November is National American Indian Heritage Month

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Nov. 19, 2010

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Van Horn, Hardt hold campus forum

SERVING BREVARD COLLEGE SINCE 1935

By John M. Climer / Daniel Heyman Editor in Chief / Managing Editor

Volume 76, Issue 12

The recent visit by members of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools on campus was a success, according to Dean of Faculty John Hardt. His presentation was part of a larger campus forum held by President Drew Van Horn Wednesday afternoon.

An audience of three students and more than two dozen faculty members were in attendance as Van Horn addressed several questions submitted since the last campus-wide issues forum, including the college's recruitment strategy, faculty retirement annuities and the direction of service initiatives.

According to Hardt, the SACS visit to campus was just one part of a multi-faceted accreditation process. "From our perspective, the visit went quite well," Hardt said.

In order to receive reaccreditation, each SACS member must comply with approximately 80 standards as outlined by the association. In

addition, each member must show, in most cases through documentation, how they are compliant.

Prof. Helen Gift was in charge of assembling the compliance report for BC. According to Hardt, "she did an excellent job."

Additionally, the SACS requires each member institution to develop a Quality Enhancement Plan. "It is a five-year plan which proposes an initiative that relates to what the SACS agrees to be a quality improvement," said Hardt.

BC's initiative is aimed at faculty development, and more specifically, increasing the levels of student engagement in the classroom. The QEP will go into effect beginning next fall.

Van Horn outlined the college's plan for increasing student enrollment. BC is focused on the area where it can be most competitive, according to Van Horn, saying the college will aim to reach the traditional undergraduate student. Growth will be focused in the "Brevard experience," which includes engagement, service, and environmental awareness.

The goal for spring 2011 enrollment is 581, according to Van Horn. This includes 523 preregistered current students, 14 paid deposits for new students in the spring and a number of active applicants.

Adult education has been discussed, but it is not likely BC will develop a program anytime soon. The demographic adult education serves is already being reached in the area, and requires a large investment that probably wouldn't yield high returns, according to Van Horn. "Expansion of programs is something we will continue to investigate," he said.

Campus life is exploring options to fulfill the duties of the current Director of Service Initiatives when the current AmeriCorps VISTA worker, Jessica Blanford, leaves in July. The position will not be filled by another VISTA worker because Brevard is not eligible for another one to fill the same job.

The next campus issues forum will be set sometime in the spring.

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Beloved prof. dies at 72

Dr. Len Griffiths, an instructor of economics at Brevard College, died in his home on Saturday, Nov. 13. He was 72.

Born Jan. 7, 1938, in London, England, he earned his Ph.D. in economics at the University of East Anglia in England and came to the states to work as a materials scientist for a UK company in the 1960s.

He moved back to England until 2000 and in 2004 settled in Brevard. Dr. Griffiths became president of the Pisgah Group of the North Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club and served for two years. He had a love for gardening.

We will remember him best as our economics professor, subtly making fun of the students not paying attention and for his dapper wardrobe.

He is survived by his wife, Ann Griffiths, of Brevard; son Robert Griffiths and wife Cindi of England; daughter Leslie Rodrigues and husband David of New Hope, Pennsylvania; two granddaughters and two grandsons.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010, at St. Philips Episcopal Church with the Rev. Robert Field officiating. The family will hold a reception following the



Dr. Len Griffiths

service

The family has asked that instead of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Bread of Life, 248 South Caldwell St., Brevard, NC 28712.

A register book is available online for family and friends at www.thosshepherd.com