

History shows liberals, conservatives can work together

By John Padgett

Assistant Professor of English

The present-day battle between liberals and conservatives may now seem a permanent part of the American political landscape, but that wasn't always the case, according to historian Dan T. Carter.

"You can hear those battles any time on those talking-heads cable news channels," Carter said. "But I'm not here to re-fight that fight."

Instead, in a lecture titled "Where Do We Go From Here: Private Hopes and Public Dreams in a Divided America," Carter spoke about several "historical moments that transcend those battles"—such as the Great Depression of the 1930s and the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964—moments when conservatives and liberals joined forces for the common good. The lecture, delivered Feb. 21 at the Porter Center, was Brevard College's first Learn IN Community (LINC) program

for the spring semester.

Carter, an award-winning historian of the South and former president of the Southern Historical Association, acknowledged that in many ways, he is conservative. "However, I don't shrink from the label 'liberal,' despite what the word has come to mean today," he said. In the 19th century, liberal movements helped to end slavery, secure greater rights for women and emancipated slaves, establish public education, and encourage more tolerant treatment toward immigrants.

In the 20th century, liberals continued to shed light on a number of social ills and helped bring about reform in such areas as child labor, civil liberties, environmental degradation, and the Social Security retirement safety-net for the elderly, a program, Carter said, that he "would defend until the last dog dies."

The bulk of his lecture focused on moments in American history in which liberals required the help of conserva-

tives to achieve their goals, and what lessons we might learn from those collaborations.

"Can history really tell us anything?" Carter asked. As a historian, Carter admitted that he was often uncomfortable with George Santayana's often-cited statement that "Those who do not learn history are condemned to repeat it."

"The lessons of history are often not easily transferable to the present day," Carter said. He recalled that when he was growing up during the civil rights era, segregationists often cited the fall of Rome as analogous to what would happen here if civil rights laws were passed.

Nevertheless, there are some lessons we can learn by better understanding our past, Carter said. "Even though history may not repeat itself," Carter said, "I do think Mark Twain was on to something when he said it does 'rhyme

see History, page 15

BC on-site admissions makes Raleigh news

By Adam Beeson
Managing Editor

Brevard College made headlines recently by becoming one of a few North Carolina colleges to allow "on-site" admission.

The News and Observer, a newspaper out of Raleigh, released an article on January 24 about Brevard joining this small group of colleges and universities that will tell students if they have been accepted on the spot.

"We have begun working this last year to reclaim our place in the eyes of North Carolina high schools," Joretta Nelson, Vice President for Enrollment Management said. "This sort of press is very helpful in keeping our name and our energy in the forefront."

Admissions officers can now set

up private interviews for qualified students who have filled out applications ahead of time and sent them to the admissions office along with transcripts, SAT scores, and letters of recommendation. According to admissions officers, students tend to like "on site" admission because they know immediately whether they qualify for enrollment instead of having to wait anxiously for months.

"Our first actual event will be March 8 at Cary High School in Raleigh," Nelson said. "Our plan is to interview and admit at least eight students that morning—all of who have shown interest in Brevard and appear to be a great fit for the college."

The private interviews help to create relationships that are virtually im-

possible to replicate by mail, according to admissions officers. Private colleges, like Brevard, also use the interview to set up financial aid packages.

Nelson said some students are scared of Brevard's \$21,000 annual cost.

"But when we show them that our financial aid package can cut that cost in half, they start listening. We can even put together a package right there if we need to."

The project has turned the heads of high school guidance counselors as well as students and helped to re-establish relationships with high schools according to Nelson.

"We are receiving wonderful feedback from high schools about the idea."