



Dr. Betsy Burrows retires after three decades of transformative teaching at Brevard

Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

Since 1992, Dr. Betsy Burrows has been part of the strong foundation of the Brevard College community. As she prepares to transition her role as Director of Teacher Licensure, she leaves behind a program—and a generation of educators—shaped by her commitment to experiential learning and the “whole student.”

With a career spanning over 30 years at Brevard and a decade in public education, Dr. Burrows has witnessed a vast change in how we prepare teachers for the classroom.

Reflecting on the most significant shifts in her career, Dr. Burrows points to two era-defining challenges: the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of Artificial Intelligence. “During COVID, we saw a realization of the importance of mental health and social-emotional learning (SEL),” Burrows explains. “We have to teach the subject matter we love, but we also have to teach the skills that go across disciplines—collaboration, self-management, and responsibility. These are part of being a healthy individual.”

She views technology as a “double-edged sword,” particularly with the advent of AI. For Burrows, the goal of modern teacher preparation is helping students navigate these tools so they enhance, rather than obstruct, a deep and meaningful education.

If there is a signature footprint Dr. Burrows leaves at Brevard, it is the program’s unwavering focus on project and inquiry-based learning. Working alongside colleague Megan Keiser, she ensured the teacher education program mirrored the college’s overall mission of experiential education.

A point of particular pride is a co-authored



Dr. Betsy Burrows stands with her class, taught by both Burrows and Rev. Dr. Sharad Creasman, in the Learning in Community (LINC) course titled “Fire in the Word—Freedom, Faith, and African-American Literature” during their visit to Montgomery, Alabama.

paper with Keiser and then-student Brian Randall. The work, which focuses on inquiry-based practices in teacher preparation, remains a highly downloaded resource in the field. “We are known throughout the state as a small program that really works with project-based and experiential learning,” Burrows said.

The “Brevard Way” of learning was perhaps best captured in the interdisciplinary workshops Dr. Burrows fronted. One standout project took students to the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville.

“We studied the architecture, the geometry

of the freestanding dome, the history of the Spanish architect Guastavino, and the religious context,” she recalls. “Students even wrote travel brochures to synthesize their learning. It was about getting teachers to see the value in field trips and interdisciplinary projects.”

Perhaps the most prestigious chapter of her career was her selection as a Fulbright U.S. Scholar. This flagship international exchange program, which counts 60 Nobel Prize laureates and 88 Pulitzer Prize recipients among its alumni, sent Burrows to Halden, Norway, to work at the Norwegian Center for Foreign

Lynne Joyce, former Brevard College first lady, dies at 66

John B. Padgett
Contributor

Lynne Joyce, the wife of former Brevard College president David Joyce and a leadership expert who took on numerous roles at the college to beautify the campus, support the fine arts, and foster a deep sense of community, died of pancreatic cancer Thursday, April 2, 2026 at their home in Brevard. She was 66.

During David's presidency, he and Lynne were seen frequently on campus, often with their dog, Pigsaw, who like her owners relished interacting with students. The two of them worked together during his presidency, from 2012 to 2021, to improve the campus environment and make Brevard College one of the best liberal arts colleges in the South.

"She and David were co-leaders of the college, really," said Scott Sheffield, a history professor who was promoted to Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty during the first year of David's presidency. "If you got David, you got Lynne, and it was two for one. They were all in, all the time."

Among the improvements that Lynne spearheaded were campus beautification projects. Operating often on a shoestring budget, she led efforts to decorate and update many spaces on campus, including Myers Dining Hall and McLarty-Goodson.

One project undertaken during this period was the removal of the paved parking lot between Moore Science and Myers Dining Hall to create what became known as Robbins Plaza. Jennifer Frick-Ruppert, at the time a professor of biology and environmental science, recalls that the soil beneath the removed pavement was hard and dry and of poor quality.

"As soon as it was seeded, it started to rain, and Margaret Brown (a history professor who retired in 2024) and I laughed and said that David and Lynne had some special cosmic connection that kept the rains gentle and frequent that spring until the grass was all grown in," Frick-Ruppert said. "That seemed to be how everything worked around them, laying in improvements and supporting the new growth, whether it was grass in old parking lots, or artwork that brightened up the cafeteria, or new furniture in common areas, or in fostering the development of people."

Lynne played a large part in promoting fine arts at the college, especially with the annual Gala to raise money for the Friends of Fine Arts (FOFA).

"Lynne was such a beautiful light, and a gift to us all," music professor David Gresham said. "She did incredible work like transforming FOFA and shoring up support for the arts at BC, but, more importantly, she was an uplifting and graceful example of how to find a meaningful place in this world. She's an inspiration."

