

Construction to begin Feb. 23 on new state-of-the-art student center

Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

Brevard College is about to look—and taste—a lot different. In a series of Town Hall meetings held on Monday, Brevard College President Brad Andrews officially announced the total demolition of Myers Dining Hall to make way for a state-of-the-art, \$17 million Student Center. While the promise of a “Spring 2027” grand opening offers a bright future, the immediate reality for students involves a massive shift in campus geography and traffic.

The project, which has been in development for months, marks a significant shift in the college’s infrastructure. “We have been working on this since last August,” Andrews said, noting that the design phase involved architects from Charlotte and construction firms from Buncombe

County.

The decision to replace Myers stems from a desire to improve the student experience. Leadership was candid about the current state of food services during the meetings.

“Over the last couple of years, dining has not been where we want it to be,” Andrews stated. “We want students to be happier and more satisfied with dining than they are now.”

To lead this transition, the college has appointed Erik Sandstedt as the new General Manager of Dining Services. Sandstedt, an experienced chef and manager, previously oversaw large-scale operations at UNC Asheville and Western Carolina University.

The construction, set to begin as early as Monday, Feb. 23, will not be subtle. Because the site is located at the heart of the college, the community should prepare for significant disruption.

“Since this is happening in the center of campus, there may be cranes and machines and equipment, materials, so it’s going to be a major implementation,” Andrews warned. The footprint of the project means everyday patterns will change: “The implications of this dining project will ripple to interim dining, it will affect parking, and it will also affect vehicle traffic on campus.”

On the final night before construction, Myers will serve its last dinner, with Late Night not being served. The next morning, Bill’s Boiler House will provide grab-and-go breakfast, while lunch and dinner move to the Boshamer Aux Gym.

“On the same day we start serving lunch and dinner in the aux gym, we are going to be getting the demolition started,” Andrews explained.

For the first few weeks, staff will continue using the Myers kitchen while the exterior is dismantled. However, Andrews said that “at some point in time, within the next month or two, we will need to close the Myers kitchen to further the project. When that happens, we will use the kitchen in the Brevard Music Center for six months and over the summer.”

For now, the BC community is encouraged to stay flexible as the “ripple effects” on parking and traffic take hold. Though the walk to lunch might be a bit longer and the scenery a lot dustier, the promise of a \$17 million state-of-the-art facility suggests that the era of unsatisfactory dining is officially being leveled to the ground.



This aerial view of the Brevard College campus shows Myers Dining Hall. The area outlined in red marks the footprint of the \$17 million Student Center project. Demolition of Myers is set to begin to make way for the new facility, which is expected to open in Spring 2027.

Interim Dining (through completion of Student Center):

Bill’s Boiler House: 7 am – 7 pm (Breakfast, Grab & Go throughout day; Coffeehouse menu)

Boshamer Aux Gym: Lunch 11 am – 2 pm; Dinner 5 – 8 pm (Sit-down dining, All-You-Can-Eat)

***Coltrane Underground:** 7 am – 11 pm (Breakfast, Deli/Pizza/Grill Options, Late Night)

*The opening of Coltrane Underground may be delayed due to facility upgrades. If there is a delay, late-night dining options will be provided in the interim.

Parking

When construction begins, Campus Drive from the Jones Library to Alumni Drive will be shut down to traffic. Parking in the large Bill's Boiler House lot will remain available, and an expansion of the lot adjacent to Green Hall over Spring Break will result in a total of 58 parking spaces in that lot.

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Future of a better internet on campus

Zoie Stiller
Contributor

In need of faster internet? Well, Brevard College President Brad Andrews announced at the Town Hall meeting on Monday that over the span of the next twelve months, we will be getting an internet upgrade.

Many students have spoken up and said they feel that the internet is very slow, especially in the residence halls. They are correct; currently, the internet we have prioritizes academic purposes in classrooms. With

this new upgrade, it will make the internet in residence halls a lot better.

The implementation of the wifi will be of little disruption to campus life. If any disruptions are to occur, Andrews said students will be receiving information ahead of time to plan accordingly.

This will take place over twelve months, with the hope of starting this semester and the hope of having it completed by January of next year. They will be digging up our current old cable and adding in new. With this, they will be running lines to every residence hall and brand new cable all over campus.

