

Textbook rental: Is it an idea whose time has come?

You may have noticed when you went to buy your books this semester that another option awaited you in Kings Creek Bookstore: the option, in some cases, to “rent” your textbook, at often considerable savings over the full purchase price of a new book.

In essence, this means you avoid the end-of-the-semester ritual of packing up your textbooks—all \$700 to \$1000 worth in a typical semester—and heading down to the campus bookstore to brave the perils of “Buyback.” Instead of standing in line, wondering if your chemistry textbook will be used again, or if your mass media textbook has somehow become obsolete in the span of just three-and-a-half months, you can avoid the trepidation by basically “pre-selling” your book back to the bookstore at the beginning of the semester.

While the iPad and Kindle devices have been slowly changing the way people read (and buy) books, including textbooks, they still have not made a serious dent in the textbook publishing industry—though it is likely that sometime in the next five or 10 years, the ebook will become a standard in higher education textbook sales. What is really preventing e-textbooks from taking off now, however, according to an Aug. 31 article on *insidehighered.com*, is the fact that textbook rentals have gone “viral” in just the past few months.

The Follett Higher Education Group, which operates Kings Creek Bookstore at Brevard, expanded its seven pilot college bookstore rental programs last fall to 22 in the spring. And this semester, the number has expanded to include hundreds of the more than 800



Esteban Diaz, "The Lariat" at Baylor University via UWIRE

college bookstores run by Follett ... including our own.

The most substantial savings for rentals are, of course, for brand new books. Rental cost savings are less if used books are available.

What do you think about the new rental program? Did it save you money? Does it make you more likely to get your books from the campus bookstore instead of ordering them online from sources such as half.com? E-mail us at clarion@brevard.edu with your thoughts about textbook rentals.

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New cedar-shaved paths add beauty, romance to BC campus

By Zack Christy
Staff Writer

For those of us who are returning to Brevard it may have come as quite a surprise to see the changes we had over the summer. These changes while aesthetic such as the new paths.

The new paths are wonderful—I recommend anyone who has not yet ventured to Ingle’s or down to the Villages, take a walk. These cedar-shaved stairways to heaven are well worth the trip.

Like many of my contemporaries, I have often criticized and scoffed at the maintenance people who work on the grounds. Primarily because of the overly loud singing of the lawn mowers, but now I take back any cross word I have ever spoken of these men.

Senior Daniel Heyman says even if

they do happen to be “superfluous, totally arbitrary paths,” they add beauty and a nice setting for possible romantic or even sexual encounters. “The gravel at the café was a huge step up,” Heyman said. He says he could even see himself receiving a very special gift on the mulch there—a very intimate sort of gift, if you know what I mean.

Daniel’s statements epitomize what the paths mean to Brevard. While the path may be a little superfluous—the one by the creek is only about 50 feet long—they add beauty. And another bonus is that the paths give an opportunity for a moonlit walk along the banks of Kings Creek, and who knows where the night may lead?

So when you see a maintenance person, tip your cap to them for the hard work they have put into making this campus beautiful. And when you tread on the cedar shavings, tread lightly because you are walking on someone’s hopes and dreams.

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