

Protests and Parades: Summer 2025

Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

Under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, citizens have the freedom of religion, press, speech, assembly, and petition. Throughout the summer, we have seen these rights exercised first-hand as people all around the country gathered to express their concerns, opinions, and celebrate themselves and one another. Some of them even attend Brevard.

Sophomore Kendall Hubbard is one of them. Hubbard attended two different “No Kings” protests in two different towns: one in Mooresville and one in Statesville, North Carolina.

“I was honestly shocked at how many people showed up to both,” Hubbard said. “Every protester around me was peaceful, friendly, and welcoming. From taking pictures of our signs to making sure we had enough water and sunscreen, the atmosphere was nothing but positive—despite what we were protesting.”

According to nokings.org, the official site for the protests, No Kings Day was a day to reject President Donald Trump’s advances for Flag Day, June 14, which also happened to be his 79th birthday. The parade was meant to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Army, but the rush to implement his political agenda caused more



A man walks through the Winston-Salem parade holding his sign. Photo by Autumn Jones

concern among the American people.

As a result, people of all ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds took to the streets to protest. Junior Bee Fulton attended one of the protests in downtown Brevard.

“Tons of people were there and it was super hot out,” Fulton said. “Everyone was really nice, and someone even offered to give me some sunscreen because I forgot mine. I also saw lots of kids there too; it’s nice to think that people want their children to be exposed to what’s going on early.”

Becca Webb, a sophomore, attended two protests as well: one in Greenville, SC, and the other in Spartanburg.

“When I got to the Greenville protest, I was astounded by the number of people protesting alongside me,” Webb said. “My biggest fear was the cops who surrounded the area we were in. They were flying drones around us to monitor our behavior, which, for my first time experiencing that, was pretty alarming.”

Compared to the Greenville protest, Webb said the Spartanburg protest was more relaxed.

“In Greenville, we had been confined to a park on the edge of town, whereas in Spartanburg, we were in the center of the city with signs and chants facing cars that drove by on the street. Some protesters were even in their own riot gear in case an altercation with law enforcement occurred,” they said.

“At both protests, it was clear everyone cared about each other’s well-being,” they continued. “People passed out water bottles, Gatorade, and snacks to those who needed it, and there was first aid immediately available from volunteers.”

The city of Winston-Salem held its Pride Parade on the same day. The event combined both Pride and No Kings, as signs conveyed messages towards both movements. Juniors Emma Murray, Zoe Herber, and Gina Drouse



Hubbard and a friend at one of the protests, each holding their signs. Photo courtesy of Kendall Hubbard.



Emma Murray at the Winston-Salem Pride event. Photo courtesy of Emma Murray.

attended the parade.

"The combination of No Kings and Pride really drove home how collective activism inspires a sense of hope for the future," Murray said. "Attending opened not only my eyes, but my heart to how integral authentic expression is to fulfilling our lives."

"I am so grateful for the opportunity to celebrate so many meaningful people in my life," she continued. "I truly have never felt such a sense of community, acceptance, and belonging; attending pride was so refreshing."

When referring to her experience, Herber said,

"It was surreal being in such a safe space where everybody was on the same page. I felt hopeful for our future after seeing a united group."

Drouse agreed with Herber about the safe environment and atmosphere. "You could tell people felt safe being who they were and expressing what they believed in. Having those environments is incredibly important for people to feel accepted and seen by society," she said.

Both the No Kings and Pride events are prime examples of our First Amendment rights and how we can exercise them. As current Brevard students, Hubbard, Fulton, Webb, Murray, Her-

ber, and Drouse are just a few of the individuals who chose to exhibit their rights and share their thoughts and opinions within their communities.



Becca Webb (far right) at a protest in Spartanburg, S.C. Photo courtesy of Becca Webb.



Bee Fulton holds her sign for the Brevard protest. Photo courtesy of Bee Fulton.

