The 2014 graduation ceremony was held on Monday, May 19th and UNM-Gallup was proud to honor a total of 470 graduates. About 350 of those were in attendance and walked across the stage to receive their hard-earned certificates or degrees. The wind may have been howling and stirring up dirt on the floor of the Red Rock Park Arena, but the spirits of the UNM-Gallup Class of 2014 could not be dampened even as the graduates struggled to keep their mortarboards from blowing off of their heads.

The graduates were led into the arena by Grand Marshals Dr. Matthew Mingus and Dr. Lewis Gambill. The local Veterans Helping Veterans group assisted with the Presentation of the Colors while Executive Director Dr. Christopher Dyer sang the National Anthem. Master of Ceremonies for the event was Dr. Neal Mangham, Dean of Instruction. Commencement speakers included Dr. Dyer, Mr. Edwin Begay (advisory board chairman), the Honorable Ben Shelly (President, Navajo Nation), the Honorable Arlen Quetawki (Governor, Pueblo of Zuni), and Cody Jansen (Miss Intertribal Indian Ceremonial Queen and UNM-G student). Other platform guests included Dr. Tomas Aguirre (UNM Dean of Students), Dr. Monica Orozco-Obando (Vice Provost, Extended University), Ms. Heidi Overton (UNM Board of Regents), and Dr. Wynn Goering (Special Assistant to the President for Branch Affairs).

The students honored at the ceremony included those receiving New Mexico High School Equivalency Diplomas, Middle College High School graduates, and recipients of Certificates, Associate’s, Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees. In his keynote speech, Dr. Dyer delivered the following words to the graduates, their families, friends and guests:

“Welcome, Kenshi, Yatahey, Bienvenidos: It is a sincere pleasure to welcome you all to our 46th graduation ceremony. It is my great honor to preside over this joyous event for so many of you who may be the first in your families, the first in your generation, first in your community to earn a higher education degree, certificate, or GED at UNM-Gallup. This accomplishment is one of many that make up the flow of life – our path from creation to creator. I would like to share with you some points of this flow – points that I think can be wisdom we can share, keep in our hearts, and pass on to others.

- Being Born: your soul and where it comes from
- Getting raised – parents and family
- Learning your culture and language
- Becoming a real person: Live by kindness, respect and trust
- Being open to the teachers in your lives – parents, siblings, school teachers, coaches, friends, even nature itself. All teach us the ways and pulses of the world and life as true human beings.

Graduation continued on page 3
Life and the Experiential Memory

When I was an aspiring scientist of 6th grade rank, I clearly remember a field trip our science class took to view the night sky. We had an eight-inch telescope, a camp fire, and a youthful wondering about a satellite crossing over head. The Milky Way was bright in the sky as the new moon gave us great dark-light contrast. I remember that evening as if it was yesterday. It reinforced my love of science and the outdoors, which played a part in my career choice to become a biologist/anthropologist. Here at UNM-Gallup, we also aspire to provide similar life-changing opportunities and memories for all of our students. Some programs, such as nursing, provide built-in experiential opportunities. Others, such as art, are experiential by nature. Experiential education also means local-based real-word education- best done hand-in-hand with those businesses, non-profits, and citizen groups working to improve the quality of life of our Gallup community.

In our recent visit from the eleven person New Mexico Arts and Culture advisory team, ideas coalesced in the strategy to bring UNM-Gallup downtown- particularly as opportunities for student entrepreneurs to engage with local businesses as interns and apprentices. This would serve multiple goals (1) it will give students resume-building hands-on experience, (2) it will strengthen our campus-downtown ties and communications, (3) it will allow for innovation of new experiences and joint community events such as the Arts Crawl, (4) it will increase awareness of our students of the community and the community of our students- laying a foundation for further collaboration, employment opportunities, and community building, and (5) it will provide important opportunities for “soft skill” development for our students.

As students venture into the world, they clearly need well-developed “soft skills” – best developed in experiential settings. I find this term a bit amusing, as “soft skills” - leadership, teamwork, oral communication, ability to follow directions, a strong work ethic – are often difficult to develop, particularly if not academically programmed. As a sage once said, “your education can get you your job, but your soft skills are what keeps you your job.” We as an institution of higher education should work to insure every student we graduate has had soft skill opportunities. Those that do so are more likely to have a clearer idea of a desired career path, to get and keep a job, and are more likely to be successful wage earners and community leaders of the future. Reflecting back on my own life path, experiential events and soft skill opportunities stand out as strong memories and “lessons learned” that contributed to my own success as a professional. We all need our own night sky to remember as we reflect on our individual “forever” moments.

