

Happy Holidays  
and have a great  
Winter Break!



# The CLARION

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# A final farewell

*Timothy Powers recalls fond memories of Brevard College*

By Margaret Correll  
Editor in Chief

Brevard College says goodbye to one of its most successful professors and the coordinator of the Criminal Justice major, Timothy Powers. Since 2014, Powers has made it his mission to develop the Criminal Justice program at Brevard College and turn it into a major with extremely desirable graduates. He is now venturing on to different things, applying to be the Fletcher, North Carolina police chief and Hendersonville, North Carolina police chief.

He will miss some of the things that made Brevard College what it is today and the things that connected him to his students and the community. When asked about memories that he is fond of at Brevard College he replied, "Every sporting event that I have ever been to because I get to watch my students play," said Powers. "I get to see them in their element, who they are and I get to see that joy on their face which makes everything worth it."

Powers also shined a light on how far his drive for student success goes as a part of his memories at BC. He detailed the moments when students are picking a major and how much he still cares about each individual, even though some may not want to be Criminal Justice majors. "To be honest, I think something I enjoy is seeing folks like you (Margaret Correll) really enjoy having class and doing things," Powers said. "That's the stuff that makes it worthwhile for me.."

"There's a lot I'm going to miss—very few things I won't miss," he said.

Powers recalled the many students that came through his program since 2014, and the amount of pride he had in each and every student that left with a Brevard College diploma. "All of my students are successes in one way or another, to me," Powers said. He detailed many students that are working as law enforcement officers and the number of people he taught who are employed or in graduate school. "I can always brag about the

sheriff of the county actually graduating from my program," he said. "Not many places can say that."

Powers hopes that there are things he has done on the BC campus that will be remembered in the future. "Before I got here, we had less than 20 students and a program that was a cookie-cutter," Powers said. "It was a Powerpoint, a quiz, and then the assumption that students know this topic." Powers wanted to change this way of learning for his students and started to develop this extreme hands-on way of learning for Criminal Justice majors and minors. Many of his classes involve getting out in the field, using authentic equipment and learning real life skills needed for an eventual job.

He hopes that things like this, a complete revamping of the program, will stay with Brevard College after he leaves. "I hope those memories live on and I hope that product lives on," Powers said.

Powers explained that some materials used for classes like his crime scene investigation class will be "donated" by himself to the school to be used in this class. This includes entomology kits

and fingerprinting kits.

Powers feels like the tools he introduced to the Criminal Justice program, both in curriculum and physically, are things that make Brevard College special. "You can not find this anywhere else," he said.

"I want to thank everybody for my time at Brevard College," Powers said. "The faculty that have helped in my classes, the community partners, the students, but the list is so long I would hate to leave anyone off of it." He wants everyone to know that without their help, it made the experience worth it.

"My students, you guys have been tremendous," Powers said. "You guys have made every bit of this really hard to say no to and walk away from."

He is not sure what his future is going to hold, but he hopes Brevard College would offer up a class or two for a chance to adjunct. He continues to be hopeful for the new changes in his life and wants any member of the BC family and community to not be afraid to reach out. "I'm not going anywhere," Powers said. "I am still one phone call away."



Photo from [brevard.edu](http://brevard.edu)

Timothy Powers leads students in creating print casts in Brevard College's Crime Scene Investigation class.

## Brandon Smith wishes the best for the BC community

Brandon Smith, Brevard College’s Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for Student Success and Associate professor of Theatre will be saying farewell to the BC campus and moving on to different things at the end of the fall semester. The Gardner Institute on Brevard’s Main Street will be welcoming Smith as a part of their team.

The Gardner Institute, run by Chair and Chief Executive Officer, John N. Gardner, focuses on “partnering with colleges, universities, philanthropic organizations, educators, and other entities to increase institutional responsibility for improving outcomes associated with teaching, learning, retention, and completion,” according to the company’s mission statement. Smith plans to do essentially what he is doing at Brevard College: project management, a Bill and Linda Gates foundation funding grant and other grant funded projects.