Whether you are scrolling through your phone, typing an essay, playing video games, or doing an assignment, with the installation of the new wifi, you will not have to worry about your internet not working properly and causing disruptions.

THE CLARION

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Visiting Writer Series kicks off with poet Evelyn Berry

Madeleine Pollock
Copy Editor

Poet and author Evelyn Berry visited Brevard College on Thursday, Feb. 12, where she read from some of her poetry collections and answered questions during the Visiting Writer's Series event and during Dr. Alyse Benseal's Poetry Writing class in the morning.

Berry is a trans author and poet hailing from South Carolina, where she also works as a library communications strategist and freelance editor. She has published four poetry chapbooks and one full length collection. Berry describes poetry as "an invitation towards vulnerability."

"What I wanted to focus on was trans love, trans communities, trans sex, and trans pleasure," she said, while introducing her newest chapbook "T4T." Throughout the event she also

read from her full length collection, "Grief Slut."

While visiting Dr. Benseal's Poetry Writing Class, she gave some tips and tricks for writing poetry, and led the students through a writing exercise that helped them to create a wordbank they could use for their next pieces.

Berry reflected on how a lot of her work begins with play; playing with language is one way she generates new ideas for her poems.

In the afternoon session at the Visiting Writers Series, Berry read poems that encompassed a variety of topics: the trans experience, growing up in the South, substance use, faith, and grief, among other things.

"I really like to write about the South," Berry said. "I think it is almost impossible to write about the South without writing about the social roles we have imposed upon each other and ... without being haunted by the South's history."

See 'Poet,' page 7

Hometown Happenings: Buddhist monks travel through my hometown in the recent 'Walk for Peace'

Zoe Hughes
Managing Editor

In an effort to promote awareness and nonviolent community engagement for peace, a group of Buddhist monks trekked 2,300 miles across the United States in a "Walk for Peace".

The long-distance pilgrimage began on Oct. 26, 2025 in Fort Worth, Texas, and they arrived in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 10, 2026. Buddhist monks from the Hương Đạo Vipassana Bhavana Center in Fort Worth organized the 108-day voyage. The monks were accompanied by a rescue dog named Aloka, who quickly became a symbolic figure of the journey.

Each day, they maintained a pace of around 20 miles per day. The monks also held "peace sharing talks" during their lunch breaks and nighttime rest stops. The monks engaged with the public through quiet presence and peaceful interactions. They have also been handing out peace bracelets to those they encounter, a Buddhist symbol of blessings and protection.

The monks passed through eight states: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Virginia before concluding the march in D.C. The journey included a stop in Fredericksburg, VA, my hometown.

My father, Stephen Hughes, had the opportunity to see the monks during their lunch break in Fredericksburg. "He focused a lot on being present in the moment," Hughes said. "He gave some specific examples, like our phones. We have information coming at us so quickly that it is impossible to process it all at once. That's why it is so important to step away from distractions and focus on your breathing to be in the present." Hughes continued, "He said that we acknowledge the past, but it does not impede you from moving forward. Any step in the right direction is an important step."

Hughes was blown away by the impact of the speaker. He said the monk "Exuded an aura of calm." The speaker made sure that everyone felt welcome in this message for peace. "What was remarkable about this was that it was completely apolitical," Hughes said. "He spoke eloquently about the current cultural and sociological malaise and addressed angst and tension without mentioning specific events, current affairs, or political happenings."

Both ends of the political spectrum have dealt with hate, sorrow, and alienation. This "Walk for Peace" may not have been tied to any specific events, but it comes in an undeniable time of American turmoil.



Buddhist monks walking through Richmond, V.A.—photo by Nadia Hughes.



(above) Monk representative answering questions at lunch break peace talks in Fredericksburg, V.A.—photo by Stephen Hughes.



Aloka the rescue dog that accompanied the Buddhist monks on their "Walk for Peace"—photo by Stephen Hughes.

Brevard student and alumnus publish work in 'Release Peace: The Magazine'

A Brevard College senior and two recent graduates have published their scholarly work in the international publication *Release Peace: The Magazine*.

Tristan Troutman '26, Alfredo Sixtos-Rodriguez '25, and Dominic O'Brien '25 each authored articles that now appear before an international audience.

