

Faculty Spotlight:

Humanities Division Chair Mary Louise 'Mel' Bringle

By Matt Rutherford
Entertainment Editor

On March 17, I was able to interview Mary Louise Bringle, the Humanities Division Chair of Brevard College. More affectionately known as Mel, she spent most of her childhood in Greensboro North Carolina, she also attended Guilford College, a local private college. For her graduate studies she attended Emory University of Atlanta, Georgia. Mel has a BA in the Arts, French, and Religious Studies. Her PHD is in theological studies.



What made you decide to choose Brevard College as your place of work?

I had been working at a small college before Brevard, and I enjoyed the atmosphere. I also knew the current President, and he was very

persuasive. At the time I was also writing hymns, and the fact that Brevard College has an outstanding musical program was perfect. I love being around good musicians.

I know many students who are religion majors, but don't know what they will be able to do with their degree. What other jobs besides teaching and clergy positions might these students be able to pursue?

Any career path that requires the skills needed to relate to people, critical thinking, writing, and speaking. Some specific jobs would be: Social work, counseling, working for non-profit organizations, camp counselors, working

at a Montessori school, or a religious youth director.

During your college career, who

was your biggest influence?

Actually, I had two. Jerry Godard, a professor of psychology, and Mel Kiser a professor of religion. Both of these teachers were phenomenal. I learned how to teach from these two professors. They also pushed me to think ahead, and to think about majoring in something besides French for college education.

Just out of curiosity...Do you realize that you have a large student following? You are without a doubt one of the most popular teachers on campus. How does this make you feel?

No, I didn't know! I just love what I do. When I'm feeling depressed or I'm in a bad mood, I can go into class and all that just melts away. I can always count on Brevard students to cheer me up. By the time I leave I'm on cloud nine because I'm doing what I love.

Do you have any advice for students struggling to choose a major?

Listen to your heart, do what brings you joy, and spend time with it.

Thrift Store Music Reviews

Editor's note: Periodically we will print reviews of cassettes from the thrift store bin. We invite readers to contribute; the only criteria is that the music in question must be under a dollar from a thrift store.

By Joel Graham
Staff Writer / Photographer

What a week at the thrifty! These beauties are a threesome of musical pleasure. Spring must be a good time for folks to donate music, so root through the local music bin for hidden treasure.

John Lee Hooker, BOOM BOOM (Point Blank 1992)

Holy smokes! Whoever got rid of this one was a moron! The late John Lee Hooker is, and always will be, the all

time heavyweight champion of the Blues world. If you have never had the blues, don't worry, they will visit you when you least expect it. Boom Boom is an example of Hooker's genius as a Blues man. This album covers many topics such as, sadness, revenge, drunken sadness, and testicular fortitude. The song *Jesse James* makes you glad you never got stuck in a Mississippi roadhouse on a Friday night without beer money. *Same old Blues Again* is a classic tune that speaks of the heartache and pain, a special quality that Hooker can make



enjoyable. John Lee Hooker was born in Mississippi, then later found most of his recording success in and around Detroit. To listen to Hooker's words, you have to be open to a range of emotion. Not all

Blues music is sad and depressing, but the history of hurt is evident in some of the music that is the soundtrack of hard times.

We lost Mr. Hooker a few years ago. I never got to see him live and I will always regret it. If you have any of his work, you know what a gift he was to American music. If you have never

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