

COMMENCEMENT EDITION 2026

The CLARION

clarion.brevard.edu

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Graduates' BC memories, plans, and advice

2025-26 honors and awards

Women's soccer documentary

BC Athletics "BESPYs"

Volume 91, Issue 29

SERVING BREVARD COLLEGE SINCE 1935

May 15, 2026

The BC Class of 2026

Nearly 200 graduates receive diplomas in Brevard College commencement May 9

The temperature hovered around 55 degrees under partly cloudy skies, but for hundreds gathered on the Brevard College campus Saturday morning, the focus was on a different kind of degrees: specifically, those embossed on diplomas.

One of the largest classes in Brevard College history graduated May 9, during the 2026 Commencement Ceremony, as 144 bachelor's students and a record 41 master's students were awarded their degrees before a capacity crowd at Ives-Lemel Family Field.

"Graduates, you've made it," said Dr. Bradley J Andrews, president of Brevard College. "For years, you've been working with this day in mind, and this is the moment where we celebrate all of your determination and hard work. We celebrate your attainment of a noble goal."

The weekend's commencement festivities began the day before with a traditional Baccalaureate & Hooding Ceremony in the Paul Porter Center for Performing Arts. During Friday's ceremony, music professor Cole

Hairston was honored with this year's exemplary teacher award, which was followed by the hooding ceremony in which graduates were hooded by a faculty or staff member of their choice. The hoods featured the blue and white colors of Brevard College as well as colors representing each graduate's field of study.

Then on Saturday, it became official.

The graduation ceremony began with the ethereal sound of bagpipes as graduates in black regalia processed onto the field before proud family members and friends. It opened with a call to order by Chief Faculty Marshal Dr. Mary Louise Bringle. President Andrews delivered an opening welcome, followed by an invocation from the Rev. Dr. Sharad H. Creasman, BC's campus minister.

Heath Weldon '75, Chair of the Board of Trustees, offered greetings from the board, followed by a series of awards presented by President Andrews

Continued on [page 2](#)



As is traditional, members of the BC Class of 2026 posed on the steps of Jones Library for a class photo the morning of commencement. (BC Communications)

Graduation at Brevard College

Continued from [page 1](#)

and Dr. Jennifer Frick-Ruppert, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty.

The Lifetime Leadership Award, the institution's highest honor recognizing a legacy of shared leadership, service and commitment to the Brevard College community, was bestowed upon David and Lynne Joyce.

The Lifetime Leadership Award commemorates outstanding civic leadership and exceptional embodiment of Brevard College's core values in the spirit of its motto "Learn in Order to Serve." It marks only the second time the honor has been presented. In 2024, longtime Brevard College supporter Ray Henley was named the inaugural recipient.

Together, David and Lynne Joyce served as President and First Lady from 2012 to 2021, guiding Brevard College through a transformative era marked by growth, resilience and a deepened commitment to its mission. Lynne Joyce passed away on April 2, 2026. Her legacy remains deeply woven into the fabric of the College.

"David and Lynne Joyce defined a decade of critical leadership at Brevard College," Andrews said. "Their vision, heart and tireless commitment strengthened the College and the broader community, and their impact continues to resonate across campus and beyond. Their partnership powered the College through a difficult period and continues to shape Brevard College today and for years to come."



Joy Yousef, Brevard College's first-ever graduate from Egypt, served as the Senior Class Speaker for the 2026 Commencement. (Jameykay and Arlie Photography)

The Presidential Award for Distinction was awarded to Ivelysse Leighton, a double major in Business and English from Mount Dora, Florida. The award recognizes a graduating senior who demonstrates remarkable leadership, service, and academic achievement during their time at Brevard College.

Kelly Lawson was honored with the C. Edward and Brona N. Roy Good Citizenship

Award for exhibiting a record of moral character, citizenship, leadership, and a positive influence on campus. Lawson, a native of Barrie, Ontario, graduated as a double major in Business and Mathematics.

Eight graduates earned the Presidential Award for Scholarship after achieving perfect 4.0 grade point averages at Brevard College. The award recognizes graduating seniors with at least 62 hours of coursework completed who attained the highest academic rank based on cumulative grade point average.

Recipients of the Presidential Award for Scholarship were Charlyn Anderson (Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education; Meridian, North Carolina), Chloe Banner (Psychology; Jonesborough, Tennessee), Rachel Cooke (Art; Newton, North Carolina), Olive Leonardi (Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education; Cincinnati, Ohio), Kayla Philbrick (Psychology; Hendersonville, North Carolina), Jaxson Tumicki (Environmental Studies; Brandon, Florida), Ian Waldrop (Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education; Cleveland, South Carolina), and Joy Yousef (Exercise Science; Cairo, Egypt).

Unlike many colleges that invite an outside guest speaker, Brevard College encourages student growth and leadership by selecting an outstanding senior to speak at Commencement.

Yousef, this year's Senior Speaker and the first native of Egypt to graduate from Brevard College, delivered a thoughtful and heartfelt address, reflecting on the graduates' shared



Brevard College graduates celebrating at the 2026 Commencement. (Jameykay and Arlie Photography)

Graduation at Brevard College

experience at BC.

“Brevard College equipped us with the tools and experiences we will need for our future careers,” said Yousef. “I believe that our time here has not just given us academic experience

but also important life experiences that helped shape our character.”

Following the awards and speeches, members of the Class of 2026 crossed the stage to receive their diplomas from President Andrews.

Brevard College awarded a record 41 master’s degrees, just four years after graduating its first graduate student in 2022. The College also awarded its first-ever bachelor’s degree in Computer Science during this year’s commencement.

Twenty-two of the graduates hailed from Western North Carolina. In total, members of the Class of 2026 came to Brevard from 25 states and eight countries outside the United States: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, England, Egypt, France, Mexico, and South Africa.

To conclude the ceremony, President Andrews offered a charge to the graduating class, followed by the traditional Brevard College hymn “Guarded Well By Mountains,” led by Eliza Greenwell, who graduated with a degree in Music Education.

“Graduates, you now join a special group of people as the alumni of this small and mighty college,” Andrews said. “We know you will take the spirit of service with you to enrich the communities in which you will live and work.”

Both events were livestreamed on the college’s YouTube channel. To view them, visit <https://www.youtube.com/@BrevardCollegeNC> or scan the QR code.



A graduate receives her diploma from Brevard College President Bradley J. Andrews. (Jameykay and Arlie Photography)



A Brevard College tradition is for new graduates to exit the field between two rows of applauding faculty. (Photo by Graham Beasley)

Looking Glass Rock Writers' Conference hosts public readings

Annual conference turns 10 as it continues to explore 'a sense of place'

This year's Looking Glass Rock Writers' Conference will feature two public author events Friday, May 15, and Saturday, May 16. Free and open to all, the events will allow the public to hear from three nationally recognized authors Victoria Chang, Leslie Jamison and David Joy—serving as this year's conference faculty.

Each event will include live readings, audience Q&A and book signings.

The Transylvania County Library Foundation and Brevard College are co-hosting the conference. At 7:30 p.m., May 15 award-winning poet Chang and acclaimed essayist Jamison will read from their work at the Porter Center for Performing Arts on the Brevard College campus.

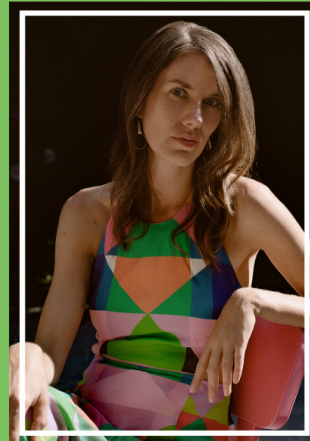
Chang is the author of several poetry collections, including "Obit," which won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and the PEN Voelcker Award, and "With My Back to the World," winner of the Forward Prize for Best Collection of Poetry. Known for her formally inventive and emotionally resonant work,

Chang explores themes of grief, identity and memory with striking originality, according to a news release. Jamison is the bestselling author of "The Empathy Exams," winner of the Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize, as well as "The Recovering" and "Splinters: Another Kind of Love Story."

