WELCOME BACK!
Staff rolled out the red carpet for new students on Welcome Day, held the first day of classes on August 25. From left, DeeAnna James, Annette Bennally, Monica Francesco and Anita Yazzie relax and enjoy some refreshments provided by Achieving the Dream, the grant initiative aimed at student success. Other activities included live music, a deejay, drawings, and a blessing for a good year by three local religious leaders.

College Plans 40th Anniversary Celebration
UNM-Gallup will celebrate its 40th anniversary on Thursday, October 16, at 9:30 a.m. in the Commons of Gurley Hall. Among the expected guests are UNM president David Schmidly and Marc Nigliazzo, vice president in charge of Rio Rancho operations and branch academic affairs, as well as several of the founders and original “friends” of the college, previous college directors, community leaders, educators, government officials and many more.

Among the founders to be recognized are the following:
• Ernest Becenti Sr. -- Becenti was responsible for a motion in 1967 by the Gallup-McKinley County Board of Education to hold a district-wide tax levy to support a branch college.
• The late Clair Gurley (represented by son Pat Gurley) -- The Gurley family donated four parcels of land, totaling approximately 70 acres, to the UNM-Gallup campus, which allowed the school to expand to its present dimensions. The main college building, Gurley Hall, built in 1974, was named after the family.
• Louis “Eddie” DePauli -- DePauli was a district judge who also served on the Advisory Board that advocated starting a community college in Gallup.

NEWS OF NOTE
Education Bond D To Be Voted on November 4

New Mexico’s voters will go to the polls with the rest of the nation on November 4 to decide on the next president of the United States. Closer to home, however, voters throughout the state will be deciding on several issues that will have impacts in their local communities, including Education Bond B and D.

The outcome of Bond D will determine if voters approve $139,900,000 in funds for institutions of higher learning statewide. Right here at home, McKinley County voters will be asked to approve $900,000 for UNM-Gallup to make much-needed infrastructure repairs.

Bond D is paid for by a modest property tax assessment of about 29 cents per year per $1000 of a property’s taxable value. For example, citizens will pay $9.77 per year on a property with an assessed value of $100,000. Those with properties assessed at $250,000 will pay $24.43 per year.

Barry Cooney, interim executive director of UNM-Gallup, has encouraged local voters to be sure to register and vote for the bond issue, which is located at the end of the ballot. Acknowledging that bond issues can be a tough sell in a slow economy, he urged local citizens to turn up at the polls and finish the ballot by voting on Bond C (library acquisitions) and Bond D.

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INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S NOTES

Since my arrival in April of this year, I have been focusing my attention on making significant improvements in the quality of service that we provide for our students. Some of these services include how we advise students about the choices they make when enrolling in courses, extending operating hours in our financial and food areas to address the needs of our students taking evening classes, improving our registration procedures and making sure that we offer the highest quality of instruction. All of these things require constant attention and fine tuning.

One of the most important items, namely improving the aging infrastructure of our buildings, is a job that can only be accomplished through the active support of the citizens of Gallup-McKinley County.

That’s why we’re promoting the passage of Education Bond D on the November 4 General Obligation ballot. If passed, Education Bond D will provide UNM-Gallup with $900,000 -- critically needed dollars to engage in much needed improvements to our campus buildings.

The cost to our citizens is minimal -- roughly the amount that it would cost to take your family to a movie on any night of the week.

I’ve been told that this year Education B and D will appear at the end of the ballot. And many voters have the habit of not reading all the items that appear toward the end.

Therefore, I urge you to “get the word out” to all your friends and neighbors and support Education B (for library acquisitions) and D.

Remember that investing in our institutions of higher learning is an investment in our children’s future. So as you can readily see, this is an important concern to our campus community.

Have a great fall!

Head Count, Credit Hours Up 5 Percent Over Fall 2007

UNM-Gallup is reporting a 5 percent increase in both credit hours and head count for fall 2008, up 5 percent over fall 2007. The figures were recorded on September 12, the third Friday of the fall semester, and the day when colleges take an official enrollment census to report to the state for funding purposes.

