



Michael Jonsson, BC Climbing Team member

John Witherspoon

Immersion group presses on

By Elena Reynolds
Contributing Writer

Within the last couple weeks, I have spent multiple days getting Brevard College van-certified I spent several hours in the van with Ryan Donovan to learn the new, handy skill of driving a 15-passenger van with a hitched trailer, just so I could spend my entire rainy Sunday helping out our beloved Spring 2014 Immersion team.

As you know, the immersion crew (Ross Smith, Chris Brothers, Neal Beam, Carrie Schlemmer, Duncan Miller, Sam Slotin, Taylor Perez, and Kerry Lindsay) left with John Buford and alumni, Steve Acker, on Friday, March 14th for their 21-day expedition. Dan Woodall and myself drove all day to transport the crew to Linville Gorge to start their climbing section.

They spent their first five days paddling down the French Broad River, starting at Hap Simpson Park here in Brevard, North Carolina. While riding in the van with this enthusiastic group of students, I heard many stories of their experiences so far within the first ten days of their trip.

Apparently Ross Smith and Sam Slotin were canoe partners for most of their French Broad River journey. They ended up flipping their boat at one point and had to swim a good distance down the cold, dirty river. Luckily none of their gear was lost, and they kept warm in order to stay healthy.

Also, they want to give a huge shout out and thank you to the Asheville Outdoor Center for letting them camp on their property along the French Broad River. During the planning of the 21-day expedition, it is not uncommon for students to reach out to private landowners and businesses in order to camp on or travel through their property to maintain a continuous trip between one destination and another.

As they continued down the river, they saw a different side of the civilization of Asheville traveling under bridges. They also observed an abundance of pollutants harming our precious waters. According to

See 'Immersion,' page 8

Rock and rumble

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This past weekend on March 22, the members of the inaugural Brevard College Climbing Team continued to show improvement at the Western Carolina University "Rock & Rumble" competition.

With great success, a few of our climbers placed on the podium to give Brevard College a good name. With 20 different men competing in the intermediate category, our very own Jake Parker took first place with a vengeance! Travis Gray placed second for the men's advanced category, and Ben Lucas placed second in the men's recreational category. With great effort from all ten of those who represented Brevard College, the

whole team continues to train throughout the weeks in preparation for the National Championships.

Next weekend on April 5, the BC Climbing Team will travel to Chattanooga, Tennessee to compete in the Appalachian Regional competition in order to qualify for the Collegiate Climbing Series National Championships. With seven people registered to compete and represent Brevard College on a national scale in Melbourne, Florida, the team is putting forth a lot of effort to raise money to go.

Be sure to come out every Tuesday at Brevard Rock Gym between 4 and 9 in the afternoon for Brevard College "Free Climb Night" and support the climbing team as they train and show their passion for this underestimated sport.