

# Second annual Leave No Trash University Challenge to begin April 18

Madeleine Pollock  
Copy Editor

Students, staff, and faculty are encouraged to participate in the second annual Leave No Trash University Challenge—a global Earth Month initiative started by Leave No Trace and facilitated by the OLEE department—that will be happening from April 18 to 26.

In 2025, Brevard College won the challenge for the largest amount of trash picked up, and placed second in the number of participants, despite going up against some big universities like NC State and Notre Dame, among others; trash pickups occurred on campus, downtown, in local parks and rivers, in Pisgah National Forest, and on the Brevard Greenway.

This campaign seeks to remove trash from campuses and communities, with the main goal of educating the public about ethical waste practices. Participants document their findings as part of a Citizen Science Project at CitSci.org.

“We hope to get more people in our campus community involved by creating or joining organized clean-ups. We also want to help individuals feel empowered to participate by picking up trash during their daily activities,” Professor and Director of Outdoor Leadership and Experiential Education, Dr. Jennifer Kafsky, said. “We hope that this year we can increase connections on the CitSci website to build awareness about the initiative.”

There will be a group cleanup organized by the OLEE department on Saturday, April 25, at 10 a.m. at the OLEE barn, and some classes will be dedicating time during the week to do trash pickups. If you are unable to attend anything



Students picking up garbage in the community during the 2025 challenge.

organized, you are encouraged to do one on your own or with a group of friends!

Supplies to pick up trash can be found at the OLEE garage or checked out by contacting

Neal Beam ([beamnr@brevard.edu](mailto:beamnr@brevard.edu)). It is suggested that you book these ahead of time to ensure that they are available when you want to use them.

To begin collecting trash, set up a CitSci account and join the Leave No Trash Challenge at [CitSci.org](https://CitSci.org), and then grab gloves, garbage bags, and find a spot on campus or in the community that you want to clean up. Take photos of trash

and your crew while you clean up to submit with the Datasheet.

New for this year, participants have been asked to measure their trash in five gallon buckets to ensure accuracy in reporting the amount of trash. There will be pink buckets beside the garbage and recycling bins outside the OLEE Garage on the King’s Creek side. Items that are too large to fit in the buckets can be documented by photos and then disposed of in the dumpsters.

Here is a breakdown of the steps:

Gather and protect your participants with gloves.

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# Christ Club shares the word of God around campus