Her writing blends memoir, criticism and reportage, the release said, to examine the complexities of human connection, addiction and transformation, earning comparisons to Joan Didion and Susan Sontag.

At 7:30 p.m., May 16 novelist Joy will read from his work at the Transylvania County Library. Joy is the author of five novels, including "Where All Light Tends to Go," an Edgar Award finalist; "When These Mountains Burn," winner of the Dashiell Hammett Award; and "Those We Thought We Knew," winner of the Willie Morris Award and the Thomas Wolfe Prize.

A native of North Carolina, Joy is widely recognized for his vivid, unflinching portrayals of life in Appalachia, capturing both the hardship and beauty of the region, according to the release.



Victoria Chang + Leslie Jamison

Friday, May 15 • 7:30 pm
Porter Center, Brevard College

David Joy

Saturday, May 16 • 7:30 pm
Rogow Room, Transylvania County Library

Award-winning authors will read from their works, followed by Q&A and book signings.

Free and open to the public.

Highland Books will be on site with books for sale.

Victoria Chang is a poet and Guggenheim Fellow whose work explores grief, identity, and memory through innovative forms. Her collection *Obit* won the PEN Voelcker Award and was a New York Times Notable Book. She is also the author of *With My Back to the World*, winner of the Forward Prize for Best Collection of Poetry, and serves as Bourne Chair of Poetry at Georgia Tech.

Leslie Jamison is an award-winning essayist and novelist whose work examines the complexities of empathy, addiction, and human connection. Her collection *The Empathy Exams* won the Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize and was a New York Times bestseller. She is also the author of *The Recovering* and *Splinters: Another Kind of Love Story*, and teaches in the Columbia University MFA program.

David Joy is a North Carolina novelist whose fiction is deeply rooted in the landscapes and people of Appalachia. His books include *Where All Light Tends to Go*, an Edgar Award finalist; *When These Mountains Burn*, winner of the Dashiell Hammett Award; and *Those We Thought We Knew*, winner of the Thomas Wolfe Prize. His essays have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *TIME*, and *Garden & Gun*.

learn more at lgrwc.org



Math professor earns statewide teaching award

Dr. Charles Wallis, associate professor of mathematics at Brevard College, has been honored by the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCCTM) as the 2025 recipient of the W.W. Rankin Memorial Award, the highest honor that the statewide organization can bestow upon a member.

The Rankin Award is designed to recognize and honor individuals for their outstanding contributions to NCCTM and to mathematics education. The award is named in memory of W.W. Rankin, Professor of Mathematics at Duke University. Wallis accepted the award at the NCCTM's 55th annual State Mathematics Conference held recently in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.



Charles Wallis was honored for his teaching by the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

"I was overwhelmed and surprised to receive this award," Wallis said. "It was very special and moving for me to be honored. With our focus on teaching and education, it's meaningful for Brevard College to be recognized as well."

The NCCTM awards committee cited Wallis' work from 2014-17 as a co-lead for Project LEAD, a statewide project that supported approximately 250 high school mathematics teachers from across North Carolina in deepening their understanding of mathematics and strengthening their teaching pedagogies through two-week summer institutes. In total, Wallis has been an active member of NCCTM for more than 25 years, providing sustained service to the organization. A native of Morganton, North Carolina, Wallis is currently in his 20th year teaching at Brevard College where he has taught mathematics since 2006.

Prior to his arrival at Brevard, he served as an assistant professor and later an associate professor at Western Carolina University for 11 years after beginning his teaching career at Gainesville College (Georgia). Wallis holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from North Carolina State University with his Master's and Ph.D. in Mathematical Sciences from Clemson University.

At Brevard College, Wallis is a past recipient of the Student Government Association's Teacher of the Year Award. This academic year at BC, he has been teaching courses such as Pre-Calculus, Calculus 2, Modern Algebra, Probability & Statistics and a theoretical calculus class titled "Real Analysis".

"Dr. Charles Wallis has always been a strong supporter of students," said Dr. Jennifer Frick-

Ruppert, Brevard College vice president of academic affairs and dean of faculty. "It is no surprise that he was recently recognized with an award from the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics that emphasized his support for mathematics education in the state. Brevard College is proud of its excellent faculty, and of Dr. Wallis in particular, who receives this prestigious award recognizing his quality in educating our students."

Brevard College joins a group of institutions that have produced past winners of the NCCTM's Rankin Memorial Award, including Appalachian State University, Duke University, East Carolina University, Elon University, North Carolina State University and Western Carolina University.

The award represents the latest example of academic excellence at Brevard College, which has been named one of the Best Colleges in 2026 by U.S. News & World Report as well as being recognized as a College of Distinction both nationally and in the state of North Carolina.

Additionally, Dr. Mel Bringle, professor of philosophy and religious studies at Brevard College, was selected earlier this academic year as the nation's outstanding teacher by the Association of General and Liberal Studies.

The North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCCTM) is the professional organization in North Carolina for the teaching of mathematics. An affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, NCCTM's membership includes teachers from all levels, kindergarten through graduate school, and other professionals who work with curriculum and materials for the teaching of mathematics.

Follow the construction of the new student center

No matter where you find yourself this summer, you can check on the progress to build the new student center on campus ... if you have Internet access, that is.

A live construction webcam was installed earlier this semester and is keeping constant watch on the construction site where generations of Brevard College students ate meals in Myers Dining Hall—or as it was more informally called, the Caf.

When completed in Spring 2027, the new center will include dining facilities and kitchens, a fitness center, lounges, fireplaces and game tables, an improved Boerner Conference Room and covered outdoor gathering spaces. The college is raising \$16 million to build the center.

To find out more about the new student center—or to make a donation—visit <https://brevardcollege-studentcenter.advancemyeducation/donate/>.



A view of the construction of the new student center on earlier this week. Visit <http://www.youtube.com/@BrevardCollegeConstructionLive> to check on construction anytime.

The BC Class of 2026

Master's Graduates

Kelsey Lynn Akers	Master of Business Administration
Tristan Bayssade	MBA - Business Analytics
Estevan O Berto	Health & Human Performance
Alexis Nicole Bowman	Master of Business Administration
Kelly Grady Brown	Master of Business Administration
Ian A Castellanos	Master of Business Administration
Leonardo Concencio Zabeu Lopes	MBA - Business Analytics
Pedro Eduardo Souza De Abreu	MBA - Business Analytics
Pedro Olivieri Pires Campos	MBA - Business Analytics
Elis Diniz Lobato	Health & Human Performance: Sports Coaching
Maggie Brianna Cox Dodson	Master of Business Administration
Carson Evans	Master of Business Administration
Jamon Ontario Fanning	Master of Business Administration
Joshua Edward Fitzgerald	MBA - Business Analytics
Lena Morgan Hatter	Master of Business Administration
Charles Edward Hudson	MBA - Business Analytics
Cassidy Leigh Hutto†	MBA - Sport Management
Melinda S Janeiro	MBA - Business Analytics
Roi Haim Kedar	MBA - Business Analytics
Alexandre Kiyam Mechri	MBA - Business Analytics
Daniel James Morgan	MBA - Business Analytics
Charles Edward Odom, II	Emergency Management
Zackary Scott Orr	Master of Business Administration
Natalie Diane Panther	Emergency Management
Luiz Matheus Pontes Barros	Health & Human Performance: Sports Coaching
Chyna Ja'vae Pouncey	Master of Business Administration
Justice Quashon Redmon	Health & Human Performance
Charles Mandrell Reed, JR	Master of Business Administration
Jessica Garrison Reigle	MBA - Business Analytics
Grace Elizabeth Reynolds	Master of Business Administration
Kiera Dayne Robinson	MBA - Business Analytics
James Anthony Rossi	Emergency Management
Facundo Daniel Sunhary	MBA - Business Analytics
Mason Tanner	Master of Business Administration
James Richard Tinsley	Health & Human Performance: Sports Coaching
Christopher Patrick Usher	Health & Human Performance
Brandon Michael Wade	Emergency Management
Trey Alexander Williams	Master of Business Administration
Ryan Taylor Willis	Master of Business Administration
Zyon Latone Wilson	Master of Business Administration

