

**Student Spotlight:****Senior Shelly May Simmons hopes for diverse student body**

by Matt Rutherford  
Arts & Life Editor

Shelly Mae Simmons, 27, was born in St. Petersburg Florida. Simmons grew up mostly in Woodbridge, Virginia. She graduated from Enka High School in 1996. She is very active student on the Brevard College campus and has been the president of the former Alliance club and is active within the theatre programs as well.

**Why did you choose to come to Brevard College, and how long have you been here?**

I love the area of Brevard; it's a good small school that allows me to learn more from my professors and to take advantage of my education. I've been here for four years.

**What's your major?**

Religious and Philosophical studies.

**Why religious and philosophical studies? And what do you plan to do with it in the career field?**

I chose religious and philosophical studies because it allows me to continue my learning process. The professors are very knowledgeable on the subjects. I've always loved learning about different religions and ideas. I'd like to pursue a career in teaching or outreach services.

**Has Brevard College changed any since you've been here?**

Yes, when I came here in 1996 the theatre was in the barn and the Porter Center was just an idea. Brevard at the time was a tier school. The curriculum has changed and the college has become a four year school. The academics have been greatly enhanced. The food at the caf has improved, believe it or not. The new snack bar has also been a cool addition.

**How do you feel about the newly implemented football team?**

All I can hope is that we continue to be a diverse student body. That it enhances our college as well as our academic and

campus life. If it is what we need to help financially to be a success, then I wish the program the best of luck.

**Who are your role models?**

I don't remember having a role model. But I do remember being inspired by Gandhi and Martin Luther King. When I was younger Whitney Houston's song "The Greatest Love of All" was my inspiration. People who have gone against the norm and stood up for what is right and the equality of others are what I strive to be like.

**How does it feel to be a senior, and how is your senior project coming along?**

I feel a bit nervous about maintaining my 4.0 GPA and transitioning into what's next in life. My senior project...it's coming along.

**Faculty Spotlight:****Dr. Bob White balances time between theater projects**

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Robert White, more affectionately known as Bob, is originally from Bethel, Connecticut. He is also the head of the Brevard College theatre program. Bob received his B.A. in English and speech from Wagner College of New York City. He then received his M.A. of arts in psychology from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. Bob also has a M.A. of arts in playwriting and directing from Antioch College of Yellow Springs, Ohio. Finally he received his PhD in directing and theatre management from Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio. Bob also has several other degrees, from various colleges.

**What interested you in theatre?**

Being able to pretend to be anything you want.

**How exactly did you find yourself teaching theatre classes at Brevard College?**

I owned and operated a small theatre in Hendersonville, North Carolina. I got a phone call asking about a professor's position at the college. I've had this job for 15 years and I didn't even apply for it, it's the neatest thing.

**Being a New England native, what made**

**you choose to come to Brevard?**

I was actually living in Fort Lauderdale, Florida at the time and I saw an ad for property in North Carolina. So I went up there and bought it. I decided then, some-

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day I would live there.

**You have a busy schedule right now, with "Medea" and the One-Act Festival that's about to start. How are things going?**

Everything is happening according to schedule, but I find that I don't have as much time as I would like to spend on each project.

**What other projects are you currently working on?**

I own a stained glass business and I

love to write poetry. I also enjoy gardening flowers.

**As a professor of theatre, what are some of your favorite plays?**

"Ballad of the Sad Café", "Street Car Named Desire", "Desire Under the Elms", and "The Odd Couple" is my favorite comedy.

**Does your schedule allow you to be able to see new plays and stay up to date with new techniques being implemented in theatre?**

No.

**Do you think you emulate any other playwrights?**

Yes, Eugene O'Neil, Edward Albee. I also like Tennessee Williams.