Mr. & Mrs. Joe DiGregorio (right) are joined by Al Henderson, Ken Van Brott and the recipients of the Basilio Di Gregorio Business Scholarships

The Commons area of Gurley Hall was hardly recognizable the evening of Thursday, March 6th due to its transformation into an elegant banquet hall. The Donor Appreciation Dinner, the first of its kind at UNM-Gallup, was organized to recognize and thank contributors who have supported UNM-Gallup from its earliest days to current time. Since its beginnings in 1968, UNM-Gallup has benefited from the generosity of many local citizens who have provided support that ranges from the donation of land to the funding of the many student scholarships available.

Beginning in 1969, the Gallup Lions Club donated their 5000-square-foot clubhouse for use as classrooms and offices and Lions Hall still stands high on the hill overlooking UNM-Gallup. In that same year the Gurley family donated 52 acres of land to be developed as a community college. Another example of the generosity of Gallup citizens came in 1981 when John & Martha Zollinger donated $50,000 to the library (now named Zollinger Library) in honor of their daughter Mary Ann. UNM-Gallup students have been the beneficiaries of locally-funded scholarships such as the Allen and Leone Rollie Nursing Scholarship, the Mary Ann Zollinger Memorial Scholarship, the Julia Palmer RN Memorial Scholarship, the Santana Andrade Memorial Scholarship, and the Basilio DiGregorio Business Scholarship, just to name a few.

According to event coordinator, Ara Green, “Feedback from the event has been very positive. Students were honored and privileged to meet the donors and for many it was the first time they had the chance to be introduced to their scholarship sponsors. The whole purpose of the event was to convey Dr. Dyer’s vision of a true community college. The turn out from the community was a big indication of the support we receive.”

UNM-Gallup was honored to host Regent Jack Fortner, President of the UNM Board of Regents as one of the banquet guests. Mr. Fortner flew from his home in Farmington to represent the Regents at this event and enjoyed many opportunities to connect with UNM-G supporters as well as students. Also in attendance was Bill Uher, Vice President of Development of the UNM Foundation, who had the chance to visit with donors, students and community members.

Donors continued on page 3
(Excerpts from speech given by Dr. Christopher Dyer at the UNM-G Donor Dinner, 3/6/14)

It is my sincere pleasure as Executive Director to welcome you with a big Gallup “Gracias” for attending our donor appreciation dinner!! This year our University of New Mexico-Gallup campus is 46 years young, and I feel very privileged to know many of you, to have greeted all of you, and aspire to leave this event tonight collectively counting you as friends of UNM-Gallup. Tonight we also celebrate being a vibrant part of the University of New Mexico academic community – a community celebrating 125 years of excellence and progress in higher education.

As I look around the room this evening, I am so proud to see many of our student scholarship recipients whose lives have been changed by the generosity of donors who realize the benefit of an advanced education. I see students who are the future of our community who might never have had the opportunity to transform their world with a college education. So I say thank you to the students for chasing your dreams and letting UNM-Gallup be part of your journey. I say thank you to our donors for supporting the dreams of our students and helping them to be successful.

Over the years the Gallup community, McKinley County, donors, citizens, faculty, staff, students, and alumni have all contributed to our growth and success. Throughout our history many have helped – with land, scholarships, buildings, service, teaching, and volunteering. Because of such support we are poised here today as an institution of tremendous potential and opportunity – on the cross roads of an evolving regional history and complex cultural heritage that has shaped our identity and purpose. Native American cultures of Pueblo, Zuni, and Navajo influence our curriculum, goals, and mission. As UNM-Gallup has the largest Native American enrollment of any non-tribal two-year college in the country, we also have a diversity of students and their cultures yet to be fully tapped (one of our recent north campus ESL classes – had 13 languages represented – not English!!!) Only 11% of our student population is Hispanic, yet around 25% of our county population is Hispanic. We intend to expand and further diversify our student population, to include more Hispanic, veterans, and potentially international students, and others of the diversity of cultures and futures that make up our broader community.

Yet our future must be one of embracing and adapting to the changes we face. Changes are occurring all around us – in community development, educational innovation, workforce needs and new career opportunities for students - changes that require brave and bold action.

One of my first - and ongoing tasks - when I arrived here was to reach out to groups of all kinds, and let them know we are here to help, listen and collaborate. And we have begun!!!

Thank you all – peace and blessings be with you, and good night!!
UNM-Gallup was clearly represented as a “community” college in every sense of the word as past, present and future supporters and beneficiaries gathered to celebrate the successes of our students and our institution. The first annual Donor Appreciation Dinner gave UNM-Gallup the opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the philanthropy of many who share our history, our vision and our mission.

