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"Be All That You Can Be" At Methodist College

By Cindy S. Bridges
Editor

"I, [state your name], do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

In order for the Army to convince their soldiers to repeat that phrase more than one time, they often have to offer a "reenlistment bonus." Choice of station, monetary rewards, and stabilization are a few bonuses that the Army offers soldiers to reenlist for a specified period of time. The military has a poor retention rate so these bonuses are utilized as incentives to keep the soldiers in the military.

Soldiers who reenlist under the provisions of AR (Army Regulation) 601-280, Current Station Stabilization Reenlistment Option, may elect to participate in an education incentive program. This program provides the soldiers up to one semester of duty-exempt time to pursue civilian educational goals. While AR 601-280 does not, in itself, provide for continuing civilian education as an additional reenlistment incentive, Fort Bragg, along with many Army bases, authorizes soldiers to undertake civilian education programs designed to enhance their professional development in conjunction with their commitment to remain in the Army with a stabilization guar-

antee prescribed in AR 601-280. Under the provisions of this option, soldiers at Fort Bragg are able to pursue full time civilian education requirements. They are able to take vocation courses or up to one semester of college-level studies with the guarantee that they will not be transferred within the one year "stabilization."

To guarantee that they "reap the benefits" of this incentive program, soldiers at Fort Bragg must take advantage of their chance to pursue a civilian education within one year of the date of reenlistment. To even qualify for AR 601-280, soldiers must reenlist for a minimum of three years.

Although there are a variety of reenlistment bonuses, the semester of college tends to be the most popular one. Many soldiers like the idea of taking a "few months off" from their regular job to go to school. Some soldiers with demanding military jobs are often unable to attend evening classes, so this opportunity enables them to take college courses. This is important in the Army because civilian education is an integral part of the promotion system! Each credit hour that a soldier completes equals one promotion point. This may not sound like much, but soldiers will tell you that one point can make a difference in being promoted to the next rank.

There are many soldiers taking advantage of the educational incentive program at Methodist College. As long as the soldier registers for 18 credit hours, his or her tuition is paid in full. The only expense the soldier incurs is for textbooks and supplies. The Army pays a portion of tuition, the



Photo submitted by Cindy S. Bridges

Soldiers can take a few months off their regular "job" to attend college as a reenlistment bonus.

soldier also receives the North Carolina Legislative and Contractual Grants, and Methodist College offers the Albritton-Hurley scholarship to cover the rest of the expense.

Boyd Parsons, the director of the Ft. Bragg branch of Methodist College, stated that 40 soldiers are currently taking advantage of this reenlistment "bonus" at Methodist College.

Staff Sergeant Ricky Nagrampa, stated that he chose Methodist College to pursue his civilian education simply because the dates when the courses were offered did

not conflict with his military obligations. He is taking advantage of this program because it was the only reenlistment bonus offered to him. SSG Nagrampa is in the Special Forces and this makes it difficult to find the time to attend college. "This is the first time that I have been in-country more than three months at a time. I am usually deployed somewhere within two months after returning home. Being able to attend class now is pure luck!" SSG Nagrampa is, however, obligated to his team if they need him. He stated, "I have to check in once a week or call to let them know I'm still alive."

Bumpy Ride Ahead

By Cindy S. Bridges, Editor
and Chuck Heaton, Staff Writer

Don't speed on Methodist College campus. That is the message that students got when they returned from Fall Break to discover that nine new speed bumps had been placed around campus.

The vice president for business affairs, Mr. Gene Clayton, stated that "the college administration felt that there was excessive speeding by vehicles on campus." He emphasized that President Hendricks requested the speed bumps to be put in place "to reduce the speed of vehicular traffic for the safety of students and staff."

Mr. Clayton said that the Department of Police and Public Safety conducted a survey to determine where there was speed



Photo by Cindy S. Bridges
Speed bumps get a coat of paint.

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MC Website Refreshed

By Jonathan Joy
Contributing Writer

The term "webmaster" is something that has evolved during the last decade. In fact, the word sounds like something that came from the game *Dungeons and Dragons*!

A webmaster is someone who maintains a website. They delete outdated material, add new information, and update and refresh existing information. Since the development and success of the Internet, webmasters have sprung up everywhere as companies compete to have the best and most exciting websites.

Methodist College has maintained a website since 1996. An off campus company provided this service for two years. In 1998, Danielle Crawford was hired as a part-time webmaster. This year, Methodist

College decided to make the webmaster a full-time position.

Michael C. Molter, a 1994 graduate of Methodist College, is the new webmaster on campus. He accepted the position in August and has made considerable progress in improving the college's website. He has created a new home page, a clickable campus tour, and a PGM website, to name a few of the additions. Mr. Molter is also responsible for getting the *Monarch Messenger* online.

Mr. Molter's future projects include maintaining a campus calendar online, adding a business affairs site, and adding checklists for students' majors.

Molter stated that he would like the website to be "more usable for current stu-

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