

Coach William Jones joins BC tennis family

By Carmen Boone
Copy Editor

The BC athletic program has hired a new tennis head coach. William Jones is excited to be the head of the BC tennis program.

Jones is from Bristol, Va. and graduated from Virginia High School. He later majored in Sports Management and got his masters in Community and Organizational Leadership from Emory and Henry College. Following this, he moved to Yuma, Ariz. for a year but then decided to live in Arlington, Va. for about six years, teaching tennis. After that, he coached college tennis for two years in Bethany, W.Va.

Jones started playing tennis when he was about four years old. At the age of nine, he began playing in USTA tournaments in Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina. It was during this time that he realized he wanted to teach tennis for a living.

After that, he went to several tennis camps every summer and wrote down drills and practice techniques. His mother also videotaped all of his tennis matches so he would have access to video analysis and practice using that.

In college, Jones got his USPTA (United States Professional Tennis Association) and USPTR (United States Professional Tennis Registry) Tennis Teaching Certifications, and has been coaching tennis ever since. His coaching career started with boy's tennis at Abingdon High School in Virginia. Following that, he went back to Emory and Henry College to take on the position of Assistant Coach for men's and women's tennis. After that he moved to the DC area and taught tennis for six years in Potomac and Darnestown, Md. Before taking this position at Brevard, he coached at Bethany College for two years.

Jones has several reasons for choosing Brevard as his new home. The biggest reason is that it's close to where he's from and where he grew up playing junior tennis. "I really liked what I saw not only about the tennis facilities, but the tennis program and college as well," Jones said. The third reason he gave was that Brevard is similar to colleges he has previously attended and coached at, so he knew he would be good at helping with the transition to Division III tennis.

"Brevard is just a really nice area. [...] Brevard has really made a name for itself and all of its attractions as well. There are a lot of different things to do and I believe it's a great setting for a college student-athlete. You really don't get a setting like Brevard at too many other colleges," Jones said. He is also very happy with all the support he has already seen in the past two weeks for the tennis program.

Jones says he plans on picking up right where the program left off last year. "I really think that Coach Evan did a fantastic job with the tennis program in general and I look forward to building on top of the foundation that he had previously set here at Brevard," he said. He doesn't want to make many changes, except for adding his own twist to the successful program we already have.

He is very excited to give back to the sport that has given him so much. Jones is also excited about being able to coach young men and women who love the same game he loves, as well as introducing others to tennis, a sport they can play for the rest of their lives.

Since he decided to coach at Brevard, the athletic staff, the tennis community and some friends who know the area have all been very helpful to him. "I have heard nothing but great things, so I am very excited and

blessed to be a part of such a pretty area and the Brevard family," said Jones.

Jones is very excited for this year's season. He thinks the ladies team will have another great year with lots of experienced players returning and three new freshmen coming in to fill the void from last year's seniors.

The men's team will have six freshmen coming in to fill in the available spots from the seniors that graduated and to join the men returning from last year. Jones says he is very excited to get started after speaking to all the players and "learning about the passion they have for the game of tennis."

Jones would also like to say the following to the students, faculty, staff and community of Brevard: "Anyone interested in learning to play the game of tennis feel free to stop by or email me. Once I get settled, I want to do a few clinics for the students, staff, faculty and community members," Jones said.

"Also, if there are any students interested in playing tennis or just learning a sport that they can play for the rest of their lives, please email me at joneswb@brevard.edu. We also want to invite EVERYONE to our matches. We only have one rule that we ask... we ask for everyone to be as loud and vocal as possible!!! College Tennis is no longer a quiet spectator sport. So the more energy we can have from our fans for home and away matches the better!"



Photo by BC Tornados

William Jones