

# BC rallies for divestment

By **Burton Hodges**  
Campus News Editor

Nearly 70 people rallied in front of the Beam Administration building at Brevard College on Friday afternoon in support of a campus wide effort to divest the schools' funding in fossil fuels.

Sponsored by the Brevard College Greens club, the rally was part of a student-led initiative to raise awareness on campus and campaign for the Board of Trustees to authorize the process of divestment, which would make Brevard College the first school in the Southeast to do so.

"I'm calling on the students of Brevard College to use their powerful and inspirational voices to ignite change on this campus to start a large scale movement for divestment in North Carolina," said senior Emily Crowley, an Environmental Studies major and organizer of the event.

The rally was in conjunction with global divestment day, an event created by the grassroots movement 350.org, which aims to drop global carbon dioxide levels from the current 400 parts per million to 350.

The idea of divesting Brevard College was brought to the school last winter by Dr. Jim Reynolds, Associate Professor of Geology and an active member of the Sierra Club chapter in Western North Carolina. With Reynolds' guidance, Crowley and fellow co-president of the Greens club Rory Northam, began the process of initiating the divestment movement on campus.

Petitions for support began circulating around Brevard College receiving over 400 signatures from the student body and nearly half of the faculty and staff.

Following a sit-in last November at Brevard College's J.A. Jones Library, Crowley and Northam were invited to present the petitions and research to the schools' investor committee, which decided to take the proposal in front of the Board of Trustees on February 19.

"I'm very confident that the Board will go along with it," said Jerry Stone, head of the investor committee. "They will give us the authority under the college's investment policy to move forward and look for new opportunities to invest in that aren't involved in fossil fuels."

Nearly 3 percent of Brevard College's endowment, or \$606,000 is invested in various areas of the fossil fuel industry. The trick, Stone says, is finding new opportunities that will replace these investments. With the goal being complete divestment by 2018, Stone says he's convinced



BC Students gathered at divestment rally.



Associate Professor of Geology, Dr. Jim Reynolds, speaking at divestment rally.



BC student, Emily Crowley, speaking at divestment rally.

the school can choose better investments and even "start a green fund" within the next three years.

"Look at our mission statement," said Rev. Dr. David Joyce, President of Brevard College, "we are committed to an experiential, liberal arts education that encourages personal growth and inspires artistic, intellectual, and social action... be careful what you wish for, this is education."

## Housing forms due

Students who want to live off campus in the 2015-2016 academic year need to fill out a form and turn it into Beth Abrams before Mar. 19.

This is to establish an estimate before the housing lottery to plan for how many students will need to live on campus. If you have special needs there are applications attached to the email Beth sent out to all students. If you can't find the email, these forms can be found on [brevard.edu](http://brevard.edu) under Residence Life. All of the requirements in addition to how to fill out the application are listed there.

If you have a special needs application but you won't be able to get a doctor's note before the deadline, no need to worry! The note does not need to be submitted with your application, but you do need to turn it into Beth before you are placed in housing so she can accommodate your needs.

It's great if students have the documents to fill out the application, but it's also fine if student's need a couple of weeks to go home to get the documentation, according to Beth. The important aspect is to let her know either way.

To locate Beth's office go to the AEC, head up the stairs to Campus Life, turn left once you reach the welcome desk, and her office will be the second door on the right. Students, feel free to email Beth or visit her office if you have any questions regarding Off Campus/On Campus Life or Special Needs.