

Distinguished Gallery Nomination

Note: All nominations submitted for Distinguished Alumni or Distinguished Faculty/ Staff awards should be fully completed with as much information as possible. The Alumni Advisory Board's Honors and Awards Committee will review each nomination. The Committee asks all individuals submitting the nomination to add as much information as possible on the alumnus, faculty, or staff member. Please find an exemplary nomination below that was chosen for the 2021 Distinguished Faculty Award.

Distinguished Nomination Example:

Professor Clyde Carter

Exemplary Teaching:

Founder of the Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education program at Brevard College in 1989. Helped develop the Voice of the Rivers Program in 1997 and the Immersion education semester model.

Taught: Risk Management, Experiential Education, Wilderness leadership, as well as Rock Climbing, backpacking, Canoeing and kayaking.

I do not believe any other teacher has had the 30-year impact that has launched students from Brevard College all over the world to make an impact on the outdoors industry as Clyde has. Any place that is tied to the outdoors, Clyde knows someone he has impacted, from caving in Alaska to hikers all over the globe; from equipment marketing and sales to counselors in wilderness programs; from NOLS to Wilderness First Aid specialists, for this mostly introverted gentleman, his passion overcame odds and he has propelled many into experiencing the outdoors with wonder and curiosity and trained them to share and bring others along for the experience and to be prepared for any adventure. He has also lived by example addressing the need for leaving the world better than we found it

He has spent well over 600 nights in the outdoors with students over his tenure, paddled well over 2000 miles of waterways and the same for hiking trails all over the globe, these are only including those in his role of professor. He has logged many more nights and miles in his private life as well. But with the word educator you have an oxymoron for sure, because if you become his student, you become his friend for life and his community is made up of those folks who share his passion for the outdoors in all avenues possible and desire to serve and protect our creation.

Clyde, while teaching a kayak clinic at Montreat planted an idea in Billy Greer's mind, after having Greer's son in the course, that Brevard needed an outdoor program and right there he birthed an idea that created the world-renowned program at Brevard. It was one of very few programs like it in the nation at the time. His time studying Experiential Education at Mankato helped him to synthesize the program at Brevard as a holistic program, enriching students in a combination of outdoors skills, group dynamics and program administration to name a few. Brevard's fledgling program was the first in the Southeast blazing a trail for and becoming a

program that so many other schools in the area wanted and copied. And while there are many programs for the outdoors today, Brevard's had one thing those others did not, and that was Clyde. He is a visionary and passionate individual who not only breathed life into outdoor careers, but excited young people to grab for their passions and step out into the world around them and impact lives to love and cherish what we have in creation.

Clyde went from a small desk in the Basketball coach's office his first year, then to the pool supply closet and the program has earned space as it grew to where it now is housed in "the Barn" having passed through the old faculty housing duplexes to Ross Hall and now the state-of-the-Art Barn facility that continues to train outdoor enthusiasts and professional for any and all areas of the field. But in truth "the Barn" is only a nucleus of a specialized cell that spans the outdoor world.

Clyde was instrumental in developing Wilderness Leadership from a two-year program to a four-year program and it was one of the two first four-year degree programs Brevard took on. Clyde's penchant for team collaboration is who you will probably hear him say facilitated the transition, the team, not him alone. However, if not for Clyde's excitement, passion and never say die enthusiasm, many believe it would never have gained the momentum to continue to stay at the top of quality and innovation, from then in 1989 until now.

He spent hours finding out what professional outdoor employers needed across the globe and crafted a program that would ultimately feed into the explosion of the outdoor industries growth. He called and knocked on doors from little Brevard to Maine and beyond over the years. It was a program that went from gear to goals of achievement, from innovators of equipment to guides of quality for the most sought-after adventures.

