Ramsey looks forward to leadership role

By Dustin Porter
Managing Editor

Preston Ramsey feels the wind in his face, his heart beating faster as he takes his strides and the stress slip away as he runs in the winds of his new job at UNCP.

“Running helps me relax and soothes my mind and my body,” Ramsey said. “It’s my way of unwinding from a busy day or week.”

Ramsey, 31, is the new associate director for Office of Student Involvement and Leadership and is adjusting to his new job very well.

“I think Preston is doing a great job considering the fact he’s new. It feels like he’s been here for a long time,” student Javier Carranza said.

Ramsey is responsible for advising UNCP’s Student Government Association, getting students more familiar with OrgSync, managing student organizations and programming for Homecoming, Parent’s Weekend, Family Day and assisting with Welcome Week and Late Night Breaks.

Ramsey graduated from Bowling Green State University in human development and family studies and went on to get his Master’s degree in the same field from Oklahoma State University. However, he has no problem with the small town atmosphere at UNCP.

“It’s small, but not small enough to make sure that student become a better leader,” Ramsey said. “No two days are the same, and just because there are non-traditional students. As the Fort Bragg satellite department, “for across the campus as well as the Fort Bragg satellite program.”

It’s small, but not small enough for the department is important because there are currently available seats in the on-campus program as well as the Fort Bragg satellite program. It’s important for students who are looking for work opportunities we have available for them, he said.

The Department of Public Administration offers concentrations in General Public Management, Emergency Management, Health Care Administration and a shared concentration with Criminal Justice.

Students support local veterans with banquet

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The national moment of silence will take place at 2 p.m., followed by a ceremony with the ROTC and a Cub Scouts troop from Rowland, Va., and presentation of the colors.

“Afterwards there is a banquet that is free for the veterans and is $15 for anyone else who would like to join us for the Third Annual Veterans Appreciation banquet,” Dr. Elieh said. It will be held in the U.C. Annex. A guest speaker is to be announced.

The keynote speaker for this year’s banquet is former UNCP student and current Lumberton Lumbee Tribe Veteran’s Association, armed services military recruiter and retired Navy Commander Matthew Michael Liptak said.

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Dr. Eller sets goals for the Department of Public Administration

By Hillary Aker
Web Video Editor

Dr. Warren Eller accepted the position as chair of the Department of Public Administration. “The major responsibilities of the department head are scheduling classes, helping make sure that student flow occurs in a timely manner and helping get exposure for our program,” Dr. Eller said.

The number one goal of the department is to attract pure students to serve the local and state community,” Dr. Eller said.

A goal that Dr. Eller has set for this year is to stabilize the student population that is going through the Public Administration program.

Another goal Dr. Eller set is to become more engaged in the local communities. “One of the missions that the chairperson has is to increase civic engagement in the area, and we’re pretty well poised to do that,” Dr. Eller said.

He said that the department is looking for new and creative ways to engage the community and help promote the department’s growth. “We want to improve our governance,” Dr. Eller said. The biggest current challenges for the department are the financial challenges the whole university is facing. With the department only being two years old, Dr. Eller said, “Starting a new department as the economy starts to turn down becomes a little problematic.”

Dr. Eller credits the success of the program in the past two years to his predecessor, Dr. Michael Hawthorne. “I benefit from a lot of hard work he’s done, and I think the department is in a far better place than it was just two years ago when it first emerged,” Eller said.

Dr. Eller is in his third year with UNCP and with the Department of Public Administration. Before UNCP he taught at Louisiana State University and Texas A&M University. Dr. Eller said the faculty in the Department of Public Administration was part of the reason he came to UNCP. He said the possibility of working with faculty such as Dr. Eller’s predecessor, Dr. Michael Hawthorne, and Dr. Robert Schneider made him a “shoe-in” for this department.

“Having this combination of professors here to help our students is pretty unparalleled,” he said. “For a university of our size you just don’t see that kind of quality.”

Dr. Eller said with the strong scholars within the department, “for across the board talent the department is probably one of the most robust.”

According to Dr. Eller, the program currently has about 140 graduate students. He said about 60 percent of the current students are non-traditional students. “We have a truly eclectic mix of students that come here mid-career to help improve what they are doing,” he said.

Dr. Eller said exposure for the department is important because there are currently available seats in the on-campus program as well as the Fort Bragg satellite program. It’s important for students who are looking for work opportunities we have available for them, he said.

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