped	Kaylee Ann McRae†	Health Science
Javier Avalos	Business & Org Ldrshp	.....	Biology
Carson James Beckett***	Exercise Science	Kristen Elaine Mirones.....	Criminal Justice
Jakob William Bergen*.....	Business & Org Ldrshp	Arianna Marion Muller.....	Environmental Studies
Gryphen Archer Blackwell.....	Music, General	Olivia Michelle Murray*.....	Art
Nathaniel James Boepple.....	Wilderness Ldrshp/Exped	Gabriel N Neckolaishen.....	Wilderness Ldrshp/Exped
Carmen Alexandra Boone*†‡.....	English	Cody Allen Nelson.....	Wilderness Ldrshp/Exped
Gabriel Harrison Moore Braganza	Wilderness Ldrshp/Exped	.....	Criminal Justice
Matthew Robert Brethen**†.....	Philosophy & Religion	Nicole Kristi O'Connor	Criminal Justice
.....	Business & Org Ldrshp	Sethu Keith Palmer.....	Music, General
Danielle Nicole Brown**	Integrated Studies	Joshua Clinton Penland.....	Exercise Science
Molly Anne Brown***†‡.....	Wilderness Ldrshp/Exped	Elaina Yomari Perez	Health Science
Ryan Eugene Reavis Burnette	Music, General	Malyne McLennan Shelton Petoia	Integrated Studies
Sutton Roman Burton.....	Wilderness Ldrshp/Exped	Lauren Olivia Presley	Criminal Justice
Jennifer Denise Cairnes†.....	Criminal Justice	Jordan William Pruitt	Criminal Justice
Audrey Anette Cardwell.....	Environmental Studies	Justin Patrick Queen*.....	Criminal Justice
Donald Paul Carsillo.....	Mathematics	Chloe Michaela Quick.....	Criminal Justice
Julie Elizabeth Carter.....	Integrated Studies	Daniel Angel Ramos.....	Criminal Justice
Kaitlin Renee Chaump***	Wilderness Ldrshp/Exped	Cameron Lee Ranslow***†	English
Yascara Yajaira Chavez.....	Health Science	Clara Reichhard**.....	Biology
Kristina Anne Cloud.....	Art	.....	Theatre
Kurt Randal Cope.....	Philosophy & Religion	Laura Jorden Rice	Integrated Studies
Brandon Andrew Crawford Burkes.....	Business & Org Ldrshp	Jackson Weaver Riddle	Business & Org Ldrshp
Richard Raymond Crull.....	Wilderness Ldrshp/Exped	McKayla Rose Robinette***†.....	Environmental Studies
Krysta Milan Davis.....	Criminal Justice	Keyland Kross Robinson	Criminal Justice
Christopher John Demcovich Jr.	Criminal Justice	Stacie Stewart Rogers***	Integrated Studies
Zachary Warrie Dickerson*.....	Integrated Studies	Joshua Oneil Romero.....	Business & Org Ldrshp
George Dickinson Dowis.....	Integrated Studies	Ryan Gerrit Roon.....	Business & Org Ldrshp
John David Edwards, Jr.	Business & Org Ldrshp	Tabor McBride Ryan	Health Science Studies
Nicholas Brent Edwards***	Integrated Studies	Nicholas David Sansoucy.....	Criminal Justice
Taylor Owen Everard	Wilderness Ldrshp/Exped	Samantha Moran Sepe	Health Science Studies
.....	Art	Courtney Suzanne Sharp***†	Integrated Studies
Marlee Ann Fisher	Environmental Studies	Bradley Titus Stewart.....	Wilderness Ldrshp/Exped
Bryce Kristian Foster	Criminal Justice	Jordan Tanner Strickland.....	Criminal Justice
Emilie Ann Fowler**	Environmental Studies	Zachary Dean Stroup*.....	Exercise Science
Abigail Gwendolyn Fuesler***†‡.....	Integrated Studies	Christopher Jason Synenko	Criminal Justice
David Hunter Galloway.....	Criminal Justice	Alex Tyler Tenjhay	History
Jezika McKenzie Gunter.....	Business & Org Ldrshp	Giles Fredrick Porcher Tompkins	Wilderness Ldrshp/Exped
Rhyanna Leigh Hadden.....	Criminal Justice	Joel Anthony Vacchiano	Criminal Justice
Patrick Killian Hall.....	Business & Org Ldrshp	Micaiah Brianne Vacchiano*†.....	Health Science Studies
Rebecca Megan Harris**	Criminal Justice	Caroline Elizabeth Vargas***†‡.....	Theatre
Alexis Kai Henley***†	English	Brittany Lashea Ward	Environmental Studies
Chance Dean Holbrooks.....	Integrated Studies	Katherine Carl Xiaoting White*.....	Art
JaTasha Latrice Hollinger.....	Exercise Science	.....	Criminal Justice
Sidney Maria Holloway**	Art	Kelly Elizabeth Grace Wilkins.....	Exercise Science
Donna Delynn Hooper.....	Biology	Samuel Lee Willis.....	Business & Org Ldrshp
Demari Khalil Hopper.....	Business & Org Ldrshp	Kristofer Bryan Yarbrough.....	Business & Org Ldrshp
Evan Walker Ippolito.....	Criminal Justice	Erica Rose Zufferey**	Biology
Sarah Morgan Jones.....	Biology	Anthony Saul Zuniga*.....	Theatre
Trystan Lane Jones*.....	Criminal Justice	.....	Music
Elisabeth Grace Kelley	Childhood Education		
Shannon Marie Kerr.....	Wilderness Ldrshp/Exped		
Bryce James Kinsey	Wilderness Ldrshp/Exped		
Jenifer Mechelle Kulow	Criminal Justice		
Levi Emanuel Lamb	Business & Org Ldrshp		
Eric Francis Lenhart	Wilderness Ldrshp/Exped		
Jesse Ray Leonard	Environmental Studies		
Mary Hazel Lewe***†‡.....	Psychology		
Diana Carolina Loaiza**.....	Exercise Science		
Matthew Tyler Lynch.....	Criminal Justice		
Brandon Lei Manis	Criminal Justice		

*** Summa cum laude

** Magna cum laude

* Cum laude

† Honors Program Graduate

‡ Institute for Women in Leadership Graduate

By policy, summer and designated fall candidates may march in the commencement ceremony (and hence, be included in this listing), but GPA-based honors are not bestowed until all of the student's final grades have been posted. Those honors will be reported in a future edition of The Clarion.

