

# Unity in Motion event sees over 100 participants

**Madeleine Pollock**  
Copy Editor

In partnership with The Unity Folks and Oboz Footwear, the OLEE Department hosted the Unity in Motion event on March 24, welcoming over 100 students and faculty to learn about how to make the outdoors more welcoming.

“We saw strong engagement from students, staff, and partners, and the energy on campus was exactly what we hoped for,” said OLEE Professor and Director Dr. Jennifer Kafsky. “Students did not just attend, they connected, asked questions, shared interests, and we hope began to see themselves in the outdoor industry and lifestyle.”

“Our company was created to help the outdoor industry grow by implementing sincere, meaningful, measurable, and sustainable strategies,” said The Unity Folks President Earl B. Hunter. “Our Unity in Motion Where Campuses Meet the Outdoors program is a huge step in the right direction.”

The event was set up between King’s Creek and Ives-Lemel Family Field, where local Unity Blaze community partners like DD Bullwinkles, Eagles Nest Foundation, Gorges State Park, and OLEE alumni Pisgah on the Rise had booths. This gave students the opportunity to connect with outdoor professions, learn about job opportunities, play lawn games and gather around fire pits together.

Unity Blaze partners must be certified by The Unity Folks by taking an online course about how the outdoor industry can be more inclusive. Students were allowed to take the Unity Blaze Certification for free. Brevard College OLEE Program is the second in the nation to be a University Unity Blaze Partner, following Lees McRae.

This was a class service learning project se-



Students pose with The Unity Folks founder, Earl Hunter, in front of the tennis courts after the campus hike.

lected by the OLEE 380 Advanced Facilitation and Processing class, with many student leaders helping with event logistics, setup, and take-down, and extra help from a team of volunteers that were on the event leadership team.

“Everyone had a unique contribution based on their interest and connections on campus, and we set the foundations during our class strategy sessions with Earl,” said Kafsky.

The event kicked off with some opening remarks from Hunter, who brought an infectious positive energy to the event. He stressed that Gen Z is the future of the outdoor industry, and encouraged everyone to get outside and to invite others to join them.

Students were then given time to mingle before embarking on a campus hike led by senior student leaders Olive Leonardi and Breanna Goff. Thanks to Oboz footwear, attendees were able

to demo various hiking shoes.

“During our hike around campus, I enjoyed getting to know some of the football players and talking about what they enjoyed doing in the outdoors,” said Leonardi. I was able to provide some ideas about day hikes, as well as our OLEE classes they may be interested in.”

After returning to the event site, Hunter held the pinning ceremony, where those who completed the certification received Unity Blaze pins. All attendees were given a free pair of Oboz insoles.

“One of the biggest barriers to student involvement in outdoor recreation is simply not knowing what’s out there,” said senior student leader Kaden Simon. “Unity in Motion broke down that barrier, connecting students directly with the organizations and local businesses that make adventure accessible right here in our backyard.”

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# Unity Folks bring campus community together

The event concluded with a raffle draw and pizza. Six students and one Unity Blaze partner won a voucher for a free pair of Oboz shoes.

“We are excited to be Unity Blaze partners. Moving forward, the goal is to embed The Unity Blaze Way into the culture of the OLEE program,” says Kafsky.

“The Unity Way means encouraging students and staff to consistently build relationships with people who may or may not look like them, earn trust and understand barriers to participation, and invite and welcome others into outdoor experiences,” Hunter explained. “This is not a one-time activation. The OLEE faculty and students are committed to this sustainable framework that is integrated into coursework, leadership development, and program design to ensure longevity.”

There are many opportunities on campus that students can utilize to familiarize themselves with the outdoors: taking OLEE classes for credit, non-credit experiences through student-led clubs like the Outing,



Students trade stories around a campfire at the event.

Climbing and Paddling clubs, and peer-to-peer invitations by simply inviting classmates to join

outdoor activities.

The OLEE program also launched the new BC Outdoors Program which provides non credit entry level outdoor experiences and an equipment rental program. The first BC Outdoors trip for this semester is on Saturday, March 28 at 10:30 a.m. for a waterfall exploration hike in DuPont State Recreational Forest. Register to join by contacting Breanna Goff at [goffb1@brevard.edu](mailto:goffb1@brevard.edu).

If you want more information about the outdoor opportunities that are open to you, please contact [kafskyjl@brevard.edu](mailto:kafskyjl@brevard.edu), any OLEE professor, or talk to an OLEE student. You can learn more about the Unity Folks on their website, [theunityfolks.com](http://theunityfolks.com).



