

COMMENCEMENT EDITION 2024

The CLARION

clarion.brevard.edu

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Graduates' BC memories, plans, and advice

Voice of the Rivers

BC Athletics 2023-24 highlights and awards

Volume 89, Issue 29

Web Edition

SERVING BREVARD COLLEGE SINCE 1935

May 24, 2024

The BC Class of 2024

Nearly 200 graduates receive diplomas in largest graduating class in Brevard's history

Commencement weekend 2024 at Brevard College was an unusually colorful occurrence, even in the heavens.

On Friday night, a few hours after graduates were "hooded" with colorful regalia representing their fields of study, the skies above Brevard put on a show of aurora borealis, the so-called "northern lights." The phenomenon, a rare treat this far south, was caused by coronal mass ejections on the sun, which prompted NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center to issue a severe (G4) geomagnetic storm watch for the first time in nearly 20 years.

Fortunately, here on Earth (and in Transylvania County), the weather was much nicer, as blue skies and mild temperatures greeted graduates and their families and friends Saturday morning, May 11, as Brevard College held its annual Commencement Exercises. With 193 graduates, 14 of them earning a master's degree, it was the largest graduating class in the history of the college.

"Graduates, you've made it. For years you've been working with this day in mind—this is the moment where we celebrate all of your determination

and hard work. We celebrate your attainment of a noble goal," said Dr. Bradley J Andrews, president of Brevard College, in his opening address.

The festivities began with a traditional Baccalaureate & Hooding Ceremony held on Friday afternoon, May 10, in the Porter Center for Performing Arts. The graduation ceremony on Saturday morning took place on the Ives-Lemel Family Field. Both events were live-streamed, allowing family members and friends to enjoy the events from afar. (Links to video: Friday's Baccalaureate and Hooding [[highlights](#) | [full ceremony](#)] and Saturday's [full graduation ceremony](#) or [highlights](#).)

President Andrews welcomed everyone and then the campus minister, The Rev. Dr. Sharad H. Creasman, gave an invocation to open the proceedings. Chair of the Board of Trustees, Heath Weldon '75, offered greetings from the Board, followed by the announcement of Honors

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As is traditional, members of the BC Class of 2024 posed on the steps of Jones Library for a class photo the morning of commencement May 11. This year's class was the largest in Brevard College history.

Graduation at Brevard College

Continued from [page 1](#)

and Awards by Vice President for Academic Affairs & Dean of Faculty Jennifer Frick-Ruppert.

Three students received the Presidential Award for Distinction: Anna Ervin, Grace Dempsey and Lena Hatter. The award recognizes graduates who demonstrate remarkable leadership, service, and academic achievement.

Graduate Bunny Frost was honored with the C. Edward and Brona N. Roy Good Citizenship Award for exhibiting a record of moral character, citizenship, leadership, and a positive influence on campus.

Julia Lusk and Sydney Raber each earned the Presidential Award for Scholarship, which honors the graduating seniors with at least 62 hours of coursework at Brevard College with the highest academic rank, based on the cumulative grade point average for all coursework completed.

“We graduated our first class, on this campus, in 1934,” President Andrews said. “One thing they all have in common is a commitment to Brevard’s motto: ‘Learn in Order to Serve.’ We know you will take the spirit of service with you to enrich the communities in which you will live and work.”

Unlike many colleges who invite a well-known guest to speak at the ceremony, Brevard College engages its students in the process and encourages personal growth by choosing two outstanding seniors to speak at Commencement. Graduating seniors Lena Hatter and Ish Parsons delivered thoughtful and heartfelt commencement speeches, encouraging their fellow graduates to be proud of overcoming obstacles due to COVID-19, which marked the start of their college careers.

“The adversities we have faced as a class are a testament to our strength and determination to make it to this day,” Hatter said. “Let’s embrace the future ahead with the same optimism and enthusiasm as when we took off our masks.”

Following the awards and speeches, graduates walked across the stage to receive their diplomas from President Andrews. More than 30 of the newly minted graduates hail from Western North Carolina, while the rest traveled from 16 states and 5 foreign countries to make Brevard their home as they pursued their educational goals.

To conclude the ceremony, President Andrews offered a charge to the graduating class, followed by the traditional Brevard College hymn “Guarded Well By Mountains” led by Tamara Kuykendall. Graduates and faculty processed in and out to bagpipe music, a tradition at BC.

“For the class of 2024, what will the future hold?,” Andrews said in his closing remarks. “We are excited to see how each one of you answers that question for yourself. Keep in touch with your mentors as you navigate your next steps and beyond. We are here to support you and we will always be eager to acknowledge your achievements.”



Graduation Ceremony photos by Graham Beasley



Right: Faculty Chief Marshal Margaret Brown, a professor of history, wields the college mace one last time. Brown is retiring from the college after teaching here for 28 years.

Left: The Brevard College Chamber Singers perform during Friday’s Baccalaureate and Hooding Ceremony in the Porter Center.

More photos of graduation and other BC events are available on the college Flickr page, <https://www.flickr.com/brevardcollege/>





Photos by John B. Padgett



Colors of commencement...

Graduation weekend this year included something rare for these parts: aurora borealis, seen here from the Blue Ridge Parkway late Friday night. The celestial light show was caused by coronal activity on the sun which prompted the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to issue a severe (G4) geomagnetic storm watch, the first in nearly 20 years.

Graduation at Brevard College



Top left: Brevard College President Brad Andrews presents a diploma to a 2024 graduate.

Bottom left: New BC graduates pass through two lines of cheering faculty and staff after receiving their diplomas.

Above: One of several brightly decorated graduation mortarboards worn by this year's graduates.

The BC Class of 2024

Master of Science Graduates

Grequenceo Kentavious Coger Jr..... Health & Human Performance
 Jessica Brooke Garland***..... Health & Human Performance
 Destiny Lynn Hall*..... Emergency Management
 Miles Andres Hayes..... Health & Human Performance
 Dale Devon Antoine Holmes II..... Health & Human Performance
 Jordan Miles Leathers..... Health & Human Performance
 KateLynn Abigayle Olive*..... Emergency Management
 Mario De Oliveira Pinto Neto..... Health & Human Performance
 Jahquih Bernard Pledger..... Health & Human Performance
 Khadijah Shakirof-Terika*..... Emergency Management
 Lucy Green Swaffield*..... Emergency Management
 Brady Alexander Tesch**..... Health & Human Performance
 Emma Christine White***..... Emergency Management
 Alexis Nicole Witt***..... Emergency Management

Bachelor of Arts Graduates

Aniston Marie Abshire*..... Psychology
 Zachery Keith Allison..... Criminal Justice
 Gabriel Balducci Duarte**..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Estevan Oliveira Berto..... Exercise Science
 Andrew Lee Bishop..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Camron D'Angelo Blanding..... Physical Education & Recreation
 Elijah Caine Bloom**..... Music Education
 Christopher Arnold Board..... Mathematics
 Mary McDowell Boss..... WLEE
 Devon Rene Brodmeyer**..... Business & Organizational Leadership,
 Psychology
 Tae'ondra Ashanti Brown..... Criminal Justice,
 Psychology
 James Vance Burgess IV..... Music
 Madisen Susan Campbell..... Criminal Justice
 Elijah Baylee Carr..... Criminal Justice
 Carmen Chirino Hulsund*..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Logan Mason Clark*..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Jacob Davis Cleveland..... History
 Branyone Craig Coleman..... Criminal Justice
 Isaiah Klottey Collison*..... English
 Cameron Patrick Cook..... Physical Education & Recreation,
 Exercise Science
 Isabella Thi Thuy Cordes..... Psychology
 Maggie Brianna Cox***..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 DeShawn Vincent Curtis..... Criminal Justice
 Marcos Paes Barreto da Silva..... Exercise Science
 Pedro Olivieri Pires de Campos..... Exercise Science
 Nathan Santana de Lima*..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Cesar Alexander Delgado..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Grace Elizabeth Dempsey***..... Theatre
 Ryan Filizzola Schmidt Devay..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 James Luke Dodson**..... Criminal Justice
 Peyton Mackenzie Douglas..... Music Education
 Gregory Fitzgerald Drummond..... WLEE
 Abigail Nicole Duncan**†..... Integrated Studies
 Benjamin Franklin Ellis..... Criminal Justice
 Anna Elisabeth Ervin**..... Theatre

