

GENERAL INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Brewton-Parker College offers an undergraduate education that is committed to academic excellence, grounded in the liberal arts tradition, and informed by the Christian faith. The College's heritage as a Georgia Baptist institution produces a concern for the individuals that motivates our community to nurture and develop the whole student in a caring, Christian environment.

Faculty members serve as teacher-scholars promoting intellectual inquiry that develops the mind and spirit. Students study the traditional liberal arts and sciences, and selected professional and pre-professional programs, at the campus in Mount Vernon and designated external locations. Activities both inside and outside the classroom afford students opportunities for intellectual, emotional, physical, and spiritual growth that prepare them for meaningful service to their local, regional, and global communities.

VISION STATEMENT

Brewton-Parker College will be a distinctive community of learners committed to upholding strong academic standards where liberal arts education and every area of the college are informed by the Christian faith in a nurturing Christian environment.

MISSION VISION IMPLEMENTATION PHILOSOPHY

Academics being the central purpose for an educational institution, Brewton-Parker College affirms its commitment to the tradition of liberal arts education that aims to provide a core of knowledge in an atmosphere of free inquiry. Further, the College seeks to train students to develop the capacity for understanding and judgment in a critical context, to evaluate information and see its relevance in the various situations of life, and to commit to a life of continued learning. To achieve this end the College supports:

- A community of learners who are committed to upholding rigorous academic standards and whose emphasis is on critical thinking skills.
- A highly qualified faculty who encourage students to reach their full academic potential, seek to relate their classroom to the world, and employ an interdisciplinary approach in an atmosphere of free inquiry.
- A dynamic faculty engaged in ongoing scholarly pursuits and in advancing pedagogical techniques.

In providing an undergraduate education that is informed by the Christian faith, Brewton-Parker College will:

- Employ a Christian worldview to guide every area of the College in developing an appreciation for and an understanding of the Christian faith.
- Foster a Christ-centered environment in which members of the College community model Christian values and are free to express their faith.
- Remain mindful of its Christian heritage as a Georgia Baptist institution and will strive to become a liberal arts college of distinction for all students, regardless of their denominational affiliation or religious preference, who seek a Christian higher education.

Members of the Brewton-Parker College community will nurture each other within a Christian environment and encourage the intellectual, emotional, physical, and spiritual growth of the students entrusted to our care. Activities both inside and outside the classroom will:

- Recognize and reinforce the dignity and worth of the individual by acknowledging individual convictions and cultural differences through civility, tolerance, fairness, and compassion.
- Encourage the cultivation of those traits of character and intellect that represent the zenith of human maturation and include personal integrity, ethical decision-making, the exercise of compassion, and the pursuit of spiritual development, excellence and high ideals.
- Inspire a commitment to a life of service that is based upon the collegiate experience of individual respect and encouragement as well as the example of the Brewton-Parker College community where service is seen as a social and civic responsibility and as an expression of Christian stewardship.

FAITH AND LEARNING

Brewton-Parker College is founded on faith in Jesus Christ, the son of God, and the affirmation that since all truth comes from God, the academic search for the truth is compatible with faith in God. Therefore, the faculty at Brewton-Parker College has a proud heritage of valuing the importance of faith and learning. Throughout our history, we have attempted to provide a liberal arts education grounded in the understanding of the Christian tradition.

In this faith and learning statement, we reiterate our commitments to the following historic principles of church-related education. The principle of soul competency, the worth of the individual, and the freedom of individual conscience are respected as foundational to the student's role in the learning process. The principle of religious liberty affirms education, but not indoctrination. The principle of the priesthood of the believer affirms the equality of all students in the learning process.

Dedicated to academic freedom, Brewton-Parker's faculty members continue to be committed to using their God-given talents to seek truth in all lines of scholarship. In doing so, they aspire, as they feel led, to encourage their colleagues and students to integrate their personal faith into their teaching, learning, and interactions. They also strive to promote a sincere spirit of Christ-like tolerance; to provide an open and nurturing environment to explore all intellectual avenues; and to strive to act towards others, both inside and outside the classroom, in a manner that honors the example set by Christ.

HISTORY

1904: The Reverend John C. Brewton, pastor of the First Baptist Church in McRae, Georgia, and C.B. Parker, a member of Brewton's congregation and a Telfair County business leader, establish Union Baptist Institute (UBI) as a private boarding school. The Daniell and Telfair Baptist Associations support UBI.

