

"THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS"

the clarion

MAY 1999

BREVARD COLLEGE, BREVARD, NC

A Postcard from Europe

Dr. Laurie McDowell
Campus Director for the Austria Semester and Professor of Music

Imagine living through a blizzard that lasts for three weeks, the little village in which you live so choked with snow that trucks are brought in to remove it so the shoveling can continue. Imagine your 10-minute stroll to class now a 30 to 40-minute struggle through knee-deep snow and over treacherous ice-coated paths, your every movement hampered by your multiple layers of clothes. Imagine driving or skiing in near white-out conditions, where the natural order of

the world seems reversed, where down is up, and any movement becomes a dizzying, disorienting, and frightening experience.

My eight previous trips to Austria had hardly prepared me for such a winter. On January 11, the Brevard College Semester in Austria group gathered in Atlanta. While we waited to board the plane, we talked of the coming adventure, the thrill of the prospect of life in central Europe—a new country, a new language, and new opportunities for travel and personal growth. There was a sense of awareness among the group members that this was an historic occasion, as Maggie Zednik, German Professor and founder of the Austria Semester Program in Altmunster, would retire this spring. This, therefore, would be the final program, the 11th year in which Brevard students would settle into Altmunster on the Traun Lake and call it home. Furthermore, this was the largest group—12 students—ever assembled. Participants included Tara Beddingfield, Susie Baer, Leisha Weeks, Yuka Kawasaki, Leslie Wallace, Stacey Simpson, Alison Stephen, Lauren Faulkner-Duncan, Laurel Cowart, Tami Manella, Ashley Moore, and James Duncan. I personally wondered how such a large group would impact our small apartment building and the village. Together we descended

Brevard Book Award *Aikman's Great Souls* Named 1999 Choice

Each year, the Alumni and Admissions Offices here at BC present the Brevard College Book Award to one outstanding rising senior in each Western North Carolina high school. Rising seniors are selected by school guidance counselors. The awards, which consist of Aikman's book and a certificate, will be presented at each school's Honors Day Program. This year's book of choice is David Aikman's *Great Souls: Six Who Changed the Century*. In *Great Souls*, Aikman, a former *Time* magazine senior correspondent, focuses on the lives of Billy Graham, Nelson Mandela, Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, and Eli Wiesel.

Continued on page 4

1999 COMMENCEMENT ALUMNA DONA VAUGHN TO DELIVER ADDRESS

J. Thomas Bertrand, President, Brevard College

Alumna Dona Vaughn is a professional singer, actress, educator, television producer, and theater and opera director in New York City. She is currently Director of the Opera Workshop at the Manhattan School of Music, Acting Coach in the Metropolitan Opera Young Artists Development Program, and Resident Director of the renowned Portland (Maine) Opera Repertory Theatre.

After graduating from Brevard College as a voice major in 1964, she completed her baccalaureate studies in music at Wesleyan College, then ventured to New York City to pursue her dream of performing on Broadway. She studied acting under Uta Hagen, Herbert Berghof, and Lee Strasberg. She studied dance in the Martha Graham Studio. Vaughn soon won acting roles in Steven Sondheim's *Company*, the original Broadway production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Cy Coleman's *See Saw*, and *In Celebration of Lillian Hellman* (in which she understudied both Jane Alexander and Jane Fonda). While performing in Broadway shows at night, she attended graduate school at Hunter College, earning a master's degree in stage directing.

Dona Vaughn has many acting credits to her name: in theater (both on and off Broadway and in touring and summer stock companies), television (as Dr. Marcia Vaughn on *The Guiding Light*), film (roles in *Godfather II*, *A Way of Life*, and *Minstrel*), and radio (as producer and host for seven years of a popular half-hour radio program, *Spotlight on the Arts*, syndicated through the Greater New York area). Vaughn has numerous directing credits in theater, musical theater, and in opera throughout the United States and Canada, including major productions on and off Broadway, at Lincoln Center, and with the New York City Opera. She has served as a visiting professor, dramaturge, or guest director at many colleges and universities, including University of Michigan, University of Kansas, Northern Wesleyan College. The State University of New York at Plattsburgh conferred on her the Phi Eta Sigma Distinguished Faculty Award for making "the greatest contribution to the Freshman Class in the promotion of academic excellence and concern for the general welfare and interest in the development of the total student." Her husband, Ron Raines, is a talented singer and actor who plays the nefarious Alan Spaulding on *The Guiding Light*, a popular television soap opera. They have a 10-year old daughter, Charlotte Vaughn Raines.

Continued on page 4