Carson Julian Evans..... Physical Education & Recreation
 Elijah Dillon Everhart..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Melody Raeanne Ferguson..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Robert Campbell Fortner..... WLEE
 Brian David Frost***..... Psychology
 Deijon Tyrell Gash..... Psychology
 Jameel Malik George..... Exercise Science
 Anna Lynne Goode**..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Daelan Rashaun Grady..... Criminal Justice
 Emily Ruth Griffith***..... Music
 Dakota Jarrell Grimsley..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Peter Francis Grossheim..... Art
 Baylee Rose Hallas..... English
 Warren Christopher Hamrick II..... History
 Dalton Cohen Hawley..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Taleah Khiara Hayes***†..... Criminal Justice
 Madison Dianne Henson..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Noah Sterling Hinton..... WLEE
 Alison Michelle Holland**..... Art
 Devin Matthew Horton*..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Elijah Virgil Hughes..... Theatre,
 Music
 Aaron Dyson Hunt..... Criminal Justice
 Jackson James Inglis..... Art
 Jordan Tyler Ingram**..... Criminal Justice
 Dawson Samuel Jacobs..... WLEE
 Amelie Suzanne Jones***..... Psychology
 Otis Kahar**..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Katharina Anne Kramer**..... Childhood Education Elementary (K-6)
 Thomas Von Kramer..... Criminal Justice
 Tamara Faith Kuykendall***†..... Music Education
 Ryan Seth Lagadi*..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Wyatt Mason Lankford..... Criminal Justice
 Jordan Lee Laws*..... English
 Chancellor Donovan Anwar Lee-Parker..... Psychology
 Logan Michael Leonard..... Criminal Justice
 Thiago Cereser Leopardi..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Benjamin Joel Lofstedt**..... History
 Declan James Lusk..... History
 Julia Brittain Lusk***..... Art
 Gabrielle Elizabeth Lynch***†..... WLEE
 Nathaniel David Mahoney..... Criminal Justice
 Abigail Reece Mayer*..... Psychology
 Colin Michael McCabe***..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Jonas Allen McCannless***..... Music
 Andrew Meade McDonald..... WLEE
 Colin Patrick Miller..... Theatre
 Colson Alan Miller..... Physical Education & Recreation
 Kayleigh Elizabeth Miller***..... Music
 Kameron Naikia Moore..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Pietro Pimenta Moratelli***..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Mikayla Lynn Morgan..... Psychology
 Devonte Taquan Murray..... Criminal Justice
 Igor Mateus Nogueira da Silva**..... Business & Organizational Leadership
 Todd Michael Norman..... History

BC Memories...

Each year for our commencement edition, The Clarion invites graduating seniors to send us some of their favorite memories and photos from their time at BC, their immediate plans after graduation, and their advice for other BC students.

This year, we received submissions from 15 graduates. Their contributions, lightly edited, are on the following pages.

Many thanks to everyone who sent us contributions. And congratulations to all of this year's graduates!



Media day for track 2023, taken by Caden. (Courtesy of Isabell Musser)



Leaving Los Angeles for Brevard. (Courtesy of Bunny Frost)



Cassie Plemmons and I, June 2023, Yellowstone National Park. (Courtesy of Kaitlyn Light)



Doing commentary alongside Brady Penn. Photo by Mitchell Yoder. (Courtesy of Carson Evans)

When Cassie and I went on a month long driving trip across the U.S. just for the fun of it. We hit all major places (Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Mall of America, etc). It was the funnest and most tiring trip ever, but it was the best trip ever to take with my best friend.
 —Kaitlyn Light

Winning the USA South Conference BACK TO BACK as a soccer player was an incredible feeling as a Brevard College student-athlete
 —Marcos Silva

Playing against Maryville and beating them in triple overtime.

—Q Coger Jr.

The brawl at LaGrange.

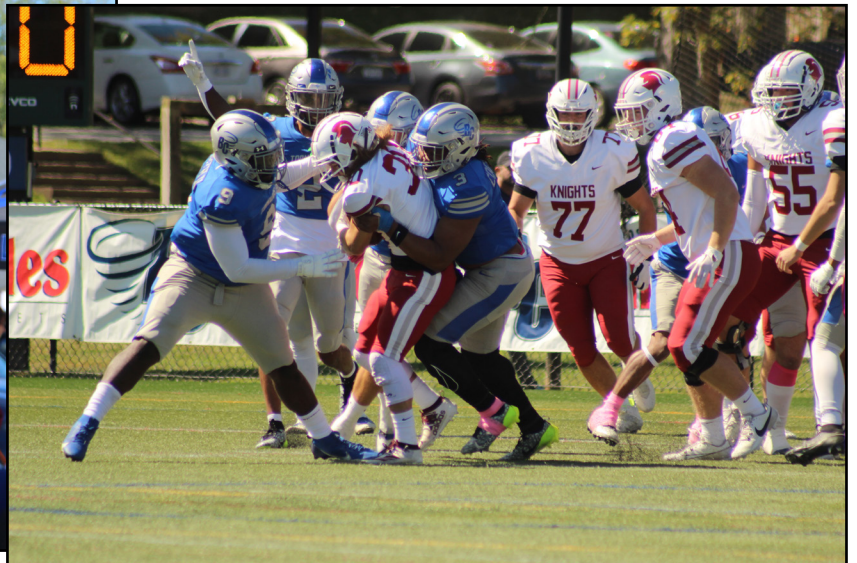
—DeShawn Curtis



(Courtesy of Q Coger)



(Courtesy of Q Coger)



(Courtesy of Q Coger)



(Courtesy of Q Coger)



(Courtesy of Q Coger)



This is me with Summer, Abby, Logan. This was taken at our bullpen on the softball field. We were just relaxing on the bench right before our game. This was in the spring of 2024. (Courtesy of Grace Reynolds)

Going to Bill's with friends and hanging out by the creek.
—Grace Reynolds

Freshman move-in day 2022 as a Beam RA.
—Alexis Blanchard

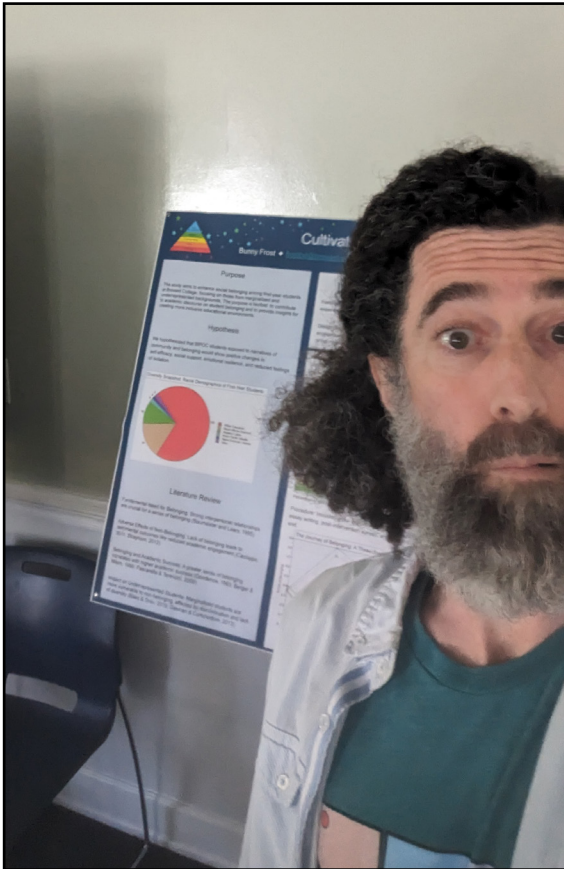


This is me and Autumn Wright at winter formal. This was in the Fall of 2024. (Courtesy of Grace Reynolds)

My favorite memory was probably this recent end of year celebration with the admissions department—it was a lot of fun!
—Riley Sinclair



The first annual throwers Dairy Queen trip in 2023 taken by Grace Pukas (Courtesy of Isabell Musser)



My final poster presentation. (Courtesy of Bunny Frost)



Me in Entomology which the whole school now knows as "bug class" where I stayed in lab till 1 am. (Courtesy of Isabell Musser)

One of my favorite memories is getting to fly at some basketball and football games, as well as getting to perform with the people I love.

—Anna Ervin



Fall 2022 - Anna Ervin does her lib at a football game. (Courtesy of Anna Ervin)

My favorite memory of Brevard College is having conversations with Dr. Padgett in his office. We covered just about everything. Southern Literature, President Donald Trump, the responsibilities of journalists and media outlets. And movies. Can't forget movies.

—Jordan Laws



Basketball Senior Night. (Courtesy of Carson Evans)



(Courtesy of Carson Evans)



Graduation Photos. (Courtesy of Carson Evans)



Me and Riley Sinclair would always help Autumn Miller with decorations for the admission event. This was Autumn's car filled with balloons that we were putting up that morning. This was in the fall. (Courtesy of Grace Reynolds)



My last ever school/ collegiate throw that broke my own school record, won me the conference title, and my official overall PR. Taken by Brian Seon. (Courtesy of Isabell Musser)

Joining The Clarion was one of the best decisions I made here at Brevard College. I don't know if I have a favorite memory, but I always looked forward to attending the meetings on Wednesday mornings because they were always fun and entertaining, even if the staff was light. I remember getting to know Anna and Caroline better on a Thursday evening during layout. I walked into "your mom" jokes being thrown between the two. I was there observing, and I couldn't help but wonder how differently Anna was from who I guessed she would have been. I think Anna throws everyone for a loop.