BC Memories...

What do 2020 graduates most fondly remember about their years at Brevard College? What plans do they have after graduation? What advice would they give to future graduates?

The Clarion invited this year's seniors to ponder those questions. Over the next few pages are some of their answers ... and their photos of their BC experience.

Many thanks to all the seniors who responded to The Clarion's survey. And congratulations to all of this year's graduates!

I have so many memories; from VOR to pancake break. But what all of my memories at Brevard have in common is being surrounded by some of my favorite people.

—Audrey Cardwell



On the edge of the mountain in Pisgah, Fall 2017. (Courtesy of Matt Lynch)

I met my future husband during our sophomore year at Brevard College.

—Courtney Sharp



Just a typical WLEE student playing in Pisgah National Forest. (Courtesy of Bradley Stewart)



Hiking at Moore Cove Fall (fall 2019). (Courtesy of Emilie Fowler)

Friendships...

Going camping and fishing
with my friends.

—Matt Lynch



Carmen Boone (left) hugs best friend and graduate Luz Hernandez at 2019 graduation. (Courtesy of Carmen Boone)



The Brevard College tennis team poses for a picture outside of Boshamer Gym after a basketball game. We are a family. Left to right: Back row: Andrew Ingram, Margaret Correll, Jen Cox, Sam Sepe, Lily Farr, Ethan McGee, Jackson Ray, Troy Broska, head coach Brad Jones, JaMarcus Walker, assistant coach Jimmy Wynn, Brysen Hall. Front row left to right: Carmen Boone (me), Kenzie Bowman, Hamrick Perry, Alli Kogoy, Brooke Garland. (Photo courtesy of Carmen Boone)



Micaiah Vacchiano, Hannah Scharf, and Cameron Ranslow at Fawn Lake. (Courtesy of Micaiah Vacchiano)



Lightning the llama has been an important part of my 5.5 yrs at Brevard—he's my best animal friend. This was taken at my last Harvest Fest. (Photo courtesy of Caro Addams)

Fun times...

Lake days at Fawn Lake with friends were always some of the best!

—Micaiah Vacchiano



Fly fishing. (Courtesy of McKayla Robinette)



"Standard Pizza Company and Friends!" - a photo of Zach Dickerson, Solomon Turner, Shannon Summitt, and Alexis Henley posing as we wait for our pizza before we went to see "Avengers: Endgame" - Spring 2019, Asheville. (Courtesy of Alexis Henley)

Being nominated for homecoming queen—the overall experience was great.

—Krysta Davis

Pancake break during finals week.

—Jakob Bergen

WLEE Cookie Christmas Party!

—Grace Kelley

I remember the snowstorm in the fall of 2018 right around exam time. Making a snowman, building a fort outside of green, drinking hot chocolate inside, and tackling an oral exam with my close friends amidst it all is a great memory of mine. It was such a fun, beautiful experience.

—Carmen Boone



Whitewater kayaking the French Broad. (Courtesy of Micaiah Vacchiano)



Derrick Hill, Zach Dickerson, Solomon Turner, Megan Orr, Heather Kirkland (with Leo), Sarah Haga, Kirsten Lucas, and Daniel Ethridge (many other friend group members missing) enjoying the evening and having fun outside during the big snow that Brevard had back in December of 2017. (Courtesy of Zach Dickerson)

Experiences...

Going on VOR!

—Erica Zufferey

So I have two memories actually. The first memory is when a few of my friends joined me on a trip to Asheville to visit VaVaVoom (yes, that is spelled right). Funnily enough, I had to go there because of a class assignment (look the place up and you'll see why it's funny). What could have been just a short visit turned into a whole day adventure where we ate at Mellow Mushroom for lunch and spent hours in Malaprops. I bought a lot of books that day and got to spend a day with some really great people.

The second memory is when a group of my friends and I got together to watch the movie "Parasite." Long story short, it's an awesome film that will keep you on your toes the entire time so watch it if you want to be amazed. There is a scene in the film that deals with a young boy sneaking downstairs before his birthday and (no spoilers! If you've seen the movie you know!) I'm pretty sure everyone else in the village could hear us when we screamed. Once the movie was over, we honored that scene by doodling on the whiteboard in the lobby and we spent hours talking/analyzing this film afterwards.

—Alexis Henley

One of my favorite moments during my time at Brevard College—working at the library. I have met some incredible people while working there. Also loved the Drag Queen shows. OKAY! *two snaps*

—Heaven McCormick



Back in May 2018 was the very first time I ever went snowboarding and I was able to do it with my classmates and at no charge thanks to the Outing Club! (Courtesy of Erica Zufferey)



Lily Bartleson, Class of '18, and I pose with our theatre professor, Brandon Smith, during the End of Year Pancake Break in 2016. (Courtesy of Courtney Sharp)



Brevard College ECAC Scotty Whitelaw Bowl Championship- Our bowl game picture after winning the first ever bowl game in the football program's history. (Courtesy of DeVon Edge)

Learning...

Voice of the Rivers, WLEE immersion Semester.

—Sutton Burton



Photo of my little brother Daylen taking a picture of my twin brother Deonte giving me my senior pin.(Courtesy of Devon Edge)

The experiential opportunities involving the community, forest, and local resources that I got to have while coming through my general education as well as the Exercise Science program. I love that we stepped out of the classroom to find true learning experiences.

—Carson Beckett

My time spent in all my history courses.

—Alex Tyler

One of my absolute favorite memories from my time at Brevard College is camping on the north side of Capers Island in my advanced sea kayaking class. We surfed kayaks, ate good food, told stories, raced crabs, and explored the coastal waterways, paddled with dolphins and sea turtles. It was an amazing time with amazing people.

—Bryce Kinsey

My most favorite memory at BC is my immersion semester. Being out in the backcountry for 21-days was life changing.

—Brad Stewart

One of my favorite memories is when I presented my senior project. I had a lot of fun working on it and the whole experience was very rewarding. I get to say I did my senior project on zombies; who else can say that?

