New Mexico voters will go to the polls November 2 to decide on $155.2 million in funding for capital improvements at institutions of higher education and constitutional special schools throughout New Mexico. UNM-Gallup is due $1.4 million of that funding, if passed, for construction and improvements to Zollinger Library, including completing lower level shell space.

Also at stake is Library Bond B, which, if passed, will provide UNMG with about $40,000 for its library acquisitions, including books, reference materials, media, software and equipment.

The General Obligation Bond D is funded by a modest property tax assessment of about 30 cents per year per $1,000 of a property's taxable value. For example, citizens will pay $9.98 per year on a property with an assessed value of $100,000. This minimal tax is designed to have a large impact because nearly every institution of higher education in the state will receive funding for much-needed improvements.

“Passage of the bond issue will allow UNMG to complete the shell space in the lower level of the library,” said Sylvia Andrew, executive director. “Plans for the estimated 5,500-square foot basement include additional meeting space, student study areas, expanded shelf space and a possible special collections area. Completing the basement will also require a new HVAC system and lower level access. Our library is not only used by students but our local community has found the library a wonderful place to study and learn. We encourage Gallup McKinley voters to vote ‘yes’ on the GO Bond.”

For more information about Education Bond D, visit www.EducationinNewMexico.com.

Absentee voting for the measure will be Oct. 5-30, while early voting will be Oct. 16-30.

View from the College: Tiles Tell the Tale of Earth’s Formation and Evolution of Life

The view from Health Careers on the UNMG campus is notable for being spectacular, but thanks to a new display of ceramic tiles running along the sidewalk in front of the building, passersby will have a better opportunity to understand the scope of Earth’s history.

The tiles tell the story of Earth’s 4.6 billion-year history, including the evolution of life. The display runs from north to south, with the northernmost tile representing the time that the Earth formed, and the tiles progressing to more recent times moving south. Scaling all of Earth history to the length of the wall, the tiles were then placed at the appropriate position to depict what was occurring on Earth at that point in time.

The tiles were designed by Paula M. Watt, professor of geology, and were funded through a UNMG mini-grant. A geology and ceramics student, Beverly Bitloy, created the tiles under the supervision of ceramics instructor John Zimmermann, who advised on the choice of tile material and paints to accommodate the outdoor setting, and also fired the tiles.

“People are not in the habit of thinking of time in terms of millions and even billions of years, so the display was constructed to help people visual-
We are already well into the fall semester, with every week bringing new challenges and changes. For my fall message, I’d like to focus on just a few of those.

First and foremost I’d like to bring your attention to the General Obligation Bond election on November 2. As explained on page 1 of this newsletter, UNMG stands to gain $1.4 million for completion of our Zollinger Library shell space, as well as $40,000 for library acquisitions. We realize that in economic times such as these, property owners will be sensitive to even minuscule rises in taxes. As you consider your vote, I would ask that you keep in mind that our library and its resources -- books, wireless connection, DVD’s, reference works -- are not only used by our students, but also the entire community. We hope all voters will consider carefully the benefits of passing this measure.

There are some new developments in regards to the old Lions’ Hall structure. Voters passed in 2009 a G.O. Bond issue that provides $4 million of the $8 million needed to raze and rebuild a new structure for community education. The building will also help support partnerships with the county. We recently went to the Legislature and asked what we could do with $250,000 of the $4 million we were seeking to complete the project. While we could use this sum for planning, we would obviously need significantly more funding to complete the project. We continue to seek a way to fund the rest of the project.

Our search for a new dean is well under way. We have appointed Dr. Teresa Wilkins, professor of anthropology, and Tom Kaus, associate professor of math, and the faculty senate president, to head the dean search committee. The search committee at this writing were deciding whom among the applicants to schedule for a phone interview. In the interim, the following individuals have agreed to serve as co-deans: Jeannie Martinez Monaghan, a professor in Health Careers programs, and Chris Chavez, a lecturer in Construction Tech. We appreciate the willingness of these two individuals to serve until we have a full-time dean on board.

Meanwhile, construction on our new classroom building/tech center is on target with an estimated completion date of next August. We are certainly looking forward to the completion of this building and the relief it will bring to crowded conditions. We will also be able to reclaim some parking spaces and alleviate some of our parking issues.

It’s an exciting time for UNMG, with credit hours at an all-time high and head count close to our 2004 record. Obviously, full enrollment is the ideal for which we strive; and yet, the reality of budget cuts is presenting us with challenges to reduce costs while serving more students. We have had many thoughtful discussions in recent weeks about how to meet these challenges, and I will be talking more about our plans in the winter issue of the newsletter.

I wish you all a pleasant fall, and to our students, a successful semester.

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ize the age of the Earth, and how relatively recent complex forms of life are on Earth,” Watt said. “If all of Earth’s history is shrunk down to fit along the length of the wall outside of Health Careers, the extinction of the dinosaurs seems only moments ago.”

Also assisting with the display were Ron Petranovich, physical plant manager, who helped with site selection and made some design suggestions for displaying the tiles. Joe Sanchez, welding instructor, along with his students, welded the frames, mounted the tiles and written descriptions, and installed them in the current positions.
College Again Awarded Funding for TRiO/Student Support Services Program

The U.S. Department of Education recently notified the University of New Mexico-Gallup that the college has once again been awarded funding for its TRiO/Student Support Services program, a federal re-educational opportunity outreach program designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The award is for $1.2 million and will run for five years. The award for the coming year, through August 31, 2011, will be $242,753.

UNMG is one of 11 colleges in New Mexico funded for TRiO/Student Support Services. There are 906 programs nationwide.

“We succeeded by meeting our intended outcomes and producing a grant application worthy of funding,” said Carol Bartlett, program manager. “To receive funding for another five years in this present economy and decreasing availability of federal funds is a monumental feat.”

