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Sharon and Devin Brown are a couple of teachers new to BC. Literally a couple of teachers.

And be it luck or be it fate, Sharon and Devin Brown's adoption into BC's faculty family is just what the college needed, and what the Browns wanted. BC needed teachers. Sharon Brown was hired to instruct P.E. and continuing education. Devin was hired to teach English and computing. The Browns wanted to teach on a college level. BC became the answer, in the spring of 1988.

"We'd usually get jobs together", said Devin. "In Connecticut we filled 1½ positions at the boarding school, and we were prepared to do it again."

And so they did.

And here they are.

Sharon and Devin both originated from the midwest, but it wasn't until college that their paths, and futures, crossed. Devin spent his first year of school at the University of Dallas. He then attended Lincoln Christian and transferred to Missouri's Culver-Stockton College for his junior year. After completing a series of CLEP tests later the same year, Devin graduated a senior from Culver, with a bachelor's degree in Religion/Philosophy. Devin then earned a master's at East Illinois University, and a master's of Fine Arts in creative writing at the University of Florida. Devin returned to East Illinois and taught English. It was during this time that Devin put his creative abilities to the test.

"I had been taking some computer courses and, at the time, there weren't instruction manuals available. My physics professor had a federal grant for specially gifted students." Knowing of his creative writing background, the professor asked Devin to write a series of computer manuals. Devin wrote the series, which was later published, financed by the grant. But this was not the only event at East Illinois to affect Devin's future. Devin met Sharon Cizek, an East Illinois student on her way to earning a bachelor's degree in P.E. Later on, the two married.

After marrying, Sharon began teaching, and Devin continued to teach. The couple's jobs, if not in the same school, were located close to each other. "Sharon and I taught at an all-girl boarding school in Connecticut for two years," Devin said. "We then left to join the Peace Corps. In October of 1986, three weeks before we were scheduled to work in the Fiji Islands, the trip was cancelled by the Fiji government."

With a change of plans forced upon them, the Browns headed to S.C.. Sharon attended the University of South Carolina at Columbia, where she earned a master's in P.E.. Meanwhile, Devin taught at Hammond High, a private school near USC. The two continued to search for opportunity. Explained Sharon, "The head of my department at USC knew I was looking for a job. One day, an opening at Brevard appeared on the job offer list. An advisor told me to check it out. So Devin and I sent our resumes."

The same college, the same occupation. The two even share the same car. Do the



Brevard College's newest dynamic duo, Sharon and Devin Brown, strike a playful pose beneath some of the stained glass ornaments they've made. (Clarion photo by Jock Lauterer)

2-gether at BC

Browns, then, live happily ever after??
More than that.

Together, Sharon and Devin Brown are moving forward and going places. Each values the other's differences and learns

from them. Marriage hasn't slowed the lives of Sharon and Devin—it's enhanced them. Said Devin, "Our jobs aren't on top of each other. It's nice, I think, being at the same school; we can offer suggestions and

give support to each other. Some couples live in the middle, and go opposite ways each day. There seems to be something wrong if that situation works better."

Sharon agreed. "We find that working together gives us strength. It helps us feel more connected with the whole college, instead of just parts. Devin's over in MG, and I'm in the gym; we each know a different group." She smiled and added a matter-of-factly, "Together, we know a lot! Our differences give us enough to share together." Devin continued, "Sharon, for instance, might go to a lecture I suggest. She might not have gone otherwise. I feel our individual interests broaden each other."

People are another important part of life for the Browns. Relationships developed outside Sharon and Devin's marriage are as important as the relationship developing within. Said Sharon, "We moved here in July, prepared to talk just to each other. But Randy Jackson was at the house when we pulled up. He let us in and showed us around. Later, both the Jacksons came over and brought us dinner. All in the first night! And Belton, Preston, Zimmerman, and the whole Alexander family came by welcoming us. After this, we knew we were in the right place."

The Brown-student relationship is an ever-changing one, the Browns believe. Versatility and relating are key factors, as is learning by both student and teacher. Said Devin, "I constantly revise my teaching. I see things that work and try to change things that don't. Teaching is a profession which aims to make the best product possible. In other jobs I've tried, the aim was to make the most money in the least time, forget the product's quality. It was sad to see this going on, but it did bring me to teaching."

"With teaching," Sharon said, "I'm still learning. It's really exciting for me, to see the students grow enthusiastic in what they're learning. I care that they learn. Learning is fun. Improvement is fun."

And as excited as the Browns get for teaching, the students get for the Browns. Sophomore Mae King, a former student of Sharon and Devin, commented, "The Browns seem to relate so easily to us, and I just plain feel comfortable around them, in or out of class."

This "comfortableness" comes, Devin felt, partly from the couple's ages, but partly from involvement. "I run, play on the faculty volleyball team, enjoy concerts. Sharon and I have many interests that students have. I feel we give students a feeling of 'comfortableness' perhaps. I'm not sure if that's a good word, but I'm really aware of this feeling being present."

So the Browns are compatible. The Browns are comforting. And the Browns are competitive. Devin starts the match. "A popular misconception is that many think Sharon's faster at running. She's not. She never has and never will beat me." Sharon retaliates. "People used to tease Devin; they called him a 'computer nerd.' Well, he is!"

The two are even keeping a list and checking it twice, of 'Who's Better at What'. But alas, after the games end, the two share a victory—together.