Kelley Schukar, clinical coordinator in the University of New Mexico-Gallup's Nursing program, and Michelle Kellywood-Yazzie, a half-time clinical instructor, have been accepted into a pilot Bachelor of Science in Nursing to Ph.D. program at UNM’s College of Nursing.

According to Marji Campbell, chair of the department, there are only three persons in the program, and two of them are at UNMG.

Kellywood-Yazzie graduated from the UNMG nursing program with an Associate’s degree in May 2006 and in 2010 received her B.S.N. from UNM. A member of the Navajo Nation, she lives in Thoreau. Her goals in education are twofold: to develop a team of nurses to create a policy and procedures for a program she calls the Native American School Health Initiative, which would be devoted to helping children in Bureau of Indian Education schools nationwide; and to teach Nursing either at UNMG or at UNM’s College of Nursing. She said she would also like to develop grants to help supplement the schools’ funding for a licensed nurse.

“These goals are important to me not only as a Navajo/Diné individual to help our Native American children,” she said. “It is also important to me as a community leader and nurse. It is my responsibility to create opportunities that will promote the health of our people and the communities we are living in.”

As Kellywood-Yazzie pointed out, the care received in schools may be the only health care Native children receive.

Schukar earned her B.S.N. from Seattle University, a private Jesuit University, in 1990. Her first job was at Providence Medical Center in downtown Seattle.

Please turn to p. 2
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S DESK

Many of you may be aware through reports in the local media of recent developments at UNM-G regarding reorganization. Reorganization involves restructuring how our departments are divided so that not only do we operate more economically in lean times but also in a more streamlined and efficient manner. While some reorganization involves staff, the major reorganization effort that we are committed to over the next year will be devoted to our academic departments.

Currently, we have a total of 11 chairs who oversee varying numbers of programs. Some departments are extensive, with many faculty, while others are much smaller. The annual cost of these chairs is $476,894. This cost includes not only release time from teaching classes, but also the cost of hiring adjuncts to cover the classes the current chairs do not teach.

What our Interim Dean of Instruction, Jean Martinez-Monaghan, has proposed is consolidating the number of departments into four divisions, to be under the supervision of four full-time chairs. One of the divisions would include some non-credit programs such as Community Education, College Learning Center, Adult Basic Education, etc. Decreasing the number of chairs, we believe, will result in a savings of $126,894 – not an insignificant amount at this college, where we are facing daunting budget cuts in the next fiscal year.

Research into what our peer institutions do – that is, those community colleges that are close to us in size and mission – suggests that this restructuring into four divisions is the common model. We believe this structure will help us eliminate redundancies and create a better balance of workloads. Restructuring will further centralize service functions, and will provide a better use of budget, development and technology support.

Reorganization has been under discussion at UNM-G since 1997, when the college went from 20 departments to eight. Through the ensuing years, a number of plans were put forward, but no significant action taken. It seems obvious that over the past 14 years, there has been sufficient discussion, and that now, it is time to move forward. So for now, we will do that, putting in place a yearlong pilot program based on this model. By the summer of 2012, we should have a good reading on how this structure works in the UNM-G academic setting.

NURSING, continued from p. 1

on the post-surgical unit. She moved with her children to Gallup in 1992 to work at GIMC in orthopedics, medical/surgical, pediatrics and in the emergency room. From 1998-2006 she owned and operated “The Coffee House” in downtown Gallup. In 2005, she was hired by UNMG as a clinical instructor, and supervised third- and fourth-semester Nursing students on the med/surg and pediatric floors at GIMC. Discovering a love for teaching, Schukar applied for and was given her current job teaching at UNMG.

“I am so honored to have been accepted into the B.S.N.-Ph.D. program, and hope to serve this community in Gallup, and UNM-G for many years to come,” Schukar said.

Campbell said no commitment or payback is required to be in this program. It is grant funded and will finance the students’ education for a year; the College of Nursing is looking for funds to extend beyond that year.
Sustainability Contest Winners Announced

Early Childhood Multicultural Education Assistant Professor Irene Den Bleyker last fall initiated a Storytelling Sustainability Contest to raise awareness about sustainability, employing traditional storytelling methods used by indigenous cultures to pass on values and beliefs to future generations. The winners of the contest were given cash prizes from the Student Senate, and other prizes from UNMG Advisor Eddie Crank and the Four Corners Writing Project.

Prof Weaves Sustainability Into Teaching Theory

Recognizing that today’s college students relate well to the subject of sustainability, UNM-Gallup Assistant Professor Irene Den Bleyker of the Early Childhood and Multicultural Education Department is offering a spring course that weaves the topic into teaching theory.

Den Bleyker was inspired to pursue the sustainability theme after UNM President David Schmidly encouraged UNM employees to take part in the American College & University President’s Climate Commitment. Her first idea was to launch a storytelling contest for students with the topic of “Sustainability (Caring for the Earth).” Students wrote essays and gave oral presentations and winners were chosen and awarded prize money donated by the UNMG Student Senate.