Last year’s student credit hours at this time were 24,098, while this year’s student credit hours at census were 25,341, for an increase of 1,243 student credit hours or 5 percent. Last year’s student head count at census was 2,691, while this year’s is 2,839 -- up 148 students for an increase of 5 percent.
40th Anniversary, Continued from p. 1

- Ferrel Heady -- The president of the University of New Mexico, Heady met with legislators to request support of the UNM-Gallup Branch as the college was being formed.
- Van Dorn Hooker -- Director of the Architecture and Planning Department of UNM from 1963 to 1987, Hooker was responsible for having the design perspective of the UNM-Gallup Campus in place prior to final approval.
- Robert Lalicker -- A UNM employee from 1956 to 1984, Lalicker served as administrative assistant to President-Elect Ferrel Heady and was assigned to assist Gallup in starting a branch campus.
- Paul McCollum -- A tireless ambassador of UNM-Gallup in its formative years, McCollum set up a Chamber of Commerce committee to establish a branch college in Gallup. He was a member of the campus’s Building Advisory Committee when it was formed in 1971, and was key in promoting a 1967 feasibility study for a branch college in Gallup.
- Eric McCrossen -- Editor of the Gallup Independent in the late 1960’s, McCrossen loaned his editorial support to a publicity campaign in favor of the college.
- Walter Wolf -- A UNM regent from March 1968 to December 1972, Wolf set up procedures so branch students could gain access to duplicate volumes and research materials from UNM’s library through the Gallup High School Library during the first years of the college’s existence.
- The late Harvey Whitehill -- Executive manager of the Gallup Chamber of Commerce, Whitehill was instrumental in promoting the first mill levy election to benefit the college. He traveled throughout the state to promote the school, and rallied citizen support for the college. He also assisted in the 1967 feasibility study.
- The late John Zollinger -- Owner of the Gallup Independent, Zollinger used the newspaper to drum up support for the college. He also met with legislators in Santa Fe and officials at UNM to lobby for support.

Others to be recognized include several “friends” of UNM-Gallup, including Octavia Fellin, Martin Link, Sally Noe, Martha Zollinger, as well as former Advisory Board members Barbara Stanley, J.R. Thompson, Ruby Wolf and Carmelita Sanchez.

Additionally, several individuals who have played a significant role in UNM-Gallup’s history will be recognized, including the late Bob Adamson of the Gallup Lions Club; the late Bob Allen, former Mayor of Gallup and an Advisory Committee member; the late Jack Chapman, former Advisory Board Chair; Bill Lewis, Gallup Lions Club, the club that donated the building now used for Community Affairs; the late Wayne Lewis of the Gallup Lions Club; the late Jimmy Miller, Gallup Schools administrator and Advisory Committee member; Gilbert Rangel, first graduate of UNM-Gallup; Boyce Russell, first instructor at UNM-Gallup; the late Chester Travelstead, former UNM Vice President; the late L.O. Yandel, Gallup High instructor and director of the first college classes at Gallup High.

Also to be recognized will be the past executive directors of UNM-Gallup, including the late Calvin Hall, Dr. Donald A. Gatzke, Dr. John Phillips, Dr. Robert Carlson and Dr. Elizabeth Miller.

The celebration will start with music and dancing by the Fernando Cellicion Dancers of Zuni, followed by introductions and recognition. There will be tours, refreshments, and a presentation of a special UNM-Gallup historical exhibit in the Gurley display case, created by UNM-Gallup adjunct instructor Martin Link.

7- to 8-week CDL Training Available Locally

UNM-Gallup offers a variety of non-credit classes through its Community Education Department, and one of the most sought after is its seven- to eight-week training course leading to a Commercial Driver License. Many careers are open to owners of a CDL, including the trucking industry, which starts drivers from $30,000 to $40,000 a year.

Income eligible persons can get this training paid for through the Navajo Department of Workforce Development or the Zuni Education and Career Development Center. Students can enroll anytime for the seven weeks of classes. The first two weeks are held at UNM-G Lions Hall for classroom work and the next five weeks are held at the sports complex for the actual driving. About 30 students completed the class in 2007. Call Jimmy Gonzales at 863-7738 for more information.
By LINDA THORNTON

Holding his nose as he passed the used grease receptacle of the college canteen every day for years, Chris Chavez, an instructor with UNM-Gallup’s Construction Tech program, had a sudden inspiration a few months ago. Why throw away all that used cooking oil, year after year, when he could be converting it into fuel to use in his program? He and fellow instructor Rick Krouth put their heads together. After studying the surprisingly easy process for turning cooking oil into fuel, they purchased a biodiesel processor – a $2400 system marketed as a “Freedom Fu-e-ler.” Nowadays, they’re churning out biodiesel for 50 to 75 cents a gallon in sufficient quantities to run all the machines in their program, including the adobe making machine, a flatbed dump truck, tractors, welders and others. Further, making their own fuel means they don’t have to take time or expend energy going to the gas station for a fill-up.

