

BC Greens: It's time for BC to divest from fossil fuels

By Emily Crowley
Contributor

A little over a year ago, Professor James Reynolds (JR) brought the Divestment movement to the attention of the BC community. Since then, he has been urging the Board of Trustees to strip the investments in fossil fuel companies from the Endowments Portfolio. Divestment is an incredibly important piece to the progressive movement towards ending our need, as individuals, a campus, and a country, for fossil fuels.

It makes no sense for institutions of higher learning to point out society's evils, while at the same time continuing to invest in companies that exacerbate the problem. Science shows that the major contributor to climate change is society's reliance on fossil fuels, even though the price of clean solar and wind energy is competitive with dirty energy.

The Divestment movement is a phenomenon sweeping across college campuses, municipalities, religious organizations, foundations, and other nonprofit organizations around the U.S. Ideally, the divested funds would be redirected into clean energy companies to help stifle Climate Change.

JR and the student organization BC Greens are pushing for the Board of Trustees' investment

committee to commit to divesting from fossil fuels by the end of 2018 and stop future investments in any oil, coal, and gas companies or their financial backers. BC invests less than 5 percent of our endowment in fossil fuels, so divestment should be easy. But the act of divesting and the press it will bring to BC and the movement at large will have a great impact.

So far, no academic institutions in North Carolina have divested from fossil fuels, and if BC were the first it would not only set the precedent for others to do the same, but would tell the country that BC is a school made of leaders, movers, changers, and progressive enablers who put their minds to something, and execute it. It is our generation that will feel the repercussions of climate change, and our generation who can make the difference.

I ask you to go to the Divest Brevard Facebook page and click "Like" to keep updated on events and progress of the movement around the country and around the world. We all chose to attend this college because we feel like this is a unique place, where we are taught to be leaders and to make a difference in our world. This movement is one huge way we can do that.

Emily Crowley is SGA vice president and co-president of BC Greens.

SGA plans and preparation

By MacKenzie Samotis
Staff Writer

The first official Student Government Association (SGA) meeting began at 9 p.m., Wednesday, September 3 in MG.

This year the students on campus can expect the SGA members to be "the eyes, ears, and doers on campus," according to SGA President, Burton Hodges. In this more casual gathering, the SGA officers, Burton Hodges, Emily Crowley (Vice President), Nick Jowsey (Secretary), Sam Blakley (Treasurer), and Heather Morris (Speaker of the Clubs), discussed the responsibility of the SGA members and their roles.

In this "deliberative assembly" there is a Senate made up of four different areas: residence halls, student athletics, academic departments, and first year students. It is the senators' responsibility to address the issues and needs, of its department, to the general assembly and in return get results.

An example of SGA's collaboration was the presentation of Emily Crowley as the new VP of SGA. In a chaotic moment when the officers got the news that the former VP of SGA, Steve Olsen, was unable to return, they took action and agreed that Crowley went beyond the expectations for the job.

See 'SGA' on page 2

A message from the Clarion editor

Dear Readers,

You may have noticed changes in the first issues of the Clarion for the fall semester, and the most obvious is that we have an all new senior staff.

Sam Blakley, our Managing Editor, is a Math and Integrated Studies major. Blakley's dual talents for collaboration and organization propelled him quickly from news writing to publication production.

Gabby Smith, an English major with a concentration in Literary Studies, is our new Copy Editor. She specializes in opinion writing and debate.

Michael St. Marie, a senior Integrated Studies major who is well known for his sleek, minimalistic graphics, is now playing his talents as Layout and Design Editor for the length of his final semester. He will graduate in December.

The second change is one that we, as senior staff, chose to instigate in order to provide fresh opportunities for readership. Previously, this paper was released on Friday, and we felt that as students abandoned campus each weekend, the Clarion was left behind.

We will now distribute The Clarion on Wednesdays with hopes of providing relevant mid-week insights into campus events and news as they happen.

This will be my only semester serving you as Editor, as I will enter student teaching in Spring of 2015. I am an English major with a concentration in Creative Writing with teaching licensure.

That said, the most exciting aspect of this position is the opportunity to interact and collaborate with our readers and writers. I invite you to send us your feedback in letters to the editor at clarion@brevard.edu, which we may publish in the following issue. You can also follow us on Twitter at @bcclarion.

If you are interested in writing for the Clarion, stop by in MG 102 at 9:30 on Friday morning. If you already have a class at that time, shoot us an e-mail. We can work something out.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kara Fohner
Editor in Chief