

# Carolina!



Art professor Carol Pittman: "Art is just as important as history."

Lea Clayton/The Gamecock

## For the Love of Art

Fine art professor enjoys "selling the love for art" to her students

### Professor Profile

by Wanda M. Jones

"Imagine the world with no art, a room with no pictures, a book with no illustrations — you can't do it."

These are the words of art professor Carol Pittman. Pittman's interest in art started at the age of eight when her mother dropped her off every morning at the Richmond, Va., museum.

Pittman has been teaching art at USC for four years. Before coming here, she worked for the South Carolina Arts Commission in arts

administration, where she worked as a curator for art exhibitions.

Pittman has three degrees in three different phases of art: art history, studio art and art education.

"I have an undergraduate degree in art history because I am an artist and all art is based on art preceding it. I felt like it was really important for me, as an artist, to understand about the history of art," she said.

When Pittman is not working she is creating art. She helps coordinate Vista Lights. She paints brick walls in empty spaces of buildings, runs lights on the ceiling and puts art exhibitions in these spaces. She does this because there is no place in Columbia for those artists whose

work does not sell.

Pittman studied at the Academia del Belli Arti in Naples, Italy. She also went to Old Dominion University, the University of Maryland and USC.

Pittman feels as if she is "selling" a love of art to students who, before taking her class, had no interest or background in art.

"My father was a salesman and my mother was a teacher. It's real interesting how I combine what they did. I'm trying to talk to those kinds of people who have never been exposed to art. Art is not an elitist thing. If you understand what the artist is trying to say, you can go and look at something and be able to enjoy it if you know some of the language," Pittman said.

Having been a military wife,

Pittman has lived in many countries, including Italy, France and Greece. While in Italy, she taught English to Italians.

Having been exposed to the great art of these regions makes the material she teaches more important, she said.

She is the mother of three sons — an artist, a Peace Corpsman, and her youngest son works in the New Jersey state government budget section.

The question Pittman is asked a lot is "Why is art important?"

She responds, "Without art we wouldn't know about the past. Art is important just as history. You can't go forward unless you understand what's happened in the past."

Pittman's hobbies are art, hiking and fishing.

## Reading may remedy holiday break boredom

From Staff Reports

If you find yourself without something to do over the holiday break, try catching up on some pleasure reading. Check out one of these books at any library or buy one at your local bookstore.

■ "Possessing the Secret of Joy," by Alice Walker, 1992. A peripheral character in "The Color Purple" and "The Temple of My Familiar," Tashi becomes the focus of this welcome new work. Tashi, who marries Celie's son Adam, submits to female circumcision partially out of loyalty to the threatened tribal customs of her people, the Olinka.

Tashi, enduring pain and emotional trauma, stretches to bridge two continents and to understand why women must undergo this torture, even at the hands of their mothers, for the pleasure of men. Although she eventually succumbs to madness, Tashi eventually finds the secret of joy.

This is not a sequel to Walker's previous novels, but it easily equals, if not surpasses, their excellence.

■ "Live from Golgotha," by Gore Vidal, 1992. Caution: Do not read this book if you consider yourself a conservative Christian. The premise of this book is that in the late 20th century, a computer hacker has found a way to erase the New Testament, thereby altering history. With the aid of a new technology, a plan is put forth to save Christianity.

At best, Vidal's book is a mediocre attempt to critique the writings of St. Paul, the hacker's main victim. Even when the hacker's surprising true identity is revealed, the book flounders to an unexciting denouement.

■ "O'Keeffe: The Life of an American Legend," by Jeffrey Hogrefe, 1992. Hogrefe has proba-

bly come as close as possible to capturing in words the uniqueness and rich life experiences of the legendary Georgia O'Keeffe.

Well researched and documented, this biography illuminates this mysterious, independent woman. Wonderful pictures of O'Keeffe, her family, her husband Alfred Stieglitz, and her old-age companion Juan Hamilton accompany this narrative, which is packed with information taken from mainly primary sources.

How do you say "chill out" in Spanish? A new book, "Mexican Slang," by Linton H. Robinson, tells you what your Spanish professor won't!

"Mexican Slang" reveals the hip talk, cool lingo and lewd eloquence of the Spanish used commonly in the streets of modern Mexico, and by Mexicans who have migrated elsewhere.

The new title has just been released in time to save you from terminal boredom in Spanish 101.

The book's covers warns that it contains adult language. The expressions used by native Spanish speakers are often slang and sometimes a little off-color because this is real-life Spanish.

Since these phrases are often not found in a dictionary, the language student and novice are left in the dark. Into the breach comes "Mexican Slang," the jargon of drug dealers, *cholos*, outlaws and in-laws, teens and yuppies.

This book may be for those who want to spice up their vocabulary, or those who plan to head south for spring break.

This small manual sheds light on the darker side of slang with chapters on sex and drugs. But there are also chapters on the lighter side of street talk, like rock 'n' roll, parties and nicknames.

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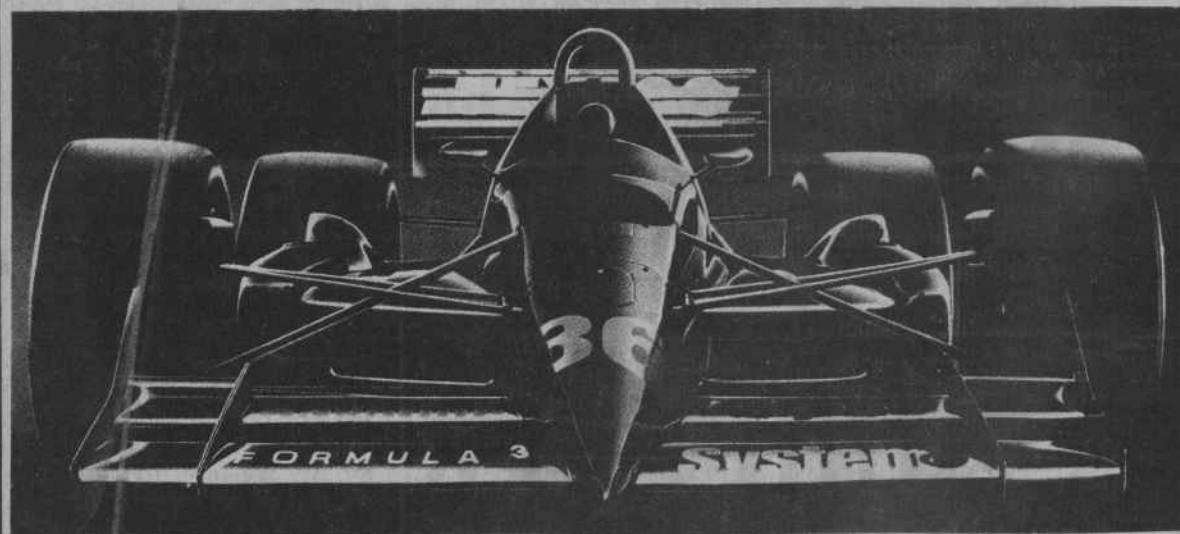


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