

# Emergency notification expands to texting

By **Kayloni Wyatt**  
Managing Editor

A text message could save your life.

Students, faculty and staff can sign up beginning Oct. 12 to receive emergency cell phone text notifications in the event of a campus emergency – weather, crime, fire or other dangerous situations.

The notifications will have steps describing how to stay safe during an emergency situation.

Those registered for this service will receive a text message detailing steps to remain safe. The registration is free to the campus community. However, you may be charged by your service provider if your plan does not include text messaging.

Text messages are part of a broader emergency alert program called BraveAlert that UNCP installed in the wake of emergency issues that surfaced in recent years on

other campuses. Sirens, email, phone and other alerts will be used in combination with text messaging to alert the campus community. It's a voluntary service, but it's strongly advised.

It's the most efficient way for the campus community to know when there's an emergency.

It will also provide valuable information that details where to go, where not to go and what to do.

UNCP Senior Leah Nichols has a negative

reaction to the new alert system.

"I think it would be kind of unnecessary. I don't feel that unsafe in Pembroke. I think it would cause unneeded panic. Maybe if I went to school at UNC-Charlotte in a big city but for Pembroke, come on," said Nichols.

Along with the text message, faculty and staff will receive emergency voice messages to their office phones. They will also receive an email

detailing the emergency.

The system was started by University and Community Relations. The school started a contract with PIER systems.

They are a mass notification program who works with universities nationwide to provide emergency notifications.

Students, faculty and staff may sign up at any time for the text alert program.

BraveAlert will only send messages in the event of an emergency. It

will only be used in the case of an emergency; it will never be used to advertise a campus event or any other material.

To join, log into BraveWeb and click on the link "sign up for emergency text messages." Then, click on the link "add a cell phone number" and enter the appropriate information.

If done correctly, you will receive the message "number successfully inserted."

# New ROTC veteran military science instructor fits in with campus community

By **JulieAnna Carsen**  
Contributing Writer

In early October, Master Sgt. Clinton Hill began instructing UNCP's Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets on the basics of military science and, according to Cadet Bernice Stratton, a junior in the ROTC program, "he fits right in."

According to Hill, experience leading soldiers as an Army Boot Camp and Professional Leadership Development Course instructor 22 years in the military helped him hone his teaching skills and prepared him for his new teaching position at UNCP.

He said his goal is to help cadets professionally by sharing his personal experiences and military expertise.

"I am academically

focused. Motivation is the key for me to help students get what they need academically," Hill said. "My intent is to be approachable, understanding and to let students know that I am here to help young soldiers succeed."

Hill said he wants to make UNCP ROTC "the best program it can be."

"I want to make it fun so our students participate in the program because they want to, not because they have a contract," he said.

Hill taught a military combat movement technique class during his first day behind the teacher's desk.

Stratton said she was impressed with his teaching style and found it easier to understand "difficult teaching concepts" when Hill used his personal

experiences downrange to illustrate difficult topics.

During his lecture he frequently clicked off his laser pen, faced cadets and walked them through instances where he had used particular movement techniques downrange.

"He really paints a picture in your mind of how a certain battle drill or movement technique works in real life," Stratton said.

## Prior experience

Hill said he hopes his prior service and combat experience helps him guide students and give them "what they need to be successful."

"Hill is adapting very fast coming from active duty," Capt. Warren Withrow, assistant professor of Military Science, said.

"This is where I want

to be," Hill said. "I like being with [future] soldiers; I take pride in grooming them and am amazed at what they end up accomplishing."

He said the transition from active duty soldier to retired ROTC instructor was a little difficult at first.

"I'm retired, but I'm still in a military environment," Hill said. "The students mostly lead this program, but I'm used to being a senior NCO who leads everything. Now I mostly sit back and observe when I'm not teaching."

Hill successfully completed the ROTC interview process earlier this year, but Cadet Command informed him that the position needed to be filled immediately and he would need to contact the Department of the Army

to request an earlier retirement date.

The DA approved his request and he retired as the Support Operations Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge of HHC 189th CSSB at Ft. Bragg earlier this year.

"He's hitting the ground running," Withrow said. "He has a wealth of knowledge to share with cadets since he comes from a Combat Arms and Support background with 20-plus years of active duty experience and multiple combat deployments."

Hill replaces ROTC Senior Military Instructor MSG John Torre who taught Military Science courses at UNCP since 1995. Torre was contracted in August to train African military forces in Africa.

"UNC Pembroke said

goodbye to an ROTC icon in August," Withrow said. "Master Sergeant Torre was irreplaceable, yet you couldn't have asked for a better replacement than Master Sgt. Hill."