As chair of the Fine Arts Division, music professor Kathryn Gresham also had many opportunities to work closely with her. "Lynne was unlike anyone else I've worked with: she was a bundle of energy that ignited others and made us all feel more capable," Gresham said. "Students in particular felt supported and seen by Lynne. The joy she took in their work was palpable and meaningful to each of them."

Theatre professor Andrea Boccanfuso agrees, recalling how Lynne had a gift of making her feel valued whenever they collaborated on a project. "She was front and center at every theatre performance, music concert and gallery opening, endlessly supporting students and showing them that they matter," Boccanfuso said. "Her energy, enthusiasm and love



Lynne and David Joyce with their dog, Pigsaw, a mixed Siberian husky, Pomeranian, and miniature poodle. (Photo courtesy of Debbie D'Anna)

were contagious."

Debbie D'Anna, Dean for Students and Vice President for Student Success, considered Lynne her closest friend. They first met in 1995 at Union College in Kentucky, a couple of months after David had begun his first stint as a college president and where D'Anna was coaching basketball.

"My assistant, Sarah, suggested we invite Lynne to play golf," D'Anna recalls. "I am not a big golfer, but I said, 'Why not?' We were having a great time.

"Towards the end, Lynne leaned over in the golf cart to pick up a ball, and Sarah pushed her out of the cart. I was mortified when this happened, but Sarah and Lynne started laughing. The rest is history."

That friendship continued for more than 30 years, including when D'Anna was invited to come to Brevard College in 2012 to head the Campus Life Division. Never was their friendship more important, however, than when D'Anna learned in March 2025 that Lynne had been diagnosed with cancer.

"She went through a year of surgery, immunotherapy, and chemo, but

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Obituary: Lynne Joyce

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it just wasn't enough," D'Anna said. "The cancer was too aggressive and eventually took over. I was blessed to be by her side during the battle until the very end. Lynne was energetic and optimistic throughout the entire time. She fought as hard as she could to beat this cancer."

One of Lynne's most lasting legacies at the college, D'Anna said, was her gift of leadership training and executive coaching. "She was always willing to give the campus her time and talents to help us become better leaders," D'Anna said. "Lynne was a true servant leader."

Another of Lynne's important contributions to Brevard College was bringing the community together. Campus minister Sharad Creasman remembers her as a bright and radiant presence wherever she happened to be, someone whose compassion and kindness was not just felt but lived out daily. "She had a remarkable way of making people feel seen, valued, and loved, and her light will continue to shine in the countless lives she touched," he said.

Describing her as "the picture of southern elegance wrapped in a box of fun," D'Anna notes how much Lynne enjoyed just being with people.

"She loved to entertain and felt the president's home should be open to all," D'Anna said. "She was in her element hosting events, and her favorite was the Fine Arts Gala. She loved planning and hosting the Gala."

BC's fine arts paid homage back to her when art professor Kyle Lusk designed and constructed the Tornado sculpture in front of the field house in 2021, shortly before David's retirement as president. The plaque reads, "In honor of President David & First Lady Lynne Joyce for their service and leadership to Brevard College, 2012-2021."



Lynne Joyce and Debbie D'Anna try for a different look during an event at the president's house for graduating seniors. (Photos courtesy of Debbie D'Anna)

Lynne Joyce was born Oct. 11, 1959, the daughter of Boyce and Frances Caudle, and grew up in the Salisbury, North Carolina area. She attended Appalachian State University, earning a bachelor of science degree in education in 1981, then earned an MA in human resource development from Vanderbilt University in 1990.

In 1985, she married the Rev. Dr. David Joyce, and would serve as an integral partner to him during his career as president of three liberal arts colleges: Union College from 1996 to 2003, Ripon College, 2003-2011, and Brevard College, where Joyce served for 10 years until his retirement in December 2021.

She was field director of North Carolina Special Olympics for two years after earning her master's, then served three years as executive director of the Westerville Civic Symphony in Ohio. She also founded Leadership First Co. LLC, a leadership and consulting firm, which she owned and operated for more than 25 years.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by their daughter, Anna, and her husband Nicco Bracco, and grandsons Lucas and William of Davidson, North Carolina; a brother, Terry, and sister-in-law, Julia; a nephew, Chris, and his wife, Danielle; and an aunt, Lynette Hartsell, and her wife, Lori.