After moving to Brevard in 2012, Smith knew that the area was special. “This is a pretty magical place,” Smith said. “We (he and his wife) got to know the people here and we fell in love—this started the series of fond

memories of Brevard.”

Another aspect of Brevard College that Smith will miss is the fantastic theatre department, which grew from one faculty member and six majors into one of the most loved and biggest programs on campus. “Those early years were beautiful and wonderful,” Smith said.

“No place is perfect, but there is so much to love here,” Smith said. “The location is beautiful, the people are kind and there is such a focus on student success.” Smith feels that Brevard College and all those that work there are dedicated to the well-being of students. “In a larger institution, in a larger context that becomes more difficult to do,” Smith said.

Smith also is a big proponent of the experiential learning commitment of Brevard College, citing this as a key factor in student’s success during his time working as a faculty member. “This place, in my opinion, is about self-actualization,” he said, “and every student we have been able to support in that journey, they are all successes.”

Smith stated that he will forever be at the disposal of Brevard College and wherever he is, if he is needed, he will be there. “This is my home, my community,” he said.

Smith is thankful for the Brevard College community and for those that are devoted to the mission of the college and to one another. “I hope the college continues to thrive,” Smith said. “It’s been a great place to spend the last eight and a half years and it’s been an honor to serve here.”



Brandon Smith

### THE CLARION

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# Pfizer and Moderna move to get emergency FDA approval for COVID-19 vaccines

By Eleanor Flannery  
Opinion Editor

Pharmaceutical company Pfizer announced this week, with its partner BioNTech, that their vaccine is 95 percent effective and works well to treat older patients Covid-19 positive. Pfizer said Friday that the drug company sent in an application to the Food and Drug Administration seeking approval to authorize the vaccine for coronavirus emergency use.

If approved, the accelerated process would allow Americans to receive their first coronavirus vaccine by mid-December.

Pfizer’s vaccine not only works well to treat older people, but also to prevent the development of a severe case of Covid-19 in elderly patients. Moderna, another vaccine front-runner, also said last week that their vaccine is seeking approval by the FDA for emergency use to treat coronavirus and is 94.5 percent effective. The two vaccines both use similar technology and “... use a synthetic version of coronavirus genetic material, called mRNA, to program a person’s

cells to churn out many copies of a fragment of the virus,” according to the New York Times.

Pfizer’s chief executive, Dr. Albert Bourla, said on Friday that it was a “historic day,” and: “It is with great pride and joy—and even a little relief—that I can say that our request for emergency use authorization for our Covid-19 vaccine is now in the F.D.A.’s hands.” If the two emergency vaccines are authorized for use, it has been by federal and company officials that there would be enough doses to treat around 20 million Americans before January, those including health care workers and nursing home residents.

Pfizer and Moderna have both pledged that their vaccines would be made free to Americans by arranging deals with the government to distribute plans according to states. FDA regulators report that it will take about three weeks to review Pfizer’s vaccine before an outside panel of experts meets to review the application the second week of December. That meeting has been scheduled for Dec. 10.

# A message of thanks from Dean of Students Deb D'Anna

*Editor's note: The following message was emailed to everyone on campus on Monday afternoon.*

Thank you for all you have done to keep our campus community safe over the past few weeks. We know that this semester has been difficult for many of you. There are many reasons for the difficulty. Some of the reasons are:

- The uncertainty the virus has created.
- Our high expectations for your behavior.
- High-risk family members.
- Health conditions that made you high risk.
- Inability to compete in your sport.
- Asking you to limit your contact with other students.
- Cohort housing.
- Limited the options in the dining hall.
- Requiring you to wear a mask at all times while inside or close to others outside.
- Limiting your trips home and off-campus.
- Quarantine if you had any COVID symptoms.
- Participation in testing.

