

## SGA kicks off new semester

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Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) here at Brevard College has always been a voice for the students and with the semester having just started, now is the time to become more involved with the Student Government Association.

The Student Government Association serves as a "middle man" between the students and the administrative board. During an interview with Mark Moseley, a Junior, Wilderness Leadership major at Brevard College, he explained how that process works.

When a student or group of students have a proposal that they would like to present to the administrative board, Student Government Association serves as a preliminary presentation, before the students present their proposal to the board.

The Student Government Association members look over and review the proposal and make the appropriate changes in order to have the proposal be accepted. When the proposal receives the Student Government Association stamp of approval, their proposal is given a much better chance of being put into action.

Now is the time to become more involved in the Student Government Association. This being a new semester with new campus leaders, the Student Government Association has many ways for students to become involved and they encourage everyone to join.

The Students Government Association has not yet had their first meeting of the semester but they are planning on holding one in the near future.

## SOPA

media firms, pharmaceutical makers, and the US Chamber of Commerce. These supporters claim that it "protects the intellectual property market and corresponding industry, jobs and revenue, and is necessary to bolster enforcement of copyright laws, especially against foreign websites." A foreign nation is boycotted against because it is the main source of downloads, and the purchasing of pharmaceutical medications. The bill would even criminalize the unauthorized streaming of copyrighted materials, which can lead to five years in prison.

Why the pharmaceutical makers? Because Google had to pay a 500 million dollar settlement with the Department of Justice for allowing Canadian pharmacies to advertise prescription drugs that are illegal to the United States. Although it is true that there are certain websites that sell illicit or mislabeled medications there are more that do not. According to a group called RxRights, a consumer advocate's group, "there are Canadian and other international pharmacies that do disclose where they are located, require a valid doctor's prescription and sell safe, brand-name medications produced by the same leading manufacturers as prescription medications sold in the U.S." But SOPA will be unable to distinguish between counterfeit and genuine websites. This therefore will not allow residents of the United States to order foreign medications.

Those most affected by this bill are new search engines, social media sites, tumbler, YouTube and even small sites like deviantart. This is because these sites will allow copyrighted material to be posted. Even sites that allow certain advertising can be at risk. However, with the US Department of Justice deciding which sites are legal and illegal, and a certain judge believes that using a quote from a movie or a drawing of a certain television character is infringement, then the site could be shut down.

Protests are happening all over the nation, opponents of the bill are even saying that it violates the first amendment, the freedom of speech. A group of at least 100 lawyers signed a letter to the House or Representatives stating that the passing of this law was unconstitutional, the authors, Professor Mark A. Lemley (Stanford Law School), Professor David S. Levine (Elon University School of Law), and Professor David Post (Temple University School of Law) state that; "The Constitution 'require[s] a court before material is completely removed from circulation... to make a final determination that material is [unlawful] after an adversary hearing... immediately by the Attorney General after an ex parte hearing." The bill was never given an adversary hearing by a judge, therefore the House of Representatives is violating the first amendment by removing these websites from circulation before they have been given an ex parte hearing by a judge.

SOPA and PIPA, are both bills that put the internet as we know it at a serious risk. The internet has become a major industry for countless programs, and even people. It was through social networking sites that the early days of the "Arab Spring" were even possible. If this bill is passed the first amendment will be violated, and the people of the United States cut off from foreign websites, certain downloads, and even the social media.



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by Caleb Welborn

