Habitat House

UNM-Gallup’s Construction Tech program has been coordinating the building of a Habitat for Humanity house on the North Side. Rick Krouth, an instructor with the program, is shown (center) edging a concrete slab, while Chris Chavez, right, chair of the Applied Tech Department, looks on. Anyone who wishes to help may call Krouth or Chavez at 863-7523. (See more Construction Tech news on page 3.)

Dr. Bush’s Environmental Sociology Class Launches Campus Recycling Program

The University of New Mexico-Gallup is one of the area’s biggest generators of recyclable materials, but up to this point, efforts to dispose of items such as aluminum, cans, paper, newspaper and rechargeable batteries have been negligible to non-existent. But that’s set to change, thanks to Caleb Bush, an assistant professor of sociology and history, and his Environmental Sociology class.

Part of the course work includes a service learning project that engages the students in a pilot recycling program for the campus.

“We’ve been busy devising strategies, planning what we want to recycle, and figuring out where we should recycle,” said Bush.

It’s not as if you can just start collecting recyclable materials without a plan in place as to where to deliver them, and individuals identified who can deliver them, Bush explained. “It takes a lot of planning.”

The class homed in on four items to collect: aluminum cans, white paper,
From the Executive Director’s Desk

By BETH MILLER, Ed.D.

As usual during the spring, we’re stepping up the pace to finish objectives set for the year. One of the most important of those objectives is to expand partnerships with local educational agencies in the area of dual credit. Dual credit is an arrangement whereby high school students earn college credit while taking certain courses at their high school taught by high school teachers. These teachers must meet standards for teaching at a college level. We’re continuing to grow our dual credit offerings in area high schools in both the Gallup McKinley and Zuni school districts, as well as in private schools. Thus far, we have partnerships with eight schools, with plans to expand that number. At present, we offer such classes as Freshman English, Math, Spanish, Chemistry, Biology, and Career Tech courses such as Construction Tech and Auto Tech, as well as College Success. Further, we have a capable new coordinator, Ann Jarvis, who is also principal of the CCTE program, and who is set to increase colleges served and course offerings over the next few semesters.

I’d also like to take an opportunity here to mention a new concept introduced by our Director of Student Services, Paul Kraft, this spring: the mini-mester. We have of course always had short semesters, from a few days to eight weeks in length, but this spring, we’ve beefed up the offerings and we’ve put greater emphasis on marketing this mini-mester as a convenience to our students. It makes sense that for many working people, a mini-mester can be more doable than committing for 16 weeks. We hope to continue to offer significant and extensive courses offering during the mini-mester, both in the spring and the fall.

Additionally, our Workforce Development efforts are resulting in a planned training schedule to be publicized soon. We’ve had a class that offered certification in boilers, and are soon to offer a series in Employment Law, with the first class being Hiring and Firing Legally. Other classes will be customer service, mentoring and coaching skills, project management, communication skills, conducting performance appraisals, handling difficult situations, behavior, attitudes, how to motivate employees, leadership skills, team building, anger management and customer service.

Finally, I’d like to mention that UNM-Gallup is now celebrating its 40th year; stay tuned to our news releases for information on how we intend to recognize this landmark in the fall.

Recycling, Continued from p. 1

newspaper and electronics such as rechargeable batteries and cell phones.

Ron Petranovich, manager of the Physical Plant at UNM-Gallup, and a student in the class, is helping the effort by securing bins so the class can place them and plan collection.

The students are currently working on an advertising campaign to make sure faculty, staff and students know about the recycling effort.

“We’ll be putting up signs that say things like ‘Go Green, UNMG’ around campus to get people curious,” Bush said. “We’re starting small, and then will see about expanding later. We’d like to recycle plastic. We generate a lot of plastic on this campus. The problem is no one local takes it.”

Ultimately, says Bush, he would like to contact recyclers in Albuquerque and expand the UNM-Gallup effort to other materials besides the three mentioned above. “Recyclers in Albuquerque should be eager to get into a contract with us if there’s money to be made,” he added.

