



"I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it." - Voltaire

Growing Communications/Theatre Department

Richard Vance

As the leader of the communications department for the past six years, Richard Brett has seen his share of ups and downs. While the department has not quite reached it's peak, it is well on it's way with a new administration who Brett says "favors the arts." Also on the way is a new theater department head, Mark Manette, whom Richard describes as "a very personable, approachable teacher who uses authority without being intimidating." This allows for Brett to worry more about his duties as a video production teacher, while Manette will focus on the theater side. Seeing as video production is what I love to do, I focused more on that aspect and got to know the person who will be teaching me for the next couple of years.



Richard Brett filming. Picture courtesy of Richard Brett.

Brett's inspiration for getting into film, was the movie *Jaws*, which he saw in theaters in 1975. He reminded me that it was "a wonder it even got to theaters period, they were literally writing the script as they went along". After that he took some beginning video classes at Carlton College in Northfield, Minnesota. Which is where he earned his first degree, a Bachelors degree in Social Anthropology. Brett continued into grad school on his thirst for film, and ended up getting two more degrees. A film and video masters degree from Iowa, as well as a broadcast mediums master of fine arts degree from UNC Greensboro. He likes to work on his own projects, but finds that most of his time is spent here.

Richard was quick to point out that "I'm one of those folks who tie in here," meaning he barely has time to do anything else. However, he does still have his own goals and in fact, when I looked around his office I saw quite a few awards including a regional emmy award, and an award from a large festival in Washington D.C. which basically gives him the right to film overseas if he wants to. Richard

Where are They Now? Alumni Experiences After Knight Life

Eleanor Wainscott

During a recent interview for an article I wrote for *The Daily Southerner* newspaper in Tarboro, Southwest Edgecombe High School Counselor Marian Pittman told me that she believes that it takes some years to develop your passion. Pittman said that she can relate to the students when they say they like something, but have no true feelings for it.

I agree with Pittman and can also relate to the students. I finished my degree in Communications in May of 2004. My decision to major in this area was based on the fact that I like film and television. I also like horses and photography. However, upon reflection, I have no true feelings for those pursuits. I left for Tarboro in December of 2006 for the job at *The Daily Southerner* to be a staff writer and I truly feel this is my passion. Why do I feel this is my passion?



Eleanor Wainscott in Washington D.C. Picture courtesy of Eleanor Wainscott.

The reason I feel this is my passion is because it has helped me grow personally. I enjoy talking to various people. Ask my mom or any of my friends and they will tell you this is not something that they would expect to hear me say, as normally I've had a very hard time relating and talking to people. Now, talking with Pittman and several other people

also enjoys watching movies that aren't "Hollywood Mainstream," and enjoys traveling abroad (recently took a group in the fall to Brunnenburg). Brett's main focus in his spare time is on screen writing, where he actually has a partner in Colorado he is working with to finalize a horror script to send into either Sci-fi or a lower budget film studio. While that is awesome all by itself, many people

made me realize that there can be some really cool, fun people out there. You never know who you are going to meet who you may have a connection with or who may just serve the purpose of saying the right thing at the right moment; it's a chance and a fun chance.

This personal development makes me very happy and pleased; I have a big smile on my face. I'm very excited to continue down this path and one day win a Pulitzer Prize in Journalism.

Speaking of winning the Pulitzer Prize, dreaming big is the most important lesson I learned at St. Andrews Presbyterian College. A friend once wrote in a card to me, "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss you will land amongst the stars."

So, my advice is to aim high and don't be afraid to take risks. Don't be afraid to stretch and take a hard course or hard professor.

A mentor once told me, "It is a grave mistake to never try anything because you are afraid of failure."

Also, participate in an extracurricular activity that you previously dismissed or cannot imagine yourself doing. For a short while, I volunteered with Habitat for Humanity as a crew leader. I had no prior construction or leadership experience, but I learned to hammer a nail, build frames and guide volunteers through the process. I gained a sense of empowerment.

