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Graduates' BC memories,
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The BC Class of 2025

Nearly 200 graduates receive diplomas in Brevard College commencement May 10

One of the largest classes in Brevard College history graduated at the 2025 Commencement Ceremony with a total of 171 Bachelor's students and 20 Master's students receiving undergraduate and graduate degrees in front of a capacity crowd on Saturday, May 10 at Ives-Lemel Family Field.

"Graduates, you've made it," said Dr. Bradley J Andrews, President of Brevard College. "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."

Saturday's ceremony began with the ethereal sound of bagpipes as a sea of black regalia greeted beaming family members awaiting the commencement. Following a call to order by Chief Faculty Marshal Dr. Mary Louise Bringle, President Andrews provided an opening address to go along with an Invocation from The Rev. Dr. Sharad H. Creasman, BC's Campus Minister.

Next up were a series of awards presented by Dr. Jennifer Frick-Ruppert,

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As is traditional, members of the BC Class of 2025 posed on the steps of Jones Library for a class photo the morning of commencement May 9.

Graduation at Brevard College

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Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty.

The Presidential Award for Distinction was awarded to **Sophia Ogawa**, a double major in Health Science and Psychology from Easley, South Carolina and **Sierethene Chepes**, a Theatre major from Summerfield, North Carolina. The award recognizes graduating seniors who demonstrate remarkable leadership, service, and academic achievement during their time at Brevard College.

Grace Blanton 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. Blanton, a native of Birmingham, Alabama, graduated as a double major in Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education and Psychology.

Maddy Elliott (Biology; Hendersonville, North Carolina), **Kevin Wright** (Mathematics; Clover, South Carolina) and **Lex MacLauchlin** (Business & Organizational Leadership and Communication) 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. Each of the three recipients earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average at Brevard College.

Unlike many colleges who invite an outside guest to speak at the ceremony, Brevard College engages its students in the process and encourages personal growth by choosing an outstanding senior to speak at Commencement. Graduating senior **Haylea-Layne Miller**, BC's Student Government President in 2024-25, delivered a thoughtful and heartfelt speech, encouraging her fellow graduates to be proud of their growth at Brevard College.

“We grew in the classroom of course, but even more, we grew as people,”

Miller said. “We learned to advocate for ourselves and for others, and to step into leadership. We learned how to keep going. Even when things were uncertain or hard, we kept going.”

Following the awards and speeches, the graduates of the Class of 2025 walked across the stage and received their diplomas from President Andrews.



In addition to the United States, five other nations—Brazil, United Kingdom, Canada, France and Ireland—were represented by the nearly 200 graduates at this year's commencement ceremony. (Photos courtesy of Brevard College. More photos are available at BC's Flickr site, www.flickr.com/brevardcollege.)

Graduation at Brevard College

For the first time, Brevard College awarded Master of Business Administration degrees with 13 MBA students receiving diplomas. The College also awarded its first-ever Bachelor's degrees in Communication and Chemistry with three new graduates from each major.



Haylea-Layne Miller, a chemistry major and BC's student government president this year, was selected by the faculty and staff to deliver the commencement address.



Over 20 of the newly-minted graduates hail from Western North Carolina. In total, graduates from the year's class arrived at Brevard from 17 different states and five nations outside of the U.S. (Brazil, United Kingdom, Canada, France and Ireland).

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 Naomi Firebaugh '25 who graduated with degrees in both Theatre and Music.

"Graduates, you now join a special group of people—the alumni of this small and mighty college," President Andrews said. "We know you will take the spirit of service with you to enrich the communities in which you will live and work."

The festivities began with a traditional [Baccalaureate & Hooding Ceremony](#) held on Friday afternoon in the Paul Porter Center for Performing Arts, followed by [Saturday's Commencement Ceremony](#). Both events were live-streamed, allowing family members and friends to enjoy the events from afar. *(Click the links to view video of each event.)*



Above: Stacy Workman, assistant professor of criminal justice, spoke at the baccalaureate and hooding ceremony May 9 as the 2025 recipient of Brevard College's Exemplary Teacher award.

Left: Music professor Vance Reese hoods Evey Perrey.

Remembering Steven Benezue

Adjunct art instructor dies unexpectedly on May 2 at 65

Steven Benezue, an artist and adjunct art instructor of profound creativity and gentle wisdom, died unexpectedly on Friday, May 2, 2025 in Brevard. He was 65.

The campus was informed of his passing in an email that evening by campus minister Sharad Creasman.

In just one year of teaching at Brevard College, Benezue had a profound impact on the campus community. Colleagues and students remember him as a passionate, gifted teacher who engaged his students in art history and art appreciation classes to look for beauty all around them. That started with his own wardrobe; he was “always dressed in vibrant colors that matched his exciting personality,” Spiers Gallery director Jules Lusk said.

“Steven wore many hats. I mean this literally—the man had an endless supply of hats,” Rebecca Farr said. “Every time I saw him, he had on a different topper. He explained that his hair stuck up every which way when he woke up and he always needed a hat to tame it down, but I think he also loved putting the icing on his outfit.”

His colleagues also have fond memories of working with Benezue.

“In the brief time I was around Steven one thing was quickly obvious: he loved art,” associate professor Ken McLeskey said. “It was also obvious how much joy he took from sharing that love of art with his students, and how deeply he wanted to share and pass that love on to his students. He possessed an infectious joy that resonated well with our students.”

Benezue joined the BC faculty in fall 2024 after his retirement as a gallery director at Northlake College in Texas. He taught the second half of the Art History survey (renaissance to 20th Century), Art Appreciation, and an upper level seminar in Contemporary Art. Some of the experiential activities he did with

students included building a camera obscura and re-enacting tableaux of famous paintings in ART 101, and curating a series of temporary art installations with the seminar students. These included the Coke bottles around the clock tower this spring and the tornado made of marbles outside the library.

Because 2024-2025 was her first year as director of Spiers Art Gallery, Lusk described Benezue as a source of wisdom and advice given his own experience as a gallery director.

“Steven became a mentor to me,” she said. “He offered thoughtful, constructive feedback and encouraged me through the challenges of gallery management. His support was always warm, genuine, and rooted in a desire to help others.”

Kathryn Gresham, chair of the Fine Arts division, said he had already begun planning his fall classes when he began feeling ill on May 2, less than two days before final exams for the spring semester would begin.

“He loved teaching, and he loved his students and colleagues here at Brevard,” Gresham said. “He always had a smile and a joke to share, and his enthusiasm was contagious.”

Steven Anthony Benezue was born Sept. 24, 1959, in the Panama Canal Zone. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in architecture from the University of Texas at Arlington, then continued to expand his horizons by obtaining Master of Fine Arts degrees in both Ceramics and Photography from Texas Women’s University in Denton, Texas.

These accomplishments laid the foundation for his distinguished career as an educator and gallery director.

His passion for art extended beyond the classroom. Steven was an accomplished artist, known for his sculpting, pottery throwing, and digital art creations. His work garnered numerous accolades and awards, including the prestigious Judy Williams Award, 2015 Art In The Metroplex in Fort Worth, TX, Honorable Mention, Art Connection 2013 Irving Arts Center, Purchase Award, Feats of Clay XIII, Lincoln Arts Center, Lincoln CA 2000, and many more.

A man of deep faith, Benezue was a devoted member of the Catholic Church, finding solace and inspiration in his spiritual beliefs. His interests were as diverse as his talent. He also enjoyed spending time outdoors, whether it was camping under the stars, hiking scenic trails, or



Steven Benezue

tending to his garden.

Throughout his life, Benezue was surrounded by love and companionship. He shared 12 wonderful years with his life partner, Tracy Parlier, of Brevard. He is also survived by his father, Lynn Anthony (Nita) Benezue of Athens, Texas; his mother, Faye Benezue of Hurst, Texas; his brother, Jeffery Paul (Rebecca) Benezue of Krum, Texas; his sister, Sarah Lynn Benezue of Eustace, Texas.

Benezue is survived by his honorary daughter and her husband, Courtney and Justin Younce, and honorary grandchildren, Dylan Rossi and Lillian Saylor. He is also survived by numerous extended family members and close friends who will miss him dearly.

