



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

The 2009 session of the New Mexico Legislature has not yet reached the halfway point, but has already proven to be one of the most challenging for the University of New Mexico.

There are a number of budget proposals being considered that concern me deeply. The Legislative Finance Committee has reported recommendations that would reduce higher education spending by upwards of \$20 million – with roughly 47 percent of the cuts being shouldered by UNM, even though we represent slightly more than 37 percent of higher education spending overall.

We all know that in these tough economic times, we'll have to live with less – but reductions should be fair and not disproportionate.

I'm also concerned about special projects funding for our ethnic student service centers, which do tremendous work in helping our minority students achieve the full measure of their potential. I consider them to be our top priority among special projects, and while I believe the ultimate answer is to fund them from Instruction and General Funding, I hope we can all work together to persuade our lawmakers to eliminate the special project cuts that have been recommended.

For these reasons, now, more than ever, is the time to pull together, put divisiveness behind us, and present a unified front in Santa Fe. Whether you're a student, a parent, an alum, a tenured or tenure-track faculty, an adjunct, a staff member, a Lobo friend or Lobo fan, there's one thing we can all agree on – it is in everybody's interest that UNM be treated fairly.

I have remarked to the campus and will repeat here that we may disagree among ourselves from time to time, but we all love this university and believe in the importance of its missions of teaching and research.

The fact that we are in difficult economic times was driven home again when Governor Richardson announced a new round of cost savings measures in addition to a wage and hiring freeze through June 2010. We likewise announced our own round of administrative cost cutting – a 15 percent reduction in non-academic, non-medical administrative spending

over the next three years, coupled with a commitment to hire 10 new tenure track faculty on main campus.

We are also freezing indefinitely my compensation and that of the executive vice presidents and vice presidents at current levels, as well as suspending salary increases for main campus non-academic administrators earning more than \$125,000 through the next fiscal year.



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As for deferred compensation, we intend to present a comprehensive new university-wide policy to the regents in April. At some universities, for instance, the Board of Regents must specifically approve the awarding of deferred compensation. We want to consider whether a similar approach – as well as other possible restrictions – would be wise here at UNM.

As we move through this difficult and challenging legislative session, let me just state once again how grateful I am to each of our constituencies – faculty, staff, students, parents and alumni – for your many contributions to this institution. You make significant sacrifices every day to improve the lives of our students, the advancement of knowledge and the alleviation of pain and suffering. Now is the time for each of us to join together to remind our legislators just how important those missions really are.

David J. Schmidly



UNM Day at the State Capitol



Pharmacy student Eleanor Carbett takes a blood sample from Ramona Garcia. UNM College of Pharmacy students provided glucose, cholesterol and blood pressure tests to capitol visitors.



Anderson School of Management featured the Su-Bear-U mascot in honor of the school taking first place in the Subaru Impreza Collegiate Challenge.



Art Kaufman, right, Family and Community Medicine director, talks with capitol visitors about HEROs, the UNM Health Extension Rural Offices.



UNM Provost Suzanne Traeger Ortega; Christopher Mead, dean, UNM College of Fine Arts; Beth Pitonzo, Central New Mexico Community College vice president for academic affairs; and Richard Borthwick, interim dean, CNM School of Communication, Humanities and Social Sciences signed an agreement to create a seamless transfer from CNM to UNM programs in art studio and art history.



Raquel Martinez, UNM financial aid officer, tutors a young girl at Atrisco Elementary.

UNM helps Albuquerque Reads raise literacy

UNM faculty, staff and students often go beyond the call of duty to fulfill the university's public service mission. UNM has been a continuous part of Albuquerque Reads' base of volunteer tutors since its inception in 2003, working with kindergarteners to raise literacy. This year, about 25 volunteers are affiliated with UNM. ■

Polli named first director of Interdisciplinary Film, Digital Media

Andrea Polli recently became the first director of UNM's Interdisciplinary Film and Digital Media Program. She joins UNM after serving as an associate professor of film and media and director of the Integrated Media Arts Master of Fine Arts Program at Hunter College. She received a Master of Fine Arts in time arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.



As a digital media artist, Polli has exhibited, performed and lectured nationally and internationally. She recently spent seven weeks in Antarctica on a National Science Foundation funded project. ■

UNM sees surge in applications

Applications to UNM have increased substantially as of Jan. 25. Compared with the same period last year, undergraduate applicants have increased by 13 percent, from 2,923 to 3,313, and graduate applicants by 24 percent, from 1,584 to 1,970.

Vice President for Enrollment Management Carmen Alvarez Brown attributed the increase in part to new recruitment strategies and improvements in communication, including regular emails providing information and reminders. ■

Professor featured in PBS 'Is that Skunk?'

