New instructor teaches Black Lit

The English Department at ECU has made a new addition to their staff for the 1971-72 session.

Julia Fields is the new Black Literature professor and is here in a special capacity as poet in residence.

She feels that Black Literature is "a place for discussion which brings together a confrontation of different philosophies and different experiences." Her main hope for her students is that through the course, "some people will become more aware and better able to create a better world for all people."

STUDENT CAN PROFIT

When asked if Black Literature is more for black students than whites, she says, "Black Literature is a course for any intelligent student who can profit from an increased knowledge of his country."

According to Mrs Fields, "there is no such thing as Black Literature-it simply denotes the political situation of black people." With the gradual acceptance of Black people, she feels there will be an acceptance of their literature into the main body of literature as a whole.

ALABAMIAN

Born and raised in Alabama, she "struggled and fought" for everyghing she believed in. She attended Knowville College in Tennessee, and is now doing her graduate studies at the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont.

She's been writing or, as she says, "trying to

write" poetry since the age of five.

The negative environment of the Black's situation often depresses her, and she feels that her poetry expresses this. When speaking of the "Black situation" she firmly believes that "the day of the created leader is passed, a black ranting leader can not accomplish anything. The only way anything can be accomplished now is through unity."

Dr. Erwin Hester, speaking as English department chairman said, "We are delighted to have a poet as distinguished as Julia Fields in the English department. Mrs. Fields is uniquely qualified to discuss with insight the current trends in poetry and in other areas of contemporary literature."

RECIEVE HONORS

Mrs. Fields has had many honors bestowed upon her, among, them, the 1967 National Endowment for Arts Award, the 1968 Knoxville College selection to Outstanding Young Women of America, and in 1967 was listed in "The Negro Almanac."

She has spoken and read poetry on campus such as Sara Lawrence College, William and Mary College, University of North Carolina, and the University of Alabama.

Her poetry has been included in such books and anthologies as the "Massachusetts Review," "Poems," by Julia Fields, the "Negro Digest," and "Nine Black Poets."



ACCORDING TO MRS. Fields there is no such thing as Black Literature-it simply denotes the political situation of the people. Photo by Ross Mann.