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UNM-Gviews

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Our Mission: UNM-Gallup develops lifelong learners in a context that is responsive to the cultures of this region.
Gloria Dyc, Regents Scholar and Professor of Arts and Letters, gave a poetry reading at the Bowery Poetry Club in New York City on February 2. She read “Shot Down So Young,” a poem written for oral performance rather than the written page. ... Florentin Smarandache, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Chair of the Mathematics and Science Department, was invited as a speaker with Dr. Salah Osman, to present the paper “An Introduction to Neutrosophic Logic in Arabic Philosophy” at Minufiya University, in Shebin Elkom (near Alexandria), Egypt, on December 16. Smarandache also published a book in Arabic Neutrosophy in Arabic Philosophy”, along with Osman, the translator. The 418-book was published by Munsha’t al-Ma’arif Publishing House, Jalal Huzie & Partners, Alexandria, Egypt. The book is available online at: http://www.gallup.unm.edu/∼smarandache/ArabicNeutrosophy-ar.pdf. ... The University of New Mexico-Gallup Construction Technology Program is now accredited through the National Center for Construction Education and Research. The program also partners with the Associated General Contractors of America or AGC. “We are offering the consumers, contractors, students or currently employed workers an opportunity to take advantage of what this accreditation and the association with AGC offer,” said Rick Krouth, an instructor with UNM-Gallup’s program. “The accreditation is nationally recognized and the AGC maintains a database of certified workers. Those involved with the accreditation and with the AGC work for ensuring a community-advised program in our college, with the basic goal of promoting and improving the construction industry as a whole.” The result, says Krouth, is that designers, builders and workers in a community can better serve the consumer. The program encompasses three facets: training and certification of construction workers; internship or “On The Job” training with local builders; and partnership with the AGC as an advisory board. For instance, a local firm, Murphy Construction, is one of UNM-Gallup’s AGC partners. “In the future, buildings and the local labor force can take advantage of the higher level of professionalism that UNM-Gallup supports in its Construction Tech program, as well as in-service training to help our local labor force keep up with advancements and change,” Krouth said. “Workers can upgrade training from entry level through terminal degrees.” For more information, contact Krouth at 863-7560. The Construction Tech program provides training for a variety of trades, including manufacturing, electrical, carpentry, general construction, plumbing, and even how to run one’s own construction business. The program can provide entry-level training or update training in modern construction methods for more experienced carpenters and other persons in the building trades.

AQIP Teams Continue With Accreditation Research

By Robert Hoffman, AQIP Coordinator

In January, the Systems Portfolio teams and Action Project teams met to report progress. The AQIP Systems Portfolio Category teams have been investigating, researching, and developing answers to the illuminating questions in each category. Several teams have created Wikis (small scale web pages) to collect and share their information amongst themselves and with the campus. Team 6, Supporting Institutional Operations, has also created a blog that is open to the entire campus community to elicit their input on operations in our organization.

The Action Project Teams (Enrollment Management, Governance and Decision Making, and Technology in the Classroom) all reported progress. Participants in the meeting discussed a tendency toward conflict of effort between discovering information and a need to take immediate action. The AQIP Director suggested that teams focus on the objectives of the exercise. In Systems Portfolios, Category teams need to report answers to the questions to complete the Systems Portfolio. As they discover process gaps, they should share critical needs with appropriate campus units for action. In Action Projects, teams need to accomplish the objectives of the registered project. New action projects can cycle into place as old projects retire, and these can be offshoots of existing projects or respond to needs uncovered in the Systems Portfolio process.

At this point in our highly accelerated effort to infuse AQIP into UNMG and produce our first Systems Portfolio, we, predictably, need to maintain tight focus and move forward in the writing of the nine category sections. We also need to accomplish the objectives of each action project, retire each project, and, in consultation with the Executive Director’s Staff, the Strategic Planning Committee, and the Faculty and Staff Senates register new action projects to keep the cycle of continuous improvement rolling.
MCHS Students Look Beyond High School Toward Career Goals

Now in its seventh year at UNM-Gallup, the Middle College High School figures as one of the college’s greatest success stories ever. Chartered to appeal to students who were either home-schooled or had dropped out and wanted an alternative to public or private school, MCHS has proved a valuable educational resource for our local community. MCHS consistently reaches its cap of 50, and there is always a waiting list.

