What do natural selection, worms, cancer, and acting have in common?

The answer is, Darwin! And they were all topics discussed as the Department of Biology celebrated and commemorated the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin’s birth (February 12th) and the 150th anniversary of *On the Origin of Species*, one of Darwin’s major works. His conclusion that species evolve over time was based in part on zoological and geological discoveries made during a five-year voyage around the world on the *HMS Beagle*.

Felisa Smith, Associate Professor of Biology, was instrumental in organizing the campus-wide events honoring Darwin. The festivities began on Wednesday, February 11th, with a half-day symposium that featured talks by eight faculty members from four departments who employ Darwinian approaches to science. Following the symposium, the President’s office hosted a reception where undergraduate and graduate students presented poster talks, which gave the students an opportunity to present their research to the UNM community at large.

On February 12th, the Biology Department hosted a campus-wide lunch reception where “Darwin” (Dr. Sam Loker, below) was on hand to answer questions. Following the luncheon, the Museum of Southwestern Biology hosted tours of their facilities. The festivities concluded with Distinguished Professor Geerat Vermeij’s talk, *The New Evolutionary Synthesis: Putting Economics Back into Darwinism*. Dr. Vermeij, from the University of California–Davis, is an evolutionary biologist/paleontologist instrumental in developing the biological escalation hypothesis, and in highlighting the role of ecological interactions on evolutionary processes. Interestingly, his work is conducted by touching fossils because he has been blind since childhood.
Mark Rowland’s Research on Male Trimorphism

Mark is a UNM Adjunct Associate Professor of Biology. This research “explores a novel mating system discovered in beetles in which three different forms of males are expressed and individual females may mate with any or each of them. Such a mating strategy implies substantial complexity, but may actually operate according to rules reminiscent of the old rock-paper-scissors game.”
BIOLOGY CONSTRUCTION UPDATES: AS ONE PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION, ANOTHER STARTS

After years of fund-raising, planning, contract negotiations, and actual construction, Phase I of the Biology Building addition opened for partial usage this Fall semester. When fully built-out, the two-story extension on the southwestern corner of Castetter Hall will provide ~18,000 s.f. of breathing room for a jam-packed Biology building that has been forced for many years to accommodate a steadily expanding population of researchers, staff and students. Currently, the second story of the Phase I addition has been completed and now houses research laboratories and offices for members of the Center for Evolutionary and Theoretical Immunology (CETI) program. As CETI folks settle in, the finishing touches are being carried out on the first floor so that by the end of the year, the PIBBS (Program in Interdisciplinary Biological & Biomedical Science) faculty, staff and students can move in. In addition to the PIBBS home and a new stockroom conveniently located on the first floor next to a loading dock, the Phase I addition also will have a 2,200-s.f. greenhouse on its roof. When up and running by the end of the year, the new research greenhouse will comprise six individual bays equipped with custom-made benches, an irrigation system, and state-of-the-art heating and cooling.

Collectively, construction costs for Phase I, including the build-out of the first floor and the rooftop greenhouse, have totaled ~$6.6M, which have been assembled from various sources such as bonds, the State Legislature, and UNM itself, thanks in large part to the tireless efforts of our former chair, Dr. Sam Loker. These monies have been spent wisely, since the Phase I addition—designed by SMPC architects and built by Britton Construction—has achieved the highly coveted Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for “green buildings.” As is appropriate for a department concerned with the sustainable utilization of natural resources, the Biology addition is the first LEED-certified building on the UNM campus and is a step above the Governor’s mandated Silver LEED certification.

Now that the southwestern addition is nearly complete, the next phase of construction will begin. This part of the addition eventually will constitute ~22,500 s.f. of new construction spread over three floors on the southeastern corner of Biology. If all goes according to plan, construction will begin in February 2010 and end about a year later. When fully built-out, the southeastern addition will provide a much needed new home on the first floor for occupants of the decrepit Biology Annex, and the two floors above eventually will add numerous research laboratories and offices.

