



# BC hosts annual Creek Week and convocation

By Margaret Correll  
Editor in Chief

Brevard College's annual Creek Week for new students began on Monday, Aug. 10, 2020. Already, the changes caused by COVID-19 were prevalent in the way students, parents, faculty and staff interacted with one another.

The check-in process for students saw some changes for this school year, being held at BC's Sims Art Center in Spiers Gallery. The process was familiar to students with the addition of a BC Radar COVID-19 pass checkpoint and a temperature check for everyone who entered. First-year students were checked in on their assigned days on Monday, Aug. 10 and Tuesday, Aug. 11 while returning students waited until the following four days to check in.

A Welcome Session was held each evening of check-in for first year students in the

residential quad in front of Jones Hall. This meeting welcomed new students to campus, highlighted the basics of living a residential life in a dorm and went over the new social distancing requirements of living on campus.

Freshmen had the opportunity to get involved in many different activities during their move-in process. On Wednesday, Aug. 12, first-year students met with their designated F.Y.E. (First Year Experience) class and were assigned to complete some basic training courses. These courses included Title IX Training, Be the Change, Alcohol EDU and Tips and Tools for YOUR Best Mental Health.

Each evening, Campus Life held an activity for new and returning students to do for fun, despite recent Brevard weather that cancelled a few plans. These activities included Virtual Bingo, an outdoor movie on the turf field, Virtual Escape Room and Intramural ESPORTS.

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Courtesy of Le Tavoloni

First-year students take part in many Creek Week activities while preparing for the life on campus.

# Campus's COVID-19 protocol

By Caroline Hoy  
Staff Writer

Brevard College introduced many new COVID-19 safety procedures for new and returning students for the Fall 2020 semester. From wellness checks to limited seating in the cafeteria, Brevard College is making sure that safety is their top priority.

Before stepping onto campus or leaving a residential building, the BC Radar app COVID-19 checker must be completed by every student. Students and faculty will be required to show their "green pass" and their yellow temperature check slip, which is given after a passed temperature check, to gain access to any campus building.

BC is promoting the slogan "We are a mask wearing campus". Students are required to wear a mask at all times while inside any building, the exception being while they are in their own residential dorm room.

BC masks are available in Tornado Alley if needed. Neck gaiters and bandanas will not be allowed to be used as a mask.

See 'Safety' on page 2



Courtesy of Caroline Hoy

A picture of one of the many Brevard College mask signs encouraging the use of masks.

## Creek Week is a hit for first-year students

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At the end of Brevard College’s Creek Week, convocation is always held, though this year it was virtual with a pre-recording. Opening the video was “Processional,” by William Mathias, played by Vance Reese on the organ and Bradley Ulrich on the piccolo trumpet.

After a montage of pictures from convocation ceremonies in years past, President David Joyce opens for his yearly convocation speech. “On behalf of Brevard College, I’d like to welcome you to the next chapter in your life,” Joyce said. “The 2020-2021 academic year.”

After Joyce’s short speech that highlighted the values of Brevard College and the amazing things that students will achieve, the video moved on to the next speaker, Reverend Sharad Creasman. Creasman lead all those watching in a short prayer. After Creasman finished his prayer, the video introduced Kathryn Gresham, Associate Professor of Music, singing the hymn “The Circling Season of Our Lives”.

Next, was R. Scott Sheffield, Vice President

for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty. Sheffield focused on the traditions of the school and education itself, and how strange this year had been in disrupting those rituals. He spoke on how each student is part of something ancient in academia and will be continuing this legacy. “I hope you will embrace your next few years here at BC and that you will be transformed by your

experiences, as so many have done before,” said Sheffield.

Concluding the virtual ceremony was a “Pledge for our Academic Community”, led by Deborah D’Anna, Vice President for Student Success and Dean of Students followed by a “Guarded Well by Mountains,” a hymn performed by Gresham.



First-year students check in to their new dorm on campus.