Earl Hunter chats with some cyclists and tests their bikes!

# Visiting Writer Series concludes with poet Dustin Brookshire

Ivelysse Leighton  
Staff Writer

Poet Dustin Brookshire visited Brevard College as the final guest in this semester's Visiting Writer Series, where he read from his chapbook "Repeat as Needed" and spoke with students about his writing process, inspiration, and experiences as a poet.

During the reading, Brookshire shared a selection of poems that blended humor with personal and reflective moments. He often introduced his work with a brief context, helping the audience better understand the emotions and experiences behind each piece. His delivery created an engaging and conversational atmosphere, making the reading feel both accessible and intentional.

In addition to reading his work, Brookshire spoke candidly about the challenges of writing, particularly when it comes to writer's block. He explained that when he feels stuck, he turns to villanelles and takes inspiration from other talented poets to help generate ideas. Rather than avoiding creative blocks, he uses structure and community to move through them.

He was also very open about how his writing process is tied to inspiration, sharing that he needs to "feel the muse hit him" before a piece fully comes together. Brookshire spoke highly of poet Denise Duhamel, describing her as both an author he admires and a friend who continues



Photo by Alecia Janerio via Flickr.

to influence his work.

The visit also gave students insight into Brookshire's current and future projects. He shared that he has a full-length poetry collection coming out in March 2027 titled "For All of Us Faggots," offering a glimpse into the direction his work is taking beyond his current publications.

Following the reading, students had the opportunity to ask questions about his work and experiences. Brookshire responded openly, offering advice about revision, finding inspiration,

and navigating the realities of publishing. His responses balance honesty with humor, reinforcing his approachable presence throughout the event.

As the final speaker in the Visiting Writer Series, Brookshire's visit offered a meaningful close to the semester's events. His openness about the realities of writing, paired with his emphasis on inspiration and learning from other poets, gave students something real to take with them as they continue developing their own work.

## Parking



Facilities director Burke Ulrey (right) surveys paving work on March 20 for the new parking lot near Green Residence Hall. The lot opened this week to offset spaces lost with the construction of the new student center.

# Book Review of "Fearless": an utterly satisfying finale

Ivelysse Leighton  
Staff Writer

Rating: ★★★★★

When I first reviewed "Powerless" a few years ago, I wrote about how Lauren Roberts took the BookTok world by storm with her addictive blend of fantasy, romance, and high-stakes survival. Now, with Fearless, the third and final installment in the trilogy, Roberts does something even more difficult. She sticks the landing, and not just in a satisfying way, but in a way that left me staring at the last page, heart racing, genuinely not ready to let go.

"Fearless" is everything a finale should be: intense, emotional, and completely consuming. It takes everything Roberts has been building, including the divided world of Elites and

Ordinaries, the brutal politics of Ilya, and the complicated relationship between Paedyn Gray and Kai, and pushes it to its absolute limit.

For anyone jumping into the series late, the story centers around Paedyn Gray, an Ordinary forced to survive in a world that worships power. Having spent much of her life pretending to be Psychic to avoid persecution, Paedyn is sharp, resourceful, and constantly adapting. Opposite her is Kai, an Elite prince trained to enforce the very system that hunts people like her. Their relationship has always been rooted in contradiction, including hunter and hunted, loyalty and betrayal, and "Fearless" leans fully into that tension.

What makes this book stand out immediately is its pacing. From the very first chapters, there is a sense that everything is unraveling even as it comes together. Roberts does not waste a single

moment. Every scene feels purposeful, whether deepening the emotional stakes or tightening the simmering political conflict that has been building since "Powerless". The suspense is constant but never overwhelming. It is controlled, deliberate, and incredibly effective.

Then there is the yearning. The series has always thrived on emotional tension, but "Fearless" elevates it to another level. Paedyn and Kai's relationship is no longer just about chemistry or forbidden attraction. It is about choices, consequences, and identity. Every interaction between them feels loaded, like one wrong word could shift everything. That push-and-pull dynamic is what kept me completely hooked. You do not just want them to end up together, but you feel the weight of what that would cost.

The world building also deserves serious recognition. Roberts expands on Ilya's systems

and structures in a way that feels both immersive and necessary. We see more cracks in the Elite-controlled society, more people affected by it, and more moral gray areas that complicate everything. It's not just a backdrop anymore, but it's a living, breathing world that directly shapes the characters' decisions.