His legacy is one of artistic brilliance, gentle kindness, and an unwavering dedication to fostering beauty and understanding in the world. Memories of his sense of humor and creativity will be cherished by all his family and friends.

A funeral mass honoring Benezue took place Friday, May 9, 2025, at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in Statesville, North Carolina. He was laid to rest at Oakwood Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Friends of the Fine Arts, Alumni Affairs & Development, 1 Brevard College Drive, Brevard, NC 28712 or online at www.tmcfund.org/funds/steven-benezue/13266/.

To leave a memory of Steven Benezue, visit this page, www.nicholsonfunerals.com/obituaries/steven-benezue.



One of Benezue's pieces in the BC faculty art show.

Looking Glass Rock Writers' Conference hosts public readings

Annual conference, now in its ninth year, explores 'a sense of place' in fiction, poetry, nonfiction

The Looking Glass Rock Writers' Conference is now underway, with poet Terrance Hayes, fiction writer Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle and nonfiction writer Elizabeth Rush leading four days of workshops and readings to showcase "a sense of place" in writing.

As part of the conference, two public readings are scheduled for Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17.

Friday's reading, by Clapsaddle, will take

place in the Porter Center for Performing Arts on the Brevard College campus.

Saturday's event, a reading by Hayes and Rush, will take place in the Rogow Room at the Transylvania County Library.

Both events begin at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

The conference, sponsored by the Transylvania County Library Foundation in association with Brevard College, 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 next year's conference will be accepted beginning in September.

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



Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle



Terrance Hayes



Elizabeth Rush

Employee luncheon recognizes years of service, retiree

A spring tradition at Brevard College is the faculty-staff appreciation luncheon, during which retirees are honored and other employees are recognized for their years of service.

The luncheon took place on Monday, May 12, in the Porter Center. The event was catered by Chik-Fil-A.

One retiree was honored at the event: Laura Vance, professor of sociology and chair of the Social Sciences division.

Here is the complete list of employees recognized for their years of service to Brevard College:

45 years

Belton Hammond

25 years

Mel Bringle

20 years

Kathye Gresham

Kyle Lusk

15 years

Cindy Bryson

10 years

Jonathon Colbert

Steven Dixon

Casey Eubanks

Chilly Heinz

Dilshad Posnock

Chase Smith

Marvin Whitmire

5 years

Lauren Agrella-Sevilla

Charlotte Gilmore

Corydon Kale

Michael Moreschi

Rosemary Peek

Jernail Radford

Breanne Shearin

Diane Adler Wailes

The BC Class of 2025

Master's Graduates

Courtney Noelle Augusto**MBA
 Channing Elizabeth Barker**MBA
 Bethany Lynn Bryan***†MBA
 Parker Thomas Corbett**MS, Health & Human Performance
 Paris Idris CrawfordMBA
 Mary Beth Criser***MBA
 Emma Grace Gooch*†MBA
 John Roderick Hodgskiss***MBA
 Jordan LindsayMS, Health & Human Performance
 Colin Michael McCabe***MBA
 Jeffrey Brian McCants**MBA
 Tyler Patrick Miranda***†MS, Health & Human Performance
 Toby Benjamin NaylorMS, Health & Human Performance
 Samuel Graham Denis O'Callaghan***MS, Health & Human Performance
 Katherine Taylor Parnell***MBA
 LaToria Courtney Robinson**MS, Health & Human Performance
 Joshua Oneil Romero***MBA
 Nathaniel Joshua ScottMS, Health & Human Performance
 Jacob Thomas Stowe**MBA
 Colin Abercrombie Worsencroft*†MBA

Bachelor of Arts Graduates

Nicholas Mason AcusBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Olivia Maya AdamsChildhood Education: Elementary (K-6)
 Tiago Miranda Aguilar*Exercise Science
 Eduardo Passos AlvalaArt
 Jonathan Ardila Ortiz***Business & Organizational Leadership
 Brooks Corneilous Ashford JRExercise Science
 Emma Claire Barnes**Business & Organizational Leadership
 Sara Catherine Barnes***History
 Ashlyn Ann Baumann**†Psychology
 Bryce Gabriel BernittExercise Science
 Joshua Michael Blackstock**History
 Elizabeth Carroll BlalockBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Grace Elizabeth Blanton*†WLEE, Psychology
 Nathan Thomas BondBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Naliyah Yasmine BoycePsychology
 Kerry Marie Boyd**Criminal Justice
 Peter Joseph BreskoBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Gabriel Aaron BrittonPsychology
 Scott James BundyCriminal Justice
 Gabriel Seth Burris**Criminal Justice
 Tanner Bryce CharletBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Sierethene Michael Chepes***†Theatre
 Callum Benjamin ChildWLEE
 Ethan Wyatt ColemanBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Leonardo Concencio Zabeu LopesBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Cameron Patrick Cook***Physical Education & Recreation,
 Exercise Science
 John William Creasman*Criminal Justice
 Connor Todd CrosbyBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Tyler Justin Emerson Cummings**Integrated Studies
 Wendel Neves de LimaExercise Science

Rodrigo Castilho de MatosBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Joao Pedro Ribeiro de SouzaExercise Science
 Emily Judith Denaga***†Criminal Justice
 Alex Hunter Dial**Criminal Justice
 Sandra Lissett Diaz-MartinezPsychology
 James Leanus Dodson***Criminal Justice
 Ava Kathleen DoughertyIntegrated Studies
 Jasmyn Nicole DunnCriminal Justice
 Tom Pierre DussaugeBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Paige Lauren Edwards**†Psychology, History
 Gunnar Ray Ensign*Art
 Naomi Claire FirebaughTheatre, Music
 Richard James Hamlett GilsonMusic
 Lucas Reed Granata**Business & Organizational Leadership
 Olivia Jean GrisewoodBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Rodrigo Garcia Diniz GuilhermeExercise Science
 James Watford HackneyBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Audrey Carmin HansonBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Elizabeth Andrews Hedgepath**Psychology
 Cooper James HoganBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Kentrayle DeMario HollowayBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Patricia Marie HolmbergMathematics, Art
 Melanie Hope HoyleBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Eamonn Patrick Hunter**WLEE
 Cassidy Leigh Hutto*†Business & Organizational Leadership
 Dylan Kobe JamesBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Alexa Davis Jennings**Art, English
 Hayden Stanley Jennings**Business & Organizational Leadership
 Bethany Megan Johnson***Art
 Jared Lee JonesCriminal Justice
 Catherine Davant Keenan**†Communication
 Paige Mackenzie Kneubuhler***†Criminal Justice
 Sara Christine Laboe**English
 Bailey Grace LanceChildhood Education: Elementary (K-6)
 Hayden Collin LeBlanc*Integrated Studies
 Charles Noah LewisExercise Science
 Olivia Isabelle Anoria Little*Integrated Studies
 Gabriella Lucille Floyd Lujon**Music Education
 Ryan Stewart LynchBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Alexis Jade MacLauchlin***Business & Organizational Leadership,
 Communication
 Isaias Maldonado-Figueroa*Psychology, Business & Organizational
 Leadership
 Garrett Nicholas MalsbyBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Lauren Renee MannBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Shannon Kerry McCarthy***†WLEE
 Colson Alan Miller*Physical Education & Recreation
 Zachery Wayne MillerBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Alyse Brook Moore*Criminal Justice
 Daniel James Morgan*Business & Organizational Leadership
 Luke Alexander Morton*Business & Organizational Leadership
 Catherine Blair Nance*Criminal Justice
 Caden Martin O'Brien**Art
 Dominic Joseph O'Brien***†History

