

## Faculty Development

### BPCU FACULTY HARD AT WORK

The faculty at Brewton-Parker Christian University strive to promote a culture of learning not only in the classroom but also in their own personal lives. Each year, BPCU faculty are provided the opportunity to engage in professional development opportunities in order to further their knowledge in their subject areas, share what they have learned, or even gain knowledge in other areas.

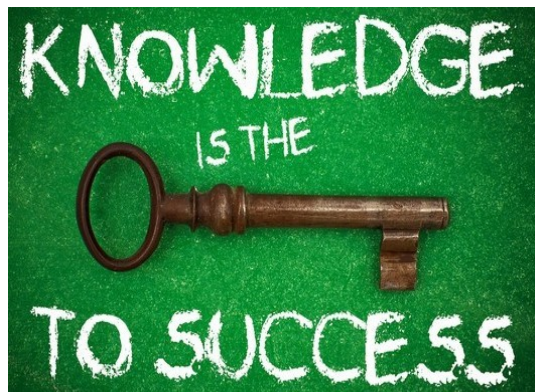
Professional development could be anything from conferences, seminars, or workshops to taking additional courses at the collegiate-level, to independent reading and research.

This annual newsletter will serve as a way for BPC faculty to communicate their ongoing commitment to learning and growth with their peers. If you would like to be included in the next Faculty Development Newsletter, submit your professional development information to the Provost Office by June 15, 2026.

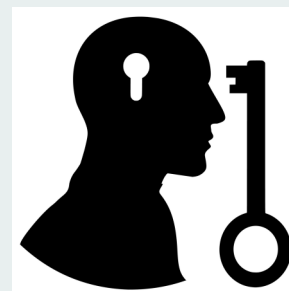
### CONTINUING EDUCATION

During the 2024-2025 academic year, **Blake Kirby** Instructor of Nursing enrolled at Grand Canyon University to complete her Master of Nursing. She plans to complete her degree Spring 2026.

During the 2024-2025 academic year, **Karl Hay**, Assistant Professor of Computer Information Systems, and Chair of the Business Division enrolled at Liberty University to complete his Doctoral degree.



**Dr. John Shaffett**, Assistant Professor of English and History, Will Complete his MA in Ministry this summer from Brewton-Parker College.



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## THERE IS SOMETHING NEW TO LEARN EVERY SINGLE DAY...

It is no secret that a good teacher requires a good education. For that reason, our faculty strive to stay up-to-date with the ins and outs of their changing fields of study by going to conferences and watching webinars. Below is a small listing of those participating in learning events this year.

**Donna Jean Braddy**, Associate Professor of Nursing completed recertification for American Heart Association BLS Instructor, Participated with ATI's Introduction to NCLEX Item Writing and Item Analysis, attended the 2025 GANE (Georgia Association for Nursing Education )Conference, obtained UbiSim Training Badge and became certified in In-Person Youth Mental Health First Aid USA Training.

**Beverly Faircloth** Assistant Professor of Education and Chair of the Division of Education, Behavioral science & Humanities, completed a 3-day training with the Georgia Professional Standards Commission to become a GaPSC Approval Reviewer.

**Dr. Nicole Shepard** Associate Professor of Business and Associate Chief Financial Officer has served on three SACSCOC review committees this fiscal/academic year.

The Education faculty including Dr. Beverly Faircloth, Dr. Lisa Kelley, Professor Barbara Reid, and Dr. Justin Russell, completed both the GaDOE Dyslexia Training course and the Structured Literacy course through Cox Campus

### Brewton-Parker Christian University

Brewton-Parker Christian University is a six--year, coeducational Christian liberal arts college accredited by Southern Association of Colleges and School Commission on Colleges. Brewton-Parker offers more than twenty areas of undergraduate study to a diverse population of students in the micropolitan setting of Mount Vernon/Vidalia in the south-central region of Georgia. As a Georgia Baptist institution, Brewton-Parker affirms the supremacy of Christ and expects members of faculty and administration to model Christian values before the students, in their professional activities, and in their lives.