This is an exciting time for Biology, as the first net new space is opening up since the “new wing” was constructed in 1967. To make this addition a reality has taken both the concerted efforts of numerous dedicated folks and the ability of all involved to put up with the various inconveniences that such construction brings. As the southeastern phase gets underway, please be assured there is indeed light at the end of the tunnel, and that light is coming from a shiny new addition that will greatly enhance the overall facilities available to Biology’s faculty, staff and students.

Above: The south face of the Phase I addition. Below: New research laboratories in the Phase I addition.
MARY ANNE NELSON HONORED WITH PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Professor of Biology

Mary Anne Nelson was named by the White House and President Barack Obama as one of 22 individuals and organizations to receive the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM), given each year since 1996 to recognize individuals and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to mentoring students and increasing the participation of minorities, women and disabled students in science, mathematics and engineering. An additional 87 recipients received the Award.

“I’m very honored to have been recognized for my efforts in mentoring undergraduates and graduate students in the sciences,” said Mary Anne, who is also the program director for the Minority Access to Research Careers (MAR) program. “However, it feels like the award should go to the students, not to me! It’s been a real privilege and also lots of fun to work with these students. It’s hard to put into words the joy of watching them progress as they embark on their research experience, and then go on to impressive careers.”

Mary Anne’s research interests center around sexual development in Neurospora crassa, the control of gene expression during development, and fungal genomics. Nelson also directs the Neurospora Genome Project (NGP), an effort to obtain partial or complete nucleotide sequences from a large number of cDNA clones derived from conidial, mycelial, unfertilized sexual and perithecial libraries of N. crassa.

The Presidential Award recognizes the critical importance of mentors in the academic and personal development of students (from elementary through graduate school) and colleagues who are under-represented in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Award recipients receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. for a White House awards ceremony, and several days of educational and celebratory events, including visits with members of Congress and science agency leaders. They also receive awards of $10,000 from the National Science Foundation to advance their mentoring efforts.

BUGS!

The Biology Undergraduate Society (BUGS) is rapidly becoming the voice of our Biology undergraduate students through the leadership of Devaraj Aran (President), Dianne Pater (Vice President-ex officio), M.J. Vargas (incoming Vice President), Vani Aran (Secretary), William Edelman (Communications Officer) and Christina Trujillo (Treasurer).

Since gaining its charter last fall, several important initiatives have been on the mind of the Society’s president, Devaraj Aran. Two immediate goals are advertisement and fund raising. To this end, the Society currently supports a listserv of 218 members and has a Facebook page (designed and maintained by Edelman and Aran). With support from the Biology Department and a logo designed by Pater and Trujillo, BUGS also has purchased t-shirts, water bottles, coffee mugs, and an eye-catching Society banner!

The formation of a biology undergraduate “community” is one reason for the society. Rather than focusing on individual academic paths, the officers intend that BUGS will bring members together under the larger banner of “Biology.” One such community-building event was a Saturday Sandia Foothills hike. As Treasurer Vani Aran said, “The hike was fun! It was nice that people got together. It was a really nice day!” This year, BUGS also has participated in the UNM’s 2009 Spring Storm, Biology’s Annual Research Day, Biology’s Spring Commencement, and our recent Fall 2009 Biorama! Watch for BUGS at UNM’s annual Hanging of the Greens in December!

Enhanced academic development is paramount to the BUGS agenda. Through their relationship with Charles Byrnes at the Kaplan Testing Center, the Society brought practice workshops to Biology students preparing for the GRE. They’ve also arranged free access to GRE and MCAT Quizbanks for any BUGS member. Additionally, creation of a BUGS Journal Club is gaining steam. With the help and mentorship of Assistant Professor Kelly Miller (BUGS faculty advisor), the Society’s incoming Vice President, M.J. Vargas, is “looking forward to the start-up of this new opportunity for undergraduate students.”

