

BC music student wins top honors

A Brevard College student has been named one of the four winners in the Asheville Symphony Ivey's Young Artists Competition.

Freshman trombonist Brian McCommon of Alexandria, Va. became the first Brevard College student ever to win the honor after he auditioned earlier this month. "I'm very happy to win," said Brian, who will solo with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra, Sunday, Feb. 22.

"It will be very good experience for me," he said. "It's not something you get to do very often as an 18-year-old. I hope it will help with my career."

In the audition session Brian was accompanied by pianist and music instructor Tony Sirianni. He also credits his BC music teacher, Steve Kelly. On campus, Brian plays in the Concert Band, The Jazz Ensemble and with various student recitals.

His goal is to someday play in one of America's major symphony orchestras.

Coltrane Art

Gallery schedule set

The Coltrane Art Center Gallery currently is showing the work of the fall semester painting class. Sculpture and drawing are found upstairs by the fall's beginning sculpture and drawing class.

A Brevard College Faculty Photography Show will go up on Thursday, Feb. 5, according to photography instructor Bill Byers.

Photographer Patricia Butcher will show her black-and-white photographs in the gallery from Feb. 27 to March 27. Butcher, who lives in Greenville and Brevard, teaches photography and is also a musician each summer at the Brevard Music Center.

In other news from Coltrane: Professor of Art Tim Murray has been invited to show two of his pieces in the Tri-State Sculptors show at the Metro Gallery at George Mason University in Arlington, Va., Feb. 1-28.

Murray will be showing "Square Sticks with One Escape," and "Dragon Runner."

BC Concert Band

tapped for honor

The Brevard College Concert Band has been selected for what director Steve Kelly calls "a very big important honor." The 55-member band will play next November for the N.C. Music Educators' Conference in Winston-Salem.

Only one or two concert bands are selected each year for the honor, according to Kelly. The BC band was picked on the basis of their audition tape. They will be accompanied by Dr. John Marcellus, trombone teacher from the Eastman School of Music. Approximately 2,000 Tar Heel music educators will attend the conference and concert.



BC trombonist Brian McCommon will solo with the Asheville Symphony Feb. 22. He has been named one of four winners of the Asheville Symphony's Ivey's Young Artists Composition. (BC News Bureau photo)

King's birthday observed

by Kerry Wells

To celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Brevard College Peace Assembly, students and faculty, and community members gathered for a candlelight memorial service on Monday, Jan. 19.

The meeting was organized by Preston Woodruff, faculty advisor to the peace group, to honor King, who won the Nobel Peace prize in 1964 for his fight against racism and segregation.

The memorial started with an invocation and scripture reading by Woodruff, followed by remarks from Dr. C. Edward Roy, Professor Emeritus of Religion at Brevard College and former head of the Brevard Human Relations Committee. Dr. Roy said young people today need to be aware of the contributions of Dr. King and how he affected today's society. "You cannot remember a time when the person because of the color of his skin could not enjoy the benefits of a society which we take for granted," he said.

After remarks from Dr. Roy, candles

were lit and faculty and peace group members read selections from King's writings and speeches. President Billy Greer then read "Abide With Me," King's favorite hymn and Dr. Charles Zimmerman, campus chaplain, gave the benediction.

This was the second annual service held for the birthday of Dr. King. Woodruff noted, "There were twice as many people here this year" as compared with last year's ceremony, and said that the service went very well. "I was delighted with it," he said. Woodruff noted that he feels it is important to have such a ceremony for King because young people seem to "have only the vaguest idea of who he (King) was, and he is too important in American history for that."

Dr. Clara Wood commented on King's influence on her by saying, "So much of what Dr. King said either directly or by implication included women as well as men in this need for freedom, that he is one of my heroes, if you will, in that he not only transcends race, he transcends gender."

All-Chopin concert set in Dunham

by Chris Peterson

The world is certainly a small place, and Anthony Sirianni, a piano instructor here at Brevard College, knows this to be true since his former piano instructor, Penelope Cecchini, will be performing in Dunham Auditorium on Thursday, Feb. 5, at 8:15 p.m.

Penelope Cecchini is an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin. BC's own Anthony Sirianni studied under her from 1971-76 for his undergraduate degree at U of W.

Sirianni says, "Her recitals are consistently chosen to represent Wisconsin's outstanding artists on Wisconsin's public radio, and her last solo was recently chosen to be aired nationally with including Yo Yo Ma and Emanuel Ax." Sirianni describes her as a "brilliant teacher, musician, and performer." She is also listed in the International Who's Who of Women in Education for her distinguished services to music.

When asked to give a brief description of Cecchini, Sirianni said, "Through a lifetime you can count on one hand the people who are major influences in your life and she is one of them."

Brevard College receives re-accreditation

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dations that the college subsequently addressed in the self-study. Langley called the self-study a "blueprint for the development" of the college over the next five years.

The criteria set by SACS are getting more demanding, according to Langley, and are becoming increasing results-oriented. This is a new focus for SACS, and it is to Brevard's credit that the college chose to be one of the first institutions to be evaluated by the new criteria, Langley said.

Far from being a rubber stamp, re-accreditation was denied to four colleges in the region, and another 16 were put on "an endangered list, so to speak," Langley said.

Credibility of education has become a major focus for SACS, Langley said. Accreditation requires colleges now to show the evaluating body as well as to the community and students "that your institution can indeed deliver on what you say it will."

Brevard College President Billy Greer agreed. "We are in a time when there is a lot of talk about academic integrity and excellence in education," he said, "so the Southern Association is looking very carefully at who they re-affirm. The SACS people turned this institution inside out and found nothing of any substance wrong with us. It was very important to us to be re-affirmed; it just points again to what kind of people we have at Brevard College."