

## Faculty Profile: Nigel Austin

BY MAGGIE BLAIR  
Staff Writer

Nigel Austin is the newest addition to the justice and policy studies department.

Born in Jamaica, Austin moved to the U.S. in his early 20s, and attended Prairie View A&M University, a historically black college in Texas. There he received his bachelor's degree.

He then enrolled in the University of Florida to obtain his master's degree in political science. His concentration is in public administration and public policy.

Last weekend Austin defended his dissertation at UF and was successful. Barton Parks, the JPS department head, said, "I told him before he left, 'Give 'em hell, Nigel,' which is the last thing you should do in a dissertation." Austin left a message on Barton's voice mail Monday, saying, "I gave them hell, and I passed."

In April of this year he came to Guilford College to interview for a position in the justice and policy studies department. Between 100 and 150 people applied for the job. Austin received the appointment.

According to Martha Cooley, academic dean of Guilford College, "In this case I think there was support at all levels for Nigel. He is engaging, young. He has strong credentials. ... He is articulate, and he fulfilled the criteria for the position."

Austin has settled in to Guilford and Greensboro fairly easily. He lives in a house beyond the lake on campus and enjoys the trees and wildlife around his new home.

He admits only one disadvantage of living in the woods: "I love gardening. That's one thing I can't do over here; it's too shady."

"I love the outdoors—to walk in the woods. I love camping. ... I love mountains."

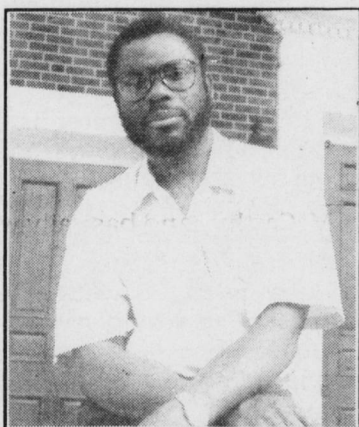
"I like a place in the hills of western Maryland and western Pennsylvania. I really love that area," said Austin of his travels.

"It is special," he continued. "It is beauty. It is peaceful, tranquil. It put me really close to nature. When I am there, I am able to think clearly. Its relaxing."

Through his traveling to the

mountains and other sites in the U.S., the Caribbean, Central America, South America and Canada, his Jamaican upbringing and his education, Austin brings to this campus knowledge and diversity. "I am an interdisciplinary person. ... I am a political person. I think of ways policy can be better—the implementation.

"We are facing a complex world. We have to think globally. ... You must examine an issue from all different perspectives—draw from different disciplines to help solve problems," said Austin.



Erin Mack

"I bring international perspective," he added.

Barton Parks said the new professor adds diversity to the JPS department, too. "The department used to be more interdisciplinary. Dr. Kania and I both have sociology degrees. But Nigel, with his political science degree, adds more interdiscipline."

Realizing the strong need for diversity in views, Austin wants his students to see different angles and perspectives on issues.

"My goals are to get the students to speak, to voice opinions, to share ideas," stated Austin. "To get them to be creative—innovative—in whatever they do. ... I want them to think critically. That, to me, is a learning experience."

Austin hopes to not only work with students outside class but to work with his community. "I want to know how I can reach out to disadvantaged people—to the larger community. Not necessarily just Greensboro. I want to reach out to communities throughout the United States and the world."

## So What's Up

BY PAIGE MCRAE  
Staff Writer

Josh White and Joe Rodden of So What embarked on the fourth year of their musical partnership with a Welcome Weekend concert by the lake. The set started off

strong and smooth, with older material such as "No Trust" and "Spanky". Newer songs like "Glad It

So What raises the roof. "Big Sky Country," written while Josh was abroad in London, hinted that So What songs are moving in a more autobiographical direction.

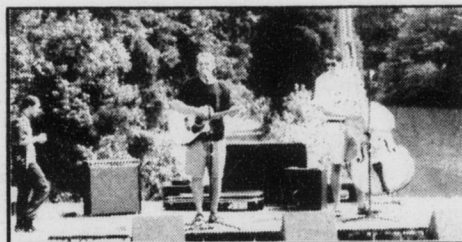
When asked if this was true, guitarist and singer Josh explained, "As I get older and have more experience writing, I'm becoming able to express myself more freely. I've been paying at-

tention to the full range of emotions; joy, hope and reconciliation."

So it was true! What are other ways in which So What feels they have changed in the past four years? Bassist Joe Rodden notes that things have become, "more smooth and relaxed" and falling into place for them.

Although the same attentiveness remains, So What have plans to flesh out their sound, which means they are turning their eye to incorporating more musicians. They are also in the process of mixing a demo tape and have plenty of new songs.

It's been an interesting four years for one of Guilford's longest surviving bands, rich in growth and persistence. They fully intended to make their fourth year an exciting one.



So What raises the roof. Get up boyee!

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