

Graduation Day at BC

Continued from page 1

this country, will never have the opportunity to reach,” Joyce said in his welcome to the graduates.

“We come here this morning to salute the outstanding achievements of the graduating class of 2019, a class that has clearly made its mark on our college in so many important ways,” Joyce said.

The 2019 graduating class has earned an impressive collection of accolades too many to mention, both as seniors and throughout their years at Brevard College. During their tenure, this class took Brevard College’s motto, “Learn in Order to Serve,” to heart and provided the community with more than 10,000 hours of community service in their four-year span. As students, they replicated scientific studies, wrote manuscripts, produced films, and built communities through clubs and service organizations, and so much more.

Brevard College student-athletes showed their strength in numbers. The women’s soccer team, graduating six seniors, earned the highest GPA for all athletic teams. Two seniors were inducted into the National Football Foundation Hampshire Honors Society. Both male and female Athletes of the Year broke career and single-season records and received honors for their performances on and off the field.

The direct, hands-on experiences and focused reflection these graduates received has led to an internship at Disney, acceptance to and assistantships at several esteemed graduate schools, and jobs within a police department,

touring with a theater company, and positions at the Brevard Music Center.

Transylvania and nearby counties can claim 18 of these newly minted graduates, while the rest traveled from 15 states and at least five foreign countries—Canada, Japan, France, Mexico and Germany—to make Brevard their home.

While most colleges invite a prominent guest speaker at graduation ceremonies, Brevard College stays true to its mission to engage its students in the process and encourage personal growth by choosing two outstanding seniors to speak at Commencement.

Haley Putnam and Megan Orr were this year’s commencement speakers.

Putnam, a native of Brevard, earned her degree in psychology with minors in health science studies and environmental studies. She is a member of the Institute for Women in Leadership and the Brevard College Honors Program, Psi Chi, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Alpha Chi. Putnam will pursue a Master of Public Health degree at Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta.

“As I stand here looking out at all of you; my fellow classmates, faculty, staff, and all of our friends, and families, I feel nothing but joy and gratitude,” Putnam said. “The many experiences we’ve had here have allowed us to learn new skills, and establish friendships and connections



Graduate Megan Shina (pictured with President David C. Joyce and Lynne Joyce) will be working for Brevard College as the Manager of Annual Giving and Special Events starting this summer.

that will last a lifetime.

“Thanks to the amazing people here at Brevard College, this place has truly become our home.”

The second speaker was Megan Orr, a biology major from Cullowhee who also minored in health science studies and natural history. She is a member of the Institute for Women in Leadership and has served on the steering committee for two years. Orr is an honors student and a member of Tri-Beta, Alpha Chi, and Omicron Delta Kappa honor societies. She has served as a teaching assistant, peer tutor, and supplemental instructor in the Sciences. She is



Flag bearers in Saturday’s commencement ceremony were, left to right, Luz Maria Hernandez (carrying the flag of Mexico), Mai Sakuma (Japan), Tim Oliver Hengst (Germany), Thibault André Tranchant (France), Peyton Michael Allan Mooney (Canada), Jessica Patricia Wiegandt (Brevard College Alumni Banner), Hayley LeAnn Putnam (Christian flag), Ke’Vel Dijion Kingsberry (North Carolina state flag) and Ashley Kristin Elizabeth Hughes (United States flag).