The BC Class of 2025

Marcelo Goichi Okuda Filho**Business & Organizational Leadership
 Jada Leigh Ore*Business & Organizational Leadership
 Sabrina Constance Carmen Ortiz.....Business & Organizational Leadership
 Brenden Rhys Palmer*Physical Education & Recreation
 Evan Saul Perrey**English
 Michael William Peters.....Business & Organizational Leadership
 Cassie Nicole Plemmons***†Mathematics, Applied Physics
 Naomi Grace Plumley.....Criminal Justice
 Zoe Porter.....Criminal Justice
 James Cameron PylePhysical Education & Recreation
 Nicholas Matthew Queen**WLEE
 George Thomas Rennie***Communication
 Dylan Thomas Richardson.....Business & Organizational Leadership
 Kiera Dayne Robinson*Business & Organizational Leadership
 Matheus Rosa Rossi.....Business & Organizational Leadership
 Mashayla Autumn RoseArt
 Isaac Eli Saul.....WLEE
 Hadden Alexander Schnell.....Criminal Justice
 Christine Dian Scott.....Art
 Jordan Nathaniel SearcyBusiness
 Izzy Rae Sellers.....Business
 Brian Andrew Seon*Art
 Lexi Nicole ShepardBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Eliza Jane ShepherdPsychology
 Aysha BreAnn ShortIntegrated Studies
 Andrew SmithExercise Science
 Darryl Keith Smith.....Exercise Science
 Ernest O'Lindsey Smith II.....Criminal Justice
 Trinity Deryn Rose SpragueTheatre
 Justine Reese St. Louis†Psychology
 Mason Lee Tanner.....Criminal Justice
 Kaitlynn Nicole Taylor.....History
 Jacob Colvin Thompson.....Physical Education & Recreation
 James Richard TinsleyPhysical Education & Recreation
 Sophia Jayne Trantham***†Criminal Justice, Psychology
 Krista Celine TuckerExercise Science
 Franklin Hallock VasquezBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Grace Kierra Lynnette Vaught.....Integrated Studies
 Steven Jose VictorianoExercise Science
 Nicole Leanne Volk***†Criminal Justice
 Kailey Grace Ward.....Art
 Jack Cameron Weaver.....Exercise Science
 Simeon James Whatley**Criminal Justice
 Noah Albert Wiggins.....Integrated Studies
 Savannah Dawn Wilkins***Criminal Justice
 Triston Todd Winn**Exercise Science
 Kevin Peter Wright***†Mathematics
 Baylor Chase WyattBusiness & Organizational Leadership
 Lamont Anthony Young JR.....Physical Education & Recreation

Bachelor of Science Graduates

Rocco Mattia Barbon**Biology
 Madison Elizabeth Bowen**Health Science
 Hailey Elizabeth Brien.....Biology

Chandler D Bryson***†Exercise Science
 Joao Vitor Capelli FehrExercise Science
 Nicholas Hunter Clark***†Exercise Science
 Abigail Grace DelpApplied Physics
 Madalynn Cassie Elliott***Biology
 Philip Hilton Ford***†Health Science
 Jordan Alexandra GreshamBiology
 Kelsey Marlene HamrickExercise Science
 Jacob Lincoln Hernandez.....Exercise Science
 Hannah Rose Hersh***†Health Science, Chemistry
 Jackson Duncan HicksEnvironmental Studies
 Gabrielle Celeste Hooper***†Health Science
 Shania Olivia Houser*Health Science, Psychology
 Ashley Brinell HoxitExercise Science
 Abigail Clark Hutcheson.....Exercise Science
 Logan M Jones*Exercise Science
 Hayley Elizabeth Kenney*†Criminal Justice
 Olivia Rose MartinezHealth Science
 Kyle Jacob McDonald***†Exercise Science
 William Ethan McGeeExercise Science
 Adan Alexander MillerEnvironmental Studies
 Haylea-Layne Miller***†Chemistry
 Cale Sterling Oehler*Environmental Studies
 Sophia Kimiko Ogawa***†Health Science, Psychology
 Makenna Kate Parkins***Exercise Science, Health Science
 Rachel Elaine Piazzola**Exercise Science
 Karley Madison QueenHealth Science
 Emmalie Paige Reese.....Health Science
 Christian Alexander Riley*Exercise Science
 Ryan Seth Ropp**Exercise Science
 Nikolas David ShultisChemistry
 Jared Lee Smith.....Applied Physics, Mathematics
 Valarie Elizabeth SorrellExercise Science
 Hugo Jackson Taylor†Mathematics, Applied Physics
 Mackenzie Brown TonksEnvironmental Studies
 Rachael Elizabeth Trifoli***Exercise Science
 Emma Elizabeth Wester*†Exercise Science

Key to honor designations:

*** **Summa cum laude**
 ** **Magna cum laude**
 * **Cum laude**
 † **Honors Program Graduate**

This list includes fall 2024 and spring 2025 graduates and summer 2025 candidates. By policy, summer and certain fall candidates may march in the spring commencement ceremony, but GPA-based honors are not bestowed until all of the student's final grades have been posted.

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!

A video of these photos will be available on the Clarion's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@bcclarion.



On a field trip for Deep Time class. (Courtesy of Hugo Taylor)



Savannah Anderson and I at the 2023 BESPYs. (Courtesy of Hannah Hersh)

Late nights working on theatre productions in the Blackbox.

—Sierethene Chepes

My favorite memory is spring and harvest fest when the llamas come to BC.

—Sophie Trantham

Meeting wonderful people!

—James Dodson



Photo courtesy of Jamie Gilson.

One of my favorite memories at Brevard College was going on the Moab trip with the WLEE department. It was an incredible experience that I will never forget.

—Haylea-Layne Miller

My favorite memory at Brevard is 5 am football practice watching the sunrise over the mountains

—Hugo Taylor

Spending time with my roommates in the middle of the night reminiscing on life!

—Isaias Maldonado-Figueroa



Women's Basketball team headed to the USA SOUTH championship for the 1st time ever! . (Courtesy of Makenna Kate Parkins)



Kicking at Brevard College on senior day. (Courtesy of Hugo Taylor)

My favorite memory from Brevard College was going to little sliding rock during freshman orientation

—Bethany Bryan

The snow storm freshman year was fun.

—Kevin Wright

Hooding ceremony and getting to thank my professor's for all the help they've given me over the last 4 years!

—Krista Tucker



This photo was taken at the annual theatre paper plate awards my junior year, spring 2024. I loved having this hidden theatre tradition because it was just for the students!. (Courtesy of Naomi Firebaugh)



Spring formal 2025: Savannah Wilkins, Kailey Ward, Caden O'Brien, Trisha Holemborg. (Courtesy of Hannah Hersh)



Ashlyn, Emma, Mary, Melanie at Spring Formal 2025. (Courtesy of Makenna Kate Parkins)



Spring 2025 BESPYS with Nikolas Shultis. (Courtesy of Sophie Trantham)

My favorite memory at Brevard was going on a spring break trip to Hilton Head with the entire tennis team.

—Hannah Hersh

The last week! It started to hit that we would be leaving our favorite place so my friends and I made a graduation bucket list and tried to fulfill all those last wishes before we went our separate ways.

—Makenna Kate Parkins

Learning to play the organ for the first time, and winning a creative writing competition.

—Evey Perrey

Meeting my friend Jonas during CREEK Week four years ago.

—Jamie Gilson



VOR 2022 Haylea-Layne Milller, Sandra Diaz, Emma Grace Stevenson.. (Courtesy of Hannah Hersh)



Arches National Park - Spring 2024. (Courtesy of Haylea-Layne Miller)



Haylea-Layne Miller and I leaving Boys and Girls Club from IWIL class. Spring 2022. (Courtesy of Hannah Hersh)



Sunset over the Pisgah mountains grass fields near softball field Brevard college. (Courtesy of Hugo Taylor)



Llamas Fall of 2022. (Courtesy of Sophie Trantham)



Spring 2025 outstanding graduate in psychology. (Courtesy of Sophie Trantham)



My favorite memory at brevard was all of the after Rehearsal/Performance adventures me and my friends did. I loved not only hanging out with them but that even after all day we wanted to do something!

—Naomi Firebaugh

My favorite time at Brevard College was meeting lifetime friends and learning new skills to further my future. I learned a lot about sports and therapy and how it relates to life.

—Jack Cameron Weaver

A backstage photo of me getting ready for my senior capstone, Vanities: The Musical!

Senior 2025 (Courtesy of Naomi Firebaugh)



Tennis Senior Day 2025. Hayden LeBlanc, Brian Seon, Noah Lewis, Bryce Bernitt, Peter Bresko. (Courtesy of Hannah Hersh)

Plans after graduation...