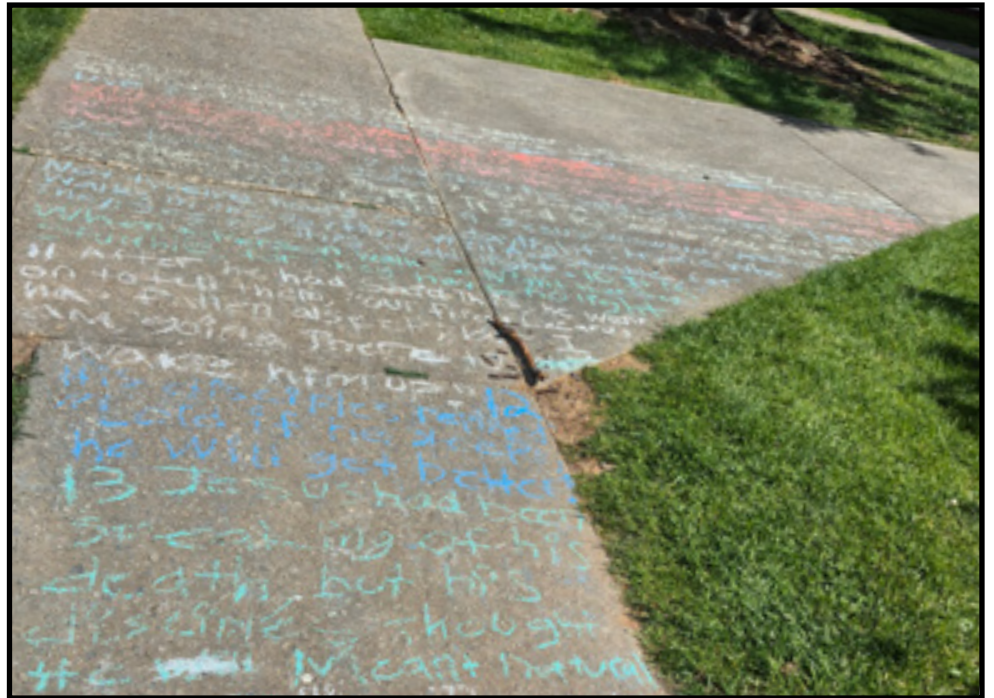
**Zoie Stiller**  
Contributor

The Book of John is being showcased in a unique way on campus. Over the weekend, the Christ Club organized an event where members invited everyone to join them in writing the entire Book of John from the Bible on the sidewalk.

Their project began in the gym area and extended over the bridge to the open space between Jones and Beam Hall. They dedicated a significant amount of time to this effort, working from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. to transcribe the scriptures and make them visually appealing.

I had the opportunity to witness their hard work up close. The event was well organized and thoughtfully executed. Everyone came together and put forth their best efforts to share the word of God.

This initiative beautifully represented the spirit of collaboration among various groups and organizations on campus, creating lasting memories and beautiful art!



# Go pick up some trash!

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- Obtain bags or buckets to collect trash.
- Clean up an area and take photos as you go.
- Make a CitSci Account and join the Leave No Trash Challenge.
- Measure your trash in the pink five-gallon buckets.
- Fill out the Cleanup Datasheet on CitSci and upload your photos!
- More details about the event can be found on CitSci.org.

**Right: Professor of Geology and Reigstrar, Quintin Overocker picking up garbage in King's Creek during the 2025 challenge**



QR Code to the CitSci Leave No Trash University Challenge.

## Brevard College Theatre presents Mixtape — An Evening of Dance, Capstone Presentations, Current Projects, and Films

Brevard College Theatre will present Mixtape, an evening celebrating student work, on Friday, April 24, at 7 p.m. at the Paul Porter Center for Performing Arts.

This event features two acts, with Act I taking place in the Morrison Playhouse and Act II happening in Scott Concert Hall.

The first act will include a dance segment from Rebecca Rainboldt-Cook’s Ballet and Modern Dance class, a directing capstone presentation from Roxanne Petryshak, director of this season’s mainstage show Constellations, and a theatre and film capstone presentation from Camille Bonnin, who created a documentary on the process of Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt 2B. Artifacts from lighting design, computer-aided drafting, and stagecraft will also be on display.

The evening continues with Act II, featuring several short films presented in Scott Concert Hall. Bonnin’s documentary will be screened, followed by Flunked Up, a film written, directed and edited by Owen Clark and described as “After butchering their final exam, two newly acquainted college students hatch a plan to steal and fix their answers.”, will follow. The evening concludes with the short thriller The Coder: “In the midst of a catastrophic software crisis at a crypto startup, CTO Mary (played by faculty member Abbey Toot) must race against time to save her company — and her sanity.”

The evening is expected to run approximately



Students and the community gathered for the 2025 Mixtape —An Evening of Dance, Capstone Presentations, Current Projects, and Films.

two hours and will include an intermission.

Brevard College Theatre is a company that prioritizes collaboration and the exploration of theatre arts as a means of communication and social action. Within the College’s mission of experiential learning, faculty and staff strive to present students with authentic and meaningful experiences representative of real-world produc-

tion and performance in the theatre and film industries. The local community is welcome to participate in this effort by supporting student work through the performances of Mixtape.

Admission for campus community members and the public is free.

## Student Spotlight: Obie Grimes

**Jordan Ramey**  
Staff Writer

Obie Grimes is a senior at Brevard College and his time is coming to an end with graduation rapidly approaching. Grimes is from Gwinnett County, Georgia. From a young age, he knew he loved sports and most of all he loved football. He enjoyed an illustrious career in high school, which earned him an opportunity to bring his

talents to Brevard College’s football team and that’s just what he did.

