

# Brevard College undergoes SACS reaccreditation

By Danielle Burch / Chantel Azevedo  
Staff Writers

For those of you who are tired of being graded for every little assignment and presentation, you are not alone—Brevard College gets graded too.

Brevard has to maintain Quality Enhancement Plan standards set for the college by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. This association, or “SACS,” is the “regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states,” according to the SACS Web site. This means that SACS determines whether an educational institution is able to continue its function based on compliance with various standards.

Each year, SACS rewrites its Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement, and the schools and colleges under its jurisdiction must meet the new standards.

If a school does not meet the accreditation standards, it may be placed under warning, put on probation or removed from candidacy for accreditation. Not all schools are accredited; some specialty schools focus on subjects that do not fall under typical accreditation standards.

Why does accreditation matter? If a college

has been accredited, it is more likely to offer the degrees employers and recruiters recognize. Because it is a good indicator of a quality education, accreditation also helps students transfer credits from one school to another, or to graduate programs.

Since Brevard College is in the realm of SACS jurisdiction, it must meet the standards in the Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement. In order to maintain these standards, Brevard College has developed a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). A QEP is a course of action integrated into the college’s functioning that contributes to the improvement of student learning. This plan is then judged by SACS according to their guidelines.

In their 2004 Handbook for Reaffirmation of Accreditation, SACS defines student learning (as impacted by the QEP) as “changes in students’ knowledge, skills, behaviors, and/or values...through the academic climate, the general curriculum, experiential learning, critical thinking skills, innovative teaching and learning strategies, student engagement, and technology in the curriculum.”

An official QEP must plan for the future and provide a descriptive title, a rationale, effectual evidence, a literary review supporting the plan, a list of goals and intended outcomes, the means of

## 2010 SACS standards:

- Institutional Mission
- Governance and Administration
- Institutional Effectiveness
- All Educational Programs
- Undergraduate Programs
- Graduate and Post-Baccalaureate Professional Programs
- Faculty
- Library and Other Learning Resources
- Student Affairs and Services
- Financial Resources
- Physical Resources
- Substantive Change Procedures
- Compliance with Other Policies
- Representation of Accreditation Status

assessment and evaluation, an intended timeline of achievement, and a fiscal plan indicating necessary resources and support.

In order to reaffirm accreditation, the QEP will then be judged based on its focus, its assessment plan and commitment to implement the plan, and the level of campus involvement in achieving the goals.

## Author David Madden to give a public reading at BC

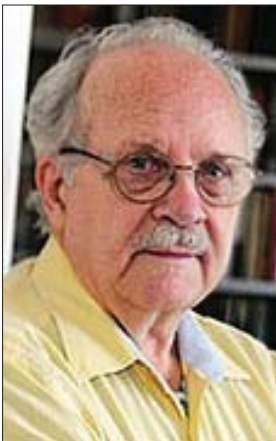
David Madden, author of “The Suicide’s Wife,” “On the Big Wind,” “Sharpshooter: A Novel of the Civil War” and more will give a public reading on campus at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday night in the lobby of McLarty-Goodson on the BC campus.

Madden attended Yale Drama School, served as a writer-in-residence at LSU for 24 years and now is the Robert Penn Warren Professor of Creative Writing, Emeritus, at LSU.

One of his collections, “The Shadow Knows,” won a National Council on the Arts Award, judged by Hortense Calisher and Walker Percy.

His best known novel, “The Suicide’s Wife,” was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and adapted into a CBS movie.

The event is open to the public.



David Madden

# Flu season starts on campus

By Zack Christy  
Staff Writer

Sniffing, sneezing, coughing and moaning, the cold and flu season has the Brevard College campus groaning. Cooler weather always brings something a little more sinister than just snow—the cold and flu could be lurking at every corner. So what can you do to be safe?

Susan Martin, the school nurse, is your best friend if you do find yourself overtaken by sickness. She was kind enough to share her prevention strategies. Most importantly Martin said, “Keep your hands off of your face.” This can be tough, says Martin, who suggests keeping a bottle of hand sanitizer with you at all times.

“Don’t share drinks or eating utensils,” Martin says. “A lot of time I find that if one person from a team gets sick, they all get sick.” This, however, is an easy fix. Use common sense, and don’t drink after people—especially people who already are sick.

The best prevention technique, however, is still “an old fail safe,” Martin said: “Be sure to get plenty of sleep.” Sleep is still your body’s best defense against attacks from colds and the flu. As college students, we tend to forget to sleep, but it is absolutely necessary to prevent getting sick.

If, however, you do find yourself feeling under the weather, be sure to know what your ailment is. There is a difference between the cold and influenza (flu).

If you have the flu, you typically will have a fever of 102 to 104 degrees for four to five days, severe fatigue and a severe cough. These symptoms can last for up to four weeks.

If you have a cold, you will rarely have a fever or headaches, but you will have all the stuffiness and congestion that comes with the cold. These symptoms will continue for about a week.

You may be aware that a cold has been going around campus recently. The symptoms last for about a week and generally the students affected have felt very weak. There have also been two cases of undiagnosed flu. However, both cases were isolated and both students were able to remove themselves from campus.

It is important to get your flu shot. You can get your flu shot at a number of places in Brevard, including Ingles, Kmart, Walmart, Walgreen’s, and CVS. Martin strongly suggests that students take advantage of these opportunities. If you do find yourself feeling under the weather, don’t hesitate to make a trip to the health center in Stamey for a diagnosis, or even just to pick up information on prevention.