BUGS’s monthly meetings are held every third Wednesday from 4:00–5:00 p.m. at the Cherry Silver room in the SUB. To contact BUGS regarding an event in which the Society can participate, please e-mail BUGS (bugs@unm.edu) or contact staff advisor Shannon McCoy-Hayes (shannon@unm.edu).
Dr. Steve Poe’s Herpetology Field Trip Successes

Dr. Steve Poe’s laboratory studies evolution, usually with a focus on Anolis lizards and other reptiles and amphibians. Recently, they have been working on distinguishing the evolutionary processes of adaptation and exaptation, comparing the evolution of community structure in mainland and island faunas, and predicting which species are likely to become invasive. In order to obtain subjects for study, they spend a lot of time walking around at night in the jungles of Latin America, shining bright lights to locate sleeping lizards, and using 24-foot telescoping fishing poles to knock lizards down from heights up to 10 meters.

Steve’s lab has conducted field work in Belize, Panama, Bolivia, Peru, Costa Rica, Colombia and Ecuador. This work, done in collaboration with UNM students and international scientists, has resulted in published descriptions of seven new species of Anolis lizards, hundreds of specimens deposited in U.S. and Latin American museums, and a large NSF grant. A publication on Anolis kunayalae was authored jointly with Erik Hulebak, then a UNM undergraduate, and Roberto Ibáñez, a Panamanian herpetologist. Their rediscovery of Anolis proboscis (pictured), a curiously ornamented Andean species that had not been collected in more than 50 years, was accomplished with a field crew that included Ecuadorian student Fernando Ayala, UNM graduate students Ian Latella, Eric Schaad and Tom Kennedy, and UNM undergraduate Natalie Blea.

As field work is an integral and enjoyable aspect of biology, in the grand tradition of Drs. Don Duszynski and Tim Lowrey previously and Joe Cook today, Steve’s group recently has begun to offer an international field component to the UNM Biology herpetology course. Over Fall Break, eight students took a trip to El Cope, Panama, a wonderful place for herpetology. In five nights, the class collected 74 species of reptiles and amphibians while experiencing the fun and difficulty of tropical field work.

Future teaching and research in Steve’s laboratory will continue to incorporate field work. Currently, graduate students Schaad, Latella, Mason Ryan and Levi Gray and undergraduates Blea and Julian Davis are all involved in projects with field components.

Corey Fincher, Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Corey Fincher grew up in southern Louisiana outside of New Orleans, and then moved to Oklahoma. He received his B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Ecology from Oklahoma State University, his M.S. degree in May 2005 from UNM’s Biology Department, and completed his Ph.D. degree in Biology at UNM in August of 2008. His interdisciplinary dissertation, Infectious Diseases and the Ecology and Evolution of Social Life, includes the topics of evolutionary biology, infectious disease ecology, political science, and religion studies. Impressively, it presents a new model of the formation of species and cultural groups, a new model of the development of the cross-cultural dimension of collectivism–individualism, a new model of the democratization of human societies, and research on the natural history of political values, human life-spans, and human reproductive biology. Corey’s dissertation has generated an impressive seven manuscripts, six of which have already been published in peer-reviewed journals; five of these six are in top-tier journals such as Biological Reviews, Oikos and The Proceedings of the Royal Society.

Currently, Corey is teaching Life Science for pre-service K–8 teachers at UNM and introductory biology at Central New Mexico Community College. He also is directing two honors students in UNM’s Biology Department. Corey finds science a powerful way to understand the world and enjoys instilling the power of scientific thinking in his students.

Married with three children, Corey considers rattlesnakes to be The Coolest Animals, and is glad his kids also enjoy snakes.
The Post-baccalaureate Research and Education Program (PREP) at UNM—a four-year $1.39 million grant by the Minority Opportunities in Research section of the National Institutes of Health—has the goal of increasing the number of under-represented minorities in biomedical science/engineering Ph.D. programs. Under the direction of Dr. Richard Cripps, Biology Professor and Chair, and a host of faculty mentors from various biomedical science departments, PREP provides mentorship, research training and information about a graduate education. “This program fulfills an important function in providing research experience to individuals who did not have access to research work as undergraduates,” said Patricia Bañuelos, Program Coordinator for PREP. “Moreover, PREP supports and enhances the involvement of recent baccalaureate graduates from under-represented groups to explore biomedical research in areas that address reducing health disparities.”

Currently, PREP has eight scholars conducting hands-on research in eight different laboratories within seven departments throughout the UNM campus. They also meet regularly with their faculty mentor and program staff to ensure they are meeting expectations. PREP scholars attend professional meetings to present their research and to gain knowledge in their area of interest. Recently, seven PREP scholars attended the Society for the Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) national conference, where they attended various workshops.

