

NMSU's CMI Celebrates Grand Opening



Stuart Munson-McGee/College of Engineering
Alex Paz and Esther Reyes wait outside Milton Hall
prior to the Creative Media Institute Grand Opening.

Over 300 people from the Las Cruces community and NMSU attended the opening ceremonies for the Creative Media Institute for Film and Digital Arts (CMI) on September 29 and 30 in Milton Hall at New Mexico State University.

The opening ceremonies included remarks from New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, a video welcome from U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman, several screenings

of the student production 100 MPG, film seminars, and tours of CMI's facilities. Other distinguished guests included Dr. Jozi DeLeon, Deputy Secretary for Higher Education; Dr. Kurt Steinhaus, Governor Richardson's Education Policy Analyst; and State Representative Mary Helen Garcia.

During Friday's opening, Governor Richardson, Senator Bingaman, State Senator Mary Jane Garcia, and State Senator Cynthia Nava became the first recipients of a CMI Star Award for their support for and dedication to the program. Governor Richardson created CMI as part of the infrastructure needed to make New Mexico
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Speaker Series: Learning with technology

The second year of the College of Extended Learning's Friday Speaker Series will feature technological tools to enhance teaching and learning. Sessions have a workshop format that allows participants to use the technology featured and ask questions of the presenters. Sessions are held in Milton Hall Room 85.

In this year's opening session in September, Robbie Grant of ICT Training Services presented the WebCT Content Module, which allows instructors to manage content for courses. The participants had an opportunity to create a content module with input from Mr. Grant.

In the second session, Dr. Ann Bock addressed using the MyNMSU group site for advising, classes, and disseminating department information. Other sessions (below) will feature online collaboration, resources, and classroom management tools.

November 3: A VIEW of NMSU's collaborative virtual environment

Dr. Clinton Jeffery will demonstrate VIEW, a tool that allows teachers and students to collaboratively edit computer code in a virtual environment. This NSF-funded
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Calendar of Events

Teaching Academy

October

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- 13 Add Narration to Your Presentations With Producer
- 17 Academic Leader Conference Series: Supporting Faculty
- 19 Designing & Managing Student Research Assignments
- 26 Creating the Active Classroom
- 27 Creating Your First Podcast

November

- 2 Rapid Development of Learning Objects Using MacroMedia™ Software
- 3 Speaker Series: A VIEW of NMSU's Collaborative Virtual Environment
- 8 Leveraging the Assessment Process to Improve Student Learning
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- 10 [Not] Going the Distance
- 14 Collaboration Tools for Grant Writing
- 30 Strategies for Teaching Math Online

December

- 13 Team-Based Learning

Speaker Series

Sessions are 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in Milton Hall, room 81.

A VIEW of NMSU's collaborative virtual environment

Clint Jeffery
Friday, November 3

Build it right and they will keep coming: The American Journeys Digital Library and Learning Center

Daniel Smith
Friday, January 26

Kick it up a notch

Ann Bock
Friday, February 9

Calendar of Events

ICT Training Services

October

11 WebCT in the Afternoon
20 Open Lab

November

15 Creating Quizzes/Surveys Using Respondus

December

5 & 7 WebCT in the Afternoon
8 Open Lab
12 WebCT Content Module
20 WebCT Course Recycling

Technology groups

The LT (Learning Technology) Usergroup supports the CEL Friday Speaker Series. Contact Tim Barnett-Queen [trbqueen@nmsu.edu] for more information.

Second year of series....

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project was developed as a distance education tool but allows remote interactions for all instructors and students.

January 26: Build it right and they will keep coming: The American Journeys Digital Library and Learning Center

Mr. Daniel Smith will present information on American Journeys, a digital library and learning center. Focused around early American exploration, the materials include narratives, rare books, manuscripts, maps, illustrations, and teaching materials.

February 9 - Kick it up a notch

Beyond the basics of WebCT are effective methods for managing exams, quizzes, and assignments. Dr. Bock will discuss the use of these tools and how she integrates them with software tools like the markup feature in MSWord.

