Andrew Appoints Two Faculty as Co-Deans During Search for Dean

Sylvia Andrew, executive director, has announced the appointment of two faculty as co-deans. In the interim during which the search for a permanent dean is being conducted, Jean Martinez Monaghan, professor of Health Careers and Dental Assisting, and Chris Chavez, lecturer II in Applied Technology, will serve in that capacity until the position is filled.

Monaghan has been with UNMG 16 years, and is now into her 25th year with the UNM system. In addition to her duties as faculty, she co-developed and placed on the Internet the UNM-Gallup solar oven. She has been active in researching and promoting solar cooking in this region. She also published and co-authored a 1994 article in the Journal of the American Dental Association.

Chavez has been teaching Construction Technology at UNMG for nearly 25 years, having started out part-time in 1985 and going full-time in 1990. He was department chair for six years. A licensed contractor, he is the only certified green builder in Gallup and is a member of the National Association of Homebuilders. He is a native of Gallup.

“I congratulate Jean and Chris, who have agreed to serve in the capacity of co-deans so that we may address faculty issues quickly and effectively during the search for a full-time dean,” Andrew said.

The two were nominated along with several other candidates by the Council of Chairs, with final selection from that field made by Andrew.
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S DESK

In my Fall message, I spoke about challenges and opportunities for us as we began a new year. The spring semester will be an exciting time for hundreds of students who will complete their associate’s degrees and certificates. Many will continue their studies and enroll in four-year institutions to complete their baccalaureate degree while others will enter the job market for the first time and others will return to the job market with additional skills. Although we have seen record enrollment at UNM Gallup, our resources have been dramatically reduced in the last few years. We are committed to working collaboratively and collegially to remain focused on our mission and values that promote access to higher education. However, we will need to take a critical look at our outcomes while ensuring that we are fiscally prudent and responsible in our use of state resources.

The campus will be engaged in a series of task forces and strategic planning initiatives to focus on strengthening our student support services, instructional programs and administrative services.

• The Campus Budget Planning and Advisory Committee consisting of faculty, staff, and students will work to develop a culture of evidence, accountability and transparency in the allocation of our resources.

• The Campus Technology Committee will be responsible for the planning and coordination of campus-wide computing and will assess resources and develop and annually update a comprehensive technology master plan that will be used in the budgeting and allocation of funds for technology.

• The Marketing Task Force, led by Dr. Teresa Wilkins and Linda Thornton, comprised of faculty, staff, and students, has produced an outstanding analysis of current marketing trends and the best way to market the college in light of reduced financial resources. The work of the Task Force strongly suggests that we need to look forward and make strategic investments in key areas. Their report is a work in progress and will be shared widely with the campus during the spring 2011.

• The campus will be engaged in a strategic planning process that will update the existing five-year plan.

• The Campus Sustainability Task Force is expected to develop a campus sustainability plan that will allow us to monitor our energy consumption and recommend cost containment strategies. Our new building is on schedule for completion by August 2011.

• Working with the Student Senate, we will appoint a campus-wide Student Services Committee that will focus on efforts and initiatives that will support student success.

We have set a very ambitious agenda for spring 2011 and I am confident that when we work together in a spirit of cooperation with a focus on the education and preparation of our students, we can and will accomplish great things.

Four Candidates for Dean Chosen; One Bows Out

Four candidates for the position of Dean of Instruction were selected for interviews by the Dean’s Search Committee. One candidate declined to be interviewed, while interviews were scheduled in November and December for the remaining three. Peter Olson was interviewed in November, while Anthony Mansueto and Wesley K. Thomas were scheduled to be interviewed in early December.

The Dean candidates were to be interviewed by faculty, staff and students, as well as officials from UNM and the Governor and Tribal Council of Zuni.

Call 505.863.7743 for information on non-credit Community Education classes for spring www.gallup.unm.edu
Student Senate Elects Officers; Plans Another Year Filled With Activities

The UNMG Student Senate recently elected a new slate of officers to serve for the coming year. The senate is charged with chartering student clubs, organizing student events, and hearing and acting upon student concerns.