Bachelor's Graduates

Ethan David Abraham	Music
Savannah Marie Anderson**	Psychology, Criminal Justice
Charlyn Kacie Anderson***	WLEE
Nicole Esther Arroyo	Exercise Science
Elizabeth Rose Auciello	Childhood Education: Elementary (K-6)
Caleb Graham Baker	Criminal Justice
Chloe Madison Banner***†	Psychology

Ethan Scott Beamish	Physical Education & Recreation
Anthony L Belcher, II	Communication
Anthony Ryan Bell	Exercise Science
Jolize Beukman***	Childhood Education: Elementary (K-6)
Christopher Alexander Binns†	Biology
Nicole Elizabeth Bradbury***	Art
Dre'Shaun Geronto Brown	Business
Jaylen Anthony Brown	Criminal Justice
Brandon Christian Bruggman**	Business & Organizational Leadership
Abigail Grace Callahan**	Communication
Elizabeth Matet Carmichael	Environmental Studies
Jadon Blaze Carnes**	Physical Education & Recreation
Zane Todd Caudle**	Business & Organizational Leadership
Owen Matthew Clark	Business & Organizational Leadership, Integrated Studies
Kaitlyn Rose Connerley	Criminal Justice
Rachel Emmaline Cooke***	Art
Summer Cassidy Crist	Biology
Emma Rose Demcovich	Criminal Justice
Mia Rose Diaz*	Art
Sergio Diaz Gonzalez†	Health Science, Business & Organizational Leadership
Mya Kristen Dixon**	Criminal Justice
Hayden Paul Domingo***†	Criminal Justice
Maxwell Dorman*	Criminal Justice
Caue Diouf Andrade Dos Santos	Exercise Science
Adam Edward Douglas	Physical Education & Recreation
Kylee Lin Draper***†	Childhood Education: Early Childhood (B-K)
Caleb Iaian Duncan	Business & Organizational Leadership
Katherine Elise Ellison	WLEE
Lexus Victoria English***	Communication
Matthew Thomas Evans**†	Health Science
David Logan Ewing	Exercise Science
Andrew Michael Fahringer*†	Exercise Science
William Jackson Finney*	Exercise Science
Christine Keever Freeman	Integrated Studies
Chelsea Sarah Fritog	Psychology
Jonathan Braxton Germany	Criminal Justice
Breanna Rene Goff**	WLEE
Pierson Joshua Gordon	Computer Science
Gavin Paul Grant	Exercise Science
Gianluca Graziano	Music Education
Eliza Joy Greenwell	Music Education
Obadiah Benjamin Grimes	Criminal Justice
Olivia Danyale Guillermo	Health Science
Izzy Herrera Hagen*	Health Science
Amberlyn Marilee Hernandez***†	Criminal Justice
Anne Marie Herring**	Business & Organizational Leadership
Charlie J Hester	Business & Organizational Leadership
Josie Rose Hester	Business & Organizational Leadership
Evelyn Virginia Higdon*	Theatre
Xan Hunter Hill	Business & Organizational Leadership

The BC Class of 2026

Christian David Hobson.....	Criminal Justice	Etta-Leigh Liliquoy Rose*.....	Psychology
Cameron Rutledge Holbert**.....	Business	Jeremi Donnell Rudolph, JR.....	Business & Organizational Leadership
Elisabeth Rose Hornfeck***.....	WLEE	Logan James Sawyer***†.....	Biology
Kavan Horton.....	Exercise Science	Kaan Kenan Senturk.....	Business & Organizational Leadership
David Arthur Hoyle***†.....	Applied Physics, Mathematics	Abby Marie Shipman*.....	Environmental Studies
Zoe Lynne Hughes**†.....	Communication	Gregory Winton Simmons, JR.....	Exercise Science
Olivia Marie Hyde.....	Environmental Studies	Nathaniel Kaden Savaughn Simon.....	WLEE
Tiffin Della-Marie Jacobs*†.....	Business & Organizational Leadership	Imani Janay Singleton.....	Biology, Environmental Studies
Thad Pierce Johnston, JR.....	Integrated Studies	Alfredo Sixtos-Rodriguez**.....	Biology
Kylie Layne Katcher***.....	Business & Organizational Leadership	Sevi Ann Smith**.....	Music, Psychology
Gage Phillip Khayat.....	Business & Organizational Leadership	Matthew Ian Smith.....	Business & Organizational Leadership, Psychology
Andre Richard Kiley.....	Criminal Justice	Hannah Faith Sonnenberg.....	Music
Antonio Rontell King, JR.....	Criminal Justice	Logan Charles Southern.....	Criminal Justice, Communication
Briana Skye Landman**.....	Criminal Justice	Jack Spencer Spatz.....	Exercise Science
Mickey Noa Lasco*.....	Integrated Studies	Marcella Miche Rose Steele**.....	Environmental Studies
Kelly Li Min Lawson***.....	Business & Organizational Leadership, Mathematics	Jordan Tanner Strickland.....	Criminal Justice
Ivelysse Suzanne Leighton***†.....	Business & Organizational Leadership, English	Avalon Elizabeth Sweet***†.....	Psychology
Matthew Johannes Leliveld.....	Business & Organizational Leadership	Victoria Rose Sylvester*.....	Criminal Justice, Psychology
Olive Leonardi***.....	WLEE	Matheus Tanure Araujo Mateus.....	Communication, Business
Brody Wyatt Lindsey.....	Business & Organizational Leadership, Communication	Henry Boykin Tarte.....	Art
Emillee Jordan Long**.....	Childhood Education: Elementary (K-6)	Reginald Leon Taylor, II.....	Exercise Science
Kenzie Lynn Lozano.....	Health Science	Signe Anne Thorsen***.....	Integrated Studies
Kiara May Lylyk.....	Exercise Science	Elissabeth Grace Segers Tinsley*†.....	Biology
Wanya Dante Martin.....	Communication	Tristan Wynn Troutman*.....	Environmental Studies
Angelena Marie Martino.....	History	Jaxson Alexandria Tumicki***†.....	Environmental Studies
Addie Marsh McAlister.....	Communication	Mary Grace Vallentine***.....	Criminal Justice, History
Gavin Grant McCoy*†.....	Health Science	Ian Baker Waldrop***†.....	WLEE
Jermaree Devion McDaniel.....	Exercise Science	Abigail Maeve Waldrop***.....	WLEE
Olivia Shea Miller.....	Business & Organizational Leadership	Lauren Grace Ward.....	Elementary Education
Martin Moguel Aguilar**†.....	Communication, History	Noah Lee Westbrook.....	Criminal Justice
Ellen Victoria Mullins***.....	Music	Liliana Reyes White***†.....	Communication
Aguilar Aparecido Oliveira.....	Exercise Science	Jaxsen Kalee Wilkerson.....	Business & Organizational Leadership
Emerson Russell Peck.....	Health Science, Psychology	Ashton Michael Williams.....	Exercise Science
Braedyn Christopher Perez.....	Business & Organizational Leadership	Katlyn DaHeaven Lee Wynn.....	Business & Organizational Leadership, Communication
Brice Alan Peterson.....	Business & Organizational Leadership	Joy Morad Helmy Makram Yousef***.....	Exercise Science
Roxxanne Anastasia Petryshak***†.....	Theatre	Mikayla Elise Zvekan.....	Business, Communication
Schuyler Elizabeth Pettibone***.....	Environmental Studies		
Jada Raishon Petty-Wilkins.....	Business & Organizational Leadership		
Kayla Maureen Philbrick***.....	Psychology		
Kember Bailey Phillips*.....	Art		
Owen Lewis Plucar.....	Exercise Science		
Ariel Lynn Podlogar**.....	Environmental Studies		
Tiernan Sean Ponder*†.....	Mathematics		
Kiara Lucienne Porcelli**.....	Childhood Education: Elementary (K-6)		
Cole Frederick PUNCHARD*.....	Business & Organizational Leadership		
Baylee Clyde Ramey.....	Business & Organizational Leadership, Communication		
Christena Alexis Rhone.....	Business & Organizational Leadership		
Hailey Riddle.....	Communication		
Rowyn Quinn Roberts**.....	English		
Seth O'Ryan Gage Robinson†.....	Exercise Science, Health Science		

Key to honor designations:

*** Summa cum laude

** Magna cum laude

* Cum laude

† Honors Program Graduate

This list includes fall 2025 and spring 2026 graduates and summer 2026 candidates. By policy, summer and certain fall candidates may march in the spring commencement ceremony, but GPA-based honors are not bestowed until all of the student's final grades have been posted.