Anybody interested in presenting a talk in March of April should visit http://vrc.nmsu.edu:592/friday_speaker/.

CMI Premiere....

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Stuart Munson-McGee/College of Engineering

Attendants at the CMI Premiere view the new facilities within Milton Hall.

Gonzales, "This weekend was the first of many opportunities for CMI to celebrate their accomplishments."

Noted NMSU graduates, including art director/scenic director Ed Vega, director/producer Esther Reyes, writer/producer Don Foster, and writer/director Ed Stone in addition to New Mexico film director Andrew Shea conducted Saturday's film seminars.

"The opening activities were a great success and a small indication of the things to come to and from CMI: visiting filmmakers, showings of compelling films, and high caliber student productions," said CMI Director of Operations Mike Laurance.

a leading center for media arts and sciences. Senator Bingaman co-sponsored a bill that awarded CMI \$1.375 million for a 1-year collaborative research and development project to create and evaluate interactive training materials for the Army. Senators Garcia and Nava were instrumental in getting capital funding for CMI.

According to Vice President for Student Success Carmen



Melody Munson-McGee/College of Extended Learning
A hallway in CMI's newly-renovated facilities.

News briefs

Fort Bliss — The Office of Distance Education is now recruiting at Fort Bliss. Because of frequent moves and deployments, members of the military and their families have a unique need for classes they can take anyplace, anytime.

New Personnel

Drs. Sam Suina and **Shelly Valdez** joined the Digital Pathways program as Co-Directors. They will coordinate a program funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to mentor American Indian students and to develop distance education opportunities.

Kathleen O'Connor joined the Office of Distance Education as the coordinator for the Grants campus. **Eileen CdeBaca** became the new site coordinator for The Albuquerque Center in October.

Grants and Contracts

The Creative Media Institute (CMI) was awarded \$1.375 million for a 1-year research and development project. CMI will collaborate with Advanced Systems Technology, Inc. and University of Southern California's Institute for Creative Technologies to create and evaluate interactive training material for the Army.

The College of Extended Learning, in partnership with faculty from mathematical sciences, chemistry, biology, and civil engineering, was awarded \$550,000 for a 3-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program. The program will develop dual credit online courses for high school and beginning college students that combine mathematics and science.

RETA will receive \$400,000 in New Mexico Legislative funding for 2006–2007 to provide professional development for New Mexico's K-12 educators.

The RETA program, in partnership with the Animas Public Schools, was awarded \$228,000 for a 2006–2007 Enhancing Education Through Technology grant from the Rural Education Division of the New Mexico Public Education Department. The grant will provide professional development for educators in grades 9–12 to develop and teach online courses for New Mexico high school students.

Student Health Center

The Student Health Center recently passed two site surveys by the New Mexico Department of Health—Division of Health Improvement, CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments), which regulates all medical laboratory testing and Health Facility Licensing.

Department of Counseling and Student Development

In September, the NMSU Wellness, Alcohol and Violence Education (WAVE) Program received a regional award from AAA New Mexico and the Center for College Health and Safety for their efforts in preventing alcohol abuse and student drinking and driving. The WAVE program is coordinated through the NMSU Counseling Center and relies on peer educators to engage with NMSU students about making informed decisions and developing strategies for harm reduction.

Housing & Residential Life – Living Learning Communities

As the residence halls opened for Fall 2006, so did 12 new Living Learning Communities (LLCs), in addition to the existing Honors Residential College. The LLCs provide first-year students an opportunity to live with other first-year students who share an academic or personal interest. As of September 12th, 469 students resided in Living Learning Communities.

Profile: Amy Lanasa

CMI's newest faculty member Assistant Professor Amy Lanasa joined us in August to teach Screenwriting I and Acting for Film. A recent graduate in Professional Writing from Florida State University's (FSU) School of Film, Television, and Recording Arts, Amy also has an MA in Theatre Studies with an emphasis in Playwriting. Amy has a BFA in Acting from the University of Oklahoma.