Character-wise, "Fearless" is incredibly strong. Paedyn continues to be one of the most compelling protagonists I have read in a while, resilient without being invincible, guarded but still deeply human. Kai's development is just as powerful. Watching him grapple with what he has been taught versus what he feels adds layers to his character, making him far more than just a love interest.

Even the side characters shine in this installment. They each bring something meaningful to the story, whether it is loyalty, betrayal, or an unexpected perspective. No one feels like filler, which is rare in a series finale where so much is happening at once.

If I had to describe "Fearless" in a few words, I would say it is gripping, emotional, and utterly satisfying. It captures everything that made the first book successful, including fast-paced action, romantic tension, and a compelling premise, while deepening it in ways that feel natural and impactful.

Overall, I'd give "Fearless" a 5 out of 5 stars. It is a final that not only lives up to expectations

but exceeds them. Roberts has created a trilogy that is both entertaining and emotionally resonant, and "Fearless" is the perfect conclusion to that journey.



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# Remembering women's history: the bra-burning myth

Zoe Hughes  
Managing Editor

*“On September 7th in Atlantic City, the Annual Miss America Pageant will again crown ‘your ideal.’ But this year, reality will liberate the contest auction block in the guise of ‘genyooine’ de-plasticized, breathing women. Women’s liberation groups, Black women, high-school and college women, women’s peace groups, women’s welfare and social-work groups, women’s job-equality, pro-birth control and pro-abortion groups—women of every political persuasion—all are invited to join us. . . . We will protest the image of Miss America, an image that oppresses in every area in which it purports to represent us.”*

*— Robin Morgan, “No More Miss America,” open letter, August 26, 1968, Robin Morgan papers, Duke University*

The infamous image of radical feminists burning their bras in protest was, in reality, a conflation of the real event and its message.

According to smithsonianmag.com, the idea of bra-burning originated from the 1968 Miss America pageant protest in Atlantic City, N.J. Members of New York Radical Women (NYRW) organized an event protesting the idea that women should be rewarded for their appearance alone, and that real women are more than sex objects to be appraised by the male viewer.

Over 200 women rallied outside the pageant and discarded the symbolic items, such as girdles, curlers, and bras. Women wore these to meet patriarchal beauty standards and disposed of them into “freedom trash cans”. None of these items was actually burned at the protest.

The historic wooden boardwalk where the protest was set to occur posed a real fire hazard, so the city’s mayor and police requested that nothing be set aflame; and thus, nothing was. Inside the pageant, activists unfurled a giant “Women’s Liberation” banner over the audience balcony.

The main factor in the birth of the bra-burning

myth was a comment by protest organizer Robin Morgan. In a comment to a reporter from The



"Women's Liberation" banner hung over the audience balcony inside the Miss America pageant --- Photo via Google Images.

# Beginner Day Hike

**Saturday March 28 at 9:30AM**

**Meet at the OLEE Barn**

What to Bring:  
Water & Snacks  
Closed-toe Shoes



If you have any questions, reach out to Breanna Goff. Email: [goffb1@brevard.edu](mailto:goffb1@brevard.edu)

# NCDOT to Open U.S. 64 Into Bat Cave on Saturday

The N.C. Department of Transportation, in partnership with local municipalities, will remove barricades and open U.S. 64 to traffic this weekend, ahead of schedule.

Crews from Blythe Construction will reopen the highway in a temporary pattern on March 28 as they finish reconstructing the hurricane-damaged corridor.

“We are excited to open this critical route into Bat Cave, Chimney Rock and the surrounding communities that were devastated by Hurricane Helene,” Division 14 Engineer Wesley Grindstaff said. “Our crews, and all of our contractors, have done a tremendous job from the initial emergency assessments to recent resurfacing.”

U.S. 64 had been restricted to local traffic only while contract crews graded the area, installed new drainage, stabilized slopes, built retaining walls and performed other reconstruction operations to rebuild a road that narrowed to less than one lane in several spots after the storm. Crews removed 20,000 cubic yards of debris, removed about 4,000 cubic yards of dirt and placed 57,000 tons of rock to rebuild the road.

The remaining tasks revolve around stabilization and construction of the eastbound lane, which will be done with temporary traffic signals managing traffic. Engineers anticipate having the road fully open to traffic by Memorial Day.

Once complete, engineers estimate the cost of the project will be about \$7 million under budget, costing about \$25 million.