All three students discovered the opportunity after attending history courses taught by Dr. Jordan Kuck, associate professor of history and chair of the humanities division.

"These three students represent the best of Brevard College and a liberal arts education," said Kuck. "It is rare for an undergraduate student to publish, and it is even more rare for non-history majors to publish historical works on weighty topics. And yet, two of the three students are not history majors. Through their experiences in a general education history course, these students developed the skills and interests that led to these publications. To be sure, this is experiential education at its best."

Troutman, an environmental studies major with pre-law and history minors from Aiken, South Carolina, will graduate this spring. He plans to attend law school at the University of South Carolina.

Troutman authored "The Dark History of Rubber in the Congo," which examines how the global demand for rubber in the late 19th century fueled the brutal exploitation of the Congo Free State under King Leopold II. In his analysis, he traces the economic forces, human rights abuses, and international response that reshaped the region's history.

A biology major with a history minor, Sixtos-Rodriguez graduated from BC this past December and will receive his diploma at spring commencement. A native of Elkin, North Carolina, Sixtos-Rodriguez is preparing for the MCAT with plans to attend medical school.

In "How the Forgotten Importation of US Tractors by the USSR Revitalised the Soviet Economy," Sixtos-Rodriguez examines a little-known period of cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union. He highlights how American industry, particularly the Ford Motor Company, played a pivotal role in modernizing Soviet agriculture during the early years of



Dr. Jordan Kuck (right) speaks with Sixtos-Rodriguez and Troutman at the academic quad of Brevard College—photo by Brevard College Communications.

Stalin's Five-Year Plans.

O'Brien graduated in May of 2025 with a Bachelor of Arts in history and a criminal justice minor from Brevard College. A native of Huntersville, North Carolina, he is currently working in the Brevard area while pursuing law school.

O'Brien's article, "A History You Might Now Know: The Motivations of Woodrow Wilson," explores the life and legacy of President Woodrow Wilson. He examines how Wilson's upbringing, religious convictions, and moral worldview shaped his leadership during World War I and his push to move the United States from isolationism to global leadership.

Release Peace is an international peace and conflict-prevention NGO based in The Hague that works with communities, NGOs, and global institutions to reduce armed violence and foster stability. Alongside its advocacy work, the organization publishes *Release Peace: The Magazine*, an online international affairs journal that offers in-depth analysis and context on global issues and underreported stories beyond the daily news cycle. The magazine regularly features contributions from

students and emerging writers, providing a platform for thoughtful historical, geopolitical, and cultural perspectives. For more information and to view the articles, visit releasepeace.org.



Brevard College graduate Dominic O'Brien was one of the BC students published in the international publication *Release Peace: The Magazine*—photo by Isabella Zambuto '28.

Banff Mountain Film Festival returns to Brevard College

The renowned adventure film festival recently celebrated its 50th anniversary

The internationally acclaimed Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour returns to Brevard College this spring, bringing a curated selection of the world's most inspiring mountain and adventure films to the big screen for an unforgettable weekend. Hosted by the Brevard College Outdoor Leadership and Experiential Education program, the festival will take place at the Paul Porter Center for Performing Arts on the BC campus March 13–15.

Showtimes are 7 p.m. on Friday, March 13; 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 14; and 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 15, with a completely different lineup each day to offer audiences a fresh experience at every screening.

Single-day and weekend package tickets are on sale now, but availability is limited and screenings are expected to sell out. Secure your tickets today at brevard.edu/Banff-mountain-film-festival.

Now in its 50th anniversary year, the Banff Centre Mountain Film and Book Festival takes place each fall in Alberta, Canada, showcasing one of the world's premier celebrations of mountain culture, outdoor storytelling, and global adventure. From hundreds of international submissions, only the most powerful and visually stunning films are selected to travel on the World Tour.

Audiences can expect breathtaking cinematography, heart-pounding expeditions, deeply personal narratives, and stories that celebrate resilience, creativity, and the spirit of exploration.

Adding to the excitement, this year's event features a Banff Film Festival Road Warrior, who brings high energy, insider insight, and an enhanced live-event atmosphere to each screening.

The 2025-26 World Tour launched in December following the 2025 Banff Centre Mountain Film and Book Festival, widely regarded as one of the largest and most prestigious mountain festivals in the world. This year, the World Tour will visit 40 countries across the globe.

