

unm-g views

A quarterly newsletter published by the University of New Mexico-Gallup

2 students named to Academic Team



Michael Krueger, left, and Heba Almasri represented UNM-G in Santa Fe on Community College Day at the Legislature.

Two students from the University of New Mexico-Gallup were named to the All State Academic Team for New Mexico. They are Michael Krueger, a sophomore seeking an Associate of Arts degree in Journalism, and Heba Almasri, a sophomore pursuing an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts. Krueger and Almasri represented the college during Community College Day on Feb. 17 at the State Legislature in Santa Fe.

Krueger, a lifelong resident of Gallup and

a graduate of Gallup High School, contributes to the Campus Voice, the UNM-G student newspaper. A former intern with the Navajo Times, he also assists with Service Learning projects. He is seeking a minor in art, and enjoys painting and drawing and studying philosophy and religion. He hopes to have a career in journalism, and plans to go on to study for a bachelor's degree.

Krueger will work this summer in Utica, N.Y., for the Observer Dispatch on an internship from the Chips Quinn Scholarship Program. He maintains a 3.6 grade point average.

Heba Almasri will graduate this spring with an Associate of

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Ryan Sandoval, a UNM-G student, performed a traditional dance at the Legislature during Community College Day.

Various grants paving way for needed tech improvements

UNM-Gallup and McKinley County are working as partners to improve distance education and telemedicine in this area.

Robin Tice, Contract and Grant Administrator, reports that the college currently has two U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utility Service, Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants. A 2001 grant for \$482,420 was awarded with partners Rehoboth McKinley Christian Hospital (RMCH) and Gallup McKinley Mega Central (GMMC), while a second one was awarded in October for \$432,526 with partners RMCH,

Rehoboth Christian School, and GMMC.

The grants are for purchasing distance education and telemedicine equipment and software so that the McKinley County community will have access to college courses and medical care at rural sites within the county. RMCH has its telemedicine equipment installed and working. GMMC has their Smart Classroom equipment installed and in use. UNM-G installed two smart classrooms in Calvin Hall in preparation for a February a site visit by the federal grant monitor.

News of Note

LOCAL BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

It's official. UNM-Gallup has its new Local Board. The election was held Feb. 4.

Congratulations and welcome to the following board members:

Brett Newberry, Bill Bright, Theresa Dowling, Ruby Wolf and Ernest Mackel.

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From the Interim Executive Director



Beth Miller

UNM-Gallup is a caring institution of quality faculty and staff who are dedicated to helping our students succeed. Welcome to this quarterly newsletter, in

which we will inform you of our many initiatives and highlight programs and accomplishments.

Our campus is experiencing many "firsts." Our first elected Local Board takes office this month, and we are excited about working with them. Our enrollments this semester are the highest we've ever experienced--3197 students, plus about 1500 dual Basic Education, noncredit and upper division students.

UNM-G was also an integral participant in Gallup Day at the Legislature on February 7. We held our first United Way campaign on campus and raised several thousand dollars for this worthwhile organization. And we have just submitted our first Title III grant to the federal government. This "strengthening institutions" grant will help us improve services to our students by developing learning communities, by offering tutoring and other enhancement programs, and by providing curriculum and faculty development projects.

We are delighted to bring you this newsletter and invite you to visit our campus. We greatly appreciate the support of the community and will continue to work with you to provide quality educational opportunities.

Around the Campus

Stephen Buggie, Ph.D., published a book review of **Native American Postcolonial Psychology**, by Eduardo and Bonnie Duran, in the Fall 2002 issue of the *Journal of Third World Studies*. Dr. Buggie a professor of psychology on the UNM-Gallup faculty.

Floyd Burnham, Auto Body instructor, collision repair technician, reports that a new paint booth, purchased for \$40,000 from a Carl Perkins grant, is due for delivery to his department in May. The state-of-the-art booth is heated so students can work during cold weather; it maintains a constant tempera-

ture, and can go from 0 to 170 degrees in 60 minutes. It is also said to be 95 percent safe for the environment, with the ability to pull fumes down and filter them before they reach the atmosphere.

ALL ACADEMIC TEAM Continued from p. 1

Arts degree. Almasri maintains a 3.5 grade point average, and has worked several semesters for the dean of instruction's office at the college.

She is planning to continue with her education and get a bachelor's degree in pre-law. She enjoys baseball and kickboxing as pastimes.

Calendar

- Through April 11: Dennis Navrat, Printmaker/Papermaker, Ingham Chapman Gallery
- March 17-21: First Earth Week Activities
- March 24-28: Spring Break
- April 10: Open House, sponsored by Faculty Senate
- April 21-25: Second Earth Week Activities
- April 21-May 23: 11th Annual UNM-Gallup Student Exhibition. Ingham Chapman Gallery
- April 24, 8:30 a.m.: Faculty & Staff Appreciation Breakfast. Calvin Hall Auditorium
- May 15, 6 p.m.: Graduation, Gallup High School Gym
- May 17: Last day of spring classes.
- June 9: First day of summer classes.

UNM - Gviews

Published quarterly by the University of New Mexico-Gallup for faculty and staff.