As we all know, we are students before athletes and Grimes decided to major in criminal justice. After graduation, which is coming up in a couple of weeks, Grimes plans to serve in our United States Army. He hopes to become an Army Ranger, and eventually head to the Army’s Officer Candidate School.

Grimes was able to leave quite the impact on the turf of Ives-Lemel Field, as this past fall

season was his best. He was celebrated with all-conference and all-region honors. In some articles, it stated that online he had received votes to become an all-American. He’ll leave as one of Brevard’s most decorated student-athletes in the NCAA era.

Grimes will be missed around campus every day as he goes on to other endeavors in life; however, it is going to be exciting to see his successes. Good luck, Obie!

# Nine BC students and two professors participate in the Popular Culture Association National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia

**Autumn Jones**  
Editor in Chief

From April 8–11, a group of nine students and two instructors traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, for the Popular Culture Association (PCA) National Conference. Established in 1970, the PCA is the premier academic organization for studying how everything from film and gaming to digital media shapes our society.

For the Brevard cohort, the trip was the epitome of experiential learning, moving research out of the classroom and into a professional academic forum.

Brevard's presence was felt across multiple disciplines, with students presenting original research alongside veteran scholars. The presentations covered a diverse array of cultural phenomena:

**Science Fiction & Tech:** Tyler Mangrum explored cloning and social inequality; Lili White and Tiffin Jacobs tackled "Technological Dreams" and environmental fears; and Angie Martino tracked the evolution of cryosleep from "curiosity to control."

**Media Analysis:** Chloe Banner analyzed what past films say about our future, while Courtney Wall traced the Gothic influence of Dracula on modern vampires.

**The "South Park" Scholars:** McKenna Deets



From back left to right: Angie Martino, Chloe Banner, Karis King, Summer Crist, McKenna Deets, and Tiffin Jacobs. Front left to right: Tyler Mangrum, Lili White, and Courtney Wall.

and Summer Crist decoded the show as social commentary, while Karis King investigated the character of Eric Cartman.

Faculty members Charles Ecenbarger and Cagney Guest also contributed to the academic dialogue, presenting a session on how to use

popular culture to teach history and media literacy. Their session was well-received and generated meaningful engagement during the Q&A.

The conference was more than just a series of presentations. Students were immersed in the academic world, attending at least three panels a day and participating in nightly group debriefs. "It was wonderful to attend all kinds of different panels and listen to people speak about things they are passionate about," said student Chloe Banner. "Most of the time, people look at media in a surface-level way, so it was great to engage in critical analysis and have deep discussions with other people who were as big of nerds as I am."

When not at the conference hotel, the group explored Atlanta's cultural landmarks, including the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, the World of Coca-Cola, and the Georgia Aquarium. These visits allowed students to see the intersection of history and media in real-time, bridging the gap between theory and practice.

For many, the most lasting impact was personal. Presenting at a national level requires a high degree of professionalism, from refining research to fielding live questions from an unfamiliar audience.



Karis King presents on the character of Eric Cartman.

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# BC represents at the Popular Culture Association National Conference

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Professors Charles Ecenbarger and Cagney Guest and students Chloe Banner, Tyler Mangrum, Lili White, Angie Martino, Karis King, and Courtney Wall at Mushroom Pizza. All photos via Angie Martino.

Senior history major with an added teaching licensure Angie Martino reflected on the transformative nature of the trip. “I feel I have gained a new sense of confidence in my work and public speaking skills... The opportunity as a whole was simultaneously educational, fun, and formative.”

Martino also noted the importance of the community built during the trip. “The conversations we had as a group each night were thought-provoking and insightful... Both the students and professors who accompanied us made me feel entirely comfortable and assured that I was ready.”