Courtesy of Le Tavoloni

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## Safety to be a priority on campus

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In Myers Dining Hall, there are several options for dining. Inside, tables have been spread six feet apart with only a chair at the end of each table and outside there are tables available with a limit of three people per table. Myers Dining Hall is offering a selection of food service including in person seating or online ordering which both offer the option of to-go boxes.

Late night dining in Myers Dining Hall will be offered starting Aug. 17, 2020 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Student favorite, Bill’s Boiler House, will be offering online ordering on BC Radar as well as a “drive-thru” pickup window for student, faculty, and community safety. This window is located to the right of the entrance door.

Some of the symptoms of COVID-19 are coughing, shortness of breath, fever, headaches, and sore throat. The best way to stay safe is to follow the CDC guidelines by staying six feet apart and wearing a mask.

# Letter from the Editor

Welcome back Brevard College students and faculty. My name is Margaret Correll and I am the Editor in Chief of *The Clarion* for the 2020-2021 academic year. I have been on the staff for a little over a year as a member of the Layout & Design team. I am very excited to be serving the BC campus and community this year.

As always, *The Clarion* strives to deliver helpful news to the community in a timely manner. We, as a staff, will continue to do so, regardless of how different this school year may look.

We would also like to hear from our readers. We accept letters to the editor as well as feedback or questions at our email [clarion@brevard.edu](mailto:clarion@brevard.edu).

# *A message from SGA's 2020-2021 co-presidents*

To my fellow BC students,

My name is Rebeccah Rojas, co-president of the Student Government Association.

As a senior business and organizational leadership major with a minor in pre-law, I'm very active in our campus community. I'm a captain on the women's soccer team as a goalkeeper, Hall Director of Green Residence Hall, and I work at Bill's Boiler House. When I am not playing soccer or in class, I love going on hikes, particularly John's Rock and I also join in on campus events held by campus life.

As your co-president of SGA, I want to advocate for the growing necessity of community while following CDC guidelines. I have seen the importance of community at Brevard College. Through building community, I hope the Student Government Association can offer safe spaces where students can address pressing issues and be the change they want to see on campus and in our society.

I am incredibly honored to serve a well-rounded student body during a time of uncertainty. I am excited to empower and assist students through their goals for Brevard College. I look forward to growing with the Student Government Executive Board and with you this year.

Hello Brevard College!

My name is Caitlyn Cloud-Morton otherwise known as Kat on campus and I am a senior here at Brevard College majoring in music and minoring in psychology. I am very involved in campus, and look forward to having more student interaction this year to make a more comfortable and welcoming environment for students here and to come in the future. This year in the 2020-2021 term I will serve as one of your SGA presidents beside Rebeccah Rojas who has been someone I have had the honor of working with for the past 4 years. I really value wellness and want everyone to feel as if they have a place in this home away from home. I am super excited to help Brevard open up more to diversity as well as listening to student voices! Thank you so much for your support, and I look forward to a wonderful year!

## BC introduces new learning platform

By Carson Waddell  
Staff Writer

Brevard College will be implementing a new online platform called Canvas for the Fall 2020 semester. This will be used for students to manage their class materials and be able to submit documents to professors. It is very important for new students to become familiar with the platform so they can stay ahead of all class deadlines and stay updated with grades.

Returning students will find this platform to be very similar to Sakai. Some new features that Canvas offers are an integrated calendar, inbox for messages, and custom notification settings. Canvas is also available on your mobile devices.

So, how do you access Canvas? First, go to MyBC and login with your student credentials. You will see on the left of your screen a list of quick links. Click on "Canvas" under the quick links taskbar and you will be directed to the website. The login information will be the same that you use for your MyBC login.

Once you have reached the Canvas website, you should locate the taskbar column on the left side of your screen. Here you can see your profile, dashboard, individual courses, calendar, and inbox. You will also see a help tab that will guide you through the software and offer support if you have any questions.

In the account tab, you can customize your profile with a picture and a bio. You will be able to set up Canvas on your mobile device by scanning the QR code provided. There are notifications that can be customized to your preference for due dates, announcements, grades posted, and many other items.

