

J. R. McDowell Speaker To infinity and Brevard

*Astronaut Mike Massimino on
'Views From Space:
Leadership, Teamwork,
Determination'*

By Mary Lewe
Copy Editor

On Thursday, Sept. 20 the Transylvania County Library Foundation and Brevard College came together to present the twelfth J. R. McDowell speaker, astronaut Mike Massimino. For the past ten years, the TCLF has worked to bring interesting individuals to Brevard to share their stories. This year's theme is science.

Massimino began his visit to Brevard by meeting with students and professors for a Q&A session in McLarty-Goodson. The session was well attended and some professors opted to skip their typical lectures and activities, instead bringing their entire class to the event. Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty Dr. Scott Sheffield gave an introduction and, before taking questions, Massimino gave an abbreviated version of his biography.

Massimino's dreams of becoming an astronaut began at six years old, when he watched from at black and white television screen and learned about the moon landing in 1969. His mother made a NASA flight suit for him out of an old elephant costume and he played in the backyard with his astronaut Snoopy toy, imagining he was Neil Armstrong and Snoopy was Buzz Aldrin.

A few years later he began to understand what a longshot it would be to become a real astronaut, and he basically gave up on his dream. "I thought it was impossible," he said. However, years later he and Snoopy would be orbiting the earth at around 17,500 miles per hour on a mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope.

What took Massimino from the brink of abandoning his dreams to floating in a space suit far from Earth's atmosphere? It took tenacity

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Alumni Jazz Concert



Photo by Peter Trench

By Carmen Boone
Arts & Life Editor

On Saturday, Sept. 22, the Brevard College Alumni Jazz Band held the fourth annual concert in the Scott Concert Hall in the Porter Center at 7:30 p.m. Jamie C. Warren was the director.

There was a total of 21 musicians that participated. There were five saxophones including Jordan McFadden, Phillip Whack, Wes Parker, Chris Center and Carl Stanfield. Among the trumpets were Bull Canty, Cory Hall, Henry Westmoreland and Mike Jones. Trombones consisted of Tommy Spittle, Jamie Warren, Davis Whitfield-Cargile and Stephen Healy who also played the tuba. The rhythm section had Gregory Milton on piano, Chris Morgan on guitar, Gerald Dishon on bass guitar, Sam Mattison on drums and Derrick Sandlin on bass. The vocalists were Leah Colbath, class of 2016, Hunter Rogers, class of 2017, and Dr. Megan Murph.

There were ten pieces of music performed. The first was an upbeat song called "Cute" by Neil Hefti. The second song was called "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy" by Josef Zawinul. It was a loud, jubilant and fast-paced piece with lots of dynamics. Phillip Whack played a sax solo.

"A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square" by Manning Sherwin and Eric Maschwitz, arranged by Mike Tomaro, was the third piece of the night. It was a slower tune and Leah Colbath was the vocalist for it. The fourth song was called "The Way You Look Tonight" by Jerome Kern, arranged by Roger Holmes. It was a faster paced

tune with vocals by Hunter Rogers.

The next piece was titled "Lullaby of Birdland" by George Shearing. Dr. Megan Murph was the soloist. She also sang the next piece called "Black Coffee" by Sonny Burke and Paul Francis Webster. It was very soulful. "When you're Smilin'" arranged by Tom Kubis was next. It went from starting off very chill with a steady pace to getting livelier as the song played out with a big ending.

The next piece was by Ella Fitzgerald called "A Tisket, A Tasket." It has somewhat of a humorous tone and was about a little yellow basket. Leah Colbath soloed. One funny line talking about a little girl taking the basket was, "if she doesn't bring it back, I think I will die."

A fast paced piece titled "Alright, Okay, You Win" by Count Basie was next. Solos were by Hunter Rogers, Stephen Healy on trombone, Was Parker on the sax, a trumpet, and a guitar. The piece was very lively and had the audience clapping along.

"We're gonna go out with a bang," said Warren before the last piece. It was titled "Gonna Fly Now" by Bill Conti, arranged by Jay Chattaway. It was loud, triumphant and had three solos. There was a trumpet, guitar, and drums solo. It was certainly a great way to close the concert.

The Alumni Jazz Concert made for a toe tapping night. At the end, the audience was on their feet with a standing ovation. The concert proved a success full of memories and some pretty awesome music.