Tuition Hike of 4.4% OK’d

The University of New Mexico-Gallup Local Board had to make a tough decision March 24, when they voted on a proposed tuition increase. With several options before them, the board ultimately decided 3 to 2 to vote in a 4.44 percent increase in tuition, bringing the total from $53 a credit to $55.35. Student fees will remain the same at $7.90 per credit hour.

Thus, the cost of one credit at UNMG will rise in the fall from $60.90 to $63.25. For a student enrolled for 12 credit hours, the additional cost per semester would average $28.20.

The tuition hike is a result of the state-mandated 9 percent tuition credit increase for community colleges that the Legislature approved with the signing of the budget bill on Wednesday.

“We chose not to pass the full 9 percent on to the students,” said Tony Major, director of Business Operations for UNM-Gallup, explaining that the remainder of the increase will be made up through a combination of organizational changes, operational cost cutting and the use of some savings.

Student fees are distributed among three areas in the college: Student Senate for student events; Information Technology, for services and infrastructure that benefit students; and building replacement and renewal, chiefly classroom and instructional improvements.

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Executive Director’s Notes ............ 2
Calendar ...................................... 2
Around the Campus ...................... 3
AV Tech Helps Leukemia Patient .... 4

Please turn to VETS p. 2
As this issue of UNMGviews goes to press, we at UNMG are busy with preparations for our 2010 Educational Leadership Conference, set for April 8-9.

This conference is to be a follow-up to the Community Talking Circles hosted in 2008 and 2009 and underwritten by the Achieving the Dream grant. The Talking Circles raised a number of questions about the role of UNMG in higher education in this community, and explored ways that we could work better with local entities to improve student success. With the Educational Summit, we are looking forward to moving beyond the questions and finding answers and an action plan that will address these issues. We are thrilled with the number of distinguished individuals, both from this region and from Albuquerque, who will be joining us. We will have input from public and higher education experts from Albuquerque, Santa Fe and throughout this region.

Among the topics to be discussed will be “Remedial and Community College Curricula Issues,” “Indigenous Education and Curricula Issues,” “Honoring the Indigenous Community Values and Native Languages” and “Reauthorization of the Elementary Secondary Education Act: Navajo Nation Perspective.”

Keynote speakers are Secretary of Education Veronica Garcia, New Mexico Public Education Department; Gregory Cajete, UNM associate professor and chair of Native American Studies; and Matthew Martinez, director of Indian education, Higher Education Department. Also presenting and participating are Al Henderson, UNMG lecturer in Business Management Technology; Gus Keene Jr., Pueblo of Zuni Education and Career Development Center; Andrew Tah, Sandra Freeland, education administrator with NMPED; Sylvia Jackson, Navajo Nation education specialist; Timothy Benally, assistant superintendent for Department of Dine Education; and Kalvin White, Office of Dine Science, Mathematics and Technology.

The hopes for this summit are considerable: no less than breaking a path that will lead to increased student achievement through change of policy not only here at UNMG, but throughout our local public schools. I look forward to reporting to you in the next issue of UNMGviews how we intend to go about this all-important task.

**STUDENT VETS, Continued from previous page**

veterans may also compound problems by medicating their psychological wounds with drugs or alcohol – an experience Joe can relate to.

Joe says he has found that using the same discipline he learned in the Army helps him stay focused in school, as does the support of the Veterans’ Association, which parallels the support he used to find from his squad. “We keep each other in line. We’re a team,” he said.

Kirk and Joe are hoping that this activity will help cement the bonds that have formed among the group over the past year. Kirk will be graduating in May, and Joe likewise will be leaving UNMG in a semester. Both men want the group to continue strong – and to be there for other vets who may need the support it offers.

For some student vets, the effort to reach out is just too much. For whatever reason, they are unable to join the group or make themselves known as needing the support of those with similar experiences. That’s one of the reasons the group hit upon the idea of posting a bulletin board in Gurley Hall, near Stiger’s advisement office. Those who choose not to join the group can still benefit from writing down the phone numbers posted there and use the information the Veterans Association regularly posts.

“There’s a lot of help available locally,” Joe said. “But what we can do is help them understand the frustrations of getting through the paperwork involved in accessing benefits so they can go to college. We’ve got names and numbers.”