BC Memories...

Each year for our commencement edition, The Clarion invites graduating seniors to send us some of their favorite memories and photos from their time at BC, their immediate plans after graduation, and their advice for other BC students.

This year, we received submissions from 31 graduates. Their contributions, lightly edited, are on the following pages.

Many thanks to everyone who sent us contributions. And congratulations to all of this year's graduates!

A video of these photos will be available on the Clarion's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@bcclarion.



Bespys 2026. (Photo courtesy of Victoria Rose Sylvester)



Tiernan Ponder, Jose Garces, Ivelysse Leighton, Summer Crist. Fall 2024. Party on campus. (Photo courtesy of Ivelysse Leighton)

My favorite memories were always when everyone was out by the creek sunbathing, playing games, and blasting music!
—Summer Crist

The Hilton Head trip with the tennis team.
—David Hoyle



Going to a really shady bakery in Hendersonville with my friends at 8 p.m. for tres leches cake. We thought we were going to be mugged and the cake wasn't even that good. We got back safely and laugh about it now.

—Chloe Banner

Being a part of the baseball team.

—Gavin Grant

I am proud that I pushed myself to try new things and work at a new summer camp. This is at Cheerio on the New River in Virginia. Pictured are Antonio, Orion, and myself. (Photo courtesy of Ian Waldrop)



Gaming Club at the creek, Spring 2024: Kylee Draper, Ian Waldrop, Rowyn Roberts, Chloe Banner, Buckley Harris, Connor Derrick, Chris Binns, & David Dempsey. (Photo courtesy of Kylee Draper)



This is from gaming club in spring of 2024 with me (Rowyn Roberts) Kylee Draper (front) and Chloe Banner (middle) (Photo courtesy of Rowyn Roberts)



When I got my first tackle for a loss at Brevard. (Photo courtesy of Zyon Wilson)

Completing the
Immersion Semester.
—Olive Leonardi

Raving about food with our co-instructor Molly on our 21-day Immersion expedition. We would get on the subject of foods we like or are excited to try when we get back to “society,” and everyone else would shun us to the back of the group because we were making them hungry. But we would get more excited and would be so loud that they could still hear us, lol.

—Ian Waldrop



Playing FIFA in Stanback's study room. (Photo courtesy of Martin Moguel Aguilar)

My first career strike out against Northern Lynn, Vermont and my final strike out against Greensboro College 2 weeks ago.
 —Gregory Winton Simmons Jr

Playing FIFA in Stanback's Conference Room. We wanted to play, but the room was too crowded. We saw the conference room was open, plugged the console to the TV, and played for hours. We created a career mode, created ourselves in the game, and had one of the best times of my life.
 —Martin Moguel Aguilar

When I got told by Michael Moreschi made me the victim in his class for walking into class a min late.
 —Noah Lee Westbrook



ME Gregory Simmons talking to my intern boss, Mr. Richie at the new honeycomb gym in downtown Brevard, where I was shadowing/helping with his workout sessions with certain clients as part of my internship for my major and exercise science, and helping me become hopefully a personal trainer in the future. (Photo courtesy of Gregory Simmons)



My freshman year, my friends and I spent time by the creek during spring finals just relaxing and playing games. That was the first time I felt like I belonged at Brevard College, as I was surrounded by friends.

—Rowyn Roberts

My favorite memory is playing baseball with my friends.

—Gavin McCoy

My favorite memory at Brevard would be the soccer games under the lights, especially the conference tournament games over the past few years. Those were some of the most electric nights that are memorable. Another strong option would have to be during Hurricane Helene the softball went out to the turf and treated it like a slip and slide!

—Ivelysse “eevie weevie” Leighton

Tiernan Ponder and Ivelysse in Fall of 2022 attending our first college semi-formal. (Photo courtesy of Ivelysse Leighton)



All of the Immersion Students at the end of Spring Semester 2025 on the last day of our expedition. Olive Leonardi, Bre Goff, Elisabeth Hornfeck, Dustin Vanover, Kyle Gay, Connor Dula, Kaden Simon. (Photo courtesy of Olive Leonardi)



Taking pictures for Christmas postcards. Brevard College Fall 2025. Kylee Draper, Rowyn Roberts, Chloe Banner, Abbey Waldrop, Jackson Tumicki. (Photo courtesy of Chloe Banner)

My senior year. It really was the pinnacle of my time at Brevard College, since I kind of squandered the middle bits of going here. I didn't talk much, or really bother with making friends since I was a commuter. Going into senior year and being in Senior Studio made that self-imposed isolation impossible. I really loved finally being able to open up and collaborate with my fellow senior art majors!

—Mia Diaz



Humanities awards 2026, telling a joke next to Dr Kuck and Dr Whitaker (Photo courtesy of Martin Moguel Aguilar)



I'm thankful and excited to have found friends who enjoy nerding out together. Running the Gaming Club was a great way to build community on campus for people who may not feel otherwise invited to participate in social events. Seeing the Super Mario Galaxy Movie with some members of the club was a full circle moment for me. (Photo courtesy of Ian Waldrop)

Gaming Club set up at trunk or treat. Brevard College Fall 2025. Chloe Banner, Kylee Draper, Ian Waldrop. (Photo courtesy of Chloe Banner)



Victoria and Owen senior day cross country. (Photo courtesy of Victoria Rose Sylvester)

My history courses have been where my best memories at Brevard come from. The classes are always engaging and interesting, they lead to some great conversations and amazing learning. I have connected with so many other students through them and have even gained amazing relationships with my professors.

—Angie Martino

Connecting with new people.

—Charlie Hudson

BCWS winning the championship.

—Zoe Hughes



Myself Gregory Simmons taking my final outing on the mountain against Greensboro last weekend of games for my senior year. In which my final out was a strike out a great way to go out for a college career. (Photo courtesy of Gregory Simmons)



Senior game holding my daughter shaking the president and AD's hand. (Photo courtesy of Zyon Wilson)

Backpacking with my friends across all of Pisgah Forest!
 —Tristan “The Trout” Troutman

Being a part of BC Women’s soccer team and winning 3 conference rings!
 —Izzy Hagen



Attending NCCWSL as IWIL representatives. University of Maryland. Summer 2024. Chloe Banner and Kylee Draper. (Photo courtesy of Chloe Banner)



Michaela Jones, Ivelysse Leighton, Jayden Harlow, Regan Winkler, Rylee Locklear, Hayden Moody, Kaleigh Marr, Anna Graves, Andrea Furr, Peyton Wise, Addison Smith. Fall 2024 in the Middle of hurricane Helene. (Photo courtesy of Ivelysse Leighton)

The flexibility of the online graduate program allowed me to continue my education while working full time.
 —James Rossi

My first time hitting the creek with the boys after football practice.
 —Zyon Wilson

VOR was an adventure I will never forget. I'll never forget the day we paddled 15+ miles to our campsite that was in the middle of a crop field with the sun beating down on us. Instead of cooking dinner like we normally do, our tech arrived to save the day with watermelon, sour gummy worms, baby wipes, and took us to get pizza!
 —Marcella Steele

Breaking two school records in my last ever college game.
 —Logan Southern



This is a picture of me playing a round of golf at Cummings Cove golf with a couple of my good friends over the past few years Gavin McCoy Hunter Busque and Zach Wilson. (Photo courtesy of Gregory Simmons)



CSNAAG Futsal Tournament winning picture. (Photo courtesy of Martin Moguel Aguilar)



Tiernan Ponder, Summer Crist, Ivelysse Leighton. Fall 2023 Halloween. (Photo courtesy of Ivelysse Leighton)

My favorite memory at Brevard College was winning the conference back-to-back, especially sharing one of those championships with my brother. It made it even more special. I'm also very grateful for my personal achievements, like being selected 2x All-Tournament Team, 1x First Team All-Conference, and having the opportunity to play in the NCAA national tournament twice. (soccer)

—Caue Diouf Andrade dos Santos

Meeting all the great people throughout my short tenure here at Brevard

—Jonathan B. Germany

Sitting in the creek after a long run.