Frick-Ruppert, who is now Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, remembers Lynne as both a specialist in helping others develop leadership skills and a "joyful champion of others." While David worked diligently to improve the financial stature of the college, which included getting us off of probation with our accreditors, she said, "Lynne worked hard to improve the perception of this place—not only the perception that incoming students and visitors had of Brevard College, but how we perceived ourselves.

"Under their leadership, we both truly became and also began to imagine ourselves as a college that is alive and growing. Now we are starting to bloom."

A service celebrating the life of Lynne Joyce is scheduled for Sunday, April 26, at 1:30 p.m. in the Porter Center on the Brevard College campus. All are welcome.

“Can I borrow your T.V.?”: a student-led, outdoor video game hang-out instead of class

Zoe Hughes
Managing Editor

After the end of a half-semester-long class, students decided to bring out a folding table and two T.V.s to play games and watch television outside on Bill’s Boiler House patio.

The class was OLE157: Backpacking, and met every Wednesday at 9 a.m. They met once a week to discuss and learn the basics of backpacking. They went on their weekend trip from March 20–22, and Professor Austin Souto realized that the number of contact hours was met. They met one more time for a final skills check and exam, and then the class was done.

Students were playing “Mario Kart 8 Deluxe” and “Super Smash Bros.” on a peer’s Nintendo Switch, which belonged to senior Kenzie Lozano. Senior Matthew Leliveld provided an Xbox console, where they played “MX Vs. ATV” and “Minecraft.” One television displayed the gaming activities, while the other showed a recording of a fireplace with smooth jazz playing in the background for ambiance, as noted by freshman Logan Vanderpool.

The backpacking students spent the morning, afternoon, and evening getting snacks and drinks from Bill’s and playing video games; they were there from a little after 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. They



Left to right: freshman Wilson DeGarmo, freshman Logan Vanderpool, senior Matthew Leliveld, senior Mya Dixon play Mario Kart — Photo by Zoe Hughes.

invited fellow students who happened to be passing by to play a round of the games. Others watched as people took their turns.

This impromptu outdoor gaming session was first spotted by administrative assistant, as well as the math and science division and campus adventures director, Beth Banks, who said, “It

looks so fun... I wish I were in college again!” These students were bored and did not have much else to do. According to Leliveld, they will probably be out there again on Wednesdays, but definitely not for as long!

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Dr. Burrows to retire

Languages in Education.

While there, Burrows served as a cultural ambassador. She shared insights on Appalachian culture and American protest music while researching how the Norwegian “holistic” curriculum could be brought back to enrich 21st-century teacher preparation at Brevard. “Norway and the Scandinavian countries are often recognized for their holistic, inquiry and project-based public educational system,” Burrows said in an inter-

view with The Transylvania Times. “I wanted to learn there and bring new ideas to Brevard.”

For those stepping into their first classroom this year, Dr. Burrows offers grounded, empathetic wisdom. “Find a good mentor—a teacher in that school you can talk to. Be easy on yourself. Have boundaries. You could do this 24/7, but you don’t need to. Don’t go for perfect; just be good enough at the beginning.”

As she looks toward retirement, Dr. Burrows

describes her future as an “unwritten, open book.” Her plans involve reading deeply to counter the surface-level nature of social media, hiking the trails of the Blue Ridge, and potentially writing for her former students.

“Being a teacher has been a good life for me,” Burrows said. “I feel honored by the colleagues and students who have taught me so much. It’s never been boring.”

Book Review of "Hunting Prince Dracula": a chilling sequel

Ivelysse Leighton
Staff Writer

When I first picked up "Stalking Jack the Ripper," I was immediately pulled in by Kerri Maniscalco's mix of mystery, science, and just enough romance to keep things interesting. With "Hunting Prince Dracula," the second installment in the series, Maniscalco leans even harder into the gothic atmosphere, trading the foggy streets of London for a secluded castle in Romania. The result is a darker, colder, and even more immersive story that builds on everything the first book set up.

The story follows Audrey Rose Wadsworth, a strong-willed and intelligent young woman studying forensic medicine, a path that is anything but acceptable for women at the time. She is sharp, curious, and not afraid to get her hands dirty, both literally and figuratively. Alongside her is Thomas Cresswell, her equally brilliant and endlessly charming partner, whose wit