Some of the recent events the Student Senate was involved with included a forum, a Thanksgiving dinner and a Native American recognition event. The Senate also purchased the college’s 12-foot Christmas tree for the Commons.

Anita Yazzie, a student in UNMGallup’s Liberal Arts program, has been awarded the Walter O. Mason Education Scholarship of $500.

A mother of five from Fort Wingate, Yazzie entered the TRiO program in 2008.

UNMGallup’s TRiO/Student Support Services Program serves 160 students, working with them intensely in tutoring and personal, academic and career advisement. TRiO/Student Support Services staff build personal and professional relationships with students through one-on-one interaction.

“Ms. Yazzie is a highly motivated student with a passion for excellence in all she undertakes,” wrote TRiO program manager Carol Bartlett in Yazzie’s application for the scholarship. “Her desire to persevere is evidenced by the volume of hours she spends in the TRiO Learning Center, engaging in academic excellence and mentoring others. Ms. Yazzie’s limitless faith, humor and wit have been a constant guide through the profound trials of her personal and academic life.”

The late Walter O. Mason, an educator from Oklahoma, was one of the founders of the Upward Bound program, and an early supporter of legislation that led to the TRiO program. The scholarship was started out of concern that the opportunities for maximum educational development are not available to all Americans.

After graduating from UNM next spring, Yazzie plans to pursue a Bachelor’s degree in Social Work at Western New Mexico University, Gallup Campus.

The Gallup TRiO/Student Support Services program belongs to the New Mexico/West Texas chapter of a five-state regional association that sponsors this scholarship. Only one person per state is chosen to receive the award each year. The New West/West Texas Association of Student Assistance Programs has 32 TRiO programs in both two- and four-year universities. Sixty-five applicants across the state and west Texas applied, resulting in a highly competitive scholarship.

STAY CLOSE; GO FAR.
Enroll for spring classes. Semester starts January 18, 2011. www.gallup.unm.edu
AROUND THE CAMPUS

The issue of domestic violence is high profile in Gallup in October, which is recognized nationwide as Domestic Violence Month. Among the various activities held throughout the city in October to bring attention to the problem of domestic violence is a decorating contest, sponsored by Battered Families, the local shelter for victims of domestic violence. To bring the message home to the UNM-Gallup campus, several employees in the Physical Education Department decided to enter the contest. A work study, Yonevea Chee, saw an ad in the TownTalk newspaper, and suggested the department enter. Physical Education instructor Cynthia Chavez, Chee, instructor Judy Johns and work study Randy Dahoy went to work rounding up the materials: purple paper, balloons and yarn, posters and brochures from Battered Families, and some materials from a local resale shop, My Sister’s Place, that is part of Battered Families. The group created some handmade posters, covered tables, made some ribbons and put it all together in an award-winning display. They found out a few days later that they had won first place among the eight other contestants who entered the contest. They were rewarded with two pizzas, a liter of soda and some breadsticks, donated by Pizza Hut. The department also sponsored a walk on the UNMG track from Oct. 1-9, asking for $1 a mile for every mile walked. If any walker couldn’t afford a dollar, they were asked to donate small items, such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, lotion and conditioner for Battered Families. The employees collected $42, which they donated to Battered Families. ... Florentin Smarandache, professor of mathematics, gave two presentations: “Connection between ‘unparticle’ and ‘unmatter’”, by E. Goldfain and F. Smarandache, and “Unleashing the Quark within: LENV, Klein-Gordon Equation, and Elementary Particle Physics”, by F. Smarandache and V. Chrisitanto, at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the California-Nevada Section of the American Physical Society, CALTECH, Pasadena, Calif., on Oct. 30.

UNMG Art Alum’s Film Shown in Paris Festival

“Perfection,” a film by Vanessa Grey, a UNM-Gallup graduate and daughter of UNMG employee Alana Grey-Becenti and Bill Becenti Sr. of Rehoboth, was shown in the 4th annual Festival Retour d’image Cinema des differences on Dec. 2. Grey is an independent filmmaker. The film is about a Native American father and daughter struggling with shame and honor. Grey graduated from UNMG with a degree in Art Studio, and a Bachelor’s degree in film from Academy of Arts University, San Francisco.