I will be attending Florida International University to pursue a PhD in Forensic Chemistry
—Haylea-Layne Miller
 Chapin, SC

I plan to continue working as the assistant director of financial aid at Appalachian State University while also pursuing my doctorate degree in higher education administration
—Bethany Bryan
 Bremerton, Washington

Work
—James Dodson
 Brevard, NC

I'll be working at Flat Rock Playhouse as a carpenter.
—Sierethene Chapes
 Summerfield, NC

Gap year, during which I will be applying to grad school and also doing many musical gigs around the area.
—Jamie Gilson
 Brevard

I'm going to find a graduate program that merges criminal justice and psychology together.
—Sophie Trantham
 Matthews, NC

Math Teacher while preparing for and afterwards attending grad school.
—Kevin Wright
 Fort Mill, SC

Graduate school; Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Western Carolina University
—Isaias Maldonado-Figueroa
 Asheville, NC

Hoping to find a nice place to work and live, at the end of the day
—Evey Perrey
 Sapphire, NC

I will be attending the Medical University of South Carolina to obtain my Doctorate in Pharmacy.
—Hannah Hersh
 Estero, Florida

I'm planning to get my masters degree in Aerodynamics or Electrical engineering so I can make my way into a job with Formula 1
—Hugo Taylor
 Charleston, SC

Getting my personal trainer certification!
—Krista Tucker

Attend Lenoir-Rhyne University in the fall to get my Masters in Occupational Therapy
—Makenna Kate Parkins
 Marion, NC

Look for theatre jobs in Raleigh, NC!
—Naomi Firebaugh
 Raleigh, NC

I'm doing an internship with physical therapy and coaching a junior legion team as well. Than I will be going to PT school to further my physical therapy success.
—Jack Cameron Weaver
 Salisbury, NC



Getting an award with Dr. Pan. (Courtesy of Hugo Taylor)

Advice to other BC students...

Enjoy the moment it will be over with before you know it.

James Dodson
Criminal Justice

Don't be afraid to take risks and try something new; Get involved, make connections, and have fun!

Haylea Layne Miller
Chemistry

Bethany Bryan

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

Put effort and fun into everything you do, in life and in school.

Sierethene Chepes
Theatre

Stay in the moment, it'll be over before you know it.

Jamie Gilson
Music

Enjoy every moment and say yes to a lot of things. These past four years went by truly fast. Get involved on campus and take leadership positions. Don't procrastinate on your homework just get it done. Get up and go to class, you paid to be here.

Sophie Trantham
Criminal Justice, Psychology

Enjoy it while it lasts and spend time with your friends. There's a good chance you won't see some of them ever again.

Kevin Wright
Mathematics

Be yourself and stay true to yourself. Be kind, courageous and strive for greatness. Don't think about what others think.

Jack Cameron Weaver
Exercise Science

Get to know those around you.

Evey Perrey
English

Study hard and be successful academically, but don't forget to go out and have fun. 4 years at Brevard goes by really fast.

Hannah Hersh
Chemistry, Health Science Studies

Go all the way; there is no better life purpose than to attempt the impossible.

Isaias Maldonado-Figueroa
Business and Organizational Leadership (BORG), Psychology

Study hard, enjoy yourself, make friends and try not stress you'll make it through any hard times

Hugo Taylor
Applied Physics, Mathematics

Enjoy it! Brevard is such a special place!

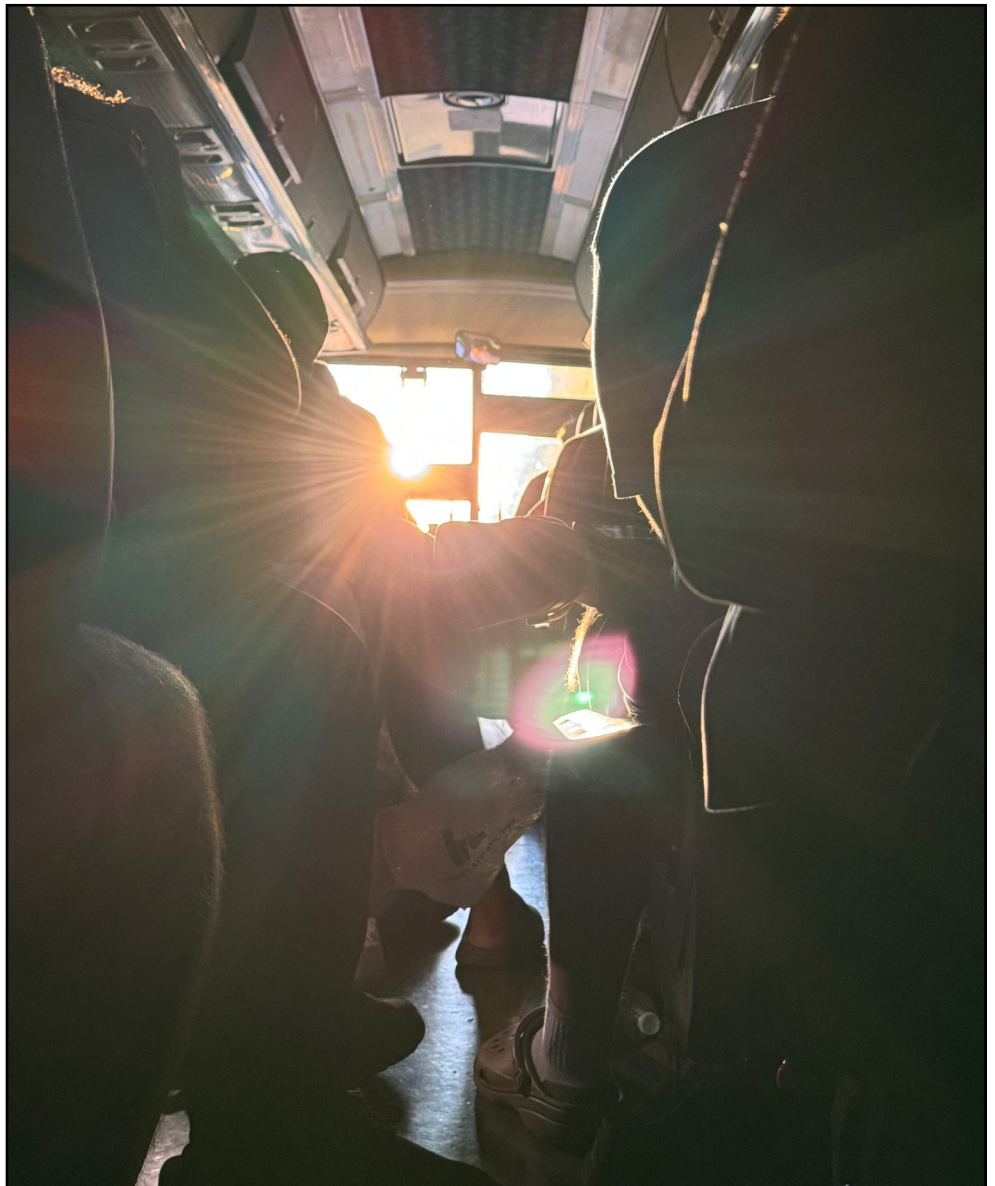
Krista Tucker
Exercise Science

Be spontaneous! Make good decisions, but don't always say no! Go out and have fun with your friends and take in every little moment because I promise these will be the best 4 years of your life!

Makenna Kate Parkins
Exercise Science, Health Science Studies

The important part about being at college is not just finding people who have the same passion you do. By getting to know yourself and really being on your own is a way to grow and build your confidence in what you can do!

Naomi Firebaugh
Music, Theatre



On the bus coming back from a Brevard football game, the sun is setting as we drive back. (Courtesy of Hugo Taylor)



VOR - Summer 2022. (Courtesy of Haylea-Layne Miller)

BC's 2024-25 academic and leadership awards

An abundance of honors and awards were presented in April and May prior to Commencement at Brevard College. See below for a complete list of academic and leadership award winners as well as honor society inductees.

