

BC's high academic standards come from tough teachers

by Harper Haworth
Clarion Reporter
"Tough teachers make tough pupils"

Old Saying

Some students here at Brevard must encounter certain teachers in order to complete the graduation checklist. The

BC graduation requirements call for two science classes, four over-100 level English courses and two over-100 level math courses plus one religion course.

BC graduation requirements call for a set number of hours in certain specific areas. Maybe everybody on campus wouldn't agree with this, but many BC students, if they had to name three of

the toughest teachers (of courses commonly taken), these would be their choices: Preston Woodruff, Sue Horn and Bob Glesener.

Woodruff, an associate professor of religion who earned his master's degree in divinity, has been teaching at Brevard for 17 years. He has been titled one of the most amiable and approachable professors with whom students come into contact.

As Woodruff reclined and propped his feet on his desk, he expressed how much he loves the Bible, and the students with whom he teaches it to.

"The majority of my first-time students don't know the front cover of the Bible from the back, and that's OK," Woodruff said. He explained in some detail that if someone doesn't know much about the Bible, then he or she should not be afraid.

Woodruff said that in an Old or New Testament course, he starts from the bottom and works his way up, thus coming at the course from a beginner's level. He urges students, "Give the course a chance."

Woodruff agrees with the BC rule that religion be required. However, he said, "This is not a Sunday School." Although Brevard is a church-related college and it's natural that religion be required here, Woodruff feels that religion should be taught to everyone.

As to Woodruff's style of grading, students repeatedly say that his grading scale is stiff. However, Woodruff said, "Although it is hard to fail my course, much work is required for a student to make an A, but it's easy to make an average grade."

Most BC students have to take a math course before graduation. Sue Horn, one of several math teachers at BC, claims math is "logical."

Horn, an associate professor of mathematics who has been teaching at Brevard for 13 years, also taught at the high school level for a couple of years. She earned her master's degree in math from Louisiana Tech. Horn explained that to her, math is "building blocks."

In her time here at BC, she has taught math levels all the way from 99 to 204. "I am not a patient person," she says, explaining that class time should be spent for math only, and that she likes to stay after class to help students with math problems and to carry on conversations that might have been brought up in class.

Horn wanted to get across that in many of her courses "We have only a semester to teach an entire book that was meant for a year, and we have no time to fool around."

Math 99 and 100 which do not transfer to most four-year schools do not satisfy BC math requirements for graduation. Horn added that any math class above 100 does. She said that for students to earn their A.A. degree from

BC, they need to take two math courses above 100 level, or a 200 level foreign language subject, plus a 101 or above math course.

As to her style of teaching, Horn said, "I give off a dry sense of humor, and most students hate that." Horn expects certain things from her students, no matter what level of math she is teaching. "Attendance, good behavior and completing homework assignments are very crucial for students to succeed in math."

Horn tells her students of the math lab that BC offers Monday through Thursday, 5:30-8 p.m. "Students should have a good background before going to the next higher math course," she said.

Horn realizes that she is regarded as a demanding teacher. "I would rather be named as one of the harder math teachers than one of the easiest," she said.

Some students find science to be a mind-twister. But Associate Professor of Biology Bob Glesener thinks "anyone can do biology."