—Caroline Vargas



Paddling through a swamp on the Black River on VOR in May 2018. We got a photo of all the ladies on that trip who were also in IWIL in front of the Methuselah tree (a really old tree) and as fate would have it, we all graduated in the same year too. Shay Kerr, Mary Lew, Abi Fuesler, Molly Brown.(Courtesy of Abi Fuesler)



Working at the Mountain State Fair and teaching people about cows (fall 2019). (Courtesy of Emilie Fowler)

My favorite memories from Brevard are always from when I was with my team. The women's lacrosse team had such a different atmosphere and we were all so close. When we found out our season had ended completely, our underclassmen came together and they threw us such an amazing senior day—in less than 24 hours. The love that I felt on the field during that last practice was phenomenal and that whole day made everything worth it. It didn't go how we had wanted it to but we loved every single second of it.

—Tabor Ryan

Accomplishments...



Grace Kelley receives the Community Service Award from President Joyce at the 2018 Honors and Awards Ceremony. (Courtesy of Grace Kelley)

I always loved the annual Harvest Fest and enjoying the time spent with friends and the llamas!

—Brittany Ward

When I first moved into my dorm.

—Javier Avalos



Picture day. (Courtesy of Krysta Davis)

There are so many to choose from! Really, all the times living with and having friends over at the Movie Village (SV8) during the three years I lived there. Whether it was all of us living together, others coming to visit and stay, watching movies and TV shows together, playing video games and board games together, just having fun making jokes and having conversations, going off campus together and so many other things. I will never forget my time living there and the close friends I made as will.

—Zach Dickerson



Carmen Boone receives roses from mom (left) and dad (right) after her last Christmas choral concert "Lessons and Carols." (Courtesy of Carmen Boone)

Senior night against Huntingdon College and we were down by 12 points late in the second half and we rallied to send the game to overtime and eventually win the game.

—Demari "Hop" Hopper



Athletic banquet. (Courtesy of Krysta Davis)

Athletics...



Senior year on the women's basketball team and my absolute favorite picture! Spring 2019. (Courtesy of JaTasha "Tasha" Holloway)

One of my favorite memories was the long away road trips on the bus with the football team. The naps we took, the laughs we had, music we played in the locker room while we were getting ready. It was a time I will never forget with a group of guys that I now consider family.

—DeVon Edge



Tornado madness. (Courtesy of Krysta Davis)



Women's lacross. (Courtesy of Micaiah Vacchiano)

Playing my last year of basketball with the women's basketball team. Love my girls and the coaches!

—JaTasha "Tasha" Hollinger

My favorite memory at Brevard would be playing the home baseball games and having all the people there to support us.

—Bryce "Bronson" Foster



Head Coach Bill Khayat shaking my hand at my Senior Game Ceremony where I had my career high receptions in a game. (Courtesy of DeVon Edge)



Team photo with foam lacrosse sticks: When we had our senior day celebration this year, that was the team photo that we took after our walk-out ceremony at the beginning of practice. (Courtesy of Tabor Ryan and Micaiah Vacchiano)

Living at BC...



The ever evolving family of baseball and the brotherhood that goes on behind it. (Five photos courtesy of Bryce "Bronson" Foster)



Baseball is something I never got myself involved with but I am very thankful that I did since I met sooo many amazing friends from being involved with the team. Photo of Caro Addams by Gaby Lachney.

Joining FCA for the very first time and meeting all my amazing friends.

—Caro Addams

Spending the day swimming in Pisgah with my friends then going to Dolly's.

—McKayla Robinette

My favorite memories include all the times going to Pisgah or DuPont for the day followed by going to Dolly's afterwards with all my friends.

—Emilie Fowler



Big Snow during finals week (fall 2018). (Courtesy of Emilie Fowler)

What advice would you give to other Brevard College students (and future graduates)?

Enjoy your time at Brevard and don't be afraid to try something new.

Caro Addams

Plan ahead of time.

Javier Avalos

Make the most of this area that our school is planted in. The campus may be small, but it's backyard is filled with some of the most amazing opportunities—Pisgah National Forest, DuPont State Forest, and more are unparalleled.

Carson Beckett

Keep track of your course requirements.

Jakob Bergen

Don't rush yourself. Take your time and enjoy the journey. Brevard College has so much to offer. Also, explore Pisgah.

Carmen Boone

Get outside! Brevard is beautiful!

Molly Brown

Learn a new skill/take a skill based class that you may not be familiar with.

Sutton Burton

The best advice I could give is to live in the moment and never say no to a trip to Waffle House.

Audrey Cardwell

Enjoy every moment, time goes by quick.

Krysta Davis

Take advantage of everything you have. All the friends you can meet, connections you can make, professors and other staff to build relationships with, activities and events offered, the community around and outside of campus and so many other things. If you do that, BC will become a great experience for you and possibly even a second home, as it was and has become for me.

Zach Dickerson

My advice to the ones after me is to reach out and create friends as you go because there's strength in numbers. We're all in this thing together, so why not enjoy it and meet a few great people along the way.

DeVon Edge

Enjoy the time that you have while you are here, it will go by quick.

Bryce "Bronson" Foster

Always complete your work for your classes but don't get consumed in it. Make time to go out and explore with your friends! Also, don't be afraid to ask anything from your professors, that's what they're there for.

Emilie Fowler

My first piece of advice is to be friendly with your professors. This is especially for the professors that teach the classes for your major. At a small college we can actually make those connections with peers and faculty! Stop by their offices just to say hi. Keep things professional, obviously, but you never know how much you could have in common or how awesome some of your professors are until you talk to them. I might be biased but I think the English professors are amazing.

My second piece of advice is make your gen ed classes work for you. Sometimes it feels like there's no interesting class or you feel like you won't learn anything beneficial. This isn't the case! I was an English major and every gen ed I chose gave me some sort of creative inspiration. I took Astronomy because I figured I would need some knowledge of space to write science-fiction. I took Art Appreciation to see how other creative individuals told a story or expressed an idea through a different medium. I even minored in Psychology because I'm fascinated in human behavior and want to portray that through my work. I could go on and on, but the fact is that there are so many interdisciplinary connections out there so pick a gen ed you think will boost your passion for your major further. Have fun and learn all you can!