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Education is a life-long adventure, a journey that never ends. To quote Mahatma Gandhi, ‘Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.’

Finding your passion – do not let the ‘nay sayers’ of the world put out your life flame. Use today as a bridge to tomorrow and thank all those who have come before. Our ancestors live in and through us. Celebrate yourself. Let your mind and body live in happiness every day. Walk in beauty every day.

And as you seek your future remember these two quotes from two great leaders. To again quote the great Mahatma Ghandi, ‘Become the change you would like to see in the world,’ and in the words of the great basketball coach Jimmy V (Valvano) ‘Don’t give up–don’t ever give up.’ Thank you all, congratulations and live a full life!”

**Former UNM-Gallup Students Reaching Great Heights**

Many UNM-Gallup students graduate from our campus and go on to realize even greater accomplishments. Dr. Paula Watt recently had the opportunity to celebrate some of these special achievements with two of her former students. Both April Longhair and Crystal Tulley were students of Dr. Watt’s who also did undergraduate research with her during their time at UNM-Gallup.

April recently completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Earth and Planetary Sciences with a minor in Chemistry. Dr. Watt was in attendance for April’s graduation and notes, “All BS graduates must complete a minimum of 1 year of college chemistry, 1 year of college physics, and 1 year of calculus along with all their geology classes. April did it all while being a single mom and working part time at a position I helped line up for her at Los Alamos National Laboratory. In June, she will start working for them full time.”

Crystal was also in attendance at April’s graduation providing a great reunion for the two students and their former professor. Crystal is currently attending the University of Utah where she is pursuing a PhD in geoscience. These two UNM-Gallup alumni are wonderful success stories who have shown a strong commitment to education and have made their first geology professor very proud of them. “I’m so proud of what they have both accomplished and that they have helped and supported each other.”

**CDL/ Heavy Equipment Graduation**

Commencement ceremonies were held on Friday, May 23 for the nine graduates of the first Zuni Pueblo class of Commercial Driver’s License and Heavy Equipment Operators program. The celebration took place at the Zuni Wellness Center and honored the participants who completed the 20 week program which consisted of 8 weeks of training in commercial truck driving, and 12 weeks of instruction in heavy equipment operations. Josh Lucio and Bernadette Panteah of the Pueblo of Zuni provided welcoming comments followed by addresses by Dr. Christopher Dyer of UNM-Gallup and Arlen Quetawki, Sr., Zuni Pueblo Governor. Certificates were presented to the graduates by program instructors Jimmy Gonzales and Charles Kline. The festivities also included student speeches, a performance by Zuni dancers, and a catered banquet. The CDL/Heavy Equipment graduates were: Gerald Coonsis, Rodney Coonsis, Jonathan Dewa, Richard Brathwaar-Garcia, Brandon Haloo, Brandon Laate, Tiffany Sanchez, Octavius Tuscon, and Clybert Zunie, Jr. The program was run through the Community Based Education & Workforce Development Division and was developed and managed by LD Lovett, Sonny Moore, Louise Lopez and Denise Silva.
Campus Kudos

Irene Den Bleyker, Education, Health and Human Services Division Chair, has been elected to a two-year term as Secretary for the National Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs (NACCTEP). Her new term will begin July 1, 2014. According to NACCTEP Executive Director Kimberly Tobey, “Ms. Den Bleyker has brought extensive expertise and leadership to our Board and will continue to serve a significant role in shaping the future of the Association for community colleges nationally.”

Jayme McMahon, Program Manager for the UNM-G TriO program, was recently selected as Secretary for the state association known as TriO New Mexico. The Officers of TriO New Mexico serve on the Executive Board for the regional association known as the Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs (SWASAP). Jayme travelled to Dallas, Texas in April to attend the SWASAP meeting where she was able to share stories of success from the UNM-Gallup program, and bring back new information and practices to improve services to our TriO students.

The Colorado Associated Press Editors and Reporters (CAPER) recently presented their 2013 awards for Excellence in Journalism. Robert Galin, Assistant Professor of English and Communications, received first place honors for his part in the team coverage of missing teenager Dylan Redwine. The story received national coverage.

