

# Arkansas police launch investigation of UCA

By Nick Phillips  
Editor

Information regarding the events that led to the resignation of former University of Central Arkansas President Allen C. Meadors continues to come to light, with the latest news that the Arkansas State Police has an ongoing investigation into the situation.

The Associated Press reported Sept. 27 that UCA has suspended its investigation in light of the Arkansas State Police investigation requested by the county's prosecuting attorney.

Dr. Meadors, the former chancellor of UNCP, resigned as UCA president Sept. 2 amid controversy surrounding a gift designated to renovate the UCA president's home.

As first reported in the Sept. 14 edition of *The Pine Needle*, Dr. Meadors came under fire after the univer-

sity's trustees learned that he agreed to accept \$700,000 from Aramark, UCA's food service vendor, to use for renovations on the university-owned president's house. Aramark was to have their seven-year contract renewed.

According to the *Log Cabin Democrat*, Arkansas State Police will investigate the contractual arrangement and specifics of the business contract between Aramark food vendor and UCA at the request of 20th Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney Cody Hiland.

"I think that due diligence required that we bring the state police in to investigate," Hiland said, according to the Associated Press.

"That's not to say any criminal activity occurred. But that's something that needs to be looked at and determined," Hiland added.

A spokesperson for the

Arkansas State Police told the Associated Press that the investigation was ongoing.

A UCA trustee member told the Associated Press that he didn't know the details of the police investigation.

Also reported by the *Log Cabin Democrat*, a UCA group has submitted written concerns to the school's office of internal audit, hoping for more answers about the \$700,000 Aramark gift.

The *Log Cabin Democrat* reported that the group requested a timeline of events to establish who knew what and when they knew it.

The Associated Press quoted Dr. Meadors before his resignation as saying, "It just didn't dawn on me ... that we would need to make a point of that issue. That was wrong. That was my mistake, and I accept it totally."



File photo by Carol Franch  
Former UNCP Chancellor Dr. Allen C. Meadors and his wife, Barbara, ride on the back of a car as part of the 2006 Homecoming parade. Dr. Meadors recently resigned as University of Central Arkansas president.

# Master Sgt. Jenkins goes beyond call of duty

By Beverly Vereen  
Staff Writer

Master Sgt. Anton Jenkins knows a thing or two about being a good leader.

The eldest son, and fourth child in his family, he has a love for people which enables him to interact exceptionally well. He observes those he encounters and makes a concerted effort to learn from them. This attribute has helped 40-year-old Jenkins become a well-rounded, easy-going man and an extraordinary leader.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, the 22-year Army veteran has applied his people skills in every way possible when working with soldiers. During his Army tenure, Jenkins did more than delegate duties to his staff and take orders from his superiors.

He also ensured thoughtful and proactive measures were taken when carrying out command assignments.

This trait is why Jenkins is a highly-decorated soldier and a standout instructor of military science at the UNCP.

Jenkins researched numerous ROTC programs at colleges and universities and said he learned that "Campbell University's ROTC field of study - which also encompasses Fayetteville State University, Methodist University and UNC-Pembroke - is the best in the nation."

Because this ROTC program is culturally di-



Photo by Beverly Vereen  
Master Sgt. Anton Jenkins is a 22-year Army veteran and instructor of military science at UNCP.

verse and mentally and physically challenging, Jenkins is extremely eager to utilize his social skills to develop his cadets and broaden their knowledge.

"I get a lot of support from professors and senior management," Jenkins said. "I also get to be creative and do a variety of team-building exercises. Being involved with good soldiers and officers motivates cadets and myself," Jenkins said.

While serving active duty, Jenkins performed a

number of jobs and played plentiful and meaningful roles.

He was a drill sergeant at Fort Benning, Ga., and, while assigned to an Armor Cavalry unit, he was a tank platoon sergeant in charge of armored vehicles such as the tank, Bradley and Striker.

Jenkins was promoted to Sgt. First Class which is when he became well known to his staff, peers and officers. Jenkins' ability to impress, lead and follow orders led to his being

noticed by higher-ups. Because he was labeled as a terrific trainer, coach and mentor, Jenkins found himself personally requested for a number of assignments at duty stations across the world.

"It felt great to be liked and respected by my soldiers and officers. I enjoyed every moment of my time in the Army and the experience helped me harness my love and respect for people," Jenkins said.

"Being fortunate enough to be raised in a

strict household, with a mother and a father, helped discipline me, prepare me and make me appreciate life and the people that surround me. I believe these are the reasons I've had a successful career," he added.

Jenkins relieved prior military science instructor Master Sgt. Clinton Hill in July 2011. Since that time, Jenkins has immersed himself in his new role and considers his new assignment at UNCP as one of his greatest achievements.

"The most satisfying aspect of my job at UNC-Pembroke is being a good soldier and leader and working with great cadets," Jenkins said.

"They [cadets] are a fantastic group of young men and women which makes my job easier."

When he isn't teaching, the 6-foot-1-inch, athletic and toned bachelor engages in several hobbies that include remodeling his house in Lawrenceville, Ga., and doing mechanical work such as car engine construction.

He also exercises daily, maintains a nutritious diet and enjoys participating in land navigation when conducting field exercises with his cadets.

Jenkins believes he has found his niche as a military science instructor at UNCP and looks forward to using his social and leadership skills to engage, inspire and evolve his cadets into tomorrow's outstanding military leaders.

# Controversial military law repealed Sept. 20

By Ashley Cole  
Asst. News Editor

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the policy banning gays and lesbians from openly serving in the military, came to an end at midnight on Sept. 20.

The policy was signed into law in December of 1993 by the Clinton administration.

As stated in a memo sent out by the Under Secretary of Defense Clifford Stanley, "Effective today, statements about sexual orientation or lawful acts of homosexual conduct will not be considered as a bar to

military service or admission to Service academies, ROTC or any other accession program."

This repeal will have no effect on the Army ROTC at UNCP, Assistant Professor of Military Science Capt. Mabry L. Shokes said.

"Discrimination of any type does not belong in a professional environment," Shokes said. "We respect the individuality of each cadet and each person."

Shokes adds that discrimination and bullying are not an issue in ROTC.

According to the Servicemember's Legal Defense Network, more than

14,500 service men and women have been discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

"I don't like the policy because, to me, you are stripping away the essence of who the person is...someone's sexuality does not render them incapable of doing their job," senior Channing Vereen said.

Vereen served as an aviation administrator in the Navy for three years. She thinks gays and lesbians should be able to openly serve because "it's their right to do so...and no one should be discriminated against simply because they

live an alternative lifestyle."

Vereen is ecstatic about the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and she believes it is long overdue.

A repeal party was held on the evening of Sept. 20 in Fayetteville at Pine Forest Middle School.

It was put on by the Fayetteville-Sandhills region of The Alliance, a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and straight ally group.

In his speech, president and co-founder Storm Silvermane noted that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was repealed just a week after North Carolina legislators

voted to put a Constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage on the May 2012 ballot.

"Now that the military is on board, let's get everyone else on board," Silvermane said.

Beryl Jernigan, an openly gay Navy veteran, also spoke at the party.

"I took an oath of honor, integrity and truth but in order to serve my country, I had to lie," Jernigan said.

"I woke up this morning finally able to be a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy," Jernigan added. "We only improve our military by getting rid of this."