

# 'Namaste India'

*Student presents her study abroad experience*

By Carmen Boone  
Copy Editor

Luz Hernandez is a senior at Brevard College that spent the Spring semester of her junior year studying abroad in India. She gave her presentation about it on Thursday, Feb. 21 at St. Philip's Episcopal Church. The silent auction started at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 and then the presentation was at 7.

First, Hernandez gave a little background about why she wanted to study abroad. Her reasons were: her high school experience "sparked" the idea, she wanted to "challenge [her] adaptability and self-reliance and open mindedness" and "be taught in a different setting."

A lot of preparation and work went into the planning of a semester abroad. Hernandez's advisor helped her find the KEI (Knowledge Exchange Institute) Program. Knowing that she wanted to study in an Asian country, Hernandez chose India. There was a package for the program in India that included "University:

Symbiosis International University, pre-departure advising and planning, courses were taught in English, cultural field trips, KEI onsite help 24/7 and Hindi language offered."

Next Hernandez spoke about Pune, India, the city she lived in. It has the eighth largest economy and sixth highest per capita income in the country. It also has the highest number of engineering colleges in India. Aga Khan Palace is in Pune as well, the place where Ghandi, his wife and his secretary were held as prisoners during the "Quiet Movement" in 1942. It's a very historic place.

Where Hernandez stayed, her dorm was called a hostel. She thought of it like a "five star hotel." It was very well furnished and had plenty of the necessities, there was a washer installed after a little while of washing clothes by hand and the room was cleaned once a week by a worker. A couple things she noticed right away were that all the international students were separated from the Indian students. The Indian students



Photo by Peter Trench

Hernandez speaks about her studies in India to community members

See 'Namaste India' on page 3

# Stand Up, Speak Out

*IWIL to host domestic violence awareness event*

By Mary Lewe  
Managing Editor

Every spring, second year students from Brevard College's Institute for Women in Leadership (IWIL) tackle an issue faced by the Brevard community. The students spend a year planning an event that will benefit the community in some way.

This year, the returning IWIL students are taking on domestic violence in the Brevard area by hosting an educational and recreation event.

"We're getting ready for a big event in April, we do have a name for it: Stand Up and Speak Out: Brevard College Versus Domestic Violence," student Claire Wylie said in an interview.

Students from IWIL say that the event will primarily educational, but will also include fun activities like button-making and a self-defense class.

"We're going to have a lot of resources from organizations like RAINN, whose main purpose is to prevent domestic violence nationwide; and resources from SAFE, which is Transylvania County's domestic violence prevention organization," student Cameron Ranslow said.

To prepare for the event, the students have gotten to speak with experts from SAFE, as well as BC's own counselor Dee Dasburg, magistrate Mary Ann Hollocker and assistant professor of

psychology Lisa Busche.

"I think the biggest thing I learned is that you can't just tell someone who's in an abusive relationship to 'just leave,' because it could be a very dangerous situation for them," Cameron Ranslow said. "The person who's being abused is the expert on the relationship and he or she knows what their partner is capable of doing."

"I always just thought it was as simple as getting someone to listen to you, but it's not as simple as that," she said.

Stand Up and Speak Out: Brevard College Versus Domestic Violence will take place on Wed., April 17 from 4-8 p.m. on campus at Tornado Alley.