To learn more about PCA and future conference opportunities, visit [www.pcaaca.org](http://www.pcaaca.org).

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# Fire restrictions on all four National Forests in North Carolina beginning April 15

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service will restrict all open burning and campfires outside of developed recreation sites on North Carolina’s four national forests starting Wednesday, April 15, 2026, in response to the elevated fire danger occurring across the state.

The restriction includes building, maintaining, or using an open fire, campfire, or stove fire on the Pisgah, Nantahala, Uwharrie, and Croatan National Forests. Visitors are still permitted to use commercially available fuel stoves, such as portable propane camp stoves or covered charcoal grills. Forest Service-provided grills, metal fire rings, and fire pits are also available for public use at developed recreation sites and campgrounds while the restriction is in effect.

These restrictions will remain in place until there is a change in fire danger to reduce the risk of human-caused fires during unusually high fire

danger and/or burning conditions.

Fire professionals analyze several factors when deciding to enact fire restrictions. These factors include the number of human-caused fires, fire danger ratings, persistent adverse weather conditions, fuel moisture conditions, and the potential threat to firefighters and public safety.

The restriction on the four federally managed national forests follows the statewide ban issued on all open burning.

For more information, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/r08/northcarolina](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r08/northcarolina), follow the National Forests in North Carolina on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/nfsnc](http://www.facebook.com/nfsnc)), or contact the local district ranger’s office.

# An Ache That Lingers: A Book Review of “Alchemised”

Ivelysse Leighton  
Staff Writer

This is the kind of book that doesn't just make you emotional, it wears you down slowly, pulling you under until you don't realize how deep you've gone until it's too late. It lingers in a way that feels almost personal, settling somewhere in your chest and refusing to leave. It's intense, unsettling, and deeply affecting, and if you go into “Alchemised,” you need to be ready for that.

SenLinYu builds a dark, war-scarred world where power belongs to those willing to cross moral lines, and survival often comes at the cost of identity. The story follows Helena Marino, a once-skilled healer and alchemist, who wakes up with no clear sense of her past, only to find herself captured by the opposing side in a devastating conflict. From there, she is placed under the control of Kaine Ferron, a high-ranking figure tasked with uncovering the memories she has lost.

What follows is not just a story of captivity, but a slow unraveling of self. Helena is not only trying to survive what is being done to her, but also to understand who she is, while someone else searches her mind for answers. The process feels invasive and disorienting, and the writing reflects that, blurring the line between memory and reality until even the reader feels unsteady. You are not simply watching her struggle; you are pulled into it.

Helena stands out because her strength is not constant or clean. She resists when she can, but also falters, and those moments of weakness make her feel even more real. She is fighting to hold onto something she cannot fully remember, which makes every decision feel uncertain. That internal conflict drives the emotional weight of the novel, turning her journey into something that feels raw and immediate.

Kaine Ferron complicated that journey in ways that are difficult to ignore. At first, he appears controlled to the point of detachment, someone who carries out his role without hesitation or visible conflict. As the story progresses, though, that sense of control begins to shift. His interactions with Helena reveal something more layered, something that exists beneath the surface of his duty. There is a tension between what he is expected to do and what he allows himself to feel, and that tension gives his character a quiet