Tickets are going fast – don't miss your chance to be part of this global celebration of adventure.

For more information or to order tickets, visit brevard.edu/Banff-mountain-film-festival or scan the QR code.



Brevard College Outdoor Leadership and Experiential Education students volunteering at last year's Banff Mountain Film Festival—photo credit: Brevard College Communications



A sold-out Porter Center crowd enjoying the 2025 Banff Mountain Film Festival. Photo Credit: Brevard College Communications



Dancers hold flags as the message "the only thing more powerful than hate is love" flashes on the billboard.

Bad Bunny's Super Bowl halftime show includes all the Americas 'the only thing more powerful than hate is love'

Madeleine Pollock
Copy Editor

Bad Bunny, also known as Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, gave viewers a window into Puerto Rican culture, paying homage to where he was born and raised. According to CBS News, the show had over 135 million viewers.

Bad Bunny's LX Super Bowl halftime show at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California, on Sunday, Feb. 8, has cemented itself in history as the most-watched halftime show to date, and the only one done mostly in Spanish.

Bad Bunny has risen to fame over the last few years, notably winning three Grammy awards at the 68th Grammy Awards on Feb. 1, and bringing his lifetime total to six; this year, he won Album of the Year, Best Música Urbana Album, and Best Global Music Performance.

President Trump criticizes show

Bad Bunny winning multiple Grammys and being the performer for the Super Bowl as a Latino did not come without criticism—President Trump heavily criticized the show, saying it was "one of the worst, ever," on Truth Social.

Bad Bunny's Grammy acceptance speech seemed to call out the Trump administration, saying, "ICE out. We're not savage, we're not animals, we're not aliens. We are humans, and we are Americans."

Trump encouraged people to watch Turning Point USA's show that would air at the same time as the halftime show, featuring Kid Rock, who has been criticized for his lyrics, "Young ladies, young ladies, I like 'em underage/ See, some say that's statutory/ But I say it's mandatory," in his song, "Cool, Daddy Cool."

Kid Rock has confirmed on social media that his performance was pre-taped. Despite buzz from President Trump and news outlets like Fox News, USA Today reported the show's viewership at around 5 million people, compared to Bad Bunny's 135 million.

Set references to Puerto Rican culture

Bad Bunny sang parts of 13 different songs as he navigated an elaborate set that explored parts of Puerto Rican culture.

The set was surrounded by people in sugarcane costumes, as sugarcane is known as Puerto Rico's "cash crop." It has been a symbol of

labour exploitation, colonization, and also of resiliency.

Power lines featuring dancers dressed as workers rose above the tall grass. People are speculating online that this portion was symbolic of frequent issues with the electrical infrastructure in Puerto Rico, and the lack of support from the U.S. government in fixing these issues, despite it being a U.S. territory.

The set then took the audience to a replica of The Caribbean Social Club in Brooklyn, New York, where Bad Bunny took a drink from the club's owner, Maria Antonia "Toñita" Cay, highlighting this beloved Puerto Rican club.

At one point, Bad Bunny held a large Puerto Rican flag, which could be considered a reference to how flying the island's flag was deemed illegal from 1948 to 1957 by the United States government, as the government was trying to suppress independent movements.

Audience surprised by guest appearances

There were over 300 dancers completing complex choreography throughout the show, as well as some celebrity cameos among the dancers,

See 'Halftime,' page 7

Poet Evelyn Berry visits Brevard College

Continued from page 2

One student asked a question about Berry's relationship with faith after she read a poem about St. Thomas from "Grief Slut." "My spiritual practice has a lot to do with the stories that we tell each other," Berry explained. "I think of every book as a holy book."

She also talked about her relationship with trans stories. "I am always flinty about trauma narratives, especially around transness, like the majority of trans literature published pre 2000 pretty much is like a lot of trans memoirs that rely on trauma and tell a linear story of transition," said Berry. "But I want to tell a different story."

"It's also hard...like the oppression isn't going away," she continued. "But I want to make sure I capture some of the joy."

Berry also noted that she draws inspiration from reading fiction, nonfiction, poetry, comics as well as from reading zines, which are handmade mini magazines often made by artists, poets, and everyday people.