But if you ask him, he will tell you others were all part of it. While many fed info and corporate needs items to him, as he asked the right questions, he worked in and out of his closet office thinking outside the box as to how to teach and reach for the best that the out of doors has to offer and if you ask his students of the past 30 years, they all seem to allude to the same thing, when asked what makes Clyde special. For students like myself and so many others, Clyde saw the best ways to lead those he interacts with to grow into their fullest potential and in the end continue their education and growth for themselves. He took a spark and shared it, breathed life into imaginations, and then encouraged the fire of passion for our outside world, challenging us to go and enrich those around us. in some way that makes a difference in each life we interact with, while seeking what others want to see, know or do. And then to think outside the box and make that a reality. 'Look for the niche to answer the need and then fill it', is a good motto for Clyde's character and life passion.

Clyde watched and listened to people like Paul Petzoldt, the father of Experiential Education, and he heard their heart of hearts that outdoor hobbies could one day be a huge professional industry and Clyde talked and saw what the people would need to be part of this world-wide transformation to professionalism and one of our largest industries today. 30 years ago, we had few nationwide outdoor gear retailers, almost no outdoor tourism specialties, gear innovators were still figuring out how to adapt from gear was heavy, unspecialized and sometimes

unwieldy. Young people from Brevard are in every industry that has some connection to outdoor needs and services, while also competing competitively in outdoor experiences.

Brevard's alumnus include: national champions in Cycling, top finishers in Kayaking, Young people who have experienced the Appalachian Trail, which as I write this, Clyde and his wife are resuming their own through hike. His students have even peak bagged some of the largest peaks, rock climbing the world's more challenging rock faces, kayaking difficult rapids, and ridge riding mountain tops on cycles. It is not just his enthusiasm to make Brevard the best, but to share that passion with other schools to develop the same type of hands-on experiences to put the best trained out there to teach and grow others to be the best.

The Immersion Semester is another of Clyde's innovations taking a group of diverse individuals from the WLEE major and minor for a whole semester and teaching Outdoors and other skills necessary to thrive in the outdoors. The semester is finished with planning and carrying out a 21 day wilderness expedition, which is a wonderful learning experience in both administration skills and group dynamics, not to mention the logistics of the actual outdoors experience. This set aside Brevard's program as the best Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education program offered anywhere.

Clyde may never realize the extent that what he was doing lit a fire in the other professors here to transform their academic areas to an experiential model; we have a campus that has mock crime scenes, and art all over, poets in the out of doors and every area has seen the positive effects of what he was doing and saw a vision in their fields as well. I believe he never saw the full effect of his example as what sparked the experiential programs that Brevard fosters and promotes drawing kids from all over, because they have heard it is the best at hands on learning and one that is taking its graduates to a level that few can compete with.

Clyde's unique methods of teaching shows students that a misadventure is not a reason to quit, but is a step to climb. Whether Clyde learned this as he worked towards his Eagle Scout rank as a youth or from playing in the outdoors or his desire to share his passion that so many can embrace for a life career. He also turns our heads around to know that perceived failure is to be embraced and adapted to, not used as a crutch. His calm method of conversation comes not just from experience but from his desire to build and help others build the steps to reach their joys in life and to know failure is part of it and we cannot let it rule us, but we can adjust and succeed.

There is no better method to learn who you are than through experience with others, to truly challenge yourself and to learn to depend on face-to face interaction with others and with a world that has so many challenges to offer.

Clyde's final semester after announcing his retirement at the end of Spring 2020 was a new experience, with the challenges added by COVID 19. He, along with his colleagues, stepped outside the box again to do what needed to be done. So many of those people across the world who were locked down and forced to distance themselves from others, took to the outdoors in record numbers and cleared outdoor retailers and sporting goods stores shelves. Retailers sold out of equipment from bikes to kayaks and BC alumni stepped in to serve in amazing ways.

As a retailer on the step of what could have devastated our business, we reinvented customer service we met the needs of those who wanted and longed for the outdoors to cope and not let this situation get them down. More people spent vacations in the outdoors than years before. It is a field and industry that can nicely lend itself to social distancing while finding out who you are and what you can do. Lessons from Clyde helped many of my fellow alums in this industry, to think outside the box. From allowing customers to shop in different manners or, as we found our way through this new experience, to tourism promoting the activities of biking, camping, kayaking, and things that would take people out into the fresh air and away from the stress. Our industry is alive and well because of teachers like Clyde who taught us to never quit a tough adventure but to seek a new path to accomplish it.