Amy has broad experience in the arts and in education. At FSU, she created Project Playwright, an outreach program for the School of Theatre designed to teach playwriting to elementary, middle, and high school students. In addition to her work in film, Amy was the artistic assistant to acclaimed director Ed Sherin and Tony Award-winning actress Jane Alexander at the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C. Their production of Henrik Ibsen's *Ghosts*, adapted by Ed Sherin, was the East Coast premiere, and gave her the opportunity to collaborate with the dramaturg and director on a classic production.

Amy's plays have been produced across the U.S. Her play *Drive-In America* was selected as the 2001 Region VI Best Short Play at the 2001 Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival in Washington, D.C. Her film credits include writer and director for *Perhaps a Polka*, and her newest film, *Inner Sight*, will be seen at film festivals this fall.

News and Events

For national and international events, visit the *DE Clearinghouse Conference Database* [www.uwex.edu/disted/conf/]

For recent distance education headlines, visit *Daily News* at *Distance-Educator.com* [www.distance-educator.com/news/]

For news for university faculty members and administrators, visit the *Chronicle on Higher Education* site [www.chronicle.com]

For recent campus technology headlines visit *Syllabus* [www.syllabus.com]

About UpClose

UpClose is published by the NMSU College of Extended Learning.

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We welcome your ideas, comments, and suggestions for UpClose.

UpClose broadens focus

With this issue, UpClose begins a transition from focusing on the College of Extended Learning to a broader focus on services and units that influence student success at NMSU. This reflects a new direction for Carmen Gonzales, Dean of the College of Extended Learning, who became NMSU's Vice President for Student Success on September 1. In this capacity, Dr. Gonzales plans to address how NMSU will use its strengths to

- attract students in an increasingly competitive environment and
- better retain current students by serving their needs.

Simply maintaining our enrollment is a challenge. In the 2005–2006 academic year, nearly 80% of NMSU students were from New Mexico. More educational options throughout the state allow students to earn degrees, or at least begin earning degrees, from local community colleges or branch campuses. Unprecedented growth in distance education allows students to attend out-of-state institutions. Our recruiting challenge is made even more difficult by a decreasing pool of students: in the next 10 years, the number of high school graduates in New Mexico is expected to decline by nearly 5%, according to a 2003 report by The College Board.

And recruitment is only half of the problem. “We lose about 50% of our students between freshman year and graduation. Each year we have to replace those lost students plus recruit more if we want to continue to maintain the resources we get from the state. But more importantly, every student who leaves NMSU without a degree represents somebody we failed,” said Associate Vice President for Student Success Dr. Bobbie Derlin.

Dr. Gonzales plans to use NMSU's strengths to address these issues. “NMSU has repeatedly ranked as a “Best Buy” in the Kaplan Newsweek College Catalog. This year the U.S. Department of Education recognized NMSU as consistently graduating a high number of minority students. We can continue to expand the flexibility in our programs through options like distance education and more evening and weekend courses. In the end, it really comes down to serving our students and helping them achieve their goals,” Dr. Gonzales said.



The Vice President's Corner

Beginning in September, I became the Vice President for Student Success at NMSU, a position that reflects my long-time dedication to helping students achieve their educational goals. Throughout September, the leadership of the Student Success Division discussed our place in the University and how we can positively affect NMSU. We concluded that to succeed in attracting, retaining, and serving NMSU students, we must have collegial and productive cross-unit, cross-college relationships built on collaborative and cooperative working environments.

This collaborative relationship is important because of the overlap among these areas of responsibility. All units of the Student Success Division deal with the quality of student experiences at NMSU; generally speaking, we deal with attracting students to NMSU, daily life, retention, and new programs.

In creating the Student Success Division, NMSU emphasizes the idea that students need more than academics to effectively succeed in college. I invite anybody interested in these issues to contact me at carmen@nmsu.edu.