“There are also fewer emissions with this method,” says Krouth, who has already started giving demonstrations on biodiesel fuel making at the college and around the area. He’s also teaching that you don’t necessarily have to purchase an expensive processor – anyone can make biodiesel fuel right at home, agitating the lye and cooking oil mixture while sitting in front of the television at night. At present, the only hitch in the process is finding enough used cooking oil to convert. The instructors are looking into collecting the oil from local restaurants, and say that even the oil with food particles in it is suitable for processing.

But the biodiesel production is just one facet of what the two instructors see as a brave new effort to help UNM-Gallup – and the surrounding area – go green.

“The trend in construction is green,” Chavez said. “You can’t open a magazine or a newspaper without it saying something about going green, and it’s time for us to offer course work that supports that.”

To that end, the instructors are developing a certificate program in alternative (sustainable) energy. They already have courses in solar adobe construction and building green as part of the approved curriculum.

Krouth is currently teaching a class on building adobe homes, instructing students on the principles of passive solar, much like those employed by the ancient Puebloans: houses of rock and mud facing south, with sun hitting the rock in the morning and the heat radiating into the coolest parts of the building by evening.

Chavez in turn is teaching how to build more sustainably in terms of recycled materials, downsizing living space, energy efficiency and better air quality.

“We’re discussing active energy systems, such as converting sunlight into electricity, heating hot water for geothermal heat rather than blowing hot air into the house, and wind power,” he said. Chavez has already built houses with radiant floors, where the heat radiates three to four feet off the ground, providing sufficient heat for human comfort at about 62 degrees. (If the feet stay warm, the rest of the body doesn’t need higher temperatures to feel comfortable, Chavez explains. That means you can keep the thermostat much lower than with conventional heating). The instructors are focusing on the concept of using locally available materials whenever possible. For instance, bamboo...
Tony Major has joined UNM-Gallup as Director of Business Operations. Major, who comes from Flandrau Science Center in Tucson where he was associate director for finance, has extensive accounting experience. He has also worked as a controller for Loma Catalina Company in Tucson and accounting manager for University of Arizona Bookstores. Major has an MBA from Moravian College, Bethlehem, Penn., and a bachelor’s degree in accounting/business from Desales University, Center Valley, Penn. “The appointment of Mr. Tony Major as director of business operations here at UNM-G is a welcome event,” said Barry Cooney, interim executive director. “His presence will allow us to continue to improve the quality of both our budgetary review process, as well as the full array of financial services which we provide to our students and staff.” ... John Zinnerman, assistant professor of art and the manager of the Ingham Chapman Gallery, recently won a jurors’ award in the exhibition “Clay Continuum III” in the Space Gallery in La Vista, Colo. He also won an award in the show “Through Feminist Eyes”, which showed in UNM’s Masley Art Gallery of the College of Education, and which was juried by Judy Chicago and Meinrad Craighead. ... Teresa Wilkins, professor of anthropology, and Gloria Dyc, professor of English, both gave readings of their work at the New Mexico Women Authors’ Book Festival in Santa Fe on Sept. 27, at Milner Plaza on Museum Hill. Dyc read from her book of poetry, “East West and Beyond”, while Wilkins read from her non-fiction book on Navajo weaving, “Patterns of Exchange: Navajo Weavers and Traders.” Dyc and Wilkins were among 75 New Mexico women authors in fiction, poetry, history, art, biography, children’s books and other categories to participate. ... Florentin Smarandache, was recently promoted to professor of Mathematics. The chair of Math and Sciences since June 2007, he also presented a three-hour tutorial with colleague J. Dezert on “Advances and Applications of DSmT for Information Fusion,” at the Fusion 2008 International Conference in June-July in Cologne, and also presented a paper with Dezert on “A New Probabilistic Transformation of Belief Mass Assignment (DSmP),” at the same conference. ... Kimberly Becenti, daughter of Alana Grey-Becenti, a UNM-Gallup bookstore clerk, and Bill Becenti Sr., was nominated as an All-American Scholar. A student at Wingate High School, Becenti was nominated according to the United States Achievement Academy’s criteria that requires scholars to excel in academic disciplines and earn a 3.3 or higher grade point average.

