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Sonja Williams

Photo by Thomas

## Faculty member talks about her visit to Cuba

By Craig Thomas  
STAFF WRITER

Ms. Sonja Williams, instructor on the Mass Communications faculty, recently returned from the Jose Mari Journalism Seminar in Havana, Cuba. She was one of 14 international guests and the only American at the two-week event, which was held to bring together individuals who work in print and broadcasting as well as those who teach journalism on a full-time basis. The primary topic of discussion was the flow of mass media between developed countries and underdeveloped countries.

"The status of Cuban society 30 years after the revolution when Fidel Castro took over has changed," Ms. Williams said. Before the revolution, Cuba experienced a high illiteracy rate, like most other third world nations, but since then education and

health have become two of the main priorities of the government. As a result of the government's actions, now more than 90 percent of Cuban citizens can read and write, and health care is free for all Cubans.

The Cuban legal system was of interest to her "because Cuba has been accused by the United States of human rights violations." Ms. Williams and the other seminar guests met with Cuban officials and spoke to experts on constitutional law. They visited a prison, a school and a cooperative farm. Farming, she said, is the country's main industry. She and her group also went to the studios of Radio Havana, which is similar to the Voice of America service, and broadcasts in five different languages through short-wave radio throughout South America, North America, Europe and parts of Africa.

Sightseeing was a popular part of the trip. "Havana is like any big American city,"

Ms. Williams said. "At times I felt like I was in New York." She explained that after the Spanish-American War ended, Americans came in and essentially colonized the country until they left in the 1950s. There is still a strong American influence that's very evident throughout the city in the architecture of its buildings.

Visitation was not only restricted to Havana; Ms. Williams and her group also took trips around the island nation. "The biggest limitation," she said, "was not being able to speak the language (Spanish)." Translators were provided for the group as a whole, but not to each individual. "Cubans are real friendly," she said. "With all the problems that Cuba and the United States have had as far as relations, Cubans really look at you for who you are and not where you're from. They really open their hearts to people who come to visit."

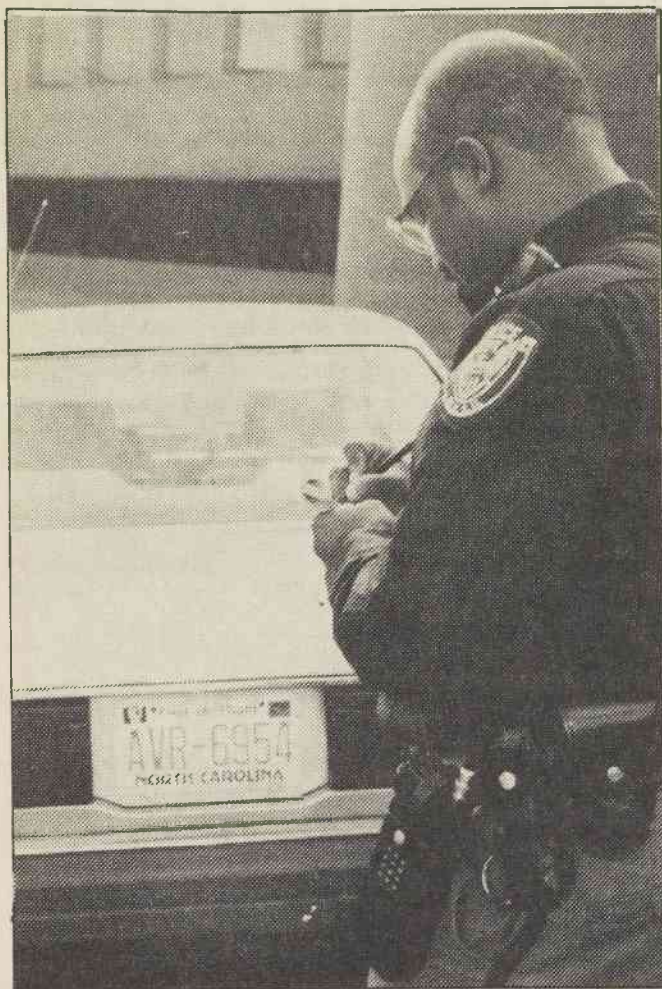


Photo by Tuttle

## Parking, parking: Where are the spaces?

By Lisa M. Stewart  
STAFF WRITER

Parking is a well-talked-about subject at Winston-Salem State University. Everyone has suggestions on how to improve the parking situation or their own opinions as to why there is a parking problem.

Director of Campus Police James Lewis says there is an adequate amount of parking spaces for everyone who has purchased a parking decal. There may not be enough spaces where students want to park, but if you are willing to get a little exercise, it is possible to find a parking space.

According to Lewis, there are approximately 1,000 spaces on campus and about 1,800 decals have been sold. He added that the division of spaces for off-campus students who have green decals, boarding students with brown decals and faculty and staff who all have red decals was decided upon by a group made up of himself and other authorities.

Lewis believes that because the school was turning to a new parking arrangement, there had to be some sort of distinctions made about who should park where.

How do students and faculty feel about the

parking situation?

Daphne Huntley, a boarding student at WSSU, says there is only a limited amount of parking spaces, and campus police shouldn't give anyone a ticket just for parking in the wrong color code. She says that if anyone purchases a parking decal, that person should be able to park anywhere.

Another student, Anita Ratley, has a different viewpoint about the color coding on campus. Ratley feels that the parking spaces around buildings should be reserved for teachers who have the red decals; but there should be parking spaces that allow people to park maybe 10 to 15 minutes just to run a short errand or something.

Ricky Morrison, another student, says he had problems not only with parking, but with campus police as well. It seems his problem began when he parked illegally, but he can't understand why the officer on the scene refused to simply issue him a parking ticket.

According to Morrison, "We (the officer and Morrison) stood outside while another officer went to get a part for the wheel-lock that was being used to shackle my car."

Mark Wright, a new instructor at Winston-Salem State, says that construction on campus has

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## The Myth of St. Patrick's Day

By Shandra Cammack  
STAFF REPORTER

Are you familiar with the myths that surround St. Patrick's Day?

Some of these myths include: "Find a 4-leaf clover for good luck"; "If you're good, leprechauns will watch over you throughout the day"; and finally "Wear some green so that you won't get pinched?"

Well, these statements may keep your spirits high, and make kids happy; however, unfortunately, they're just myths.

By the way, do you know who St.

Patrick was? St. Patrick, a bishop and confessor, was called the Apostle of Ireland and was that country's patron saint.

Patrick was a legend for traveling in all parts of Ireland making converts to Christianity, founding monasteries, schools, and churches, which in time turned pagan Ireland into the Isle of Saints.

Patrick, the Father and Founder of the

Church of Ireland, died on March 17. People all over the world decided to celebrate this day in memory of St. Patrick.

Shamrocks and leprechauns are emblems associated with Patrick and are usually worn this day.

So if you wish for good luck on St. Patrick's Day, wear green so that you won't get pinched!!!!!!