

# Updates from Brevard College



Fall 2023

*Dear Friends,*

Throughout our proud history, Brevard College has demonstrated resilience and determination, and that holds true today. We continue to evolve and respond to opportunities and the changing landscape of education. Within today's higher education environment, Brevard College stands out for our progress, for our experiential liberal arts education, and for our commitment to each student's success.

We know that today's students need more than they did a decade ago or even three years ago. We continue to invest in our missional work of providing a transformative education in ways that directly improve the student experience and increase student success rates. Here are some highlights as we enter our 171st academic year:

- Three new undergraduate majors are being offered this fall: Chemistry, Communication, and Computer Science. All three of the majors have students enrolled and excited to learn.
- We are preparing to offer a completely on-line MBA degree in January 2024.
- Campus improvements are ongoing, including the completion of a new home for the Student Success Center in a refurbished Coltrane Hall. This space will be home to our First-Year Student Advising staff, which is a programmatic enhancement to the student transition experience of our brand-new students.
- Faculty and staff have devoted great time, energy, and effort over the past year as we work to build a new, distinctive, college-wide program to partner with each student as they prepare for their post-college aspirations and plans. Whether it is career plans, graduate school aspirations, or some other focus, we dedicate ourselves and our work to student success in college and beyond.

Our dedication to academic excellence is evident in our latest U.S. News rankings as one of the best Regional Colleges in the South, a Best Value School, Best in Undergraduate Teaching, and a Top Performer on Social Mobility. We feel proud to share these national recognitions of the great work of our faculty and staff, and hope you feel that same pride.

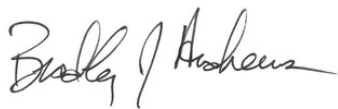
I am grateful every day for the amazing people who make Brevard College such a meaningful and special place. I am grateful for the students who push themselves to pursue their dreams, and for the staff who counsel, problem-solve, and support our students. I am grateful for the hard work of our faculty to build meaningful relationships and do such an excellent job in teaching our students. I am grateful for the ever-present and inspiring support of our community.



**President Andrews addresses the  
graduating class of 2023**

The future of the College will continue to be built upon the historical strength and relevance of our institution and our mission. By staying agile and innovative, Brevard College aims to remain at the forefront of higher education, empowering students to thrive in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

Please know that all of us are so grateful for your support. Thank you for your love of Brevard College and all the ways you support the excellent work being done on campus.



Bradley J Andrews, President



Incoming students from the 2023-2024 academic year gather outside of the Paul Porter Center for the Performing Arts after the Convocation Ceremony.

## Renovated Student Success Center Supports First-Year Advising Program

The Brevard College First-Year Advisors work individually with students to help them transition to college, plan their academic and career goals, make connections with key stakeholders on campus, and understand how to access campus resources and services. First-Year Advisors use Appreciative Advising developed by Dr. Jennifer Bloom. Each phase of Appreciative Advising supports improved connection with students, understanding their perspectives and challenges, and assisting the student in planning and executing actions to reach desired goals.

Students are asked to meet with their first-year advisor five times during the fall semester as part of their First-Year Experience class (FYE 101). Students will continue to meet with their advisor during the spring semester as part of their FYE 104 requirements. The advisor's job is to work with students to identify opportunities, help them make connections, navigate campus systems, and offer support where it is needed most.

This summer, renovations began inside Coltrane Hall to create the new home for our First-Year Advising Program. The renovations are on going at the time of print for this publication. The project is expected to be completed by the first week of September.



The First-Year Advising Team

Left to Right: Angela Mascaro, Jessica Tucker, Robert Dye, Scott Douglas '23



Student Success Center renovation in Coltrane Hall



# Experiential Education Continues to be the Forefront for Faculty and Staff

Experiential learning remains a cornerstone of the Brevard College education in and out of the classroom. All of our faculty, staff, and coaches seek new opportunities for continuing education that allows them to bring professional life experience to the classroom and fields. We recognize the value of diversity in how we, as a community, learn and grow as we strive to continue to develop ourselves and those around us. The students of Brevard College benefit from working with faculty, staff, and coaches who share their knowledge during daily interactions with our students. The 11:1 student-to-faculty and staff ratio allows us to make deeper connections, build lasting experiences for our students, and continue their growth through first-hand learning. Below and on page four are three stories of many at Brevard College that bring their professional life experiences to the classroom and onto the field.