Lastly, empowerment and controlling my own destiny is the most important lesson I have learned since leaving St. Andrews.

Keep your head up and don't let anyone else control your destiny. If a person or company is not part of the program that will improve your life, then you don't need them or it.

Good luck with your time at St. Andrews and I wish you luck with whatever you decide to do.

probably don't know what exactly he does for the video department, or how he works hard to keep it growing. When Richard arrived here six years ago, the video and film program was a joke. The place where the camera's now have their home was as Brett recalls "basically a big closet, there was one camera just lying out of its box with no mic on it, only later after cleaning did I find it". He also used money from Scotland County to make a cable access channel (channel 17) that would help him pay for new equipment. The big white wall in the EFAC room of Vardell that we all know, was just "large tiles" according to Brett. He stripped them down with the help of another person, and painted the whole thing white, added some speakers, and also put a tower in the back with a projector. This allows for people to come watch movies in a theater like setting. He is not done however, "The green screen was just made a year ago", he said, while also stating "I would like to add more digital video cameras so when VHS is gone we can just move on". Brett believes we are headed in the right direction.

"Oh yea, definitely, especially with the new theater person". With continual work on the webpage, Brett hopes to bring more prospective students in to visit. Just with talking to him, the way he stays energetic when you know he's tired, pushes you to do more. I know with the rise in a new administration, and the hard work Brett has put in, there is no way the program couldn't be on the rise. After all, I wasn't expecting to want to come here when I came for an open house. I was a film college in California just a few months before, and didn't have high expectations for a small school in North Carolina. However, after watching some of the things Brett and others had done here, and then talking to Brett, I realized there is a lot of untapped potential here.

St. Andrews Academic Department News

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Business Department

provided by Loren Cornish

Loren Cornish's Interimmediate Accounting II class has been actively involved within the Laurinburg community. On February 6, 2007 the class visited the offices of Ritch Breeden & Company. This is a local Certified Public Accounting (CPA) firm owned by Ken Ritch and David Breeden.

The students were afforded the opportunity to discuss the business with both owners. They learned how a small town CPA firm operates and what it takes to become and practice as a Certified Public Accountant. Their discussions included ethics and continuing education concerns as well. It was pointed out to the students that

major changes have occurred in the profession since the fall of Arthur Anderson in the Enron scandal.

The students also were exposed to actual practitioners telling them that they could not possibly learn all there was to know as a Certified Public Accountant. They were told it was more important to know how to handle the information you are dealing with and have the ability to research and learn on your own, as you are confronted with situations you are not familiar with, especially since in the accounting field if you have not handled a like situation in the recent past there is a good chance there is a new procedure or accounting standard to be concerned with

that relates to what you are doing.

The students all returned to school with a better perspective of why they are learning what they are in the class and why I approach the class the way I do.

On February 8, 2007 Mr. Bradley Williams CPA of Quality Oil in Rockingham visited the class and gave a presentation concerning his job as the accountant for a private gasoline distributorship.

"The classes I take at St. Andrews will not teach me the ins and outs of accounting for an oil company, but my general understanding of accounting principles will allow me to adapt to the needs of any realm of practice."

Mr. Williams discussed the need to be continually learning. He discussed how his job was a different specialization than the Certified Public Accountant working in a CPA firm. He discussed the need to keep up with technology for not only the accounting records but for all functions of a business. Other discussions concerned liability issues, relations with customers, handling government regulations and operating in a highly competitive business. This presentation has shown how accounting fits into the business world as an integral part of a business and industries as a whole. "Accounting is not an independent practice, but it reflects and interacts

with other things such as finance, economics and management. It can not be isolated and separated from these things. As an example, the oil industry is under many economic stresses right now, and accounting practices of a firm reflect that. The market rate for oil fluctuates at an unbelievable rate, and as such an accountant must be able to decipher the most appropriate way to record costs, revenues, etc. to most accurately reflect their business transactions. This is significant because it shows how a background in accounting is extremely valuable whether or not one pursues certification or works directly in the field."