You decided in-person classes were important to you, and you were willing to follow the protocols. Because of your willingness, Brevard

College has been able to complete the fall semester. We had 16 student cases and 4 staff cases. This is an accomplishment for our campus. Here are some highlights from our fall semester.

- Over 1800 COVID tests were completed on campus.
- .72% positivity rate
- 16 positive student cases
- 4 positive staff cases

What is next? You will be traveling home for the break. It is important that you continue to follow the CDC guidelines for slowing the spread of COVID to family and friends. The 3Ws are extremely important. I would suggest you quarantine for 14 days or limit your contact with others after arriving home from campus. This will ensure that you do not spread COVID to family and friends at home. I know it is hard to think about limiting your contact with family and friends over the break. However, it will help ensure the health and safety of those you love and care about.

We have heard promising news of a vaccine in the next few weeks. Help is on the way. Until the vaccine is here, it is up to us to make tough

decisions around attending gatherings, wearing masks, and physical distancing to keep each other safe. I know you can make tough decisions. Guy Kawasaki, a former Apple employee, said, "the hard part is implementing the decision, not making it." We have tough decisions to make about gathering with our family and friends. Make the tough decision to keep everyone safe and slow the spread of COVID. Things will get better in time. Our decisions will determine the time it takes for things to get better.

There is a great video that shows how wearing a mask when indoors can slow the spread. We will be working hard while you are away to keep you safe when you return in January. I encourage you to check MyBrevard and email over the break for information and updates.

As always, be kind, stay positive, work hard, and make it happen. Thank you for caring for each other and keeping our campus safe. I will end with this quote by Joshua J. Marine. "Challenges are what make life interesting, and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful. We will see you in January.

Thanks,  
Debbie D'Anna

## BC psychology practices self care

By Kym Caldwell  
Arts & Life Editor

Wednesday evening, Nov. 18, Brevard College's Psychology Honors Department put together an event for students focused on helping students practice self-care and prioritize good health toward the end of the semester with the stress of exams arising. There are many benefits that come with practicing self-care; it allows you to take time to be alone with yourself to find out new information, boosts your immune system and self-esteem and can improve your compassion.

The event was split into stations: the writing workshop, arts & crafts, guided conversation, yoga and meditation. Arts & crafts and yoga allow students to relieve stress by keeping both their body and mind busy. Both activities were student-centered and show that even doing little things for yourself like taking time to create art can improve your mental and physical health.

The writing workshop, run by student Amber Blanton, included a guided exercise

to help students get started with the activity of journaling. The act of journaling allows individuals to put their thoughts on paper often helping grant clarity to busy minds. "The Written Journey: Your personalized journal experience and how to get started" helped students navigate through journaling by offering prompts, ways to make your journal your own, ways to get started and even the writing instruments to use.

A popular event of the evening was guided conversation. The guided conversation allowed for a space that students could come into and talk about the semester, the things that they may be struggling with, things they may be succeeding with and simply just to vent. It was clear that students found this very comforting; one group of students enjoyed it so much that they sat for a second round. Having guided conversation

helps students become more personable with each other and realize that they are not alone in their situation.

Senior Mickayla Smith educated students on the art and importance of meditation. "Meditation centers us and makes us mindful of where we stand in the world," Smith said. The meditation the students practiced as part of the exercise was the "Love and Kindness" meditation; this practice itself helps with increasing overall wellbeing and relieves stress, important for the average college student.

Overall, practicing self-care can help you achieve an emotionally clear state of mind, loosen stress, increase your empathy and many more things. It is important to put yourself first and make sure you're staying well, especially in such stressful times.

**Serve on The Clarion staff in Spring 2021**

We need writers, photographers, cartoonists, reviewers, and more.  
Enroll in COM 108 to be part of the action.

