



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

Happy New Year! Here at the University of New Mexico, 2009 promises to be a year of immense challenge tempered by enduring optimism. The issues we were grappling with at the end of 2008 did not magically go away, but viewing them with renewed energy through the lens of a brand new year gives us confidence that no problem is insurmountable if we work together in a spirit of trust and mutual respect. As I remarked to the campus in the first Monday Morning Message of the year, let's not forget the joys and opportunities ahead of us. Where better than a university to encounter new ideas, energized debate, leading-edge research, the anticipation of learning and the satisfaction that new knowledge brings. There is quite an exciting journey ahead of us.

It was with surprise and disappointment that we learned of Governor Bill Richardson's decision to withdraw his name from consideration as U.S. Secretary of Commerce in the Obama administration. This is a real loss for the country as a whole, for at this especially difficult economic time, America needed his talents at the Department of Commerce and as a member of President-elect Obama's economic team. Let's hope this matter is resolved quickly, so that the governor can move forward in service to our state and the nation.

The university will work with Governor Richardson, Lt. Governor Diane Denish and the New Mexico Legislature during the upcoming legislative session, which promises to be as challenging as any in recent memory. The legislature and the governor have an enormous task ahead – seeing that the very real needs of the state are met during a time of diminishing revenues. UNM's legislative team, including Executive Vice President for Administration David Harris and Government Relations Director Marc Saavedra, will join me in presenting the best possible case for UNM to legislators. We will also keep the campus fully informed of events in Santa Fe as they unfold.

With the "pause and hold" strategy UNM implemented last November, the university is in as good a position as possible to weather the economic storms heading our way. Our intent has always been to preserve the university's academic and research mission while also preserving our current workforce.

So our economic strategies will remain in place until the governor and legislature determine a course of action for the state.

A month from now, UNM will be enjoying a weeklong symposium celebrating the 200th birthdays of Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln, both born on Feb. 12, 1809. Several events around campus will celebrate the lives and accomplishments of both men, including speeches by Darwin/Lincoln experts David Quammen, author of "Monster of God" and "The Reluctant Mr. Darwin," and Dr. David Contosta, who was nominated for the Lincoln Prize for "Rebel Giants: The Revolutionary Lives of Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin."

UNM's "Sam the Sheep" television ad, which headlines our "Be a Lobo! Be Yourself!" campaign for prospective students, has been recognized nationally by University Business magazine as one of the 50 best branding ideas for colleges and universities. You'll remember that this "rebel without a cause who is tired of being your stereotypical cloven-hoofed mammal" struck a positive chord with our students. Sam's humor has now been positively received by the people who judge how colleges and universities create and communicate their brands. Congratulations to UNM Marketing Director Cinnamon Blair and her talented team.



UNM President David J. Schmidly

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Two presidents meet in Mexico with education agenda



UNM President David Schmidly with former Mexican President Vicente Fox.

UNM President David Schmidly traveled to Mexico to meet with former Mexican President Vicente Fox at the new “Centro Fox” de Estudios, Biblioteca y Museo Vicente Fox Quesada (Education Center, Library and Museum). Schmidly and Fox discussed the plans and purpose of the center as well as a possible collaboration with UNM, including research and exchange classes. Schmidly also extended an invitation to Fox to spend a week at UNM speaking to students and community groups about his experiences as president of Mexico and reform policies he implemented during his tenure. ■



Former UNM Presidents Richard Peck, Gerald May and F. Chris Garcia join President David Schmidly to congratulate Gerald May Award for outstanding staff winner Gloria Manzanares. The other winner, Sandra Ortiz, is not pictured.

Fulghum named VP for Research



Julia Fulghum has been appointed as UNM’s vice president for research. Fulghum served as interim vice president since May. The previous vice president, Terry Yates, died in December 2007.

Fulghum joined UNM in August 2002 as professor and chair of the Department of Chemical and Nuclear Engineering. As chair, she hired nine faculty members to develop interdisciplinary research and educational programs in biomedical engineering, emerging energy technologies and nuclear nonproliferation science. Fulghum received her Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. ■

HSC smoke-free policy receives positive feedback



The UNM Health Sciences Center has been smoke-free since August 2007. To learn how the smoke-free policy has been received, the UNM Prevention Center conducted a survey with more than 1,000 HSC

faculty, staff and students – nonsmokers and smokers alike.

