

# Brevard College reports record enrollment...again?

## *What does this growth mean for the campus community?*

**Zoe Hughes**  
Managing Editor

For the second consecutive year, Brevard College has reported a record enrollment. For a liberal arts college that prides itself on its tight-knit community, this could mean a departure from our core values. What does record enrollment mean for BC, and how has it already impacted our campus?

The words “record enrollment” can be a scary thing to hear at a small college, but the record-breaking number of admitted students was only one more than the previous year, and then, before that, it was 80 more students. For Fall 2023, there were 761 students, 821 students for fall 2024, and 822 students this fall.

There was also a record number of applications this year, which is what led to the record enrollment. The acceptance rate of the college has remained the same, so the higher enrollment was not from the college raising its acceptance rate.

Some wonder if this trend will continue for Brevard College. Dr. R. Chad Holt, Vice President of Admissions and Financial Aid, said, “I don’t feel pressure to grow at all costs. I think we’re getting close to our sweet spot—in terms of the number of students that we can provide for and take care of and still fulfill our mission.”

According to Holt, the “sweet spot” for Brevard is around 850 students; a number that is not too far away. If we stay at that sweet spot and don’t grow larger, Holt believes that the capacity will be tight, but possible. He also does not believe the “sweet spot” will change, even with the addition of the student center and cafeteria renovations. “I think we need those facilities regardless of growth.”

Even though the record-breaking enrollment numbers have not grown dramatically over the last two years, the administration is still making sure that our small community values stay intact with the increased campus population. “We have to be sensitive, just in terms of what we’re good at, which is small student relationships,” Holt said.

While the numbers have not changed drastically over the past few years, and Brevard’s facilities seem to be able to handle a larger student body, students have still noticed some changes on campus.

Olivia Hyde, a senior, says that the two biggest changes she has noticed are in parking and the ratio of men to women on campus.

Parking on any college campus can be a struggle, but lately it has become even harder here at Brevard. “There’s so much more lack of parking, especially this year alone,” Hyde said. “I think the parking [tickets] they

should chill out on... I get it, you don’t want people parking there, but like, there needs to be parking there because there’s not enough spaces.”

The other significant change Hyde noticed was the men outnumbering the women on campus. This is not an inherently bad thing, but it can have some troubling consequences. Brevard College reports that its student body is about 60 percent men and 40 percent women. As the total number of students increases, the disparity between the number of men to women could continue to rise.

A widening gap could be troubling for female students, as more male students might mean a higher chance of harassment or sexual assault.

The Brevard College administration is on the students’ side when it comes to enrollment. They are staying aware of the community atmosphere and facility capacities as the student body gets bigger. While there will always be efforts to maintain the mission of the college, the record enrollment is not without its changes.

Admissions Office Weekly Key Performance Indicators (KPI) Summary for Fall-Aggregate Data								Final Rep
Inquiries								
Total Inquiries	F25	F24	F23	F22	F21	F20	F19	
	6573	6265	5701	4884	5025	5185	4787	
Applications for Admission								
Total Applicants	F25	F24	F23	F22	F21	F20	F19	
	3397	3075	3025	2447	2407	3044	3090	
Inquiries to Applications Rate	52.9%	49.1%	53.1%	50.1%	47.9%	58.7%	64.5%	
Admissions Decisions								
Total Completed Admissions Files	F25	F24	F23	F22	F21	F20	F19	
	1608	1525	1419	1362	1644	1988	2004	
Total Offers of Admission	1448	1357	1228	1012	1183	1377	1324	
Applications to Offers Conversion	42.6%	44.1%	40.6%	41.4%	49.1%	45.7%	42.8%	
Total Rejections for Admission	102	68	68	140	212	362	409	
Campus Visitors (Unique, One Time Visitors)								
Total Campus Visitors	F25	F24	F23	F22	F21	F20	F19	
	1033	980	956	890	883	863	1024	
Enrollment Fees Paid								
Total Enrollment Fees Received (Gross)	F25	F24	F23	F22	F21	F20	F19	
	626	622	547	423	497	550	564	
Total Enrollment Fees Received (Net)	359	358	310	246	274	288	312	
Offers to Enrollment Fees (Net) Yield	24.8%	26.4%	25.2%	24.3%	23.2%	20.9%	23.6%	
Total Enrollment Fees Paid Cancellations	267	264	237	177	223	262	252	
Student Enrollments								
Total New Students	F25	F24	F23	F22	F21	F20	F19	
	359	358	310	245	274	288	312	
Total Continuing Students	463	463	451	500	500	479	439	
Total Students	822	821	761	745	774	767	751	
Total Grad Students	65	53	24	26	10	0	0	
TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENTS	887	874	785	771	784	767	751	
Academic Profile								
Average New Student GPA (unweighted)	F25	F24	F23	F22	F21	F20	F19	
	3.14	3.22	3.21	3.20	3.23	3.20	3.16	
Average New Student SAT Score	1050	1090	1090	1075	1054	1062	1063	
Ave. New Student ACT Score (composite)	22	22	21	21	21	21	21	

