

New facilities enhance Fine Arts in Music program

By BRENDA MCCARTY

New facilities have enhanced WCC's Fine Arts in Music (FAM) associate's degree for those interested in pursuing a music career, according to Marshall Lewis, instructor of the program.

The FAM program began on the South Campus 4 years ago under Lewis's direction as a part of the Liberal Arts Department.

In 1987 Beatrice Balkcum, then division chairperson, asked Lewis to develop a 2-year music curriculum; however, the music program began with less than desirable conditions, said Lewis.

Classes and equipment, split between F, A and D buildings, made an inconvenient situation for both instructor and students.

Now with the completion of the North Campus, the FAM program is located in the A&M 201 with a large band/chorus room, storage for music and band instruments, an instrument repair room, 6 practice rooms, a large general purpose room for music classes, and offices for full and part-time instructors.

Lewis said, WCC offers a "high quality" music faculty which includes Dr. Diana Greene, Angie Carter, and LouEllen Wilson.



Dr. Diana Greene leads the day chorus students in a practice session (l to r): Dr. Greene, Angelo Carr, Betsy Pritchard, Kim Lawson, Lillian McDonald, and Greg Hodak. Photo: Brenda McCarty

The FAM program requires 96 quarter hours for graduation, 47 of which must be in music instruction.

Students must take a Fundamentals in Music class if they have no prior music knowledge even though this course is not listed as required curriculum.

Reading, writing, and playing music, ear training, sight-singing, and conducting comprise the 6 quarter hour music theory sequence.

Music majors must perform in an ensemble such as concert band, chorus, or wind or recorder ensemble for 6 quarter hours.

Students participate in a concert at the end of each quarter, which constitutes their final exam for the course.

This quarter's concert occurred in the Lecture Hall November 17, 1992.

Students will take 6 quarter hours of applied music in their major of voice, piano, or other instrument.

A fee of \$100 must be paid to the applied music instructor at the beginning of the quarter since these courses are self-supporting.

Lewis said, "The thing that most people don't realize is that being in music costs more money and time than any other profession."

"People in music usually start taking music classes in the third grade and continue through college, paying for lessons, instruments, and music and spend lots of time practicing."

Lewis tells his students, "The only way I would choose music as a career is if I didn't feel I could be happy doing anything else."

Graduating students look for careers in such areas as ministers and directors of music, music instructors, composing, performing, music merchandising, instrument repair, tuning pianos, working for large music firms, and owning their own music stores.

Some past students of the WCC music program include Pat Bunch, instructor of music at School Street School; Marie Batten, instructor of music at Dillard Elementary School; Phillip Merritt, band director in a middle school in Wake County.

Also, Anita Luck, a graduating senior at ECU; Irene Allen, director of music in a local church, and Theresa White, secretary for the Liberal Arts Department.

Music students take part in concerts, recitals, and graduation during their 2 years at WCC and sometimes perform locally at nursing homes and the children's and psychiatric wards at Wayne Memorial Hospital.

The FAM program will be offering a series of workshops in brass, woodwind, percussion, and vocal clinics to both students and the local community.

The purpose of these workshops is to address all mediums of instrumental and vocal music, to get WCC students and the community into our new facilities, and to make them aware of the FAM program.

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Marshall Lewis, music instructor, assists music theory students. Photo: Brenda McCarty