

THE  
 May 1997 Winston-Salem State University  
**NEWS ARGUS**

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**African-American Women On Tour**

Susan L. Taylor, editor-in-chief of *Essence* magazine, will join the African-American Women on Tour, presented by Allstate Insurance Company later this summer.

The tour will be in Dallas, Texas, June 13-15, at the Fairmount Hotel; in Chicago, Ill., at the Downtown Marriott, July 25-27; and in Atlanta, Ga., at the Atlanta Hilton and Towers, August 14-16.

The African American Women on Tour is being sponsored by JC Penney, Chrysler Corporation, Reebok, Avon Products, Kaiser Permanente, Hewlett Packard, *Heart & Soul* magazine, Mobil Oil, McDonald's and Hardee's.

For registration information and group rates, contact African American Women on Tour, 3914 Murphy Canyon Road, Suite 216, San Diego, Calif. 92123; 1-800-560-AAWT.

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**Did You Know....**

Award winning actor Sidney Poitier, 70, formally became the Bahamas' new ambassador to Japan during a recent ceremony at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo where he presented his credentials to Emperor Akihito?

**Watts To Keynote WSSU Commencement May 10**

WSSU News Release

Nationally syndicated talk show host and Winston-Salem native, Rolanda Watts, will be the keynote speaker for Winston-Salem State University's commencement ceremony, Saturday, May 10, at 9:45 a.m., in the Lawrence Joel Veteran's Coliseum.

Watts is in her fourth season as host of the nationally syndicated, one-hour talk show, "ROLANDA" which premiered in January 1994. Watts also owns her own production company, Watts Works Productions Inc.

Watts has served as senior correspondent for the television program "Inside Edition" and anchor for "Inside Edition Weekend." Earlier, she co-hosted Lifetime Television's "Attitudes," which was nominated for a Cable Ace Award for Best Talk Show. She also was a weekend anchor and reporter for WABC-TV, New York, where she moderated the station's weekend weekly political forum, "Eyewitness News Conference."

She began her broadcast career as a general assignment reporter for WFMY-TV, the CBS affiliate in Greensboro, NC.

Watts is a staunch advocate for women in media, having addressed the subject before such groups as the Harlem YMCA and the Parent Media Watch organization. She has been cited as a "person to watch" by Jersey Monthly Magazine and has been honored with many prestigious awards from community groups, including a "Hero" accolade from the Mill Bank Children's Center and a recognition award from the Rahway State Penitentiary for her work with inmates.

Watts currently serves on the board of the Literacy Volunteers of New York City and the board of advisors for New York University's Dental School. She is spokesperson for the United Negro College Fund, Stopping AIDS Together, the National Glaucoma Trust Fund and other professional and businesswomen's associations.

Born and raised in Winston-Salem,



*Rolanda Watts*

she is a graduate of Spelman College, Atlanta, and received her graduate degree from Columbia University's School of Journalism.

**Underwood Leaving ROTC Program**

BY DOUGLAS B. CLARK  
 Staff Writer

Captain Kathy Underwood, an assistant professor of military science for WSSU's Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC), will be leaving the "Ram Family" to become a Company Commander at Ft. Hood, Texas.

"I'm excited about my opportunities as a Company Commander, because I plan to do my best for my soldiers as well as for myself," said Underwood. "The Army's life-style for staying in shape, the discipline, self-motivation and a sense of adventure was very attractive to me."

Underwood who is a finance officer in the U. S. Army with 14 years of military service, came to WSSU two and a half years ago. She was in charge of recruiting students into the ROTC Program and taught freshman military

science classes.

Since her arrival at WSSU, she was instrumental in helping the ROTC program acquire more scholarships for the cadets and helping to increase student enrollment in the Demon Deacon Battalion (a combination of the ROTC programs at WSSU and Wake Forest University).

"Captain Underwood is a good communicator who really knows how to speak to people on all levels whether they are civilians, cadets or other soldiers. She has not only impressed students; but she has impressed the parents of students as well," said Captain Christian Abell, who is in charge of the ROTC Program at Wake Forest University. He is also a military police officer who has been in the Army for six years.

After working with her for one year,



*Capt. Kathy Underwood*

Abell says that she has done an outstanding job in a "Battle Hand-Off" (changing of the guard) by making it a

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