

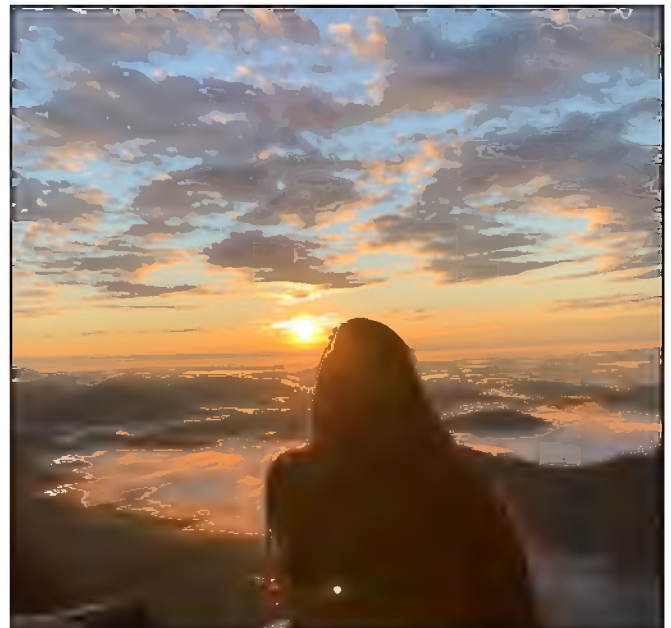
# A Thoughtful Goodbye

Well... that's it – it's over – finished.  
 There seems to be some empty space  
 where our goodbyes should have gone.  
 So many great times we shared, and  
 memories that will last a lifetime.  
 I never knew the mountains would feel  
 so far away.  
 I never knew familiar faces would feel like  
 distant memories.  
 I miss the classroom – we all miss it.  
 No one expected things to be interrupted.  
 I miss learning around like-minded people.  
 Being a student will mean more than  
 ever before.  
 Let's move forward, not backward. From now on,  
 things will be different. There will have to be some  
 changes – change is scary but necessary.  
 It's how we grow and learn. No one is  
 ever prepared for change.  
 What matters most is how we react.  
 What can we learn from this?  
 How can we make it better?  
 What's the best outcome for everyone?  
 How can we get past this?  
 There is no ignoring this; don't try to deny  
 something that damaged so many people.  
 The future is still a mystery.  
 We can overcome anything if we work together.  
 There is no one to blame, but it's easy to take out  
 frustration on those who are trying their best.  
 In these times, let us learn to have patience.  
 Good things don't happen overnight and pointing  
 fingers won't get us anywhere.  
 We all need to take some time to heal and to  
 take care of ourselves in order to put our best  
 foot forward for next year, and the years to come.  
 Learn from the past, but don't live in it.  
 We cannot revert to what we once were before.  
 We need to learn how to adapt to this new life  
 we were all forced to have.  
 For everyone that has been doing their part  
 keeping the remaining of the semester going – thank you.  
 Thank you for being there when we couldn't be there in person.  
 Thank you for keeping everyone on the same page.  
 Thank you for still wanting to educate us and care for us.  
 We all, in the end, made history and showed  
 the true spirit of Brevard College.

—Mickayla Smith



photo by Mickayla



Watching the sunrise at Pretty Place (spring 2020). (Courtesy of Emilie Fowler)