Alexis Henley

Make friends and attend all the events hosted at the school you won't regret it!

JaTasha "Tasha" Hollinger

Enjoy the process and memories you endure throughout the experience because it goes by fast.

Demari "Hop" Hopper

Your professors are there to help you succeed. Don't be afraid to reach out the various resources available on campus if you're struggling. The faculty and staff at Brevard genuinely care about you as a human first and a student second.

Grace Kelley



This was when our soccer team qualified for the ECAC tournament in Maryland back in November 2018! We got to tour Washington DC in our very little free time. It was an experience I'll cherish forever! (Courtesy of Erica Zufferey)

What advice would you give to other Brevard College students (and future graduates)?

Don't be afraid to do new things and find out what truly makes you happy.

Bryce Kinsey

Work hard and never give up. Have fun because these 4 years will fly by before you know it

Matt Lynch

Be sure to stay on top of your work, if you don't you'll fall behind!

Heaven McCormick

Try not to take the campus and the community for granted.

McKayla Robinette

To get out and do stuff, whether it's on campus or off, just get out of your room. I had the best times out with my friends exploring pignah or going through downtown, just being out and around Brevard makes you feel a little less homesick.

Tabor Ryan

Take charge of your education. Take it seriously, since you are paying for it. Don't be afraid to stand up and speak out. Make yourself heard, and do not care what others think. It's your college experience, make the most of it.

Courtney Sharp

Do something new. Brevard is a great place to learn new things, don't be scared to leave your comfort zone.

Brad Stewart

Take classes that interest, outside of your major or minor requirements.

Alex Tyler Tenjhay

Don't get stuck on "oh I need to make sure I do this this and this for my major"

You'll have plenty of time for that. Make sure you leave room to explore, do new things, make friends, and have fun.

Micaiah Vacchiano

Take at least one "wild card" class, something outside of your intended major. You'll never know what you might enjoy.

Caroline Vargas



(Courtesy of Brittany Ward)

Enjoy the little things & don't be afraid to try something new! I've done a lot of things at Brevard College that I never thought I would do and I have no regrets! College is the time of your life so enjoy every minute of it!

Erica Zufferey



I pose with Sesame Street's Super Grover after attending the Sesame Streets in Communities workshop in 2019. (Courtesy of Courtney Sharp)



"Malaprops Book Haul" - a photo of Alexis Henley, Zach Dickerson, and Solomon Turner showing off their Malaprops book haul - Spring 2020, Asheville. (Courtesy of Alexis Henley)

What are your plans after graduation?

Not sure—probably find a job.

Caro Addams

I plan to pursue my dream of becoming a professional athlete.

Javier Avalos

I am currently developing my role as a cycling-specific endurance coach, working under my own personal coach. I plan to continue growing this client base and seeking opportunities to be of service to the mountain bike culture.

Carson Beckett

Attend an MBA program.

Jakob Bergen

After graduation I plan on getting a job in journalism or publishing while continuing to write poetry in my free time.

Carmen Boone

I'm working at a Wilderness Therapy Program in Vermont.

Molly Brown

After graduation I am heading off to grad school at Duke University for a master's degree in environmental management.

Audrey Cardwell

Law school.

Krysta Davis

I plan to look into careers in journalism and/or writing creatively or in some aspect, possibly looking at careers in marketing and advertising, and possibly looking into more graduate studies to continue my education in communication or maybe more.

Zach Dickerson

After graduation I plan to step further into the coaching world with Brevard and hopefully hope the plan to bring home some more championships.

DeVon Edge



Fishing in Pisgah, spring 2019. (Courtesy of Matt Lynch)

I am going to work with the Transylvania County sheriff's office and pursue my master's degree.

Bryce "Bronson" Foster

I have already received a job offer back in my hometown as an Agriculture Teacher.

Emilie Fowler

I'm moving back home and looking for jobs in publishing and/or advertisement! I'm also editing my senior project (a novel) so I can work towards getting it (and many others to come!) published. I hope to go back to school in a few years to get an MFA, but right now I'm content spending time with my mother and my Corgi puppy named Loki.

Alexis Henley

Attending the PT program at Georgia State University for the next two years.

JaTasha "Tasha" Hollinger

Undecided, but leaning towards graduate school in Rome Italy with the opportunity to further my basketball career.

Demari "Hop" Hopper

Practicum is working as the Program Intern at Mount Shepherd Camp and Retreat Center in Asheboro, NC. Once I complete this I will have completed all my requirements hence a Summer 2020 Graduate. In the Fall I will be attending Union Presbyterian Seminary - Charlotte campus working on my Masters of Arts in Christian Education and continuing on my pathway towards becoming an ordained Deacon in the United Methodist Church.

Grace Kelley

I am working at Green River Adventures will I search for a outdoor education job out west were my girlfriend will be attending graduate school as will I in the future.

Bryce Kinsey

I will be working as a deputy sheriff for Darlington County in South Carolina

Matt Lynch

I plan to continue looking for jobs, living my best life and striving for greatness.

Heaven McCormick

I will be pursuing jobs in Washington, D.C. in environmental and agricultural policy.

McKayla Robinette

I plan to go to graduate school for veterinary medicine.

Tabor Ryan

I plan to teach in the Madison County School district in Kentucky.

Courtney Sharp

I am working as a Field Instructor for SOAR ADHD/LD summer camp and academy in Dubois, Wyoming.

Brad Stewart

Work and eventually go to graduate school.

Alex Tyler Tenjhay

Work as a wilderness EMT for a year to gain some more clinical experience before going to grad school to become a PA.

Micaiah Vacchiano

I have a graduate school for special effects makeup in mind, but I need to make more money before I can go. Right now I am working as a guest designer for the next theatre production at Brevard College!

Caroline Vargas

To work as a medical scribe & EMT then apply to PA school.