—Isaiah Collison



All the throwers who medaled at Conference (it's also a personality pic) taken by Courtney Musser. (Courtesy of Isabell Musser)



Cassie Plemmons and I, June 2023, Trip across the U.S. (Courtesy of Kaitlyn Light)

Breaking 3 school records, winning conference, late night drives with Mel, and all of the late night shenanigans from my last semester here. Those are the best memories as well as going to Knoxville with Cait, throwers DQ trips, shooting around in the gym at night, and hanging out with Grace Pukas!

—Isabell Musser



Anna Long came to support me at the home meet where I broke 3 school records and got first place in 3 of my events and 2nd in javelin. Taken by Brie. (Courtesy of Isabell Musser)



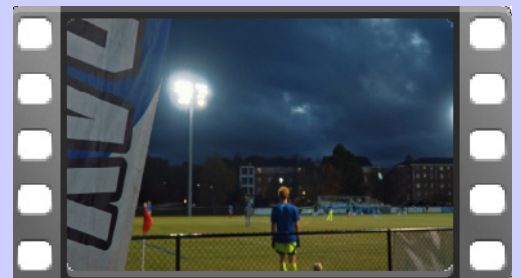
Fall '22 - Mickey Lasco, Anna Ervin, and Jodi Wyse break it down at the Fine Arts Gala. (Courtesy of Anna Ervin)

ALSO AVAILABLE: The Class of 2024 VIDEO RETROSPECTIVE

The [video](#) includes the photos in this issue along with several videos submitted by BC graduates, including a 3-minute recap of the conference-winning BC Men's Soccer season.



<https://www.youtube.com/@bcclarion>





Fall '23 - Anna Ervin becomes friends with the llamas. (Courtesy of Anna Ervin)

Plans after graduation...

There's a few opportunities I have over the summer that aren't solidified yet, so I'll keep those a secret. In the fall, however, it is official that I am attending SCAD Savannah to study their Dramatic Writing program. That's an MFA, so I will be there for a while. Should be alright.

—**Isaiah Collison**
Valley, West Coast

Working at Brother Wolf in Asheville, NC.

—**Alexis Blanchard**
Clinton, North Carolina

I will be going to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville for Graduate school

—**Emme Griffith**
Raleigh, North Carolina

I'll be working at Legacy Academy as a child care teacher while getting my Master's in psychology.

—**Kaitlyn Light**
Johnson City, Tennessee

I'll be working at Brother Wolf as an animal care technician.

—**Riley Sinclair**
Fayetteville, North Carolina

I'm already working as an assistant soccer coach at Graceland University, in Lamoni, Iowa.

—**Marcos Silva**
Manaus, AM, Brazil

I will be working here as the throws coach for the track and field team.

—**Isabell Musser**
Pisgah Forest, North Carolina

Working on my Master's in business administration.

—**Grace Reynolds**
Troy, North Carolina

Joining the Air Force and going to Grad school.

—**DeShawn Curtis**
Fayetteville, North Carolina

My plan after graduation is to secure employment for a while, think a bit about graduate school, and go from there. This has been a long eleven-year journey (with an eight-year hiatus) and I'm excited to consider what the next chapter of my life will look like.

—**Jordan Laws**
Brevard, North Carolina



SPRING '24 - Sabrina Ortiz and Anna Ervin celebrate Anna's graduation with their favorite picture pose. (Courtesy of Anna Ervin)

I have started working at Sharing House, a Brevard non-profit, developing programs to help foster community and empowerment.

—**Bunny Frost**
Tieton, Washington.

Come back to Brevard college for my 5th year to continue playing basketball and get a double major in Communication.

—**Carson Evans**
Charlotte, North Carolina

Advice to other BC students...

Sometimes, one moment of courage is all you need to change your life. Talk to that random person, take that random class, go join that random club, go out to events, even if it's scary. You can be an academic weapon and still have fun.

Anna Ervin
Theatre

When things get tough, don't look at the bad; look at the great things that come with pushing through and overcoming those tough obstacles.

Q Cogger Jr.
Master of Science in Health and Human Performance

Go to class and build a relationship with all your professors

DeShawn Curtis
Criminal Justice

Study hard but make sure to take time for yourself as well.

Riley Sinclair
Biology

Enjoy your time, work hard and prepare for post graduation.

Atticus Cooper
Environmental Studies

Keep learning, in your work, community, and family.

Bunny Frost
Psychology

Remember that the world is big, even though sometimes it feels small.

Emme Griffith
Music

Stay involved.

Alexis Blanchard
Biology

Get off your ass.

Isaiah Collison
English

Enjoy life!! Go on that hike, go on that long drive with your friends, travel with your best friend, and most of all, live happily!

Kaitlyn Light
Health Science Studies

Take a Quintin Overocker class and a Charles Ecenbarger class and I promise you'll have fun. Also the coffee shop is the best place to hangout trust me I would know.

Isabell Musser
Biology

Time goes by fast but don't forget to soak the moments in. Get out of your comfort zone when you can.

Grace Reynolds
Business and Organizational Leadership

Enjoy as much as you can—the time flies.

Marcos Silva
Exercise Science

The best advice I can give to other Brevard College students is to live in the moment. Don't think nor fret too much about the future and enjoy the experiences you're having now. Before you expect it, your time at Brevard College will end and you'll wonder where all that time has gone. It has taken me eleven years to finish this degree but even in my case those eleven years flew by at the speed of a Tokyo bullet train. Take your work seriously, take yourself seriously, but most important of all: don't forget to have some fun. And please, for the love of God, take some courses outside of your area of expertise. They can only help you grow into a well-rounded person.

Jordan Laws
English



My graduation photo. This is a photo of me and Blake, my brother. This was taken by the football field. (Courtesy of Grace Reynolds)

Academic honors and award recipients, 2023-24

Note: Many of these awards appeared in previous issues of The Clarion. The following list includes one CORRECTION, for Outstanding Physical Education and Recreation Major.

More recently conferred awards are listed first, with the date of the celebration or awards ceremony in parentheses

Graduate Program Awards (May 9)

Outstanding Emergency Management

Graduate: **Alexis Witt**

Outstanding Health & Human Performance

Graduate: **Brooke Garland**

Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education Celebration

(May 2)

Excellence in Experiential Education: **Mary Boss**

Boss

Excellence in Wilderness Leadership:

Campbell Fortner

Excellence in Service to the WLEE Program:

Nick Queen

Outstanding WLEE Graduate: **EmmaGrace Stevenson**

Teacher Education Celebration

(April 26)

Student teachers in spring 2024

Peyton (Mack) Douglas: Music, North

Henderson High School

Kelsey Holt: Early Childhood (post-bac),

Etowah's Children Center

Kat Kramer: Elementary, Brevard Middle

School

Tamara Kuykendall: Music, T.C. Roberson

High School

Caelyn Murphy: Ag ED, Rosman High

School

Ish Parsons: Music, Brevard High School

Patrick Yang: Music (post-bac), T. C.

Henderson and Rosman Elementary

Internship in spring 2024

Bailey Lance: Childhood Education Major,

Pisgah Forest Elementary

BESPY Athletic Awards (April 25)

See separate article in this issue for details.

Physical Education & Recreation Celebration

(April 24)

Outstanding Physical Education and

Recreation Major: **Cameron Cook**

Fine Arts Honors and Awards

(April 24)

Theatre Awards

Highest Grade Point Average

Freshman: **Ava Bonner**

Sophomore: **Abby Reeves**

Junior: **Naomi Firebaugh**

Senior: **Grace Dempsey**

Newcomer's Award: **Abby Reeves**

Ensemble Award: **Roxie Petryshak**

Excellence in Collaboration: **Taylor Sparrow**

Personal Growth Award: **Naomi Firebaugh**

Excellence in Initiative: **Ava Bonner, Seth**

Chepes

Personal Responsibility Award: **Camile**

Bonnin

Rakeem Sweezy Award—Student Voted

Inspiring Colleague: **Grace Dempsey**

Outstanding Theatre Graduate: **Jodi Wyse**

Art Awards

Highest Grade Point Average

1st year: **Clayton Furr**

2nd year: **Nicole Bradbury**

3rd year: **Rachel Cooke**

4th year: **Julia Lusk, Sydney Raber**

Outstanding Concentration Awards

Sculpture: **Sydney Raber**

Painting & Drawing: **Nicole Bradbury**

Digital Art: **Kenz Schinsky**

Photo: **Gunnar Ensign**

Foundations: **Karis King, Clayton Furr,**

Rachel Cooke

Advancement Awards

Sculpture: **Clayton Furr**

Painting & Drawing: **Alison Holland**

Digital Art: **Caden O'Brien**

Photography: **Peter Grossheim**

Foundations: **Samantha Capps, Rowand**

Breen

Leadership Awards: **Julia Lusk, Clayton**

Furr

Outstanding Art Graduate: **Julia Lusk**

Music Awards

Highest Grade Point Average

Freshman: **Ava Bonner, Olivia Ervin, Lili**

White

Sophomore: **Sevasti Smith**

Junior: **Gabriella Lujon**

Senior: **Emme Griffith**

Music Theory Advancement: **Eliza Greenwell**

Excellence in Music Theory: **Emme Griffith**

Excellence in Music History: **Kayleigh Miller**

Choral Ensemble Award: **Eliza Greenwell**

Instrumental Ensemble Award: **Gianluca**

Graziano

M. Thomas Cousins Award in Music

Education: **Tamara Kuykendall**

Outstanding First Year Student: **Amelia Payne**

Personal Growth Award: **Ethan Abraham**

Excellence in Initiative Award: **Ava Bonner**

Groundbreaker Award: **Elijah Virgil Hughes**

Music Ambassador Award: **Hannah**

Sonnenberg

Peer Inspiration Award: **Ishmeal Parsons**

Outstanding Music Graduate: **Jonas**

McCanless

Humanities Awards (April 24)