**Medical Lab Technician Program**

Corine Gonzales, Instructor in the Medical Lab Technician Program at UNM-Gallup, may be relatively new to UNM-G, but she hit the ground running and hasn’t stopped since she took charge of the MLT program. Shortly after her arrival in the summer of 2012, Ms. Gonzales was tasked with initiating the accreditation process for the MLT program. In fact, she found out about the accreditation timeline on September 27, 2012, and was notified that the self-study was due on October 1, 2012! Ms. Gonzales was able to get an extension and faced the challenge with her usual quiet determination.

Once the intensive self-study report was completed, Ms. Gonzales had to prepare her students for the site visit that occurred this past October. According to her, “the site visit was the best part of the accreditation process. It was very positive, and nearly perfect.” During the site visit, the accreditation team reviewed curriculum, lab facilities, equipment, safety procedures, and talked with the faculty and the advisory board. The team also met with MLT students and Ms. Gonzales stated that the students were able to clearly demonstrate the positive impact the program has on their lives. The team also had the opportunity to meet with local lab directors.

UNM-G received a recommendation letter from the review team recommending accreditation for five years which would be until 2019. There will be an official meeting in April which should grant final approval.

Ms. Gonzales is allowed to admit a maximum of 12 students at a time into the 3-semester MLT program. She said it “breaks her heart to reject any of the applicants as they are all great, but our current lab facilities can only accommodate 12 students.” The class size is also driven by accreditation regulations regarding student to faculty ratio. According to Ms. Gonzales, “The employment rate will drive any future increases in class size. We must be aware of the workforce needs.” Students are in the classroom/lab setting for 2 semesters, and then are required to complete a 1 semester clinical practicum. Students then sit for the national certification exam (ASCP). The current pass rate for UNM-G students who take the exam is 100%. It is anticipated that most of the program graduates will quickly find employment. Ms. Gonzales coordinates with all of the local lab directors and says that “All hospitals are in need of lab techs. The Fort Defiance hospital is hiring most of our students. Our students are all really good and I have high hopes for them.”

Ms. Gonzales wanted to give special thanks and recognition to Michael Nye who is the Director of Laboratories for Rehoboth McKinley Christian Healthcare Services. Mr. Nye, former instructor in the MLT program, was hired to assist with the accreditation process.
Lobo Nerd Days at Area High Schools

Insisting that school can be cool, some UNM-G faculty members are stressing the importance of math, science and English to area high school students by taking their tutoring program on the road with Lobo Nerd Days. According to Faculty Senate President, Erica McFadden, the Lobo Nerd project is being piloted at area high schools to give students some extra assistance with their studies and also impress on them the importance of continuing their education beyond high school. The first Lobo Nerd Day was held at Miyamura High School and according to Ms. McFadden, “It was a huge success! We tutored a total of four classes. One teacher commented that he had never seen the group of students as productive as he saw them that day and then later told me that the students asked when we were going to be coming back because they enjoyed it so much.” Gallup High is next on the schedule for Lobo Nerd Days. The current Lobo Ners are:

* Dr. Frank Amankonah, Assistant Professor of Mathematics
* Ms. Ann Elizabeth Jarvis, Principal for the Center for Career and Technical Education (CCTE)
* Dr. Carolyn Kuchera, Assistant Professor of English
* Ms. Erica McFadden, Assistant Professor of Transitional Studies/English
* Dr. Matt Mingus, Assistant Professor of History
* Cindy Ogden, Director of Zollinger Library
* Dr. Bridget Ray, Assistant Professor of Biology

Iron Warrior Fitness

Loren Anthony of Iron Warrior Fitness will be presenting a workshop at UNM-Gallup that will include a high intensity workout, as well as instruction and encouragement on fitness, training and dieting. The workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30, 2014 from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM in the gymnasium. In addition to being a motivational speaker, Mr. Anthony is also a vocalist/bassist for Bloodline, an NPC bodybuilding competitor, a NASA power lifter, actor and comedian. He studied at Northern Arizona University and works closely with at-risk youth. For more information on the Iron Warrior project, please contact Mr. Anthony at (505) 488-4106.

Human Services Students Visit the Round House

Students from Dr. Sylvia Andrew’s Introduction to Human Services class had the chance to see politics in action when they visited the state legislature early in March to discuss House Bill 66 with Representative Mimi Stewart of Bernalillo County. Rep. Stewart, author of HB 66, introduced the legislation whose intent was to provide revised specifics for high school graduation in New Mexico, with a provision for graduating seniors to receive either a New Mexico General Diploma or a New Mexico Diploma of Excellence for those students meeting additional requirements.

