



UNM President's Report

A report to the University of New Mexico Board of Regents from the Office of the President

Message from David J. Schmidly

Connect – It's a simple word that speaks volumes to our vision for the University of New Mexico. Our university is interwoven into the culture, community and aspirations of the state. UNM continues to generate new connections beyond its borders, providing an environment grounded in creativity, discovery, opportunity and leadership.

Please allow me this opportunity, on behalf of my family, friends and colleagues, to thank everyone at UNM who contributed to and participated in a memorable week of inauguration activities. This was not about Dave Schmidly, but rather about the many communities of UNM coming together to learn about and from each other. It was about connecting and it is my fervent desire that the spirit of this theme carries forward throughout my administration.

Last week marked the 125-day milestone for my administration. It has been an exciting and productive four months, the details of which I am pleased to share with you in the enclosed insert. My most important accomplishment is putting together the leadership team that will set direction and get the job done. They and their respective teams share in the successes of my first months on the job.

A big success is the opening of a UNM office in Hobbs that will recruit and provide outreach to all of southeastern New Mexico. We've also strengthened a great partnership with New Mexico Junior College where the office is housed. As tuitions continue to rise in Texas, we have an outstanding opportunity to pick up scores of students from this area.

We also had an enjoyable and informative visit to Gallup and the Zuni Pueblo – communities that are wonderfully supportive of the UNM-Gallup branch and UNM's desire to strengthen our ties with the branches. While we were on the Gallup campus, we had the honor of visiting with racing legend Bobby Unser and his wife Lisa, who were there to donate some major equipment to the UNM-Gallup automotive program. This just illustrates how wonderful partnerships can be formed when we are open to opportunity and act quickly and decisively. We're told that until recently, Unser did not know UNM-Gallup existed. Now he's a major supporter.

UNM students continue to marvel with their success on a global stage. Graduate student Zuly Parra and her advisor, Biology professor Robert Miller, were among the researchers whose work on mammalian evolution was featured on the cover of the May, 2007 issue of "Nature," one of the most prestigious scientific research publications in the world. Parra, who's from Columbia, has discovered a previously unknown T-cell receptor in the opossum – a discovery that has major implications for marsupials and is the focus of her doctoral research.

We're showing progress in retention. Of the 2,957 full-time beginning freshmen enrolled at UNM in Fall 2006, 76.60% returned this fall. That's nearly a two percent increase from three years ago.

Next month I start a three-year term on the executive committee of NASULGC's Commission on the Urban Agenda. As the commission fosters the development of policies and programs for universities with strong ties to urban areas, I will be promoting the fine UNM programs that have developed in concert with our community neighbors. UNM has a number of great stories. We should all assume the responsibility of telling those stories at every opportunity. It is just one of the ways we can connect.



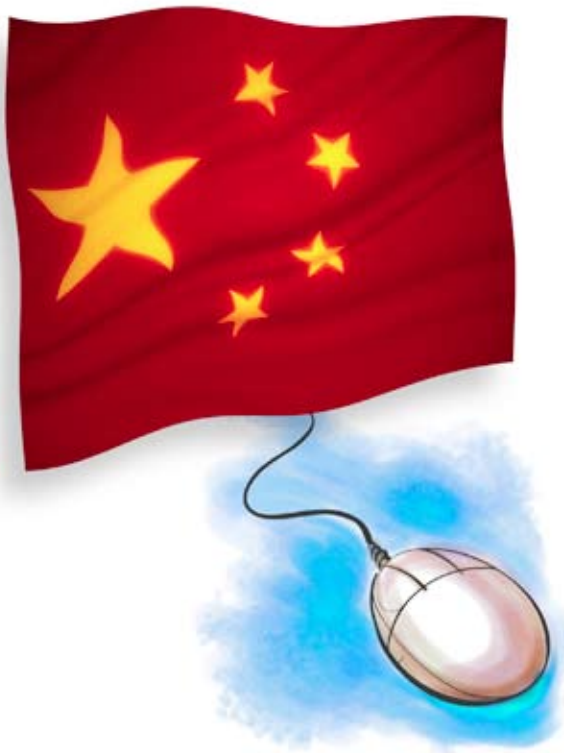
David J. Schmidly



UNM President David J. Schmidly

Connect





UNM Scales THE GREAT FIREWALL OF CHINA

A study of the Great Firewall of China by researchers at UNM and the University of California-Davis has garnered international attention, with reports in the BBC, Computer World, PC World and the Chronicle of Higher Education, among others.

The firewall, used by the government of the People's Republic of China to block users from reaching content it finds objectionable, is actually a panopticon that encourages self-censorship through the perception that users are being watched, rather than a true firewall, according to researchers.