Evelyn Berry's chapbook, "T4T."

Berry's books are available to order at your local bookstore or online. Use this QR code to watch the video of the event on the English Program's Youtube channel.



Evelyn Berry reading from her newest chapbook, "T4T."

Halftime show's call for unity

Continued from page 6

like Cardi B and Pedro Pascal.

Dancers took to the constructed streets, sugar cane fields, rooftops, and nail salons as Bad Bunny mingled between the various scenes.

The dancing seemed to celebrate joy and Latin arts, and a young couple even got married as part of the show, allegedly with Bad Bunny signing their marriage certificate as a witness.

Lady Gaga emerged partway through, singing and dancing to her song "Die With a Smile" in a Latin mode.

Puerto Rican singer Ricky Martin also surprised the audience, singing Bad Bunny's song "LO QUE LE PASÓ A HAWAII," which is considered to be a warning to Puerto Rico to fight back against gentrification, like what has occurred in Hawaii.

Bad Bunny calls for unity

Near the end of the performance, Bad Bunny handed a Grammy to a small boy who was watching Bad Bunny's Grammy acceptance

speech on a small television. There was speculation that the boy was Liam Ramos, a five-year-old seeking asylum in the U.S. who was recently detained in and then released from an ICE detention facility in Texas. However, it has been confirmed by CBS News that the boy was not Ramos, but meant to symbolize a small "Benito" who once had a dream. There is speculation that the boy was intended to resemble Ramos as another call-out of Trump and ICE.

As the show wrapped up, dancers held up flags from every country in North, Central, and South America, and Bad Bunny listed off the countries. He then said, "Together we are America. God bless America," and held up a football that had that message written on it.

A message began to display on the big board at the top of the stadium, reading, "The only thing more powerful than hate is love."

A CNN news reporter wrote that "Bad Bunny's Super Bowl halftime performance redefined what it means to be an American patriot."



Bad Bunny displaying the Puerto Rican flag.

What is happening in the Spiers Gallery?

Daniel Huestis
Staff Writer

With the steady buzz of students going to and from class, getting coffee, or just relaxing, this semester is feeling like it's finally getting into motion. With the rush of this semester taking over everything, you should slow down for a moment to see what's going on in the Spiers Gallery.

Currently, the Spiers Gallery is showing the BC Art Alumni Exhibition. The pieces in this beautiful show are truly captivating, featuring a mix of art forms, from sculptures to paintings. There is something that is bound to catch your attention and provoke thought. With it being open until March 6, there is plenty of time to see it.

During the opening reception of the show, walking through and seeing all the work of past BC students was incredible. Seeing the art that they made and or are still currently making cultivated inspiration. Here are some of the artworks that stole my time and forced me to engage.

To start this little peek into the exhibition is a masterful nude self-portrait. This portrait is done in oil on panel. The painter Tom Ruple



Self Portrait From the Hotel Corner Chair, Oil on panel 28cm x 28cm by Tom Ruple.

definitely chose a bold yet delicate piece for the show. I applaud Tom's willingness to be so open. Next up is a breathtaking piece of work

that was created by Bill Byers. This is a Mixed media and collage on paper, and is titled Zen Catalogue. The explosion and collaboration of



Zen Catalogue, Mixed Media & Collage on Paper 24" x 32" by Bill Byers

colors and materials is worth seeing in person. Finally, the last one is the one I found myself looking at most, which is titled "Raindance." It is an oil painting done on etched aluminum, created by Scott Harris. This piece completely overtook me with its unsettling calmness and beauty. While looking at "Raindance" and taking in its uniquely complex composition, I was able to talk with Scott Harris. Through that, I gained a deeper appreciation for his work, even more so for "Raindance." All of the composition is thoroughly planned out, with the idea of the image he wants.

Then Scott will go in first and etch the aluminum, with every mark being crucial. If one mistake is made, the composition is ruined. After all the marks are made, he then paints his concept. This process of creating artwork is truly demanding and unforgiving. You have to trust yourself

and the process. As well as accept any outcome you may encounter, and overcome it.

While you are taking it slow in the gallery, experiencing all of the stunning art, don't forget to look up. New black ceiling tiles have been installed in Spiers Gallery, along with more fixtures. Shout out to the combination of faculty and students working together to get this done!