Publication Service

Editor of Chiaroscuro: **Baylee Hallas**

Editor in Chief of The Clarion: **Anna Ervin**

Service to Chiaroscuro: **Amy Clyburn,**

Gunnar Ensign, Baylee Hallas, Alexa

Jennings, Karis King, Sara Laboe, Jordan

Laws, Evey Perrey, Rachel Piazzola, Alex

Spangler, Elissa Tinsley, Tristan Troutman,

Courtney Wall

Service to The Clarion: **Martin Aguilar,**

Savannah Anderson, Alex Bolton, Mari

Carter, Isaiah Collison, Anna Ervin, Olivia

Ervin, Jordan Laws, Ivelysse Leighton,

Ovaldo Omeldo, Sidi Podolan, Alex Spangler,

Jake Thomas



Outstanding graduate student awards went to Alexis Witt (left) for emergency management and Brooke Garland (right) for health and human performance.

Academic honors and award recipients, 2023-24

Communication Awards

Leadership Award: **George Rennie**

Media Excellence: **Addie McCalister, Cat**

Keenan

Exceptional Communication Freshman: **Jake**

Thomas

English Awards

Excellence in First-Year Writing: **Ava Bonner,**

Amy Clyburn, Shea Granger, Autumn Jones,

Maddie Pollack, Hailey Rose, Sevasti Smith

Excellence in Creative Writing: **Savannah**

Anderson

Excellence in Poetry Writing: **Alexa Jennings**

Excellence in Literary Community: **Sara**

Laboe

Exceptional Grammarian: **Emme Griffith**

Excellence in Banned Books: **Sara Laboe,**

Courtney Wall

Excellence in Environmental Literature:

Eamonn Hunter, Colin McCabe, Rowyn

Roberts

Excellence in Fantasy and Horror Studies:

Ivelysse Leighton

Excellence in Young Adult Literature:

Courtney Wall

Outstanding English Major: **Isaiah Collison**

History Awards

Up-and-Coming Historian: **Emma Murray**

Outstanding Writer in History: **Benjamin**

Loftstedt

Outstanding Critical Thinker in History: **Sara**

Barnes, Paige Kneubuhler

Outstanding History Major: **Declan Lusk**

Interdisciplinary Studies

Excellence in Environmental Literature and

Theology: **Cameron Cook, Pietro Moratelli,**

Caelyn Murphy

Excellence in C. S. Lewis: **Callum Child,**

Hayden Domingo, Abigail Waldrop

Outstanding Integrated Studies Major: **Thomas**

Riches

Philosophy Awards

Logic Laureate : **Davis Bryson, Hunter**

Busque, Valentina Cummings, Drew

Degarmo, Olivia Ervin, Zoe Herber, Jonathan

Ardila Ortiz, Luis Portillo

Student Leadership Awards (April 23)

Outstanding Work Study: **Lexi Maclauchlin,**

Otis Kahar

Outstanding Resident Assistant: **Grace**

Dempsey, Lena Hatter

Outstanding Peer Leader: **Savannah**

Anderson

Outstanding Tutor: **Sophia Ogawa**

Community Service: **Rachel Cooke**

Mary Elizabeth & G. Scott Francis Community

Service Scholarship: **Natalie Taylor**

Richard A. Adams Outstanding Ambassador

(Admissions): **Alexis Blanchard, Riley Sinclair**

Outstanding Freshman: **Faris Abdulaziz**

Outstanding Sophomore: **Chloe Banner**

Outstanding Junior: **Haylea-Layne Miller**

Outstanding Senior: **Lena Hatter**

Rising Star: **Regan Winkler**

Above & Beyond: **Channing Barker**

180 Award: **Logan Southern**

Outstanding Organization of the Year: **BSU**

Outstanding Faculty: **Stacy Workman**

Outstanding Staff: **Debbie D'Anna**

Sweezy Award: **Ishmeal Parson**

Project Presentations (April 23)

Outstanding Quantitative Poster Presentation:

“Awe the Humility,” by **Abby Mayer, Paige**

Edwards, Ashlyn Baumann, Tae’ondra Brown

Honorable Mention Quantitative Poster

Presentation: “Dollars to Dopamine,” by **Sophie**

Trantham, Mashayla Rose, Sarahi Salazar

Espinoza, Jasmyn Dunn

Outstanding Internship Poster Presentation:

“All it Takes is Empathy,” by **Aniston Abshire**

Honorable Mention Internship Poster

Presentation: “Saved by Safe,” by **Abby Mayer**

Business & Organizational

Leadership Awards (April 22)

Sustainable Leadership Award: **Otis Kahar**

Ray Fisher Leadership Award: **Maggie Cox**

Mt. Pisgah Award: **Pietro Moratelli**

Grace Roy Award: **Emma Barnes**

Dr. B. Barbara Boerner Emerging Leader

Scholarship Award: **Lexi Maclauchlin**

Sidney J. Gunst Jr. Award **Isaias Maldonado-**

Figueroa

Outstanding Graduate in Business &

Organizational Leadership: **Colin M. McCabe**

Outstanding December Graduate in Business

& Organizational Leadership: **Jacob Stowe**

Science & Math Awards (April 22)

Outstanding Biology Graduate: **Alexis**

Blanchard

Outstanding Environmental Studies Graduate:

Autumn Wright

Outstanding Exercise Science Graduate:

Rachael Trifoli

Outstanding Health Science Studies Graduate:

Lena Hatter

Outstanding Mathematics Graduate:

Christopher Board

Outstanding Physics Graduate: **Rachel**

Hughes

Psychology Awards (April 17)

Outstanding Graduate in Psychology: **Bunny**

Frost

Leadership Award in Psychology: **Tae’ondra**

Brown

Outstanding Internship in Psychology: **Aniston**

Abshire

Outstanding Thesis in Psychology: **Amelie**

Jones

Rising Star in Psychology: **Sevasti Smith**

Criminal Justice Awards (April 15)

Award for Outstanding Leadership in Criminal

Justice: **Nathan Mahoney, Sophia Trantham,**

and Hayden Domingo

Promise in the Field of Criminal Justice:

Devonte Murray and Paige Kneubuhler

Citizenship in Criminal Justice Award: **George**

Wells and Nicole Volk

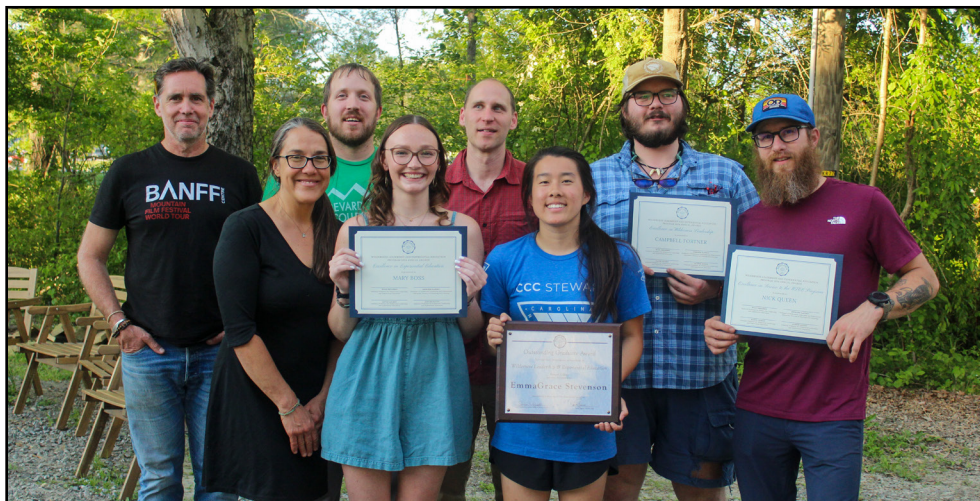
Rising Star in Criminal Justice: **Madisen**

Campbell, Emma Demcovich, and Noah

Westbrook

Outstanding Graduate in Criminal Justice:

James Luke Dodson



Faculty pose with students earning awards at the Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education Celebration on May 2: **Mary Boss, EmmaGrace Stevenson, Campbell Fortner and Nick Queen.**

Are white squirrels actually 'spies'?