## Senior Profile

# Honors psychology student Mickayla Smith to graduate

By Aia Andonovska  
Copy Editor

Psychology major Mickayla Smith will be graduating from Brevard College in the spring of 2021. Originally from Pennsylvania, Smith now lives in Polk County, North Carolina. She came to Brevard College because it was relatively close to her family. She has lived in several states during her life, including Florida, New Jersey, New York and of course Pennsylvania. She stated that this was the reasoning behind choosing Brevard; to be close to family and to stay in state because it is cheaper. Since she moved around a lot, she didn't want to go out of state again.

Smith also has a double minor in philosophy, religion, and creative writing as well as being a psychology major. She said that if the college had concentrations for the Psychology Department, she would have concentrated in family marriage therapy.

When asked what her best memories were from Brevard College, Smith said "There is so much, but I have to say, my favorite memories are with my friends. I wasn't much of an outdoorsy person prior to Brevard College. Don't get me wrong, I have always loved nature, but that all changed when I began to explore with my friends. Each time we went camping, or hiking, I wanted to explore more. At Brevard College, I had the opportunity to awaken the child within me. I always took myself very seriously growing up, but I learned to truly loosen up a bit. I now incorporate going out into the woods as a form of self-care. I never really understood before Brevard, just how much the natural environment can impact a human being. It really does change something about yourself. It grounds you and nurtures you. Also, taking some courses here has helped me to have a knowledgeable background on why it is important to experience nature, and how to enjoy it in different ways."

Smith has some valuable advice for the freshmen as well. "When it comes to school, don't expect people to do the work for you. While in class, especially classes where it is discussion-focused, speak up! I have been in too many classes where there would be silence all throughout the classroom. My fellow peers would rely on other students to speak up in

class, and honestly, that's not fair to those students who always talk. When no one speaks, no one learns. You are not annoying when you speak all the time, for those who do, it gets exhausting when you have others relying on you. Remember you are paying to be here, if you speak up, but say something wrong, oh well. That's why you go to college - to learn. Yes, that will make you feel stupid, but trust me that's just part of the process. Now is the time to be wrong, not when you graduate from here and enter into the real world.

When it comes to personal life, go with your gut - always. As a freshman, this is most likely your first time being independent and without any supervision. This newfound independence is great! You get to truly mold yourself and become your own person. However, with this new independence comes responsibility. You may meet people who are great to hang around in the beginning, but that may change down the line. I know you may meet people on campus, and they feel like they will be your forever friend. Just keep in mind, this may not always happen. In college, you gain and lose friends. This is a sad truth, but a real one. Not to say that you won't have any friends from college, just don't expect to keep every single one of them. People change, and maybe not for the better. If they are going down a dark road, distance yourself. Be aware of your situations and remove yourself if you feel at all unsafe"

Smith also shared some of her experiences with her professors at Brevard College, stating, "I am so grateful for my Psychology Department. Dr. O'Leary and Dr. Busche are truly some of the best teachers and people I have ever met. Not only do they care that you understand the work, but they also make sure that you are okay personally. They are both professional and personable, and I'm so glad that they came to Brevard. My fellow graduating psychology peers were Dr. O'Leary's and Dr. Busche's first group to graduate from Brevard College, and so this will be very bittersweet when we go. I also would like to acknowledge Dr. Bringle and Dr. Bensel. First, Dr. Bringle was who inspired me to continue with philosophy and religion. She truly opened up my mind to the world and what is around me. I feel confident that I will

leave here with a better understanding of the world and myself in a beautifully philosophical way. Also, she has helped me find what I find meaningful in life. She assisted in making my spirituality stronger and finding out what I fit into. I'm not a religious person because I find that religion has too many rules to follow. I much rather feel that I am guiding my life in a way I feel morally and ethically confident in. Spirituality is a beautiful thing because it is unique for everyone. Dr. Bensel has challenged me to dig deep within my creativity. I have always loved writing poetry, but I never felt like I could do anything with it. Dr. Bensel showed me that I can do a lot with poetry, but most of all, without her knowing, she helped me put things in perspective and helped me heal through writing. So, thank you to these four, I will never forget you."

