

Bronco Spotlight



Name: Carolyn Ortiz
Hometown: Fayetteville, North Carolina
Education: Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Fayetteville State University, Master of Sociology from Fayetteville State University
Years at FSU: Six and one half years
Department: Center for Personal Development and Department of Social Sciences
Title: Wellness and Mediation Coordinator, Counselor, Instructor and Advisor to Peace and Conflict Educators (PACE)
Family: Married with a six year old son
Favorite Book: *And Then There Was One* by Agatha Christie

Hobbies: Reading, research, and spending time with family

What is your most memorable moment at FSU?
 My most memorable moment here at FSU is when I received my Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 1994. I am a first-generation college graduate, so having my family there to support me was wonderful.

What is your inspiration?
 My spirituality and my family are my inspiration. Both keep me grounded.

What keeps you smiling?
 My belief that tomorrow will be a much better day than today.

What are your short-term and long-term goals?
 My short-term goal is to get my son through first grade. My long-term goal is to attend UNC Chapel Hill or Duke University to get my Doctorate in Sociology. Getting my Doctorate is mainly for personal growth and self-satisfaction.

What is your personal motto? Despite what others think of you or believe you to be, never let them determine who or what you are, give them the unexpected!

When did you fall in love with mediation?
 I love helping people and I fell in love with mediation when I started working in the Center for Personal Development. As a coordinator in the center I was able to see how much the mediation process helped FSU and also how I could help FSU. Since then it has been my goal to keep the mediation center progressively moving forward.

More....

"Most people do not know that I love to teach," she says. "I find it invigorating to know that I helped someone understand material that they didn't think they could understand."

Ortiz began teaching as a graduate assistant in 1998. Her experience at FSU and Fort Bragg started in 2000. She is currently teaching an Introduction to SPSS course on Fort Bragg.

As the advisor to Peace and Conflict Educators (PACE), a student organization formed last semester, Ortiz feels that PACE is very important and vital to FSU. It is her belief that by looking at the violence and lack of understanding in society today, it is obvious to see why an organization like PACE is needed to guide individuals through the conflict resolution process.

"PACE gives individuals the tools to resolve conflicts in life, these tools last a lifetime and can take them anywhere," says Ortiz.

Students Can Now Determine Who Their Professors Will Be

From KRT Campus

Before registering for classes, students at the University of Wisconsin campus here soon will be able to use the Internet to see just how tough it would be to ace courses.

Many students say they are eager to log on to pickaprof.com as they decide which classes to enroll in – or which professors to avoid. Bar charts on the Web site show what percentage of each instructor's students received As, Bs, Cs, Ds or Fs during past semesters.

"I'll be strongly tempted to look, like a bear with a honey jar," said Thomas McKinney, 27, a graphic design major. "You could always hear this kind of stuff through the grapevine. Now you can just punch it up."

The University of Wisconsin student association recently decided to pay \$10,000 to Pick-A-Prof, joining more than 50 public universities nationwide that subscribe to the three-year-old service based in Texas.

And student leaders at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and Wright College are debating whether to bring it to their campuses next year.

In an age when students can order term papers over the Internet, the spread of Pick-A-Prof has triggered a fresh debate about the effects of rapid technological change on education.

Many students relish having easy access to grading histories, but college instructors here and across the country are complaining that Pick-A-Prof is the worst blow to the integrity of higher education since Cliffs Notes.

"There is no relation between an easy A and the quality of learning," UW sociology professor Carrie Yang Costello said.

Critics say publishing grading histories on the

In an age when students can order term papers over the Internet, the spread of Pick-A-Prof has triggered a fresh debate about the effects of rapid technological change on education.

Internet will make it simple for students to choose professors who are most likely to grade gently. Students inevitably will try to play the odds to give themselves the best chance of posting high grade-point averages and attracting job offers, said George Davida, a computer science professor and faculty senate member.

"It's a no-brainer," Davida said. "This will turn the university into a casino."

Professors warned that Pick-A-Prof will result in grade inflation.

"There will be an influence on professors to bring students into their classes by not grading too hard," said Jennifer Maher, an associate professor of women's studies.

Pick-A-Prof is a simple, if novel, concept. Data on the grading histories of professors at public universities are open to the public. Pick-A-Prof requests the information from universities and places it on its password-protected Web site.

At most universities where Pick-A-Prof is used, the student associations pay the company to construct and maintain the site.

Pick-A-Prof also runs message boards featuring anonymous reviews of professors, which the company screens for profanity and personal attacks.

Company officials say the screening process makes Pick-A-Prof's reviews more useful than the feedback that students post on other Internet sites, such as myprofessorsucks.com.

Pick-A-Prof is in operation at some of the nation's largest universities, including the University of

Texas, University of Massachusetts, University of Maryland, University of Kentucky and Indiana University.

Pick-A-Prof founders Chris Chilek and John Cunningham began the company while students at Texas A&M University, where they graduated in 1999.

Cunningham, a marketing major, and Chilek, who studied computer science, knew they had the right to view professors' grading history. But they noticed that few students went to the trouble of asking university administrators for the fat binders that contained the paper records.

"We recognized the opportunity to put it online, where there would be more access," Chilek said in a telephone interview from the Pick-A-Prof office in Austin.

Professors who criticize the service underestimate their students, Chilek said.

"The students know that if they go for the easy A, then they won't have the background they will need to succeed in a higher-level course," he said.

Some college students defend the site as a valuable tool for increasing accountability among professors and giving students more information as they choose expensive courses.

"You pay for a class and you want to get something out of it," said Kory Kozloski, the UW student association president.

UIC student government President Angel Alvarez has proposed subscribing to Pick-A-Prof. The company chose the campus as a trial site, meaning some data are already available to UIC students on a test basis.