

Getting to Know Blair Hancock

Submitted by: Crystal Miller

Interviewer: "Where were you born?"

Blair: "I was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, that's northeastern MA right near the New Hampshire border. I lived in that area until I was about 17, a senior in high school."

Interviewer: "Growing up, did you always know you wanted to teach?"

Blair: "Not at all, no I had no idea that I would be teaching. I knew I was a bookworm, of all the things in life to do I gradually discovered I preferred reading so I went to college and didn't know what to major in."

Interviewer: "What careers did you consider?"

Blair: "Actually when I went to UNC-Chapel Hill, (We had moved to Winston Salem by this time.) I thought I wanted to go into radio; I liked music a lot. I had no talent for playing it or singing it so I thought I might want to be a disk jockey or a radio producer, or something like that. So I went to Chapel Hill planning on majoring in Radio Broadcasting. It's hard to explain why I didn't do that. It was one of those things where the program wasn't inviting and it was hard to break into. It seemed as though people already knew people or something; I was just uncomfortable with it. So then I fell back on English where the homework was reading books, which was really quite okay with me."

Interviewer: "Did anyone influence the decision you made to become a teacher?"

Blair: "My father, I remember very clearly. I started my junior year majoring in English, and my father said 'Thou will come out of college with a job,' which he had never mentioned to me before, I guess because I was a girl. I had never felt like I wasn't supposed to have a career but we didn't talk about it much. It wasn't until when my father said JOB! At that point I just threw in the education and I came out teaching high school. So my father influenced my decision to teach not because he wanted me to be a teacher, he just wanted me to have a job."

Interviewer: "Where did you begin your teaching career?"

Blair: "I started out in a small town in South Carolina teaching high school. After 3 years of that I de-

ecided I really liked it, I just wanted to get back to the mountains, pretty much; so I quit that job for no other reason; it was wonderful. I wanted to get back to this area and in trying to do that, I took a temporary job in King outside of Winston. Since it was temporary I figured I'd better have a plan for what came afterwards. I'd saved quite a bit of money 'cause there wasn't much to do in that small town in South Carolina and I decided to go back to graduate school. I went to ASU to get my master's and I taught there while finishing graduate school."

Interviewer: "What brought you to Wilkes County?"

Blair: "I started teaching at Caldwell Community College for extra money and eventually a job opened here at Wilkes Community and I've been here for going on 14 years."

Interviewer: "Is this where you want to stay, will you retire here?"

Blair: "Yes!"

Interviewer: "Are there any other goals you have, anything you haven't done yet that you would like to accomplish?"

Blair: "I started my Ph.D. back before my twins were born and got a good deal of the course work completed but I was commuting to Greensboro and that just wasn't practical with the children. I still have in the back of my mind that when they are older I might try to do something with that. I might finish my Ph.D. in English or I might translate that into a Doctorate in Education, I've been thinking about that a little bit."

Interviewer: "Where do you see yourself in 10 years?"

Blair: "Good Question. I honestly don't know because on an almost daily basis I think back and forth between this kind of thing, doing the chairperson's job and it's interests and rewards, yet I'm equally tempted to go back to a classroom full time. I enjoy what I do now and I think I'm good at it, at least good enough that I see things I've helped happen. On the other hand there is the cyber classroom that I would love to be teaching in. Right now I just haven't found or made the time to do that. There are things involved in this job that make teaching become a matter of squeezing things in. Back to the ten

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