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## Remembering 9/11: Student & faculty perspectives

**By John M. Climer**  
Editor in Chief

Saturday commemorates the ninth anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. on September 11, 2001.

Most of us will never forget where we were and what we were doing when the first images of smoke billowing out of the World Trade Center towers were broadcast to us from every news network in the country.

For me, September 11, 2001 is particularly memorable because the next day was my 16th birthday and my parents had planned a surprise party for me. Needless to say, neither I nor my friends were in a celebratory mood the next evening.

When talking to others about their memories of September 11, 2001, I found that many people have similar stories about the circumstances surrounding their own life as the events unfolded in New York City.

Senior **Daniel Heyman** recalls his experience, saying, "I was in middle school when it happened. I remember when they made the announcement, and then one of our history teachers started telling us about the history

between the US and Osama Bin Laden. I realized that it was going to be a waste of a school day, so I walked home, because my house is right across the street from my middle

school. I didn't realize the significance of what happened until my mom explained it to me."

Senior **Zack Christy** recalls a similar experience, saying, "I remember when they made the announcement at my school. I remember the teachers at my school turned on the tv after the first plane hit, then as we were watching the what was going on, the second plane hit. Our teacher said that it was too graphic for us to watch anymore and cut the tv off. I didn't hear anything else about it until I got home that afternoon."

Senior **David Alexander** recalled his experience saying, "I was 13 years old when it happened. We didn't watch it on tv that day, but some kid ran into the classroom and yelled out that a plane had flown into the World Trade Center."

Alexander continues, saying, "I was just sitting in geography class,

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## Student Profile: Daniel Hunter Tuttle

**By Caleb Welborn**  
Staff Writer

"Iraq took a lot of getting used to, with the mortars, but after a while it becomes normal. It's hard to imagine that but (laughs) you hear another round go off and it's just another mortar round."

Daniel Hunter Tuttle is sitting, slouched back in his chair, at a computer in the super lab, tapping away at the keyboard. When thinking about a question, he scratches his chin at the base of the short, dark beard that encompasses his face. Wearing the same flip-flops, beige baseball cap and sunglasses that he normally does, he's the image of your everyday college student.

At 25 years old, Tuttle is older than most college sophomores. Before attending Brevard College, Tuttle worked overseas in Iraq, Pakistan and Colombia as a U.S. Air Force Firefighter, and in Kyrgyzstan and Curacao as a Civilian Contract Firefighter. Tuttle barely arrived back in the states two months ago from his last deployment in Curacao from June 2009 to June 2010.

As an Air Force firefighter, it was Tuttle's responsibility to protect government installations

in whatever country he was in at the time.

"There were lots of fires in Iraq, structural, dumpster, electrical," he said. "There was one really big fire where a connex box (a large metal box about the size of a dumpster) full of ammunition caught fire and we had to fight it for four or five hours. You could hear ammo going off. During the incident I was a tanker driver. I shuttled in somewhere between eight and ten thousand gallons of water from my truck alone, and there were two other trucks shuttling water." Iraq was the first country he was sent to, where he was deployed for five months in 2005.

In 2006, Tuttle was sent to Pakistan. Although he was deployed there for only one month, he says that it was his favorite country that he worked in because he had a great cultural experience working with the local people and Pakistani Air Force Firefighters. "We played volleyball with them, I brought my baseball gloves so we could play baseball, we played cricket with them," he said. "It was pretty cool; they would bring their dishes out and share their food. I really liked the chai tea."

In 2007, Tuttle was deployed in Colombia for three months, where he first became interested

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