

Lecture series comes to BC

By Jordan Laws
Staff Writer

The Great Decisions lecture series will begin for Brevard College on February 4th. The discussions will cover everything a student in the twenty first century needs to consider

On February 4th the lecture will begin with Syria's Refugee Crisis presented by Nora Nassri of the University of South Carolina in Columbia. She will discuss a topic that has been on the global stage since March of 2011, when a civil war displaced Syrians from their homes. Four years have passed and the crisis still exists for the Syrians who aren't fortunate enough to have a stable home. To become more familiar with the background of the Syrian Refugee Crisis feel free to go to the website www.syrianrefugees.eu and read the short three paragraphs of information on the global humanitarian issue.

Nora Nassri is a Doctor of Philosophy, Political Science and Government and also has a B.A. in Politics and History according to her LinkedIn profile. Her educational background isn't the only thing that qualifies Dr. Nassri to lead this discussion; her close ties to Syria also make her a prime candidate for discussing this topic. This lecture is not to be missed.

The second lecture will be led by Liliana Castro of Buncombe County Schools and she will discuss Brazil's Metamorphosis on February 11th. The lecture will cover Brazil's transformation after an economic downfall in the 1990's to one of the world's emerging superpowers. Like any superpower, Brazil is starting to experience income inequality, weak civic institutions, and poor regional leadership according to an article posted on Blue Ridge Community College's website www.brcll.com.

Privacy in the Digital Age is the third lecture presented by Jagdeep Bhandari of Mars Hill University on February 18th. He will discuss a topic that affects all citizens who are invested in the digital age. Privacy is an important issue for current times and the gravity of this issue will remain apparent well into the future. This lecture will explore this idea of privacy in contemporary times. Dr. Jagdeep Bhandari is a Professor of Business and Economics at Mars Hill University and his educational background stretches to 1973. If students and faculty attend no other lecture in the series this would be the one to sit in on. It is an issue that hasn't been explored much, even though we all are 'on the grid'.

The fourth lecture will be led by Steve Solnick of Warren Wilson College and he will discuss Russia and the Near Abroad on February 25th. Anyone who has watched the news or read news articles recently will know that Russia has played

a pivotal role in geopolitics. Russia has even tested the waters in regard to NATO airspace by sending bombers to U.S. airspace, as well as U.K. airspace. Russian bombers have been intercepted by fighter pilots over one hundred times by both countries in the past year. The current issue of sovereign nation Ukraine being invaded by Russian supporters remains an important issue of security in the modern world – it is even speculated that Russian forces themselves have invaded Ukraine. Students with Political Science degrees and Communications degrees should pay special attention to this lecture, because it is a current issue that shows no sign of leaving the global political platform.

The penultimate lecture will be presented by Keya Maitra of the University of North Carolina-Asheville on March 4th. She will discuss the India Changes Course lecture. Keya Maitra holds two doctoral degrees in Philosophy. She received one from the University of Connecticut and the second from the University of Hyderabad in India. She is also the Chair and Associate Professor for the Department of Philosophy at UNCA. It is estimated by the United Nations that India will be the most populated country in the world around the year 2028, surpassing China. India is among the largest democracies in the world alongside the United States and Indonesia. Given this information, it is irrevocably clear that India is becoming an important factor in global affairs for current times and for the future.

The final lecture presented by David Hudleson of National Security will discuss Sectarianism in the Middle East on March 11th. Since September 11th, 2001 the Western World has certainly become more familiar with Middle Eastern philosophies and ethics. This lecture on sectarianism will discuss that even in the Middle East there are several sects, more than several even, that vie for control over the minds of their populations. David is going to point out that the sectarianism of the Middle East is political, not religious. There isn't a better discussion to wrap up current issues in the twenty first century.

I will be writing individual articles on the separate lectures in a six-part series that will discuss these topics in more depth. These articles will stretch from February to March, and will discuss the complex issues that affect the world as a whole. The lectures will start at 3:30 p.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. in MG 125, considering that the occupancy doesn't exceed 80 people. If the occupancy grows beyond 80, Laura Rain Tree will look into moving the venue to accommodate everyone. Students and faculty can attend the lectures for free but anyone else will have to pay \$10 per lecture or \$35 for the whole lecture series.

To pre-register or for more information contact Laura Rain Tree at (828)-884-8251 or email her at raintrh@brevard.edu.

Beam lobby closed

By Calum McAndrew
Staff Writer

The Beam Residence Halls saw its communal area closed on January 27th, following a series of occurrences of vandalism over recent weeks.

Four couches on the second floor had suffered severe structural damage, and all the furniture on the first floor had been overturned. This all occurred in a short period of time, as well as damage being done to a door in the building.

The door to the second floor lobby of Beam was bolted shut last week as a result, preventing access to the popular gathering spot. The furniture from the first floor was also removed, and locked upstairs with the damaged couches.

Campus Life have received notice as to who the possible offenders may be, and are set to look into the matter, before returning the lobby to student usage.

In an interview with Director of Residence Life, Michael Cohen, and Director of Housing Operations, Beth Abrams, it was projected that the damage in the second floor lobby of Beam alone could cost somewhere between \$4000 and \$8000.

"If we were to replace the couches, it would have to be of commercial quality, as to withstand future abuse, which could amount to \$1000 per couch," said Abrams.

"The question then arises, would we have to bolt down the couches?" said Cohen, who went on to say that Campus Life are looking into ways that they could return the lobby into use.

"A student came forward and suggested that we look into some type of rotational use of the lobby, where they have to check in," Cohen suggested, before going on to say that this system would require students to leave their ID with a Resident Advisor, and would only allow certain students to be in the room at certain times.

Cohen also confirmed that, "Campus Life are looking to return the lobby to students this semester, but it will not happen until we are completely comfortable returning it."

It appears that the removal of the furniture from the first floor lobby may also coincide with these plans, as according to Cohen, it will be easier to look after the couches if they are relocated upstairs.

"We can't lockdown and protect the furniture on the first floor, but we can do that on the second floor if we introduce the system where a student checks in to the lobby. Until that point, as long as students are abusing the furniture, it is in a safe place where it cannot be overturned or damaged."

The removal of the furniture however, has