Detail of a spreadsheet used by the Admissions Office to track applications and enrollments at the college. The final number for Fall 2025 was 359 new students, bringing total undergraduate enrollment to 822. Photo by Zoe Hughes.

# Brevard Branch of AAUW holds used book sale

**Abigail Callahan**  
Staff Writer

The Brevard Book Sale, hosted by the AAUW (American Association of University Women), is a highly anticipated event located in downtown Brevard which began Sept. 11 and runs through Sept. 21.

The event supports education and equality, bringing together book enthusiasts, families, students, and community members to celebrate a love of reading. Proceeds help advance education for women in local communities.

The AAUW is a national nonprofit organization committed to empowering women and girls through education, advocacy, and research. The Brevard Branch is a key part of this mission in Western North Carolina, focusing on funding scholarships, supporting local educational programs, and promoting gender equity within the community.

Each year, the AAUW hosts a large book sale featuring thousands of donated books in various genres, including fiction, nonfiction, children's literature, history, science, art, and more. This event is a treasure trove for readers of all ages and interests, offering quality books at affordable prices.

Volunteers from AAUW and the local community dedicate significant time to collecting, sorting, and pricing books. The sale usually takes place over several days at a community center or similar venue

in Brevard, making it accessible to families, students, and avid readers, and in 2026, Brevard College's campus will be hosting for a day.

Funds raised through the book sale are invested directly back into the community; AAUW Brevard uses the proceeds to provide scholarships for women pursuing higher education, support STEM initiatives aimed at encouraging girls in science and technology, and host workshops and programs that promote leadership and career advancement for women.

The book sale also helps foster a culture of lifelong learning in Brevard. It's a social occasion that encourages community connection, offers resources to students and readers, and highlights the importance of accessible education.

Community members can support the AAUW Brevard Book Sale by donating gently used books throughout the year or volunteering their time to help organize and run the event. The organization welcomes all who share a passion for books and gender equity.

For residents of Brevard, the AAUW Book Sale is more than a chance to snag a great read; it's an opportunity to invest in the future of women and girls in their community.

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# Student faces felony charges for threats of mass violence

## From Staff Reports

A Brevard College student is facing two felony charges for making threats of mass violence on campus, court documents show.

The alleged threats were made Aug. 26 and Sept. 10, according to a publicly available Transylvania County District Court case summary, but college officials said in an email to campus on Thursday, Sept. 11, that they did not learn of the alleged threats until that day. When college officials learned of the potential threat, according to the email, they contacted the Transylvania County Sheriff's Department, who investigated and arrested the individual.

Casey Shropshire, 19, a first-year transfer student from Kershaw, South Carolina, was charged last week with two counts of communicating a threat of mass violence on an educational property. He was fingerprinted and released after posting a \$20,000 bond, documents show.

As a condition of his release, he is also barred from being "on or about Brevard College property" without a law enforcement escort and can have "no contact with victims."

Before enrolling at Brevard, Shropshire played football at Dean College in Massachusetts and then entered the transfer portal. His X (formerly Twitter) profile indicates he had originally hoped to transfer to St. Andrews University, but that school's closing prompted him to look for alternatives.

On May 10, he tweeted an image showing he had been offered a position on the Brevard College football team with the hashtag #AGTG (all glory to God). A Google search of his name includes a link to a page that was originally on the bctornados.com website, but that link no longer works and he is not listed on the BC football team roster on the site.

Shropshire is scheduled to appear in court on Sept. 25 for a probable cause hearing, according to court documents.