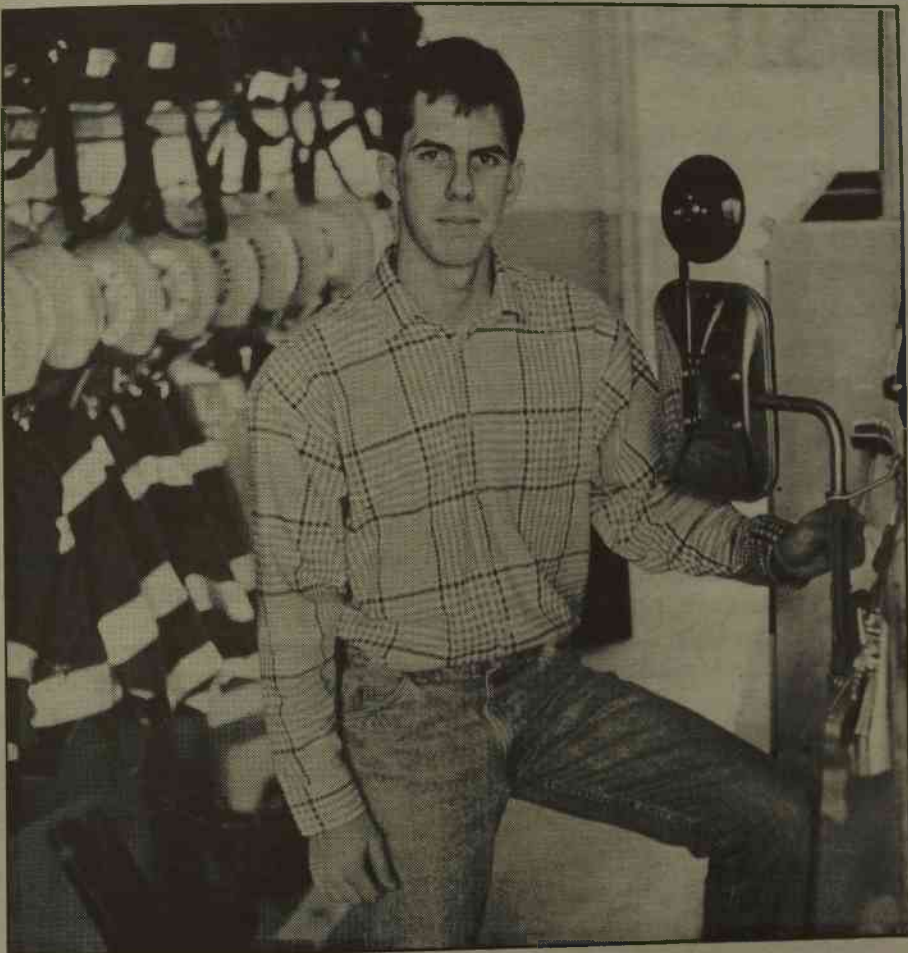
Glesener, who has been teaching at BC for 11 years, said that the emphasis in his classes is on "understanding concepts rather than memorizing facts." He realizes "for some, this presents problems in note taking as well as preparing for exams."

Glesener said this means that students placed in preparatory courses should not be in a hurry to fill their science requirement. Even though there are no prerequisites, a semester or more of college experience will probably increase their success and enjoyment of Biology 101. Glesener said students can go to Biology 102 with a D received in 101 (unlike Math in which a student must earn at least a C in order to advance to the next higher course).

All science courses at BC meet six hours per week and represent twice the time commitment in and probably out of class of a typical three-hour credit course. Thus, the one additional credit hour earned in science classes can be deceptive. Glesener feels students who are recommended to carry reduced loads should keep this in mind when scheduling their science classes.

Glesener also stated that "biology is somewhat more abstract in comparison to physics and chemistry. While the latter require more math, they are also more analytical and, therefore, the material is more straight-forward or matter-of-fact." Glesener thinks that students who meet the math requirements should consider these alternatives if they have 'science anxiety.'

Glesener concluded with a word of encouragement: "I honestly believe that with a little motivation and perseverance, almost anyone can achieve whatever grade they are willing to work toward, remembering that higher grades do require more work."



BC Freshman Eric Schmit at the Brevard Rescue Squad. "I enjoy being a part of the community," says the future EMT. (Clarion photo by Tina Wiegierink)

Schmit serves as EMT volunteer

by Marc Carr
Clarion Features Editor

When it comes to helping our fellow friend, we all say would go out on a limb for that person. Some of us more than others, probably, but we would. As for saving lives, people like Brevard College freshman Eric Schmit of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., see it be more than helping people.

Eric is a volunteer rescue worker for the Brevard Volunteer Rescue Squad. He says, "I enjoy helping a part of the community, and knowing you can help someone makes it all worthwhile."

Eric is a part of a squad that uses eight vehicles including two crash trucks for auto accidents, two ambulances, three mountain trucks for search and rescue and one supply van. Eric emphasizes that he and the squad all work as a team; no one does one job or does more than someone else.

The squad does not handle fire-fighting, but they are qualified for high-level mountain rescue. Eric is in the

process of getting his complete certification to be an emergency medical technician (EMT) so he can do more than he already does.

Already, he has been on numerous emergency calls and has witnessed life-and-death situations. "There are definitely emergency situations, but with a team effort like we have, it always turns out ok," he says.

Eric attends squad meetings every Tuesday night and practices at least three times a week. He participates on his own personal time in the hopes that his volunteer work will lead to a career.

At first, Eric thought he might like to work with the FBI. But now, he says he might continue his work as a professional EMT. The more he becomes involved in the work, he says, the more he sees how important it is.

"I enjoy the work and like to help people," says Eric, "and taking the chance that you can save someone always makes you feel better knowing you're helping."