Anyone interested in learning more about the UNMG Veterans Association may contact sponsor Wyatt Stiger at 505.863.7607.
Senior Public Affairs Representative **Linda Thornton** received a first place award from the New Mexico Presswomen for feature writing for a story she wrote on UNM-Gallup anthropology student Daniel Pedro, called “A Native Anthropology Student Wants to Take the Knowledge Back Home.” Upon winning the state award, Thornton was qualified to enter the National Federation of Press Women contest, results of which are to be announced later in the spring. ... **Chris Marlow**, dean of instruction at UNM-Gallup, announced that the fifth edition of a book she authored, “Research Methods for Generalist Social Work,” has been published by Brooks/Cole, Cengage Learning. The book is a social science research methods text, developed specifically for social work students, undergraduates and graduates. Marlow, whose background is in social work, has a Ph.D. in Social Service Administration and a Master’s in Social Work from the University of Chicago. Prior to becoming an academic, she worked with the developmentally disabled population in Maine, and in Chicago, where she did community organizing work. She went on to join the New Mexico State University Social Work faculty and eventually became director of the School of Social Work and associate dean of the NMSU Graduate School. The book, which was first published in 1992, has been used consistently as a basic research text in the United States as well as Australia and Canada. Marlow, who joined the UNM-Gallup administrative team in 2004, is retiring in June. ... **Kamala Sharma**, institutional coordinator of the Bridge Program and **David W. Stiger**, Student Services advisor, chaperoned 10 UNM-Gallup students for the Bridge Program orientation at New Mexico State University in late February. During this visit the students were given an orientation of the NMSU campus and various labs. This visit introduced UNM-G students to potential faculty mentors, the campus environment, research facilities, NMSU American Indian support groups, actual classroom and laboratory experiences, and academic advisement mechanisms. Some of these students may be selected to participate in summer research during the summer of 2010 at NMSU.” ... **The Childcare Center** has received $5,000 for upgrades to provide better infant care. During the center’s last licensing inspection the capacity of the infant room was expanded from 10 children to 17 children to better meet the needs of the campus. This expansion resulted in the need for more equipment. The center then received a $2,500 grant from the Children Youth and Families Department to purchase new rugs, cribs and a fence for the playground. CCC also received a $2,500 grant from the University Mini-Grant Committee for a flexible tile surface on the area that will be fenced in to allow even the crawling infants to play on the playground for social interaction and gross motor growth. The current playground surface does not allow for children that are not walking to play safely. “We would not have been able to accomplish any of this without the assistance of the Physical Plant,” said **Jodi Barnhart**, manager. ... **Florentin Smarandache**, professor of mathematics, published a book of collected papers of mathematical physics called “Neutrosophic Physics: More Problems, More Solutions” in Finland at Northern European Scientific Publishers earlier this year.
AV Tech Steps Up -- Twice -- to Help 4-year-old with Leukemia

By LINDA THORNTON,
Senior Public Affairs Representative

Sixteen years ago, Senior Audio Visual Technician Darrell Thompson discovered through a drive held at UNM-Gallup that he had a rare type of blood and was persuaded that he should sign up as a potential bone marrow donor. At that time, donating bone marrow to help treat people with various forms of cancer, immune diseases and aplastic anemia was still somewhat new.

It wasn’t until last year that he finally got called upon to make a donation. The recipient was to be a 3-year-old boy with leukemia -- a person whose identity is unknown to Thompson.

He traveled to San Diego last year for evaluation, and after a battery of tests that included ensuring he had the right tissue type, and many questions about health-related issues, he was given the go-ahead as a donor for the boy. He made a second trip to San Diego and underwent the procedure of having his bone marrow harvested under anesthesia and in an operating room.

Then, in January, Thompson was contacted again by the bone marrow transplant registry that he had signed up with. The young patient’s doctors wanted him to undergo a second transplant for the same patient.

“I had to think about that,” Thompson said, recalling the discomfort and anxiety that the first donation had entailed. However, ultimately, the same thoughts that had inspired him to embark on this course persuaded him to make the second donation.

“I had thought about what it would be like for a 3-year-old child to go through this, and I just had to do it,” he said. “So when they called in January, I had to help him.”

And so Thompson flew to San Diego to again undergo numerous tests to make sure he was free of diseases – from HIV to hepatitis to the common cold. Even a minor illness like a cold or sore throat could compromise the impaired immune system of the recipient, and risk not only the success of the transplant, but also the now four-year-old boy’s life.

The operation requires the donor to undergo a needle-sized puncture through the back of the hip. The angle of the needle is rotated to pull out about a pint of marrow. Thompson was told by the registry that he could only donate bone marrow twice in his life.

After the operation, Thompson was kept in the hospital overnight. Medical personnel monitored him for any signs of infection or discomfort. And though he was found fit to travel after resting for a couple of days, as luck would have it, a major snowstorm had hit the southwest while he was in San Diego, and his flight was canceled. It was the same story the next day. Finally, after two days of waiting, he was put on a flight to Phoenix by a sympathetic airline agent in first class.

A day after returning to work, Thompson reported the puncture wound was still a bit sore, but otherwise, there were no ill effects. But whatever discomfort he may have experienced, Thompson says it was well worth it to enhance this young patient’s chances for survival.

“I’m happy that he’s doing good for now,” Thompson said, adding that the course of the boy’s recovery will be charted over the next year. Thompson says he’d like to meet the boy some day, but that would be up to his parents.

For now, though, Thompson says he hopes other individuals will be encouraged to become bone marrow donors and help children like the one who received his donation overcome their diseases.

“Leukemia is an ugly disease. I wouldn’t want my child to go through it, and I would hope if someone else had a chance to help with curing someone, they would step up,” he said.