



# 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

**I**n three days I will have been one year on the job as president of the University of New Mexico. The challenge has been everything I could have wished and the fulfillment more than I could ever have imagined.

Eleven days ago, I conferred degrees for nearly 2,500 UNM students who are now UNM graduates. Commencement is the best day in the life of a university, for it confirms to faculty and staff that we've done our jobs. Graduating our students is our grandest accomplishment.

As I reflect on my first year at UNM, there are many accomplishments to celebrate. I take sole credit for none of them, for all that we achieve at this university is the result of working together as a team. Allow me to share with you what I think are UNM's major accomplishments of the past year.

Everyone on campus had the opportunity to observe the creation and launch of the UNM Strategic Framework, which will guide our planning for the coming years. Most importantly, a great many people actively engaged in the process – building on the spirit of community that underlies all of our great achievements. This is an active process and one I promise will continue.

My executive leadership team has evolved and stabilized, with veterans in UNM leadership positions balancing a new crop of talented and skilled administrators, including new vice presidents for enrollment management, equity and inclusion, and Rio Rancho operations. In order to make good on our commitment for a student-centered environment at UNM, we established the Division of Enrollment Management to streamline the recruitment, admissions and financial aid process, among others. We wanted to eliminate the undue barriers our students encounter on their journey to graduation.

As of mid-May, I can report this will be another record-breaking fundraising year. We've exceeded the totals of 2006-07 and are closing in our \$80 million goal. As successful as UNM fundraising has been, we will have to ramp up the efforts significantly as we approach our comprehensive campaign. We have reorganized the UNM Foundation, making it an independent, self-supporting, full-service entity whose focus will solely be on raising, investing and distributing funds.

I'm proud of UNM's expanded partnership with Central New Mexico Community College. UNM and CNM will establish a statewide model for partnerships that provide a gateway for some and a seamless transition for all. A focal point for

the UNM/CNM partnership will be Rio Rancho. Thanks to the voters in that City of Vision, a successful gross receipts tax election has provided funds for the UNM campus in Rio Rancho.

I wanted to learn all I could about New Mexico this year. As part of my statewide outreach, I have visited a dozen New Mexico communities and three pueblos.

I've also toured each of our four branch campuses.

We have worked hard to make our internal systems more efficient and responsive. The Banner implementation continued with the successful launch of the HR/Payroll and Budget modules. UNM also implemented a behavior-based energy savings program that promises savings approaching tens of millions of dollars in the next 10 years.

We are working hard to ramp up our communication and marketing efforts. In that vein, a communications audit is in final review, and we've successfully completed the first phase of our media training, including a leadership seminar focused on "Creating a Culture of Transparency at UNM."

Finally, as an institution that values its students, UNM must also value the parents whose guidance is a resource for us all. In recognition of the important role that they play, we have formed the UNM Parent Association.

In this first year, the foundation has been laid to build a student-centered, vision-aligned, performance-driven culture capable of achieving our highest aspirations for UNM. It continues to be an exciting, challenging journey.



*UNM President David J. Schmidly*

David J. Schmidly

## Outstanding teachers recognized



Gary Harrison



Gregory Martin



Catherine Krause

**UNM** has bestowed its highest teaching honor on English Professor Gary Harrison, the 2008-10 Presidential Teaching Fellowship. He will use his two-year fellowship to develop student outcome assessment tools for departments and to develop an e-portfolio tool allowing students to electronically store their writing and multimedia projects so that potential employers can view them online.

Associate Professors Gregory Martin, English, and Catherine Krause, economics, are UNM's 2008 Outstanding Teachers of the Year.

Martin was hired at UNM to implement a creative nonfiction concentration within the creative writing program. Krause encourages students to question what economic models tell us about human nature and reach their own conclusions. ■



## Group helps veterans transition to college

**S**tudent veterans are ready to combine their voices to help others transition from military service to college life. The Student Veterans of UNM is a new group initiated by Darrin Kowitz, a doctoral student in sociology, who served in the army during the 1990s. Kowitz hopes that working cooperatively with the university will benefit both UNM and veterans returning from service and preparing to integrate back into civilian and scholastic society. ■