Clyde has taken us to the woods to camp in the bitter cold and then taken a group down the King's Creek to the Mississippi in a semester, to Patagonia and from the starting points of many of our waterways to the sea through programs he designed and hatched in a corner or a closet of a building that was basically holding on for dear life at its inception and along the way other outstanding people have joined him. But where would Brevard be if Clyde had not asked Greer about starting this program, one that could not have had a better environment at its doorstep to nurture and grow this amazing experience for students.

One other thing you will notice is the friendly join in challenge Clyde has thrown down to other professors to make experience part of their curriculum too. From English professors, Psychology professors, to Science professors. Many have transformed the college and some have even come over to the WLEE program to share an experience, one of the areas they have synthesized is building the experience of Voice of the Rivers. When a teacher of poetry gets on board as a co-instructor his classroom immerses the students in the eloquence that encompasses the waterways of life, in their essence. Clyde and the team that has through the years developed VOR, specifically did not make this a WLEE specific program, but encompassed all disciplines into the experience. Alumni from any major are eligible and encouraged to participate. From Art majors to Criminal Justice and everything in between, the curriculum goes with the professors who take on the experience, from pollution of waterways to environmental poetry or environmental crime the experience has something to enrich anyone.

My wife was a VOR participant as an Art Major with little outdoor experience and grew a larger appreciation for the outdoors, while enjoying the challenge of completing something that was very difficult. Anyone can know the power of the outdoor experience and how it factors into all lives and Clyde developed that into the program. These experiences show each curriculum area how they can bring the experiential facet to their individual programs and that is an amazing thing. Clyde had the vision and sought to collaborate with great minds to envision and bring this unique experience to our campus. The cultural and ecological aspects of the rivers in VOR are important to all disciplines we may choose to experience this unique program solely as Brevard students and the impacts of it rounds out our life experiences and helps us develop who we are.

How could a program that started with little more than a handful of people grow? It grew by Clyde's determination to have other students take a class and experience the benefits of the outdoors and to reach outside and grasp all life has to offer

My family has known Clyde since I was a kid and our Scout troop would come to campus and the WLEE majors would facilitate programs for us from ultimate frisbee, to Rock Climbing, even having a special group of the first Voice of the Rivers team come and share their adventure with us, which lit a spark in all of us to embrace the out of doors in our life and eventually led me to being in Clyde's program, years later.

From the time Clyde founded the program until now, WLEE majors have been about 10% of the student population. They come from all walks of life to participate, even if just for a course or two, but that time teaches and enriches each alum in the career field they choose, as they get to know and relate to people from all walks of life and those skills are invaluable today in a more impersonal world.

The Brevard College Program was voted Top Small School for Blue Ridge Magazine's competition for Best Outdoor Program. Other college and Universities have won since then, but to win the first year said it all. And the Top large University to win it that year was Appalachian State, who came and saw Clyde's program and developed their own. One of Clyde's first hatchlings so to speak.

Out of the Classroom Experiences:

The following are organizations Clyde participated in, served and drew information from to continue to develop Brevard's WLEE program.

Adventure Director 1990 to 2020 – Rockbrook Summer Camp for Girls, where he developed and carried out their adventure program in the summers every year.

American Mountain Guides Association

Outdoor Education Professionals organization, where Clyde shared and grew his passion.

American Canoe Association – developed and honed many of his water hobby skills through trainings and conferences.

Banff Mountain Film Festival coordinator for Brevard College, you just have to experience it to know its impact on the participants.