Dr. Andrew’s students had been given the bill the first week of class and had spent time throughout the beginning of the semester debating pros and cons of the bill. Vanessa Leonard, Ty Kay, Elizabeth Dempsey and Danielle Lasiloo traveled to Santa Fe with Dr. Andrew and were able to discuss the bill with Representative Stewart who was impressed with how much the students knew of the bill, its purpose, and the importance of addressing low graduation rates in New Mexico.

While HB 66 died on the legislature floor, the UNM-Gallup students had the chance to research a serious New Mexico problem, discuss the merits of proposed legislation, meet Representative Mimi Stewart and intelligently present their arguments both for and against her legislation.

From left to right Elizabeth Dempsey, Danielle Lasiloo, Rep. Mimi Stewart, Vanessa Leonard, Ty Kay

The new Faculty Lounge was dedicated by Dean Neal Mangham on February 24, 2014.
The MarriottAnaheim inAnaheim, California provided the venue for the "Journey Into the Future" Conference of the National Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs. Irene Den Bleyker, Associate Professor and Division Chair of Education, Health & Human Services presented during the Successful Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teacher Education Students session. This workshop consisted of a panel discussion sharing successful practices, partnerships and practices for the recruitment and retention of minority students. The panel of experts from around the country also shared strategies for addressing barriers to minority teacher education students as well as means of identifying prospective teachers.

Division Chair Den Bleyker and Dr. Lewis Gambill, Assistant Professor, also represented UNM-Gallup at the conference by a presentation of their workshop titled Tools of Survival and Success. This session enabled conference participants to practice specific strategies to foster student success and retention. Best practices discussed included mentoring, organization, engagement and ways to better prepare students to attain their personal educational goals.

Below is a copy of an article written by Irene Den Bleyker in the January 20, 2014 edition of Community College Week that addresses the same issues regarding challenges to minority students:

“The University of New Mexico-Gallup (UNM-Gallup) is the largest branch campus of the University of New Mexico and serves a population that is diverse in a number of different ways. The student population is approximately 80 percent Native American and of those Native American students, nearly 80 percent are Navajo. UNM-Gallup is designated as a Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institution by the U.S. Department of Education and covers a vast, rural area that includes parts of the Navajo Nation and the Pueblo of Zuni.

UNM-Gallup students face a number of educational barriers. A large number of students qualify as low income. Most students are first-generation college students, live in geographic isolation and in many cases have limited access to Internet, electricity and running water. Another barrier is the large number of students who enter UNM-Gallup academically under-prepared. For the fall 2012 semester, results of student placement tests placed 79 percent into remedial English, 82 percent into developmental reading and 93 percent into a math remediation class.

UNM-Gallup is committed to placing an emphasis on the PK-14 continuum and is currently partnering with the Navajo Nation, the Pueblo of Zuni, and the Gallup-McKinley County School District through a variety of means to ensure that recruiting, advising, retention, and instruction practices are being implemented to support the minority population. Some of these initiatives include Campus Caravan recruiting trips to schools and chapter houses, the Lobo Academy experience for incoming freshmen, TRIO Student Support Services and the celebration of Native American Month. UNM-Gallup just elected a new Miss Native UNM-Gallup who is an ambassador and model for current and prospective students. All of these programs are geared towards the successful recruitment and support of our minority student population.

Specific to our education programs, UNM-Gallup supports the Navajo Nation Head Start program through special recruitment days, data tracking, and analysis specific to these students. Because of the excellent working relationship with the coordinators of the Navajo Nation Head Start office, UNM-Gallup is able to align education courses with the needs of the students by scheduling weekend and condensed course sequences.

UNM-Gallup works closely with the dually enrolled high school students attending the on-campus Center for Career and Technical Education to identify students interested in pursuing an education degree. Students are enrolled in a "discovery" class through which they can observe and experience classroom situations. Students are then asked to evaluate their interest in the field of teaching and are advised on successful strategies to pursue their interest. These initiatives have proved beneficial to our diverse student population and have increased awareness and interest in the field of education.”

Cool Things on Campus

• Call 505.863.7505 for the College Store (Books and more!!)

• Hungry?

