

UNC Mobile program offers safety features

BY KATY DOLL
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Students and faculty are ringing in the fall semester with UNC Mobile, a new cell phone service plan offered through the University.

And now that its pilot program is complete and new features have been added, officials are working on promotion and potential expansion.

The University has partnered with Rave Wireless since 2006 when a small pilot group tested its text messaging, data sharing and emergency contact capabilities.

Student have been able to sign up for all features since mid-July. "We've had quite a few people sign up," said Brian Payst, director of the Division of Student Affairs at UNC.

More than 50 students have purchased Guardian-enabled phones, and more than 570 students are enrolled in Rave.

Rave Wireless allows users to receive emergency text messages from the University, view e-mails and receive alerts from Blackboard.

Rave Guardian uses a Global Positioning Service chip to provide the location of a student in trouble to the Department of Public Safety.

Users set a timer on their phone, and if the alarm isn't turned off, the phone's position is sent to DPS. "It's an opt-in service," Payst said. "It doesn't get activated until you turn it on and doesn't report your location until the alarm goes off."

The UNC Mobile plan uses the

UNC Mobile service

Rave Wireless is a cell phone service available to all students with phones that can receive text messages and/or online data transfer. Students can choose which options they want to include from the following:

- Emergency text messages from the University
- Blackboard updates
- Access to University e-mail
- Bus times from NextBus
- Updates from SLICE.unc.edu
- Ability to create groups to text and poll

Rave Guardian is an additional service for phones with a GPS locator. The service allows users to set an alarm, which alerts the Department of Public Safety to the location of the phone if the alarm is not turned off.

Sprint Nextel network for any plans bought through the system. Students and faculty still can apply for some Rave Wireless services but cannot use the Guardian program without the specific phones offered through UNC Mobile.

Anyone with an Onyen can sign up for portions of Rave, but only students living on campus can access the Guardian technology. Officials are in talks about expanding the program to include off-campus students, Payst said.

A UNC Mobile store is located on the first floor of Morrison Residence Hall. The store offers four GPS-enabled phones, and

"It's a brave new world — the mobile campus."

BRIAN PAYST, DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY AND SYSTEMS SUPPORT FOR THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

the basic service package costs \$48.99.

The UNC Mobile program also offers a \$100 incentive to purchasers who have to break an existing contract with another provider.

"After four months, they'll give you \$100 credit on your bill," said Melissa Waits, Rave's on-campus representative.

Officials sent campuswide e-mails and spoke at orientations to promote the plan.

"It's a fabulous idea," said Vicki Sapp, mother of freshman Erol Koymen. "The prices are competitive or equivalent."

Several other applications are in the works, including a flash-card program, which provides an outlet for students to create quizzes and professors to send out study guides.

Officials also are working to integrate students' work abroad and in the community with Rave's applications.

"It's a brave new world — the mobile campus," Payst said. "How do we capture some of what you're doing and bring it back to campus?"

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Sigma Nu reclaims house

BY KELLY GIEDRAITIS
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

If you look closely, you still can see the outline of the Greek letters "alpha," "epsilon" and "pi" on 109 Fraternity Court.

But above the door, two shiny brass letters signify the house's new residents — Sigma Nu fraternity.

This summer Sigma Nu returned to the house at the head of Fraternity Court after a five-year absence — replacing Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity, which was leasing the space from Sigma Nu.

But Sigma Nu's excitement about having a house in a central location is mixed with apprehension.

"It's a completely different dynamic than we've been used to," said Edward Prewitt, president of Sigma Nu. "At this point we're kind of viewed as outsiders in the frat scene. We're known as 'the guys taking back (Alpha Epsilon Pi's) house.'"

When Sigma Nu disbanded in 2002 because of poor recruitment numbers, the fraternity's alumni worked to ensure that Sigma Nu could return to the house.

Alpha Epsilon Pi leased the house on a yearly basis, with the stipulation that if Sigma Nu rebuilt its membership, it would reclaim the house.

Alpha Epsilon Pi began search-

ing for a new house about a year and a half ago, as the Psi chapter of Sigma Nu regrew its membership.

This spring Sigma Nu's charter was reinstated, and members from both fraternities began preparing for Sigma Nu's return.

Sigma Nu focused on renovating the house — tearing out walls, replastering and adding new carpet. Prewitt said 26 men will live in the house this semester.

Alpha Epsilon Pi was unable to secure another house for this year. Many of the 42 members moved into five different houses in the area.

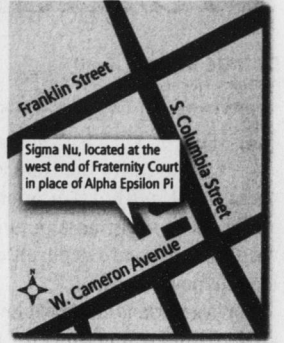
"We're doing fine," said Matthew Putterman, president of Alpha Epsilon Pi. "I'm actually really excited to go a year without a house."

He said the break will allow the fraternity to focus more on its ideals, rather than just hosting parties.

Members of other fraternities said that they are sad to see Alpha Epsilon Pi go but that they support Sigma Nu's successful comeback.

"You don't want to say you're excited because someone is leaving, but it is always exciting to have someone new move in next door," said Troupe Brewer, who is a senior in Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

If all goes well, Alpha Epsilon Pi will be in a house next year.



SOURCE: GOOGLE MAPS
DITHALLIE WASSUM

"We're definitely looking," Putterman said. "There's a couple options available."

He declined to name exact locations for contractual reasons, but he added that Sigma Nu's alumni board is helping Alpha Epsilon Pi find a new home.

Alpha Epsilon Pi and Sigma Nu have developed a good working relationship, Putterman said.

"They've just been really great to us. They're helping us out."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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