## Computer forensics lab awarded to N.M.

**U**NM students will soon have the opportunity to get hands-on experience using digital forensics to aid criminal investigations. The state of New Mexico, in conjunction with several UNM departments, has been awarded the nation's 15th Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory (RCFL), only the second to be closely affiliated with a university. The N.M. RCFL will be a full-service digital forensics laboratory and training center devoted to the examination of digital evidence in support of local, state and federal criminal investigations. ■



*UNM-Valencia Student Government Association President Jared McDonald met with President David Schmidly during his recent visit to the UNM-Valencia campus. McDonald and other students talked with Schmidly about various issues. Schmidly also met with campus officials, staff and faculty during his day-long visit to the campus.*

## Recycling named Best Community-Based Program



**T**he UNM Recycling Program won 10 bins in a competition co-sponsored by the National Recycling Coalition and Coca Cola. The program also won an award from the New Mexico Recycling Coalition for the Best Community-Based Recycling Program. The recycling program was recognized for educational outreach including environmental fairs, e-waste events and tours for elementary and middle school students. ■

## Got Grads?



Nearly 2,500 students received degrees, as follows: 1,600 bachelor's degrees, 477 master's degrees, 74 doctorates, 90 juris doctorates, 80 medical doctorates, 85 pharmacy doctorates, 5 graduate certificates and 10 education specialists.



### College of Education, Communication & Journalism reaccredited

The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education has reaccredited UNM's College of Education at the initial and advanced levels for their teacher, counselor, and administrator preparation programs. NCATE is the largest organization responsible for professional accreditation of teacher education in the U.S.

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications unanimously approved the accreditation of the journalism and mass communication programs in the UNM Department of Communication & Journalism, College of Arts & Sciences. ■

## Outstanding Staff



The Office of the Provost recently recognized staff with its annual awards. Counseling and Therapy Services employees (above) received the Outstanding Work Group Award. Recipients of individual Outstanding Staff Awards (not pictured) were Geoffrey Courtin, Josie Gibson and Susan Minter.



### Women notch highest conference score in 18 years

The UNM women's track team earned six more all-conference medals, including victories by senior Tiyana Peters (high jump) and Lee Emanuel (1,500 meters), on the fourth and final day of the Mountain West Conference Outdoor Championships. The New Mexico women finished fifth with 78 points – their highest since scoring 141 at the 1990 High Country Athletic Conference Championships.

### Phelps tees off at NCAA Golf Championships

Senior Alexandra Phelps represented UNM at the 2008 NCAA Women's Golf Championships played May 20-23 at the UNM Championship Course. Phelps qualified by finishing fourth at the NCAA East Regional.

### Dils named Coach of the Year

UNM head men's tennis coach Alan Dils was named Intercollegiate Tennis Association Mountain Regional Coach of the Year. The Lobos finished the season with a 20-8 overall record and 5-1 in the MWC, sharing the MWC regular season title.

### Four faculty, staff to become grant writing resources

Assistant Professors Celia Iriart and Karlett Parra, Lecturer Lisa Cacari-Stone, and Contract and Grant Administrator Marcos Garza will spend their summer learning to write proposals for grants funded by the National Institutes of Health. In turn they will act as a resource for other faculty and staff. The training is part of a joint Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services program. ■



President David Schmidly shakes hands with Richard Price, executive director of the Chase Foundation.

## Poison Center gets \$100,000 from Chase Foundation

Chase Foundation donated \$100,000 to the New Mexico Poison and Drug Information Center. The foundation also awarded UNM a \$50,000 student success grant to research the challenges that students from southeastern New Mexico and rural areas face on entering college and how UNM can better fill their needs. The grant compliments scholarships funded by the Chase Foundation.

As the best resource in New Mexico for any poison-related emergencies, 24-hours a day, 365 days a year, the Poison Center continues to improve the health of New Mexicans by reducing the morbidity and mortality associated with poisonings, and by encouraging proper use of medications. The center is a public service program of the UNM Health Sciences Center. ■

### Stropp appointed president of UNM Foundation

President David Schmidly appointed John Stropp to serve as the first president of the newly independent UNM Foundation. Stropp holds a master's in business administration from Texas A&M University and served in a number of executive positions at the Texas A&M Foundation and the Texas A&M Foundation Trust Company. Stropp will be the first president to be employed by the UNM Foundation itself, and not the university. The change is the result of a vote by the Board of Trustees to streamline the Foundation's operations, preparing it for a planned major capital campaign, only the second in the university's history. ■