—Victoria Rose Sylvester



A selfie of last year's senior day, where some of my bestest friends were graduating the saddest moment of my career, but also the most wholesome and loving moment because of all the friends in there that I made over the course of three years. The people included in this picture are Jacob Thompson, Conner, Crosby, Frankie Vasquez, Luke Morton Cale Ohler Hayden Jennings and Lucas Granata. (Photo courtesy of Gregory Simmons)



This picture is from my senior recital. (Photo courtesy of Ellen Mullins)



Holding my newborn daughter after our first game in 2024. (Photo courtesy of Zyon Wilson)

Beating Maryville in overtime my sophomore year and everyone storming the field.

—Baylee Ramey

Hanging by the creek with Gaming Club at the end of my sophomore year.

—Kylee Draper



Fall 2024 football game vs Methodist after I made a big play. (Photo courtesy of Zyon Wilson)



My sister Abbey and I are graduating together, and we have supported each other the whole way through. In this photo we are hiking on the Daniel Ridge Loop in Pisgah Ranger District. (Photo courtesy of Ian Waldrop)



I happened to be around one day when Nado needed a paddling buddy. We had a grand ol' time. (Photo courtesy of Ian Waldrop)

First win at home 4/0 against Covenant.
—Tristan Bayssade



A picture of beautiful northern lights passing over Brevard College. This picture was taken out by the track on campus. (Photo courtesy of Gregory Simmons)



Victoria and her good friend Piper at formal. (Photo courtesy of Victoria Rose Sylvester)



The first meeting of the game club here at Brevard college and being able to find many like minded people when it came to my hobbies.
—Christopher Binns

My favorite memory at Brevard College is completing my senior recital with my friends, family, and faculty members there to support me.
—Ellie Mullins

I am very thankful for my connections and time spent at YMCA Camp Greenville. I have grown immensely in my confidence, and have been happy to pass the torch to new voices and lead campfire ceremonies in front of crowds of almost 500 people. (Photo courtesy of Ian Waldrop)

Plans after graduation...

Grad school.

Chloe Banner

Jonesborough, Tennessee

After graduation, I plan to continue playing soccer. I have some opportunities to play here in the U.S. and also outside the country. If that doesn't work out, I plan to stay in the sports field and work as a coach or in strength and conditioning.

Caue Diouf Andrade dos Santos

Americana, São Paulo, Brazil

Get a job at a veterinarian clinic during my gap year while taking needed classes over the summer for applying to a veterinarian graduate program.

Christopher Binns

Lexington, North Carolina

I am going to work for Utah's DNR as an assistant for their invasive aquatics biologist.

Summer Crist

Williamston, South Carolina

I'm going to be working as an activity specialist in ceramics at Rockbrook Camp for Girls! After that, I hope to miraculously pass the PRAXIS exam and get K-12 Art teaching certification so I can (fingers crossed) be either a middle school or high school art teacher!

Mia Diaz

Brevard, North Carolina

I will be working at a child care center back at home.

Kylee Draper

Maiden, North Carolina

Graduate school.

Gavin Grant

St. Johns, Florida

To find a job teaching music in the public school system.

Gianluca Graziano

Lincolnton, North Carolina

Working as a patient care technician at MUSC.

Izzy Hagen

Charleston, South Carolina

MA Mathematics at App State

David Hoyle

Lincolnton, North Carolina

Interviewing with a large restaurant group.

Charlie Hudson

Asheville, North Carolina

AmeriCorps

Zoe Hughes

Fredericksburg, Virginia

Move in with mom and reset, and prepare for a full time job.

Ian Waldrop

Greenville, South Carolina

Applying to Emergency Management positions in the Raleigh area, hoping to work for Wake County or State Emergency Management.

James Rossi

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

To return to begin my Masters Degree

Jonathan B. Germany

Palatka, Florida

My plans post graduation is to work for NRX Asphalt and Site Company working in their HR department and doing their payroll. I also plan to use my gap year to travel starting in Ireland! After my gap year I plan to go to graduate school to obtain my MFA!

Ivelysse Leighton

Orlando, Florida

I am moving to Western Maine to guide then pursue my Wilderness EMT

Olive Leonardi

I will be student teaching in the Fall to get my teacher licensure, before hopefully entering a masters program!

Angie Martino

Brevard, North Carolina

Nursing school at WCU.

Gavin McCoy

Sylva, North Carolina

Take a year off to work (hopefully I get a job at Brevard College), and then head off to grad school

Martin Moguel Aguilar

Mexico City, Mexico

After graduation, I plan to work at Camp Kanuga as a camp counselor.

Ellie Mullins

Randleman, North Carolina

Coaching college football starting here at Brevard College.

Baylee Ramey

Yadkinville North Carolina

I plan to attend UNC Charlotte for graduate school, getting my Master's in English.

Rowyn Roberts

Shelby, North Carolina

Taking an online class to get my certification to be a personal trainer, then find a job at a gym somewhere.

Gregory Winton Simmons Jr

West End, North Carolina

Working at Brevard.

Logan Southern

Arden, North Carolina

I have a stormwater management internship in Chicago! Hopefully grad school in the future.

Marcella Steele

Chicago, Illinois

Planning my wedding and work on my master's in conservation.

Victoria Rose Sylvester

Oriental, North Carolina

OPT in the US.

Tristan Bayssade

Theix, Auvergne, France

I've got to decide between going to law school or working for the government writing environmental regulations.

Tristan Troutman

Aiken, South Carolina

Going to the police academy after college and getting a job with the sheriff department hopefully getting a job in the mountains

Noah Lee Westbrook

Princeton, North Carolina

I have been offered a teaching job in North Carolina and I also work in sports media.

Zyon Wilson

South Boston, Virginia

Advice to other BC students...

“Socialize as much as you can. Go to events for at least a few minutes and if you don’t like it, you can leave but it usually ends up being a really great time.”

Chloe Banner
Psychology

“My advice is to enjoy the process and take advantage of every opportunity. Time goes by really fast, so build relationships, stay consistent, and don’t take anything for granted. Show up every day, even when it’s hard, because that’s what really makes the difference.”

Caue Diouf Andrade dos Santos
Exercise Science

“Study and enjoy campus like in equal measure cause whilst the objective in life is to enjoy it studying well will prevent having to stress about exams or class work.”

Christopher Binns
Biology

“Go out and find people, life is boring if you just sit in a dorm all the time!”

Summer Crist
Biology

“Don’t hide. Don’t be a loner, don’t be a stranger. I think I messed up a lot by being super lonely all the time, and not being able to make proper friendships. It’s not “cool” to be that person on campus who doesn’t know anybody, I am so serious about that.”

Mia Diaz
Art

“Get off your phone at least 30 minutes before bed. (Like seriously, put it DOWN.)”

Kylee Draper
Childhood Education

“Enjoy the little things.”