The results were positive, with 98 percent of survey participants saying they knew about the smoke-free policy and highly supported it. Of the smokers who responded, a third said that since the policy was implemented, they reduced the number of cigarettes smoked in a day, 18 percent said the policy gave them an incentive to try to quit smoking, and a quarter said they have used UNM’s cessation programs. ■



President and Mrs. Schmidly with the Trailblazers, a student ambassadors organization through the Alumni Association, after decorating the Christmas tree at University House.



President David Schmidly meets with Jana Fothergill, senior graphic designer in University Communication and Marketing. Fothergill designed UNM's first official ornament, featuring a painting of University House aglow with luminarias, to raise funds for the Parent Association.

UNM offers winter intersession courses to improve retention

For the fourth year, UNM offers a slate of classes during winter intersession, giving students a chance to catch up or get ahead. Intersession enrollment has nearly tripled since the program started in 2005.

Intersession courses allow students to increase their credit hours for the fall semester, helping them maintain credit hour and grade point average requirements for their grants and scholarships. Students can also use intersession courses to get ahead in their studies, decreasing time to degree completion. ■

Congratulations graduates!

A close-up photograph of a female graduate wearing a red mortarboard cap and gown, smiling broadly. Other graduates in similar attire are visible in the background.

About 1,551 students were estimated to receive degrees in fall 2008, as follows: 1,140 bachelor's degrees, 325 master's degrees, two post-master's, 63 doctorates, 12 juris doctorates, two medical doctorates, six pharmacy doctorates and one education specialist.

Research connects writing, student engagement

Chuck Paine, UNM associate professor of English, jump-started a new addendum to the National Survey of Student Engagement to help colleges understand how writing can increase student engagement. Students who are more engaged devote more time and energy to their coursework, tend to have higher grade point averages and are more likely to stay in college. The survey showed that the more students wrote, the more they engaged in active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, enriching experiences and deep learning. That may mean that writing can also improve grades and retention. ■

UNM develops program to attract American Indian scholars

UNM is developing a new scholarship program to attract the nation's top American Indian students. The proposed National American Indian Scholars Program, scheduled to launch in fall 2009, is the first national scholarship of its kind focused on American Indian students. The Division of Enrollment Management is working in partnership with the American College Testing program, or ACT. The program is open to students whose ACT score is within the 95th percentile for their region, and would admit approximately five to 10 students each year. ■



Locksley named head football coach

Mike Locksley is the 29th head coach for UNM football, which began competition in 1892. Locksley is a 17-year veteran of collegiate coaching. He recently completed his fourth season as the University of Illinois' offensive coordinator and third year as quarterbacks coach. He also spent two seasons at the University of Florida as the running backs coach and recruiting coordinator and six seasons in the same role at the University of Maryland. Locksley takes over at UNM for Rocky Long, who resigned in November after 11 seasons at his alma mater.

Linebacker named to ESPN Academic All-America team

UNM senior linebacker Zach Arnett was named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America first team. Arnett, who expects to graduate in May with a degree in history, has a 3.88 grade point average. He recorded a career-high 92 tackles, including 11.0 for loss, and is tied for the national lead with six forced fumbles. New Mexico has earned four Academic All-America awards over the past three years – the best run in program history.

Men's soccer picks up sixth straight NSCAA Team Academic award

The UNM men's soccer team earned its sixth straight National Soccer Coaches Association of America Team Academic award. The award is given to teams that achieve a 3.0 grade point average or better.

Caring communities



Mayor Chavez donates \$85,000 for UNM autism center

Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez recently presented \$85,000 to the UNM Center for Development and Disability to benefit a future autism center. The proceeds were raised at the Mayor's 2008 Charity Ball. The need for autism services in the state has grown in recent years. To meet that need, the CDD is creating an autism center where research, training, diagnosis and services will be provided to the New Mexico autism community. ■

College of Pharmacy receives \$50,000 grant

Con Alma Health Foundation awarded a \$50,000 grant to the UNM College of Pharmacy to support its cooperative pharmacy program with New Mexico State University. The UNM/NMSU Cooperative Pharmacy Program was created to ease the pharmacist shortage in southern New Mexico by giving high school graduates from the southern part of the state a head start in pharmacy school. Students complete pre-pharmacy work at NMSU and are then admitted to the UNM Doctor of Pharmacy program. As part of the cooperative program, students spend summers in southern New Mexico completing pharmacy practice experiences. The \$50,000 grant will support this summer experience portion. ■

N.M. EPSCoR awarded \$17.5 million

Three grants totaling more than \$17.5 million were awarded to the New Mexico Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research through the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation. UNM is part of a team of New Mexico universities and labs that will use the grants for climate change, water resources and energy research and science-based education and public outreach. ■