Also: Did Helen Keller really exist? And: Are birds real?

These and other questions pondered by honors class at BC

For Mel Bringle's PHI 199H "Good Thinking" class this semester, tinfoil hats weren't just a metaphor for a paranoid or conspiracy theory mindset. They were homework.

As an end of semester project, the eight members of the class studied conspiracy theories, and as anyone who visited McLarty-Goodson in the

closing weeks of the spring semester saw, they showed their work—in the form of a "conspiracy wall" documenting what their research uncovered.

For some answers to questions posed on the wall (and/or in this article's headline), check out [this document](#), or watch [this video feature about the class](#) on The Clarion's YouTube channel.



Top right: Professor Mel Bringle demonstrates a special T-shirt created for her PHI 199H "Good Thinking" class as they researched and studied conspiracy theories.

Above and right: The conspiracy wall they, um, "constructed" with their findings.

BC students receive scholarships to AAUW conference

Two Brevard College students have received scholarships to attend a national student leadership conference this summer.

Chloe Banner '25 and Kylee Draper '26 will both attend the American Association of University Women's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) May 30-June 1 in Washington, D.C. Banner and Draper are both members of the Institute for Women in Leadership (IWIL) program at the college.

IWIL is a co-curricular learning program that helps women gain confidence in their leadership abilities by providing opportunities through service learning programs. IWIL embodies the College's motto, "Learn in Order to Serve," through service projects on and off campus.

"I'm most looking forward to meeting other

women in leadership," Banner said. "I would like to learn about how to find a good work-life balance, how to gain respect as a woman in leadership, and how to navigate the world as a young woman. Many of the panels and workshops offered during the conference will cover these topics."

As the AAUW website states, the mission of the conference is to "foster a moment that ignites a powerful movement." The event provides "an immersive multi-day experience of leadership training, inspiration, and networking... where attendees can enter as passionate leaders and depart with the skills, confidence, and perspective necessary to pursue their goals and drive meaningful change."

"This opportunity is unique because it was cre-

ated by women, for women. It is about excelling in a world that was not built for you," Draper said.

"NCCWSL prides itself on its diversity of backgrounds and ideas, which form the bedrock of its transformative nature," the event website states. "Additionally, peer networking holds the magical potential for attendees to learn from one another and forge lifelong connections of support and collaboration."

"This is an amazing accomplishment for these two students," said Katherine Parnell, who has served as chair for IWIL since 2022. "The mission of the NCCWSL conference aligns perfectly with our goals in IWIL. The leadership skills and insight that Chloe and Kylee will bring back will be such a resource for their peers."

Voice of the Rivers exploring the Cape Fear River watershed

On Monday, May 13, the Voice of the Rivers team departed from Brevard College for the Cape Fear River watershed.

This team, led by BC faculty members Jenny Kafsky and Stacy Workman, are paddling to the sea in canoes and kayaks, ending their nearly three-week journey at the Atlantic Ocean near Wilmington, North Carolina.

Voice of the Rivers (VOR) has a long history at Brevard College, with students participating in interdisciplinary "Learning in Community" courses along a river since 1997. These trips offer students the traditional 6 academic credit hours they earn in a LINC course, with the addition of spending 18 days learning and living together while exploring a watershed.

On the first VOR, the team started on the French Broad River and over the course of a semester paddled the Tennessee, Ohio and Mississippi rivers before finishing downstream of New Orleans in the Gulf of Mexico.

Since then, VOR teams have paddled the Broad /Congaree/Santee/Cooper, Yadkin-Peedee, Savannah, Sewanee, and many other rivers, including the Rio Santa Cruz and Rio Negro in Patagonia.

Follow this year's expedition progress on the Brevard College Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/BCWLEE>.



The 2024 Voice of the Rivers team outside the Textile Heritage Museum in Burlington on a very rainy day 2.

Looking Glass Rock Writers' Conference

Attendees explore 'a sense of place' in fiction, poetry, nonfiction

Writers from as far away as Oregon and as close as Brevard gathered May 16-19 for this year's Looking Glass Rock Writers' Conference, an annual event co-sponsored by the college and the Transylvania County Library Foundation.

Exploring the theme "a sense of place," conference participants took part in workshops on poetry, fiction or nonfiction led by acclaimed writers in each genre. This year's faculty were Jason Mott in fiction, Pam Houston in nonfiction and Rebecca Gayle Howell in poetry, who was added at the last minute when the scheduled poetry workshop leader had to cancel because of a medical injury.

The conference opened Thursday night with a joint panel by all three authors. Public readings took place the next two nights, with Houston and Howell Friday in the Porter Center and Mott on Saturday at Transylvania County Library.

The conference was founded in 2016 in part to allow residents an opportunity to interact with renowned authors, engage in meaningful conversation about writing and place, and strengthen ties across generations. Applications to participate in the May 2025 conference will be accepted beginning in September.

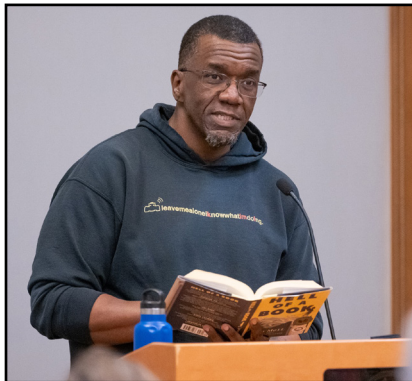
For more info about the conference, visit www.lgrwc.org/ or contact the Transylvania County Library.



BC students Hayley Flippin and Isaiah Collison served as assistants to conference director Alyse Benseil. Collison also introduced Mott at his Saturday reading (above).



BC students are eligible for a scholarship if their work is accepted. This year, BC English major Sara Laboe was accepted for the nonfiction workshop. She was an assistant at last year's conference.



Above: Opening session with Looking Glass Rock Writers' Conference faculty Pam Houston (nonfiction), Jason Mott (fiction) and Rebecca Gayle Howell (poetry). Left: Mott reads from "Hell of a Book" at Saturday's reading.

Luncheon honors Brevard College employees

A spring tradition at Brevard College is the employee appreciation luncheon, which took place on Tuesday, May 14 in the Francis Pavillion of the Porter Center.

Retiring this year is **Margaret Brown**, a professor of history who taught at BC for 28 years.

Other employees were recognized for their years of service:

25 Years	Vance Reese Beth Banks Robert Dye Christie Cauble Cameron Austin	10 Years	Regeina Wells Kevin George II Brad Perley Burke Ulrey Donald Hudson Kristin Rosato Sarah Maveety Marie Jones Leigh Koffman	Clerissa Hawkins L D'Anna Megan Shina August Nye Brad Jones Mike Victory Robin Pulliam Kevin Phillips Nathan Tingler James Everrett Dorothy Knowles Nicole Harshbarger Jordan Leathers
20 Years	Cherie Tinsley McGaha John Padgett	5 Years	Karen Mosteller Mitch Radford	
15 Years	David Volrath			

11 Fingers

Let's get tricky

Isaiah Collison

BC 2024 Graduate (and former managing editor)

Academic perspective

There are many terms in the English language that are used interchangeably, such as *argue*, *debate* and *discuss*. Even as an English student, I couldn't explain the distinction. Until now! The English language is a tricky language, and I love to explain nuances.

According to the Webster Dictionary:

“Argue: to persuade by giving reasons.”

“Debate: to argue about b) to engage (an opponent) in debate.”

“Discuss: to present in detail for examination or consideration.”

What is complicated about trying to understand the difference between these three verbs is that they each need context that definitions do not supply. Each of these terms has multiple senses and subsenses. *Debate* is also a noun.

Here are a few questions you could ask to determine if you are arguing, debating or discussing: Am I open to learning? Am I trying to win? Am I listening or waiting to respond? Am I doing this for attention?

In my opinion, when learning about the people I am arguing/debating/discussing with is more important than “winning,” I am **discussing**. “What if you're on opposite sides?” We can both be discussing if the other person's goal is to learn something new. Seeing the topic from someone else's point of view is open-mindedness, which leads to learning. However, I do not think that if someone has a different goal than me that necessarily changes what I am doing.

Debates are about respect, logic and level-headedness. When presenting facts in order to define where I stand, I am debating. Debates are more formal than arguments. So can we trust people to keep their feelings and emotions in check? Do debaters know that if they take a sharp left turn (perhaps by accident) and suddenly desire to win they are no longer debating?

When being right and convincing another person to change their mind involves a flared temper, I am arguing. Even if I am not mad, say passionate, I believe opinions and strong feelings quickly turns a debate into an argument.

Argumentative papers are written to convince the reader to believe what the author believes by the end of the essay. In the argument, evidence is needed to validate an opinion. Writers use credible sources for evidence as opposed to supplying their argument with raw feelings. A feeling can't necessarily be used as fact, and before writers argue, they should examine where they get their beliefs on a certain subject from, then research facts, only formulating a thesis once these steps

are taken. A crucial step, the introspection is what we are encouraging the reader to do as they digest our opinions.

