



Brown's Mountains

Regina Davis

The Great Smoky Mountain National Park has provided "a sense of place" for millions of people over thousands of years. Like many others, Dr. Margaret Lynn Brown, Assistant Professor of History here at Brevard College, has found the Smokies to be her haven, a place she loves, and one whose history she searches to understand. From now on, Brown's identity will be linked forever to the Smokies as the author of *A Wild East: Creating a Wilderness in the Great Smoky Mountains*, a nonfiction environmental history book soon to be published.

Covering the entire history of the Park during the 20th Century, Brown states that her work focuses on "people's lives recounted to me over the years." Concentrating on three main elements of the Park: its beginnings, its creation, and its mission, *A Wild East* speaks of the more human history of the landmark. The first part of Brown's book discusses the communities of mountain people removed by the state to create the 504,000 acres that make up the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. The second part of *A Wild East* tell the creation story of the Park: the building of roads and trails, the origin for the names given to Park locations, the boundary lines established, and the people involved in founding the Park. Finally, the third portion of Brown's work focuses on the Park's mission: protecting the national site,



Dr. Margaret Brown, author of *A Wild East*, has taught at Brevard College for three years. Previously, she instructed at Kentucky State University and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

making it accessible to the public, and handling the conflicts that arise between environmentalists and often-disrespectful visitors.

As a child, Dr. Brown determined to write. Describing herself as "an oddball," she spent most of her time reading at school or at the public library. In fact, Brown recalls one librarian who made a special impact on her in elementary school. "The librarian assigned me, since I spent so much time in the library, the task of reading all the books that none of the other children read." Brown's love of reading combined with a new love for history while she attended Minnesota State University.

Working, as a journalist for Waynesville's *The Mountaineer* and the *Christian Science Monitor*

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Hi, Ho! Hi, Ho! It's Off To Green River, They Go

Mandi Milligan

It's official folks! The 1999 Voice of the Rivers crew has been chosen and has already begun preparation for their three-week journey from the headwaters of the Green River, The Broad River in Columbia, Lakes Marion and Moultries, and Cooper River into Charleston for the Spoleto Festival. Journey preparations begin immediately on Sunday evenings and move into fast gear May 12th.

The 1999 VOR crew will begin their actual journey on May 15th, following graduation, and conclude on or about June 2nd. This summer's crew includes trip leaders Clyde Carter, Susan Schmidt, Gary Thompson, and Brian Oesch, as well as 11 student team members: Linley Bowyer, Jarvis Broom, Wendy Byerly, Laura Dominkovic, Mandi Milligan, Joe Raymond, Shannon Riley, Molly Smith, Shawn Stevens, Erica Streich, and Alice Ufford.

All of the College community are invited to participate in the crew's departure May 15th immediately following graduation. More details will follow in the April issue of *The Clarion*. As the trip progresses, all are invited to keep abreast of the crew's progress and adventures by logging on to <http://www.brevard.edu/voice>.

Bon voyage, VOR. Congratulations and best wishes for a safe and memorable trip.

Reverend J. Cameron West To Join College VP Enrollment and Church Relations

Brad Kimzey, Brevard College News Bureau Director

A United Methodist pastor with strong ties to the independent colleges of North Carolina will become Vice President for Student Enrollment and Church Relations at Brevard College, the oldest institution of higher learning in the mountains of North Carolina. The Reverend J. Cameron West, pastor of Christ United Methodist Church in Gastonia, N.C., will assume his duties in early April. In his new role, West will coordinate the work of the admissions and financial aid officers of the College, as well as nurture relations with the



churches and offices of the College's parent denomination.

West succeeds Robert G. McLendon as head of the enrollment planning team at Brevard College. Formerly Brevard College's Vice President for Enrollment

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