## Rise in threats after Parkland shootings

Communicating a threat of mass violence on educational property is a relatively new statute enacted in North Carolina after a nationwide uptick in threats of school-related violence following the Parkland, Florida, school shootings in February 2018. It was signed into law on June 25 of that year by Gov. Roy Cooper and went into effect Dec. 1, 2018.

The statute, N.C.G.S. 14-277.6, makes it a crime when, "by any means of communication to any person or groups of persons," a person "threatens to commit an act of mass violence on educational property or at a curricular or extracurricular activity sponsored by a school." A separate statute passed at the same time, 14-277.7, also prohibits such threats at a place of religious worship.

State law defines mass violence as "physical injury that a reasonable person would conclude could lead to permanent injury (including mental or emotional injury) or death to two or more people."

The incident on campus last week serves as a reminder that "our words matter," Dean of Students Debbie D'Anna said in a follow-up email on Friday, Sept. 12.

"Statements that suggest harm—whether said in seriousness, anger, or even as a joke—can create fear and have serious consequences," she wrote. "Each of us plays a role in fostering a safe and respectful campus, and we ask you to be mindful of the impact your words and actions may have on others."

Threatening mass violence on educational property is a Class H felony,

a lower-level felony in North Carolina that can bring probation or prison time, depending on the person's record.

The statute allows the court to defer a conviction for first-time offenders under 20, placing them on probation with requirements such as community service and a mental health evaluation. If they successfully complete probation, the charge is dismissed. They may then apply to have the case expunged, meaning the arrest and charge are erased from public records.

## Tension and threats across the nation

Last week's incident and subsequent emails to campus came at a time of heightened tensions in the country. The alleged threat on Wednesday last week was the same day that conservative activist Charlie Kirk was fatally shot at a college campus event in Utah.

The next day, Sept. 11, was the 24th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in 2001, and numerous media outlets that day also reported threats and violence on college campuses ranging from at least seven historically Black colleges and universities to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

At the Naval Academy, even though the threat turned out to be false, while the campus was in lockdown, two people were injured when a student mistook law enforcement officers investigating the threat for an actual threat. The student was armed with a parade rifle, which he used to strike an investigating officer in the head. The law enforcement officer responded by shooting the student, wounding him in the arm. Both were treated at a hospital and released, according to media reports.

A former Naval Academy student was charged with making the threat on social media, according to a press release from the U. S. Attorney's office for the Northern District of Indiana. This threat is one of numerous such threats targeting educational institutions, which include the following:

- A teenager in Davie County, North Carolina, was charged this week with making threats against the University of Louisville in Kentucky.
- A 37-year-old woman was charged Sept. 12 for making threats against children during a livestreaming social media event at a Rockingham, North Carolina, school.
- A Marion woman was convicted in July for making threats against Isothermal Community College in Spindale in 2023.

Ironically, September also happens to be National Campus Safety Awareness month, designated by Congress in 2008 to promote public conversation and education on safety issues affecting college and university campuses. Each year, the month has served as a platform for institutions to highlight safety resources and engage the entire campus community in prevention efforts.

D'Anna made clear in her email on Sept. 12 that campus safety and well being remain a top priority for the college. After the suspect was taken into custody, the Sheriff's Department confirmed there was no ongoing threat on campus and no further action was required of students, faculty or staff.

She acknowledged incidents like this can cause unease, and she encouraged those who might wish to talk with someone to reach out to Counseling Services, Campus Life, or to her. "Support is available, and we encourage you to use these resources if needed," she wrote.

"We are grateful for the partnership and rapid response of the Sheriff's Department and for the care our community shows each other in times of uncertainty," she continued. "Thank you for your ongoing efforts to maintain a safe and supportive environment at Brevard College."



# BC should bring back free COVID testing on campus

**Olivia Tiner**  
Staff Writer

All college students should be able to get basic services on campus. I believe everything from food to housing to health services should be covered by student fees. There are many illnesses going around campus, and protecting myself from COVID is at the forefront of my mind.

When I recently became sick with COVID, I was upset that Brevard College would no longer provide COVID tests. Larger schools, like Western Carolina University, even administer vaccines for COVID according to their own

website. Knowing this, I naturally assumed I could at the very least take a test on campus.

However, I had never heard of a nurse on the Brevard campus, which was odd. Even odder was that I had no knowledge of health services on campus at all.

