

Dr. David Shi speaks at West Lecture

by John Climer
Managing Editor

Dr. David E. Shi spoke to Brevard College students and faculty Monday night at the Porter Center in the Grace West Lectureship Series, addressing the topic "Is a Simple Life Sustainable?"

Shi was introduced by Brevard College's Kathryn Gresham, Assistant Professor of Music and Campus Theme Coordinator.

Dr. Shi is a nationally acclaimed writer nominated for 2 Pulitzer Prizes, as well as the President of Furman University, which recently named its Center for Sustainability in honor of Dr. Shi.

Opening his lecture, Dr. Shi told attendees that he has recently received, "more invitations to speak on the topic of



simplicity in our current economic situation, than ever before."

As Dr. Shi continued to outline his understanding of simplicity, he defined it

as an, "intentional mode of living... simplicity involves reflecting on our notions of the 'good life.'"

Dr. Shi then addressed the topic of how simplicity is a convoluted struggle for everyday Americans in our current economy because, "consumer debt in the US grew twice as fast as the gross national product."

Dr. Shi continued, saying that Americans currently face, "Increasingly excessive

work schedules; typical white-collar workers arrive earlier, stay later and take 30 percent fewer vacations days than ever before."

This, according to Dr. Shi, is a reversal of a century long trend in our country - "Everyone is in overdrive to keep up... is it any wonder that the three most prescribed drugs in the US are an ulcer medication, a hypertension drug and a tranquilizer?"

Depressing as those statistics may appear to be, Dr. Shi did present a hopeful glimpse into the US's future, saying "People are realigning their values... thrift and frugality are suddenly in vogue."

Dr. Shi summarized his lecture on simplicity by presenting attendees with a challenge: "The simple life can be constructively practiced... because it's not a particular standard of living... the primary requirement is a deliberate, daily ordering of necessities versus non-necessities. A genuinely simple life... is difficult to achieve and even harder to maintain."

SGA begins 09-10 school year strong

by Dimitri McCloghry
Staff Writer

September 15 marked the first non open-forum session for the SGA of Brevard College. Most of the things outlined in the meeting dealt with the newly formatted Senate, of which there was much fanfare in the weeks leading up to the first session. Some of the new Senator requirements are that Senators are expected to come to every session. If that Senator misses for an excused reason, then a submitted excuse must be sent to the current secretary. (Monica Sees) Senators cannot miss more than two consecutive Senate Sessions. This shall be addressed by Executive Board. Senators are also expected to be involved with at least one Senate Project, in an effort to promote leadership and not contribute to what many felt last year was a wasted position of power.

The FCA was reimbursed for their successful ice cream social party. Projects

such as Tornado Bunker, T-Move events, and the discovery of clocks where SGA can put BC logo's on were talked about and discussed.

Another new change in SGA this year is how quorum is taken. This year, it's 50 percent plus one, in terms of members present. Last year's format dealt with a two thirds majority in the House and Senate, and as

such, meetings were essentially wasted many times due to inadequate representation. Upon personal reflection, I noted that this meeting took a mere fifteen minutes, as opposed to the hour plus meetings of last year. SGA is running more efficiently than ever, and it is apparent that student leadership within the SGA body has kicked it up a notch.



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