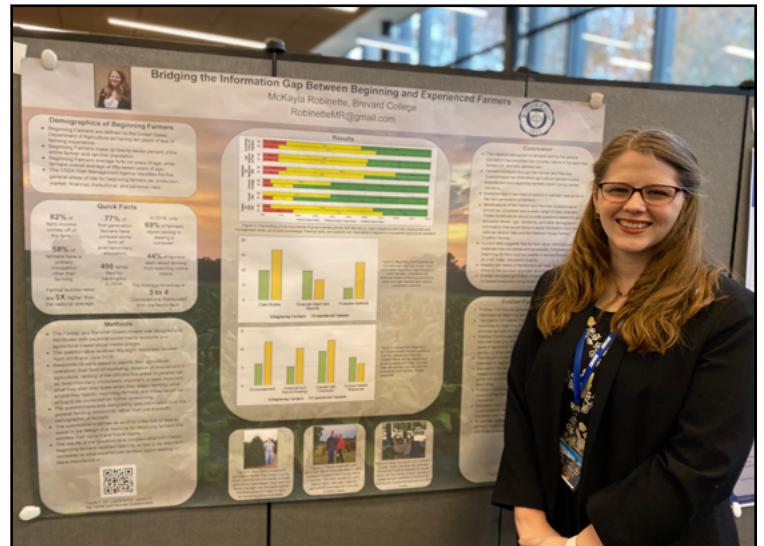
Erica Zufferey



Grad pictures in Pisgah (spring 2020). (Courtesy of Emilie Fowler)



WLAX team Tornado Cup champs (3peat). (Courtesy of Micaiah Vacchiano)



McKayla's senior project presentation at the State of North Carolina Research and Creativity Symposium. (Courtesy of McKayla Robinette)



Above: This was the first day of our VOR trip back in May 2019. We started on the Neuse River up near Durham!

Below: This was also during the VOR trip when we finally made it to the Outer Banks and had our first night camping on the beach! VOR is something I will NEVER forget and I am so grateful that I was able to be a part of it. (Photos courtesy of Erica Zufferey)



My junior year I was finally able to go and visit the Biltmore house for the first time and I shared that experience with my mother. On the lawns outside we saw this tree with the beautiful view and it is my favorite picture with my mother. (Courtesy of Tabor Ryan)



My MAT 210 class, taught by Dr. Charles Wallis, pose together after attending the Western Regional Math Conference in 2018. (Courtesy of Courtney Sharp)



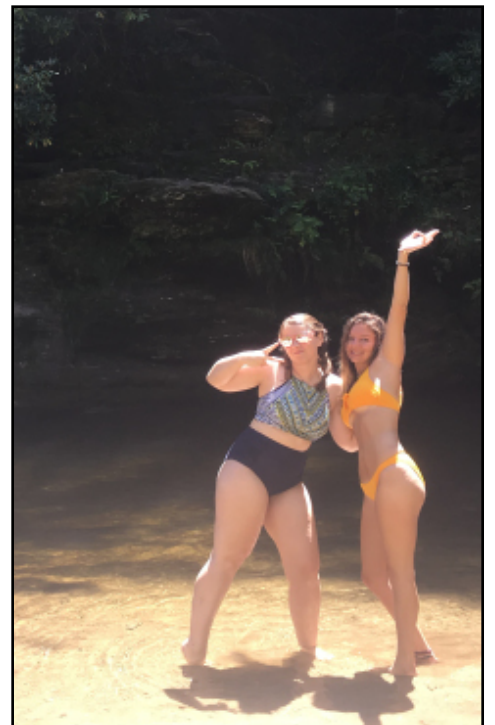
Rock climbing class. (Courtesy of Molly Brown)



Fall 2019 Student Ambassador at an Admissions Event. (Courtesy of Grace Kelley)



I pose with the third grade classroom that I interim taught at Brevard Elementary. (Courtesy of Courtney Sharp)



McKayla and Gaby Lachney at Coontree Picnic Area. (Courtesy of McKayla Robinette)



Photo of me and llama: from junior year after when we had the spring festival and we were able to go and see the llamas after a hard practice. (Courtesy of Tabor Ryan)



Cross country! (Courtesy of Molly Brown)



Cross country! (Courtesy of Molly Brown)



Senior picture at Looking Glass Falls. (Courtesy of McKayla Robinette)

Thank you, BC!

Members of The Clarion's senior staff wrote farewell messages to Brevard College, their time at school, their friends, family, and the community.

Farewell and thank you for everything

There are so many things that I can and should say, but I don't know how to and can't really find or struggle with the words. So I'm going to try and do the best that I can.

Brevard College has truly been one of the best periods and experiences in my life in more ways than one and I will always cherish every part of my time here. All the people I've met, things I've done, things that have happened to me and many more have helped me to grow in so many ways and so many aspects as a person that I couldn't have even imagined I would have done or been able to do before.

When I first came to Brevard College, I was just a complete bundle of fear, confusion and worry, but I quickly found an amazing group of friends (which only grew with every year and who I will remain in contact with for years to come) who made everything so much better. In the years to come, with each new person and each new interaction, I learned even more about others and myself. I'll take this knowledge with me, use it and hold onto it always.

Really, the experiences, people and education at BC are truly one of a kind. You just have to know what to look for, how to go with it and take advantage of it as much as possible, and never let it get away from you, pass you by or squander it.

There really is so much that Brevard has to offer. The many events and traditions that the campus has to offer: all the people including students, professors, staff members, community members and so many others, all the things to do in the area like the parks and forests, downtown, other surrounding cities like Asheville and so many other things.

Go out and experience things and make memories, don't just sit around and do nothing and act like there is absolutely nothing to do, this is not the case at all. Before you know it, the four years will be over. You want great and amazing memories to look back on and friends to do it with and live life with them after as well; you want to be able to say, "I had a college experience, and I made the most of it I could of what was offered to me."

Even working on the Clarion staff since

freshman year in so many different positions has offered me more opportunities than I could have imagined. I've met so many people, made so many connections, accomplished so much more and had so much fun while working on the staff that I probably wouldn't and couldn't have been able to do without serving on the staff.

BC really has been one of the best and most important times and experiences that I have had in my life. I have made friends, connections, memories and so much more that I will take with me into the future and hold with me and make use of for the rest of my life. I had a

college experience.

Yes, I do have some regrets, but I did work to do the most and best with what I had and what was offered to me. There's probably more that I want to say in this that I can't think of right now or will remember later on, but I and many of my friends and others close to me know how much my time at BC and they mean to me.

Goodbye BC, I will always remember my time with you and thank you for everything. I will see you and everyone again in September for the new commencement weekend.