THE CLARION

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Brevard Classic 5K & 12K to debut

A brand-new running tradition is coming to Downtown Brevard this fall. The inaugural Brevard Classic 5K & 12K will take place on Saturday, September 6, 2025, bringing runners to the heart of Downtown Brevard for a high-caliber event that celebrates the town's deep running roots and resilient community.

The Brevard Classic offers two scenic course options—an approachable 5K loop or a challenging 12K that winds through peaceful greenways, rolling country roads, and Brevard's iconic East Main Street neighborhoods. Both races start and finish in vibrant Downtown Brevard, just steps from shops, restaurants, and post-race hangouts. Race Director Daphne Kirkwood, who attended Brevard College and has long-standing ties to the community, said: "Runners told us they wanted Brevard on the race map—and we listened."

"The Brevard Classic is about putting a spotlight on this community and building something lasting." The inaugural race has the support of the City of Brevard and Explore Brevard, reinforcing its community connection and showcasing the small-town charm, mountain backdrop, and welcoming spirit of Transylvania County.

Themed with a retro vibe, the Brevard Clas-

sic encourages participants to embrace high socks, headbands, and old-school energy while experiencing the joy of small-town racing. And you don't have to run to take part—community members are invited to walk the 5K, move together, and enjoy being part of the event. Legacy runners and walkers alike are encouraged to come out, connect, and make memories side by side.

The first 200 participants to register will receive a collectible woodalion finisher medal—a keepsake organizers believe will quickly become an icon of the event's legacy. A commemorative dri-fit race shirt is available until the free shirt deadline and can be purchased while supplies last.

"This isn't just a race—it's the start of a new tradition in Brevard," Kirkwood added.

For students and faculty interested in registering for the race, a discount will be provided on the entrance fee. If you are a student interested in a volunteer opportunity, reach out to support@idaph.net.

To register and learn more, visit: <https://idaph.net/brevard-classic/>

Fast miles. Small-town charm. Big community energy.

Mel Bringle receives national award for excellence in teaching

Olivia Tiner
Staff writer

Mary Louise “Mel” Bringle has spent 42 years in education, starting in 1983. Throughout her career, she has worn many hats, been part of a variety of boards, and influenced numerous students.

Recently, Dr. Bringle won the prestigious Jerry G. Gaff Award, an honor recognizing outstanding teaching, presented by the Association for General and Liberal Studies (AGLS).

Bringle has worked at Brevard College since the year 2000, which marks over 25 years of service. During her years teaching at Brevard and elsewhere, she has been in many different roles: she was the originating director of the Honors program, chaired the Humanities Division for more than 10 years, and has served as program coordinator for religious studies and the Integrated Studies major.

She was also instrumental in several campus “Quality Enhancement Plans,” or QEPs, which is what truly started Brevard College on the path to experiential education, eventually becoming a key component in our college’s overriding mission.

Bringle is a professor of Religious Studies and Philosophy at Brevard. She teaches classes like Environmental Theology, Religion, C.S. Lewis, Symbolic Logic, Intro to Philosophy, and many more. Her favorite? “Whichever I am in at the time,” she said, thus exemplifying her passion for teaching.

Bringle always wanted to be a teacher—it has been her dream since the early age of five, she said. She loved her kindergarten teacher and all the ones who followed after, and she said she wanted to be like the teachers she admired.

As an undergraduate at Guilford College, Bringle decided to double major in French and Religious Studies. When she had to pick a field to concentrate on in her graduate studies at Emory University, she opted for religious studies because she wanted to explore the “big questions.” She wanted to teach students how to think, how to form their own ideas about the world, and how to take on those big questions with open minds and skilled intellect.

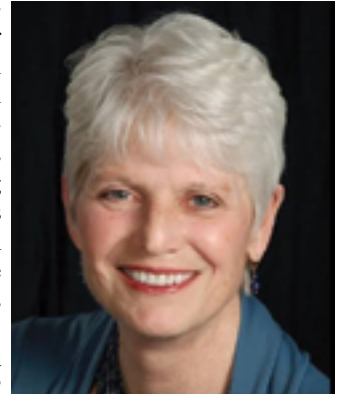
How did she feel when she learned she had won the Jerry G. Gaff award? “Stunned and overwhelmed,” she said.