Ashlee Begaye, a current PREP scholar, found the SACNAS experience, “Amazing! It was great to network with people who had the same interest as me. Everyone was so nice and helpful!”

The SACNAS experience “provided me with the skills and opportunities necessary to ensure that I find the right grad school, get accepted, and am successful once matriculated. The supportive, friendly environment and informative presentations have increased my confidence and motivation drastically, and the path ahead of me now appears more clear and bright,” says Raquel Thomas, one of our current PREP scholars.

THE 2009 SACNAS ANNUAL MEETING

Each year, UNM Biology students, from every background and representing our student research programs (such as Initiatives to Maximize Student Diversity [IMSD], Minority Access to Research Careers [MARC], and PREP) attend the national meeting of Society for the Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in the Sciences (SACNAS). Founded in 1978 by researchers from around the U.S., including New Mexico, it is a combination of science and mentoring, with a goal of increasing diversity in science, math and engineering. Often, this conference is the place where students give their first major research presentation.

This year, approximately 40 UNM students, staff and faculty attended the conference, which was held in Dallas, TX, on October 15-18th. Approximately 3,000 U.S. scientists, from undergraduates to senior faculty, attended this year’s meeting. This year’s Nobel Laureate address was given by Dr. Michael S. Brown, who received the prize for his work in discovering statins.

Of the 595 undergraduates who presented posters, Melissa Wilson (arrow in picture) a UNM senior in Biology whose research mentor is Professor Maggie Werner-Washburne, won a top poster award for her work, “The Contribution of Asymmetric and Symmetric Cell Division to the Production of Quiescent and Non-quiescent Yeast Cells in Stationary Phase Yeast Cultures.” In response to the honor, Melissa said, “This was my first presentation at a conference. Everyone I talked to was so friendly and from such a variety of fields that I ended up having a great time just answering their questions and learning about their research. SACNAS is a wonderful meeting, especially for students.”
LEE COUCH completed her B.S. (1988) and her M.S. (1990) in Biology at UNM with a focus on parasitology. From 1991–2004, she was an instructor in the Department of Biology at Central New Mexico Community College (formerly, Albuquerque TVI), where, from 1990–97, she taught a full teaching load and served as departmental chairperson. In 1997, she became a part-time Lecturer in Microbiology for the Health Sciences in UNM’s Biology Department, and has been a part-time research associate in parasitology since 1990, all while still teaching part-time at TVI. From 2000–present, she has been a Lecturer II, teaching Microbiology for the Health Sciences to all pre-health (mostly nursing and pharmacy) students and assumed the added responsibility of being the Coordinator of the Microbiology Culture Center and Micro Labs. In the past, Lee also taught introductory Biology 121 and 123 courses and occasionally sections of Parasitology. Lee has remained active in research and other scholarly activities in the last decade by continuing research on the systematics and taxonomy of the Coccidia, publishing more than a dozen parasitology papers in refereed journals, presenting or co-authoring numerous papers or posters given at regional, national or international parasitology meetings. She is also the Webmaster for the internationally recognized resource/database, The Coccidia of the World (http://biology.unm.edu/biology/coccidia/home.html).

Lee has served for the past 10 years as the American Society of Parasitologists (ASP) Chair of the Education Committee, is a past member of the ASP Nominating Committee, and currently is the co-chair of the ASP Auction Committee, which established an endowment that supplies travel funds to help about 30 ASP students attend national society meetings each year.

Currently, Lee is working on a taxonomic monograph with DONALD W. DUSZYNSKI (UNM Professor Emeritus of Biology and former chair of the Biology Department) and Scott Gardner (University of Nebraska–Lincoln) entitled, The Coccidia (Apicomplexa: Eimeriidae) of Rabbits (Mammalia: Lagomorpha) of the World.

In her spare time, Lee is a volunteer firefighter/EMT with the Volunteer Fire Brigade in Placitas, where she lives with her husband, Don Duszynski. She is the treasurer of her Homeowners Association, and the editor of the local firefighter monthly newsletter, Encode. When time is available, Lee enjoys doing stained glass, knitting, and needlework.