Before and shortly after the start of the semester, this job was in the process of completion. Julia Lusk and Clayton Furr took down tiles, then professors Kenneth McLeskey and Kyle Lusk removed the old lights and installed new fixtures, with professor Sean Parrish spray-painting all of the vent covers.

Prepping was accomplished by Kember Phillips, Samantha Capps, Rachel Cooke, and Julia Lusk. The tireless days of painting were tackled by all the people who prepped. As well as Hanah Schinsky, Phoebe Turner, and Clayton Furr. Finally, the tiles were installed by Clayton Furr and Julia Lusk.

Thank you to everyone who worked to improve the quality of the gallery; it is appreciated. With the current exhibition and the new ceiling tiles, you should be encouraged to stop by the Spiers Gallery, and I implore you to find the piece of work that draws you in most; maybe you'll be inspired.

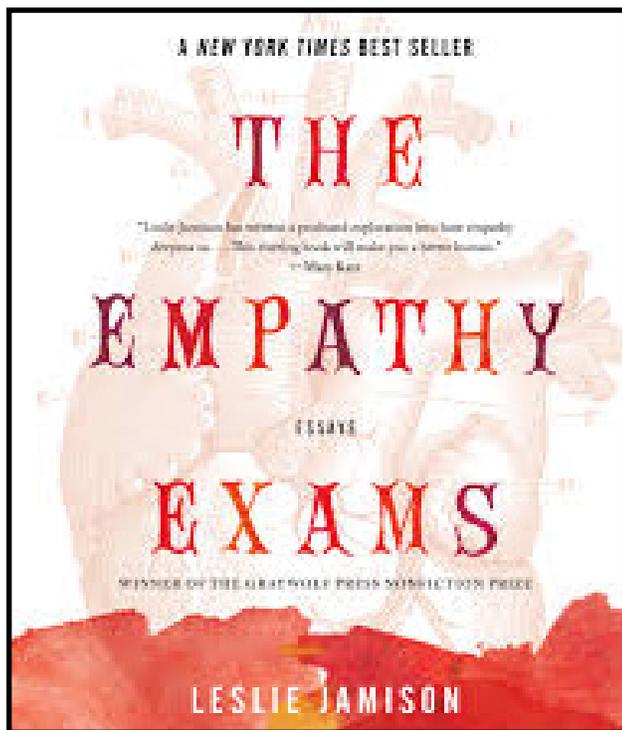


Raindance, Oil on Etched Aluminum 30" x 40" by Scott Harris

Book Review: 'The Empathy Exams' by Leslie Jamison

Ivelysse Leighton
Staff Writer

Rating



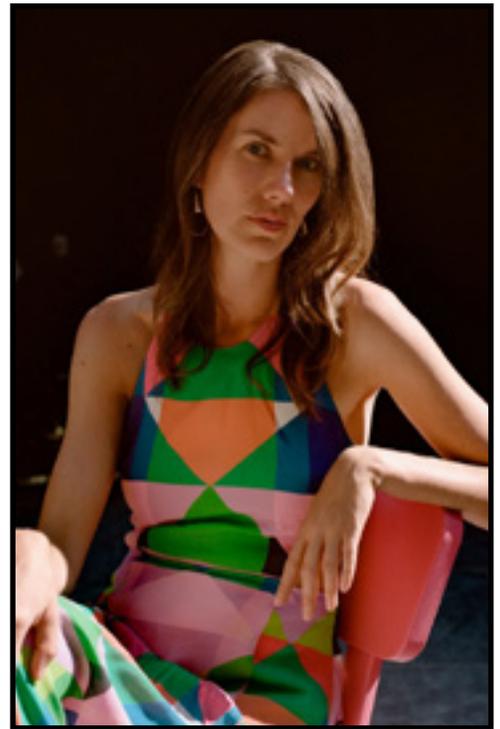
As a collection of personal essays that blends memoir, cultural criticism, and investigative reporting, the book offers a thoughtful and often unsettling exploration of pain, care, and what it means to truly understand another person’s suffering. While some essays feel denser than others, Jamison’s emotional honesty and intellectual curiosity make the collection both compelling and reflective.