Smith has also received awards during her time at Brevard College. These include writing awards from Dr. Bensel and Dr. Padgett as well as an award for her poster presentation during sophomore year. She also has been on the honor roll throughout her education. She is currently the editor-in-chief for the Chiaroscuro. She also is the vice president for the Psychology Honors Society. In the past in her spare time, she volunteered at the local cat cafe every week. Smith is planning on going to graduate school but said she needs a break from this year as well. She also said she wants to save up some money after college and travel.



Courtesy of Mickayla Smith

Mickayla Smith

## Video Game Review

# Lead a resistance in XCOM2

By Kellen McGeorge  
Staff Writer

It's unclear if we are alone in the universe, but many believe that if aliens do exist, they will be able to take us over with no real trouble. With XCOM 2, we can at least see what a possible rebellion would be like for humanity.

In XCOM 2, you take command of Earth's first and last line of defense against an alien threat, the XCOM project. As commander, your job is to lead your soldiers to victory on Earth's behalf and send the aliens back to space. XCOM 2 takes place after XCOM: Enemy Unknown, where the invasion is successful and earth is now under the rule of the ADVENT administration, but don't let the pretty cities and advanced technology fool you, under a beautiful utopia is a dark secret that could put humanity on the edge of extinction. As commander of the remaining XCOM forces, you must build a global resistance to save Earth and reveal ADVENT's true nature.

XCOM plays like a strategy game, as such, you must play smartly instead of rushing in with no plan. You command your soldiers' actions, from movement and when to fire their weapons. Your soldiers have different classes for different situations, rangers excel at close combat and scouting, grenadiers are

heavy weapon masters that can chew through tough armor, specialists can excel at being field medics or combat hackers with their GREMLIN drones, sharpshooters excel at long range and can even be trained with pistols to fight at mid-range if the issue every arises and Psi-operatives are powerful psionic soldiers who can cause havoc for the enemy with psychic powers.

Your enemies have power, and that power can help you in research and development. Using autopsies and research, you can develop more

powerful weapons and equipment to keep your soldiers on equal footing with the enemy. You also need to make sure your base is well-kept and staying in touch with resistance cells across the globe.

Join XCOM today and take the fight to ADVENT. I enjoyed the fun gameplay of XCOM 2 and enjoyed the fun story of XCOM. I recommend this game for anyone who enjoys a good strategy game, so try it out, and Good luck Commander.



# The race is not over yet

By Isaac Ford  
Staff Writer

November has given us a promising glimpse of the future. On November 7, the Associated Press called the presidential race with democratic candidate Joe Biden as the winner. Following his victory, president-elect Biden planned to announce his COVID-19 task force the following Monday – the same day Pfizer announced that its vaccine was over ninety-percent effective. Biden's willingness to immediately tackle the novel virus generates an unbecoming contrast to lame-duck President Donald Trump, who has yet to concede to Biden or do anything substantial to combat the surging virus.

While Biden desires and is planning to not only clean-up the mess of COVID-19, but the many "messes" of America, Trump is

actively undermining Biden and the Biden Administration's ability to do so by claiming election fraud and preventing an easy transition. There is nothing presidential about Donald Trump. People identifying with the "red" of Republicans or Conservatives have become unable to distinguish the red flags of Trump's behavior – they just look like flags.

What America needs is someone who listens and acts in the interest of the American people, rather than their own. Even more, Biden recognizes that the way forward is not with an America that is divided, but with one that is unified. No matter who you are, you are an American. We stand together, not apart, and right now we must face the pandemic.

As of Nov. 15, Moderna has announced their own vaccine, standing at about ninety-five percent effectiveness, when daily cases

of COVID-19 were ranging over a hundred thousand. Hospitalizations are increasing, and so are deaths. The finish line is in sight, but we have yet to cross it – we must trudge on through winter first. The soles of America's shoes have fallen off, and its feet are bloody. Each agonizing step, each deadly day is painful. We are almost there.