FINE ARTS

Art Program

Freshman Highest GPA: **Scarlett Houser**
 Freshman Highest GPA: **Rose Brown**
 Sophomore Highest GPA: **Colbin Hill**
 Junior Highest GPA: **Nicole Bradbury**
 Senior Highest GPA: **Rachel Cooke**
 Digital Art Outstanding Achievement:

Autumn Short

Photography Outstanding Achievement: **Brian**

Seon

Painting & Drawing Outstanding Achievement: **Nicole Bradbury**

Painting & Drawing Outstanding Achievement: **Rachel Cooke**

Sculpture Outstanding Achievement: **Clayton**

Furr

Foundations Year Outstanding Achievement:

Scarlett Houser

Foundations Year Outstanding Achievement:

Ray Love

Foundations Year Outstanding Achievement:

Daniel Huestis

Foundations Year Outstanding Achievement:

Phoebe Turner

Foundations Year Outstanding Achievement:

Rose Brown

Digital Art Advancement: **Caden O'Brien**

Photography Advancement: **Eduardo Alvala**

Painting & Drawing Advancement: **Kailey**

Ward

Sculpture Advancement: **Chrissie Scott**

Sculpture Advancement: **Shay Rose**

Foundations Year Advancement: **Colbin Hill**

Student Leadership: **Sam Capps**

Student Leadership: **Clayton Furr**

Student Leadership: **Rachel Cooke**

Outstanding Art Graduate: **Patricia Holmberg**

Theatre Program

Freshman Highest GPA: **Tommy Ives**

Sophomore Highest GPA: **Roxxane Petryshak**

Senior Highest GPA: **Abigail Reeves**

Newcomer's Award: **Tommy Ives**

Excellence in Collaboration: **Evan Webb**

Personal Growth: **Nell O'Brien**

Personal Growth: **Camile Bonnin**

Excellence in Initiative: **Roxxane Petryshak**

Personal Responsibility Award: **Sierethene**

Chepes

Rakeem Sweezy Award: **Sierethene Chepes**

Outstanding Theatre Graduate: **Sierethene**

Chepes

Music Program

Freshman Highest GPA: **Olivia Hoyt**

Sophomore Highest GPA: **Olivia Ervin**

Junior Highest GPA: **Sevasti Smith**

Senior Highest GPA: **Gabriella Lujon**

Music Theory Excellence: **Libby Huffman**

Music History Excellence: **Sevasti Smith**

Music Education Excellence: **Gabriella Lujon**

Outstanding Freshman: **Olivia Hoyt**

Outstanding Freshman: **Luke Hansen**

Peer Inspiration Award: **Lyric Contarino**

Outstanding Music Graduate: **Gabriella Lujon**

HUMANITIES

Communication

Outstanding Communication Major: **Cat**

Keenan

Communication Legacy Award: **George**

Rennie

Leadership Award: **Addie McAlister**

Media Excellence: **Cat Keenan**

Excellence in Media Arts: **Lili White**

Community Impact: **Emma Campbell**

Community Impact: **Kaleia Hartman**

Outstanding Capstone: **Lex MacLauchlin**

Outstanding Research: **Karis King**

Outstanding Podcast: **George Rennie, Alex**

Bolton, James McLain, Malik Graham, Alex

Spangler, Autumn Jones

English

Outstanding English Major: **Sara Laboe**

Excellence in First-Year Writing: **Sam**

Grimes, Aiden Latour

Excellence in Environmental Literature: **Mia**

Rijkenberg

Excellence in Creative Writing: **Mickey**

Lasco, Maddi Pollock

Excellence in Literary Criticism: **Paige**

Edwards

Excellence in Fiction Writing: **Alexa Jennings**

Excellence in Holocaust Literature: **Matthew**

Case

Grammar Vanguard: **Libby Huffman**

Grammar Vanguard: **Maddi Pollock**

Grammar Vanguard: **Roxxanne Petryshak**

Deep Time Chrononaut: **Roxxanne Petryshak**

Deep Time Chrononaut: **Sierethene Chepes**

Excellence in Gothic Literature: **Courtney**

Wall

Excellence in Shakespeare: **Vinny Munson-**

Jackson

Excellence in Shakespeare: **Autumn Jones**

Chiaroscuro Service: **Karis King, Alexa**

Jennings, Sara Laboe, Courtney Wall,

Roxxanne Petryshak, Sierethene Chepes,

Kayleigh Marr, Andrew Brown, Vinnie

Munson-Jackson, Rowyn Roberts, Evey

Perrey, Mickey Lasco, Logan Masinsky

The Clarion Service: **Autumn Jones, Zoe**

Hughes, Abigail Callahan, Maddi Pollock

History

Outstanding Major: **Paige Edwards**

Outstanding Writing: **Tristan Troutman**

Up-and-Coming Historian: **Liam Smith**

Outstanding Critical Thinker: **Angie Martino**

Integrated Studies

Outstanding Major: **Olivia Little**

Excellence in Environmental Literature &

Theology: **Kayla Philbrick**

Excellence in Environmental Literature &

Theology: **Maddi Pollock**

Excellence in C.S. Lewis: **Jessie Dodson**

Excellence in C.S. Lewis: **Joy Yousef**

Philosophy

Illuminated Story Award: **Elisa Amundrud**

Excellence in Religion and the Arts: **Gabriella**



Fine Arts graduating seniors. (Photo courtesy Brevard College Office of Communications)

Academic honors and award recipients, 2024-25

Lucille Lujon

Excellence in Religion and the Arts: **Evelyn**

Higdon

Excellence in Religion and the Arts: **Signe**

Thorsen

Logic Laureate: **Kara Gusner, Aiden Latour,**

Addison Moss, Addison Smith, Kelsey

Morrow, Avalon Sweet, Jacob Wilde, Andrew

Brown

Existential Excellence: **Karis King**

Existential Excellence: **Charlyn Anderson**

Existential Excellence: **Signe Thorsen**

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Biology

Highest GPA: **Madalynn Elliott**

Special Recognition: **Alfredo Sixtos-**

Rodriguez

Outstanding Graduate: **Madalynn Elliott**

Chemistry

Highest GPA: **Hannah Hersh**

Special Recognition: **Nikolas Shultis**

Outstanding Graduate: **Haylea-Layne Miller**

Computer Science

Highest GPA: **Kayla Jean**

Special Recognition: **Cameron Brown**

Environmental Studies

Highest GPA: **Jaxson Tumicki**

Special Recognition: **Ariel Podlogar**

Outstanding Graduate: **Jackson Hicks**

Exercise Science

Highest GPA: **Regina Drouse**

Highest GPA: **Joy Yousef**

Special Recognition: **Makenna Parkins**

Outstanding Graduate: **Chandler Bryson**

Health Science

Highest GPA: **Hannah Hersh**

Special Recognition: **Philip Ford**

Outstanding Graduate: **Madison Bowen**

Mathematics

Highest GPA: **Kevin Wright**

Special Recognition: **David Hoyle**

Outstanding Graduate: **Jared Smith**

Physics

Highest GPA: **David Hoyle**

Outstanding Graduate: **Hugo Taylor**

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Business and Organizational Leadership