## New Programs and Degrees

Brewton-Parker has a new program that will begin Fall 2025:

Master of Education in Teaching and Learning

We also began offering the following minors this year:

- Minor in Marketing
- Minor in Special Education
- Minor in Creative Writing

## PARTICIPATION AND PRESENTATIONS

Numerous faculty take the time to give back to education by participating in or presenting research papers at conferences around our area.

**Mrs. Donna Jean Braddy**, Associate Professor of Nursing, has completed the Youth Mental Health First Aid USA training session within her first few months of employment with BPC.

**Dr. Christian Dickinson**, Assistant Professor of English, and Dr. Michael Steinmetz, Assistant Professor of Christian Studies presented their papers at the McMaster's Conference in Toronto Canada the week of May 5th.

**Dr. Tim Miller** Assistant Professor of History attended the Florida Conference of Historians 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting hosted by Florida Southwestern State College in Punta Gorda, FL. He presented: *Gold for Secrets: The Hartlib Circle and the West Indies, 1620-1662* on February 21-23, 2025. He also supervised two undergraduate papers presented there by Brewton-Parker College students John Carroll and Austin Miller. Dr. Miller also attended the Southeast World History Association (SEWHA) 36th Annual Conference: Disappearances and Preservations hosted by Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, MO where he presented: *One Mass of Crimson Beauty: Thomas Bog Slade and Female Education in Early Georgia, 1800-1882, October 24-27, 2024.*

**Dr. John Shaffett**, Assistant Professor of English and History, Director of Library Services, presented a paper: "Journeying with the Scripture at the Faith and Academy Conference hosted by Faulkner University in October 2024. Took an 8 week online writing course in the Spring Semester, hosted by the Gospel Coalition. In May, did research at the Southern Baptist History Library and Archives. He made a presentation on writing at the American Theological Library Conference in Pittsburgh. And, published three book reviews in the Catholic Library Journal.

## NAME CHANGE & NEW MASTER'S PROGRAM.

Brewton-Parker College is pleased to announce that The Southern Association of Colleges and Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Board of Trustees met in December and Confirmed the name change of Brewton-Parker College to Brewton-Parker Christian University.

Then on May 23, 2025 Brewton-Parker received the news that the New Master of Education in Teaching and Learning has been approved and classes will start August 18, 2025. The M.Ed. in Teaching and Learning offers two specialization tracks—Instructional Design and Delivery and Early Childhood Education—both of which are designed to serve the needs of working educators seeking to grow professionally and spiritually. You can read more about this new program at <https://bpc.edu/2025/06/02/bpc-receives-approval-for-m-ed-program-in-teaching-and-learning/>



## WELCOME NEW FACULTY

Please join me in welcoming our newest faculty members who are joining the BPC family.

**Donna Jean Braddy** (2024), Associate Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing, A.S.N., Middle Georgia College; B.S.N., Augusta University; M.S.N., Regis University

**Bobby Caleb Hightower** (2024), Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, B.A., Valdosta State University; M.S., D.Sc., Georgia State University

**Heather Hooks** (2024), Assistant Professor of Business, Division of Business, B.S., Georgia Southern University; M.B.A., Capella University

**G. Hunter Kennedy** (2024), Assistant Professor of History  
Division of Education, Behavioral Sciences, and Humanities  
B.A., Brewton-Parker College; M.A., Arizona State University

**Blake Kirby** (2025), Instructor of Nursing  
School of Nursing  
B.S.N. Georgia Southern University

**Aris Knight** (2024), Assistant Professor of Business (Part-Time), Division of Business, B.S., M.B.A., Southeastern University; M.S. Lindsey Wilson College

**Anna Reese** (2025), Assistant Professor of Biology  
Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences  
B. S. Middle Georgia State University, M.S. Grand Canyon University

**Carl Anthony Wardlaw** (2024), Assistant Professor Psychology, Division of Education, Behavioral Sciences, and Humanities, Licensed Professional Counselor, B.B.A., University of Georgia; M.S., M.Ed. Tory University, Ed.D., Argosy University

**HELLO**  
my name is



### Still Looking. . .Faculty Needs

Brewton-Parker College is currently looking to hire for the following faculty positions:

- Nursing
- Sport Management
- Mathematics
- Please direct potential candidates to the employment page on the BPC website.
- Biology
- Kinesiology
- English