

Welcome back, BC!

Brevard begins a new year by first welcoming students on campus

By Gabby Smith
Opinion Editor

As another year at BC commences those of us who've been here awhile can't help but get a little nostalgic as we look around at the beautiful scenery that surrounds our little campus. That being said, we also can't help but notice that our little campus isn't as little as it was in the previous years.

BC is ever expanding and improving. In the past three years we've seen a steady increase in the amount of incoming freshman and a rising retention rate. We've broken ground on a new dorm and built a new coffee shop in the past year alone. Additionally, there's been a great number of changes to our academic programs as we shift to focus more on experiential learning and how that's accomplished in the classroom.

For all the new students this semester, both freshman and transfers, you've come to BC in the midst of what I'd call a new era. With all the new changes here on campus, it's as if BC in and of itself is starting a new chapter in its history, just like you.

At convocation each year students are given a note by faculty encouraging them to make the most of their college experience and now seems like as good a time as any to get started on that. While BC has grown and improved, it has still retained its core values and focus, which is to not only educate you but to encourage you and help you through the next phase of your life, to give you experiences that you might not get anywhere else, and to help you find your passion.

I know that things get a little monotonous at times and that we all have doubts but I encourage each and every new person on campus to maintain the same energy they had when they initially moved in. Go to events, be enthusiastic, sign up for classes that have nothing to do with your major. The big picture here is that BC is growing and taking the steps toward progress the only question is will you follow in its footsteps and let your experiences help you grow as well.



Madison Smith and Elena Raygoza welcome new students.



Madison Smith and Elena Raygoza pose with movers.

Convocation: Holding on to tradition

By Joshua Cole
Managing Editor

Convocation begins the new academic year at Brevard College. The annual ceremony which took place August 18 welcomed new and transferring students to campus and to a friendly faculty which aim to make themselves feel accessible to students.

Dr. Scott Sheffield along with Dr. David Joyce, the college's president invited students to enjoy the new academic year with hope for their success along what is just a portion of life's journey. Steven Olson, president of the Student Government Association, or SGA had a few words of welcome to say to students, and led them in accepting the responsibilities and roles they will learn to fulfill throughout their time at BC. Many of BC's new students will go on to become future leaders at the college and beyond in their lives after college.

Belton Hammond, an English teacher, has been at BC for over 15 years and has seen the changes the college has gone through. Hammond said that BC has been handing out pre-written letters to new students for only about three to four years, but it is a decidedly unique experience to Brevard. The letters are meant to welcome students and may come with bits of advice from faculty. One of BC's decided strengths is that professors are

readily present for students that have questions, or would like to pursue a subject with greater passion than class may allow.

"I think the main purpose is to give students a chance to see the larger community in one space," said Hammond, "and especially the officials of the college, and really give them a chance to meet some of them; and that was the purpose of the shaking of the hands, and handing out the cards. It just shows that we're trying to establish an atmosphere of congeniality, that we don't want students to see us at a distance, but that we want them to see us as very personable."

BC has historically been a Methodist school, but in the day to day of each semester religion has taken a more passive role at the school. During convocation prayers were led by members of the faculty which sought success for students as they enter into new experiences and greater knowledge of the world. When asked about the prayers and relationship religion still has with the BC Hammond felt that, for the college, branching away from being as dogmatic in its beliefs allows the school to welcome a more diverse student base; "that's what liberal arts is all about, it's about understanding that we have freedom to explore, and that doesn't mean explore inside the box, you can get outside the box to explore too. But I think it's still good that we have prayers and hold onto our roots."