The book’s title essay introduces Jamison’s experience working as a medical actor trained to simulate illness for medical students. This unusual job becomes a lens through which she examines empathy—not as a simple act of kindness, but as a complicated exchange shaped by power, performance, and vulnerability. From there, the collection expands outward, exploring topics such as addiction, chronic illness, reality television, incarceration, and the cultural fascination with trauma. Jamison continually asks difficult questions: Who deserves care? When is suffering believed? And how do we measure compassion?

Jamison’s strength lies in her ability to merge personal narrative with broader social commentary. In essays about her own experiences with self-harm and alcoholism, she writes with unflinching clarity, refusing to romanticize pain while still acknowledging its complexity. At the same time,

she investigates the suffering of others—from ultra-marathon runners to prison inmates—with a careful balance of skepticism and compassion. Her willingness to interrogate her own assumptions gives the essays an honesty that feels both intimate and intellectually rigorous.

At times, the collection’s academic tone and theoretical references can slow the pacing, particularly for readers expecting a purely narrative memoir. Some essays lean more analytical than emotional, which may distance readers seeking a more personal voice. However, this blend of scholarship and



Leslie Jamison.

storytelling also gives the book its depth, encouraging readers to think critically about how empathy functions in both private and public life.

Jamison’s work feels especially relevant within a college setting, where conversations about mental health, trauma, and social responsibility continue to evolve. Her essays resonate with readers navigating questions of care, identity, and community.

Jamison is also one of the three featured authors for the Looking Glass Rock Writers Conference at Brevard College in mid-May, where she will lead multiple nonfiction workshops. Her session, *Landscapes of Feelings*, explores how physical and emotional landscapes shape memory, identity, grief, and transportation. Participants will consider how places we love, leave, or carry within us can open pathways into personal narrative, using sensory detail and emotional specificity to deepen storytelling. The workshop promises generative writing exercises, mapping memory, experimenting with forms, and crafting work that feels immediate, raw, and urgent.

Overall, “The Empathy Exams” is a thoughtful and challenging collection that rewards patient readers. Jamison’s insights into pain, compassion, and human connection linger long after the final page, making the book both intellectually engaging and emotionally resonant. I would recommend this collection to readers interested in creative nonfiction that pushes beyond personal narrative to ask difficult, necessary questions about how we understand one another.

Winter Olympics

G Y R S K I I N G A A J R U Z
 K E H A N S K H P R Z Q P C P
 S M Y T M N L O T G N C H U C
 J O K H C O R C Z X O Q B R B
 W Q J N A W X K R A L P O L U
 H E Q I S B B E I L I S B I H
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 Z Z I D T G B F O S V C S R O

Snowboard
 Skiing
 Bronze

Bobsleigh
 Curling
 Silver

Skating
 Hockey

Gold
 Luge

Nado's back on the grind

Jordan Ramey
Staff Writer

The Nados hit the turf spinning for their spring campaign. The football team has no opponent to prepare for during these spring practices; however, as Coach Bill Khayat always says, "Nameless, Faceless Opponent," and that opponent is themselves over the course of their sixteen practices.

The spring will really test the will of the underclassmen, transfers, and even push the experienced upperclassmen who have endured a spring

camp with Coach Khayat at the helm. There is plenty of conditioning to get the guys back in shape and ready for action come August.

The emphasis for this spring is learning. Developing the underclassmen and helping the transfers get up to speed on a new system. There are some holes to be filled on both sides of the ball for the Tornados upcoming this fall as they lost the veteran presence of many in important position groups.

At the end of the spring, the team will be in shape and mentally prepared to take the field on Saturdays. See you in the fall!

Brevard grinds out 74-66 win vs. Pfeiffer

The Brevard College women's basketball team (20-4, 15-2 USA South) used a total team effort to defeat Pfeiffer (14-10, 11-6 USAS) by a final of 74-66 on Thursday night at the Boshamer Gymnasium.

Olivia Miller led Brevard's efforts with a double-double of 14 points and 11 rebounds alongside three assists and three steals in 37 minutes of hard-fought action.

Sophomore guard Malayka Rankin provided a much-needed spark off the bench with 14 points, two made 3-pointers, and critical defensive effort. Senior guard Christena Rhone added 12 points and drained a pair of crucial 3-pointers, with sophomore guard Analee Morris also reaching double digits with 11 points and a pair of triples.

