

Miss WSSU Puts Christ First In Her Life

By Katrina Weathers

"God is the key to my success..."

These are the inspiring words of WSSU's 1983-84 upstanding queen, Paula Mickens.

"My position as Miss Winston-Salem State University will enable me as a Christian believer to be a light and an example to someone else," she says. "I hope to let others know you don't have to continue to dwell on the low level but there is a better side where, regardless of what others might say or do, you've got someone you can lean and depend on. This position enables me to reach out to the students in certain areas whereas without this visibility, I would not be able to do so."

"A lot of the credit goes to my aunt"-whom, after having been born in Long Island, NY, reared Miss Mickens up in Raleigh, NC - "because she is a Christian woman who taught me Christian ethics. I know that I am blessed and I thank God that I was raised in such an atmosphere, because there are so many people who didn't have the opportunity to be brought up and taught Christian morals such as I," she says.

"Even though," she recollects, "I once strayed away from God, those teachings, that are forever with me, are what brought me back."

Miss Mickens rededicated her life to Christ during her freshman year at WSSU in 1980. "Ever since then it has been great," she says. She is presently the

president of Campus Outreach For Christ, a member of The Interdenominational Youth For Christ Fellowship, and also of The Student Religious Counsel.

"A lot of people associate me with religious organizations as well as SARA and The Pep Club, but my main objective is to show people love," she exclaims.

Not only is Miss Mickens well-rounded as an active student, but she is also well-rounded as a beginner in the world outside of college life. During her sophomore and junior years here at WSSU, she was a data entry operator in New York City and she also did her internship with the State of North Carolina as a computer programmer.

"Upon graduation from WSSU, I plan to obtain a position as a computer programmer in a major corporation, although I do have interests in International Relationships Overseas Foreign Affairs. Hopefully I will obtain a position that can send me abroad for studying various types technologies.

Miss Mickens echoed the thought that Christians are not limited in any avenue they choose to embark upon.

Lifting her hands toward Heaven, shamelessly revealing that special glow that only "a child of God" can reveal, she exclaims, "God is the key to my success as Miss Winston-Salem State University, as a computer science major, and as a graduating senior. Without Him, I wouldn't have made it this far."



Photo by K. Hilliard

Paula Mickens, Miss WSSU wants to use her title to help further Christian ideals at WSSU.

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