

# Paddlesports teach college students the value of competition

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Contributor

Last weekend, students and faculty members from Brevard College participated in the American Canoe Association's (ACA) Southeast Collegiate Canoe & Kayak Championship, which was held on the Tuckaseegee River near Dillsboro, NC.

The ACA Southeast Collegiate Canoe & Kayak Championship is designed for paddlers of all skill levels and abilities. "The American Canoe Association (ACA) is proud to provide collegiate students with the opportunity to compete with other schools in a sport which promotes camaraderie and a healthy outdoor lifestyle," said ACA Chief Operating Manager, Chris Stec.

Saturday's events were comprised of individual downriver races spanning over 2 miles of the Tuckaseegee River with multiple rapids for the racers to navigate. The races were broken down into different

categories including men's and women's kayak, open canoe and open canoe mixed gender, and the team relay race.

Preparation for this event began in early January for both the ACA and Brevard College students. In conjunction with the ACA, Brevard College's Outdoor Program Administration class participated in the service learning project to help recruit colleges, universities and sponsors throughout the Southeast and United States to attend this year's event.

Due to the students' success, over 70 competitors participated from colleges, including Albion College, Brevard College, Warren Wilson College, Davidson College,

Emory & Henry College, Montreat College and University of North Carolina Charlotte.

At the end of Saturday's events, Albion College from Michigan was in first place, Warren Wilson College was in second with Brevard College close behind them in third.

As racers congregated along the river early Sunday morning, the cooler temperatures and light rains reminded everyone of spring's recent arrival. The team relay race, the last even

in the Championship started out with a bang as 7 canoes began their head to head race down the Tuckaseegee River.

The course for the team relay was longer



Brevard College paddler Brian Randall ponders the upcoming race.

Photo courtesy: T. Festa

See ACA Race, p. 3

Google, continued from page 1

Guide," which explains the process in some detail. A separate E-mail message includes the user's new password to login to Google—which can be changed once you have logged in for the first time. Users are urged to read both messages carefully to prepare for the change—and especially to make note of the new password, since it will be necessary to login to the new system.

By Tuesday morning, the transition will be complete and no new messages will be sent to the old Outlook or Webmail platforms. All your personal contacts and calendar items will be imported into your Google account, as will all E-mail that has not been deleted or moved to an Outlook personal folder or "pst" file.

Beginning Tuesday, users will have to use Brevard Gmail to send and receive E-mail, and calendar items will become part of your Google Calendar. More Google apps will be made available once the transition to E-mail and calendar has been achieved successfully—such as Google Docs, which allows users to create, edit, save, and share documents from any computer having

access to the Internet.

Of course, the new system will take some getting used to. Probably the biggest change has to do with the end of folders and subfolders in which mail can be stored. In place of folders, Google Apps uses a "label" feature—one benefit of which is that messages can have multiple labels. During the transition, messages stored in folders and subfolders will automatically be assigned labels equivalent to the original folder name or path.

Another difference is in how Google groups and sorts mail. In its current form, Google only sorts mail chronologically—rather than offering the choice to sort by size, sender, and so forth—and it groups related messages into what it calls "conversations." Several messages back and forth between two or more senders would be grouped into a single conversation in the inbox, which allows easier viewing and printing of related messages.

As you might expect, one significant advantage that Google affords is a robust search engine—meaning, it is easier than ever to locate that one important E-mail message from two months ago. If a simple search doesn't yield what you are looking

for, you may use "advanced search" features to refine your results.

Some users on campus are already using the new Google system, and the transition has been smooth so far, Fuiks said. One such early user is Michael Oliphant, a professor of Business and Organizational Leadership and a member of the Academic and Information Technology Committee.

Oliphant is especially fond of the power of Gmail's search function—which more than offsets what some might perceive as limitations of the new system. "I have never bothered to put labels on e-mails or do much of anything to manage my E-mail," he said. "Even so, I am always able to find old E-mails instantly using the search function."

By far, though, the feature that users of Brevard Gmail will immediately start to notice is the immense size of the storage space that it affords users—a selling point that Oliphant touts.

"I have used Gmail for my personal E-mail for over 5 years and have over 10,000 E-mails stored," he said. "Google says I am using 16 percent of my limit, so that should give me another 25 years before I need to get rid of old E-mail."