The majority of the students who have enrolled in MCHS over the past six years have reached their goal of earning college credit while graduating from high school, and many have gone on to pursue college degrees, either at UNM-Gallup or other institutions.

Over the years, among the students at MCHS there have been a variety of personalities, motivations, skills and goals. Following is a look at four current MCHS students, all scheduled to graduate this May, and all of whom typify the kind of high-achieving student that MCHS has become known for.

Jared McBroom

Home-schooled students choose MCHS for varied reasons, but for Jared McBroom, it was an opportunity to make up for a setback in middle school and to graduate in 2008.

“The Middle College High School gave me a chance to catch me up to my original class. It was convenient,” said McBroom.

McBroom was surprised to find that not only would he be able to graduate with his class, but that an Associate’s degree was also in reach as he began to close in on completing his high school course work. As of May, he will be within six hours of attaining an Associate’s degree in General Studies. At present, he is still making up his mind as to whether he wants to complete the Associate degree, or go on to work in his family’s plumbing business.

An intensely social 17-year-old, McBroom says one of the things he hated about being home schooled was the isolation. He found that situation improved at the MCHS, although he admits he’d have probably had a more lively social life in public school. That said, however, he says he’s also glad that he “got away from high school drama.”

Zac Courtois

Zac Courtois is one of the MCHS students who have earned
Two UNM-Gallup students have been nominated to the All USA Academic Team for community colleges. They are Darryl Day Chief, a sophomore studying Information Technology, and Brittany Showalter, a student in the Bachelor of University Studies program.

Day Chief, who has been on the Dean’s List for the past three semesters, studies at home while looking after his daughter and while his wife works. In addition to Information Technology classes, he has studied business management. After he receives his Associate Degree in IT, he hopes to pursue a Bachelor of Business Administration degree at UNM.

“I grew up in southern Alberta, Canada, on the Blood Reservation,” said Day Chief. “I was raised by my mother Judy and my late grandmother Lucy. I would go everywhere with my grandmother and they are the big reasons that I wanted to pursue a good education. I have been here in Gallup for about six years; I have a beautiful wife, Alana, and a two-year-old daughter, Violet Rose. They both motivate me to do well in school. We have been on our own for a while now and we have adjusted to living independently.”

Brittany Erin Showalter, of Fort Defiance, is Navajo and her clans are Tóʼaheedliinii, Tséʼnį́į́ʼkį́į́ʼ, Tódlį́į́ʼzhi, and Táchiiʼni. A 2004 graduate of Window Rock High School with the class of 2004, she received her Associate of Arts and Sciences Degree in General Studies with honors from UNM-Gallup in the Spring of 2007. She is focusing on Health Education, Psychology, and Native American Studies as she pursues her BUS degree from the Bachelor and Graduate Programs of UNM-Gallup.

“I thank God and my family for all their encouragement and support to pursue my goals,” Showalter said.

Sixty team members will be selected in May from all the nominees across the nation, to be on the first team, second team and third team.

**MCHS Students, Continued from p. 4**

a place on the Dean’s List. He had attended Gallup Catholic, and enrolled in MCHS as a senior to “knock out core classes so I could focus on my major.”

“I want to major in theater at UNM,” he says, adding that he intends to audition for plays and build up a body of performances that will help launch him in his career. Although initially disappointed that UNMG offered no theater, he did enroll in a filmmaking and screenwriting class that he hopes will help him get his start.

He has already put some of these skills to use, creating with some friends a contribution to a YouTube phenomenon known as Zombie Ravers that was shot at UNM-Gallup.

“I put music and clips of videos we made together. I’d like to improve on it, and use a script on the next one,” he said.

Courtois says after graduation from college, he intends to head for Hollywood where he has a relative who may be able to help facilitate his aspirations for an acting career.