Arguing, debating or discussing can get even murkier in different circumstances. Take the

Street (Outside of academic settings)

Discussions are between open-minded individuals trying to reach a conclusion. Since I am an academic type of guy, I wear glasses that slip off my nose, and when I find something interesting to learn about, I push them up. I argue, but I am always interested in learning—we have two ears and one mouth. Street arguments take knowledge from classrooms outside to the playground, and the best **arguments** come from topics that need to be debated or discussed. Have healthy arguments everywhere.

Argue: persuade someone to believe what you believe by giving reasons

Debate: talk from opposing sides in order to reach a conclusion

Discuss: bring up ideas and perspectives

I can't think of an advantage of seamlessly being able to weave in and out of arguing, debating and discussing because you should always keep your goal transparent.

I argue because I have many uniquely unpleasant opinions. Opinions need firm stances. Firm stances require the utilization of confrontational defense and careful offense. Set your traps and watch for your foe's. Be methodical and critical. Remember loose lips lead to ruin.

People back down from the fog of arguments for just about every reason. Some arguments are necessary. When they are, take the stance and move smart—eyes open, especially when the air is thick. Clear arguments move clouds. Never argue with loose feet or; the goal is to catch your foe draggin' in the open.

If your opponent has a bull\$hit argument, don't scoop it up. If it's cap, don't tip your hat. Just because you are arguing on the street does not mean that you can now argue without evidence! Ask yourself if you can argue with people who ignore facts.

“Keep it real; you shouldn't use your feelings as facts.”

This is an opinion. Here my technique in my argument is to present you with a sentiment after saying “keep it real” to encourage you to believe I know the truth. I'm arguing if you believe the opposite, you believe a lie and are not keeping it real.

Thesis: Feelings can be crushed, unlike facts, so don't use them as such.

As a square shooter, I get tempted to crush people's desire to lie on facts. It is satisfying

to me to hear the truth asphyxiate weak arguments that stand on lies.

“Research animal DNA; humans are wild animals with a conscience.”

This is a black and white opinion supported with science. Although I believe my stance is solid, there are people who will argue humans are not animals with the intent to change my belief. Regardless, this is a weak argument because I am being vague about science. You can still demonstrate an understanding of how to make a tight thesis statement based on weak evidence. Not strong, but tight. A tight thesis, which demonstrates deep thought, allows you to hold firm while you inquire about where you get beliefs from.

Thesis: Humans are wild animals because we kill, fight and conquer, even though we know sometimes it is wrong and immoral.

What is the difference between living in America and living overseas?

This question is intended for a debate. That fact does not change if you begin to argue it. Notice how there is no connotation or hint at which is “better” in the bland question.

“Buddy, I need to figure out why the hell you eat salt and vinegar chips.”

This is a discussion. My goal is to learn why Buddy eats salt and vinegar chips. Am I out of pocket? Is how I said it rude? I am still exploring my friend's taste in chips.

	DEBATE	DISCUSSION
Setting	Formal, sometimes informal	Usually informal, can be professional and academic
Format	Set, clear format	Fluid, changing format
Goal	To win	To learn
Openness	No openness to changing sides	There is a possibility that people will change their opinion
Listening	Participants listen in order to find errors or inconsistencies, and are just waiting for their turn to speak	Participants listen thoughtfully to one another's opinions and statements, carefully reflecting on their own opinions
Flow	Choppy, can be separated on purpose by topic. Speakers will abruptly change the subject to get the topic back to something they prefer to discuss	Very fluid, clear connection between topic to topic. More consent when there is a topic change
Conclusion	Clear conclusion drawn, and a winner is likely	There may be a conclusion drawn, but may not be. No one is declared a “winner”



Wilkerson qualifies for 2024 NCAA DIII National Championships in the Triple Jump

Sophomore sensation Jaxsen Wilkerson has officially qualified for the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track & Field National Championships in the Triple Jump, finishing the regular season 21st in the nation with a mark of 14.54m.

Wilkerson becomes the first Tornado to qualify for nationals since the school competed in the NAIA in the early 2000s, as he will now head to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina to participate in the NCAA DIII National Championships. The Triple Jump event is slated for Saturday, May 25 at 1 p.m. at Doug Shaw

Memorial Stadium. To keep up with all of the action live through live video and results, please visit [NCAA.com](https://www.ncaa.com).

Wilkerson, a native of Granite Falls, North Carolina, earned USA South Conference Outdoor Field Athlete of the Meet honors following a stellar individual performance at the 2024 USA South Conference Outdoor Track & Field Championships in April that included five total All-Conference selections, with two of each coming on the first and second teams.

Baseball falls short in conference championship series

ROCKY MOUNT, N.C. - An incredible run through the regular season and the 2024 USA South Conference Baseball Tournament came to an end for the Brevard College baseball team (22-19), as the Tornados fell to top-seed and nationally ranked No. 19 NC Wesleyan University (33-11), 17-2 in seven innings on May 11 at Bauer Field.

The defeat wraps up a successful season for the Tornados, who earned their first-ever postseason home wins in the NCAA era en route to the program's first USA South Championship series appearance. BC has eclipsed the 20-win mark in three consecutive seasons, which is also an NCAA-era first. Brevard's 14 home victories are its most since 2012 (19) as well.

NC Wesleyan came out swinging early and never looked back in its championship-clinching

15-run win on Saturday afternoon.

The Tornados got on the board in the bottom of the fourth inning when Colson Miller provided their only runs of the game on a two-run home run. That blast marked the ninth homer of Miller's 2024 season, setting a new NCAA-era record for single-season home runs at BC. Also, the big-fly was BC's 35th as a team, also setting a new NCAA-era single-season record.

In his final collegiate at-bat in the bottom of the seventh inning, senior outfielder Mykah Johnson roped a leadoff double into left field, capping off his Tornado baseball career in style.

Junior outfielder CP Pyle and junior third baseman Frankie Vasquez were honored with selections onto the USA South All-Tournament Team following their individual performances through the course of the five-game tournament

run. Pyle, a first-year Tornado transfer from Salisbury, North Carolina, recorded hits in four out of the five Tourney games, including two doubles.

Vasquez, a third-year BC student-athlete from Pembroke Pines, Florida, logged five hits over the course of the tournament for BC, and was an All-Conference First Team performer.



BC student-athletes celebrated at 2023-24 BESPYS

The Department of Athletics hosted the 2023-24 “BESPYS,” the college’s annual athletic awards banquet on Thursday, April 25 at the Boshamer Gymnasium. The BESPYS were presented by the Brevard College Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

Several major awards were presented to standout student-athletes over the course of the evening in front of an audience of over 400 members of the Brevard College community.

The Ann Ethers Award is given annually to the underclassman student-athlete who best displays excellence athletically, academically, and through dedicated service to the BC community. The 2023-24 Ann Ethers Award was presented to Jadon Carnes, a rising junior men’s basketball student-athlete.

The John McKissick Award, presented annually to the most outstanding football senior student-athlete both on and off the field, was awarded to graduate student Joc Pledger. The Chuck Dunbar Team Spirit Award was presented to Brady Penn, a graduating senior student broadcaster and football student-athlete who also served as an event MC for the evening. In addition, an award presentation took place for rising junior defensive lineman Robert Dorsey who won the NCAA Division III statistical crown for most forced fumbles in 2023.

Additional award winners included USA Cycling national champions Cole Punchard (Male Cyclist of the Year) and Nicole Bradbury (Female Cyclist of the Year), along with baseball student-athlete

Blake Altschuler (Male Rookie of the Year). For the first time in BESPYS history, there was a tie for a major award as Jady Harlow of softball and Austin Huffman of women’s soccer were each named Female Rookie of the Year.

The Brevard College Perfect Storm awards are given to the most outstanding overall Tornado student-athletes both in sport and in the classroom. Ive Leighton of softball won the Female Perfect Storm Award, while Carnes earned his second major award of the evening as the Male Perfect Storm Award winner.

The Female Athlete of the Year was presented to rising senior Josie Hester of the women’s basketball team. Ryan Lynch, a senior men’s soccer student-athlete, was named the Male Athlete of the Year for the second straight year.

The third annual David and Lynne Joyce Award was presented to graduate student Brooke Garland of women’s tennis. The award is presented to the graduating senior student-athlete who displays superior performance in competition, in the classroom and in the community over an entire career at Brevard College.

The 2023-24 softball team captured the Tornado Cup, given to the team that accumulates the most points in the Tornado Cup Challenge with the components of Academic Excellence, Athletic Excellence, Personal Development, Community Service and Athletes Supporting Athletes. The BC volleyball team earned the Highest Team GPA with the highest cumulative grade point average

amongst BC’s athletic teams.

For the second straight season, members of the USA South Conference champion men’s soccer team were presented with their conference championship rings in a ceremony that included Brevard College President Bradley J Andrews, Director of Athletics Myranda Nash, Head Men’s Soccer Coach Helio “L” D’Anna and Assistant Coach Mario Pinto.