GREEN CLASSES

flooring is trendy now because it’s a sustainable resource – a fast growing grass. However, it is grown, harvested and processed in China, shipped across the ocean in a container ship, trucked to locations such as Gallup – all these steps resulting in a huge “carbon footprint.” For that reason, said Chavez, it makes more sense for builders in Gallup to look into local materials that are easily available.

“For instance, I dig a hole, and with all that dirt I take out, I can build adobes,” Chavez said. “Unfortunately, adobe building is also labor intensive. You have to consider all these factors. It’s complex.”

One labor-saving building method that Chavez believes shows particular promise for this area is that of using structural insulated panels, made of strand or wafer board and plastic foam – a lightweight material with insulation value almost twice that of fiberglass, and which can cut labor costs as much as two-thirds through cutting out several steps in the building process.

In addition to the ongoing classroom discussion, Chavez hopes his students can learn about building green – and particularly the topic of energy efficiency – by talking to the architects and contractors planning a new building at the college.

Students often enroll in Construction Tech to gain skills they will need in building their own houses. And while the green classes will certainly help them do this in a more efficient way, Chavez also wants to show students things they can do in pre-existing houses, from insulating more efficiently with recycled or biodegradable materials such as ground-up newspaper or ground-up cellulose, to using paint with low volatile organic compounds that give off less gas emissions than other kinds of paint.

Krouth recently started teaching students about using recycled materials – including what comes from old houses that are being “deconstructed.”

“In the past, contractors would tear down houses and send everything to the landfill,” he says. Now, Krouth is having his students work on deconstructing some houses donated by the city, recycling the materials in their classes for projects.

Next spring, the instructors will be promoting all these concepts at the second annual UNM-Gallup Home and Garden Show, planned for the end of April.

For more information contact Chavez at 979-0204 or Krouth at 863-7560.
Adult Basic Education Program Reports Highlights for 2007-08

In its report to the State of the New Mexico Higher Education Department, UNM-Gallup’s Adult Basic Education program reported on activities for the 2007-2008 college year.

Some of the highlights of the report:

• A total of 913 students were served
• ABE hosted a northern area partnership meeting in October 2007 in conjunction with New Mexico Workforce Connection and the Department of Health and Human Services to form the collaborative Northern Area Workforce Development Board. Subsequently, ABE made presentations during new client orientations of ABE services at the Gallup offices of the Department of Health and Human Services.
• Student recognition activities were held in partnerships with Student Services and the ABE department.

Zollinger Library Creates Blog Site for Reviews

The Zollinger Library has announced the creation of a blog site for reviews of newer books in the library.

“Well be posting a review each week, hopefully, along with short descriptions of other, similar books. We're trying to highlight one young adult book in these short descriptions, too,” said Rachel Beah, library chair.

The new link to the site on the main Zollinger Library website that recently went live is http://zollingerlibrary.wordpress.com/

• GED graduation rates increased from 54 in 2006-07 to 101 in 2007-08.
• Student retention increased from 63 percent in 2006-07 to 67 percent in 2007-08
• Tutors from Zuni and the Northside campus meet at UNMG weekly to develop workshops for their individual centers, focusing on reading, writing, mathematics, social studies and science.
• The English as a Second Language program launched in 2006 served 30 students. Beginning and intermediate classes in grammar, vocabulary, listening, comprehension and conversation were held. In August 2007, the program hired a professional ESL and linguistics part-time instructor. Books and audio and video materials in Arabic, Spanish and Chinese were provided.
• Held an open house recruiting day on August 31, 2007.
• Held a Day of the Dead celebration on November 2, 2007, for people of Latino heritage.
• Hosted a graduation ceremony in December 2007. ESL students achieved level gains in beginning literacy of 6.25 percent. Better testing procedures for ESL students are being developed.
• The rate for ABE students entering employment upon completion of the program was 30.77 percent -- a decrease from the previous year, but one that may be accounted for because more students may be continuing their education.