Sometimes instructors do not post the classes until a week into the semester, so don't be concerned if your classes are not showing up currently. Mac users are recommended to use Firefox or Google Chrome due to an issue that Canvas has with Safari.

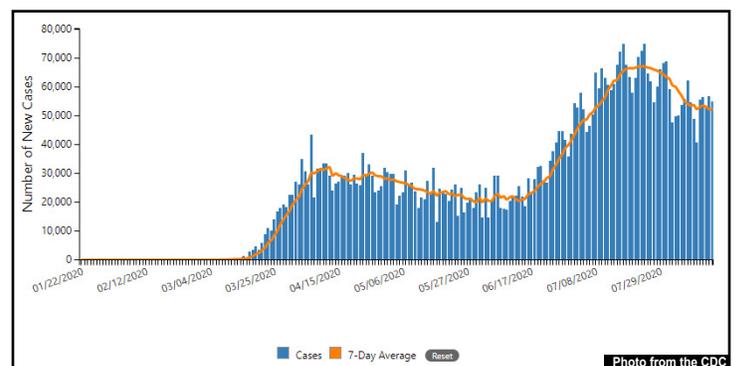
## COVID-19 latest nationwide numbers

By Eleanor Flannery  
Opinion Editor

As people head back to work and students return to school, coronavirus is still a grave concern for Americans. With stores, restaurants, parks, community centers, schools, colleges, and many other social gathering spaces opening, many will have to adapt to a new normal. The CDC still recommends wearing facemasks and continuing to social distance as a safety precaution in public spaces. Most stores and places of gathering require some form of face covering, often refusing service to those who don't abide by the rule.

The current data provided by the CDC shows that there are 5,340,232 total cases in the United States, and 168,696 deaths. There are over 50,000 confirmed new cases each day, a worrying trend expected to have declined as Americans hold stricter precautions. Some states are trending better than others, with Florida, Texas, and California showing the bulk of cases and numbers.

What people can do to protect themselves and look out for their neighbors is to continue to wear masks, be considerate of those around them and distance themselves, and sanitize after being in a public space.



# BC adds new athletic and academic buildings

By Margaret Correll  
Editor in Chief

New athletic and classroom additions were built over the summer on the Brevard College campus. These additions consisted of an expanded turf field, much larger athletic complex and the renovation of the previous football field house, which will now be used by the Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education (WLEE) department. The construction started on March 15, 2020.

The BC turf field was expanded to reach the goal of having an on-campus football field, along with its current usage of lacrosse, soccer and softball. This plan had been a few years in the making, coming to fruition after the fall 2019 announcement of campus renovations by President David Joyce and the Brevard College Board of Trustees. Additions of yard lines, end zones and field goal posts have been added to the turf, along with a new home bleacher, complete with Brevard Tornado blue detailing.

The expansion of the turf field has been a long time coming, according to Brevard College Athletic Director, Myranda Nash. “The gameday environment will drastically improve and I’m looking forward to the teams having that opportunity,” said Nash. “This also allows space in Boshamer Gym to be reimagined and used more appropriately by our students,” Nash added.

The new athletic complex is still under

construction, adjacent to the expanded turf field, and was announced along with turf field. It will house locker rooms for football, women’s lacrosse, men’s and women’s soccer, baseball, and softball in addition to coach and faculty offices, a laundry facility, a large classroom or meeting space and an exercise science lab.

The new WLEE building will be used for the Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education department in place of the basement of Jones Hall, their previous classroom and learning space.

Construction for the athletic building is set to end Sept. 30, 2020. Plans for a press box to be added to the BC stadium are set for the spring.



Courtesy of Margaret Correll

The athletic building under construction.



Courtesy of Margaret Correll

A view of the new football turf and home team bleachers from the visitor stands.

## 'Avatar: The Last Airbender' creators leave production

Fans of the beloved Nickelodeon animated show "Avatar: The Last Airbender" were disappointed to hear that the original creators have left the long-awaited live action adaptation, set to be aired by Netflix. Micheal Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko have chosen to leave the production over many creative differences.

