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¿ Hablas Espanol? (Do you speak Spanish?)

By Alisa A. Wilson
Assignment Editor

If you do, you are probably already acquainted with Dr. Michael Brookshaw who is the new Spanish instructor here at WSSU.

Dr. Brookshaw is a native of Kankakee, Ill. where he began pursuing his interest in Spanish while in high school.

Upon entering college at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Brookshaw decided on a major he found intriguing and challenging. Spanish was his choice. He went on to receive his MA and Ph.D. specializing in Latin American, Afro-Hispanic and Chicano literature.

Before joining the faculty here at WSSU, he taught at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and at Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Ill. where the atmosphere was quite different than here. Both of these universities are predominantly white and located in the mid-western part of the country. Moving south to teach at a predominantly black college has taken a little adjusting to on his part. He feels that he is becoming more adjusted to WSSU and North Carolina daily.

When asked what special touches he adds to make his classroom more comfortable for students he stated that "he really

believes in communication dynamics." He allows the students to work together in groups because he says that the students are more inclined to talk to one another in a relaxed atmosphere. In talking about the students that he is teaching this semester, he feels that they are very enthusiastic and he is anxious to see how they will develop.

In the future, Dr. Brookshaw is hoping to direct the new Spanish major program into new avenues. Computerizing Spanish and using some Spanish broadcasting stations as learning tools, are two of the ideas he is currently pursuing. He anticipates that this will help him to contribute to the students and the Spanish program.

Professionally, he hopes that he will get a chance to teach a course in his specialty, Afro-Hispanic Literature.

If you have had a chance to hear him speak Spanish you will probably agree that he speaks like a native. He has traveled extensively to many Spanish speaking countries including: Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico.

The students studying Spanish, the new Spanish major and WSSU are extremely fortunate to have acquired Dr. Michael Brookshaw.



Karen Hernandez New Media Technician.

photo by M. Peele

Hernandez Joins English Department Staff As Media Technician

By Rebecca W. Jones

Karen Hernandez has joined the staff at Winston-Salem State University, as a media technician.

Miss Hernandez, or Karen, as she likes to be called, is an intelligent, friendly person who sincerely desires to help students in the areas of French, Spanish and Speech Communication.

She is a native of Puerto Rico, and learned to speak English through intensive study at a private school in her homeland. After graduating from high school, she came to North Carolina to attend High Point College. Choosing High Point College "was a decision that my parents and I arrived at when considering that this climate was much like the one I was used to," she explained.

While at High Point College she participated in Delta Sigma Pi, a Spanish honorary society, was a disc jockey for radio station WWIH and held several positions on the staff of the "Hi-Po," the campus newspaper.

For her senior internship, Karen traveled to Massachusetts to work for WSMW, a television station, where she produced and hosted her own show in Spanish.

In the spring of 1985, she graduated from High Point College, with a B.A. in Communications and a minor in Spanish.

As media technician, Karen's job is to make sure that the equipment in the language laboratory is operating smoothly so students can use it at their convenience. She also acts as a tutor for the student and records self-help tapes which correlate with their textbooks. Students will also have the resources to tape themselves and listen to their responses to insure that pronunciation is correct.

Later during the school year, Karen hopes that tapes of various French and Spanish television shows will be purchased so students can enjoy watching and learning from them.

In closing, she shared some information about a two-day seminar, Foreign Languages and International Business to be held September 26 and 27. This seminar is free and open to anyone who is interested in the importance of foreign language in conducting international business. The seminar is being sponsored by The Department of Communication Arts.