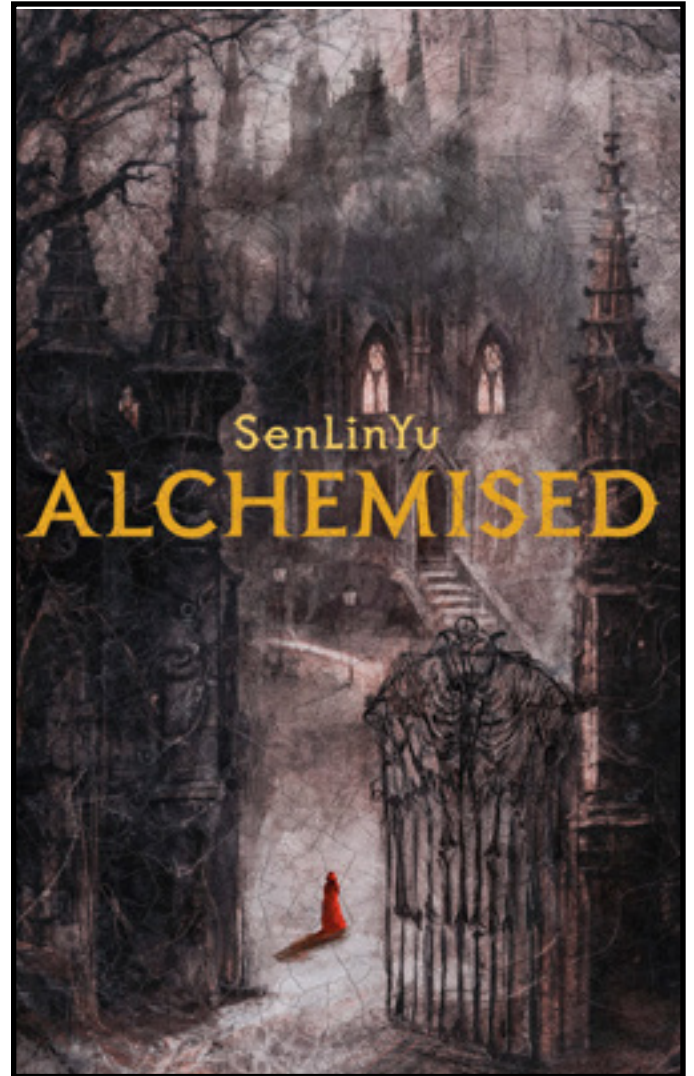
but powerful depth.

Their relationship develops within that tension, and it never feels simple. It's not comforting, and it's not meant to be. Instead, it grows in an environment where trust is fragile and often dangerous, which makes even the smallest moments of connection feel significant. At times, it feels like something that could save them, and at other times, it feels like something that could destroy them. That uncertainty is what makes it so compelling.

The world around them reinforces that sense of instability. It's harsh and unforgiving, shaped by the aftermath of war and controlled by those who hold power over life and death in very literal ways. There is no sense of safety, and very little sense of fairness. Every choice feels constrained by forces larger than the characters themselves, which makes their attempts to resist feel even more meaningful.

One of the most striking and memorable aspects of “Alchemised” is how it handles and addresses trauma. Rather than relying on sudden shock, it builds a steady emotional pressure that grows over time. Pain isn't isolated to a single moment; it builds, shaping both the characters' and the reader's experience. That slow build is what makes the story difficult to shake.

The prose strengthens the effect with a quiet, steady intensity. It never feels overdone, but it always feels deliberate. There's a clear contrast between the elegance of the writing and the brutality of what's happening, and that tension makes the emotional moments hit even harder. Certain lines linger, not because they're overwhelming, but because they're so exact.



This isn't a book that lets you keep your distance. It demands your full attention, even when it becomes uncomfortable, and its length only deepens that experience. You don't rush through it—you sit with it, carrying the weight of everything alongside the characters.

What stays with you most isn't one specific scene, but the feeling the book leaves behind. There's no neat resolution, no sense of release. Instead, there's a quiet heaviness that settles in and remains long after you've finished.

This is what makes “Alchemised” so powerful. It doesn't soften its edges or try to protect the reader. It tells a story that is willing to be difficult, and in doing so, it becomes unforgettable.

# Delight Dash: in photos



All photos by Isabella Zambuto.

# Brevard College WLAX Captain shares her thoughts on new interim coach

**Zoe Hughes**  
Managing Editor

A couple weeks ago, head women's lacrosse coach, Sarah Perry, resigned from the position and was replaced by Kristin Rosato as interim head coach.