According to CNN, DiMartino posted on Wednesday about his and Koneitzko's split from the project. "In June of this year, after two years of development work, Bryan Konietzko and I made the difficult decision to leave the production," DiMartino wrote on his website.

DiMartino continued in his statement about the original plan for the Netflix series and how excited the duo was to see their creation in live-action. "Netflix said that it was committed to honoring our vision for this retelling and to supporting us on creating the series," wrote DiMartino. "Unfortunately, things did not go as we had hoped."

DiMartino, while not being a part of the production, had hopeful words for the series in-the-making. "It might turn out to be a show many of you end up enjoying," DiMartino added, "but what I can be certain about is that whatever version ends up on-screen, it will not be what Bryan and I had envisioned or intended to make."

DiMartino and Koneitzko will continue to be active in the "Avatar" universe, according to DiMartino's post.

Even through this disappointing time for fans, there is still some light at the end of the tunnel. The sequel series to "Avatar: The Last Airbender" titled "Legend of Korra" was recently released to Netflix and is now available to stream on the platform.

— Margaret Correll

# Deadly explosion in Beirut shocks the world

By Aia Andonovska  
Copy Editor

On August 4, 2020 a devastating explosion occurred in Beirut, the capital of Lebanon. It killed at least 200 people and injured around 5,000 others.

The explosion occurred in a warehouse when the roof caught on fire. According to witnesses there was a large initial explosion which was then followed by a series of smaller blasts that sounded like fireworks. It should be noted that the explosion was not caused by fireworks, as some social media outlets have been spreading this misinformation. Shortly after this, a colossal mushroom cloud erupted into the air, sending a supersonic blast wave through the city.

The blast was so mighty that it leveled buildings near the port and caused extensive damage all over the capital city. It created a crater in the port that is approximately 460 feet wide. The warehouse where the catastrophe took place has been completely obliterated and an adjacent grain silo was damaged. The explosion blew out windows at the airport located five miles away. It was so strong that it was heard as far away as the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. Seismologists have compared the blast's strength to that of a 3.3 magnitude earthquake.

Based on an analysis of the videos of the explosion, a group from the University of Sheffield estimated that the explosion was the

equivalent of 1,000 to 1,500 tons of TNT which is about a 10th of the intensity of the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945.

"Whatever the precise charge size, this is unquestionably one of the largest non-nuclear explosions in history, far bigger than any conventional weapon," said Professor Andy Tyas, an expert on blast protection engineering.

Lebanon's prime minister, Hassan Diab, has blamed the explosion on the 2,700 tons of ammonium nitrate that was unsafely being stored in the warehouse. Ammonium nitrate is a crystal-like white solid normally used as a source of nitrogen for agricultural fertilizer. It can also be combined with fuel oils to create an explosive used for mining and construction purposes. Bombs have been made with it in the past. Experts say that ammonium nitrate is relatively safe when stored properly. However, if you have a large amount of material lying around for a long time it begins to decay.

The Lebanese government has since stepped down. Lebanon has already been suffering from the worst economic crisis in decades along with the coronavirus pandemic. A team of FBI investigators headed to Lebanon this past weekend to take part in the ongoing investigation. The cause of fire as of right now remains unclear.

To donate directly to the Lebanese Red Cross please visit [https://supportlrc.app/donate/donate\\_guest.html](https://supportlrc.app/donate/donate_guest.html)



Photo from Wikipedia

The aftermath of the 2020 Beirut explosions.

# Trump threatens election legitimacy by sabotaging the U. S. Postal Service

By Eleanor Flannery  
Opinion Editor

President Trump openly stated that he is withholding funds from the United States Postal Service, effectively posing a threat to the presidential election in November. In the midst of a pandemic, many Americans are relying on mail-in ballots to cast their votes for the 2020 election. Without suitable funding, the U.S. Postal Service is expected to have massive delays in nationwide mailing, causing concern for voting deadlines.