Outstanding Graduating Senior: **Jonathan**

Ardila Ortiz

Sustainable Leadership: **Lucas Granata**

Ray Fisher Leadership: **Ivelysse Leighton**

Mt. Pisgah Award: **Lexi Nicole Shepard**

Grace Jackson Munro Roy Annual Leadership

in Business: **Kelly Lawson**

Dr. B. Barbara Boerner Emerging Leader

Scholarship: **Kylie Katcher**

Dr. B. Barbara Boerner Emerging Leader

Scholarship: **McKenna Deets**

Sidney J. Gunst Jr. Award: **Brody Lindsey**

Criminal Justice

Outstanding Graduating Senior: **Savannah**

Wilkins

Outstanding Leadership: **Emily Denaga**

Promise in the Field Award: **Caleb Baker**

Citizenship Award: **Nicole Volk**

Rising Star Award: **Aidan Kearns**

Excellence in Service: **Michae Vacher**

Excellence in Research or Inquiry: **Sophia**

Trantham

Ethics and Integrity Award: **Gabriel Burris**

Internship Excellence Award: **Simeon**

Whatley

Outstanding Sophomore: **Aaron Burchett**

Outstanding Junior: **Hayden Domingo**

Physical Education and Recreation

Outstanding Graduating Senior: **Jamie Tinsley**

Outstanding Teaching: **Jacob Thompson**

Outstanding Student: **Jadon Carnes**

Psychology

Outstanding Major: **Sophia Trantham**

Rising Star: **Kayla Philbrick**

Leadership Award: **Sophia Ogawa**

Citizenship Award: **Grace Blanton**

Outstanding Thesis: **Paige Edwards**

Promise in the Field: **Isaias Maldonado-Figueroa**

Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education

Outstanding Graduate: **Grace Blanton**

Wilderness Leadership Award: **Nick Queen**

Experiential Education Award: **Shannon**

McCarthy

TEACHING LICENSURE

Student Teachers (Graduating Seniors)

Sara Barnes, Social Studies (Franklin School of Innovation)

Josh Blackstock, Social Studies (West Henderson HS)

Cameron Cook, Health and PE (Brevard HS)

Gabby Lujon, Choral Music (East Henderson HS)

Colson Miller, Health and PE (Burns HS)

Cassie Plemmons, Math (TC Roberson HS)

EmmaLee Sitton, Elementary Education (Etowah Elementary)

Kevin Wright, Math (Brevard HS)

Delta Kappa Gamma Grant-In-Aid Winners

Buckley Harris, Social Studies Licensure Area

Calista Henry, Elementary Education

Hayden Moody, Elementary Education

Teacher Licensure Program Inductees (Fall 2024)

Olivia Adams, Elementary Education

Josh Blackstock, History

Emillee Long, Elementary Education

Gabby Lujon, Music

Jaxson Mix, Health and PE

Tiernan Ponder, Math

Kiara Porcelli, Elementary Education

CP Pyle, Health and PE

Jordan Ramey, History

Kevin Wright, Math

Teacher Licensure Program Inductees (Spring 2025)

Ethan Beamish, Health and PE

Rylee Cochran, Elementary Education

Gianluca Graziano, Music

Eliza Greenwell, Music

Buckley Harris, History

Calista Henry, Elementary Education

Patricia Holmberg, Math

Autumn Jones, English

Angie Martino, History

Hayden Moody, Elementary Education

Abigail Reeves, Theatre

Lamont Young, Health and PE



Award winners and graduating seniors from the Criminal Justice major at Brevard College.

Academic honors and award recipients, 2024-25

SENIOR PROJECTS

Quantitative Research

Paige Edwards, 1st Place
Sophie Trantham, 2nd Place
Ashlynn Baumann, 3rd Place
Haylea-Layne Miller, Honorable Mention

Internship

Emily Denaga, 1st Place
Ellie Hedgepath, 2nd Place
Sophia Ogawa, Honorable Mention
Savannah Wilkins, Honorable Mention

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Rookie Outstanding Work Study: **Evan Webb**
 Outstanding Work Study: **George Rennie**
 Outstanding Resident Assistant: **Haylea-Layne Miller**

Miller

Outstanding Peer Leader: **Abbey Waldrop**
 Outstanding Tutor: **Justine Thomas**
 Community Service Award: **Ellie Hedgepath**
 Mary Elizabeth & G. Scott Francis Community

Service Scholarship: McKenna Deets

Richard A. Adams Outstanding Ambassador:

Oliver Morgan

Richard A. Adams Outstanding Ambassador:

Tiffin Jacobs

Outstanding First Year: **Roderick Frazier**
 Outstanding Sophomore: **Alyssa Boris**
 Outstanding Junior: **Joy Yousif**
 Outstanding Senior: **Grace Blanton**
 Rising Star: **Jacob Wilde**
 Above & Beyond: **Val Sorrell**
 180 Award: **Imani Singleton**
 Behind the Scenes: **Hayden Domingo**
 Outstanding Organization of the Year: **Past**

Times History Club

Sweezy Award: **George Rennie**

HONOR SOCIETIES

Lambda Pi Eta (Communication Honor Society)

Inductees:

Alexander Bolton
Abbi Callahan
Emma Campbell
Samantha Capps
McKenna Deets
Adin DeJesus
Kalesia Hartman
Austin Huffman
Zoe Hughes
Cat Keenan
Lex MacLauchlin
Avery Mattina
Martin Moguel Aguilar
Maddie Pollock
George Rennie
Hailey Riddle
Alex Spangler
Dustin Vanover
Lili White
Katlynn Wynn

Alpha Chi (National Academic Honor Society)

Inductees:

Chloe Banner
Nicole Bradbury
James Dodson
Kylee Draper
Carleigh Garrett
Elisabeth Hornfeck
David Hoyle
Grace Leonardi
Roxanne Petryshak
Avalon Sweet
Signe Thorsen
Jaxson Tumicki
Lili White
Joy Yousef

APS/PAL (Criminal Justice Honor Society)

Inductees:

Savannah Anderson
James Dodson
Victoria Sylvester

Psi Chi (Psychology Honor Society) Inductees:

Savannah Anderson
Gabriel Britton
Paige Edwards
Chelsea Fritog
Bee Fulton
Makenna Parkins
Sevasti Smith
Justine St. Louis
Victoria Sylvester

Sigma Tau Delta (English Honor Society)

Inductees:

Paige Edwards
Alexa Jennings

Mickey Lasco

Ivelysse Leighton
Maddi Pollock
Rowyn Roberts
Elissa Tinsley
Courtney Wall

Omicron Delta Kappa (National Leadership Honor Society) Inductees:

Savannah Anderson
Jolize Beukman
Gabriel Burris
Sierethene Chepes
Summer Crist
Paige Edwards
Katherine Ellison
Lucas Granata
Eamonn Hunter
Kennedy Kelly
Kelly Lawson
Ivelysse Leighton
Gavin McCoy
Sophia Ogawa
Roxanne Petryshak
Kayla Philbrick
Kiara Porcelli
Rowyn Roberts
Logan Sawyer
Sevasti Smith
Signe Thorsen
Elissabeth Tinsley
Jaxson Tumicki
Mary Vallentine
Nicole Volk
Courtney Wall
Joy Yousef



Graduating seniors Cat Keenan, George Rennie and Lex MacLauchlin following the induction ceremony for the Communication Honor Society Lambda Pi Eta. (Photo courtesy BC Office of Communication)



The 2025 Voice of the Rivers team. They left campus Monday, May 12 for an 18-day expedition along the Yadkin-Pee Dee River. (Photo by Jenny Kafsky)

Voice of the Rivers exploring the Yadkin-Pee Dee River

Ten students, two faculty members, and two student leaders left campus Monday to paddle the Yadkin-Pee Dee River from its source near Blowing Rock, North Carolina to the Atlantic Ocean near Georgetown, South Carolina.

Their 18-day journey is this year's Voice of the Rivers experience, which combines academics with outdoor exploration to educate students and our community about the value of rivers in our society. "VOR," as it is often called, also aims to raise awareness of the human activities that threaten rivers, bring attention to organizations and groups poised to address those threats, and foster a sense of stewardship and community activity among the students who participate.

This year's VOR is led by WLEE faculty Ryan DeGarmo and Exercise Science faculty Kyle Rochau. Student participants include Charlyn Anderson, Jaxsen Wilkerson, Lindsey Kovach, Breanna Goff, Payton Claudson, Marcella Steele, Hailey Bistricky, Libby Huffman, Kathleen Benedict, and Delania Smallwood.

On their journey, students will earn academic credit, studying leadership and group collaboration skills through the experience of a river expedition (WLE 290K: River Expedition) and learning components of exercise science associated with river paddling, such as fitness, adaptations, muscular movement, and the forces of drag and buoyancy (EXS 290K: Exercise Science Principles of River Paddling).

Supporting them are WLEE senior Kate Ellison as VOR Logistics Manager and Olivia Hyde, ENV Junior, as a Teaching Assistant to help support the group paddling on the river.