Students Learn Real Life Skills Through Technical Writing

Students in Professor Robert Galin’s Technical and Professional Writing class (ENGL 219) have the opportunity to use their writing skills in real world applications, and often for the greater good of the community. In his spring semester class, Mr. Galin’s students created non-profit organizations and were asked to create grant applications, websites and other marketing materials as well as develop business plans. From the hard work of the students emerged the creation of the following organizations:

- **Project Safe House Resource Center** to help those suffering from abuse, mental illness or homelessness.
- **Lifetree Prosthetics Solutions** to provide free and low-cost prosthetics devices to members of the Navajo Nation who have lost limbs in war or civilian life.
- **The Rising Stars Club** for afterschool programs that focus on preventing diabetes, obesity and school drop-out.
- **Homeless Heroes** to provide long-term temporary housing, counseling and job services for homeless veterans.
- **Unique Care** focusing on services for special needs (developmentally disabled, etc.) youth enrolled in high schools throughout the region.
- **Artistic Alliance of Revolutionary Thinkers (AART)** whose goal is to provide local artists with a place to do their art, as well as workshops, exhibition assistance, and earnings development.
UNM-Gallup Professors Reach out to Area Students

Dr. Yi-Wen Huang, Assistant Professor of English & Linguistics visited Tohatchi Middle School in April and provided Chinese Mandarin language and culture classes to the 6th and 8th grade students. According to Dr. Huang, “The students were interested in learning Mandarin and asked questions about how to say ‘I love you,’ or ‘Navajo,’ or ‘fry bread’ in Mandarin.”

Serena Willie’s 5th graders and Chandra Touchine’s 3rd grade class from Jefferson Elementary School recently made a field trip to UNM-Gallup where they had the opportunity to experience some “hands on” science with UNM-Gallup professors. Dr. Paula Watt helped students look for leaf fossils by showing them how to use special tools to open rocks to expose the flat surfaces within where several specimens were found. According to Ms. Willie, “Students have been looking up geology information as part of our geology unit. The students are very excited—Dr. Watt is always so good to us.”

In the chemistry lab, Dr. Kamala Sharma told the 5th graders that “Science is all about questions. You must be curious about things. Chemistry is about trying different things to see how it works.” The students observed and participated in several experiments with Dr. Sharma, guessing what color mixtures would turn, and discussing why a dollar bill drenched in a particular chemical would not burn when set to a flame.

Seven years ago, Samir Wahid invited a group of 5th and 6th graders to campus to participate in a math and science program. Today that program is still strong and has grown to include sessions in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Drafting. Approximately 30 students at a time qualify to visit UNM-Gallup, based on their academic performance, and are treated to an interactive day looking through microscopes at slides, viewing a chemistry experiment, participating in both a physics demonstration of gravity and a hands-on session in computer-aided drafting. Students are also given information on possible careers that have a basis in math and science such as engineering, architecture, biochemistry, and medicine. Helping Mr. Wahid to promote the students’ interest in math and science have been Dr. Bridgette Ray, Dr. Kamala Sharma, John Burke, and Chris Platero.

Dinners for 12 Strangers

The “Dinner for 12 Strangers” program was started this spring as a means of giving UNM-Gallup students the opportunity to connect with alumni, faculty staff and supportive community members in a casual setting. There is no agenda for the evening, but there are ample opportunities for communication and sharing of ideas.

There were two Dinners to date, and both offered attendees the chance to meet new and interesting people connected to UNM-Gallup.

Dinner for 12 Strangers continued on page 6
The first dinner was hosted on Friday, April 4th at the home of Wyatt and Janine Stiger. The Stigers opened their home for a Southwest History themed evening which included a wonderful Mexican buffet as well as a display of southwest artifacts and a fascinating talk from Wyatt (Student Services Advisor) on how his degree has impacted his life and inspired a passion for history.

The second dinner was co-hosted on Saturday, May 17th by Ken Van Brott and Ara Green. This event had a theme of Fine Arts and was attended by local artists and others interested in promoting culture and arts in the area.

If you would like to host or attend any of the future “Dinners for 12 Strangers,” please contact Marilee at mpetrano@unm.edu or 863-7770.

UNM-Gallup Supporting the Local Community

The faculty and staff of UNM-Gallup spend quite a bit of time supporting causes in the local community through donations of their time and talents. The Staff Senate participated in the Super Hero Bowl sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern New Mexico on Saturday, April 26 at the Gal-A-Bowl. Team members raised funds for this worthy cause and then had a great time participating in the Bowling Tournament. Team members included Carmen Wellborn, Suzette Wyaco, Jacqueline Wendleton and Marilee Petranovich.

At the Annual Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services Health Fair students and faculty members of the UNM-Gallup Nursing Program participated by checking blood sugar levels for Fair visitors. The Health Fair was on Saturday, May 3, 2014 at the Rio West Mall. Pictured from Left to Right are: Sheldon Lester, Lucinda Martin, and Sherry Quintero-Davenport. The UNM-G Student Services Department also hosted an informational booth at the Fair.

