

Campbell offers college courses at Morrisville National Guard Armory

By Mary Beth Phillips

By day, the soldiers drill at the National Guard Armory in Morrisville, practicing weapons handling, and other military skills.

By night, the drilling is by teachers who are helping about 150 adults earn their college degrees under a program by Campbell University.

Campbell has been a leader in offering college classes at military bases, including Camp Lejeune at Jacksonville and Pope Air Force Base at Fort Bragg. When they set up a satellite at the National Guard Armory—first in Raleigh in the mid-1980s, and later moved to the armory at Raleigh-Durham Airport—most of the students turned out to be civilians.

"They are young, middle-aged, senior adults who have not finished their degrees," said Pat Todd, director of the program. "They are conscientious, ambitious, and very eager to learn," he added.

The program offers a flexible schedule of classes with two back-to-back two-month terms each semester, overlapped by a three-month term. The Spring Semester schedule will begin Jan. 12. A short term will be held from Jan. 13 to March 13, and another short term between March 24 and May 22. Meanwhile, a full term will be held from Jan. 12 through April 27.

Classes are from two to four hours long, depending on the credit.

Advance registration will be held Dec. 16-19 at the National Guard Armory. General walk-in registration will be held from 4 p.m. to 7:30



COLLEGE CADET—Steve Lappe (left), Sgt. First-Class and college student, talks to Pat Todd, the director of Campbell's college classes at Morrisville National Guard Armory.

p.m. Jan. 7.

Eight students are required to make a class, but many classes have as many as 20. Teachers will work with a student who needs only one course to graduate, for example, if the class has not filled up, Todd added.

Choosing faculty for the courses is a joy, with all of the universities in the area, and even many corporate executives who enjoy teaching. "Everybody's first love is teaching," Todd said. "I have a great pool of teachers." He also draws permanent faculty from the main campus in Bues Creek, south of Raleigh.

Todd is a retired career army man himself, and taught high school in Durham for a short time.

Because Campbell is a private

school, if a student takes 12 semester hours or more, he will receive a legislative tuition break of \$725 per semester. That cuts tuition cost in more than half at Campbell's evening program, which charges \$110 per semester hour.

"Some people have a family and a full-time day time job, and are doing it [a full load of classes]," Todd said. "Then they take a break and come back and do it again."

Because of the flexible schedule, a student could take two three-hour courses for the first two-month session and two more courses during the next session and be considered full time. Or they could take one course in each of those sessions and two courses during the longer, overlapping session.

The most popular course offered is Principles of Management, Todd said. Many students do 28 hours of preparatory courses for an M.B.A. degree. They can then take the 30 remaining hours at Campbell's M.B.A. program at Peace College.

The satellite campus offers degrees in business administration, applied science, health science, and many associate degrees including economics, government, and history.

Students coming in with associate degrees can earn a Bachelor's of Applied Science or a Bachelor's of Health Science, and they can complete the requirements for a minor in business administration at the same time.

"One problem I have is the students want to rush things," Todd said. "I advise them, it takes a full-time student four to five years to complete a degree, and you are going part-time. I try to diminish their concern about time."

The success rate is great. Students may take a break for a year or two but they always come back, Todd said. The completion rate is very high. So far, from the campus at the Armory, about 250 students have received their degrees.

"I get the most pleasure visiting with prospective students who want to finish their college degrees," Todd said. "I can offer them two or three viable options to get their degree, on a varying schedule. It's good to see them jump on it, and you can see them grow, academically and intellectually throughout the three to five years here."



Merry Morrisville Christmas

The Town of Morrisville had its community tree lighting on a brisk Dec. 7 evening at the town hall. More than 40 residents and children came out to celebrate the holiday season. Town officials gave some brief remarks before Santa Claus arrived riding a Morrisville Fire Department truck. (Below, left to right) Commissioner Leavy Barbee speaks as former mayor Margaret Broadwell, mayor Gordan Cromwell and commissioner C.T. Moore look on.



Kaiser Permanente moving office to Morrisville

Kaiser Permanente will lease most of the space in the new office building under construction in Southport Business Park, Southport's Project Manager Mitch Adams announced last week.

"They are one of our oldest tenants," he said. The Health Management Organization has leased about 30,000 square feet in the first Southport building since it

opened in the early 1990s. The company will lease about 50,000 of the 60,000 square feet available in the new building, and keep about 15,000 square feet of laboratory space in the other building, Adams said.

The company is moving its administrative offices from Highwoods Office Park in North Raleigh to Morrisville, Adams said.

Beverly Thompson of the public relations department at Kaiser Permanente said about 150 employees will be moving from the Highwoods offices into the Southport office in late spring or early summer. The lease for the offices in Highwoods will be up in

June and no Kaiser employees will remain there.

There are no plans to hire additional employees, she said, although some of the employees already in Southport will probably come across the street to the new offices.



SPECIAL SHOPPERS—Diane and Laura Gove of Preston receive some free ice cream and a balloon from Hilda Graves at the grand opening of the new Harris Teeter supermarket Wednesday, Dec. 10. The store is located in High House Crossing shopping plaza on the corner of High House Road and NC 55.

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