

HUM 461 class studies faculty interests

By Kyle Jackola
Staff Writer

Students in HUM 461 are preparing to undertake a brand new project this semester. The four students in the class will interview faculty about personal research interests and processes as part of their own research for their senior projects next spring.

Humanities division chair Mary Louise Bringle teaches the class this semester and says she is excited about the prospect of learning more about her colleague's research

interests. "I haven't taught this class since 2002," Bringle told her students at their first meeting, "and I thought this year we'd try something a little different."

Typically, HUM 461 is for senior or junior humanities majors who plan on completing their senior project during the subsequent semester. The class focuses on research and documentation skills, so that the students can begin to prepare the content that will eventually become their senior project.

"In the past we've had mixed reviews from

students about the course," Bringle said, hoping the new project will help to revitalize a passion for research in and out of the classroom. She added, "I think we'll have fun doing the work, and maybe even learn a thing or two along the way."

In addition to interviewing and documenting faculty work and study habits, the class also hopes to publish their findings in a weekly column in the Clarion. Be sure to check back in next week's issue for a faculty interview and update on class research.

Introducing two international freshmen

By Elizabeth Kitchens
Staff Writer

Want to know some more about the "newbies" here at Brevard? This semester we will be scouting out first-year freshmen and transfer students to interview. I was grabbing some food at the Underground the other night when I ran into Vinicius (Vini) and Christophe (Chris).

Vini is from Brazil and Christophe, from Germany, both are playing tennis here at Brevard. Noticing the sharpened "X"s on their hands we asked where they had gone last night, which lead into the most hilarious conversation about clubbing I have ever witnessed.

"Girls dance too close here. And backwards. It's like people are having sex on the dance floor," said Chris. Vini nodded in agreement. "If you did that in a club in Brazil, everyone would stop and stare at you."

"How are you supposed to talk to a girl if she is facing the other way?" added Chris.

Turns out both of these guys have some interesting views on coming to America and Brevard College. Even as worn out as they were from tennis practice, they agreed to an interview.

What were your expectations of America?

C: There are a lot of opportunities. Whatever we want to do we can do. Do sports if you want. Do business if you want. Do medicine if you want. The people are very open hearted.

V: I thought it would be safer than Brazil.

Do you still think that it is safer?

V: I mean, it is a small city here. I live in a bigger city in Brazil.

C: I was expecting more crime. Everyone is allowed to have a gun here, and in Germany we don't have much crime. You are always hearing about street gangs and stuff from America.

What made you want to come to America?

C: I have just heard so many stories about it. America is in the everyday news. Every time. And we just wanted to get into another culture. English was the only language I spoke so... I wanted to leave the country. Campus life is the only opportunity to combine sports with studying. So I wanted to go to America.

What did you think the education here would be like?

C: I had some friends who studied in America and they told me in some subjects like Math it was going to get much easier because in Germany some of the stuff we did already. So I know a lot of it. But still—not all. They told me the first year is easy and the only problem would be the language.

V: I like how here you can choose... you can have contacts to a lot of areas. In Brazil you have to choose. For example, business. So you're going to do business? Five years—just business. If you do one year and you don't like it and want to change you have to start everything again. I like the education here. I'm taking geology classes, business classes, music education classes...

Has anything been a little disappointing?

C: Disappointing? Um... the drinking age. They make such a big deal out of this alcohol stuff. In Germany they are like, okay, you can try it and you will recognize it can be really bad when you drink too much. So we will let you drink and you will learn it by yourself. Here it is totally different.

V: Yeah, you can do anything when you turn 18 (in Brazil). You can drink, you can buy a car, a house, whatever you want. Here it's like, okay, when you're 16 you can drive, when you're 18 you can go to school and go into the Army.

Tell us about your experience at the club.

V: Disrespectful. The people who were dancing last night... they should not be in a

public place.

C: Yeah, disrespectful for the woman, actually. For us, it's really important to honor a woman. She has to feel like something special.

What about TV?

C: There are so many advertisements. It's awful. If we are watching "The Big Bang Theory" in Germany, there is only one break in the middle of the whole episode.

Your face seems to be telling us you didn't really like it.

C: I liked it first sip. But then I went out and bought a case of it and then I looked at the back and it was like one little bottle, so many grams of sugar. I won't drink that again.

Did you learn some English by watching American TV or listening to American music?

C: Music, yes. But in Germany they voice over the TV shows in German.

V: The other day I was talking to this guy and I was like, "I'm from Brazil," and he was like, "Oh, Europe is awesome."

C: I was Skyping with a friend from America while I was in Germany. And the first thing he asked me was "Do you have internet in Germany?" Yes, we have Internet in Germany.

V: Yeah, and people keep telling me I speak Brazilian. Brazilian is not a language. We speak Portuguese.

What is something you really like about it here?

V: One thing that I really like is opportunities. In Brazil, I couldn't do everything. They don't care about certain sports there. Here it's totally different. For example, I really like to play piano and I do it really well. Okay, we are going to support you. In Brazil, piano is not important. Tennis is not important. Now, soccer is important.

C: All the people here are so open hearted. You can have fun with so many people.