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**More reactions and pictures from the WNC Obama rally inside! See pages 2 & 3**

## Students and faculty show up for Obama rally



photo courtesy J. Padgett

by Joseph Chilton  
Editor-in-Chief

Around a dozen Brevard College students and faculty were among the 28,000 people who showed up at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Asheville High School last Sunday to hear Democratic Presidential nominee Barack Obama speak.

Obama supporters waited in line for several hours to see the Illinois senator, who took the stage at 2:00 p.m. and spoke for about 40 minutes.

"I showed up at 11:30 and was concerned that I wasn't going to get in. There was a huge line," Assistant Professor of English John Padgett said.

"We stood in line two hours, and I mapped the path that we took in line later, and it was about a mile and a half long," Padgett added.

According to senior Robin Funsten, who worked the event as a volunteer with the Obama campaign, the presidential hopeful focused his

talk on health care and the problems of the middle class.

"Obama asked the everyone in the crowd t raise their hands if they made less than \$250,000 per year. Pretty much every hand in the stadium went up. He definitely knew what his audience was," Funsten said.

Funsten described the atmosphere of the event as a high-energy environment.

"There were so many people there, it was insane," said Funsten.

BC chaplain Shelly Webb added that the atmosphere seemed almost like a street festival.

"The most striking part for me was the diversity in the crowd as the stadium filled with people from all walks of life," Webb said.

North Carolina is a battleground state for Obama, who is looking to become the first Democrat to take the state since Jimmy Carter in 1976.

For more coverage of the rally see Page 3