

## Life before Guilford: Serendipitous moments follow Parke Puterbaugh

By Terah Kelleher  
STAFF WRITER

When he was about 10-years-old, Part-Time Lecturer in Music Parke Puterbaugh remembers walking into his house and hearing "Shapes of Things" by the Yardbirds on the radio.

"I literally stopped in my tracks and felt my knees go wobbly," said Puterbaugh. "I immediately segued from collecting baseball cards to buying records."

The shifts in Puterbaugh's life have come together like a song where each note continues seamlessly to the next. Three subjects are interwoven into his song, and his love of writing brings them together.

"I envisioned a tripod," said Puterbaugh. "I thought if I

had music, travel, and environment, that if one thing went away, I could depend on the other things."

Puterbaugh cultivated his love of writing by double-majoring in English and Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After graduating in 1976, he moved to New York and worked as an editorial assistant with Oxford University Press.

Puterbaugh enjoyed New York's music scene throughout his work week. Writing about music began when he took the advice of a friend, applied to Rolling Stone, and got the job.

"It wasn't even a possibility that I entertained," said Puterbaugh. "It was almost too good to be true."

He started as a copy-editor. Luck struck when a co-worker asked him to cover an interview with Johnny Ramone. This was Puterbaugh's first interview, and many more followed. "I just love interviewing and hanging around musicians," said Puterbaugh. "They're so brilliant."

Puterbaugh built his career in New York for almost ten years. One day while looking at a map of America in his office at Rolling Stone, he had an idea.

"My eye went from Maine to Florida," said Puterbaugh. "I thought, 'Wouldn't it be fun to drive from the tip of Maine to Key West and write about the beaches along the way?'"

He asked his best friend from college, Alan Bisbort, to travel with him. They had bonded over a British music magazine while working at the graduate library.

"Being a young man of high standards, long hair, and

good musical taste, Parke often brought imported music magazines with him to work," said Bisbort in an e-mail interview.

Puterbaugh and Bisbort collaborated and wrote four travel books together about the east and west coast beaches.

"We were basically beach bums for six months, working out of the trunk of the car with an electric typewriter," said Puterbaugh.

Puterbaugh noticed the over-construction at the beaches he visited. This led him to get his Masters Degree in Environmental Science in 1996 and he wrote a book for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Valley Authority in 1997.

Even after leaving Rolling Stone, he freelanced for them for the next 20 years. A one-time interview with Phish turned into writing for the band for 15 years. Their biography is among the many musical artists' biographies that he has written.

"It all shakes out that I mostly wrote about music anyway because that's where the work was," said Puterbaugh.

Fittingly, he met his wife, Carol, at a music show at the Cat's Cradle in Chapel Hill 20 years ago and they have a 14-year-old daughter, Hayley.

With all the other serendipitous moments woven into Puterbaugh's life, the one leading him to Guilford was a telephone call from Tim Lindeman, professor of music. This call would combine two dreams of Puterbaugh's and that was to teach about what made his "knees go wobbly" at 10-years-old: rock and roll.



(Left) Part-time Lecturer in Music **Parke Puterbaugh** chats in a King Hall classroom. (Right) Puterbaugh (far right) and his Editor at Sound & Vision Magazine **Ken Richardson** (far left) hang with Phish band members **Jon Fishman**, drummer, (center left) and **Trey Anastasio** guitarist (center right). The photo was taken in April 2000 in Anastasio's studio, "The Barn" in Burlington, Va.



COURTESY OF PARKE PUTERBAUGH

## Civil Rights: a shared past, present and future

By Aardra Rajendran  
STAFF WRITER

A yellowed and fraying police arrest slip, worn at the corners, charges a Guilford College student — one of our own — Huldah "Beth" Taylor '66. The year is 1963. The crime is trespassing.

Taylor is not alone. She is joined by hundreds of other university students who are made to line up as patrol vans swerve around the curb corners and come to a screeching halt in front of Greensboro's S&W Cafeteria.

One of only four white students to be arrested on that fateful day — May 15, 1963 — Taylor was part of the long and harsh struggle against prejudice and racial discrimination in America.

The S&W Cafeteria saw massive sit-ins and protests that challenged the accepted norms of segregation in the 1960's.

Greensboro's civil rights movement gained momentum with the sit-in at Woolworths lunch counter and turned heads with the massacre of 1979, which saw the death of five protestors after a march for fare wages by the local textile union.

As a Guilford College student, Taylor was also heiress to centuries of Quaker traditions and values.

"Human equality is inherently present within Quakerism," said Max Carter, director of the Friends Center and campus ministry coordinator. "The early Quakers who settled in Greensboro were highly sensitized to the issue of slavery and abolitionism."

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean Adrienne Israel remembers the excitement and danger of the 1960's and 70's. However, she also remembers how many of the youth protested and marched for fame and attention rather

than the desire to better the lives of those in need.

"I always tried to remember that whatever I got involved in should have meaning beyond my own life and experience and should be about something that would improve life for others," said Israel in an e-mail interview.

So what does all this mean for the youth of today? Director of Multicultural Education Holly Wilson looks at the process as an ongoing and continuous one that involves taking chances, making mistakes, and moving forward as a community.

"Seeking understanding and being open to new worldviews will have a positive impact on the ways in which they can further equality and acceptance," said Wilson in an e-mail interview.

Tahira Siddiqui, a student from Pakistan, expressed her desire to increase cultural awareness in the Guilford community.

She and her friends Blessing Ihedioha and Gillian M'Maitsi are part of the International Club at Guilford. Currently, they are organizing presentations and cultural activities in honor of African heritage by representing Cameroon, Haiti, and Nigeria.

Time leaves an imprint upon the minds of those who have lived to see it and history builds the foundation for the future over and over again.

Even though there is a great difference in circumstance between the youth of today and those of the 1960's and 70's, there is still work to be done.

"We are in the same place in terms of the need to seek justice and equality in our larger society," said Israel. "Sexism, chronic poverty, and racially based injustices in our education system and other institutions still plague our nation and our world."