“It was like someone had come down and given a seal of approval to my life’s work,” she said. She added it was wonderful to be recognized for something she has been doing for so long, and that she loves to help Brevard College get the recognition it deserves as well.

One thing Bringle loves about teaching is that it offers, as she says, “the opportunity to be creative.” One of her favorite parts about Brevard is that students here are so willing to roll with ideas, no matter how crazy or creative they may be.

She likes to help her students learn to answer their own questions and develop their own ideas.

Dr. Bringle said she has no plans for retirement and won’t be giving up teaching any time soon. She is excited for her next class and can’t wait to work with her future students.



Mel Bringle

Brevard College Men’s Soccer welcomes new player and kicks season off with scrimmage

Abigail Callahan
Staff Writer

The Brevard College Men’s soccer team has a new defensive midfielder; freshman transfer student Brandon King of Asheville, N.C.. After the scrimmage on Aug. 23, King gave some background about himself and talked about some aspects of the scrimmage.

King was drawn to Brevard College because of its community atmosphere and his friends who already attend the college. “It’s just nice to be around, and it looks like a tight-knit community wherever, just kind of a family. I think all those aspects kind of drew me into coming here, and then playing soccer is just natural to me,” King said.

“I always loved soccer, so Coach Helio talked to me and got me on the team,” he continued. “I know there are a lot of leaders already on the team and have done a lot of great things, so I hope to bring a little bit of leadership in my own style to how I play. Most importantly, I hope I

can bring some good luck so we can win all of our games and go forward in our national rankings and win a ring.”

King believes his energy and focus were good during the first scrimmage, but noted that there were areas for improvement. Overall, the team played well towards the end, and he feels positive about the performance in the scrimmage. The team had a good pre-season, which helped maintain energy levels throughout the half.

“I think set pieces will be next,” King said. “We’ve put a big emphasis on this year because we have a lot of good players who can attack the ball in the air. I think we can work on it before the next game, and we’re already talking about working on it in practice.”

King hopes to get accepted into physical therapy school and eventually become a physical therapist after his time at Brevard College. “I’m hoping to get great professors at Brevard who can help me out throughout and after I’m done here. I can go on and continue my profession:

being a physical therapist,” he said.

The Brevard College men’s soccer team play their next game today (Friday, Aug. 29) at Maryville in Tennessee at 2 p.m.



Brandon King warms up before a scrimmage. Photo by Abigail Callahan.

Brevard College Campus!

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Moore Science

Mathematics

Psychology

Education

English

Classes

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History

Chemistry

Dunham

Physics

Theatre

Music

WLEE

Fashion Friday

Zoe Hughes
Managing Editor

Welcome to Fashion Friday, a new segment of 'The Clarion' where the weekly campus fashion highlights will be posted. I will be keeping an eye out for outfits that slay around campus, so let me see you work it, people!



Olivia Hyde.



Mikayla Zvekan.



MK Smoak.



Summer Crist.



Lorelei Laureano.

The MAN behind the MASTERPIECE

Danniel Huestis
Staff Writer

With “Whistling Past Eternity” newly opened in the Spiers Gallery, I took the opportunity to get to know one of the artists, David Sheldon, who is an accomplished painter, sculptor, and a former professor here at Brevard College, teaching students from 2008 to 2013.

Although he grew up in Washington, D.C., Sheldon loves working and living in Asheville, N.C. He creates oil paintings as well as sculptures, making deep, abstract, and invoking art. Most of his work is done on a large scale, although he has made smaller pieces.

“I would say that I have a dual love of painting and sculpting,” Sheldon said during an over-the-phone interview. “I go from one to another all the



Autumn Offering 2 (oil on canvas) David Sheldon

time, or when I need a break. Together, painting and sculpting make me who I am as an artist.”

Sheldon earned his BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts) from the Rhode Island School of Design and his MFA (Master of Fine Arts) from the University of Maryland. He has been displayed in various exhibitions across the country, including solo and group shows.