Gavin Grant
Exercise Science

“Four years is short—spend your time wisely at Brevard College.”

Gianluca Graziano
Music Education

“Good things will come.”

Izzy Hagen
Health Science Studies

“Go to tutoring.”

David Hoyle
Applied Physics, Mathematics

“Do what you love.”

Charlie Hudson
Business

“Get involved, do stuff.”

Zoe Hughes
Communication

“Life, and college, are a tricky balancing act. It’s important to get out there and meet people and go to social events, but also reflect on how life is going and be comfortable spending time by yourself.”

Ian Waldrop
WLEE

“Enjoy all that Western North Carolina has to offer.”

James Rossi
MS in Emergency Management

“Classes are aggravating yes, but just keep working and it’ll fly by I promise.”

Jonathan B. Germany
Criminal Justice

“My biggest advice to other Brevard College students is to live in the moment and say yes to as many opportunities you can because time slips away so fast.”

Ivelysse Leighton
Business and Organizational Leadership (BORG), English

“Take an OLEE class.”

Olive Leonard
WLEE

“Be present in class, give your professors the time of day and try to gain something from your classes, you are paying for them after all.”

Angie Martino
History

“Don’t take everything too seriously.”

Gavin McCoy
Health Science Studies

“Talk to faculty, not just for class, but to develop more. Each one of your advisors wants to see you succeed, and they’re great at it.”

Martin Moguel Aguilar
Communication, History

“Proverbs 3:5-6: ‘Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.’”

Ellie Mullins
Music

“Attack the day.”

Baylee Ramey
Business and Organizational Leadership (BORG), Communication

“Make the most of your time here. Go out, do things, meet people, join clubs! Get out of your dorm and make friends! Don’t be cooped up.”

Rowyn Roberts
English

“Be sure to never feel overwhelmed. You have the power to be great at everything that you do both in school or on the field of play. Feel free to have fun. And enjoy your time here as these are the most important years of your life. God gifted you with the opportunity to come here and do whatever it is you want to do. Take advantage of every moment that is given to you. Cause every opportunity that has given to you is a chance for you to learn something that will help you in your future Whatever it may be.”

Gregory Winton Simmons Jr
Exercise Science

“Don’t take advantage of your time soak it all in.”

Logan Southern
Communication, Criminal Justice

“Treat every single day like it’s kindergarten. Meet new people; say hi to that one person you walk past every day; you never know what you can give to and also receive from them.”

Marcella Steele
Environmental Science

“Get out of your room and take every opportunity to have fun.”

Victoria Rose Sylvester
Computer Science, Psychology

“Be the best version of yourself.”

Tristan Bayssade
MBA

“Get out there in nature, take a OLEE class, get out of your dorm and experience what Brevard has to offer.”

Tristan Troutman
Environmental Science

“Just lock in.”

Noah Lee Westbrook
Criminal Justice

“Build connections and stay the course—you never know who you might meet or need in the future.”

Zyon Wilson
MBA

BC's 2025-26 academic and leadership awards

An abundance of student honors and awards were presented for the 2025-26 academic year prior to Commencement at Brevard College. See below for a complete list of academic and leadership award winners as well as honor society inductees.

FINE ARTS

Art Program

Freshman Highest GPA: **Katherine Floyd**
Sophomore Highest GPA: **Courtlyn Austin, Scarlett Houser**

Junior Highest GPA: **Daniel Huestis**
Senior Highest GPA: **Rachel Cooke**
Digital Art Outstanding Achievement:

Autumn Short
Photography Outstanding Achievement:
David Phillips

Painting & Drawing Outstanding Achievement: **Nicole Bradbury, Rachel Cooke**

Art History Outstanding Achievement: **Karis King, Rachel Cooke, Signe Thorse**
Sculpture Outstanding Achievement:

Clayton Furr
Foundations Year Outstanding Achievement: **Courtlyn Austin, Cheyanne Barr, Katherine Floyd, Bucky Savnik, Hanah Schinsky**
Digital Art Advancement: **Abdulmalik Sholanke**

Photography Advancement: **Henry Tarte**

Painting & Drawing Advancement: **Melanie Olivera-Degree**

Sculpture Advancement: **Mia Diaz**
Newcomer's Award: **Alia Albin, Drew**

Degarmo, Bucky Savnik, Scarlett Houser, Phoebe Turner

Student Leadership: **Rachel Cooke, Karis King, David Phillips**

Focus Award: **Clayton Furr, David Phillips**
Virtuoso Award: Nicole Bradbury
Outstanding Art Major: **Rachel Cooke**

Theatre Program

Freshman Highest GPA: **Miranda Burke, Audrey Dearman**

Sophomore Highest GPA: **Tommy Ives**
Senior Highest GPA: **Calliope Taylor**
Newcomer's Award: **Miranda Burke, Audrey Dearman**

Ensemble Award: **Amelia Payne**
Excellence in Collaboration: **Tommy Ives**
Personal Growth: **Lyric Contarino**

Excellence in Initiative: **Logan Hislop-Boccanfuso**

Personal Responsibility Award: **Calliope Taylor**

Rakeem Sweezy Award: **Lyric Contarino**
Outstanding Theatre Graduate: **Roxanne Petryshak**

Music Program

Freshman Highest GPA: **Miranda Burke,**

Audrey Dearman

Sophomore Highest GPA: **Wren Crook**
Junior Highest GPA: **Libby Huffman**
Senior Highest GPA: **Ellie Mullins**
Music Literature Excellence: **Amelia Payne**
Music Education Excellence: **Eliza Greenwell**

Outstanding Freshman: **Audrey Dearman, Sincere Cuttino**

Star Performer Award: **Wren Crook**
Quiet Leader Award: **Ellie Mullins**
Music Ambassador Award: **Matthew Evans**
Peer Inspiration Award: **Sincere Cuttino**
Outstanding Music Graduate: **Hannah Sonnenberg**

HUMANITIES

Communication

Outstanding Communication Major: **Martin Moguel Aguilar**

Excellence in Communication: **Madeleine Pollock**

Excellence in Media: **Autumn Jones**
Excellence in Podcasting: **Alex Bolton**
Outstanding Capstone: **Lili White**
The Rennie Award: **Lili White**
Outstanding Research: **McKenna Deets, Angie Martino, Lili White, Summer Crist, Tyler Mangrum, Chloe Banner, Tiffin Jacobs, Courtney Wall, Malik Graham, Juan Chavez**

English

Outstanding English Major: **Rowyn Roberts**

Distinguished Rhetorician Award: **Elias Murray, Thad Johnston, Rowyn Roberts**
Excellence in Environmental Literature:

Mia Diaz, Ian Waldrop
Emerging Creative Writer Award: **Elli Clark, Lenci Bogdan**

Emerging Poet Award: **Madeleine Pollock**
Excellence in Holocaust Literature: **Scarlett Houser**

Excellence in It's Greek to Me: **Madeleine Pollock, Jessie Dodson**

Excellence in C.S. Lewis: **David Hoyt, Wren Crook, Georgia Sangster**
Excellence and Courage in Young Adult Literature: **Elli Clark**

Excellence in Fiction Writing: **Rowyn Roberts, Ive Leighton**

Deep Time Chrononaut Award: **Vlad Pyrkhodko, Marcella Steele**

Chiaroscuro Service: **Libby Huffman, Karis King, Ive Leighton, Darcy McDowell, Billie Moser, Rowyn Roberts, Courtney Wall, Jasper Jordan, Elias Murray, Eve**



Outstanding music graduate Hannah Sonnenberg with professors Vance Reese and Cole Hairston. (BC Communications photo)

BC's 2025-26 academic and leadership awards

Rich, Mia Rijkenberg, Carter Sakakini, Olivia Tiner

The Clarion Service: **Autumn Jones, Zoe Hughes, Madeleine Pollock, Emma Murray, Ivelysse Iverson, Jordan Ramey**