Thomas J. Marshall, the general counsel for the Postal Service, warned of these delays. In letters sent back in July to all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Marshall said "certain deadlines for requesting and casting mail-in ballots are incongruous with the Postal Service's delivery standards." To quell those worried about the risks of coronavirus during

an election, Mr. Marshall recommended that Americans request their mail-in ballots up to 15 days in advance, as opposed to voting last minute. "This mismatch creates a risk that ballots requested near the deadline under state law will not be returned by mail in time to be counted," Marshall wrote.

President Trump has not been silent about his distaste for voting by mail, and recently said that if the USPS does not receive the \$25 billion funding, requested by Democrats in an ongoing stimulus back-and-forth negotiation, then he believes the Post Office will not be able to handle the number of mail-in ballots for the upcoming election.

"They want three and a half billion dollars for something that'll turn out to be fraudulent, that's election money basically. They want three and a half billion dollars for the mail-in votes. Universal mail-in ballots. They want \$25 billion, billion, for the Post Office. Now

they need that money in order to make the Post Office work so it can take all of these millions and millions of ballots," Mr. Trump said, reiterating his false assertion that mail-in voting would be "fraudulent."

"They need that money in order to make the Post Office work so it can take all of these millions and millions of ballots," Trump said this Thursday during an interview on Fox Business. "But if they don't get those two items, that means you can't have universal mail-in voting, because they're not equipped to have it."

USPS is advising Americans request their ballots early to ensure their voting ballots are counted on time. Some states, such as Pennsylvania and Michigan, are requesting deadline extensions so voters have time to get their ballots sent in on time with the expected delays. "We have asked the Legislature to change Michigan law to allow ballots postmarked by Election Day that arrive within a certain window to be counted," said Tracy Wimmer, spokeswoman for Michigan's secretary of state, Jocelyn Benson.

Joe Biden's campaign called the president's comments an "assault on our democracy," in a statement. "The President of the United States is sabotaging a basic service that hundreds of millions of people rely upon, cutting a critical lifeline for rural economies and for delivery of medicines, because he wants to deprive Americans of their fundamental right to vote safely during the most catastrophic public health crisis in over 100 years," said Biden campaign spokesman, Andrew Bates.

Though the president is clear with his disdain for voting by mail, Mr. Trump and his wife Melania Trump, both requested mail-in ballots in Florida, according to Palm Beach County records. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senator Chuck Schumer of New York issued a joint statement last Friday denouncing Trump's "attacks on vote by mail."

"The president's comments today affirm that no patriotic tradition is immune from his abuse of power," they said. "The president made plain that he will manipulate the operations of the post office to deny eligible voters the ballot in pursuit of his own re-election."



Photo from ABC News

Many citizens protest the withholding of funding to the Postal Service which could potentially cause major delays for mail-in voting.

# Biden chooses Kamala Harris as running mate

By Eleanor Flannery  
Opinion Editor

Last Tuesday, presumed democratic presidential nominee, Joe Biden, picked California senator Kamala Harris as his running-mate for the 2020 presidency. "I've decided that Kamala Harris is the best person to help me take this fight to Trump and Mike Pence and then to lead this nation starting in January 2021," Biden declared the news via email. Harris was one of several women Biden considered for the ticket, as he was committed to having a female counterpart to run alongside him. Kamala Harris proved to be superior.

From CNN, "Harris, 55, is now the third woman to serve as a vice presidential candidate for a major political party, following Geraldine Ferraro as the Democratic vice presidential pick in 1984 and Sarah Palin as the Republican vice presidential pick in 2008." Harris, a former California prosecutor, is quite charismatic and having already spoken about her vision for the nation in the 2020 presidential democratic debates, she is a strong choice for the democratic party.

It will be interesting to see where Biden and Harris will find common ground when tackling platform policies and issues, such as healthcare.

Harris once supported a more progressive plan for healthcare, Medicare For All, backed by Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders who ran a respectable 2020 democratic campaign. Harris has since shifted her views.