Additionally, Punchard, Bradbury and Cameron Mader, the three BC cyclists who won individual USA Cycling national championships in 2023-24 were honored with a special presentation by Nash, Head Cycling Coach Brad Perley and Assistant Coach Tyler Miranda. The three national title winners were presented with commemorative national championship jerseys to be worn in the coming season.

As part of the program, BC graduating senior student-athletes received their senior gifts and graduates with a GPA of 3.0 or higher also received a scholar-athlete graduation stole to be worn at the upcoming Brevard College Commencement.

In addition to the major Brevard College awards, a plethora of conference and national awards were also handed out to the Tornado student-athletes.

SAAC Executive Board

- Caelyn Murphy**, Volleyball – President
- Sly White**, Men’s Basketball – Vice President
- Cassidy Hutto**, Women’s Lacrosse – Secretary
- Ive Leighton**, Softball – Community Engagement
- Christine Keever**, Cheerleading – Marketing Coordinator

2023-24 Brevard College Athletics Awards

- Tornado Cup – **Softball**
- Highest Team GPA Award – **Volleyball**
- Ann Ethers Excellence Award – **Jadon Carnes**, Men’s Basketball
- John McKissick Award – **Joc Pledger**, Football
- Chuck Dunbar Team Spirit Award – **Brady Penn**, Broadcasting/Football
- Female Cyclist of the Year – **Nicole Bradbury**
- Male Cyclist of the Year – **Cole Punchard**
- Female Rookie of the Year – **Jady Harlow**, Softball
- Female Rookie of the Year – **Austin Huffman**, Women’s Soccer
- Male Rookie of the Year – **Blake Altschuler**, Baseball
- Female Perfect Storm Award – **Ive Leighton**, Softball
- Male Perfect Storm Award – **Jadon Carnes**, Men’s Basketball
- Female Athlete of the Year – **Josie Hester**, Women’s Basketball
- Male Athlete of the Year – **Ryan Lynch**, Men’s Soccer
- David and Lynne Joyce Legacy Award – **Brooke Garland**, Women’s Tennis



BC Female Athlete of the year Josie Hester



BC Male Athlete of the year Ryan Lynch

BC Athletics 2023-2024: A Recap

Volleyball

The BC Volleyball team won 10 matches, the most wins since 2017 en route to a trip to the USA South Tournament. Bailey Lance surpassed the 1,000-career dig mark and set a school record for career aces. Logan Priddy and Kaitlyn Pressley each eclipsed 1,000 career assists, while Pressley, Makenna Parkins, Caelyn Murphy and Jaxson Tumicki each were named Academic All-District.

Football

The BC football team went 5-2 in the USA South Conference in a season that included a thrilling Homecoming win over Maryville to spark a five-game win streak. A total of nine Tornados were honored with USA South weekly awards, while four players won D3Football.com Team of the week accolades and four more were named All-Conference performers.

In the classroom, a school-record four Tornados were named to the Hampshire Honor Society by the National Football Foundation and two more were named Academic All-District.

Cross Country

The BC's men's cross country team finished third and the women's team placed fourth at the USA South Championships to go along with a return trip to the NCAA Regional Championships. Dalton Hawley, Devon Brodmyer and Garrett Spangler were all named to All-Conference teams on the men's side, while Sandra Diaz-Martinez earned All-Conference honors for the women.

Cycling

The BC cycling team won five individual national titles, more than any other school and a second-place overall finish at the USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Championships. Nicole Bradbury won national titles in the Individual Omnium and Dual Slalom, while Cole Puchard won national championships in Cross Country and Short Track.

Senior Cameron Mader won the national title in his final race as a collegiate in the Men's Downhill. The Nados then followed up with a second-place team finish and another individual national title for Cole Puchard at the Cyclocross national championships.

Women's Soccer

The BC Women's Soccer team posted a 13-5-3 record and finished as runner up in the USA South Conference tournament. BC was undefeated at home with an 8-0-2 record at Ives-Lemel Family Field. The defense and goalkeeping were superb as BC recorded a whopping 13 shutouts on the year.

Five Tornados earned USA South weekly awards and three Nados were named to the USA South's All-Tournament team, to go along with a school-record six women's soccer student-athletes being named Academic All-District.

Men's Soccer

For the second straight year, the Tornados men's soccer team won the USA South Conference Championship to advance to the NCAA Division III national championship tournament.

The program has now secured three total championship trophies in the last four seasons and has become the first program in school history to ever appear in consecutive NCAA Tournaments. BC's Ryan Lynch was named USA South Player of the Year and MVP of the conference tournament. Five Nados were named to All-Conference teams, while four student-athletes were Academic All-District performers.

Women's Basketball

The Tornados women's basketball team won an NCAA-era program record 17 wins and went on to host a USA South Conference Tournament First Round game for the third straight year. In the first round of the conference tourney, BC defeated Greensboro 60-46 to advance to the semifinals for the second consecutive season. Josie Hester and Olivia Miller were both named to All-Conference teams, while Hester and Chyna Pouncey both earned Academic All-District honors.

Men's Basketball

The BC Men's Basketball team won 13 games and went 8-6 in the USA South including a hot streak of five wins in six games in January. The Tornados won a 104-98 thriller over Berea and defeated USA South Conference tournament participants Greensboro, NC Wesleyan, William Peace, and Pfeiffer en route to a trip to the USA South Tournament for the second straight year. Grad student Quincy Carter was named to the USA South Conference First Team, while Jadon Carnes was an Academic All-District performer.

Cheerleading

The Brevard College cheerleading team brought tremendous spirit and energy to NadoNation at football and basketball games all season long. The Tornados cheer program also competed in the 9Panel All-Star competition in Asheville.

Track & Field

In Track and Field, six different Tornados won USA South weekly awards including a record five awards in one week.

Jaxsen Wilkerson currently ranks inside the top 20 nationally in the triple jump at the NCAA DIII level, with nationals awaiting next weekend in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Wilkerson earned Men's Field Athlete of the Meet honors at the 2024 USA South Conference Outdoor Championships, with teammates Kellun Triplett earning Men's Field Rookie of the Meet honors and Makayla Street garnering Women's Field Athlete of the Meet accolades. All told, BC racked up 17 total All-Conference performances at the championship meet.

Softball

The BC Softball team recorded a road win at Agnes Scott, then delivered with a big doubleheader sweep versus Wesleyan in the home opener that included a Rookie of the Week honor for Jady Harlow. Brevard delivered more solid results at the Fast Pitch Dreams Tournament in Myrtle Beach with wins over Gwynedd Mercy, Thiel College and the University of Maine Farmington.

Men's Lacrosse

The Men's Lacrosse team defeated Wilmington, then dominated Warren Wilson 26-6 to capture the Battle of the Blue Ridge trophy for the third straight year. Parker Corbett broke the single-game record for assists and points, while going over the 100 career goals mark. Jacob Gravely and Michael Peters eclipsed the 100 grounds balls plateau with Gravely breaking the program record for caused turnovers in a single season and career. Freshman Tyler Cameron also broke the program record for single-season ground balls.

Women's Lacrosse

The BC Women's Lacrosse team recorded eight overall wins, including a five-game win streak, and five victories in conference play. Emily Denaga set new school records in career goals and points while going over the plateau of 300 career draw controls. Xan Hill and Paige Kneubuhler each eclipsed the 100 career points mark.

BC's defense and goalkeeping were superb as well, holding opponents to single-digit goal totals in five different games. BC WLAX appeared in the postseason for the second time in a row, the first time that has happened in the program's history. Denaga, Hill, and Grace Blanton were all selected to the USA South All-Conference Third Team.

Baseball

The BC baseball team finished the regular season in second place in the USA South Conference, clinching the opportunity to host postseason play for the first time in the NCAA era. The Tornados advanced to the USA South Conference Championship Series for the first time ever after a pair of postseason victories vs. Pfeiffer at Gil Coan Field.

Over the course of the regular season, BC earned its first-ever nationally-ranked series win by taking two-of-three at No. 19 NC Wesleyan in March, and the Tornados slugged their way to some NCAA-era records with Colson Miller breaking the single-season HR mark of the NCAA era (nine), Cale Oehler setting the career NCAA-era homer mark with 15, and the Tornados as a team hitting a new NCAA-era record of 35 home runs. Frankie Vasquez earned All-Conference First Team honors alongside a spot on the USA South All-Tournament Team, with Oehler garnering All-Conference Second Team honors.

Tennis

The BC Men's and Women's tennis teams both clinched spots in the USA South Conference Tournament. The Women's team advanced to the tournament for the third straight season, while the men's team defeated Southern Virginia in thrilling fashion to earn the team's first postseason win since 2010.