“It is wonderful to get the opportunity to reconnect and share what I have been up to. It is also amazing getting to teach the youth, from all the things that I have done and have experienced,” he said.

During the interview, Sheldon posed a series of his own questions about painting: “What is a painting? What constitutes a painting?” Both of these questions many artists have pondered for some time.

Sheldon is a deep and introspective person, wanting to push the boundaries of what a painting is and how to take in art as a viewer. In a lot of his paintings, primarily his landscapes, he strives to capture the feeling of awe in a particular, amazing moment. Not for it to be a perfect capture of the scene, but rather an intense image portraying the feeling and essence.

“Amazing moments are not all the time; they can come from nowhere,” Sheldon said. “When they do show, it takes all of my attention. I take in and feel all the energy around me. Then, after some time, I take some photographs for reference. Then I go back to my studio, and put that energy and feeling onto canvas with paint.”

Wanting to take advantage of Sheldon’s love of teaching and his artistic knowledge, I myself had a few questions for him. Being an artist who



David Sheldon posing on one of his sculptures. Courtesy of Sheldon Studioworks.

aspires to show and sell my work, I asked Sheldon what information or advice he would have.

“My mantra is be true to yourself. Stick to what you love about creating, and what you love in the world. Also, it is not all about talent. It can take time to develop oneself.”

When asked where he sees himself in five years, Sheldon responded, “More or less continuing to develop what I am doing; figuring out who I am, and my relationship to the world.”

Where do you see yourself in five years? Remember, it takes time to become who you are meant to be. Life is an ever-changing situation that you must adapt to. As Sheldon says, “Don’t let the airplane at the airport land too quickly.”

BC receives award for excellence in mental health and well-being

Brevard College has been named a recipient of the 2025 Excellence in Mental Health and Well-Being Award by Insight into Academia. Brevard will be featured, along with the other award recipients, in the September issue of Insight into Academia magazine.

The award recognizes colleges and universities that demonstrate a strong commitment to fostering a culture of mental wellness and well-being for their students, faculty and staff. The award honors institutions that implement innovative programs, provide accessible mental health resources, and promote initiatives that support emotional resilience, stress management, and overall psychological well-being within their campus community.

Recipients of the award have demonstrated

leadership in integrating mental health into campus life, ensuring students, faculty and staff have the support they need to thrive academically and personally. Each award winner sets the standard for prioritizing mental health as a key component of success.

“We are honored to receive the 2025 Excellence in Mental Health and Well-Being Award, a recognition that reflects our commitment to creating a campus where mental health is valued as deeply as academic achievement,” said Dr. Debbie D’Anna, Vice President for Student Success and Dean of Students at Brevard College. “This award affirms our belief that fostering resilience, compassion and holistic well-being empowers every member of our community to thrive.”

Brevard is one of 70 colleges and universities across the nation to receive the award in 2025, joining institutions such as Arizona State University, Indiana University, Mississippi State University, Rutgers – The State University of New Jersey, Syracuse University, University of Connecticut, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Nebraska and University of Pittsburgh.

“We know that institutions are not always recognized for their dedication to their mental health and well-being services and support for their students and employees,” said Lenore Pearlstein, owner and publisher of Insight into Academia magazine. “We are proud to honor these colleges and universities as role models for other institutions of higher education.”

Pedaling to the top

Nicole Bradbury wins U23 mountain bike World Cup

Madeleine Pollock
Copy Editor

Senior Art major Nicole Bradbury of Hamilton, Ontario won her first cross-country mountain bike world cup this summer in the Short Track event in Trentino, Italy, on June 20.

Bradbury said it was “kind of unbelievable, I definitely didn’t expect it... I thought there was a chance I could do a top five in a short track this year, but winning was never even a thought.”

This was the fifth round of the UCI mountain bike world series at Val di Sole Bikeland, and Bradbury’s second World Cup of the season. It was a last-minute decision to attend, and one that resulted in a historical result for Bradbury.

