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By Patricia Knight

Contributing Writer

A professor of criminal justice and former student at UNC Pembroke, Robert S. McDonnell, 61, brings his vast experience and teaching style to create a stimulating classroom experience.

“Many students enjoy attending McDonnell’s classes because of his inter- esting stories that help students gain a better understanding of what the text is trying to portray,” said Kenya M. Raven, a for- mer student of McDonnell’s.

Transfer knowledge

When John Pembroke brok- enly allows me to transfer some of my knowledge to the younger generation of criminal justice, as well as bring the same changes and the changes that occur,” McDonnell said.

McDonnell believes in an interactive classroom be- cause it allows the students to retain the information using a large portion of their senses that students will need when in the field.

He has a great deal of passion for his job and be- lieves that students should want as much for them- selves as do for themselves.

Their teaching style is different than the U.S., but the end of the classes the academic instructor decided to adopt the U.S. style of teaching.

“Never lowers his high expectations for his students, yet at the same time he nurtures students in order to get them to maxi-"mize their full potential,” said Dr. Mario A. Paparozzi, professor and chair of the sociology and criminal jus- tice department.

“While a graduate stu- dent, Mr. McDonnell was truly head-shoulders above his peers. He was ex- quisite in his knowledge of his course material, but he also went far beyond that in being a compassionate and re- solving of issues,” said McDonnell started working as a professor at UNCP in August 2010.

He said that he enjoys the environment and helping his students every day.

Background

McDonnell has a unique background and 15 years of teaching experience that spans the globe.

His teaching experience includes countries, such as South Africa, Turkey, Kenya, Pakistan and Thai- land to name a few, allows him to give a broader under- standing to students about locations within the criminal and jurisdic- tion department.

He has taught over 1,800 police officers over- seas.

McDonnell is married with two kids. His wife has seen every part of the world that he has, but he deswells to see Martin performing magic at 2 p.m., but only around the UC lawn. His act will start at 4 p.m. in the UC Lounge.

The event will also in- troduce a sign-in station where attendees will sign, in- receive a wrist band and a water bottle. The wrist band is required to partici- pate in any of the events, and the water bottle is for the water station which helped the event become more eco-friendly and less expensive, Severy added.

Severy said that there will be a certain number of water bottles ordered. For example, if Student In- volvement and Leadership ordered 2,000 bottles and 3,000 people attend the event, 1,000 people will not receive a water bottle.

“Unfortunately, we can- not predict how many peo- ple will attend the event, and some people will be left out,” Severy said.

The water bottles were not the only thing with a limit because there will be 2,000 bags of boxed pop- corn and 750 bags of cotton candy, Severy added.

Food will be inside the dining hall to give the guests a break from the hustle, Severy said.

“Family Day on April 16 will be held from 1 p.m. until 7 p.m.,” Severy said.

This year’s event will feature a live DJ, five rap-tiles, inflatable, a magi- cian, balloon artist, making balloons, an obsta- cle course and a suspension trampoline.

The magician is Daniel Matilsky, a professional comedy magician. Atten- 

Resident advisors resource for students

Resident advisors play an important role in the lives of students on campus, performing duties and responsibilities that help students communicate and manage Residence Life.

Functions

Each RA functions as the source of contact between the resident and the housing office, greatly in- fluencing the resident’s experi- ence toward their housing experience.

RAs are available in times of stress and crisis for residents, and they may also help residents real- ize their role models who lead by ex- ample as they enforce the university’s code of con- duct.

RAs are required to work closely with many de- partments on campus, espe- cially with monthly Residence Life Living and Learning programs.

These programs educate students on topics such as health, career development while also encourag- ing students to become more active in their resi- dence hall.

“My favorite programs truly benefit the students. We are currently offering a weight loss program where we hold learning workshops and schedule group exer- cises,” said Elizabeth Men- zel, a junior elementary education major and RA since the spring of 2009.

Menzel works in Oak Hall and feels that the time she has spent working as an RA has helped her harness essential skills she will one day use in her chosen field as a future teacher.

“The main skill I have learned is to deal with con- flict resolution,” Menzel said. “I used to be very shy but after having this job for so long, that is no longer the case. I can now strongly handle confrontation, and I have had plenty of practice working one-on-one with students from diverse back- grounds.”

Learning experience

Although there are chal- lenges when it comes to learning experience this job can provide a student with cooperation, the RA helps make UNCP dor- mitories a home for stu- dents.

RAs balance their job’s requirements with their ac- ademic requirements and still find time to make indi- vidual experiences more personal on campus by en- couraging community in- volvement and sharing residential ideas and talents.

Supplemental instruction works for students

Not all classes warrant a SI. Almost three-quarters of the classes that use the SI opportunity, "historically SI is re- sultant. Professor Steve Hunt is an active user of an SI class, and he used it as an opportu- nity for those who might otherwise fail to pass if they participate in the tutoring.

“It is an effective tool to help me stay informed with the changes that occur,” said Dr. Mario A. Paparozzi, professor and chair of the criminal justice department.

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