



A lesson in sustainability

By Sam Blakley
Staff Writer

BCE 211 is ending, but environmental awareness is here to stay. BCE 211 is an Environmental Science class that focuses on environmental sensitivity and awareness. If students “understand the implications of environmental issues,” which is the goal of BCE 211 as stated by the 2013-2014 course catalog, then they can recognize the harmful effects of their lifestyles and how they can live more sustainably. However, as many students have experienced, this class can be very difficult to take because of scheduling troubles. Everyone had to take the same course and there were a limited number of spots and classes because, after all, there are only so many professors

that specialize in this topic. In addition to these issues, we have the wonderful problem of a growing student population. Together, all of these factors were making BCE 211 increasingly difficult to take. There was another problem with requiring all students to take the same course: what about the students that aren’t science-minded students? If every art, music, and English major has to take a science course, will they take anything from it? Some students who took the class said that it “dragged on,” is “boring,” “depressing,” or “useless”. One student, Brevard College senior Kara Fohner, said “BCE 211 would have better benefited me if I had a stronger scientific background. While I appreciated the challenge, I tried to take it my first semester here and felt swamped in information. I eventually

withdrew from the course.” Of course, other students feel differently. I have personally seen many a student go in apathetic and come out inspired. Emily Crowley, a sophomore at Brevard, said she thoroughly enjoyed BCE 211. “I was already interested,” she said, “but the class showed me new things and I learned how to be environmentally aware.” But in a class where student opinion is so polarized and at its base, unsustainable, what do we do? The answer, after much deliberating and a faculty vote there have been changes made to the curriculum. BCE 211 is no more. At first glance, this change worried me, but after sitting down with a number of professors who will be teaching the courses to replace **See ‘Sustainability,’ page 2**

Honors and Awards Day: inside on p. 5