UNMG Chosen as Remote Supercomputing Site; Will be Available to Public

The University of New Mexico-Gallup is one of 28 sites chosen to participate in a new program that extends the power of supercomputing to remote access points strategically placed at every public college campus in the state.

Campus officials met with Gina Tanner, a coordinator with the New Mexico Computing Applications Center in Albuquerque, recently to sign a memo of understanding with the Gateway program, an outgrowth of the Governor’s success in acquiring the fastest publicly available supercomputer in the world for New Mexico, known as Encanto.

The remote sites will help communities and colleges far away from the supercomputer, which is housed at Los Alamos National Laboratory, take advantage of technology for diverse purposes, including education, research, environmental studies and community and economic development.

The free equipment, which will be given to UNMG and other remote sites by the state’s Department of Information Technology, or DoIT, will be available not only to UNMG users but also K-12 students, businesses, government organizations and whoever else in the Gallup community might need it. Users may be asked to pay a fee to recover the college’s costs for housing and overseeing the use of the equipment, although most likely school groups will not be charged.

Some of the uses the Gallup branch might make of Gateway: teleconferencing, distance education, scientific research, health careers and nursing studies, and video or film education. Community uses, in addition to those by local school children, might include business conferences, arts presentations, research and development for science or business and film production. Tanner said that conceivably, aspiring local actors might even audition for parts in a play or movie for a director in Albuquerque.

This TRiO program has been in place at UNMG since 2001 and has served 550 students during that time. The program seeks to remove social, academic and cultural barriers to obtaining a college education. The targeted population for TRiO/Student Support Services must be any of the following: enrolled or admitted for enrollment, first generation, low income, have a disability or must have academic need. In addition, the student must have scores from a college placement test at or above Math (25), Reading (62), English (32).

UNM-Gallup’s TRiO/Student Support Services Program serves 160 students, working with them intensely in tutoring and personal, academic and career advisement.

“Our strength is providing an array of services that to date, has resulted in an 80 percent average retention rate, with 85 percent of students served remaining in good academic standing,” Bartlett said.

NMCAC will install the equipment this fall and follow up with training for designated individuals on campus. Quarterly training will be offered to the persons in charge of the equipment, and a user module will be available for public or college users.

NMCAC provided the following description of the capability of the system that will be installed at UNMG and at other campuses across the state: “The Gateways will be equipped with a set of desktop computers that, in conjunction with the large 3D stereo monitors, can be used to bring new capabilities into the classroom: the use of simulations to help students understand the impact of climate change, teaching emergency medical procedures by streaming 3D high-definition films; being able to rotate and view works of art in high definition 3D; engineering courses with 3D stereo CAD-CAM.”

As Tanner pointed out, studies show that students’ ability to learn appears to be greatly enhanced by the use of 3D images.

The equipment will come with a one-year manufacturer’s warranty. For two years thereafter NMCAC will be responsible for replacing hardware. After the first three years, said Tanner, NMCAC will strive to provide either continued support, or if possible, to replace the Gateway equipment purchased by the state.

“The equipment and supercomputing capabilities will allow faculty to use this technology in their classroom, while the campus community will have opportunities to collaborate and network with colleagues not only in New Mexico but around the world by clicking a button,” said Sylvia Andrew, executive director. “We are particularly excited about sharing this technology with our community. The possibilities are endless.”
Chili Factory Serving Up Southwestern Fare on UNMG Campus

UNM-Gallup has a new restaurant on campus. The Chili Factory opened on August 23, and has been serving patrons Southwestern fare similar to that at owner Bernadette Radcliff’s two other locations, at Zecca Plaza and Rio West Mall.

Hours are Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Radcliff has been in the restaurant business for 30 years in Gallup, having started out in 1980 with the Kachina Kitchen.

Radcliff also invites neighborhood residents to stop by and sample the menu.

From left: Yvonne Peña, Paul Gulick, Joe Arriola (Radcliff’s fiancé); and owner Bernadette Radcliff. Not shown are Chris Suzuki, Roxana Tom, Casey Petranovich and Justine McMillan.

Florentin Smarandache, professor of mathematics, worked as a research professor at ENSIETA (National Superior School of Engineers and Study of Armement), in Brest, France, over the summer. He was also awarded a Telesio-Galilei Academy of Science Gold Medal for 2010, at the University of Pecs, Hungary. Presentations to conferences over the summer included the following: “An Introduction to Information Fusion Level 1 and to Neutrosophic Logic/Set with Applications,” ENSIETA; “Advances and Applications of DSmT for Information Fusion,” ENSIETA; “Threat Assessment of a Possible Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device using DSmT,” by J. Dezert, F. Smarandache, Fusion 2010 International Conference, Edinburgh; “Fusion of Sources of Evidence with Different Importances and Reliabilities,” by F. Smarandache, J. Dezert, J.-M. Tacnet, Fusion 2010 International Conference; and “α-Discounting Method for Multi-Criteria Decision Making (α-D MCDM),” by Florentin Smarandache, Fusion 2010 International Conference.

... Executive Director Sylvia Andrew has been appointed to serve on the New Mexico Indian Education Advisory Council. Susanna M. Murphy, secretary of education, noted in her letter recognizing Andrew that “You exhibit the knowledge and credentials essential to providing the kind of leadership required to guide the New Mexico Public Education Department’s work in addressing the complexity of issues related to improving the education of American Indian students in New Mexico.” The NMIEAC works with the Interim Assistant Secretary of Education for Indian Education, Barbara J. Alvarez, and the Indian Education Division of the New Mexico Public Education Department, to formulate plans and recommendations for policies, programs and legislation to address the needs of American Indian students.