—Zach Dickerson,
Editor in Chief

Thanks for it all, Brevard

Brevard College is my mom's alma mater. That was one reason I chose to come. However, there are so many more things I love about Brevard.

The area is so beautiful. The "land of waterfalls" truly is a spectacle. Pisgah National Forest has so many adventures to explore and endless fun to share. For all the times I chased waterfalls, went to the rope swing, hiked to Devil's Courthouse and stargazed on the parkway, the stress, breakdowns and struggles were worth the fun. All the hard parts were worth the experience.

The town itself and the culture surrounding it is so inviting. I can't get enough of the restaurants, local shops and nature that Brevard has to offer.

The campus and class size drew me in as well. The one-on-one connections were a great help to my learning experience. Becoming a writer was only possible with the help of the English faculty that have helped me grow to where I am now. I will forever be grateful for that.

St. Philip's Episcopal Church helped me find community off campus. Tennis helped me find community on campus. Every year I found more and more to love about where I lived.

My four years at Brevard have molded me into who I am. All my friends, teammates,

coaches, professors, church friends and the community have helped me grow in confidence and feel comfortable with myself. Not only did I grow in knowledge but I grew in maturity.

Here I am set to graduate in September. It's crazy finishing my senior year at home and missing out on milestone experiences. As sad as it is to miss my last concert, my last season of tennis and miss out on time with friends, I still got to present my senior project and I still get a (postponed) ceremony.

I can't thank my family, friends and professors enough for the support and inspiration throughout my college career. I gained so many learning experiences that I will carry with me. I made lifelong friends and made strong connections that I can count on. This doesn't even scratch the surface of my time at Brevard, but I will keep it short.

Everyone that has been there along the way has meant such a great deal to me. From the bottom of my heart, Brevard, thank you for letting me cry, scream, laugh, smile, learn, run, play, explore and grow.

I will more than miss Brevard College. Thanks for letting me live my life and make some unforgettable memories. Farewell, BC.

—Carmen Boone,
Copy Editor

Brevard College says goodbye to two Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education professors this year, Clyde Carter and John Buford, who are retiring. These two articles, by BC alum Alex Perri, originally appeared in the Transylvania Times earlier this month. We reprint them here with permission of Perri and Times editor in chief John Lanier.

To read other Times articles or to subscribe, visit www.transylvaniatimes.com.

Clyde Carter

By Alex Perri
Transylvania Times,
BC '17

Educators around the country are returning to their schools for the first time in weeks to carry out the chore of cleaning out their classrooms and offices, unsure of when they'll return after having taught virtually since the COVID-19 pandemic started.

Brevard College professor Clyde Carter said he recently cleared away decades of stuff from his office, but, unlike most, he knows this will be the final clean out.

Carter is retiring this year after 31 years teaching at the college, including as the founding professor of the college's Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education (WLEE) program.

"I'm retiring, so for the last week I've been slowly going in the office and cleaning it out, and sorting through and figuring out what to get rid of, what to keep," he said. "I've found a stack of postcards, back in the days before social media and students would send postcards, saying, 'Hey this is what I'm doing, and this is where I am!' And they're from all over the world and all over the United States."

Carter said he's been slowly going through that stack and thinking back on the many fond memories of his time teaching Wilderness Leadership students.

By the numbers, Carter said he's spent over 600 nights in the outdoors with students, paddled over 2,000 miles of rivers and hiked well over 2,000 miles as a Brevard College professor.

He first came to Brevard to give a Kayaking clinic while he was teaching at Montreat College, and said the son of the college's president at the time, Billy Greer, took the clinic. When Greer came to pick his son up, Carter said, "Hey, Brevard needs an outdoor program! So, there never was a position that was offered, but I kind of created the position, I guess."

Back then, Brevard was a two-year college, and Carter began building the curriculum for what would be what he considers a "trailblazing" program.

"When I was first hired, I was given a desk in the corner of the basketball coach's office, and that's where I was for a year," he said. "Eventually, I got the program going enough to where they gave me a closet for my office. I think it was the closet, where they used to store swimming pool supplies and stuff. And then, eventually, I got big enough to where they gave me one of the duplexes off of the tennis courts there. So, I had a couple of offices and a classroom, and, eventually, we got to Ross Hall, which was awesome."

Ross Hall is a former dormitory at Brevard College. It became its own WLEE-dedicated building, with a kitchen, classrooms and storage space. The building has since been condemned, but the WLEE program is now taking over the campus barn, which used to house the football locker room.

Carter was teaching at Brevard when the school transitioned from a two-year college to a four-year college in 1996 and said it was one of the

See 'Carter,' page 24



Clyde Carter

John Buford

By Alex Perri
Transylvania Times,
BC '17

The last time Brevard College professor John Buford retired, he had no plans of slowing down.

The same thing can be said for his second time around as he says goodbye to 11 years of teaching at the school. Buford spent 20 years in the Marine Corps before he began his career as a Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education (WLEE) professor at Brevard College, and now he's moving on to a third career as an author and leadership coach.

Buford grew up in a small farming town in central Illinois and referred to himself as a "flatlander," but said he now thinks of the mountains as his home. He loves Brevard and plans on staying here in retirement and even dying here, though not anytime soon, he adds.

"I've always been an outdoor kind of guy—whitewater paddling and hiking and climbing, (but) really the big thing was leadership development," Buford said. "I've always been interested in leadership development. (I) had a lot of experience training in the Marines, and then was drawn to teaching. I did a lot of teaching in the Marines and it really seemed like a good fit. Even though being a college professor is about teaching, I really consider it about leadership development. That's really what drew me to the WLEE program."

Along with Buford, fellow WLEE professor and WLEE program founder Clyde Carter is also retiring from a long career at the college.

Buford believes the program will thrive with the infusion of new professors.

"Clyde and I are leaving but that's the natural progression of things, and I think really it's well timed," he said. "We're both in a good place, and they're getting a new faculty, new facility, new students. A new freshman class coming in and the new faculty they're looking at are going to be outstanding. I know it has room for growth. It's one of the biggest programs, and I just think it's timeless. Developing leadership and developing teachers are really...it's part of the identity of the college."

Coming from carrying out missions all over the world in the military, to settling with his family in small-town Brevard was quite a transition for him, but Buford said his colleagues made his new job particularly enjoyable.