## Erasme Uyizeye, Ph.D, Assistant Professor for Environmental Science

Brevard College welcomes Professor Erasme Uyizeye who will be teaching environmental studies for the 2023-2024 academic year. This past summer, Professor Uyizeye attended the Freshwater Science Conference in Brisbane, Australia. During the conference, he delivered two presentations on his preliminary results on PFAS, forever chemicals in the North East, US as well as potential ways to advance sound monitoring of freshwater ecosystems while promoting community engagement in Africa.

**"I am excited to connect with students and getting to know them. I am looking forward to students engaging with nature and developing an appreciation through our studies."**



**Dr. Erasme Uyizeye collecting samples for his presentation.**

## Andrea Boccanfuso, Associate Professor of Theatre, Design, & Technology



Professor Andrea Boccanfuso serves as the Coordinator of the Theatre program here at Brevard College. Prior to coming to Brevard, she spent several years as head of design at one of the country's largest fashion event lighting companies, IMCD Lighting Inc., whose clients include Prada, Lady Gaga, Google, Chanel, Versace, and Calvin Klein. Prior to that, she was a project coordinator at The Lighting Design Group, Inc., where she served as lighting venues coordinator for NBC's coverage of the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Torino, Italy. With LDG, Boccanfuso also coordinated lighting projects for ABC, CNN, Oxygen, The Food Network, and NBC (2004 Democracy Plaza at Rockefeller Plaza).

For over 25 years, Professor Boccanfuso has worked at the Brevard Music Center, one of the country's premier summer training programs for orchestra studies, piano, and opera as the Director of Production. Her experiences are shared within her classroom and under the lights on stage at Brevard College.

**Professor Andrea Boccanfuso  
preparing for the annual  
Fine Arts Gala at Brevard College**



# Brevard College Football Coaching Staff

The same experiential principles from the classroom are applied on the field for the Brevard College Football staff. The coaching team consists of professional football coaches, professional players, and alumni from the BC Football Program. Four of the coaches, Bill Khayat, Martin Bayless, Everett Lindsay, and Chris Syminton, have NFL and other professional playing or coaching experience. The network of these coaches have attracted professional players who are looking to share their experiences to develop players while growing their own coaching profile. LaDarius Wiley and Garrett Groshek return to the sidelines at BC after successful seasons in the United States Football League. Coach Khayat has set a strong foundation for the program which now is seeing BC alumni return to coach and give back to the college. Jack Wellenhofer, Josh Romero '20, Nick Eubanks '21, Brandon Crawford '20, John Burton III '23, Connor Sampson, Miles Hayes, Brandon Unangst, and Jaden O'Leary '22 round out a team of coaches who provide each player with the support and leadership necessary for success in the classroom and on the field. Coach Khayat utilizes this multi-level leadership to establish continuous learning as a cornerstone of the culture and part of the DNA of the program.



BC Coaches at the 2023 United States Football League Championship  
Martin Bayless (General Manager), LaDarius Wiley (DB's Coach), Garrett Groshek (RB's Coach), and Bill Khayat (Head Coach).



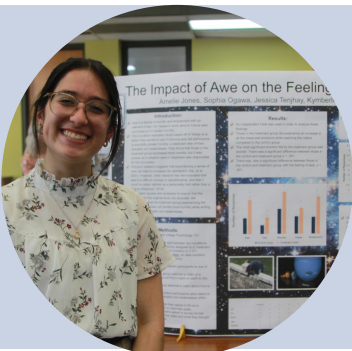
Preseason includes learning the foundation of the BC Football Program, as well as the importance of living and learning in your community.

"As with any occupational choice, progress in your field should be a continuing goal. Remaining static is not an option. Being on staff with the USFL offers an excellent opportunity at a professional level for such advancement. Exposure to variable approaches, innovative ideas, and comparative analysis on a first-hand basis is always superior to attending seminars or watching slideshows. Bringing home to Brevard the benefits of this experience will provide an invaluable asset to our coaches, our players, and the Tornado football program in general."

- Coach Khayat

"I started coaching in 2002, in the summers when I wasn't working for NFL teams. I did internships so that I could keep a competitive advantage of the verbiage, learn from someone else, and learn different ways of teaching. Since then I have worked with nine different NFL teams including NFL Europe. All of those opportunities taught me something different. Every student, every player, every coach is different. We all have different programming, styles, and experiences; we have to be able to work with every single coach and player to build our culture and expectations. We have better performance in the classroom and on the field, learning different ways to apply strategies to get results. Whether you are a parent, professor, or coach, you have to learn to get your message across."

- Coach Bayless



Contributions to the Annual Fund support experiential education, hands-on learning, and student scholarships. Your gift to the Annual Fund helps students achieve their dreams and take advantage of opportunities that otherwise would not be available to them. The Annual Fund is not just a gift to the college, but an investment in the lives and the success of all students.