This semester, many of the students who entered the contest are learning how to apply things they learned about the environment and sustainability into teaching theory. In this way, says Den Bleyker, they and other students enrolled in her “Education for a Sustainable Future” course will have a better idea how to teach environmental topics to their own students some day.

“When I talked to high school students, I realized that they don’t get many environmental courses,” Den Bleyker said. “I looked at textbooks in elementary school, and saw that they provide three or four pages of information on the environment. Then in college, they can take environmental courses, but theories of educational pedagogy are not connected to them. Our students don’t understand the concept.”

Den Bleyker did a survey of her students, asking them to rate, on a scale of 1 to 5, what they knew about the environment. The only students who wrote above a 1 were those who had entered the fall Sustainability Storytelling contest. Everyone else said they knew next to nothing about the environment, except that recycling is important.

“That told me that there was a need for the course,” she said. What evolved was Education 293, an Education Topics course that serves as an elective for Education majors.

Den Bleyker also realized that knowing something about a topic doesn’t translate to knowing how to teach it.

In ECME, students study a number of teaching or learning theories: Piaget’s cognitive theory is one well-known theory, but there are many others, including behaviorist, experiential, and group or social learning. For example, if students wanted to teach environmental topics through group or social learning, they might divide into groups and cooperate on projects on solar energy, ecological theory or using non-toxic materials in the home. For the latter, students might go home and make a study, and when they come together, report on how family and home influences learning.

“If you’re taught something, and you do something with it, you’ll have a better chance of retaining it,” Den Bleyker said.

Only a few weeks into the class, the students are finding it challenging to adapt the theories they’re learning to actually teaching a
TRiO manager Carol Bartlett took three students to Santa Fe in February to celebrate National TRiO Day -- the day to celebrate the work TRiO programs do and to advocate for their continuation. The state association, New Mexico West Texas Association of Student Assistance Programs (comprised of various TRiO programs in New Mexico and West Texas), sponsors an annual TRiO Day event at the state capitol. Students and staff spend the day at the Rotunda, meet with delegates, tour the Round House, and share testimonials. Students also have the opportunity to participate in professional development workshops, cultural activities, and attend a formal banquet as the event progresses. The event is structured in conference format with registration, formal packets and overnight travel (the works), so the students get the experience of participating in a professional conference to prepare them for careers. One session held was Financial Literacy, a session designed by Bartlett, who also organized the event. About 100 persons from various TRiO programs attended the Rotunda event. ... Linda Burson, Business Tech lecturer for the Zuni Campus, has for the last 12 years undertaken a large-scale tree-planting effort in the Ramah area wherein she enlisted students to help her distribute young trees and shrubs to local residents. The trees and shrubs were bought at very low cost from various distributors to help encourage local residents to replant vegetation as some of the old, 100-foot-tall Lombardy poplars planted by the Mormon settlers of Ramah decline. Ramah Adopt-A-Tree has resulted in the planting of some 12,000 trees and shrubs in the area. With plans to retire in a few years, Burson has enlisted someone to carry on this work: Austin Clawson, a teacher at Ramah High School. Burson said she is training Clawson this year, and he will take over the project completely next year. Trees are available now and will sell out quickly, so Burson encourages anyone interested to contact Clawson. “I am so happy to have found someone who loves tree planting to keep this area just a little greener,” Burson said. Call Burson at (505) 782-6025. ... Gloria Dyc, Regents’ professor of Arts and Letters and chair of the Arts and Letters Department, traveled with her son to Peru over the winter break. Besides visiting the famed Machu Picchu ruins, they visited two sustainable communities on Lake Titicaca: the floating islands of Uros and the Island of Taquile. They received ceremonial and oral teachings from Adriel Arar, a paq’o, outside of Cusco. Dyc incorporated this information into her class on Native American Literature.

SUSTAINABILITY IN EDUCATION Continued from p. 3

particular topic. They are, however, “engaged in the questions.” To stimulate discussion, Den Bleyker directed the class to think about the car. The questions that arise about cars, in relation to the environment, are: Should everyone who uses a car be taxed? Should the government regulate cars by determining if they should have low carbon emissions? What are the implications of such legislation for the class, and for society at large, and specifically, for the individual? “These are new questions for them, and they are finding it fascinating,” she said.

Students in UNMG’s ECME program typically are studying for an A.A.S. degree that will qualify them to be Teaching Assistants. They can then work while they go on to pursue Bachelor’s degrees in Elementary Education.

“Students engaged in ‘Education for a Sustainable Future’ grapple with environmental concerns and then determine how best to transmit essential environmental issues with early childhood pedagogy and theory. Ultimately this course equips students to be better prepared to teach in today’s ‘greening society,’” Den Bleyker said.