

The Montreal College Student Voice WHETSTONE

Volume III, Number V

Montreat, NC 28757

December 6, 2002

Discovering Dr. Daniel

By Lyndsay Mayer

Montreat College welcomed back the newly doctored Brad Daniel from Antioch University in NH on November 19, 2002. The associate professor of environmental science and outdoor education has been devoted to coursework since May of 1997 that culminated in a doctorate of philosophy and environmental science.

Daniel's dissertation, entitled "Life Significance of a Spiritually Oriented Outward Bound-Type Expedition," inspects the life-long impact backcountry expedition programs have on participants. Daniel notes there is "very little extensive research into the value of these types of trips. [Other] studies follow up with participants maybe just six months after their experience."

All of Daniel's research data came from Montreat College Discovery students. Discovery is a 20-day journey into the wilderness held every summer for outdoor education credit. It is comprised of several components including rock climbing, backpacking, white water canoeing, route finding, a solo experience, and

a 14-mile run at the conclusion of the program.

"I contacted as many [Discovery participants] as I could, from 1976 to 2000," says Daniel. "I asked them,



Professor Dr. Daniel exhibiting his expertise on blending in with his surroundings which is important to know how to do if a class of college students comes looking for their Prof.

was this an important part of your life? How did it stand out against the landscape of your life?"

Daniel's passion as an educator is "helping people see connections between different bodies of knowledge." He has learned through the process of pursuing his doctorate that he appreciates the value of blending

quantitative and qualitative data. "As a biologist, I was trained quantitatively," Daniel reflects. "This always bugged me. How do you get at the richness of human experience with just numbers? I don't think you can."

This philosophy flooded Daniel's presentation of his dissertation to the review board at Antioch. He created a photo gallery of 17 study participants, each capturing a portion of Discovery. A quote from the photograph's subject headlined each picture, with statistical data at the bottom. The board members were invited to walk through Daniel's pictorial rendition of Discovery, viewing the pictures in the same order the activities were experienced by the students.

"They got the feel of what it would be like to actually be on the trip," explains Daniel.

Daniel concluded that an overwhelming majority of participants reflected most strongly upon the solo experience of the trip. The second-most frequently mentioned activity

Continued on page 4

Dozers Level Land for Roxy Hines Memorial Softball Park

By Becca Snyder

Heavy machinery broke ground for the new softball and soccer fields at the Black Mountain Campus the first week of November.

"The plan is that we will play softball on the new field this spring," says athletic director John Sullivan. He explains that the field should be fit for cleats by February 1.

The present softball field is on the Presbyterian Children's Home property. "We have a long-term agreement with them," explains Sullivan. The college does not pay rent on the field, but has used it for the past five years with the understanding that they would find another arrangement when it was possible.

Al Edwards, facilities director, explains that the fields will be graded by laser-guided equipment and will have a final slope of 1%. They will be complete with irrigation, dugouts, and fencing.

"Instead of there being a chain-link fence behind first base, we're going to do something different," explains

Sullivan. "We want to dig a low walkway between the dugouts and put a netting over it. The netting will be almost invisible to the crowd."

Sophomore softball player Amy Thomas says, "We're excited, I guess. We just don't know a lot about it."

The finish-date for the soccer field rests at August 1, when Sullivan explains the teams will need it for pre-season practices. Mike White, women's soccer coach, says they do not actually plan to use the field for pre-season "because it is so hard on the field. It will most likely be reserved for game and night practices only once school starts."

Montreat's soccer field is currently located on the Presbyterian Children's Home's land. "As far as we know, we will be able to continue to use the soccer field as a secondary playing field and practice field." This would allow both the men's and women's teams to practice simultaneously, and also provides facilities useful for hosting a soccer tournament.

Sullivan envisions the new fields

as being friendlier to the public. Al Edwards explains "there will be a 20-foot access ramp to the fields, and we're putting in three parking lots. We'll have 120 new spaces, and according to ordinance, that's enough for our whole student body to come."

"We hope [the fields] will be lighted," says Sullivan. "We are working with the Town of Black Mountain in terms of their lighting ordinance. And there will be new bleachers on the right field and left field lines." The lighting and seating offer a more comfortable environment for spectators. "We hope more people from the community will come out to a game after work," says Sullivan.

Miller says, "We're looking at spending, with individual gifts and foundation grants, \$250,000." Sullivan further explains, "It's not coming out of the general fund. We're not spending more money than we actually have on hand."

Lighting the fields would cost an extra \$120,000, according to Alex

Continued on page 3



Nathan Thomas hones his musical skill as he prepares for chapel band

Nathan Thomas: Ace of Bass

By Kortney Blythe

Nathan Thomas, crushed 42 hopeful competitors in the Rock and R&B categories at the Ernie Ball Bass Day Out 2002, Saturday November 23 in the music Mecca of the United States, Nashville, Tennessee.

Ernie Ball, a major company that produces guitars, basses, and instrumental accessories, sponsored the competition. The contestants only played against people in their own age group, either: 5-10, 11-14, 15-17, 18-21, 22-30, 30-40, or 40+.

Thomas, a freshman music business major, battled it out in the 18-21 group, where each artist had to jam in 6 categories: Classical, Jazz, Funk, Folk, Rock, and R&B. The best bassist overall award went to the artist

who took the prize in the most categories. Thomas missed this title by one category victory.

"The guy who won best overall was amazing. I thought he was going to win every category. But he ended up winning 3 and I won 2." However, Thomas is not complaining.

"When they called my name, I was so out of it that my dad had to nudge me and say 'that's you Nathan.' I almost cried when I realized I had won," he recalled.

Thomas was floored by his own success. He admitted, "I really only went for the experience and to ask the judges how I could improve. I didn't expect to win. On the ride home, I was still in shock. I was shaking. It

Continued on page 6

Bus Service Links Montreat and Asheville

Staff Reports

Asheville Transit Services and Mountain Mobility opened a cooperative net of new bus routes servicing the Black Mountain and Montreat areas December. The service is available Monday-Saturday, for fares varying between 50 and \$1 per boarding.

The new routes offer expanded services to the Black Mountain/Swannanoa area. Asheville Transit

Services will add an early-morning and evening run to Route 28 that presently serves the Black Mountain and Swannanoa areas. Routes arrive in Black Mountain and Asheville in time to transfer to connecting transit routes.

The 20 and 28-passenger buses are lift-equipped and also feature bike

Continued on page 6

Verse of the Week:

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18