

Senior profile

Grace Kelley is doing great things

By Carmen Boone
Copy Editor

Grace Kelley is a senior at Brevard College. She will graduate in the Summer but will still walk in May.

Her major is childhood education with a concentration in elementary education but non-licensure. Her minor is wilderness leadership (WLEE).

Kelley chose Brevard because she loves the small feel. "I wanted to have the personal connection with professors and I didn't want to be a number, I wanted them to know me as a person," Kelley said. "The professors here know me as a person first and a student second."

She also enjoyed the opportunities that BC had (and still has) to be involved on campus. The Methodist affiliation was just another plus.

In her free time, Kelley likes to spend some time with her cat, Minerva, her emotional support animal (ESA). She also enjoys spending time with friends, especially when she gets the chance to be outdoors. More recently she has been teaching herself ukulele.

Another musical talent she has is the ability to play the trombone. She has been in the Wind Ensemble for six semesters now. It is something that she has loved to do for a long time.

A couple other things Kelley is involved in on campus includes IWIL, the Honors program and being President of Canterbury Club, a club associated with St. Phillip's Episcopal Church on Main Street.

She also spends her time as a work study, formally known as a student ambassador, for admissions. This job includes giving campus tours, talking about her experience here and doing a couple jobs around the office, but most importantly, meeting prospective students and their families.

When off campus, Kelley works with Brevard First United Methodist Church by helping with the youth group and teaching the high school Sunday school.

There have been a couple classes that have really made an impression on Kelley. The first was Life in the Universe with Associate Professor of Physics Mike Castelaz. She has always been interested in astronomy.

"It was an absolute blast and he quickly became one of my favorite professors," Kelley said. "He really reignited my love for science and astronomy."

The second class was Methods in Teaching Math with Elizabeth Fuller. "I have always

been scared of math, math has never been my strong suit, but she taught me to not be scared of math," Kelley said. "It wasn't necessarily that I was bad at math, but it was that I wasn't taught math in the correct way." Learning that has helped her tutor a fifth grader in math, among the rest of the things in her busy schedule.

Everyone has people that have helped them out and acted as mentors. Kelley mentioned several faculty members here at BC.

She said campus minister Sharad Creasman has been wonderful helping her out with spiritual discernment. He has also just been someone to talk and laugh with as well as a great source of encouragement.

Administrative assistants Mary Harris and Beth Banks have also been great with helping Kelley navigate many of the things that come along with college and classes. Nancy Willard and Marie Jones helped her out a lot too with navigating the library and finding what she

needed.

Professor Robert Dye has truly been wonderful for helping Kelley navigate the "WLEE world" as she called it. He has become a great mentor and close friend of Kelley's.

In the summertime, Kelley plans on doing a practicum combining education and outdoor ministry right before obtaining her degree. In the fall following that, she wants to attend seminary.

She has applied to multiple schools, but intends to stay in the Western North Carolina area. Her major goal is to become an ordained deacon in the Methodist denomination. Her focus will be outdoor ministry and young adult ministry.

"I'm not going out thinking, 'I'm gonna make a difference today,'" Kelley said. "I'm doing good things because that's who I am and that's what has been instilled in me."



Grace Kelley smiles for a photo on scholarship day.

Courtesy of Grace Kelly