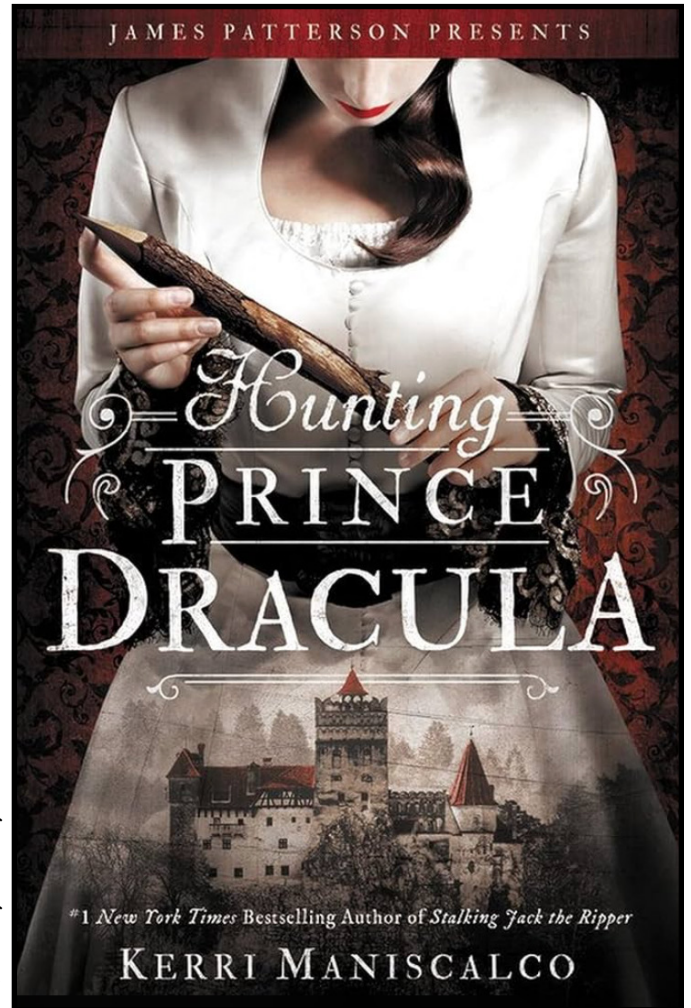
and confidence balance Audrey Rose's intensity. Their dynamic remains one of the book's strongest elements, rooted in both intellectual respect and undeniable chemistry.

This time, the two travel to Romania to attend a prestigious forensic academy set inside a castle that feels straight out of a nightmare. Almost immediately, students begin turning up dead under strange and violent circumstances. As Audrey Rose works to uncover the truth, the murders begin to mirror the legends of Dracula, forcing her to question what is real and what is myth. The deeper she gets into the investigation, the more dangerous and personal it becomes.

What stands out most in "Hunting Prince Dracula" is its atmosphere. The setting does a lot of the heavy lifting, creating a constant sense of unease. The isolated castle, the harsh winter landscape, and the looming presence of Dracula's legacy combine to make the story feel tense and claustrophobic. It's the kind of book where the environment feels just as threatening as the killer.

The pacing is steady, though it slows slightly in the middle as the mystery unfolds. While some readers may find parts of the plot predictable, the tension never fully disappears. Instead, it builds quietly, relying more on suspense and mood than constant action. This works in the book's favor, especially for readers who enjoy a more atmospheric mystery.

Character-wise, the novel continues to shine. Audrey Rose remains a compelling protagonist, balancing determination with vulnerability. She's not perfect, and that is what makes her feel real. Thomas also develops further, showing that there is more to him than charm and clever remarks. Their relationship grows in a way that feels natural, adding emotional depth without



taking over the story.

Even the side characters contribute meaningfully, each adding suspicion, tension, or insight into the larger mystery. No one feels unnecessary, which helps keep the story focused despite its slower moments.

If I had to describe "Hunting Prince Dracula" in a few words, I would say it's eerie, immersive, and quietly intense. It builds on the foundation of the first book, deepening it with a richer setting, higher stakes, and stronger character dynamics.

Overall, I would give "Hunting Prince Dracula" a 4 out of 5 stars. It may not be perfect, but its atmosphere, characters, and chilling premise make it a standout sequel that is hard to put down.

THE CLARION

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Brevard College Theatre presents 'The Mad Ones' April 16-19

Brevard College Theatre is proud to present *The Mad Ones*, a thought-provoking, life-affirming new musical by Kait Kerrigan and Bree Lowdermilk. The production features Brevard College students Lyric Contarino '27, Miranda Burke '29, Tommy Ives '28, and Audrey Dearman '29, with an understudy cast featuring Morgan Maynard '28, Tallulah Fish '29, Logan Hislop-Boccanfuso '29, and Nell O'Brien '27.

The show will run Thursday–Saturday, April 16–18, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, April 19, at 2:30 p.m. in the Morrison Playhouse at Brevard College's Paul Porter Center for Performing Arts.