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UNM-Gviews is produced by the UNM-G Public Relations Staff. Call 863-7565 to contribute news items.

- Linda Thornton**
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- Elsie Baldwin**
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Our Mission: UNM-Gallup develops lifelong learners in a context which is responsive to the cultures of this region.

Focus on the Math/Science Department

Peer Study Group helps students improve

For non-science majors, chemistry can be daunting. Dr. Kamala Sharma, assistant professor in chemistry, appears to have found a way to overcome her students' fears and for many, to help them get better grades.

Peer Study Groups are not new, but Sharma is the first to bring the concept to the UNM-G campus. During a previous teaching assignment at Dine College, Sharma used Peer Study Groups to encourage students to perform at a higher level than they could have expected otherwise. The results were significant.

Sharma meets with two classes of chemistry students three hours a week outside of class hours. The meetings are informal, with refreshments and a relaxed atmosphere. She tutors them, going over material they

didn't get in class, helping them with homework and giving more examples of problems than she could cover in class.

"They work out problems on the blackboard, balancing equations, helping each other in groups," Sharma explained. "They also learn time management."

Students who participate in the program are required to sign a contract that obliges them to attend regularly. Sharma, who is now into her fifth semester at UNM-G working with Peer Study Groups, says that at least one third of the students who attend regularly improve their grades by at least a letter.

"When they see the results, their eyes light up. They become more confident," Sharma says.

Mathematician/Poet makes the most of the gift of freedom

Coming of age in the Communist era of Rumania, Florentin Smarandache endured many things. A poet, writer and mathematician, Smarandache was denied the right to publish his work and forced to smuggle his manuscripts out of the country. In 1986, he was denied permission to attend an international mathematician's congress at Berkeley, and after launch a hunger strike, was denied the opportunity to work. Finally, in 1988, he escaped from Rumania, leaving behind his pregnant wife, his son and his parents. He lived two years in a political refugee camp in Turkey before finding his way to the United States.

Today, as an associate professor of mathematics at UNM-G, Smarandache is making the most of his freedom. He has authored, co-authored and edited 57 books. He contributes to more than 100 literary and 50 scientific journals. And, he is well known in the mathematics world as the author of neutrosophic logic. It's similar to the better known "fuzzy logic." Fuzzy logic, the processing of uncertain information, is the opposite of the "crisp" logic of

Aristotle and Pythagoras, which defines everything in precise, numerical values—"fuzzy logic" is said to better reflect reality. Neutrosophy, says Smarandache, goes fuzzy logic one better by explaining paradoxes, which fuzzy logic does not.

Coincidentally, Smarandache is the foremost proponent of "Paradoxism," an avant-garde movement that makes connections between literature, philosophy, art and science.

Smarandache also is co-chair of the **International Conference on**

Applications of Plausible, Paradoxical and Neutrosophic Reasoning for Information Fusion. The conference is set for July 8-11 in Cairns, Queensland, Australia. (smarand@unm.edu for more information.)

As a man who has known what it is like to live without liberty, Smarandache treasures his current freedom.

"My intense artistic productivity in America is in compensation for my hard time in Rumania," he says, adding, "Vive la liberté!"

UNM-G: Best view in town?



Visitors to Gallup often comment on the extraordinary geology they can see from I-40, and wonder how it came about.

Paula Watt, associate professor of geology at the University of New Mexico-Gallup, has found a way to help visitors and locals understand what they are seeing. Watt recently placed a plaque explaining a stunning slice of geology—encompassing Church Rock, various cross beds, and the Morrison Formation—in a strategic viewing spot on the campus.

In fact, Watt thinks the loca-



The University of New Mexico
GALLUP

200 College Road
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Don't miss the 11th Annual UNM-Gallup
Student Exhibition in
Ingham Chapman Gallery, April 21-May 23.

Pat Tso is winner of Enrollment Week computer giveaway



Patricia Tso, center, recently won the Gateway computer given away as an enrollment incentive during registration week. Tso is pursuing a Bachelor of Education degree at UNM-Gallup. At left is Harry Sheski, acting assistant-dean of instruction, and right is Tom Ray, director of Student Services.

BEST VIEW IN TOWN, Continued from page 3

tion of the cross section, situated facing northeast between the Health Careers Building and Calvin Hall, might be the prime scenic overlook in the area. She hopes that the Chamber of Commerce and other civic organizations will learn about the cross-section and the view and let visitors know about it.

"We have amazing geology here," said Watt, who explains that most of the more spectacular features of the landscape are the remnants of a time millions of years ago when the area was flat and swampy, and the climate tropical. Patterns of wet and dry prevailed and the region was defined by an inland sea. Through millions of years, the climate changed, and uplifting occurred.

Ancient sand dunes rose dramatically, and were eroded through the ages by wind and water. Today, we see these dunes along I-40 as enormous buttresses of Jurassic sandstone-highly resistant to erosion.

The cross section was created on computer from a digital photograph and two maps. Watt sent the image to a company in Albuquerque where the image was laser etched. Watt paid for the plaque with a mini-grant of \$2500.

Watch for the Summer issue of
UNMGVIEWS in June. Call 863-7563
to contribute news or feature ideas.