

# Writer Emily Wilson—Teaching Comes First

By: Marianne McDonough

Many students are unaware of the fact that we have in our midst a new faculty member who is a very talented teacher and poet. Ms. Emily Wilson has joined our staff part-time, and she is teaching English 10, and taking part in the contract learning program for adult degree students. She has found working with women of different ages to be an interesting challenge that has broadened her educational perspective.

"I am very much interested in the liberal arts tradition and the tradition of women's education at Salem," says Ms. Wilson. Her concern for women's education stems from her personal background. After growing up in Columbus, Georgia, she attended The Woman's College, now U.N.C.G., in Greensboro. She

later completed her Masters degree in English at Wake Forest University where she placed an emphasis on the study of the poetry of Emily Dickinson.

Ms. Wilson first came to Salem as a teacher in 1964. She remained only a year, however because she had married and was starting a family. She married Edwin G. Wilson, professor of English Romantic Poetry at Wake Forest. They now have three children, and since their oldest son has entered college this year, Ms. Wilson has found it easier to begin teaching again.

While her children were young, Ms. Wilson kept very busy doing a great deal of writing. She has had four books of poetry published in the last twelve years. Her books include: *Down Zion's Alley*,

*Balancing on Stones*, *Solomon's Seal*, and *Arise Up And Call Her Blessed*. Her most recent publication resulted from a two-year grant that she received from the National Endowment for Humanities. She spent these two years researching the oral history of older black women in North Carolina. While gathering information she traveled over 20,000 miles and interviewed seventy-five women. Her findings are detailed in the book *Hope and Dignity* which she produced in collaboration with a photographer, Susan Mullally. Temple University Press published their book in 1983.

Some of the poetry in Ms. Wilson's books was written while she was at the MacDowell Colony. This is an establishment located in New Hampshire that gives resid-

encies to artists so they can spend six weeks working in a quiet atmosphere. The participants must be recommended by three other artists in their field, and they must be judged by a review board before being accepted. She has been there twice, and has enjoyed her experiences there very much.

Ms. Wilson has taken a great interest in Salem students, and she has expressed a particular interest in student publications and creative work. "I hope that my students will be lively, funny, and controversial," she says. "Because Salem is a women's college, students have the unique opportunity to be more radical than conservative. I hope they will follow radical impulses and not shelter their ideas intellectually."

Ms. Wilson is presently working

on the libretto of an opera on the life of Margaret Fuller, a nineteenth-century contemporary of Ralph Waldo Emerson and an early feminist. She is also teaching classes on occasion at Reynolda House and frequently reciting her poetry for colleges and organizations. In the near future Ms. Wilson looks forward to publishing yet another book of poetry, and returning to the MacDowell Colony. She would also like to add to the number of courses she teaches on a regular basis. She says, "I am a teacher first and a writer second."

*NOTE: Ms. Wilson has graciously offered to read any student's creative work. Items can be placed in her mailbox in Main Hall.*

## Student Recreation in China—A Life Full of Vigor, Enrichment

By: Sun Yong Ling

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."—The well-known English saying is also popular in China. Most Chinese college students take an active part in extracurricular activities. Sports and music are vital in their recreational life.

College students usually get up early in the morning, and the campus is soon full of people. They do all kinds of exercises in the fresh morning air, such as jogging, gymnastics, Wu Shu (general items

for various kinds of Chinese traditional boxing and fencing). Sometimes they are organized, jogging in groups or doing morning exercises in ranks. You can see people jumping, twisting, and running everywhere on campus. Life is full of vigor! When classes begin at around 8 o'clock, the campus becomes quiet. After class in the afternoon, the campus seethes with excitement again. Ballgames are going on between classes or colleges with a lot of

spectators shouting and cheering. Many students are doing all kinds of exercises. There is an annual sports meet held by every college. Excellent athletes are selected to take part in the annual provincial college sports meet and then to the national college sports meet.

College life is enriched by frequent concerts given by every class. A great percentage of students participate in the performances. There are prizes for best performers, performances and

creative works. A committee consisting of both teachers and students decides the competition. The concerts are considered good opportunities to exhibit a student's talent. The concerts include all kinds of singing, musical instrument performances, plays and dances (modern dance or folk dances) besides. There are traditional Chinese programs—ballad singing, story telling, cross-talk, comic dialogues, etc. The favorite of college students is dance performances. China has a lot of minority nationalities. The minority people are very good at music and dance. Each minority has different music, dance and costumes. College students are fond of their music and dances.

Students spend a lot of time in preparing and rehearsing for the concert. They either copy the performances created by professional musicians and dancers or compose the music, plays, and

dances themselves. Because of the difficulty of getting into a college in China, college students are the elite of the young generation. They are expected to develop in an all-around way. Many colleges choose students with a talent for sports, music and art among those who have same grades in the matriculation.

During weekends, a new kind of dance—"Collective Dance" is often held in a party. "Collective Dance," designed for young people, has been popular for only a few years. There are various forms of the dance with different music rhythms. They are taught on Chinese TV programs. The number of dancers is not restricted. Couples dance in rotation accompanied by pleasant music. It is interesting to note that some Chinese college young people are getting interested in western dance—disco dance. But it is still not popular in China.

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