

**BILLY CRAYTON**

BioBus Operator

The Universal Military Training and Service Act passed in 1951, led to the induction of more than 1.5 million men into the military during the Korean War. But Billy Crayton was not one of those men.

"I went in on my own accord," Crayton said. "I volunteered because I wanted to go."

As a corporal in the U.S. Army, Crayton served in the Korean War in 1953 by driving an ambulance for the 1st Cavalry, 15th Medical Battalion. He transported wounded soldiers from the frontlines of the conflict to aid stations where they would receive vital medical attention.

"It was scary. You had a big red cross on each side, each end and one on top," Crayton said. "They weren't supposed to shoot at the ambulance, but that was the biggest target they had, believe me. I was glad to get out of there."

Despite the fear of driving from the frontline and back, Crayton knew this job is what his country needed him to do most. The experience



Top: Billy Crayton takes a break from driving the BioBus West Line Loop Nov. 2.



Left: Sitting atop the ambulance he would later drive in Korea, Crayton poses in Okada, Japan, in 1953 before being sent to war.

changed his life and armed him with skills to be later used in civilian life.

"There was a whole lot you could learn," Crayton said. "And a whole lot you didn't want to remember."

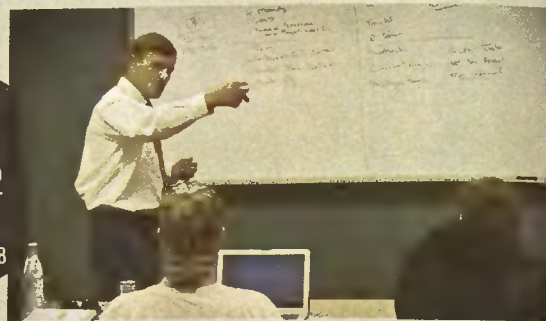
Crayton has translated those driving skills and is now a BioBus driver for Elon University.

**BILL BURPITT**

Professor of Management

**VIETNAM WAR**

(1965 - 1975)

BURPITT SERVED -  
1967 - 1968

Bill Burpitt lectures during his "Strategic Management" class Nov. 1.

Growing up in a military family, Bill Burpitt enlisted in the army in 1966 at the age of 20.

With the rest of the 1st Aviation Brigade, Burpitt served in the Mekong Delta region during the Vietnam War from 1967-1968. His service taught him to be more aware of the fragility of peace.

"I became very cautious about assumptions regarding the stability of this cocoon of peace we live in," Burpitt said. "We can lull ourselves into thinking, 'I'm fine, I'm safe,' without realizing that chaos is just on the other side of the wire."

During the Tet Offensive of 1968, one of Burpitt's friends was killed in action. When brought home, Burpitt visited the parents of his fallen comrade

and continued to do so throughout the years. Only then did he realize the constant pain gold star families carry with them.

"Their tours of duty went on for years and years. Parents who have lost children in the service have also served their country. They paid a much more painful price and for much longer," Burpitt said. "When I go home I can drop my gear in the closet and forget about the war, but the parents of those soldiers that never came home — they can never forget."

Serving in the military later allowed Burpitt to continue his higher education. This eventually led him to Elon University where he now works as a professor of management and as the head of the Veterans Day Committee.

ARMY  
15th  
Medical  
Battalion  
1st Cavalry

ARMY  
1st Combat  
Aviation  
Brigade  
4th Infantry  
Division

1950

1953

1967

1969

1983

**ROBERT BUCHHOLZ**

Director of Physical Plant

Post Vietnam, Robert Buchholz knew the military needed men to fill the ranks. After graduating college, he joined the Civil Engineering Corps in 1976 planning to serve for only three years, but he ended up staying in the Navy until 2002.

Twenty-six years of service took Buchholz all over the world and into the center of the Lebanon Crisis. Buchholz's time in Beirut came less than three weeks after the deadly 1983 Beirut barracks bombings. The attacks were caused by two suicide bombers driving garbage trucks laden with explosives that killed 241 U.S. Marines and 58 French Peacekeepers. Buchholz and the Civil Engineering Corps were ordered to handle the aftermath of this attack.

"It was something to see, — the destruction that a garbage truck could do," Buchholz said. "Our unit was redeployed to build up defenses and restore power to that part of the area."

After Lebanon, Buchholz was sent to the Philippines to oversee construction of Clark Air Base, which was the United



Above: Robert Buchholz sits in front of Alamance Fountain before entering a facilities meeting for Physical Plant.



Left: Buchholz (third from left) poses in Clark Air Base in Manila, Philippines, with other members of the Navy Construction Office.

States' largest overseas air force base at the time.

"I've worked in all sorts of situations and it's amazing what people do when they step up and do what has to be done. I enjoy working with people like that," Buchholz said.

At Physical Plant, Buchholz says he is surrounded by simi-

larly hard-working individuals.

"The people that I worked with in the Navy are the same type of people that I work with now in the Physical Plant," Buchholz said. "They work hard. These guys pull together and do what needs to be done, and I love working with people like that."