But we cannot act as if we have finished the race already. We have on our cloth mask armor, but we still must slay the dragon. We must not become overconfident; we are not immune to the fire of death or the burns of illness. We still need the Shield of Vaccination. We must stay safe and vigilant. The race is not over yet. We have come this far, and it is up to you, and me, that we finish it strong, that we finish it doing our part in keeping ourselves and others safe.

# BC's Brandon Norris Named USA South Decade Athlete of the Week

By Phillip de Montmollin  
Sports Information Director

BREVARD, N.C. – Brevard College Football has earned its third USA South Football Decade Athlete of the Week award, as current junior student-athlete Brandon Norris has won the honors for his special teams performance in a 42-3 victory over Greensboro on November 16, 2019. Norris joins BC's Dalton Cole and Trevon Charles who earlier this season were also named Decade Athletes of the Week.

In the absence of competition for the Fall semester and its postponement to the Spring, the USA South Conference is honoring Decade Athletes of the Week. Selections are based on student-athletes who were named Athlete of

the Week within the current week over the past decade.

Norris, a native of Lumberton, North Carolina, won Special Teams Player of the Week for the week ending Nov. 18, 2019 after an electric performance as a punt returner in the regular season-ending, USA South matchup at Greensboro. Norris returned a punt 57 yards for a touchdown in the third quarter to stretch the Tornados advantage to 42-3. He also added a punt return for 21 yards en route to an average of 39 yards per return for the contest.

The win over Greensboro in 2019 ensured the highest winning percentage in school history while propelling the Tornados to their first-ever bowl berth, an eventual 42-28 win over Carnegie Mellon in the ECAC Scotty

Whitelaw Bowl.

Norris led the 2109 Tornados in receptions (23), receiving yards (374) and punt return yards (227). He also recorded the longest play from scrimmage on the season for the Tornados with a 79-yard touchdown reception at Methodist.

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

## Fall Senior Profile

# Matheus Masukawa #ThankYouSeniors

By Phillip de Montmollin  
Sports Information Director

BREVARD, N.C. – Senior Matheus Masukawa, a four-year member of the Brevard College Men's Soccer team and native of Sao Paulo, Brazil, will be graduating this December with a Bachelor's degree majoring in Business and Organizational Leadership.

After graduation, Masukawa will be attending graduate school to obtain his Master's in Business Administration with a focus on International Business. He also plans to continue playing soccer at his new institution.

Masukawa played a total of 43 games as a Tornado, with 39 games started. During his career, he has scored 12 goals and tallied six assists. Masukawa sits atop BC men's soccer goals in a single season (7), points in a single season (17), penalty kicks in single season (2), career goals (12), and career points (30).

Masukawa had a breakout season in 2019 where he played and started in all 17 matches for the Tornados. He scored a team-best seven goals and three assists for 17 points. He took

a total of 32 shots, with 16 being on-goal, and scored a pair of game-winning goals, while putting in his only penalty kick attempt of the 2019 campaign. Masukawa helped the Tornados to their first postseason appearance since 2106, as BC earned a trip to the 2019 ECAC Men's Soccer Championships. He was selected to the North Carolina Collegiate Sports Information Association's College Division All-State Second Team.

"Matheus is one of those players who make coaching worthwhile," says Head Men's Soccer Coach Helio D'Anna. "His work ethic, willingness to play both sides of the ball, leadership by example and, of course, talent will be missed. Although I am saddened he did not get to play this fall having made the effort to come back, at least I am happy he will exhaust eligibility somewhere while pursuing his MBA."

Masukawa has said that his favorite memory was when the BC men's soccer team beat previous USA South Conference Champions, Maryville College, 5-0 (Oct. 2, 2019). In this game, Masukawa recorded one goal and an

assist. He also states that the atmosphere at Ives-Lemel Family field was the most electric it ever was during his time at BC.

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Masukawa on the BC turf field.

Photo from BC Tornados