After contacting the school, I found that there are no health services provided on campus, which means that students need to visit Pardee Blue MD or another medical provider for health support. If students don't have access to a car, a campus life representative can drive them to get the help they need.

Despite this, I believe that COVID testing should be basic medical care, and be pro-

vided by Brevard College for students. While COVID is no longer the danger it once was, it still poses a risk to those who are immunocompromised.

I think that if a person is exhibiting COVID symptoms, they should be required to test for the health of their student body, especially with new COVID variants on the rise.

I believe that COVID testing should be available on campus for the safety of the student body, and I hope that we will see changes moving forward. I encourage those who are feeling sick to stay home from school and consider searching out a COVID test.

## Staff Editorial

# Communicated threat incident on campus is a call for better communication and care in what we say

The news last week of a potential threat on campus, which led to a BC student's arrest and felony charges, is both a salient sign of the times we live in and a need for timely, accurate information about what is happening in real time.

It is indeed fortunate that the potential threat on campus turned out to be false, even if it did result in criminal charges being filed. We trust that had there been an actual threat of violence at BC, we would have been informed of it in real time.

Still, some additional information as events unfolded last week would have been welcome, if only to alleviate tensions during what was already a very tense time following shootings in Colorado and Utah and reports of threats on numerous other campuses.

On the same day the incident at BC allegedly took place, a shooting on the campus of Utah Valley University in Orem took the life of conservative activist Charlie Kirk. He had just started what was billed as the "American Comeback" tour to visit even more college campuses.

Also on Sept. 10, in Colorado, a 16-year-old shooter had been radicalized by neo-Nazi propaganda online, according to media reports. He fired about 20 rounds inside a school before turning the gun on himself in Jefferson County, the same county where the 1999 Columbine massacre claimed the lives of 14 students.

Unfortunately, in the 25-plus years since Columbine, school shootings have become far too common. Less than a month ago, two children were killed and 21 were injured at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

And just last week, shots were fired at high school football games in Little Rock, Arkansas, and Pinetops, North Carolina, which led to injuries to a parent and two teenagers.

So far, 2025 has seen at least 11 school shootings, with four deaths and 38 injuries, according to Education Week, which has tracked school shootings since 2018. Last year, the publication reported 39 shootings, 38 in 2023, and 51 in 2022.

The reality of so many campus shootings makes it clear that all threats, even ones that turn out to be false, must be taken seriously.

That was perhaps most obvious last week at the U.S. Naval Academy, where a false threat of mass violence led to real violence when a midshipman, mistaking a law enforcement officer for an actual threat, was himself shot after trying to subdue the officer.

Brevard College has never been the site of an actual mass violence event, but we can all be reassured that the administration and campus security take these threats seriously. We are equally thankful for local law enforcement, who immediately responded when called and acted both promptly and professionally.

If there are any takeaways from what happened last week, it may be this: just because we are a small campus does not mean we are immune to threats of mass violence. It could happen here, just as it has happened at so many other campuses, large and small.

If we see or hear something that seems threatening, we should immediately inform the appropriate authorities, which could include calling campus security at 828-577-9590 or dialing 911.

And we need to watch what we say. False threats—of shootings, bombs or any other means of mass violence—can cause real harm, even if meant in jest.

At a time when even comedians are being canceled, fired or suspended, words can clearly have consequences. They have power.

And they can even be crimes.

# HIS 249 and 349 collaborate to bring Constitution Day to BC

*Experiential education: Brevard College's philosophy*

**Autumn Jones**  
Editor in Chief

The HIS 349 class, the junior class of history majors, recently completed and presented a combined project. In collaboration with the Heritage Museum, the class created a presentation to help communicate the spirit of the Constitution: compromise. The presentation covered contentious issues at hand during the Constitution's inception, such as slavery, executive power, representation, and a struggle between federalism and antifederalism.

The presentation took place on Sept. 18, in McLarty Goodson 125, at 6:30 p.m.

Originally, the Heritage Museum reached out to Associate Professor of History, Dr. Jordan Kuck, and Assistant Professor of History, Dr. Abby Whitaker, to present for the occasion, but after thinking it over, they decided to use this opportunity as an element of Brevard College's experiential learning philosophy. "The 249 and 349 classes are skill-building classes to be better history students," Whitaker said. "This project enhances the skills needed to communicate history professionally."

Therefore, rather than with their assistance, the project became a collective learning experience for history students.

