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# Former UNCP Chancellor out at UCA

By Nick Phillips  
Editor

Former UNCP Chancellor Allen Meadors resigned from his post as the President of Central Arkansas University on Sept. 2 as allegations of an improper gift swirled around him and UCA.

Meadors was the Chancellor of UNCP from 1999 until resigning in June 2009 to take the position at UCA in July 2009. He attended Central Arkansas as an undergraduate.

According to the *Log Cabin Democrat* newspaper in Conway, Ark., home of UCA, Aramark gave an "unrestricted grant in the amount of \$700,000" to UCA.

The controversy came about after Meadors admitted accepting \$700,000 from Aramark, UCA's food service vendor, to use for renovations on Meadors' university-owned house in exchange for a seven-year renewal of Aramark's contract, according to the *Log Cabin Democrat*.

Meadors repeatedly apologized to the UCA community and the board on Sept. 1 for not providing the information about the grant's designation, according to the *Log Cabin Democrat*.

The knowledge of the



Former UNCP Chancellor Allen Meadors (left) speaks with Pepsi North American President Hugh Johnson after Johnson spoke as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series in 2009. Meadors recently resigned at UCA.

\$700,000 contribution's contingency came after a vote was made to allow UCA members to hire an architect to proceed with drawing plans for the president's home, according to the *Log Cabin Democrat*.

Also on Sept. 1, Meadors recommended that UCA look for bids from other food service vendors rather than rolling over Aramark's contract, which expires in May 2012.

An emergency meeting of the UCA Board of Trustees was called on Sept. 2, where they unanimously approved Meadors resigna-

tion and also agreed to a buyout package.

UCA will pay Meadors his current salary through June 30, 2012, and he will receive \$337,000 with private money for 18 months. Meadors will also stay on university insurance through June 30, 2012, according to UCA Newswire.

Additional terms of the resignation include that Meadors will be out of the UCA-owned home by Oct. 1, which will also be the day his car allowance ends. Meadors' parents also have 90 days to vacate the UCA home they reside in.

According to the *Log Cabin Democrat*, Meadors said that in 17 years in the education community that he "had never been more disappointed," and he apologized, taking full responsibility for the "oversight that has caused disappointment and concern."

Tom Courtway was named interim president at UCA, a position he has previously held.

Courtway served as interim president in 2008 after then-president Lu Hardin resigned amid controversy over an unauthorized bonus paid to himself.

## Enrollment down; new policies implemented

By Dustin Porter  
Managing Editor

Chancellor Kyle Carter and Provost Ken Kitts stressed the importance of enrollment, retention and financial aid during the Faculty Senate meeting Sept. 7.

Dr. Carter said enrollment dropped by around 700 students this fall, and over 500 students who were scheduled to enroll could

not because they could not pay their tuition and fees in time.

He added the amount of financial aid benefits fell by 77 percent this year.

"Tuition increased and financial aid decreased and that hurt us," Dr. Carter said.

Dr. Kitts said the new academic standing policy is designed to help fix the retention and enrollment

numbers.

He added a required 2.0 GPA to attend UNCP will benefit the university in the future and the "main priority" is ensuring the upperclassmen are up to date following the one semester grace period.

Dr. Kitts said a new freshmen enrollment policy would require potential freshmen to interact with UNCP and faculty in order

to get scholarships and grants.

The policy is designed to help potential students get more acquainted with UNCP and faculty, which should help retain them aiding UNCP's retention rate in the process.

"The idea is to get them on campus, meet the faculty and show them what we have to offer," Dr. Kitts said.

## Bullying 'hot topic' during annual symposium

By Ashley Cole  
Asst. Photo Editor

Bullying was the hot topic on campus as approximately 300 members of the UNCP community came together for the 4th Annual Social Justice Symposium on Aug. 31.

The symposium, titled "The Many Faces of Bullying," was organized by the Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs and brought professionals from different backgrounds to discuss various types of bullying.

The evening began with the keynote speech from Dr. Steve Robbins. Dr. Robbins emigrated from Vietnam at age 5 and uses the challenges he faced as a child to deliver a powerful message of inclusion and acceptance.

"I thought he was a good speaker; I think most of the students liked him. He was pretty dynamic," sociology professor and symposium committee member Dr. Brooke Kelly said.

Dr. Robbins began his speech by talking in a fake Asian accent to demonstrate how easily our society stereotypes others based on first impressions.

"I thought that was pretty smart," Dr. Kelly said.

Dr. Robbins continued to entertain the audience throughout the night with



Dr. Steve Robbins delivers his keynote speech during the 4th annual Social Justice Symposium on Aug. 31.

his humor and lively interaction.

He ended his speech on a serious note with a compelling story of his sister's rape and disappearance and his mother's suicide.

"Justice requires those who suffer the least to speak up the most," Dr. Robbins said.

Following the keynote speech was a panel dialogue. Panelists included two UNCP students, a Robeson County district court judge, a school counselor and the president of a

Fayetteville-based gay-straight alliance.

"I thought they were a good group...I thought they had some good issues to speak to," Dr. Kelly said.

After the panelists finished answering questions everyone split off to the different talking table dialogues.

Tables were set up around the UC Annex and each table had a different topic that was moderated by a professional in that area.

Table dialogues included: cyber-bullying,

anti-bullying bystander, LGBT bullying, faith bullying, work place harassment/bullying and elder abuse/bullying.

"I liked the tables. I think it's always good to [let] people have a chance to dialogue. Sometimes we learn a little more in that format," Dr. Kelly said.

The night concluded with a captivating poem about relational abuse from spoken word artist Petrina Bryant, also known as Trin-A-Thoughtz.