"I really feel blessed to have worked with many colleagues, but in particular I would just like to note my WLEE colleagues, Dr. Jennifer Kafsky, Robert Dye and, of course, Clyde Carter," he said. "I could not have asked for a better cohort of teammates for the last 10 years—credible teachers and mentors—and I learned so much from them. It was quite a culture shock to go from a Marine Corps infantry to a small liberal arts college. So, they certainly helped me make the transition."

Buford believes strongly in the philosophy of service-based leadership. He's not interested in whether a student is extroverted or introverted, or



John Buford

See 'Buford,' page 25

Carter

Continued from page 23

biggest changes he saw the college go through in his tenure.

Along with the school's music program, the college's president at the time, Tom Bertrand, asked Carter to help make the WLEE program a flagship program for the transition to a four-year school.

"I got serious thinking about developing the four-year degree, and am often credited for developing that," he said. "And I guess I did, but I actually did it through synergy and through a lot of pulling smart minds together."

"I contacted programs all across the country that were hiring people in the outdoor industry and said, 'Hey what do you need?' and tried to craft classes that would meet the need of the outdoor industry."

At the time, Carter said, the outdoor industry was going through a shift from a few novel businesses created from a handful of spirited individuals, to a professional industry people could stake their careers upon. The college's WLEE program came right on the cusp of that transition, and has its own legendary creation myth.

"I took one spring break and went up the eastern seaboard all the way up to Maine," Carter said, "just hitting any outdoor agency, any schools that had outdoor programs, and saying, 'Hey, I've got a blank slate. What would you put in an outdoor program?' And really a lot of incredible people ended up in Maine."

"There was a guy named Paul Petzoldt—he was kind of the grandfather of the outdoor industry here in the U.S.... He was the first Outward Bound instructor out in Colorado in the United States, and he started the National Outdoor Leadership School...and then started a lot of professional associations. And (he) just saw this industry changing into a professional field. So, I spent three days up in a cabin with him up in Maine, surrounded with snow. He fed me lobster, and we sat there and wrestled with it."

"We had this blank slate, so we came up with the vision for the immersion semester. We just needed to have some kind of a real strong centerpiece experiential component if we were training outdoor leaders." The WLEE program's immersion semester is a 21-day wilderness expedition, completely planned and led by WLEE students.

Carter said Brevard's was the first of its kind for collegiate outdoor programs and stood out from what was being offered.

Now, the college hangs its hat on "experiential education," or the concept of learning by doing, and the WLEE program was instrumental in developing that identity for Brevard.

Since then, Carter said several other schools have consulted with him to help develop their own immersion semester, and several other schools have created their own outdoor education immersion program.

"The immersion semester is in the sophomore year, so it really is experiential," he said. "We give them the leadership, and we give them the ability to plan trips. And if they fail, they learn from the failure. They learn to, on the fly, be flexible and learn what they're going to do next. And so through all that they're doing it all personally. In their junior and senior years, we really reflect on that experience."

Carter believes the 21-day immersion trip is essential to the program's philosophy and is when many students learn their greatest lessons. In particular, Carter looked back to one moment with a student on immersion as an example of the kind of breakthroughs students can have.

"This guy was a little older, probably 25 when he came to school, and he'd gone through a lot of difficult times in life," Carter said. "Had a rough family background, even was suicidal for a long time. But eventually he got his life together and came back here."

"I remember we were deep in Panthertown Valley—this was on their 21-day trip that they had planned. Usually, this is pretty common when we let them plan, we let them learn experientially from failing. I knew they had bit off pretty long days, longer days than they could probably handle."

"I remember it was just day after day. We had rough weather. It was late one afternoon, and this guy was leader of the day...there was a lot of group tension. Whenever things get hard physically, they also get hard in the group dynamics usually as well. It's during the hard times that a person's true self shows up. So, then, you've got to manage that personally, and as a leader."

"He got really frustrated once and just busted off ahead through briars and what not. I could tell something was up. He was about to lose it. So, I went out there and he said, 'I'm ready to quit, Clyde. I want to take off and go home. Get me out here, I'm done with this.' I was able to calm him down and help him to look at the bigger picture and really reflect. I could see that the students really looked up to him for his life experiences and he was more mature than other students. He wasn't seeing that. He was seeing he was a complete failure, but they really respected him more and were looking up to him."

"It was really an opportunity for me really to have him do some introspection and look at the bigger picture—not what's happening right now, but, what are we going to learn from this? And he really made a turn around there and did a great job the rest of the day, but he was ready to leave."

Carter still has that student's postcard. In it the student referenced that moment in Panthertown as one he reflects on. Carter said the student went on to be an Outward Bound instructor for many years, and later got his master's degree in counseling and has had a successful career.

Carter has many postcards and many stories like that from students he's taught throughout his time at Brevard College. Though he's had personal successes that brought notoriety and recognition to the college, his greatest accomplishments are the accomplishments of his students, he said.

Locally, The Hub bike shop and The Gorge Zip Line companies were started by couples who met in the WLEE program.

Carter said he's had students travel all across the world to work at prestigious guide companies. Several Brevard WLEE students guide at Kennecott Wilderness Guides in the remote Alaskan wilderness, and students went on to work in national parks from Denali in Alaska to the Dry Tortugas in southern Florida. Outside the outdoor industry, Carter said he's had students go on to be judges and work at NASA.

In retirement, he and his wife, Jayne Fought (a *Transylvania Times* outdoor contributor), plan to take advantage of his connections to students around the world and visit.

The two also plan to keep working the summers at Camp Rockbrook, and Carter says he plans to join Fought in teaching with her outdoor education company, Island Ford Adventures.

Though COVID-19 has thrown a wrench in Carter's final semester of teaching, and much of the world's plans are up in the air, Carter said he feels strongly that the WLEE program will continue to achieve great things for Brevard College.

"I feel like there's more of a need for a program like this," he said. "I think students are generally, across the board, more disconnected with nature—maybe even more disconnected with other people. Even though social media tries to draw you near, it kind of creates a facade of who you are and there's not a real interaction with people, as if you were face to face. Students struggle more with—who I am? Those are the three things that our program really helps students with. It helps them connect with nature, it helps them connect with themselves and it helps them connect with others. I think there's a need for that in the students and there's a need for that in our society."

