

# Music department to offer Bachelor of Music

By Maria Kupper  
STAFF WRITER

For all aspiring music majors, a new degree has just been made available.

Faculty approved the proposal in December 2008 to ensure that by fall 2009 the music department will offer students the option to acquire a Bachelor of Music (BM) degree.

Although Guilford is not accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), the faculty still likes to follow NASM guidelines to better prepare students who wish to pursue their future with music.

In accordance with those requirements the new BM will entail an initial audition, a piano proficiency examination, two mandatory recitals, and a new music theory five class for seniors.

"We realized that we were offering students the BM but not giving them credit for it," said Instructor of Music Kami Rowan. The BA program also requires an audition and two mandatory recitals.

"Most students are happier about getting a better degree without much extra work," said Aidan Cahill, senior music major who plans to apply for graduate school in the fall.

"Especially for those that are performance-oriented who want to go to graduate school and may want to become professors, the BM will show people that they were very serious about music performance in college. It will be setting us up for the future."

"Ideally I wish they had added the BM opportunity earlier," said Cahill.

After finding out about the new degree, he decided to stay an extra semester to earn the BM.

"We have a group of students that have wanted a more demanding program, and we want to make sure we are giving them more opportunity so that they are prepared for graduate school," said Wendy Looker, assistant professor of music and choir director. "They can now be more competitive with other students from conservatory school or other liberal arts colleges (who are trying to get into leading programs)."

In addition to the competitive edge the BM offers, students will also benefit from completing piano proficiency in their undergraduate studies.

"If students cannot pass out of piano, than they will have to take remedial classes that don't help towards your degree and may cause you to have to spend more money on an extra semester, which could be a lot when

you're talking about graduate school," said Looker. She pointed out that most graduate schools require music theory five and piano proficiency.

Students on the BM track are not concerned about the extra requirements.

"I am not especially worried," said Rebecca Moore-Painter, a sophomore music major who plans to complete the BM. "I

to focus on performance, but rather in the academic side: music history, musicology, ethnomusicology, music theory, music education, and music therapy.

"This will be great for kids who want to study music but not necessarily go to graduate school or make a career of it," said Rowan. "I can't tell you how many students I had that wanted to go into music therapy

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The BM degree not only enables students to prepare for their futures, but also allows space in the BA to service a wider range of student needs.

According to Rowan, the BA will be advantageous for students who do not wish

but couldn't do it because of the strenuous BA program requirements, in addition to trying to getting a psych degree."

By revising the BA in music to require fewer courses, the department can offer both programs without extra funds.

"We came to the conclusion that adding the BM wouldn't make any waves, requiring no new personnel and no added costs," said Wendy Looker.

## MLK



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Though Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is meant to be a unifying holiday, leaders on campus have been disappointed because of a low amount of student interest and participation. This year's two week-long celebration focused on social activism and educating students and others in the nearby Greensboro community about diversity and the importance of unity.

## MLK day events attempt to reach, inspire diverse audience

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involved and stresses the holiday's potential for unity.

"I hope people understand that MLK Jr. Day is not a black holiday, it's a day for all of us; if we can't all come together this day when can we? I would almost rather see us have classes on Monday and do teach-ins instead," Shields said.

With the inauguration of President Barack Obama following MLK Jr. Day, Obama's team attempted to rally the spirit of service by sending out text

messages and creating a Facebook group to involve young people.

"Being a day before the inauguration of Barack Obama makes this day more important, at some point we all have to come together," Shields said.

The "day on" saying applies to the zeitgeist of the Civil Rights movement.

However, some find that students do not truly understand the importance of this holiday and its roots.

"It is upsetting that people scatter because we have the day off, nobody thinks of what this

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James Shields, director of community learning

day means," Elizabeth Bailof-Bird, Bonner Scholar Program coordinator, said when discussing how the Civil Rights Movement affected her. Bird grew up listening to her mother's stories about the movement that led to her family disowning her for her

involvement.

Both the holiday's history and current endeavors inspire staff and students.

"I think it is important to have a holiday such as this not just to reflect on the legacy but also look to the future to see what we

could be," Shields said. On Jan. 21, students presented examples of their activism in Boren Lounge and on Jan. 22 a community forum entitled "Activism: Then & Now" was held in Sternberger Auditorium.

On Jan. 19, the organizing committee brought in a panel and special guests to educate Guilford as well as other community members about diversity and unity.

"I thought the event was good," said senior Morgan Kerr. "It's great that they are teaching kids about multiculturalism."