The 249 class gathered research, things like primary sources and quotes, from multiple sources, and added it to a shared document. Then, both 249 and 349 would discuss those sources to determine if they aligned with their group's perspective that they were representing during the presentation. The goal was to communicate the polarity of these topics, as well as the eventual compromise and how it was achieved.

Kuck, who teaches HIS 349, and Whitaker, who teaches HIS 249, saw this as a great chance for different groups of students to work together, emphasizing the importance of the message surrounding compromise.

The HIS 349 students took charge of deciding on the subject matter of the presentation, with HIS 249 students taking roles to gather research and writings, as well as quotes.

Junior Buckley Harris was part of the Federalist section of the presentation. "Federalism is the belief that strong central government is the best way for a government to operate," he said.

"As a wannabe future historian, being able to present facts in a way people can understand is crucial to the bettering of my skillset," he continued. "I am doing what I haven't been able to do, which is present outside of a classroom."

"It's a cool project," Kara Gusner, a sophomore research assistant for the executive power section, said. "It's a great way to connect the community during a heavily politically polarized time. Seeing the building blocks and where people's points of view came from, and how they came together to compromise. That compromise came to be the United States government."

Although students were having their fun with the project, it did not come without struggles. "Distilling all the primary sources into an argument that would remain interesting to the audience was challenging," sophomore Vinnie Munson-Jackson said. Munson-Jackson is a 249-student and conducted the research for the federalist group.

Senior Mary Grace Vallentine, part of the slavery section, said her group's struggles were, "Picking exactly what we wanted to focus on, because we had a limited amount of time to present the material."

The four topics, slavery, executive power, representation, and federalism vs. antifederalism, each had around ten minutes to present their information.

Kuck had a positive outlook on the audience's takeaway, hoping they would leave the presentation with a meaningful insight. "I want them to remember and be willing to listen to each other and find compromise, because that is what our country was built on: compromise."



Some of the HIS 249 and 349 students collaborate in preparation of their Constitution Day presentation.  
Photo by Autumn Jones.



# Brevard College Wind Ensemble perform Monday

*Concert will feature narration written and performed by English and theatre faculty*

The Brevard College Wind Ensemble will make its 2025-26 debut on Monday, Sept. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in Scott Concert Hall at the Porter Center for the Performing Arts on the BC campus. The concert, titled “With Every Breath: Awake and Live,” is free and open to the public.

“We are excited to kick off the students’ first concert of the semester with a program featuring music that will create a moving evening of reflection and encouragement, while inspiring each of us to live life with intention,” said Dr. Cole Hairston, Director of Bands at Brevard College. “We look forward to community members joining us for this special evening.”

The programmatic concert is built to be a continuous work that will include narration written by BC English Professor Dr. Alyse Benseal and performed by Theatre Professor Daniel Toot. Music for the concert comes from sources such as The Beatles, Johannes Brahms, Julie Giroux and John Mackey.

The Brevard College Wind Ensemble is composed of over 50 performers of woodwind, brass and percussion. The Wind Ensemble, which began in 1963 at Brevard College, is made up of college students, community members and exceptional high school students from the area.

## Event Details:

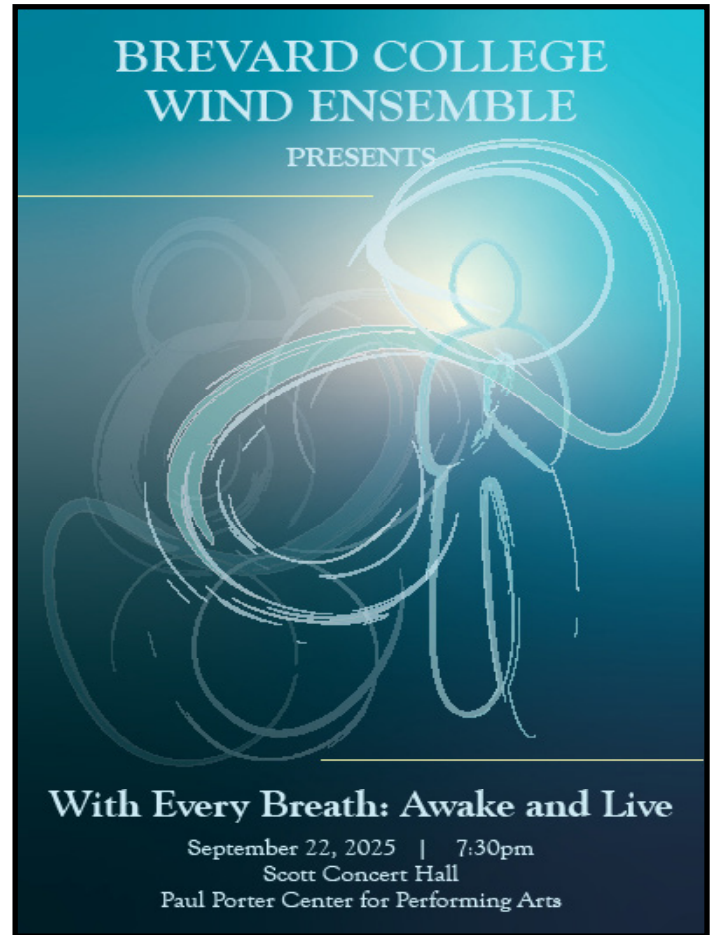
Brevard College Wind Ensemble Presents “With Every Breath: Awake and Alive”

