

CMI off with a bang

At a kickoff ceremony to celebrate the beginning of renovations to Milton Hall, James Hindman, CMI executive director, praised the financial commitment of Gov. Bill Richardson, the state Legislature and NMSU's senior management in working together to create the media center.



Victor Espinoza/University Communications

Melanie Goodman from U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman's office, State Senators Mary Jane Garcia and Cynthia Nava, Vice Provost Carmen Gonzales, President Michael V. Martin, CMI Program Manager Cissy Lujan-Pincomb, and Provost William Flores get ready to detonate a red ribbon marking the beginning of CMI renovations.

Students at New Mexico State University will now be able to pursue degrees that can lead to jobs in industries that use digital media through the university's new Creative Media Institute for Film and Digital Arts. To house the CMI, a new state-of-the-art digital media center will be located in Milton Hall on the NMSU campus.

"The Creative Media Institute is based on certain values and we think those values are very important," Hindman said. "They include a belief in media literacy, that the ability to read and write with screens, using image, sound and text, is a requisite for an educated person in the present era. They include faith in the power of storytelling and the individual creative vision. They include the concept of creative collaboration, which is really the key to any successful work in media. They include the idea of a career that is rooted in lifelong learning."

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CEL graduates its first Crimson Scholar

The newest college at New Mexico State University graduated its first Crimson Scholar during the Fall commencement ceremony.

Katrina Selberg received a Bachelor of Individualized Studies degree from the College of Extended Learning, becoming one of five students who have graduated from the College.

"As a Crimson Scholar, Katrina is the first in what we hope will be a long line of distinguished students who have created their own unique academic path through the BIS and BAS programs," Dean of the College of Extended Learning Carmen Gonzales said.

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3 CHECS-Net as a Statewide Learning Tool

3 Advantages and Challenges of Using Centra in Online Courses

3-4 The 2006 International SUN Conference on Teaching and Learning

15 Living/Learning Communities

28 or 29 The Color of Fear 3

31 Writing for Publication: Road to Academic Success

31 Grant Writing: A Nuts & Bolts Approach

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6 Motivating Students from Day One to Graduation

7 Collaboration Tools

7 What You Ask for Is What You Get: Designing Effective Writing Assignments

12 Supplemental Instruction

18 Developmental Education Teaching Strategies

May

3 Teaching Academy Gala

First Fridays

Each session is scheduled from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. in Milton Hall.

Collaboration Tools

Bethany Bovard

Friday, April 7
Milton Hall, Room 81

To view resources from past First Friday events or to request a DVD of the recorded sessions, visit the First Friday Speaker Series Web page at http://distance.nmsu.edu/faculty/speaker_series.html.

ICT Training Services Calendar

March

- 8 WebCT Calendar
- 13 Respondus
- 14 WebCT Departmental Surveys
- 15 & 17 WebCT in the Afternoon
- 31 WebCT Content Module

April

- 18 & 20 WebCT in the Afternoon
- 21 Open Lab

May

- 5 Open Lab
- 17 WebCT Basics
- 19 Building Web Pages and Converting Materials

Technology groups

The LT Usergroup will be supporting the CEL Speaker Series March 3 at 3:00 in Milton Hall room 81 to explore the effective use of learning technologies in higher education. The meetings are open to anyone. Contact Tim Barnett-Queen [trbqueen@nmsu.edu] for more information.

The Faculty Advisory Committee on Technology (FACT) will meet March 31 and April 28 at noon (location TBA). Contact Kristin T. Cordova [krlunsfo@nmsu.edu] for more information.

Speaker Series event videos available



Laura Grant/College of Extended Learning Lynn Kelly and Michael Morrell were videotaped during their Speaker Series presentation.

The College of Extended Learning Speaker Series January and February event videos are available on DVD by request.

The following sessions are available on DVD:

- “Designing assignments in WebCT” by Lynn Kelly and Michael Morrell
- “Some methods to improve student interaction in distance education” by John Mullen
- “In the right place at the right time: Delivering library resources and services to enhance student learning” by Norice Lee and Susan Metcalf

To request a DVD, visit the First Friday Speaker Series Web page at http://distance.nmsu.edu/faculty/speaker_series.html.

CMI groundbreaking...

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The media center will include an animation lab, a post-production lab, two audio production suites, and a state-of-the-art screening room.

CMI is the result of an investment that began when Governor Richardson awarded NMSU \$2.5 million in the fall of 2004. This investment, combined with funds procured by state legislators, is part of New Mexico’s economic development plan, which encourages digital technology to grow.

Some of those legislators, including Senators Mary Jane Garcia and Cynthia Nava, joined NMSU President Michael V. Martin and Executive Vice President and Provost William Flores in a mock detonation to mark the day. Also participating were Vice Provost for Distance Education and Dean of the College of Extended Learning Dr. Carmen Gonzales, and Ms. Cissy Lujan-Pincomb, CMI Program Manager.

Adding to the ceremonies were comments by Las Cruces Mayor William Mattiace, who said Las Cruces could be the back lot for filmmakers in the region.