The Mad Ones follows Sam, a young woman at a crossroads at the end of her senior year of high school. After losing her friend Kelly in a tragic car accident, Sam must decide her own path—whether to follow the expectations of her overbearing mother, the example of her free-spirited friend, or the future she once imagined with her high school sweetheart.

Directed by Brevard College faculty member Dan Toot, the ensemble musical features a soaring indie-rock score and an intimate story that reminds audiences the road ahead may not be smooth, but the journey is worth every mile.

Due to adult language and themes, this production is not recommended for young children. The show runs approximately 95 minutes with no intermission.

Ticket prices are \$5 for students, faculty, and staff, and \$15 for the general public. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.onthestage.tickets/show/brevard-college/themadones> or at the door, if available.

Brevard College is located at One Brevard College Drive in Brevard, North Carolina. For more information, go to <https://brevard.edu/theatre/> or call (828) 641-0605.



Members of the cast for *The Mad Ones*, a new musical that will run April 16-19 in the Morrison Playhouse at Brevard College's Paul Porter Center for Performing Arts.

The Transylvania All-Star Percussion Ensemble to perform April 13 at the Porter Center



Brevard College Fine Arts presents Monday Night at the Movies, featuring the Transylvania All-Star Percussion Ensemble on Monday, April 13, at 7 p.m. in Scott Concert Hall at the Paul Porter Center for the Performing Arts on the BC campus. Percussionists from Brevard College, Brevard High School, and Brevard Middle School will combine onstage in costume to perform popular music from blockbuster films and video games.

The program will include music from Harry Potter, How to Train Your Dragon, Married Life from Pixar’s “UP”, Halo 2, Tetris, The Mandalorian, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Clair Obscur, Expedition 33, Casper, and Man of Steel.

In addition to standard percussion instruments, the performance will feature a variety of unique sound effects, including toy piano, baby celeste, tuned desk bells, ocean drums, water phone, and bowed marimba. Guest artists will also perform on piano, synthesizer, double bass, and electric bass, along with vocal accompaniment.

Admission is free for the approximately one-hour concert, which includes an intermission.

Michigan prevails in title game. First national basketball championship victory in 37 years. Elliot Cadeau named tournament's "most outstanding player"

Tyler Mabry
Staff Writer

This past Monday, the Division I basketball national championship was played in Indianapolis, where Michigan would play in an absolute dogfight of a game against the UConn Huskies. After a 37-year long drought for the basketball program, the Wolverines rose again to the top, beating the Huskies 69-63.

The Wolverines' victory caps off an already historic season and tournament run, as they went 37-3 during the 2025-2026 season. That record alone is the best they've ever had in the NCAA-era, and with that, they went an incredible 19-1 in Big Ten conference play.

Throughout a tough conference schedule, Michigan still averaged 87.3 points per contest, which is good for the ninth-best in the nation. Even though their road to the championship wasn't easy, the Wolverines made it seem like a cakewalk, beating their opponents by an average of 19 points through their six tournament games.

The contest was a very close game throughout, with both teams trading punches. With under two minutes left, Trey McKenney, a freshman guard from Flint, Michigan, hit a dagger three-point shot to make the score 65-56, Michigan. That shot sealed the victory for the Wolverines as the deficit was too large for the Huskies to claw back from.

That three-point shot was only one of the two out of the 15 attempts the Wolverines made during the game. They struggled in the field Monday night, but they made up for it with tremendous defense down the stretch to keep the Huskies' offense at bay.

For Wolverines' head coach Dusty May, this title victory means a little more to him. May was born and raised in Indiana, and he attended Indiana University, where he graduated in the



Elliot Cadeau.

class of 2000. It was special for him to rise to the top for the first time in his coaching career in the state where he grew up all those years ago.

After the game was over and the nets were cut down, the NCAA had to name the tournament's "most outstanding player," which went to junior guard Elliot Cadeau. Cadeau transferred from the University of North Carolina before his junior season, where he had struggled to carve out a role for himself his first two years.

However, Coach May believed in him, and Cadeau flourished because of his support. The guard from West Orange, New Jersey, averaged 10.5 points per game, while shooting a

career-best 37.6 percent from beyond the arc. He also distributed the ball at a high level all year, averaging six assists per game.

When the lights got brighter, Cadeau performed stronger; he increased his scoring output to 12.7 points per contest. He also averaged an extra 1.5 assists per game in the tournament compared to the regular season. This brought his assist totals to 7.5 per contest. This made him a dangerous player to guard, and he was overflowing with confidence throughout the tournament.