Since its inaugural 1997 expedition from Brevard, N.C. to the Gulf of Mexico, the Voice of the Rivers (VOR) program at Brevard College has offered students and faculty an opportunity to paddle and study a variety of ecologically and culturally significant rivers.



BC WLEE professor Ryan DeGarmo holds class along the river earlier this week. (Photo courtesy Ryan DeGarmo and Kate Ellison)

The 2025 BESPYS!

BC student-athletes celebrated at awards dinner

The Brevard College Department of Athletics hosted the BESPYS, its annual awards ceremony celebrating the accomplishments of BC student-athletes throughout the 2024-25 academic year.

The event was held on Tuesday, April 29 in Boshamer Gymnasium, and 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 Etters Excellence Award** is given annually to the underclassman student-athlete who best displays excellence athletically, academically, and through dedicated service to the BC community. The 2024-25 Ann Etters Excellence Award recipient was rising junior women's soccer student-athlete **MK Smoak**.

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 **Chancellor Lee-Parker**.

The **Chuck Dunbar Team Spirit Award** was presented rising senior **Hayden Domingo**, a men's soccer student-athlete who serves as the Director of Community Engagement for BC SAAC.

Additional award winners included USA Cycling national champions **Owen Clark** (Men's Cyclist of the Year) and **Kiara Lylyk** (Women's Cyclist of the Year). BC men's basketball freshman **Twain Wilson** took home

Male Rookie of the Year honors, with BC women's soccer collecting Female Rookie of the Year accolades for the second-consecutive year as **Kinlee Mozley** was the recipient.

The Brevard College Perfect Storm awards are given to the most outstanding overall Tornado student-athletes both in sport and in the classroom. Graduating senior **Emily Denaga** was voted for the Female Perfect Storm Award, while men's soccer's **Domingo** earned his second major award of the evening as the Male Perfect Storm Award recipient.

The Female Athlete of the Year was presented to graduating senior **Josie Hester** of the women's basketball team, with Hester winning the prestigious honor for the second-straight academic year. **Ryan Lynch**, a graduated men's soccer student-athlete currently competing professionally in Australia, was named the Male Athlete of the Year for the third-consecutive year. Fellow team captains accepted the award on Lynch's behalf.

The fourth-annual David and Lynne Joyce Award was presented to **Denaga**, as the Buford, Georgia native garnered her second major honor of the evening. 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 four-year career at Brevard College.

The 2024-25 **BC women's soccer 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 women's tennis team** earned the Highest Team GPA with the highest cumulative grade point average among BC's athletic teams.

Members of the 2024 USA South Conference champion and undefeated BC women's soccer team were presented with their commemorative championship rings to honor Brevard's first regular season title in any sport since joining the NCAA. The presentation included Brevard College President Bradley J Andrews, Associate Vice President for Athletics Dr. Myranda Nash, Head Women's Soccer Coach Juan Mascaro, and Associate Head Women's Soccer Coach Juan Mascaro Jr.

Additionally, **Coach Mascaro** received his plaque commemorating his USA South Coach of the Year accolade. The honor was the first for a BC coach in any sport in 15 years.

Brevard College cyclists **Nicole Bradbury**, **Clark**, **Matthew Leliveld**, **Lylyk**, and **Cole Punchard**—who all won individual USA Cycling national championships at the 2024 USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Championships—were honored with a special presentation by President Andrews, Head Cycling Coach Brad Perley and Assistant Coach Tyler Miranda. Bradbury and Leliveld were presented with commemorative national championship jerseys to be worn in the coming season, with Clark, Lylyk, and Punchard to receive theirs upon returning to campus from racing overseas professionally.

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 that were worn at the 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.

For the first time, BC hosted a [post-BESPYS podcast](#), with exclusive interviews featuring major award winners. The show, conducted and produced by BC communications students, is available on the Brevard College Tornado Athletics YouTube channel.

BC SAAC Executive Board

Ive Leighton, Softball - President
Christine Kever, Cheerleading - Vice President



This year's BESPYS Awards ceremony was followed by a podcast on BC Athletics' YouTube channel. [Click here](#) to view the podcast.

BESPY awards recipients

Alyssa Boris, Softball - Secretary
Hayden Domingo, Men's Soccer -
 Community Engagement
Hank Tarte, Track & Field - Marketing and
 Events

2024-25 Brevard College BESPY Awards

Tornado Cup - **Women's Soccer**
 Highest Team GPA Award - **Women's
 Tennis**
 Ann Etters Excellence Award - **MK Smoak**,
 Women's Soccer
 John McKissick Award - **Chancellor Lee-
 Parker**, Football
 Chuck Dunbar Team Spirit Award - **Hayden
 Domingo**, Men's Soccer
 Female Cyclist of the Year - **Kiara Lylyk**
 Male Cyclist of the Year - **Owen Clark**
 Female Rookie of the Year - **Kinlee Mozley**,
 Women's Soccer
 Male Rookie of the Year - **Twain Wilson**,
 Men's Basketball
 Female Perfect Storm Award - **Emily
 Denaga**, Women's Lacrosse
 Male Perfect Storm Award - **Hayden
 Domingo**, Men's Soccer
 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 -
Emily Denaga, Women's Lacrosse



MK Smoak received the Ann Etters Excellence Award at the 2025 BESPY Awards.

Conference/Regional/National Award Recipients

(As of May 3, 2025)

FALL SPORTS

Women's Soccer

Brennan Howell: USA South Conference
 Rookie of the Week
Austin Huffman: USA South All-
 Conference Honorable Mention
Kennedy Kelly: College Sports
 Communicators Academic All-District Team
Hayley Kenney: College Sports
 Communicators Academic All-District Team
Kinlee Mozley: USA South Conference
 Rookie of the Year, United Soccer Coaches
 All-Region VI First Team, USA South
 All-Conference First Team, USA South
 Conference Rookie of the Week
Abby Nunez: USA South Conference
 Goalkeeper of the Year, United Soccer
 Coaches All-Region VI Second Team, USA
 South Conference Defender of the Week
 (Three-Time)
Kiara Porcelli: United Soccer Coaches
 Scholar Performer, United Soccer Coaches
 All-Region VI Third Team, USA South
 All-Conference First Team, College Sports
 Communicators Academic All-District Team
Mikayla Rubin: United Soccer Coaches
 All-Region VI Second Team, USA South
 All-Conference Second Team, USA South
 Conference Rookie of the Week
MK Smoak: USA South All-Conference
 First Team, College Sports Communicators
 Academic All-District Team
Rachael Trifoli: College Sports
 Communicators Academic All-District Team,
 USA South All-Sportsmanship Team
Mikayla Zvekan: United Soccer Coaches
 All-Region VI Second Team, USA South
 All-Conference First Team, USA South All-
 Tournament Team, USA South Conference
 Player of the Week (Two-Time)

Men's Soccer

Caue dos Santos: USA South All-
 Tournament Team
Tom Dussauge: USA South All-Tournament
 Team
Wendel Lima: USA South All-Conference
 First Team
Ryan Lynch: USA South Conference
 Player of the Year, United Soccer Coaches
 All-Region VI Third Team, USA South
 All-Conference First Team, USA South All-
 Tournament Team, USA South Player of the
 Week (Four-Time)
Colin McCabe: College Sports
 Communicators Academic All-District Team,

USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Dan Morgan: College Sports
 Communicators Academic All-District Team
Luiz Pontes: USA South All-Conference
 Second Team
Luiz Portillo: USA South All-Conference
 Second Team
Emil Ramstroem: USA South Defender of
 the Week
Vitor Razera: USA South Conference
 Rookie of the Year, USA South All-
 Conference First Team, USA South Rookie of
 the Week (Two-Time)
Matheus Rossi: USA South Conference
 Goalkeeper of the Year, USA South All-
 Conference First Team, USA South Defender
 of the Week (Two-Time)
Enrique Sosa: USA South Rookie of the
 Week

Men's and Women's Cross Country

Channing Barker: NCAA DIII All-South
 Region Team, USA South All-Conference
 First Team, USA South Conference Runner of
 the Week
Shea Granger: USA South All-
 Sportsmanship Team
Ava Thrift: USA South All-Sportsmanship
 Team