"I think almost every member of the United States Senate who's running for President and many others, have signed on to a variety of plans in the Senate. And I have done the same," Harris said at a fundraiser, according to her campaign. "All of them are good ideas, which is why I support them. And I support Medicare for All. But as you may have noticed, over the course of many months, I've not been comfortable with Bernie's plan, the Medicare for All plan." Harris' discomfort with Medicare For All is somewhat surprising, being that she was the first senator to co-sponsor the plan, back in August 2017.

Harris' campaign spokesman, Ian Sams, told *The Daily Beast* "there's a difference between signing onto a good idea and running on a plan." He said, "Senator Harris was hearing from lots of voters real concerns, specifically about proactively abolishing private insurance, the four year transition, middle class tax hikes, and so she came up with her own plan to adjust for those that, frankly, is better than his." Harris

has flip-flopped her position on healthcare on several occasions.

During a CNN Town Hall in January, Harris gave mixed messages around healthcare. "The idea is that everyone gets access to medical care, and you don't have to go through the process of going through an insurance company, having them give you approval, going through the paperwork, all of the delay that may require. Let's eliminate all of that. Let's move on," she said. This matches exactly what Medicare For All planned to do. It's hard to say where the California senator stands on the matter, but middle ground between Medicare For All, and Biden's safer take on providing healthcare by creating a public option, might create a perfect balance of support.

Kamala Harris will make history as the first Black and South Asian American woman to run as vice president for a major political party's presidential ticket. Tune in tonight to watch the democratic national convention where Harris is set to speak. Former president Barack Obama, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and others are also scheduled to speak, as well as a performance from singer Billie Eilish. The Democratic National Convention will be on CNN at 9PM EST.



Harris (left) speaks in front of a crowd after the formal announcement of her campaign with Biden (right).

Photo from Forbes

# Brevard College officially granted NCAA Division III membership status

By Phillip de Montimollin

Sports Information Director

BREVARD, N.C. – Brevard College has been officially granted active NCAA Division III membership status, effective September 1, 2020. As a result, the Tornados will be eligible to participate in NCAA championships beginning in the 2020-21 academic year.

The official granting of NCAA Division III membership came following a vote by the NCAA Division III Membership Committee earlier this week. The membership arrives a year in advance of the original timeline after Brevard College was granted a waiver to bypass one year of the reclassification process.

“We are so excited to officially be admitted as a member institution in NCAA Division III,” said Director of Athletics Myranda Nash. “I thank the NCAA Membership Committee for their consideration of our institution and

especially would like to thank Brevard College President David Joyce, previous Athletic Director and Athletic Direct Report Juan Mascaro, previous Compliance Director Jamie Atkinson and current Compliance Director Angie Mascaro for guiding us every step of the way through the process.”

“I applaud our athletics staff for all the diligence and hard work it took to achieve full-time NCAA Division III status,” said President Joyce. “Division III is the perfect fit for Brevard College and now our student-athletes will be able to experience the benefits of full-time membership.”

In addition to eligibility in NCAA championship competition, Brevard College will also have the benefit of a vote at the NCAA Convention as well as opportunities for BC coaches and staff to serve on NCAA committees. Student-athletes will also now be eligible for NCAA postseason awards.

“Congratulations to Myranda Nash and her team for completing the reclassification process with the NCAA,” said Mascaro, Vice President for Finance and Operations/CFO. “This is another major step for Brevard College Athletics that will provide our student-athletes with significant opportunities on and off the field.”

Parallel to its active membership in NCAA Division III, Brevard College also becomes full-time members of the USA South Conference beginning in the 2020-21 season and in turn will be eligible to compete in conference championships.

To follow the latest news and updates surrounding Brevard College Athletics, follow the Tornados on Twitter and Instagram @bctornados, like ‘Brevard College Athletics’ on Facebook, and subscribe to ‘Brevard College Tornados’ on YouTube and SoundCloud. Also, follow ‘brevardcollege’ on Flickr for the latest photos from all Brevard College events.

