

# Is America in decline?

By Henri Erti  
Contributor

The race for the Presidency has started, and once again the American people can decide what sort of panacea would solve the current malevolent situation. Although the debates are dominated by the nadir economy and growing unemployment, a more fundamental and evocative question needs to be asked: Are we declining as a nation?

Perhaps this bold question has been dodged in many discussions simply due to its grotesque and opaque nature. However, the current inimical situation in the USA forces us to bring this question to the table. Unfortunately, the adamant belief in the American Dream and American Exceptionalism have become such accepted truths, that thinking or suspecting otherwise is considered unpatriotic, or in this case, anti-American, and practically treasonous. It is precisely such detrimental chronic fallacies, which will exacerbate the demise of the American leadership and prevent any reasonable progress to be made in order to regain the American dream and global leadership.

The adherents of American Exceptionalism tend to build their bulwark with outdated assumptions and ignore cold statistical research. According to the OECD study, the USA ranks 11th on research and development, 27th on life-expectancy, 84th on domestic savings rate, 86th on optimism for future employment. Furthermore, a study conducted by PISA shows that the American children rank 14th in reading, 17th in science and 25th on math. Shockingly, USA ranked 55th in literacy, which should be alarming to all of us.

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## Publication Party!!!

Tuesday, September 18

7 p.m.

Porter Center Lobby

Come support the Chiaroscuro!

# Outing Club Q&A

By Carolina Anderson  
Staff Writer

Preview of **Outing Club**: Interview with President Christina Furr, Senior Psychology & WLEE (Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education) Major from Front Royal, Virginia.

### Q: What is Outing Club?

The Outing Club gives its members the opportunity to be in a group of people that share a love of the outdoors and outdoor activities, as well as the opportunity to practice leadership skills, learn new skills and improve on others.

### Q: What are the future plans for Outing Club?

We used last semester to get back on our feet, get organized, and host BANFF. And this semester I would like to see us actually plan and go out on some trips!

### Q: Do you have any big trips planned?

We were waiting for the club fair to pass so if there is anyone that wants to join, we can include them in making decisions on what everyone would like to see done this semester.

### Q: Do you need a lot of experience before you join?

Absolutely not. The purpose of Outing

Club is for students to learn and practice outdoor skills.

### Q: What positions are open?

There aren't any leadership positions open right now. We elected our officials last semester so we could jump right in when the semester started.

### Q: Who's in charge?

Robert Dye is the faculty advisor. I (Christina Furr) am the President, with Bryan Wilson as Vice President and Elyse Santorso as our secretary/treasurer. We have a few people that are go-tos for specific activities. Climbing: Jonathan Hyde, Dan Modahl, and David Lackey. Paddling: Spencer Williamson and Hunter Yarborough.

### Q: Where and when are the meetings?

The meetings are usually held up at Ross Hall. (For those of you that don't know where it's at- it's up on the hill beside the baseball field.) We don't typically hold weekly meetings, we only hold them when we have something to discuss/plan.

### Q: Why should people join?

The Outing Club is made up of a great group of people. We're all in it for the same reason- to enjoy the outdoors, learn, and to have a good time! So I think people should join to hang out with the coolest kids around, learn/brush up on skills, and take advantage of this wonderful area that we live in!

# Creating literary history

By Carolina Siliceo  
Staff Writer

Chiaroscuro: the treatment of light and shade in art produce the illusion of depth. However for students here at Brevard College, Chiaroscuro holds much more significance.

It is the title of Brevard College's literary magazine and a free form of literary expression for students.

Chiaroscuro is a compilation carefully put together by a team of student editors and artists who laced together a series of short stories, poems, pictures and other forms of creative literature. This year's publication includes themes of personal growth and

encouragement.

This year's publication is approximately 52 pages and is a promising read, particularly for those with a passion for creative writing. Recently students met with advisor and Professor Jubal Tiner, to discuss the 2012 edition publication party. The event will be held Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Porter Center. All students are invited to join the Chiaroscuro staff in the unveiling of this Brevard exclusive.

As the Chiaroscuro and Henry Thoreau remind us, "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams and live the life you imagined." If you would like to work with the Chiaroscuro staff and form part of Brevard literary history, email Jubal Tiner at: [tinerjj@brevard.edu](mailto:tinerjj@brevard.edu).