Consultants for the institute include Hindman; Mark Medoff, award-winning playwright, screenwriter and director; Chris Kientz, co-writer, executive producer, director and art director at Raven Tales Productions as well as a senior consultant in the Arts Media Division at National Geographic magazine; and Doug Wellman, Facilities Director at the University of Southern California, School of Cinema Television.

Derived from article by Bob Nosbisch/University Communications

CEL banner makes debut at commencement

The College of Extended Learning's banner made its debut during the fall commencement ceremony in December.

College of Extended Learning Web and Multimedia Developer Phillip Johnson, who designed the flag, began work on the banner in spring 2005. He extensively researched the colors, symbols and overall design of the banner.

The result is a banner that exemplifies the College of Extended Learning. The white represents the Bachelor of Individualized Studies degree. Red represents the Bachelor of Applied Studies Degree. The lamp symbolizes learning and knowledge, and the path conveys the idea of distance, reach, and extension.

"There is a long history of using specific colors and symbols to represent academic disciplines," Johnson said.

To ensure access and preserve college banners they spend most of the year in a vault and are only displayed during commencement ceremonies.



Laura Grant/College of Extended Learning
The College of Extended Learning banner debuted after nearly a year-long development.

First Crimson Scholar....

Selberg became a Crimson Scholar by maintaining a 3.5 grade point average. Selberg is now working at Housing and Residential Life at NMSU.

The College of Extended Learning has grown steadily since its establishment in the Fall of 2004. The college offers two programs, the Bachelor of Applied Studies and the Bachelor of Individualized Studies, for students with degree plans and academic experiences that do not fit the traditional mold.

The Bachelor of Individualized Studies bridges the gap between academic disciplines and gives students the opportunity to develop unique course plans.

The Bachelor of Applied Studies is designed for students with an Associate of Applied Science or equivalent degree and provides students with broader experiences in technical career areas.

BAS and BIS students develop their academic plans with the help of an advisor.

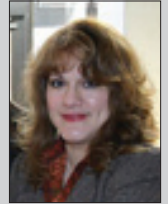
Students interested in pursuing a BIS or BAS degree should contact advisor Kelley Hestir at khestir@nmsu.edu.

Profile

Susan Cardenas

Serving students from a distance

Last year, Susan Cardenas received the Roush award for excellence in teaching, and she hasn't let up on her commitment to serve students along the educational spectrum.



Cardenas is an Assistant Professor in health science at the College of Health and Social Services. She is currently teaching several distance courses, including women's studies, women's health issues, and foundations of public health.

Brenda Schroeder, administrative assistant, said Cardenas "goes above and beyond to help students. If I have a student that needs something, she's always available, ready to help," Schroeder said.

"Susan devotes a great deal of time developing her courses to benefit her students," according to Robbie Grant, WebCT graphical user interface administrator.

Susan has taught for the Department of Health Science for almost ten years and also teaches online classes for the CHSS Bachelor of Human and Community distance education degree.

Contact Susan at susanc@nmsu.edu.

News and Events

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

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

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

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We welcome your ideas, comments, and suggestions for UpClose. To submit a story idea, please contact us no later than the 1 of April for publication in the next issue.

Two-plus-two equals graduates

NMSU's two-plus-two programs allow students to earn degrees at two-year institutions and complete their baccalaureate from NMSU through distance education. This seamless transition for students with an associate degree allows students to earn a Bachelor's degree in 18 months.

The articulation between two-year and four-year colleges is intended to benefit students who are not able to travel to NMSU's main campus because of personal or professional obligations.

The program was created because of the need to provide further educational opportunities for students who are unable to complete their degrees at their local college, said Vice Provost Carmen Gonzales. "Our two-year institutions graduate students who cannot travel to any of the four-year institutions, and this program serves them."

Distance education may also include NMSU faculty members traveling to branch campuses to teach courses in a two-plus-two program. Students in Alamogordo, Carlsbad, and Grants have completed a bachelor's degree in education at branch campuses in fields like elementary education and nursing.

The goal is to develop a common numbering system for the 35 hour core courses as well as a formulation of a policy which will mandate the acceptance of the 35-hour generalization core to every institution of higher education in the state. Once the common numbering system is complete, a transfer module would allow students to graduate from two-year institutions and transfer to NMSU as a junior. Eventually two-plus-two could be initiated statewide.



The Vice Provost's Corner

Getting a university education traditionally meant students left home and spent four years on a college campus earning a degree. Although this model still works and it serves students well, too many students are not free to leave their communities to attend school. As a state university, we cannot serve only students who can invest time and money in a campus-based degree.

The lives of traditional students are also becoming more complex and they may require a combination of face-to-face courses and online courses to reach their educational goals.

The College of Extended Learning continues to look for ways to serve all students, and our two-plus-two programs allow people from throughout New Mexico to start college near their homes at two-year colleges and earn their baccalaureate in a distance program with the Main Campus.

Communities throughout New Mexico reap the benefits of these degree programs. Their loyal members remain part of the community as they earn their degrees, and other community members benefit from the knowledge and role model that distance education students provide.

Dr. Carmen L. Gonzales
Vice Provost for Distance Education
Dean of the College of Extended Learning