



# Senior Pinning

*BC's Family Weekend begins with annual tradition*

By Carmen Boone  
Copy Editor

A senior pinning ceremony was hosted by Brevard College on Friday, Sept. 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Francis Pavilion of the Porter Center.

Seniors were invited to attend the ceremony for a nice dinner, inspiring words from two speakers, and to be pinned by someone close to them.

First was the introduction to the ceremony given by Brevard College President David C. Joyce. Following, campus minister Sharad Creasman blessed the event. Dinner was served after that, provided by Brevard College Catering.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean for Faculty Scott Sheffield very fondly introduced the evening's speaker, Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies and Coordinator of the Integrated Studies Major Mary Louise Bringle. Her speech was titled "A Barking Pig and a Politician."

Bringle began by talking about the lessons we learn in kindergarten, and then transitioned into telling a story by Robert Fulgham about the barking pig. It is about a girl named Sheila who was kind of an outsider in her class but eventually became the star of the play at her school by inventing the role of the barking pig in "Cinderella."

Throughout the narrative, the lines, "Well, there is now", "this one does" [and] "there is now," were all spoken to defend Sheila's invention of the role of the barking pig in her school play.

Bringle then transitioned again. "But perhaps a barking pig is too unsophisticated, too "kindergarten-ish" an image for you here in the culminating year of your college education. So let me introduce another figure—not a barking pig, but a politician—and test your analytical abilities to see if you can figure out what the

two have in common," Bringle said.

After explaining the politician to the group, she said, "Abraham Lincoln and Sheila the Barking Pig seem to me to share an important character trait: the resilience to remain unfazed by repeated failures or by nay-sayers eager to tell them that what they wanted to be or to do just couldn't be done.

"Why do I choose this barking pig and this politician as mascots for the evening of your senior pinning? Two reasons," Bringle said. "First, because once you leave this campus and head out into what is so often, and so ominously, referred to as "the real world," you will at times be tempted to think that the plot of whatever story you are involved with has already been written, and that it doesn't end 'happily ever after.'"

She continued, "You will be tempted to give up. At that point, I hope perhaps you will be able to hear in your mind's ear some distant

echo of this evening's celebration, some clip-clopping of the hooves of the barking pig off in the wings, getting ready to stride onto center stage, goofily proclaiming by her very being that unpredictable things do happen.

"I hope you'll remember that beleaguered politician who kept losing and losing, virtually every race he ran . . . until he won the presidency of the United States. I hope you'll remember that the real measure of success for any of us is what we manage to keep on doing when the rest of the world thinks we're done for."

After explaining these points to us, she went through how intellectual resilience, humility and empathy all play a role in how we will live our lives even beyond Brevard College.

She then went back to a previous point. "If you were listening carefully, you may remember that I few minutes ago I said that I had two reasons for selecting the paired barking

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Kouri Peoples receives a pin from art professor Kyle Lusk.

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