Monday, Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Scott Concert Hall - Porter Center for the Performing Arts

Free and open to the public

More information can be found at [brevard.edu/theatre](http://brevard.edu/theatre) or by calling 828.641.0605.



# Juried Student Exhibition coming soon

**Danniel Huestis**  
Staff Writer

On Oct. 2, the Sims Art Building will be hosting the opening reception for the annual Juried Student Exhibition, where art and non-art major students alike will have the opportunity to share their work. Submission for artwork will be accepted on Sept. 28, between 1 and 5 p.m., with acceptance emails following on Sept. 29, no later than 5 p.m.

Each submitted piece must be installation-ready; if it is a two-dimensional piece, it must be ready to be hung up, and if it is a three-dimensional piece, it must be able to stand on its own or be supported. Two-dimensional pieces should be matted or framed.

There will be a class held on Sept. 24 at 2:30 p.m. for anyone who requires more information or guidance. This will be a great opportunity to get pieces put together before the exhibition.

Each student who has their artwork on display in the exhibition has the chance to win one or multiple cash prizes/awards, with up to \$400 in potential earnings.

Any type of art is allowed to be entered into the exhibition, as there are no restrictions for specific styles or mediums. This allows for a variety of artists to showcase their work, and is a great way to further push students’ positions into the art world.

Any work on display in the Spiers Gallery can be put up for sale by the artist. The college does not take commissions from sales, which means that the artist will receive the full commission if purchased.

Be on the lookout for the upcoming exhibit, and come support Brevard College students to see what they have created!

## STOP THE GENOCIDE PROTEST SCHEDULED

Since the start of the Gaza War 66,000 Palestinians have been killed, the vast majority of them civilians. Since 2016 the U.S. government has supplied Israel with \$3.8 billion of weaponry a year, even as our “ally” intentionally kills women and children. Both major U.S. parties are knowingly funding a genocide. If that offends you, heed your social conscience. **Show up and be heard.**

Join the *peaceful, nonpartisan sign wave protest* at noon on **Saturday, Sept. 20** on the public sidewalk in front of Ingles. Bring your own sign with messaging specific to the topic. Examples: Free Palestine. WWJD?. Ceasefire Now. Palestinian Lives Matter. Bread Not Bombs. AIPAC Out Of Congress. Netanyahu=War Criminal.

(Announcement provided by Ray Kenny, event organizer.)

Transylvania Partners for Democracy presents

# *The Battle for the Constitution: Presidential Power in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*



**Professor Polly J. Price**  
Asa Candler Professor of Law  
Emory University

There will be a Q&A session at the conclusion of her remarks and Professor Price will be signing her latest book, *Plagues in the Nation: How Epidemics Shaped America*.

