

Why they love teaching at BC

Do you have any teachers who, with their outstanding education and experience, make you wonder, "Why do they teach at Brevard?"

Many BC teachers, after all, could be enjoying higher incomes and more prestige teaching at a larger, big-name school, or in careers that employ their field of study outside of teaching.

So why do they choose to remain at Brevard?

One reason is the size of the school. "Small is beautiful because small is effective," explains Jock Lauterer, Director of Public Information and journalism instructor at BC since 1986. Lauterer, who has both graduated and taught at UNC-Chapel Hill, teaches here because "the caring aspect is the difference" between UNC and Brevard College. Lauterer has been working with newspapers or other forms of print media since age seven. He is the author of several published books and has had his photography published in magazines including Sports Illustrated and People, but prefers applying his experience at Brevard because he is a "compulsive teacher" and in his view Brevard emphasizes teaching instead of research, unlike many larger universities.

Dr. Chuck Zimmerman, a graduate of Emory University and an assistant professor of religion, agrees with Lauterer on the teaching emphasis at Brevard and adds that the camaraderie evident among faculty members is encouraged by an absence of research at BC, minimizing rivalry among the faculty. Zimmerman, who served a parish before coming to Brevard, was looking for a position where he could be both a teacher and minister. Brevard attracted him because of its Methodist affiliation, the quality of life, and the size of the institution and community surrounding it. Echoing Lauterer's description of rapport at Brevard College as "one on oneness," Dr. Zimmerman adds, "We live together here."

Dr. C. Clarke Wellborn, professor of physics and mathematics at Brevard since 1976, cited the extreme competence and enthusiasm of the faculty for their subjects as a reason for his coming to Brevard.



BC teachers, l-r, Wellborn, Zimmerman, Glesener and Wood

When he informed his previous employer, the President of Dillard University and former political science professor at Duke University, that he was coming to Brevard, the President replied, "Oh, I know Brevard; that's a good school."

A close, competent faculty is important to Wellborn because "I am not as interested in doing research as I am in teaching."

Dr. Robert Glesener, an associate professor of biology at Brevard since 1979, first heard about BC while still an undergraduate at the University of Maryland. While visiting in Western North Carolina, Glesener found an affection for the mountains and later applied for a position here. On his decision to come here and stay, Glesener remarks, "I had to decide at the time that I liked teaching better than research."

Professor of Music and the Arts Sam Cope, best known as a drama teacher in the Fine Arts Department, has almost three master's degrees: one from UNC-CH, one from the University of Tennessee, and some postgraduate study at Indiana University.

Cope joined the Brevard faculty in 1969, fulfilling a lifelong dream to live in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Cope enjoys the artistic freedom he has at BC, and plans to continue teaching at Brevard because "I feel I get a lot of respect from the College and the community. I think they enjoy what I do."

Dr. David Wetmore, a professor of computer science at Brevard since 1985, came

here from another school for a change of pace, the superiority of the BC computer facilities to those of the school he left, and Brevard's location — Wetmore likes backpacking. He sums up by saying, "I stay because I'm having fun."

Dr. Clara Wood saw BC as a stepping stone to something better when she arrived here in 1976. After a semester she decided that Brevard was what she was looking for. "Doc" Wood, professor of English and Chairman of the Division of the Humanities, enjoys working with undergrads studying a variety of different majors. She offers this reflection the past 12 years, "It's been just a wonderful working environment because of the teachers, the people I work with."

Dr. Byrdie Eason, professor of physical education and Chairman of the Division of Physical Education taught 25 years at the University of Southwestern Louisiana before coming to BC in 1981. Eason affirms the staple advantages of BC life: the intimate, familial atmosphere, the freedom to suggest improvements and be heard, and an undercurrent of excitement that brews in the attitudes of the faculty, bubbling over in the words of Eason, "This president (Greer) and this dean (Langley), and this college are on the way to great things...with this new leadership, I'm very excited."

Professor of Art Tim Murray, who since 1963 has been director of the Coltrane Art Center at BC, has remained at Brevard in part because "one has time for artistic creativity aside from being a teacher."



Murray was recommended to Brevard College by UNC-CH where he was working on his master's degree in creative arts. Murray, who was born in England, says he loves this area because of its resemblance to the English countryside.

An acclaimed painter and sculptor in the Southeast, Murray finds Brevard's location to be a convenient hub from which he can promote his work.

Another regional "star" in his field, pianist Tony Sirianni also likes the central location BC provides for opportunity.

Sirianni, who likes to work in a personal setting at Brevard, says, "I like having a small studio where I can give my students individual attention." Sirianni says he enjoys having a practice room across the hall so he can hear his students and be accessible to them.

Size is also an important factor to Sirianni, who has attended both Michigan State University with a student body of 50,000, and North Texas State with 25,000 students. "I didn't even know the names of the presidents or the deans — much less what they looked like," he says.

Sirianni also says that Brevard College's size allows him to solve problems on a personal basis.

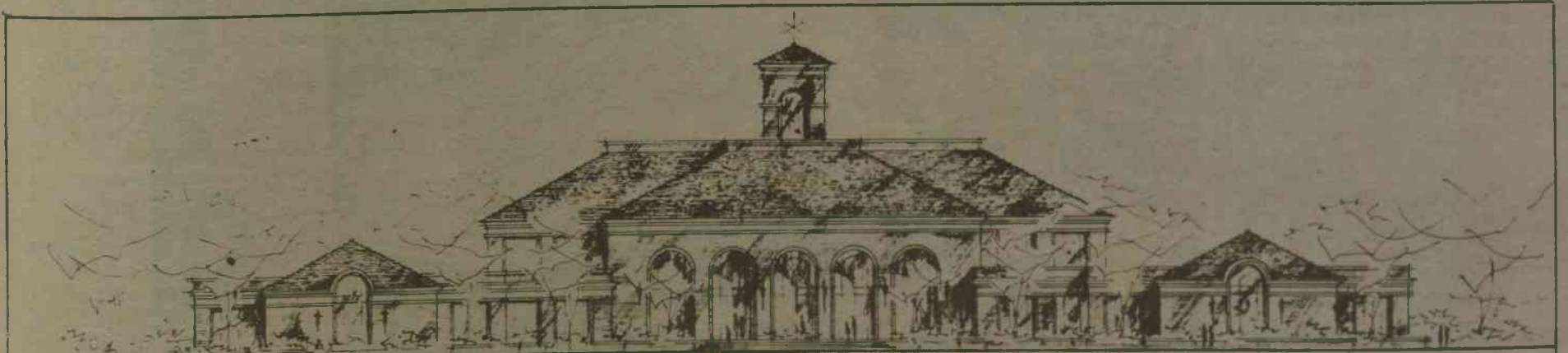
Like Murray, Sirianni enjoys the freedom to perform regionally as an artist. "The school gives me the freedom to (perform), which is one of the reasons I stay."

Sirianni, along with violinist Kate Ransom, will perform at the Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, Feb. 4.

These teachers, and others like them, don't have to teach at Brevard. They had a choice, and they chose Brevard — often for many of the same reason students do.

Perhaps a small paragraph from Dr. Zimmerman's resume would best describe the average BC teacher's reason for deciding in favor of a "teaching" institution like Brevard:

"My career goals are oriented primarily toward teaching. I enjoy the challenge of bringing students to see the pertinence and value of issues they presumed were dusty and lifeless. I think good teaching compels this feel for life even as it transmits information."



Artist's conception of the new auditorium and civic center planned for Brevard College.

Ingle announces \$3 million BC auditorium