



The lowdown on our SGA

By Patrick G. Veilleux
Managing Editor

The Student Government Association is a student organization that advocates the agenda and desires of the Brevard College student community. Whether people realize it or not, SGA has been working behind the scenes throughout the year for the benefit of the school and the student body.

2011 and the first several months of 2012 were tumultuous for the college with the changing hierarchy and staff cuts, SGA, like many organizations on campus, struggled.

SGA's Vice President Mark Mosely said "A lot of stuff was just on hold, nobody could get anything done. Committees and organizations within the administration couldn't get things done; there was kind of a hiatus."

During the controversy that came with Susan Martin being let go during the Fall semester, SGA hosted a forum for students to voice their concerns, criticisms, sadness, and anger. For the senior officers of SGA, it was a wonderful event, Mosely said "SGA hosted that forum with our interim president, Charlie Teague, and we got a lot of turn out. We had alumni and professors come in, and as an SGA event it was a success."

The forum did have a high level of participation from the community, and it was also important for SGA because students wanted to be involved and take a stand. A lot of students applied to be senators and help represent their respective classes' interests, and SGA meetings as a whole were seeing more participants. It also helped to accomplish one of SGA's primary and necessary concerns, information gathering.

SGA representative Elise Labus said "We utilized Fall semester for information gathering. 'What do students want?' Also, 'what do they need and what can we do?' As soon as the new president came in, the entire executive board sat down with him and he said 'I want a list of what this student body wants, and what we can begin.' That is among our top priorities, and we have to prioritize what we want done."

Labus and Mosely agree that while they were not satisfied with the quantity of information

gathered, they had assembled a great deal. To gather information beyond the forum, surveys were sent out about what students wanted in a cafeteria, Mosely himself worked up a list of questions for students including "What does it take for you to be a successful student?" BCE

411 classes gathered information for SGA as well, sometimes members of the organization would just ask a student face to face what they might want from the institution.

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BC hosts Earth Day activities April 16-21

STILL LOOKING FOR ARTISTS AND CRAFTERS!

Brevard College will celebrate Earth Day, April 16-21, with a week of earth-friendly events, including a faculty lecture, a drum circle, Contra Dance and the College's annual Earth Fest.

All events are open to the community and are free of charge.

Brevard College's Earth Day activities will kick off at 8 p.m. Monday, April 16 with a drum circle and jam session in the College's Residential Quad.

A 1 p.m. creek clean up and 4 p.m. garden work day will be held on campus on Tuesday, April 17.

A presentation, "Living Off the Grid," will be given by Professor of Ecology and Environmental Science and Executive Director of the Appalachian Center for Environmental Education Jennifer Frick-Ruppert at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 29 in room 102 of the College's Moore Science Building.

A Contra Dance will be held from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, April 20 in the College's Dunham Auditorium.

The College's annual Earth Fest celebration will be held from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 21 at the amphitheatre next to the Porter Center for Performing Arts.

The schedule of fun family-friendly events includes environmental activities; outdoor bands; a local craft/art sale; a kids craft area; games; informational booths; locally prepared cuisine; and more.

A special Kid's Village will offer children a chance to make crafts from recycled materials as well as meet animals from Earthshine Nature Center.

A new addition to this year's celebration is a Kid's Art Sale showcasing the creative works of area children.

Kids of all ages are encouraged to set up a free booth from noon to 2 p.m. Items sold will be homemade and priced under \$5.

Local bands the Zach Douglas Trio, The 'XO' Band, Serious Clark and Common Foundation will also perform throughout the day.

Earthfest and Earth Week events are organized by the Earthfest Planning Committee and sponsored by the Brevard College Campus Life Division, BC Greens, the Brevard College Division of Science and Mathematics and Gaia Herbs.

In addition to the activities planned on campus, Brevard College students, faculty and staff will visit local elementary schools as part of the College's Environmental Education Endeavor.

This is the tenth year the College has taught environmental education to local elementary students.

For more information, visit www.brevard.edu/Earthfest.

Local artisans and environmentally-oriented organizations interested in participating in Earthfest should contact Beth Suttles Banks at beth.banks@brevard.edu.