Short track cross-country mountain bike racing consists of a 20-minute race on multiple laps of a two to four-minute course. It is a very high-intensity discipline and requires racers to be physically fit and tactically smart.

The course in Val di Sole was unique; it was mostly grass with two short climbs and a flat finish-line sprint, but lacked any technical features. “Usually I enjoy some fun things like jumps or short rock gardens in Short Track, but this course ended up making for a super fast and tactical race,” she said.

Bradbury said she had a bit of a tumultuous start to her race, getting caught in a crash on lap two and having to swerve around multiple other crashes. She then chased her way back into the main group and found herself in the top 10 going into the last lap.

After making some strategic passes, she



Nicole Bradbury overcome with emotion at the news of her victory.

found herself in the top five. “I was freaking out because being 4th on the last lap is more than ideal to make the podium, but at no point did I think it would last,” she said. After moving up to second place, Bradbury said, “It wasn’t until that moment that I realized I could not only [make the] podium [at] my first World Cup, but win it.”

Bradbury sprinted to the line, and it came down to a bike-throw, where riders push the front of their bike forward as fast as possible to cross the line quicker, which she ultimately won.

When asked about “the secret sauce” that went into Bradbury’s World Cup win, she said

that “nothing special or fancy, just consistency,” got her to the top.

This week, Bradbury flew back over to Europe to prepare for the World Championships in Valais, Switzerland, which will be held from Sept. 10-14. Bradbury will be joining three other Brevard College students who will be competing at the World Championships: Freshman Lily-Rose Marois of Québec City, Québec; Senior Owen Clark of King City, Ontario, and Senior Cole Punchard of Huntsville, Ontario.

Bradbury will also be racing another World Cup in Les Gets, France, and Lake Placid, USA, to round out her World Cup season. She will then be returning to Brevard to race the second half of the Collegiate season with the Brevard College Cycling team.

“I’d like to thank all my friends and family who have supported me, as well as coaches, professors, and Brevard College itself,” she said. “I’m really excited to race with a bunch of new, talented riders who have joined the team this year. We’ll be a really strong team at the Collegiate National Champs.”

When asked if she had any advice to give, she said, “If you just be patient, and really learn from your mistakes...eventually your time will come, whether that be athletics, academics, or any personal venture!”



Nicole Bradbury standing on the top step of the World Cup podium in Trentino, Italy.

Violence IS the answer: BC Women's soccer takes a self-defense class

Zoe Hughes
Managing Editor

In place of practice on Thursday, Aug 21st, Brevard College Women's soccer took part in a surprise self-defense class.

Every player, except for the captains, Kiara Porcelli and MK Smoak, was none the wiser when getting ready for practice. Head Coach Juan Mascaro Sr. arrived and broke the news: we would be participating in a self-defense class in the gym instead of practice that day. He was met with cheers of excitement from the players.

The course was taught by Colleen Daly from Underdog Martial Arts in Asheville. She and her husband, Brian Asheland, are the founders of the inclusive and community-driven gym. Daly herself is a self-defense expert and has a decade of experience in martial arts.

The class that day focused on creating a frame,



The Brevard Women's soccer team poses for a photo with instructors from Underdog.

an essential part of martial arts, and some basic actions inside that frame. Players were paired up and tested out these new moves on each other. The class included games where the team's competitive spirit could shine and bring players closer together.

Mascaro got the idea to do this from a friend of his, Samar Azem, the head coach of Villanova University's Women's soccer team. She scheduled a self-defense class for her players and told

Mascaro that they had a lot of fun doing it, so he thought he should give it a try for his team.

"It's something different, and what I like about it is not only [is it] good for the self-defense part, but it's a great team-building activity," said Mascaro. "I could see it, you guys were having a lot of fun."

Mascaro says that they think they would do it again, and can hopefully make it a yearly activity for the Women's Soccer team.



Carissa Jenkins and Lillie Teague engage in a self-defense routine led by Underdog Martial Arts.



The Brevard Women's soccer team practices self-defense.