Main Campus Appoints Barry Cooney as Interim Executive Director

UNM named management and organization expert Barry Cooney acting executive director of the UNM-Gallup branch campus. Cooney started work on April 9.

Cooney will serve while a national search for executive director is conducted. Beth Miller, who served as Executive Director since 2003, resigned in March. On July 1, she will begin working with the UNM Vice President for Rio Rancho operations, Dr. Marc Niglazzo, on plans for the new campus in that community.

In 1985, Cooney founded Alliance for Creative Management, Inc., a management and organization consulting firm that works with public and private institutions on strategic planning, internal communication development, leadership training, management development, conflict resolution and team building. In this capacity, he has worked with UNM’s Anderson School of Management, the College of Education and Office of the Comptroller.

Teresa Wilkins’ Lifetime Passion for Textiles Leads to Book on Navajo Weavers and Traders

Teresa Wilkins was fascinated with weaving from childhood. Born in rural North Carolina, where textiles were a major industry, she picked up scraps of material from her grandfather’s mill and wove them on a small loom. That youthful interest would eventually inspire her to focus on textiles while she earned a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Colorado at Boulder. From there, she would embark on a course of research, writing and teaching that would lead her into the heart of the weaving world on the Navajo Nation.

Wilkins, a professor of anthropology at the University of New Mexico-Gallup, is seeing the fruits of her lifelong interest now that her book, “Patterns of Exchange: Navajo Weavers and Traders,”
June 9 marks two months that I’ve been in Gallup as the Interim Executive Director and I must say, it’s been a busy two months! During this time I have gotten acquainted with many of our faculty, staff and students. I have been impressed with their experience, dedication and enthusiasm.

There are two main goals that I hope to accomplish during my time here: The first is to ensure that every student is given the full opportunity to be successful in his or her area of study. In order to accomplish this we need to make our internal procedures and processes more “user friendly.” I’ll be bringing together lots of people to develop strategies about how we can do this with maximum effectiveness.

The second goal that I hope to achieve is making the University of New Mexico-Gallup more active, and a vital center for social, cultural and academic activities, not just for students, but for faculty, staff and the greater Gallup community.

Some of our plans call for an ongoing film series to be offered free of charge to both our campus and the community, a lecture and panel series which will explore important topics relevant to Gallup and the region, and cultural events that will include music and dance.

I invite all of you to visit our campus and explore the many offerings and activities that we have and will be providing.

Have a great summer!

College Plans 40th Anniversary Celebration

UNM-Gallup will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a festive ceremony on October 16, starting at 9 a.m. Among those attending will be individuals who were key to the foundation of the college in 1968, as well as officials from the University of New Mexico, local government, and the local business community.

The program will begin at 9 a.m. in Gurley Hall Commons with entertainment by various local musicians and dancers, followed by a platform presentation recognizing those who helped in the foundation of the college. The college will display photos and other mementoes of its history in display cases, and the Commons will be decorated in red and silver, UNM’s colors. There will also be music and other entertainment, as well as refreshments. The event is open to the public.

Legislative Update

The New Mexico State Legislature voted to give UNM-Gallup $900,000 from the state General Obligation Bond for structural repair and mechanical replacements in Calvin Hall. The Legislature also voted $35,000 for the design and construction of a health trail system. The legislation for the trail was sponsored by John Pena, State Representative for District 5.

Sen. Lidio Rainaldi, District 4, sponsored a bill for $10,000 for library improvement that was turned down.
The University of New Mexico-Gallup has joined the ranks of colleges nationwide in going paperless with its summer/fall 2008 schedule of classes.

The course schedule will now be found exclusively online at www.gallup.unm.edu or through www.schedule.unm.edu.

The principal advantage, noted Student Services Director Paul Kraft, was that the online schedule is continuously updated in real time, whereas the paper schedule was out of date as soon as it was published.