Rosato had served as the Brevard women's lacrosse coach before taking the mantle this season, first starting in 2015. She stepped back from her role as head coach when she was promoted to assistant athletic director at Brevard College. After the previous coach resigned for unknown reasons, Rosato returned to temporarily fill the

shoes she once wore.

Junior women's lacrosse captain Madi Norris believes that Rosato has been a positive change for the team. With her high game I.Q. and passion at games, Norris says that she has "lit a fire under us." With the previous coach, Perry, the players were "going through the motions" at practices and games, but they came together as a team when they were told Perry had resigned, according to Norris.

Norris continued that the way Rosato structured practice fit the ranges of talents on the team; the newer players have a better understanding of the game, and the seasoned players

are able to help and get their own reps. But Rosato even has improved the team off the field. The interim coach planned for the ladies to go out and play disc together in teams as "really good team bonding," said Norris.

Rosato started as interim head coach in the later half of the season, when there are more challenging conference games. Thus, on paper, the team may not have been doing as well under the new leadership, but Captain Madi Norris believes that team feels and plays better under Rosato's direction. "She really stepped up when we needed her."

# Football Releases 2026 Schedule

The Brevard College football program has announced its schedule for the upcoming 2026 season.

"Now in our tenth year of participating in the USA South Conference, we look forward to another season of success as we strive for continuing excellence," commented Head Coach Bill Khayat. "With graduation came the departure of many prominent role players, and now is the time for a new wave of contributors to rise to the occasion. Our schedule, which begins with an Ives-Lemel Family Field advantage, includes all the familiar faces with one exception, the Guilford Quakers, an in-state rival from the ODAC."

The Tornados will compete in an even split of five home and five road contests, with seven games coming against USA South opposition and three non-conference matchups.

Brevard opens the 2026 slate at home on Saturday, September 12, at 1 p.m. against SAA member Sewanee. The Tornados and Tigers met for the first time on the gridiron in 2026, with BC prevailing in Sewanee, Tennessee, 26-10. BC then hits the road for Due West, South Carolina, on Saturday, September 19, to tangle with Erskine. BC and Erskine met at Ives-Lemel Family Field last season for the first time as

Brevard used a stellar comeback to defeat the Flying Fleet, 38-34.

The Tornados will then head to Greensboro, North Carolina, for a 6 p.m. kickoff against Guilford on Saturday, September 26. This will mark the first meeting in the sport of football for the Tornados and Quakers.

USA South action begins at home for BC on Saturday, October 3, as Belhaven visits Ives-Lemel Family Field for a 1 p.m. kickoff time. The Blazers hold a 3-1 all-time edge over the Tornados heading into 2026. Brevard will then travel to Buena Vista, Virginia, on Saturday, October 10, at 1 p.m. to face Southern Virginia at Knight Stadium. The Knights and Tornados have squared off nine times, with Brevard taking all nine meetings.

Defending USA South champion LaGrange visits Ives-Lemel Family Field on Saturday, October 17, at 2 p.m. as USA South action rolls on. The Tornados hold a 7-3 all-time record over the Panthers, while LaGrange has claimed the last two matchups. BC will then make the trip to Montgomery, Alabama, on Saturday, October 24 at 2 p.m. ET / 1 p.m. CT to square off against Huntingdon. The Hawks own an 8-2 all-time record against Brevard heading into 2026.

The 2026 regular season will conclude with three in-state conference foes: at home vs. Greensboro (Saturday, Oct. 31, 7 p.m.), at home vs. Methodist (Saturday, Nov. 7, 12 p.m.), and on the road vs. NC Wesleyan in Rocky Mount, N.C. (Saturday, Nov. 14, 12 p.m.). Historically, Brevard has been dominant against its in-state conference opponents, holding a combined 19-4 record against Greensboro, Methodist, and NC Wesleyan.

BC finished 2025 with six overall wins for the second consecutive season, and the Tornados went 3-0 against in-state opposition in 2025 to secure the inaugural "Spirit of the Old North" trophy with the best record amongst in-state opponents within the USA South Conference.

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