The new instructor said he may hit the books to further his own academic goals.

"I have an associate in military science and coming here is a good opportunity for me to finish my education," Hill said. He is considering a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

"We really lucked out with Master Sergeant Hill. He's motivated and UNCP will be well served by his presence in the program," Withrow said.

Hill said he plans to expand the ROTC program by adding more students in the future.

# Sodexo, SGA team up for Helping Hands Across America

By **Grant Merritt**  
Assistant News Editor

Sodexo, UNCP's food service company, teamed up with the Student Government Association for a can drive promotion that would benefit Odum Home across the street from UNCP's campus.

According to Sodexo Marketing Supervisor Goldie Edwards, the can drive was also a competition for raising the most cans and landing a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The terms for the competition were to collect the most cans in a 24 hour period.

UNCP's division of Sodexo competed with other colleges, schools and hospitals around the United States that were

teamed with Sodexo.

According to Edwards, UNCP collected 91 cans and weighed in at 115.948 lbs.

"I think it's very beneficial," Edwards said. "There are some families out there that need food. It feeds the family."

Sodexo started collecting cans at 8 a.m. on Nov. 12 and ended at 8 a.m. on Nov. 13. Any cans collected before or after these times were not counted for the competition but were still donated to the charity.

According to an official Sodexo press release, UNCP's participation in Helping Hands Across America was a response to the growing tough economic times in the town of Pembroke. With a community-wide appeal

for non-perishable food items, Helping Hands Across America was an effort to help stop hunger on the local level.

The results for the Guinness Book of World Records will not be released until mid December.

Edwards said that the canned goods ranged from a variety of fruits and vegetables to evaporated milk and peanut butter.

"As a company, we should do it [can drive] more than one time a year, not just at Thanksgiving," Edwards said.

The SGA's role in Helping Hands Across America was to choose the charity that would receive the cans.

At the Nov. 18 SGA meeting, the SGA unani-

mously voted to send the cans to Odum Home across the street from campus.

If, for any reason, Odum Home could not accept the cans, the SGA unanimously voted to send the cans to the Robeson County Church and Community Center.

In addition to choosing the charity, the SGA purchased approximately 20 turkeys and other necessary foods from Sodexo at a discounted price to accompany the canned goods.

According to Faculty Adviser for the SGA and Director of Student Life Mike Severy, the SGA wanted to provide a complete Thanksgiving meal for Odum Home.

Edwards said that this is not the first time that



Photo by Grant Merritt  
Students, faculty and staff participate in a canned food drive that benefits Odum Home located across the street from campus.

Sodexo has participated in this can drive promotion. "Last year, the can drive was called Cans Across America, and they

changed the name this year to Helping Hands Across America," Edwards said.

# Campus NAACP chapter membership crisis

By **Ashley Williams**  
Staff Writer

According to OMMA Director and NAACP faculty adviser Robert Canida, "the mission of the youth and college division of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to inform young people of the problems affecting African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities; to advance the economic, educational, social and political status of African Americans and

other racial and ethnic minorities."

"Within the national chapter, there are 360,000 members and of that number, there are over 30,000 youth members," Canida said.

According to Canida, there are over 700 youth and college chapters in the United States. Canida said that North Carolina has over 55 youth and college chapters doing the work of the NAACP.

## Members needed

In order to remain an active chapter, the campus

chapter needs 25 members. The University's NAACP chapter has less than 10 active members.

Canida wants the current leaders of the University's NAACP chapter to keep making sure that they strive to address the issues that come to the NAACP such as juvenile justice, economic development and health issues.

"We need more youth out there doing the work of the NAACP," Canida said. "That work includes being active in their communities, activism and

being proactive politically," Canida added.

"My charge as the faculty adviser of the NAACP is to develop intelligent, militant and effective leadership," Canida said.

## Important work

"It is important for the NAACP to have more members because the work of the organization has not stopped because we have turned 100 years old. It will be the responsibility of the youth and college chapters to carry on the mission and move-

ment of the organization," Canida stressed.

Canida is adamant to let people know that the NAACP is not, nor will ever be, "just a Black organization" but instead it is a social movement.

Canida said that "as long as there are health disparities, racial disparities, economic disparities and political disparities, the work of the NAACP will never be finished."

Avon Banks, president of the UNCP chapter of the NAACP, has found out from members of other organizations that

making yourself known allows you to connect with students.

According to Banks, those bonds make it easier for students to talk with members of those organizations and come to events and membership meetings because you have connected with them on some level.

As far as attracting membership, Banks intends to connect with students on campus. One of his other ideas is to have prizes, such as gift cards and MP3 systems, at some of the meetings.