“Information on courses, such as time, location and instructor, changes continuously. Further, courses are added and dropped between the time the schedule would be printed and the first day of class,” Kraft said. “By getting into the habit of accessing the course online, students will have the most up-to-date information available and less frustration in planning their schedules.”

Further, UNM-Gallup is showing its commitment to reducing the use of paper by this move. College officials estimate they will save $23,000 by going paperless.

Kraft acknowledged some students may find this move to an online schedule a bit inconvenient at first, but that in time, they will adjust to it, just as students nationwide – including students at UNM in Albuquerque – have.

“For those without Internet connections at home, it will mean using a computer here at the college or somewhere with a connection to access the course schedule,” Kraft said. “But access to the Internet is increasingly an expectation for students as far as the learning experience, and also increasingly a necessity as far as the enrollment process. In the end, the real-time schedule should help eliminate a lot of the confusion that occurs on the first day of classes as students try to find classrooms.”

Weavers and Traders, continued from p. 1

has been published by the University of Oklahoma Press. That book represents not only ten years’ work on Southwest textiles in general, but a specific focus on Navajo weaving that involved logging many miles driving the back roads of the Nation to record interviews and conduct field research.

“I did research in trading post archives, and I also conducted interviews and ethnographic studies with weavers. I asked weavers about their experiences today, and they also told me about their mothers and grandmothers,” Wilkins said.

Wilkins also looked at the relationships between weavers and traders, and how the traders influenced them as far as patterns and ideas and how much sovereignty they had for their own productions.

Wilkins, who has a degree in art marketing and production from Appalachian State University, obtained her Master’s as well as her Ph.D. from the University of Colorado. During the course of museum work, she was hired by the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History in Boulder to curate an exhibit of Southwest textiles.

“The Southwest textile collection of the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History is one of the top collections in the world, for scope and study potential,” Wilkins said. “The exhibit we did was based on the research of Joe Ben Wheat, later my grad school advisor, who developed a chronology for Southwest weaving based on materials, designs, collection histories and the history of the area. This was my introduction to Southwest textiles.”

Today Wilkins uses that knowledge not only in her teaching, but as a consultant with businesses and collectors who want identification and authentication of Southwestern textiles.

Besides researching, writing and teaching about textiles, Wilkins has been a judge at various juried native art exhibitions, including the Intertribal Ceremonial and Santa Fe Indian Market. She was recently accepted into the first annual New Mexico Women Authors’ Literary Festival, set for September 27 in Santa Fe, and sponsored by the Museums of New Mexico.

For more information, contact the University of New Mexico-Gallup Bookstore or the University of Oklahoma Press, (405) 325-2000.

Enroll today for the Fall Semester. Call (505) 863-7500, or check the schedule at www.gallup.unm.edu
Congratulations to Middle College High School student Shelby Dez for winning a $1000 scholarship from Wal-Mart. She has been accepted at Northern Arizona University. ... Teresa Wilkins has been promoted to the rank of professor. Wilkins, who has a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, has been teaching anthropology at UNM-Gallup since 1997. ... Loren Leekela, Construction Tech instructor at the Zuni Campus, was chosen as the 2007-8 faculty recipient to receive the UNM Student Service Award. The award is given annually by the Division of Student Affairs to “individuals who have made significant contributions to the quality of student life on campus.” ... UNM also recognized Graduate programs Lecturer III Ruth Bombaugh, who was named UNM Adjunct Faculty of the Year. ... North Campus staff Sean Ashley and fellow bandmembers Sheldon Ashley, Brandon Ashley and Derek Murphy won first place in the college’s annual “Join the Pack” Music Contest and open house. The band performed in the acoustic category. ... Pamela Stovall, assistant professor of Communications, has been awarded second place in the New Mexico Press Women's Communication Contest 2008 in the category of Faculty Adviser. She was also was nominated for Who’s Who of American Women and her short script, “Best Served Cold,” was in the top 100 of 1,200 scripts internationally.