

Brevard College says goodbye to several faculty members after this academic year, including three—Ralph Hamlett, Jim Reynolds and Mary Kay White—who are retiring after a combined total of more than 60 years of service to the college. On this page are excerpts from profiles published this year in The Clarion on two of them.

Farewell, friends, and we wish you every happiness in wherever your path takes you.

Jim Reynolds

By Aia Andonovska
Staff Writer

This article originally appeared in the April 3 issue. Use this link to read the entire article: <http://bit.ly/clarion040319>

... In July of 1999, Reynolds answered an ad for a position at the school. His predecessor decided to take a year's leave at the last minute. Originally, Reynolds only applied for a one year replacement position, but ended up staying much longer.

Reynolds received all of his degrees from Dartmouth College. His Senior and Master's theses were based on his fieldwork in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. His Doctoral thesis was about the rise of the Andes in northern Argentina. He continued field work in Argentina for another 25 years, including two Fulbright Scholarships where he taught a graduate course in Spanish at different Argentina universities. Reynolds also served as the project geologist at an archaeological site in Greece that Dr. Anne Chapin is investigating with an international team of archaeologists....

Reynolds says that he has enjoyed his students the most out of everything during his time here. "Until recently I also enjoyed taking students on international field trips. I've traveled with Brevard students to Costa Rica, Iceland, Italy, Greece, Egypt, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador. I think it is a pity that the current administration no longer considers exposure to other countries and cultures to be a component of an experiential education. Until recently, I also enjoyed building a strong geology minor. Since a geologist is apparently not being hired to replace me, those efforts appear to have been for naught," he added.

When asked what he strives to instill in his students, Reynolds said, "I strive to instill a passion for the planet we live on. Without geology there would be no planet. It should be revered. I really like the Inca religion. It honors Earth and understands that we are but a component of its make-up."



Jim Reynolds

Mary Kay White

By Mary Lewie
Managing Editor

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Mary Kay White has worked for Brevard College since 2000, when several strokes of serendipity allowed her to join the exercise science faculty and to teach anatomy and physiology (A and P).

Before coming to Brevard College, she was living in Oregon. "After I got my doctorate I worked for a government research facility for about six or seven years where I did research on the physiological effects of personal protective clothing," White said...

The scientific testing focused on gear for firemen and items similar to hazmat suits. "We had an environmental chamber and we did all kinds of tests," she said. "The equipment might have been designed to last a firefighter for two hours in a certain environment, but because of the heaviness of the equipment and the impermeability of it, the person couldn't last that long."

"We were trying to make recommendations for safe practices for hazardous waste cleanup workers," she said. "Through that [research] I realized that I'm kind of an introvert, but I do need contact with people; I'm not a pure researcher. That's when I started looking for a job in teaching."

Her diverse background prepared her for her unique role here at Brevard College.

"My title was always exercise science and I've always taught primarily exercise science and health science students, which is one of the things I really like about my job here," White said. "Some people teach a lot of gen ed classes, I don't teach any gen ed classes but I like that I get a lot of contact with my two main groups of students," she said.

"I'm really thankful that I get to teach exercise science, like fitness appraisal classes and also teach A and P. At big schools you don't get that luxury, they have exercise science faculty, totally separate PE, and separate pre-med classes," White said.



Mary Kay White

Ralph Hamlett

Ralph Hamlett successfully evaded the press this year for a formal Clarion profile, so what follows are excerpts from a speech about him at Monday's faculty/staff luncheon.

Those of you who have been past Ralph's office door in MG may have noticed the paper on his door bearing an inspirational quote attributed to Ralph....

This is what Ralph said that so moved the student to commit it to paper and post it for all to see:

"I ask what I've always asked of people, to hold yourself to the highest standard so that your degree can be meaningful."

That statement in a nutshell defines Ralph Hamlett: as an educator, as a colleague, as a public servant.

You may not know this, but Ralph could have gone just about anywhere. When he was on the job market after getting his PhD, he was offered positions at several prestigious



Photo by John Padgett

After both of their last oral presentations as teacher or student at Brevard College, Ralph Hamlett poses for a photograph with Natalee Highman.

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