On May 7th at Sammy C’s Rock N’ Sports Pub and Grill, the Gallup Rotary Club honored Jacelyn Luranc-Sweeney as runner-up for Senior of the Year and awarded her a scholarship to continue with college at UNM-Albuquerque. Jacelyn recently graduated from Middle College High School with her Associates in Liberal Arts. She was also honored as the MCHS Senior of the Year.
By: Laura Jijon

Shawn Ashley and Laura Jijon of the UNM-G Adult Education Program recently attended a national planning retreat in Maryland hosted by ATD 4th World Movement, an international organization dedicated to the eradication of poverty through education and the arts. The organization is respected around the world and has representation at the United Nations.

The staff first became aware of ATD 4th World when two of their volunteers from Peru enrolled in the ESL class offered at North Campus. Soon it became apparent the work of ATD and North Campus dovetailed. The shared values of respect, community, education, art, and friendship provided the perfect foundation for a collaboration that would enrich the services both groups provide to the area.

Since the collaboration began, the adult education program has been able to offer a variety of art projects which help students express themselves, tell their stories, honor their pain, celebrate their creativity, and beautify their community. With the experienced guidance of ATD 4th World volunteer Vladi Pino, our students have created a lovely art gallery at the entrance to the Adult Education Center at Zuni campus, murals in our classroom at the county detention center, and a mosaic—in process—on the walls of the entryway at North Campus.

Because ATD 4th World wants to continue and expand their work in this region, and because Shawn and Laura work closely with the local team, they were invited to the national planning retreat—first time New Mexico has ever had a delegation at the gathering. The retreat included delegations from the urban areas of New York, Boston, and New Orleans as well as the rural areas of Appalachia and Gallup.

As final preparations for the trip were being made, the local ATD 4th World leaders requested that Shawn and Laura plan a theatre workshop. (Both Laura and Shawn use theatre in their classrooms.) They decided to structure the workshop around Navajo storytelling tradition—participants needed to create hero journeys told only through movement and silence. Movement and silence were used as media, both to serve as a counterpoint to the way the modern world bombards us with noise and words, but also to allow everyone attending to be fully involved since it was a multilingual gathering (in addition to English, French, Spanish, German, Swahili, Arabic, and for the first time, Navajo were spoken—thanks, Shawn!) The theatre pieces created were poignant. The audience and actors had tears and everyone felt so moved by the “workshop” that it was concluded with multilingual blessings.

One of the most meaningful experiences of the retreat was that the delegations from Appalachia and New Mexico immediately felt an affinity with each other. Facing similar challenges—poverty, isolation, violence, illiteracy—and possessing similar resources—natural beauty, traditional cultures, generous people—the groups began working together to develop a cultural exchange between their respective regions, including a “sister city/sister county” relationship as well as having groups from Appalachia travel to Gallup and having UNM-G students travel to Appalachia.

Shawn and Laura would also like to express their appreciation to the local 4th World team—Vladi Pino, Charo Carrasco Cuba, Fannie Leroux, Karen Stornelli, and Ben Fehsenfeld for the invitation and for organizing such a worthwhile retreat. Also heartfelt gratitude goes our UNM-G family who helped make the trip possible including LD Lovett and Dina Dominguez who assisted with funding and documentation, and Bryston Bowannie, Dawn Martinez, and Loretta Yazzie, who filled in at North Campus while Laura and Shawn were gone!
Skills USA Competition

Students from both the UNM-Gallup Center for Career and Technical Education and Miyamura High School competed in April at the New Mexico Skills USA competition hosted in Albuquerque. Quite a few of the Gallup students received top honors. Those receiving gold medals are eligible to travel to and participate in the national competition which will be held in Kansas City, Missouri in June. The results were:

**Culinary/Baking:** 2 Bronze Medals  
Chondra Gray/CCTE Culinary Arts

**Restaurant Service:** Silver Medal  
Briana Chee/CCTE Culinary Arts

**Team Welding:** Silver Medal  
Brandon McFarland, Steven McCreight, Daniel Jymm/CCTE Welding Tech

**Chapter Display:** Gold Medal  
Valeen Largo/Miyamura High School

**Open Skills Demonstration:** Gold Medal  
Andrew Baldonado/CCTE Culinary Arts

Other students participating were:

**Individual Welding:**  
Holly Notah-Begay/CCTE Welding Tech

**Skills Demonstration:**  
Jake Pearce/CCTE Culinary Arts

**Culinary Arts:**  
Kevin Hardy/CCTE Culinary Arts

**Construction:**  
Andres Escamilla

Congratulations!!