This stretch of U.S. 64 will be the first of the major corridors damaged by Helene to open with final repairs. NCDOT crews and contractors continue designing and constructing permanent repairs across western North Carolina to serve the residents and visitors of western North Carolina.

“It’s a pleasure to invite folks on our roads back to Bat Cave, Chimney Rock and Lake Lure,” Grindstaff said. “The hurricane left its mark on us, but it also revealed how well we can all come together in incredible ways for each other after a disaster.”

NCDOT encourages motorists to use caution and drive slowly in the area while crews continue to work over the next couple of months.

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## Bra burning movement

New York Times, Morgan said, “We wouldn’t do anything dangerous — just a symbolic bra burning.” This convinced most viewers and news outlets that burning bras was a preferred practice among women’s liberationists.

The media’s relationship with feminism was fraught; many popular broadcasts mocked feminist protests. This led women to create and rely on their own journals and newspapers. The spreading of this myth allowed opposition to the feminist movement to undermine its message of seeing women as more than objects.

After 1968, critics would bring up bra-burning to mock feminist ideals and reduce their message to simply a ban on beauty products. This reduction of their message worked in turning women against one another, as more than a few women from the lower class were puzzled by the aversion to nice clothes and beauty products— things these women often longed to afford, and that represented upward social mobility.



Left: women at the 1968 protest outside the Miss America Pageant, throwing beauty items into a “freedom trash can” --- Photo via Google Images



Photo by Courtlyn Austin '29 via Flickr.

# Baseball salvages win in series finale with late-inning rally

The Brevard College baseball team (14–8, 3–3 USA South) fell in game two resumption, 14–2, before battling back for a 5–3 triumph in the series finale over Methodist (8–12, 4–2 USAS) on Sunday afternoon at Gil Coan Field.

The Monarchs surged to the 12-run triumph in the resumption of the second game of the series. In the final game of the three-game set, trailing 3–1, BC scored three in the seventh and tacked on an insurance run in the eighth to secure the home conference win.

## GAME ONE: METHODIST 14, BREVARD 2 (7 INNINGS)

Brevard struck back, tying the game at 1–1 on a leadoff home run by Gavin Grant in the bottom of the first, but Methodist answered quickly and pulled away with a 17-hit performance.

After the teams traded runs early, Methodist took the lead for good in the third inning on an RBI single by Brandon Mauger. The visitors then seized control in the fourth, capitalizing on defensive miscues, stringing together four hits to plate four runs and extend the lead to 6–1.

Brevard trimmed the deficit to 6–2 in the bottom half of the fourth when Logan Sawyer scored on an RBI single by Kacey Shanks, but Methodist responded with its biggest inning of

the day in the fifth. The Monarchs erupted for six runs on six hits, aided by two Brevard errors and a wild pitch, pushing the advantage to 12–2.

Methodist added two more runs in the sixth to cap the scoring.

Grant led Brevard offensively, going 1-for-4 with a home run and an RBI, while Sawyer collected two hits and scored a run. Shanks also drove in a run for the Tornados.

Methodist starter Bryson Pope (2–1) earned the win, tossing five innings and allowing two runs on six hits with three strikeouts. Austin Rinzel paced the Monarchs at the plate, going 3-for-4 with four runs scored, while Kade Bell added four hits and four runs.

## GAME TWO: BREVARD 5, METHODIST 3

Brevard trailed 3–1 entering the bottom of the seventh before stringing together four consecutive hits with two outs to seize control.

After a leadoff walk and a sacrifice bunt put runners in scoring position, Nico Bartolotti delivered a two-out RBI single to cut the deficit to one. Davis Anders followed with a two-run single to center field, scoring Bartolotti and Bryson Genwright to give the Tornados a 4–3 lead.

Methodist had taken the lead earlier in the

inning on a solo home run by Kade Bell, breaking a 2–2 tie.

Brevard added an insurance run in the eighth when Shanks doubled and later scored on a sacrifice fly by Moe Love Jr. to extend the lead to 5–3.

Sophomore right-handed pitcher Colin Weathers recorded the final six outs to secure his first save of the season.

Senior right-handed pitcher Jonathan Germany (3–0) earned the win for Brevard, tossing seven innings and allowing three runs (two earned) while striking out six.

Brevard finished with nine hits, led by Shanks' 2-for-3 performance with two runs scored. Anders drove in two runs, while Bartolotti added two RBI.

The Tornados return to action on Saturday, March 28, to begin a three-game series against NC Wesleyan in Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

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.