Have lunch at the Chili Factory Express, Gurley Hall

• Go to www.gallup.unm.edu to Friend us on Facebook and keep up with our news
Nursing Student Exchange

Spring break for students can mean anything from a welcome break from classes to a trip to an exotic location for some well-earned rest and relaxation. For six of our UNM-G nursing students, this past spring break meant being part of an exchange program with Doylestown Hospital in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Through the Bucks County-based Americans for Native Americans (ANA) UNM-G students rotated through various clinical opportunities including catheter lab, intensive care unit, emergency room and the maternity center. ANA is a non-profit organization which has been very generous to our nursing students through their funding of scholarships and NCLEX testing fees. The mission of ANA is to educate Native Americans to provide medical care in their own communities and to address educational and financial barriers many nursing students face. Nurses from Doylestown Hospital will visit New Mexico in September to learn about Native America culture and participate in several community service projects.

From left to right Michelle Kellywood Yazzie, MSN, RN, Sheldon Lester, Andrea Barry, Letecia Williams, Gwen Sorrell, Tonia Martin, Dacia Cunejo.

Change Labs

The idea for the “Change Labs” event at Dine College on March 28th came from the Rural Entrepreneurial Expo pioneered at UNM-Gallup by Lecturer Al Henderson. While the Expo has been very successful, Mr. Henderson wanted to take the event to a new level by creating a more hands-on event. The library at Dine College in Shiprock provided the locale for Change Labs which offered interactive workshops to about 100 young entrepreneurs and business people. The goal of the event was to provide assistance in overcoming obstacles faced by entrepreneurs trying to start or expand businesses on the Navajo Nation. Representatives from companies such as Facebook and Google came together to instruct young entrepreneurs in areas such as web design, small-scale agriculture opportunities and creative funding options.

Co-organizing the event with Henderson was Heather Fleming, CEO of Catapult Design, a design firm located in San Francisco. Originally from Tuba City, Arizona, Fleming would like to see members of the Navajo Nation benefit more from technological innovations such as interactive websites and smart phone applications. The creative team of Henderson and Fleming sees enormous potential for young business people on the Navajo Nation. They hope to instill a philosophy of positive change that will harness resources and talent and help overcome many of the challenges faced by young Native American business owners.
UNM Gallup gets fit!
Spotlight on UNM-Gallup honored employees

Several employees of UNM-Gallup are being honored this year for years of service to the University. They were each asked to provide a brief history of their time with UNM-Gallup and describe changes they have seen.

**Lorraine Hood:** Anyone who has had issues with their computer knows that Lorraine is very great at her job and is very calming when addressing IT problems. Lorraine was hired in 1987 as a lab aid in the Business Management Department. She then went on to become a User Support Analyst III in the Information Technology Department which is a position she still holds today. The changing landscape is the biggest difference Lorraine has seen in the campus, “I have seen many changes – construction of the library, Gurley Hall, Health Careers Center, Nursing Center, Child Care Center/Physical Plant and the SSTC building.” Lorraine likes working with the faculty and staff and notes that no two days are the same. “I like what I am doing in IT Services. My work has been different each day.”

**Linda Begayne:** Linda came to work for UNM-Gallup 20 years ago as an Instructional Aid for the AVS high school students. Three years after that she went to work for a new program called “Leadership McKinley” where she stayed for 9 years, and was then hired as an Administrative Assistant II in the Business Technology program. When asked what changes she has seen at UNM-Gallup, Linda notes “I was still using a typewriter until we got computers and our department had more full-time and part-time instructors. We had 27 business vocational education classes that were offered in the AVT (Area Vocational Technology) lab.” What is Linda’s favorite thing about UNM-Gallup? “I like being a LOBO fan! I like working at a college as diverse as UNM-Gallup. I also like working with the people and the students.”

**Dr. Gloria Dyc:** Our institution has been dramatically transformed since I arrived in 1988. We began to develop a strategic plan and program review, and accreditation reports; these had been performed in a perfunctory way. Additional duties were added to our work load when Outcomes Assessment was mandated across the board from our "flagship" institution. When I first arrived, I remember having the time to sit at Pee Wee's and have a piece of her homemade pie, laugh and talk with fellow faculty members. No more. But I have to add this: as a single mother who Chaired the Department of Arts and Letters on and off for 11 years, publication was extremely challenging. I have published 22 poems, some are included in my collection EAST, WEST AND BEYOND. I have published twelve short stories, and this past year I completed a novel BLUE DETROIT, which is under consideration at Wayne State University Press in Detroit. This year has been very productive: I've published in BRICK/Rhetoric 2013, WAR, LITERATURE AND THE ARTS 2014, GARGOYLE 59 2013, 200 New Mexico Poems (forthcoming, UNM Press) PARAGRAPHITI 2014, and today I received acceptance from a new west coast publication. Learning about Navajo oral tradition, and attending a few ceremonies, has been extraordinarily rewarding. I have mentored students who are now functioning in the professional world: that is gratifying. Overall, we are positioned for growth, and I am hopeful for the future of our campus.