- 1905: UBI opens September 12, with 160 students and seven teachers. The campus, built on property at the juxtaposition of Mount Vernon and Ailey in Montgomery County, consists of an academic hall, two dormitories, and a dining commons. Dr. Brewton is the first president.
- 1912: Trustees rename the school Brewton-Parker Institute (BPI). W.A. Mulloy serves as president.
- 1913: Ray E. Robertson is named president.
- 1916: Bunyan B. Smith assumes the school's presidency.
- 1917: Brewton-Parker earns accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).
- 1918: Dr. Brewton returns as BPI's president.
- 1919: Linton Stephens Barrett becomes president.
- 1922: Barrett proposes making BPI a junior college. Albert Martin Gates succeeds Barrett as president.
- 1923: BPI adds a college freshman class.
- 1927: With the addition of a sophomore class, BPI becomes Brewton-Parker Junior College.
- 1929: Brewton-Parker discontinues its elementary school.
- 1941: Gates resigns; he is followed by R.L. Robinson.
- 1946: C.T. Ricks becomes president.
- 1948: Brewton-Parker drops all secondary education from its curriculum. The Georgia Baptist Convention assumes sole ownership of the college upon the offer of southeast Georgia's 21 Baptist associations.
- 1949: President Ricks resigns; M.P. Campbell succeeds him.
- 1953: M.A. Murray assumes the college's presidency.
- 1957: Brewton-Parker drops all tactical, vocational, and terminal classes, becoming an institution devoted to a liberal arts curriculum. Dr. Theodore (Ted) Phillips becomes president.
- 1962: SACS accredits Brewton-Parker as a junior college.
- 1978: Trustees officially adopt the name Brewton-Parker College (BPC).
- 1979: Dr. Starr Miller assumes the presidency upon Dr. Phillips's retirement.
- 1983: Dr. Miller proposes a Bachelor of Ministry degree program. Dr. Y Lynn Holmes becomes president.
- 1984: SACS grants BPC candidacy status for the baccalaureate degree program.
- 1985: BPC graduates first senior class of 22 students.
- 1986: SACS recognizes BPC as a four-year institution December 9.
- 1997: Dr. Holmes resigns; Dr. Miller returns as interim president.
- 1998: Trustees confirm Dr. David R. Smith as BPC's fourteenth president.

OWNERSHIP

Brewton-Parker College is a coeducational institution owned by the Executive Committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention. The Convention elects a board of 25 trustees, five being chosen each year for a five-year term. The board membership rotates, and members cannot succeed themselves. The Convention empowers the trustees to operate the college.

SUPPORT

Income from student fees, endowment gifts (from individuals, churches, foundations, corporations, and the federal government), and appropriations from the Cooperative Program of the Georgia Baptist Convention provide financial support for the college.

ACCREDITATION

Brewton-Parker College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate's and bachelor's degrees. Brewton-Parker is also an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The scenic 270-acre campus is blanketed with evergreens and more than 10,000 flowering trees and shrubs. Forty-six buildings, outdoor athletic properties, and a five-acre lake are situated within this tranquil rural setting. Mild winters and abundant rainfall provide a pleasant climate.

EDUCATIONAL AND ANNUAL CULTURAL EVENTS OFFERED BY BREWTON-PARKER COLLEGE

Warren G. Crawley Bible Institute

Sponsored by Brewton-Parker College and the Georgia Baptist Convention, the Warren G. Crawley Bible Institute provides free continuing education in Biblical studies for African-American ministers and laity. The annual series of Saturday classes are taught by college personnel and guest speakers. The Institute began in 1984 and was named after an African-American leader of Montgomery County who donated five of the original fifteen acres of the college campus in 1904.

C. Dorsey and Maxine H. Horton Lectures on Biblical and Mission Studies

The Horton Lecture Series, endowed by C. Dorsey and Maxine H. Horton of Statesboro, was initiated in 1990. An annual event, the lectures cover issues, in alternating years, in the fields of biblical studies and missions. Baptist scholars are the featured guest speakers.

Sigma Tau Delta

Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society, invites into its membership students who have distinguished themselves in their English coursework beyond the 200-level survey class. Alpha Delta Beta Chapter was established in 1994. It annually sponsors the John Robert Brewer Lecture Series in Literature. Named in honor of Professor Brewer, long-time chair of the Division of Humanities, the series has brought to our campus a variety of noted scholars and writers.

Sikes Fine Arts Series

Many internationally acclaimed musical artists have appeared in recital at Brewton-Parker College through the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Sikes of Vidalia. Created in 1989, the Sikes Series offers to the college community and the local area opportunities for cultural enrichment throughout the academic year. Gifted soloists and ensembles alike have shared their talents onstage in the Gilder Recital hall or in Saliba Chapel. Most Sikes Series events are presented free of charge to the public.

Conrad-Shelby Lecture Series

The Conrad-Shelby Lectures are a series of annual lectures based on the Bible as Literature or Biblical Literature. The series was begun in 1981 by Dr. and Mrs. John Wimpey of Atlanta, Georgia, in memory of Mrs. Wimpey's parents, Dr. C.L. Shelby and Mrs. Mary Conrad Shelby. Dr. Shelby was a former dean of Brewton-Parker, and Mrs. Shelby was a professor of English.