Many countries carry out some form of Internet censorship. Most rely on systems that block specific Web sites or Web addresses. China takes a different approach by filtering Web content for specific keywords and selectively blocking Web pages.

The researchers are developing an automated tool, called ConceptDoppler, to act as a weather report on changes in Internet censorship in China. ConceptDoppler uses mathematical techniques to cluster words by meaning and identify keywords that are likely to be blacklisted. ■

NMHR, Hutton, awarded for best western history article

History Professor Paul Andrew Hutton's article, "Silver Screen Desperado: Billy the Kid in the Movies," published in the spring 2007 issue of the New Mexico Historical Review, is the winner of the Ray Allen Billington Prize. It is the first time NMHR has won the prize, which is awarded annually to the author and publisher of the best article in the field of western history.

"Silver Screen Desperado" grew out of the exhibit Hutton curated for the Albuquerque Museum, "Dreamscape Desperado: Billy the Kid and the Outlaw in America," which drew record visitation to the museum last summer. ■



Garcia appointed to Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

UNM Chief Economic Development Officer John Garcia has been appointed by President George W. Bush to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement and productive use of the nation's historic resources, and advises the president and Congress on national historic preservation policy. Garcia will fill one of the general public positions on the 23-member council. His term runs through 2011. ■



Gallup cuts path to careers



Left: Ribbon cutting for Health Careers II building: from left, Theresa Dowling, UNM-Gallup board chair; Ruby Wolf, former UNM-Gallup board chair; Kathy Head, director of the nursing program; Allison Kozeliski, executive director of the N.M. Board of Nursing; Beth Miller, UNM-Gallup executive director; UNM President David Schmidly; Eghe Ehimam, president of UNM-Gallup Student Nurses Association.

Right: President Schmidly, three-time Indy 500 winner Bobby Unser, and UNM-Gallup Executive Director Beth Miller. Unser donated equipment to the UNM-Gallup Auto Tech program. He used the equipment to test race cars, as well as products for the racing industry.

ECHO first in international medical competition

The UNM Health Sciences Center Project ECHO recently came in first in an international competition to identify programs that are changing the paradigm of how medicine is practiced.

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is a collaborative partnership of UNM School of Medicine faculty, the NM Department of Health and the State Department of Corrections that treats complex diseases in remote, rural and underserved communities.

The competition attracted more than 300 entries from 27 countries. Health professionals all over the globe voted for their top three programs. Project ECHO is now eligible for \$5 million in funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. ■

UNM Technology Business Plan Competition kicks off

President David Schmidly recently joined business leaders, UNM faculty and potential team members for the 2008 kick off of the third annual UNM Technology Business Plan Competition. Top honors will be handed out on Friday, April 11, 2008.

UNM students will compete for a top prize of \$25,000, plus an additional \$10,000 in seed funding. Teams will present a plan to start a company based on technology innovation used to produce new products or services. Judges will evaluate the plans for viability, attractiveness to investors, and ability to sustain high value-added employment in New Mexico. ■

President David Schmidly speaks at the kick off of the third annual Technology Business Plan Competition.



Hobbs office opens



On September 21, President Schmidly joined NMJC President Steve McCleery to open UNM's office in Hobbs which will provide recruitment services and community outreach for southeastern New Mexico.

Donors support UNM mission



The UNM Foundation has received several recent gifts supporting the university's educational and public service missions.

In June, Geoffrey S.M. Hedrick contributed funds for the UNM Hospitals to purchase a Dual Tube 64 Computed Tomography (CT) Scan for UNMH's new trauma center.

In September, the New Mexico chapter of the American GI Forum of Albuquerque established two endowed scholarships for students in nursing and education. Steven Jackson established a fund to support the Student Center at the Anderson School of Management.

The UNM Foundation will soon release its 2006-07 annual report, with more data and personal stories of UNM's 19,500 donors. ■



Schmidly named to executive board on Urban Agenda

UNM President David Schmidly accepted an appointment to the executive committee of the Commission on the Urban Agenda, which focuses on urban issues and programs for the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. Schmidly's term will run for three years beginning in November 2007.

"UNM has been called a city within a city, but we are by no means an island," said Schmidly. "The metro area's challenges are also our challenges, and it is incumbent upon the Albuquerque campus to work with its surrounding communities to develop effective solutions." ■



UNM President David Schmidly congratulates Board of Regents President Jamie Koch on his induction into the UNM Hall of Honor which was celebrated at the UNM-NMSU football game.

APD Cadet Class donates to UNM Children's Hospital



The 97th Albuquerque Police Department Cadet Class recently presented a check for \$2,200 to the UNM Children's Hospital. Every year, the police academy asks the cadets to think of a way to give back to the community. The 97th cadet class thought one of the most important issues in the community was its children and decided to raise money for the UNMCH. ■