**Kristyna Bracken**

Another MCHS student who has made the Dean’s List, Kristyna Bracken entered MCHS when she was 15 and right out of junior high, eager to “escape the high school drama” that she feels she might have encountered at other schools.

She’s glad she did. “I’ve met some good friends, I love my classes, and I really eat it up,” Bracken says of MCHS.

As to a career path, Bracken has found the right one for her at UNM-Gallup. After graduation in May, she plans to work toward an Associate’s degree in Nursing, and eventually go to Albuquerque where she will earn a Bachelor’s in Nursing with a specialization in neonatology.

Along the way, however, Bracken has done some intensive coursework in English and writing.

“I wanted to be a writer before I decided on nursing and I still want to continue writing,” she said, adding that she prefers fantasy fiction, with her favorite author in that genre being J.R.R. Tolkien.

Bracken also enjoys sports. Although MCHS has no sports offerings, she’s able to participate in soccer, lacrosse and martial arts in a high school extracurricular program.

**Jeanette Fernando**

Jeanette Fernando, who originally attended schools in Tohatchi, transferred to MCHS because she believed the course work would be more challenging than what she encountered in other public schools.

Fernando, who skipped fifth grade, has been pleased to be earning college credits as she studies for her high school diploma.

“I plan to stay here until I get an Associate’s degree,” she says.
After a 30-year career in the journalism and publishing field, Doug Veazey retired and decided to open his own business. He sought SBDC assistance in July 2003 when he was exploring franchise and retail options in Gallup. After much deliberation and research, he decided to pursue what he knew best—publishing. The only hitch was selecting a product that did not compete with the largest newspaper in town for whom he had worked for 29 years.

In 2004 he started **Gallup Town Talk**, a free, 4-page, easy-read, biweekly publication focusing on informational tidbits and trivia, designed for waiting rooms, businesses, restaurants, and hotels. His intent was not to compete with local publications focusing on local news, and also to cover all publishing costs through ad sales. To reduce costs, he personally delivered his newspaper around town while simultaneously selling ads. Veazey still sells ads, but now has two delivery people. **Town Talk** turned out to be a huge success and currently consists of 24 pages with more expected. To Veazey’s credit, just about every well-known business in Gallup advertises in **Town Talk**.

Veazey was not totally satisfied with his publishing venture and in August 2007 opened a second business. This time, he is satisfying his own sweet tooth by having established a candy and nut distributorship serving the Gallup, Zuni and Window Rock area.

Veazey is an inspiration and role model for those seniors not ready to “hang their hat.” At 68, he has proved one can pursue a dream, contribute and succeed at any age.

“I refer to Gallup as a ‘gold mine,’” Veazey said. “Anyone wanting to do well and become wealthy should consider doing business in Gallup. As any prospector knows, for successful ‘mining’ one must have the proper tools. I found a treasure of tools, including material resources as well as information and advice from the Gallup SBDC’s director and staff. I encourage anyone to go prospecting in Gallup but begin with a visit to the SBDC and Elsi Sanchez.”

**MCHS Students, Continued from p. 5**

said, adding, “I’m just two semesters away from a degree.” Fernando, who says she misses her friends from the Tohatchi school system, is nevertheless appreciative of the experience of going to school with “all kinds of people. I get a lot of experience working with adults. I’ve learned more, hearing what they think.”

Fernando favors classes that deal with politics, and hopes one day to go into law. “My grandmother was a judge.”

Students such as McBroom, Courtois, Bracken and Fernando have helped make MCHS a success over the past half decade—and there’s every reason to expect the trend will just continue, as lecturer/counselor Jocelyne Klasen notes.

“As I reflect on each year that goes by, I am amazed at all the creativity and spontaneity that emerge from these adolescents’ minds, and how they are able to grow by integrating the academic knowledge they receive from our faculty members. Each student is unique, and contributes a very special personality to the overall spirit of MCHS. I have great confidence that Jared, Zachary, Kristyna, Jeanette and many other MCHS students will continue to succeed in the path they have decided to take to fulfill their desired goals and dreams,” said Klasen.

*For more information on the Middle College High School, call (505) 863-7551.*