Growth in Writing Award: **Joemar Darity, Zyrell Abercrombie**

Excellence in Honors First Year Writing: **Ford Jones**

The Duck and Cover Award: **Thad Johnston, Ive Leighton**

First Year Writing Exemplar: **Audrey Dearman**

First Year Writing Critic: **Billie Moser**

History

Outstanding History Major: **Mary Grace Vallentine**

Up-and-Coming Historian: **Janie Steele**

Excellence in Writing: **Martin Moguel**

Outstanding Critical Thinker: **Vinnie Munson-Jackson, Buckley Harris**

Integrated Studies/LNC

Outstanding Integrated Studies Major: **Signe Thorsen**

Outstanding Critical Thinker and Courage in Discussion: **Schuyler Pettibone, Bee Fulton, Kendall Hubbard**

Courage to Teach Award: **Logan Weaver, Abby McCall**

Religion

EcoTheological Enthusiast: **Evy Higdon**



“Logic Laureates” Jane Steele, Georgia Sangster, Emily Quest, and Aaron Vandegrift with professor Mel Bringle. (BC Communications photo)

Philosophy

Really Good Thinkers Award: **Kayleigh Marr, Jackson Schladweiler**

Logic Laureates: **Emily Quest, Georgia Sangster, Jane Steele, Aaron Vandegrift**

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Biology

Highest GPA: **Wyatt Harsha**

Special Recognition: **Elissabeth Tinsley**

Outstanding Graduate: **Summer Crist**

Chemistry

Highest GPA: **Eddie Turberville**

Special Recognition: **Zoe Herber**

Computer Science

Highest GPA: **Cameron Brown, Vladyslav Pyrkhodko**

Special Recognition: **Caiden Auton**

Outstanding Graduate: **Pierson Joshua Gordon**

Environmental Studies

Highest GPA: **Becca Webb**

Special Recognition: **Ava Thrift**

Outstanding Graduate: **Tristan Troutman**

Exercise Science

Highest GPA: **Regina Drouse, Joy Yousef, Sienna Fox, Lucas Woodard**

Special Recognition: **Seth Robinson**

Outstanding Graduate: **Joy Yousef**

Health Science

Highest GPA: **Sienna Fox, Andrew**

Bernard

Special Recognition: **Kayleigh Marr, Anna Graves**

Outstanding Graduate: **Izzy Hagen**

Mathematics

Highest GPA: **Cameron Brown**

Special Recognition: **Tiernan Ponder**

Outstanding Graduate: **Kelly Lawson**

Physics

Highest GPA: **David Hoyle**

Outstanding Graduate: **David Hoyle**

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Business and Organizational Leadership

Outstanding Graduating Senior: **Kylie Katcher**

Sustainable Leadership Award: **Vitor Razera**

Ray Fisher Leadership Award: **Kelly Lawson**

Mt. Pisgah Award: **Jaxsen Wilkerson, Katlyn Wynn**

Grace Jackson Munro Roy Annual Leadership in Business: **Matthew Case**

Dr. B. Barbara Boerner Emerging Leader Scholarship: **Marion Hawsey**

Sidney J. Gunst Jr. Award: **Undre Burton**

Criminal Justice

Outstanding Leadership Award: **Mary Grace Vallentine**

Citizenship Award: **Noah Westbrook**

Promise in the Field Award: **Dunnington Walters**



Outstanding environmental studies graduate Tristan Troutman with professor Erasme Uyizeye. (BC Communications photo)

BC's 2025-26 academic and leadership awards

Rising Star Award: **CJ Thomas**
 Internship Excellence Award:

Mya Dixon

Outstanding Junior: **Isaiah**

Vance

Outstanding Sophomore: **Sylas**

Scruggs

Ethics and Integrity Award:

Maxwell Dorman

Excellence in Research: **Aidan**

Kearns

Excellence in Service: **Evan**

Webb

Resilience Award: **Emma**

Demcovich

The Lasting Impact Award:

Ariel Rich

Outstanding Academic Major:

Amberlyn Hernandez

Alpha Phi Sigma President

Award: **Mary Grace Vallentine**

Alpha Phi Sigma Vice President

Award: **Savannah Anderson**

Justice Club Leadership Award:

Victoria Sylvester

Outdoor Leadership & Experiential Education

Outstanding Graduate: **Olive**

Leonardi

Wilderness Leadership Award:

Elisabeth Horner

Experiential Education Award:

Ian Waldrop

Physical Education and Recreation

Outstanding Graduating Senior:

Jadon Carnes

Outstanding Leadership:

Peyton Wise

Outstanding Teaching: **Ethan**

Beamish



Outstanding Business & Organizational Leadership graduate **Kylie Katcher** with professor **Marie Jones**.

Outstanding Student: **Tyler Kelson**

Psychology

Outstanding Major: **Chloe**

Banner

Rising Star Award: **Mia**

Rijkenberg

Outstanding Thesis: **Savannah**

Anderson

Promise in the Field: **Kayla**

Philbrick

Teaching Licensure

Delta Kappa Gamma

Scholarship Recipients:

Buckley Harris

Kendall Hubbard

Keli Letcher

Hayden Moody

Student Teachers (Graduating Seniors, Spring 2026):

Ethan Beamish

Jolize Beukman

Nick Castro

Kylee Draper

Gianluca Graziano

Eliza Greenwell

Emillee Long

Tiernan Ponder

Kiara Porcelli

Lauren Ward

Incoming Student Teachers (Fall 2026):

Elizabeth Auciello

Kali Letcher

Jules Lusk

Angelina Martino

Teacher Licensure Program New

Entrants:

Lillian Cook

Kendall Hubbard

Emily Husband

Olivia Hoyt

Isaiah Brown

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Rookie Outstanding Work

Study: **Colbin Hill**

Outstanding Work Study:

Logan Southern

Outstanding Resident Assistant:

MK Smoak

Outstanding Peer Leader: **Jake**

Lauer

Outstanding Tutor: **David**

Hoyle

Community Service Award:

Braedyn Perez

Richard A. Adams Outstanding

Ambassador: **Joy Yousef**

Outstanding First Year: **Georgia**

Sangster

Outstanding Sophomore:

Kimberli Gore

Outstanding Junior: **Kayleigh**

Marr

Outstanding Senior: **Martin**

Moguel Aguilar

Rising Star Award: **Isabella**

Zambuto

Above & Beyond Award: **Alex**

Bolton

180 Award: **Ethan Abraham**

Behind the Scenes Award:

Jordan Frenette

Outstanding Organization of the

Year: **The Hidden Opponent**

Sweezy Award: **Savannah**

Anderson

HONOR SOCIETIES

Alpha Chi (National Academic Honor Society) Inductees:

Amanda Barnes

Andrew Bernard

Gina Drouse

Matthew Edwards

Sienna Fox

Bee Fulton

Wyatt Harsha

Schuyler Pettibone

Maddi Pollock

Vlad Pyrkhodko

Georgia Sangster

Calliope Taylor

Lucas Woodard

Isabella Zambuto

Alpha Phi Sigma (Criminal Justice Honor Society) Inductees:

Aidan Kearns

Michael Craig Vacher

Ariel Rich

Amberlyn Hernandez

Antonio King

Briana Landman

Noah Westbrook

Mya Dixon

Victoria Sylvester

Omicron Delta Kappa (National Leadership Honor Society) Inductees:

Amanda Barnes

Isabella Boulay

Nicole Bradbury

Drew DeGarmo

Kylee Draper

Matthew Edwards

Bee Fulton

Carleigh Garrett

Wyatt Harsha

Colbin Hill

Elisabeth Hornfeck

David Hoyle

Olivia Hoyt

Kylie Katcher

Olive Leonardi

Kayleigh Marr

Elias Murray

Ariel Podloger

Vlad Pyrkhodko

Georgia Sangster

Calliope Taylor

Lambda Pi Eta (Communication Honor Society) Inductees:

Kimberli Gore

Jordan Frenette

Kirklyn Hudler

James McClain

Casey Wampler

Camille Bonnin

Dustin Vanover

Isabella Zambuto

Mikayla Zvekan

Psi Chi (Psychology Honor Society) Inductees:

Alyssa Boris

Regina Drouse

Kylie Katcher

Aidan Kearns

April Lee

Ive Leighton

Tyler Mangrum

Braden Quinn

Avalon Sweet

Sigma Beta Delta (Business Honor Society) Inductees:

Roi Abutbul

Amanda Barnes

Zane Caudle

Kylie Katcher

Kelly Lawson

Vitor Lins Razera

Ivelysse Leighton

Julian Martin

Caleb Melton

Isabella Zambuto

Sigma Tau Delta (English Honor Society) Inductees:

Kylee Draper

Libby Huffman

Autumn Jones

Karis King

Kayleigh Marr

Elias Murray

Signe Thorsen

Dance to be BC's 21st varsity sport

A new era is coming to Brevard College Athletics as the department announces the addition of Dance as its 21st varsity sport and the arrival of Shannon Washington to lead the program.