"I feel like our students are going to have a hard time this summer finding work, but I think after this COVID thing, I think the outdoor industry has been just taking off and I think it's going to continue. I think there's a huge need for what we do."

Buford

Continued from page 23

how physically strong they are or how smart they may be.

The most important question he wants his students to ask themselves in a team setting is, "What is their best and highest role. How can I best serve my teammates in pursuit of a mission?"

And it's clear, like the program's core philosophy of learning by doing, Buford teaches this concept by embodying it.

Buford has always been dedicated to his students' success.

"That's how I measure my performance, is student outcomes," he said. "I think the only success I've had is expressed in the learning and development of my students. That's the one thing. Once in a while you get the teacher of the year or some kind of acknowledgment. It's not about me or anything. I got lots of medals and ribbons and those types of things from the military but, you know, the trophy on the wall isn't something that excites me too much. Any success I've had I just measure through student development."

Buford said he's had several students go on to serve in the military, and others have gone on to work in local camps, wilderness therapy and in Forest Service or Park Service jobs.

Regardless of where the student ends up, though, Buford said the lessons of learning how to contribute to a team and how to lead a team are valuable in any profession.

Buford wants to continue to develop leaders outside of academia. He is writing a book about how to lead authentically and is starting a leadership coaching business with his childhood friend. But, he said, he will certainly miss his students.

"I love my students," he said. "I love that I can have a small part in their character development. I really value my long-term relationships I have with them."

"A lot of them, I go to their weddings. (I give) job references 10 years later. Some have stayed at my house in between jobs. I share a cup of coffee when they're in town."

When asked about any specific stories from students that stood out to him, Buford said, in the end, he always heard students say the same thing over and over.

A large part of the WLEE program is dedicated to reflection, and in speaking with students, they always said they were surprised at how much they were capable of.

"There's no particular story, but I think that a recurring story is students realize that there's much more in them than they know," he said. "And that's really a common theme over and

over and over for students to overcome self-limiting beliefs and realize that they have the ability and the power to control their own destiny and become the leader they want to be. That is the thing that really I've seen in every group of WLEE students I take out. I see that over and over and over, and to me that is the one thing they'll always remember and cherish about this program."

One big reason Buford believes so many students are able to come to that realization is because the wilderness forces students out of their comfort zone, no matter who they are.

"What we do out there is real," he said. "It's not contrived. It's not set up...I think that when students are in a position where they have to step out of their comfort zone and do something they really didn't think they could do, that's really a breakthrough moment. A lot of times in the classroom, we can, if there's safety nets, you know, you can always just quit or stop or take the easy road. But in the wilderness...things happen, and they're happening for real. And so students don't have the luxury of remaining in their safe space."

"They've got to step out of their comfort zone, physically, mentally or emotionally. And once they do that and they realize that they can succeed and they can overcome their self limiting beliefs. That's where I really see the 'aha' moments."

One might think that for a wilderness program, virtual teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic would be impossible.

But Buford said the pandemic, like any other unplanned difficulty, simply allowed him to teach his students about the power of pushing through adversity.

"One of my favorite books is by Stephen

Ambrose called 'Undaunted Courage,' and it's about the Lewis and Clark expedition," he said. "One of the terms that Meriwether Lewis, one of the leaders, always said, was 'proceed on.' And students kind of took that on as their quip—proceed on. You can't stop when faced with adversity; you've got to keep going. We did it. We did a 21-day wilderness expedition on Zoom." He said the students still planned their trip as if they were going through with it, and the class still taught their lessons to each other, discussed wilderness first aid and practiced scenarios virtually.

Buford said he's just finished meeting with his immersion students to have an hour-long, one-on-one feedback session, and one of the things that struck him about his career in teaching, is how it is a "two-way street."

"I'm 58 years old, and I've got a lot of feedback in my life," he said. "What I relearned over the last few days is to listen intently and take action on the feedback that you get. And they gave me such honest, authentic feedback. A lot of it was, 'you are great' and 'thank you' and those types of things. But they gave me some really constructive feedback. And what I continually relearned from my students is that education goes both ways between the teacher and the students. And I constantly learn from them, where I can improve and try to take action on that."

"That's probably the biggest thing I learn from them is you're only old when you quit learning. You've got to be able to accept feedback objectively, reflect on it and take action on it. And that's probably the biggest thing I've learned from my students."

Now as Buford begins his third career, he plans to continue learning, as well as teaching others.



Immersion Fall 2018. (Courtesy of Molly Brown)

A Thoughtful Goodbye

Well... that's it – it's over – finished.
 There seems to be some empty space
 where our goodbyes should have gone.
 So many great times we shared, and
 memories that will last a lifetime.
 I never knew the mountains would feel
 so far away.
 I never knew familiar faces would feel like
 distant memories.
 I miss the classroom – we all miss it.
 No one expected things to be interrupted.
 I miss learning around like-minded people.
 Being a student will mean more than
 ever before.
 Let's move forward, not backward. From now on,
 things will be different. There will have to be some
 changes – change is scary but necessary.
 It's how we grow and learn. No one is
 ever prepared for change.
 What matters most is how we react.
 What can we learn from this?
 How can we make it better?
 What's the best outcome for everyone?
 How can we get past this?
 There is no ignoring this; don't try to deny
 something that damaged so many people.
 The future is still a mystery.
 We can overcome anything if we work together.
 There is no one to blame, but it's easy to take out
 frustration on those who are trying their best.
 In these times, let us learn to have patience.
 Good things don't happen overnight and pointing
 fingers won't get us anywhere.
 We all need to take some time to heal and to
 take care of ourselves in order to put our best
 foot forward for next year, and the years to come.
 Learn from the past, but don't live in it.
 We cannot revert to what we once were before.
 We need to learn how to adapt to this new life
 we were all forced to have.
 For everyone that has been doing their part
 keeping the remaining of the semester going – thank you.
 Thank you for being there when we couldn't be there in person.
 Thank you for keeping everyone on the same page.
 Thank you for still wanting to educate us and care for us.
 We all, in the end, made history and showed
 the true spirit of Brevard College.

—Mickayla Smith



photo by Mickayla



Watching the sunrise at Pretty Place (spring 2020). (Courtesy of Emilie Fowler)