Hayden LeBlanc burst onto the scene with four USA South Conference Rookie of the Week honors and one Player of the Week in 2024, while Hannah Hersch and Madison Bowen earned an USA South Doubles Team of the Week honor. Hersch, Brooke Garland, and Sophie Trantham earned CSC Academic All-District honors on the women's side, with Horton garnering the honor on the men's side.

Individual Awards for the 2023-24 Athletic Season

FALL SPORTS

Women's Soccer

Nicole Arroyo, USA South Women's Soccer Defender of the Week (9/18, 10/30); USA South All-Tournament Team

Channing Barker, CSC Academic All-District Team
Grace Black, USA South All-Conference Second Team; CSC Academic All-District Team

Hailey Brien, CSC Academic All-District Team
Tae Brown, USA South All-Tournament Team
Austin Huffman, USA South Women's Soccer Rookie of the Week (10/30); USA South All-Conference Honorable Mention; USA South All-Tournament Team

Hayley Kenney, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team; CSC Academic All-District Team

Abby Nunez, USA South Women's Soccer Defender of the Week (9/25)

Kiara Porcelli, CSC Academic All-District Team
Taylor Richardson, USA South Women's Soccer Player of the Week (9/18)

MK Smoak, USA South All-Conference Honorable Mention; USA South All-Tournament Team

Autumn Wright, CSC Academic All-District Team

Men's Soccer

Rocco Barbon, USA South All-Conference First Team; CSC Academic All-District Team

Igor da Silva, USA South All-Conference Second Team; CSC Academic All-District Team

Caue dos Santos, USA South All-Tournament Team
Ryan Lynch, USA South Men's Soccer Player of the Week (9/25, 10/9); USA South Men's Soccer Player of the Year; USA South All-Conference First Team; USA South Tournament MVP; USA South All-Tournament

Adan Miller, USA South All-Tournament Team
Daniel Morgan, CSC Academic All-District Team
Sam O'Callaghan, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team; CSC Academic All-District Team

Matheus Rossi, USA South Men's Soccer Defender of the Week (10/2); USA South All-Conference Second Team

Marcos Silva, USA South All-Tournament Team

Men's and Women's Cross Country

Devon Brodmyer, USA South Men's Cross Country Runner of the Week (9/4); USA South All-Conference Honorable Mention

Sandra Diaz-Martinez, USA South All-Conference Honorable Mention; USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Dalton Hawley, USA South All-Conference Second Team

Garrett Spangler, USA South All-Conference Honorable Mention; USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Volleyball

Bailey Lance, USA South Volleyball Defensive Player of the Week (11/6)

Caelyn Murphy, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team
Makenna Parkins, CSC Academic All-District Team
Kaitlyn Pressley, USA South Volleyball Player of the Week (11/6); CSC Academic All-District Team

Jaxson Tumicki, CSC Academic All-District Team

Football

Ethan Beamish, USA South Football Offensive Player of the Week (10/16); USA South All-Conference Second Team

Quintrell Bowman, USA South Football Defensive Player of the Week (10/16)

Nicholas Clark, CSC Academic All-District Team
Grequenceo Coger Jr., USA South Football Defensive Player of the Week (9/18)

Luke Dodson, NFF Hampshire Honor Society

Robert Dorsey, USA South All-Conference First Team

Eli Everhart, NFF Hampshire Honor Society
Cooper Hogan, CSC Academic All-District Team
Wyatt Lankford, D3football.com Team of the Week
Chancellor Lee-Parker, USA South Football Offensive Player of the Week (9/25); D3football.com Team of the Week; USA South All-Conference Honorable Mention

Kameron Moore, NFF Hampshire Honor Society
Zackary Orr, USA South All-Conference First Team
Joc Pledger, NFF Hampshire Honor Society
George Rennie, USA South Football Offensive Rookie of the Week (11/13)

DJ Taylor, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team
Hugo Taylor, USA South Football Special Teams Player of the Week (9/4, 9/25); USA South Football Special Teams Player of the Week (10/30); D3football.com Team of the Week

James Woods, USA South Football Special Teams Player of the Week (10/2); D3football.com Team of the Week

WINTER SPORTS

Men's Basketball

Jadon Carnes, CSC Academic All-District Team
Quincy Carter, USA South Men's Basketball Player of the Week (1/15); USA South All-Conference First Team

Sly White, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Women's Basketball

Josie Hester, USA South All-Conference First Team; CSC Academic All-District Team

Olivia Miller, USA South All-Conference Second Team

Cassie Plemmons, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Chyna Pouncey, CSC Academic All-District Team

SPRING SPORTS

Women's Lacrosse

Grace Blanton, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team; USA South All-Conference Third Team

Emily Denaga, USA South Offensive Player of the Week (4/1); USA South Defensive Player of the Week (4/15); USA South All-Conference Third Team

Xan Hill, USA South Offensive Player of the Week (4/15)

Xan Hill, USA South All-Conference Third Team
Paige Kneubuhler, USA South Defensive Player of the Week (3/18)

Lex MacLauchlin, USA South Defensive Player of the Week (2/26)

Men's Lacrosse

Tyler Cameron, USA South Rookie of the Week (3/18); USA South Defensive Player of the Week (4/15); USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Softball

Jadyn Harlow, USA South Rookie of the Week (2/26)
Ive Leighton, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Men's Tennis

Bryce Bernitt, USA South All-Conference Second Team

Devin Horton, CSC Academic All-District Team
David Hoyle, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team
Hayden LeBlanc, USA South All-Conference Second Team; USA South Player of the Week (2/19); USA South Rookie of the Week (2/19, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8)

Women's Tennis

Madison Bowen, USA South Doubles Team of the Week (2/19)

Brooke Garland, CSC Academic All-District Team
Hannah Hersh, USA South All-Conference Second Team; CSC Academic All-District Team; USA South

Doubles Team of the Week (2/19)

Marina Thompson, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Sophie Trantham, CSC Academic All-District Team

Track & Field

Channing Barker, USA South Women's Track Athlete of the Week (3/25); USA South Women's Track Athlete of the Week (4/22); USA South All-Conference Second Team (Women's 800 meters); USA South All-Conference Second Team (Women's 1500 meters)

Devon Brodmyer, USA South Men's Track Athlete of the Week (3/25, 4/15)

Zoe Capps, USA South Women's All-Sportsmanship Team

Kayla Jean, USA South All-Conference Second Team (Women's 4x100m Relay)

Justin King, USA South Men's All-Sportsmanship Team

Haylea-Layne Miller, USA South All-Conference Second Team (Women's 4x100m Relay)

Isabell Musser, USA South Women's Field Athlete of the Week (3/4); USA South All-Conference First Team (Women's Discus); USA South All-Conference Second Team (Women's Shot Put)

Owen Plucar, USA South All-Conference Third Team (Men's 800 meters)

Imani Singleton, USA South All-Conference Second Team (Women's 4x100m Relay)

Makayla Street, USA South Women's Field Athlete of the Week (3/25); USA South All-Conference Second Team (Women's 4x100m Relay, Women's Triple Jump, Women's High Jump); USA South All-Conference Third Team (Women's Long Jump); USA South Championships Women's Field Athlete of the Meet

Henry Tarte, USA South All-Conference Third Team (Men's Discus)

Kellun Triplett, USA South Men's Field Rookie of the Week (3/25); USA South All-Conference Third Team (Men's Triple Jump, Men's Long Jump); USA South Championships Men's Field Rookie of the Meet

Noah Westbrook, USA South All-Conference First Team (Men's Shot Put)

Jaxsen Wilkerson, USA South Men's Field Athlete of the Week (3/25); USA South All-Conference First Team (Men's 110m Hurdles, Men's Triple Jump); USA South All-Conference Second Team (Men's High Jump, Men's Long Jump); USA South All-Conference Third Team (Men's Javelin); USA South Championships Men's Field Athlete of the Meet; USTFCCCA All-Region (Men's Triple Jump)

Baseball

Blake Altschuler, USA South Baseball Rookie Pitcher of the Week (3/4); D3Baseball.com Team of the Week (5/8); USA South Baseball Rookie Pitcher of the Week (3/11)

Nico Bartolotti, USA South Baseball Rookie of the Week (3/11)

Aaron Burchett, USA South Baseball Rookie Pitcher of the Week (4/1)

Logan Clark, USA South Baseball Player of the Week (4/1)

Cameron Cook, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team
Cale Oehler, D3baseball.com Team of the Week; USA South All-Conference Second Team

CP Pyle, USA South All-Tournament Team

Jacob Thompson, USA South Baseball Pitcher of the Week (4/8)

Frankie Vasquez, USA South Baseball Player of the Week (3/25); D3baseball.com Team of the Week; USA South All-Conference First Team; USA South All-Tournament Team



Baseball graduation

While the rest of their graduating class were marching across the stage on May 11 to receive their diplomas, members of the Brevard College baseball team had their minds on a different stage: namely, the USA South Conference championship.

Although they came up short in that contest, a special hooding and graduation ceremony took place two days later on Monday, May 13 in the Porter Center, allowing them to don their regalia and receive their diplomas from BC President Brad Andrews.