**Thursday  
October 2  
7:00 - 8:30 pm**

Mary C. Jenkins Center  
212 Mills Ave. Brevard



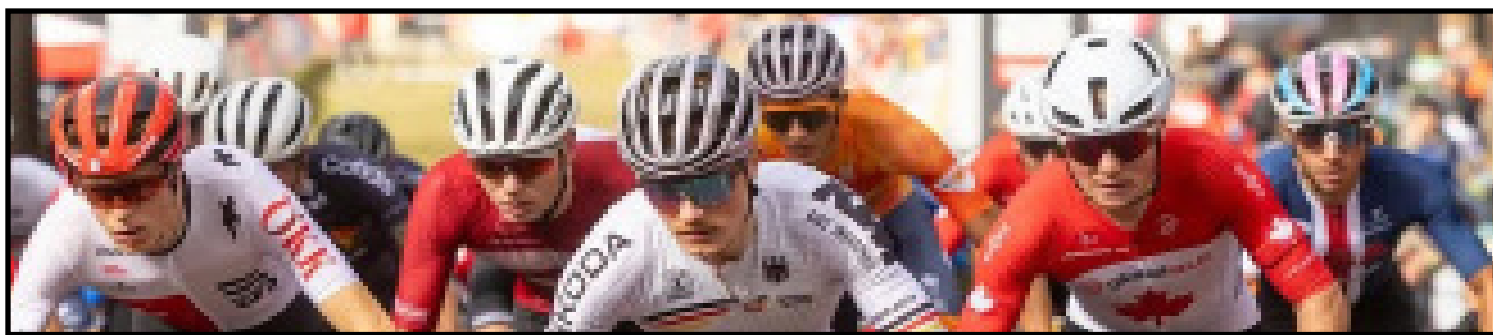
[www.transylvaniapartnersfordemocracy.com/](http://www.transylvaniapartnersfordemocracy.com/)

Brevard students are invited to Professor Polly Price's remarks and discussion of the current Constitutional Crisis. If you need transportation to this event, please contact us at [transylvaniapartners.democracy@gmail.com](mailto:transylvaniapartners.democracy@gmail.com) for a 6:40 pm pick-up. (Announcement provided by Transylvania Partners for Democracy.)



# Cole Punchard wins two medals at the Mountain Bike World Championships

*Four Tornados represented their home country at Worlds*



Photos via Cole Punchard's Instagram.

**Madeleine Pollock**  
Copy Editor

Last week, senior Cole Punchard of Huntsville, Ontario, represented Canada at the UCI Mountain Bike World Championships in Valais, Switzerland, where he raced to two medals—a third place and a second place finish—against the fastest U23 racers in the world.

“This is the big goal,” Punchard said before the event. “The target of the season.”

Punchard was joined at Worlds by three other Tornados who also raced for Canada at the event: senior Owen Clark, senior Nicole Bradbury, and freshman Lily-Rose Marois.

The racing kicked off Sept. 9 with the short track (XCC): a high-intensity 20-minute race where competitors complete multiple laps of a two to three-minute course.

Punchard fought hard for the podium, finishing third behind France’s Andrien Boichis and Switzerland’s Finn Treudler. Clark raced to 36th, finishing within two minutes of the race leader.

Bradbury, who won a short track world cup earlier in the season, represented in the women’s U23 race on the same day. She finished 24th in a competitive field.

On Thursday, Sept. 11, Punchard took part in the co-ed relay event, where one male and female rider from the junior, U23, and elite categories completed a lap of the XCO course. Punchard did the final leg of the relay, where he sprinted against ten-time world champion Nino Schurter, narrowly missing the top three spots to have Canada finish in fourth place.

There were no junior races for short track, so Marois focused on preparing for the Cross-Country Olympic (XCO) race. This race is around 90 minutes, where racers complete laps of a ten to 15-minute course full of steep climbs and technical descents. The juniors raced on Friday, Sept. 12, where Marois rode to 36th place.

On Sept. 13, Punchard and Clark took to the start line again for U23 men’s XCO. Punchard spent the majority of the race pushing the pace near

the front, but Swiss rider Finn Treudler managed to create a small gap. Punchard rode to second place, and Clark finished 28th despite a flat tire.

Punchard recounted what happened in a post-race interview with his team, Cannondale Factory Racing.

“The boys were flying out there,” he said. “The group just got whittled down until it was like four of us, three, and then two. I tried to pace my own race a bit, and then I tried to just keep the gap steady and then to close it down bit by bit.”

“I’m happy with my second place at Worlds,” he concluded.

Bradbury raced in one of the final events of the week on Sunday, Sept. 14 in the U23 women’s XCO, where she finished 41st in the world.

Looking ahead, the BC Cycling Team will be jumping into the second half of their mountain bike season, with only two more conference race weekends before heading to Grand Junction, Colorado, for the Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championships from Oct. 9 to 12.