"We are thrilled to welcome Coach Washington to Brevard College and to launch this exciting new chapter for our athletics department," stated Associate Vice President for Athletics Dr. Myranda Crews. "Her passion for student-athlete development, commitment to excellence, and vision for building a strong culture make her the ideal leader to establish our Dance program. We are confident she will create an experience that energizes our campus community and positions Brevard College Dance for long-term success."

Washington, a dynamic coach, choreographer, and performer who assumes this role effective immediately, brings vision and momentum to the launch of Brevard's newest team.

"I am incredibly honored and excited to join Brevard College as the Head Dance Coach," said Washington. "The opportunity to build something special, establish a strong team culture, and shape the future of dance at Brevard is deeply meaningful to me. I look forward to creating a program rooted in excellence, accountability, and passion—one where student-athletes are challenged, supported, and proud to represent Brevard."

The introduction of Dance marks an exciting expansion for Brevard College Athletics, and Washington will be at the center of building the program, developing a competitive team that energizes game days and makes its mark far beyond campus.

"My goal is to elevate the game day experience and build a program that brings excitement

to our campus and community," Washington added. "We're going to create something that people want to be a part of, something that inspires pride and grows into a nationally competitive program. I am committed to developing well-rounded student-athletes who excel both on the sidelines and beyond."

Washington arrives with a track record of success leading high-performing teams and mentoring dancers at every level. Most recently, she led a standout competitive program at Niles North High School in Illinois, where her leadership helped foster both athletic excellence and a strong team culture.

Beyond the sidelines, Washington has made a national impact as an instructor and judge with the Universal Dance Association (UDA), where she has helped shape dancers and coaches across the country while earning recognition for her excellence in teaching, including 2024 Head Instructor of the Year honors.

Her background as a professional performer, including work with acclaimed dance companies and international stage experience, adds a creative edge and global perspective to the program she will build at Brevard.

With the launch of the Dance program and Washington at the helm, Brevard College Athletics is poised to bring new energy, creativity, and school spirit to campus.



Shannon Washington

Women's soccer focus of documentary by 2026 BC graduate Martin Aguilar



A new documentary featuring the Brevard College women's soccer program was recently released.

Created by 2026 BC graduate Martin Moguel Aguilar, a double major in communication and history, the hourlong documentary, titled "2026 Seniors," features game footage and interviews with six seniors who began on the team in fall 2022 as first-year students: Nico Arroyo, Olivia Guillermo, Izzy Hagen, Kenzie Lozano, Kiara Porcelli, and Mikayla Zvekan.

A link to the video is available on the Brevard College Athletics site, bctornados.com, and can be viewed on the BC Tornados YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@BrevardCollegeTornados>.

Directed, produced, and edited by Aguilar, the documentary also features cinematography by Manuel Tovar Hangstrom and Lili White.

[Click here](#) to watch the video on YouTube or scan the QR code.



Student-athletes honored at 2026 BESPYS

The Brevard College Department of Athletics hosted the BESPYS, its annual awards ceremony celebrating the accomplishments of BC student-athletes throughout the 2025-26 academic year. The event was held on Tuesday, April 28 inside of the Boshamer Gymnasium, presented by the Brevard College Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

Several major awards were presented to standout student-athletes over the course of the evening in front of an audience of over 400 members of the Brevard College community.

The Ann Etters Excellence Award is given annually to the underclassman student-athlete who best displays excellence athletically, academically, and through dedicated service to the BC community. The 2025-26 Ann Etters Excellence Award recipient was rising junior women's basketball and cheerleading student-athlete **Malayka Rankin**.

The John McKissick Award, presented annually to the most outstanding football senior student-athlete both on and off the field, was awarded to graduating senior **Brody Lindsey**. The Chuck Dunbar Team Spirit Award was awarded to rising senior **Alex Bolton** of BC football.

Graduating senior **Nicole Bradbury** took home the prestigious Cyclist of the Year following her Individual Omnium crown at the 2025 USA Cycling Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championship. BC track & field's **Tyrell Bailey** was awarded Male Rookie of the Year honors, with BC women's soccer collecting Female Rookie of the Year accolades for the third-consecutive year with **Mikaela Edwards** being the recipient.

The Brevard College Perfect Storm awards are given to the most outstanding overall Tornado

student-athletes both in sport and in the classroom. Rising senior **Abby Nunez** was voted for the Female Perfect Storm after securing the school's first CSC Academic All-America honor earlier this season. **Matthew Evans** from Yulee, Florida, was awarded the Male Perfect Storm Award.

The Female Athlete of the Year was presented to graduating senior **Mikayla Zvekan** of the women's soccer team, giving BC WSOC a clean sweep of the Female major awards. **Ethan Beamish**, a highly-decorated football student-athlete, earned Male Athlete of the Year honors, marking BC football's first since 2021.

The fifth-annual David and Lynne Joyce Award was presented to men's basketball's **Jadon Carnes**. The award is presented to the graduating senior student-athlete who displays superior performance in competition, in the classroom and in the community over an entire four-year career at Brevard College.

The 2025-26 **BC women's soccer team** once again captured the Tornado Cup, given to the team that accumulates the most points in the Tornado Cup Challenge with the components of Academic Excellence, Athletic Excellence, Personal Development, Community Service and Athletes Supporting Athletes. The BC women's soccer team also earned the Highest Team GPA with the highest cumulative grade point average among BC's athletic teams.

Members of the 2025 USA South Conference regular season and tournament champion BC women's soccer team were presented with their commemorative championship rings to honor Brevard women's soccer's first conference tournament title and berth into the NCAA DIII Championship Tournament. The presentation included Brevard College President Bradley J

Andrews, Associate Vice President for Athletics Dr. Myranda Crews, Technical Director Juan Mascaro, and Head Women's Soccer Coach Juan Mascaro Jr.

Additionally, Nunez received her CSC Academic All-America plaque, Zvekan obtained her NCAA Statistical Champion plaque for game-winning goals, and Coach Mascaro Sr. was recognized for his second-consecutive USA South Coach of the Year honor.

BC women's basketball was also recognized after the program earned its first-ever USA South Conference Regular Season crown, and Head Coach **Donald Hudson** was highlighted for his USA South Coach of the Year honor. The Tornado women's basketball team will receive their championship rings in a ceremony in Fall 2026.

As part of the program, BC graduating senior student-athletes received their senior gifts and graduates with a GPA of 3.0 or higher also received a scholar-athlete graduation stole that were worn at the Brevard College Commencement.

In addition to the major Brevard College awards, a plethora of conference and national awards were highlighted throughout the event.

For the second-straight year, BC hosted a post-BESPYS podcast, with exclusive interviews featuring major award winners. The show, conducted and produced by BC communications students, is available on the Brevard College Tornado Athletics YouTube channel.

For a complete list of those honored at the 2026 BESPYS Awards ceremony, visit the bctornados.com website or scan the QR code.



Brevard College's women's basketball players, winners of the regular season conference championship, were among those honored at the 2026 BESPYS Awards.