Evolutionary biologist Jerry Dragoo was featured in part of a PBS Nature documentary, "Is that Skunk?" As urban areas expand, many skunks increasingly find themselves unwelcome neighbors. Dragoo runs one of the few sanctuaries for skunks. His segment told what life is like at the sanctuary. ■



Professors recognized for research

Anderson School of Management Professor Steven Walsh and Distinguished Professor of Physics Carlton Caves were recently recognized in two prestigious venues.

Caves was one of 32 American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellows recently elected in the physics section. Caves was elected for advances in understanding the physical laws governing information and in quantum information theory.

Walsh was named as one of the top 50 researchers in Technology Innovation Management by Elsevier Limited, the world's leading publisher of science and health information. Walsh is one of seven researchers who have maintained this status for an entire decade. ■



Student Union Building food service vendor Chartwells worked with a local chocolate historian to recreate a chocolate drink based on ingredients used by the Mayans for a tasting at the SUB. Upper left: Evidence of chocolate was found in these Chaco Canyon vessels.

Researchers find cacao in Chaco

UNM has received widespread coverage of new research by Distinguished Professor of Anthropology Patricia Crown showing that the inhabitants of Chaco Canyon were drinking chocolate in 1000 A.D. The research, done in conjunction with W. Jeffrey Hurst at the Hershey Center of Health and Nutrition, required grinding pottery sherds and analyzing them for theobromine, the biomarker for chocolate. It is the first time that cacao has been found this early in North America. Crown said the Chaco inhabitants carried on trade with the Mayans in southern Mexico and Central America.



Erin Hagenow, Presidential Scholarship Program director; Bob Lalicker, retired UNM development director; Heather Radosevich, sophomore; and Susan Deese-Roberts, Retiree Association president at the annual RA holiday party, where Radosevich was presented with the RA's first Presidential Scholarship. The Presidential Scholarship Program pairs students with donors. The RA funded scholarship was donated in honor of Lalicker and Charles Vickers.



Athletics, Special Olympics form partnership

UNM Athletics and Special Olympics New Mexico formed a partnership building on current special programming, clinics and camps.

UNM Athletics and SONM are in the planning stages of a statewide tour that will raise awareness and boost the fan base of both organizations. The partnership will also include a Play Day at the UNM Athletics Complex. The events contribute to the UNM Athletics Department's mission of engaging the community and involving Lobo student-athletes, coaches and staff in the life of the state of New Mexico.

Awards recognize student-athlete leaders

The winners of the L.F. "Tow" Diehm Inspirational Award for 2007-08 are Jeremy Johnson and John Sullivan, while Tori Clarridge and Katie Coronado are the recipients of the Leslie Self Inspirational Award. This is the 11th year the awards have been presented based on leadership, character, determination and commitment to team.

Johnson finished his collegiate career as one of the greatest long distance runners UNM has ever had and was a three-time All-American.

A former walk-on, Sullivan went from a virtual unknown to the third consensus All-America honoree in program history in the span of one semester in fall 2007.

Clarridge was a captain of the Lobo women's swimming team and a member of four UNM record-setting relay teams.

As a junior at UNM, Coronado finished second in the javelin at the 2008 NCAA Outdoor Championships with a school record throw of 179' 6."



Jose Benito Garcia's parents, Jose Benito and Charlotte Garcia, present a check to create a scholarship endowment in Benito Garcia's memory to UNM-Los Alamos Executive Director Cedric Page and Financial Aid Manager Yohanna Wiuff.

UNM-LA scholarship memorializes art student

UNM-Los Alamos received \$15,000 from the Benito Garcia Memorial Scholarship Foundation to set up an endowed scholarship fund in memory of UNM-LA art student Jose Benito Garcia.

Family members and friends of the foundation were instrumental in fundraising efforts. The university raised \$6,000 for the Jose Benito Garcia Memorial Scholarship, a fund started by the UNM-LA Student Government several years ago. These funds will be combined with the newly created endowed scholarship. ■

UNM endowment sees returns above national average

The UNM Foundation bucked the trend toward declining endowment returns in 2007-08. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, UNM saw a 0.7 percent return in a year when college endowments on average lost three percent. The figures were compiled by the National Association of College and University Business Officers. ■

HSC introduces palliative care program

Palliative care is a new medical specialty that focuses on the relief of physical, psychological, social and spiritual suffering which patients and families dealing with life threatening illness may experience. Palliative care providers work closely with a patient's hospital medical team to provide the best care possible by relieving physical and emotional symptoms, improving communication and decision-making and coordinating care across settings. The Health Sciences Center has introduced a new Palliative Care Section in the Division of Geriatrics. ■