Volleyball

Izzy Boulay: USA South Rookie of the
 Week (Two-Time)
Makenna Parkins: College Sports
 Communicators Academic All-District Team
Justine St. Louis: USA South All-
 Sportsmanship Team
Jaxson Tumicki: College Sports
 Communicators Academic All-District Team

Football

Ethan Beamish: USA South Offensive
 Player of the Week (Three-Time), USA South
 All-Conference Second Team
Brandon Broughton: USA South
 Defensive Rookie of the Week
Ian Castellanos: NFF Hampshire Honor
 Society
Robert Dorsey: D3football.com All-
 Region 3 First Team, USA South Conference
 Defensive Player of the Year, USA South All-
 Conference First Team, USA South Defensive
 Player of the Week
Cooper Hogan: NFF Hampshire Honor
 Society
Chancellor Lee-Parker: D3football.com
 All-Region 3 Third Team, USA South All-
 Conference First Team, USA South Offensive
 Player of the Week
Jordan Lindsay: College Sports

BESPY awards recipients

Communicators Academic All-District Team
Brody Lindsey: USA South All-Conference
 Second Team

Seth Marshall: College Sports
 Communicators Academic All-District Team
Zackary Orr: D3football.com All-Region
 3 Second Team (WR AND RET), USA South
 All-Conference First Team (WR and RET),
 D3football.com Team of the Week, USA
 South Special Teams Player of the Week

Chase Pfeiffer: USA South Defensive
 Rookie of the Week
Baylee Ramey: USA South All-Conference
 Honorable Mention

Carter Raulerson: College Sports
 Communicators Academic All-District Team
George Rennie: College Sports
 Communicators Academic All-District Team

LaRoddick Rucker: USA South All-
 Conference First Team
Nikolas Shultis: NFF Hampshire Honor
 Society

Ernest Smith II: USA South All-
 Sportsmanship Team

Jamie Tinsley: NFF Hampshire Honor
 Society

Triston Winn: NFF Hampshire Honor
 Society
James Woods: D3football.com All-Region
 3 Second Team, USA South All-Conference
 First Team, D3football.com Team of the
 Week, USA South Defensive Player of the
 Week

Cycling

USA Cycling Academic All-Stars:

Nicole Bradbury

Ned Broersma

Owen Clark

Mya Dixon

Gunnar Ensign

Ayana Gagne

Breanna Goff

Olivia Hyde

Kelly Lawson

Kiara Lylyk

Kyle McDonald

Madeleine Pollock

Cade Pummil

Dylan Richardson

Kevin Vereecke

WINTER SPORTS

Men's Basketball

Jadon Carnes: USA South Conference
 Player of the Week, CSC Academic All-
 District Team

Charlie Hester: USA South Conference
 All-Sportsmanship Team

KK Horton: USA South All-Conference

Second Team

Brock McKnight: CSC Academic All-
 District Team

Brennan Wansley: USA South Conference
 Rookie of the Week (Five-Time)

Twain Wilson: USA South Conference
 Rookie of the Year, USA South Conference
 Rookie of the Week (Six-Time)

Women's Basketball

Naliyah Boyce: USA South Conference
 Player of the Week

Jordan Gresham: USA South Conference
 All-Sportsmanship Team

Josie Hester: USA South Conference
 Player of the Year, D3hoops.com All-Region
 6 Second Team, USA South All-Conference
 First Team, USA South Conference Player of
 the Week (Two-Time), USA South Conference
 All-Tournament Team

Makenna Parkins: USA South All-
 Conference Second Team, USA South
 Conference All-Tournament Team, College
 Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-
 District

Jada Petty-Wilkins: USA South All-
 Conference Second Team, USA South
 Conference Player of the Week, USA South
 Conference All-Tournament Team

Cheerleading

Academic All-Conference:

Ashley Hoxit

Tiffin Jacobs

Blair Nance

Sophia Ogawa

Rachel Piazzola

Emma Reese

Indoor Track & Field

Cameron Eubanks: Field Rookie Athlete
 of the Meet, USA South All-Conference First
 Team, USA South All-Conference Third
 Team, USA South Track Rookie of the Week

Channing Barker: USA South All-
 Conference First Team (Two-Time), USA
 South All-Conference Third Team, USA South
 Track Athlete of the Week

Henry Tarte: USA South All-Conference
 Second Team,

Noah Westbrook: USA South All-
 Conference Second Team, USA South Field
 Athlete of the Week

Jaxsen Wilkerson: USA South All-
 Conference Third Team (Two-Time)

Antonio King: USA South All-Conference
 Third Team, USA South Field Athlete of the
 Week

Serenity Jordan: USA South All-
 Conference Third Team



Hayden Domingo received the Chuck Dunbar Team Spirit Award at the 2025 BESPY Awards.

Haylea-Layne Miller: USA South All-
 Conference Third Team, USA South All-
 Sportsmanship Team

Imani Singleton: USA South All-
 Conference Third Team (Two-Time)

Alfredo Sixtos: USA South All-
 Sportsmanship Team

Baseball

Matthew Evans: USA South All-
 Conference First Team

Tyler Kelson: USA South Rookie of the
 Week (Three-Time)

Cale Oehler: D3baseball.com National
 Team of the Week, USA South All-Conference
 Second Team

Logan Sawyer: USA South All-
 Sportsmanship Team

Frankie Vasquez: USA South All-
 Conference First Team

Jacob Wilde: USA South Rookie Pitcher of
 the Week

Zack Wilson: USA South Rookie Pitcher of
 the Week

Softball

Addie MacDougall: USA South Rookie of
 the Week

Logan Masinsky: USA South Pitcher of the
 Week

Deana McMinn: USA South Rookie of the
 Week

BESPY awards recipients

Bailey Owen: USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Men's Tennis

Nathan Bookout: USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Hayden LeBlanc: USA South Player of the Week, USA South All-Conference First Team

Ayden Montero: USA South Rookie of the Week (Two-Time)

Women's Tennis

Madison Bowen: USA South All-Conference First Team

Hannah Hersh: USA South Doubles Team of the Week

Sophie Trantham: USA South Player of the Week, USA South Doubles Team of the Week, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Men's Lacrosse

Scott Bundy: USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Women's Lacrosse

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

Emily Denaga: USA South All-Conference Second Team, USA South Player of the Week
Xan Hill: USA South All-Conference Third Team

Alyse Moore: USA South All-Conference Second Team

Kyla Smith-Fondall: USA South All-Conference Third Team

Outdoor Track & Field

Sarah Bare: USA South All-Conference Second Team, USA South All-Conference Third Team

Kinsley Burris-Whitesides: USA South All-Conference Second Team

Cameron Eubanks: USA South All-Conference Second Team, USA South Field Rookie of the Week

Serenity Jordan: USA South All-Conference Second Team

Antonio King: USA South Field Athlete of the Meet, USA South All-Conference First Team (Two-Time)

Haylea-Layne Miller: USA South All-Conference Second Team, USA South All-Sportsmanship Team

Jeffrey McDougald: USA South All-Conference Third Team, USA South All-

Sportsmanship Team

Owen Plucar: USA South All-Conference Third Team

Seth Robinson: USA South All-Conference Third Team

Imani Singleton: USA South All-Conference Second Team

Reggie Taylor II: USA South All-Conference Third Team

Donnington Walters: USA South All-Conference Second Team (Two-Time)

Noah Westbrook: USA South All-Conference First Team

Jaxsen Wilkerson: USA South All-Conference Third Team (Two-Time)

Special thanks to the Brevard College Athletics Administration Team, the Brevard College Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and to Matt Queen and Discover Productions for making the night possible. Thank you to the BC Executive Leadership Team, Campus Life, Dining Services, Dr. Josh Wilkey and Dr. Kristen Hewitt, the BC Student Success team, the Tornado Club, the Corporate Sponsors of BC Athletics, and the BC Athletic Training Staff for all the support over the course of 2024-25.



Chancellor Lee-Parker is recognized as recipient of the John McKissick Award at the 2025 BESPYs. (Photos by Lex McLaughlin/BC Office of Communication)