Brevard's bench effort, which outscored Pfeiffer's 25-4, made all the difference in the contest. In addition to Rankin's minutes, Kennedy Noble hit a pair of 3-pointers and worked tirelessly on the defensive end. Aleysha Hill added five points, including a perfect 3-for-3 mark at the charity stripe, and distributed a team-best five assists to help kickstart Brevard's offense.

BC shot 45% from the field compared to Pfeiffer's 35% mark, and controlled the paint (32-22) and transition (12-1) to fend off the Falcons, who hit 10 3-pointers of their own.

Pfeiffer got off to an extremely hot start, taking a 10-point lead 21-11 after one quarter of play. Brevard chipped away in the second period, scoring the last four points of the stanza to cut the deficit to four, 37-33.

Brevard took its first lead of the game, 45-44, with 6:07 in the third quarter after a four-point play by Morris. BC led by as many as nine points in the third period, and held a 54-49 edge heading to the fourth quarter.

Pfeiffer was able to claw back and retake the lead halfway through the fourth period, 61-60, at the 4:51 mark. Brevard came through in the clutch, finishing the game on a 16-5 run to clinch its 20th victory of the season.

The Tornados will finish off the 2025-26 regular season on Senior Day Saturday, with tip-off against NC Wesleyan set for 2 p.m. BC's four seniors - Miller, Schuyler Pettibone, Jada Petty-Wilkins, and Rhone - will be honored at approximately 1:50 p.m.

To follow the latest news and updates surrounding Brevard College Athletics, follow the Tornados on Twitter and Instagram @bctornados, subscribe to 'Brevard College Tornados' on YouTube, and follow 'Brevard College Athletics' on Facebook. In addition, follow 'brevardcollege' on Flickr for photos from Brevard College events.



Photos by Chris Fortman '29

Brevard brings the storm to Gil Coan Field

A 6–0 start to 2026

Tyler Mabry
Contributor

Baseball season is officially underway in Brevard, as the Tornados baseball program takes to the mound for 2026.

The Tornados started off the calendar year hot, with a series against Johnson and Wales University going right in every which way. The Tornados would end up sweeping the Wildcats with scores of 17–8, 8–0, and 14–4.

Through those three contests, the Tornados put up a combined 39 runs on 36 hits, while the pitching staff kept Johnson and Wales under wraps for most of the weekend, only allowing 12 runs through three games.

After they carried out the sweep on opening weekend, the Tornados had a midweek clash against Guilford College. The Quakers had beaten the Tornados in both contests in 2025, with both games being very close contests. This

year, the story was not the same.

The Tornados' bats stayed hot versus Guilford, winning easily 16–5 in only 7 innings due to a run-rule. Brevard put up 19 hits throughout the game on 33 at-bats, hitting a staggering .576 average on Wednesday, Feb. 11.

With the Tornados winning the midweek contest versus Guilford, they were now undefeated through four games, while also showing that they were clearly the better program in each contest.

The next series on their schedule was a doubleheader versus the Berea College Mountaineers, who were coming from Kentucky to face the steaming hot Tornados.

The doubleheader was a one-sided affair, as the Tornados easily took both contests with scores of 10-0 and 12-0. The Tornados' pitching staff was locked in from the first pitch of the series.

In the first game against the Mountaineers,

senior starting pitcher Jonathan Germany threw for five innings, striking out five batters and only giving up two hits. To close out the game, junior reliever Aaron Burchett came in at the start of the sixth inning. He would strike out six batters in a row to end the contest in seven innings due to the run-rule.

Now, as for the second contest, the Tornados only recorded one strikeout, but they would end up only allowing three hits through seven innings. The trio of pitchers used by the Tornados consisted of senior starter Matthew Evans, senior Andy Fahringer, and junior Kalen Milstead. These three together kept the ball out of the air and allowed for easy putouts by the players in the field to keep the Mountaineers scoreless.

With an undefeated 6–0 start to the new season, the Tornados are looking sharp, and they look to keep the winning streak alive Friday, Feb. 20 with a series versus the Capital University Comets.



Photos by Isabella Zambuto '28 —Via Brevard College Flickr.