

BC readies for incoming class

By Jessica Wiegandt
Staff Writer

Brevard College hosted the first Student Orientation And Registration day on Saturday, April 16, for the incoming class in the fall. This event had 131 students in attendance, according to vice president of admissions and financial aid Chad Holt.

The incoming class, according to Holt, is similar to past years. Saying these students have no interest in any specific programs that are different from past years. Interest in majors is spread generally equally among the students, however he said the staff has noticed an increased interest in experiential education.

"In the four years I've been here, I haven't noticed dramatic changes in the quantitative things. Interest in majors is typically pretty consistent," Holt said. "What I've seen is that students are learning more and more about experiential as the college has evolved and advertised more. I think more and more students are coming here because they like experiential learning and they like that teaching philosophy."

This year's incoming class is expected to be around 300 students, which is the typical number. Holt said over the past three years the number has fluctuated slightly but not drastically enough to make note.

The difference that has become prevalent is the demographics of students and where they come from. Holt said more local students have been attending the college over the past three years, each year has seen an increase.

"Our student population from Transylvania, Buncombe and Henderson County has gone up," Holt said. "We wrote a half tuition scholarship for local mountain county students a few years ago and I think that's had a dramatic impact. There's a message out in the community that we're too expensive and this scholarship has alleviated that."

While there are more local students, the retention rate at BC is lower than desired. "We have a lot of work to do on retention, but we've added a coffee shop, we built a new residence hall, we redecorated the caf... so what we're hearing from the students is we need to work on those types of things and we are," Holt said. "We're chipping away at all of that."

As retention and renovation is being worked on, BC is also in transition between DII and DIII. Athletic director Juan Mascaro is unsure about whether the transition will affect how many students apply to the college but knows it affects timing for recruitment and applications.

Next year, Mascaro said BC will still be a DII school but will not be giving out scholarships for new students. This means incoming athletes will be playing for a transitioning school without scholarship incentive. According to Mascaro, this affects when students commit to BC to play.

"[Recruitment] is later in the year rather than earlier. We lose the ability to sign students with scholarships so they now wait until later in the year," Mascaro said. "They wait for DI to close, then DII and then they start looking at the DIII schools. So we're waiting for it to trickle down and it'll affect the student population and demographics here but it's too early to tell exactly how it will make a difference."

Those in the admissions office have been hard at work this semester with recruiting students for BC, according to Holt. The office is constantly talking about how the school as a whole can be improved to make the student experience here a positive one.

"We are looking for students who want a small school, in a small town, in the mountains," Holt said, "And we want students who want to learn in an experiential context. This class is looking great and we're looking forward to seeing them in August."

Finals Week

Things you need to know

With finals week fast approaching, it's great to know that BC has got your back in helping you get through these next few days.

Jones library will offer extended hours. From now until April 27 the library will be open until midnight and on April 28 the library will be open until 11 p.m.

The AEC is also preparing student by increasing tutoring during finals week. On April 25-27 the AEC will be open for students until 10 p.m.

"We also will offer free coffee and snacks as we have in the past semester," said Director of the offices for Career exploration and career development Nacole Potts.

If students want to take a study break CAB plans to host the traditional Pancake Break starting on Monday, April 25 at 10 p.m. there will also be Pet Therapy happening April 20-22 from 11-2 p.m.

Final exam schedule
can be found on
[my.brevard](http://my.brevard.edu) home page

Commencement weekend
schedule found under News
& Events subhead on the
Brevard College home page