Advisor to the Outdoors Club at Brevard College

Wilderness First Responder

Leave No Trace Master Instructor – the premier program for embracing the out of doors

2-time participant in the Salzburg Global Seminar

Author of the book Knot Crazy: which focuses on his passion for tying knots and doing rope tricks

An Island Ford Instructor

Certifications

Wilderness Medical Institute Wilderness First Responder

Leave No Trace – Master Educator

American Canoe and Kayak Association Level IV Whitewater Canoe Instructor

American Canoe and Kayak Association Level IV Open Water Coastal Kayaking Instructor

Master Educator Instructor for the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics

AMGA Single Pitch Rock Climbing Instructor

American Canoe and Kayak Association Level IV training in Swiftwater Rescue

MFCI Partner and Participant

Clyde holds a Bachelor's degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management from Clemson University and a Master's degree in Experiential Education from Minnesota State University Mankato.

Career Accomplishments:

Knot Crazy, authored by Clyde

Developed two- year WLEE program and then transitioned it to a 4- year program from scratch.

Developed a collaborative approach with other disciplines to create new experiential programs

Practicum Professional Development Skills Program

Service to Boys and Girls Clubs

He also worked with my Scoutmaster to design a weekend program to teach us more about outdoor program, team work, leadership, and opportunities for our future in the outdoors.

Conserving Carolina - featured Speaker

Outing Club Advisor

Banff Mountain Film Festival at Brevard College – It is one of the rare venues that hosts all three days of the World Acclaimed Outdoor Film Festival and raises money for the Outdoor club.

Became an outstanding mediator for positive relationship building

*See Section one for more detail,

Recognition, Honors, and Awards:

Clyde has numerous accomplishments of certifications, as listed above, and in a field that is still in its childhood compared to other industries, he has achieved the cherry on the top of the sundae when The Association for Experiential Education, an international organization having roots back to 1972 but incorporated in 1977, named him Outstanding Experiential Education Teacher of the Year, in 2010.

“This is an international award recognizing that Clyde has “demonstrated an active passion for experiential education principles and theories,” has “practiced innovative, experiential educational methodologies,” and has consistently shown “the highest ethical standards in working with students.”

Eagle Scout

Numerous service recognitions from the many organizations he has served.

Community Service:

Pisgah Pride Day participant - Brevard College professor Clyde Carter during the 2017 Pisgah Pride Day. Pisgah Pride Day is just one tool that the Pisgah Conservancy uses to engage community members and give them the opportunity to volunteer on projects like bridge reconstruction, trail maintenance, invasive species removal and road side cleanup.

Four friends are embarking on an ambitious expedition to paddle 340 miles from Fort Clinch State Park on the Atlantic Ocean, up the St. Mary’s River, through the incomparable Okefenokee Swamp, and down the Suwannee River to the Gulf of Mexico. Why? For fun...and to help raise awareness for these beautiful and threatened waterways. Who was one of those participants? Clyde Carter and his trip was Jan 20-Feb 16 2021.

Over the years Clyde and future professors who have joined the program found Service needed to be a key component to promote and protect the outdoors so Clyde has participated in and even developed one or two of the following:

Trail Service

American Canoe and Kayak Association

Adventure Education Conference (Clyde been instrumental in hosting it several years facilitating students to plan and carry out the conference)

Practicum Professional Development Skills Program

Service to Boys and Girls Club

He also worked with my Scoutmaster to design weekend programs to teach us more about outdoor program, team work, and opportunities for our future in the outdoors.

Conserving Carolina - featured Speaker

Outdoors Club Advisor

Master Instructor in many fields of outdoor experience from canoeing to conservation.

Banff Mountain Film Festival facilitator at Brevard College – It is one of the rare venues that hosts all three days of the World Acclaimed Outdoor Film Festival and raises money for the Outdoor club.

Boy Scout Leader

Presentations to groups along the VOR riverways concerning River conservation and the importance of these systems to our lives.

Clyde also volunteered with the Mediation Center of Western North Carolina, “for quite some time, which is a testament to his focus on healthy relationships and no doubt carried over into his work with students in challenging situations.”

Member of Grace Community Church, Mills River