Wenyun Zuo is a Ph.D. candidate in Ecology in the UNM Biology Department. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science from Peking University, then completed her master’s degree in Ecology at the Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Science. From 2006 to 2008, she was a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Interface scholar.

Wenyun’s primary research interest involves the study of energy budgets for different biological processes, such as ontogenetic growth, reproduction and infection. Her latest work involves studying how temperature affects the energy allocation to maintain basic bodily functions to support everyday activities and growth during the growing phase across a diversity of cold-blooded organisms. Her work helps to understand the effects of temperature on evolution direction. It may be able to shed light on pressing issues of today, such as fisheries, which are facing unprecedented influence from global warming. Her research methodology uses the first principles of physics, chemistry and biology, leading her to actively collaborate with physicists, computer scientists and physicists and to publish jointly with members of the “Scaling Group” from the Santa Fe Institute and Los Alamos National Laboratory in several journals, such as Science and American Naturalist.

Wenyun is from the beautiful Guizhou province of China. During the summer of August 2003, she did field work in Tibet. When she stepped out of her jeep, 18,536 feet (5,650 meters) above sea level, she was greeted by snowfall and breathtaking scenery. She felt a deep respect and love for nature, and a strong desire to study it. She realizes that ecology is a relatively young discipline and enjoys the sense of adventure associated with its youth. Besides playing with equations, Wenyun enjoys playing badminton.
Dr. Tim Lowrey is a Professor of Biology, an Associate Chair of the Biology Department, and the Curator of the UNM Herbarium, a division of the Museum of Southwestern Biology (MSB). He also has been the Acting Chair of Biology (during summer semesters) and the Director of the MSB.

Tim obtained his Ph.D. in Botany from the University of California–Berkeley in 1981. He completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Ohio State University in 1982 and accepted a position as a Lecturer in the Botany Department at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. In 1987, he left South Africa to accept a faculty position at the National University of Singapore. Tim joined the UNM Biology Department in January, 1990.

Over the past 28 years since completing his Ph.D., Tim’s research has focused largely on the evolution and systematics of the Sunflower Family in the Pacific Basin (Hawaii, Cook Islands, Australia, and New Guinea) and Africa. Recently, he completed a collaborative project assessing the evolutionary relationships of the daisy group of the Sunflower Family, a group comprised of more than 200 genera and 3,000 species. He has on-going research collaborations involving a number of different flowering plant groups in the Southern hemisphere and in the American southwest, which include: plant–fungal relationships in arid-land plants (with Donald O. Natvig [UNM] and Andrea Porras-Alfaro [Western Illinois University]); revision of the genus Pteronia in southern Africa (with Nigel Barker [Rhodes University, South Africa]); a biomedical analysis of New Mexico plants with Wim Steelant [NM Tech]; tropical primate feeding ecology (with Peter Lucas [George Washington University]); and a revision of The Flora of New Mexico. His graduate students generally work on evolutionary systematic studies of U.S. Southwestern plant genera.

Among Tim’s recent publications are two collaborative chapters on the genetic diversity, phylogeny and evolution of Asteraceae in the 2009 book, Systematics, Evolution and Biogeography of Compositae; a 2008 article on the leaf anatomy of Orcuttieae; a 2008 article about how Taraxacum officiale affects the growth and invasion of breast and prostate cancer cells, published in the International Journal of Oncology; and a 2008 collaborative effort with other MSB staff: Jean-Luc Cartron, David Lightfoot, Sandy Brantley, Jane Miyatt on the Field Guide to the Middle Rio Grande Bosque.

The University of New Mexico hosted a week of activities to welcome new and returning students. The Biology Department participated in many events of this annual tradition celebrated August 20–24. Shannon McCoy-Hayes, Undergraduate Advisor, provided students with information about becoming a Biology major while giving students healthy snack bags. BUGS, the Biology Undergraduate Society, provided students with information about the Biology undergraduate community. The Sustainability Studies Program promoted their Grower’s Market and alternative fuel sources. Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC), Initiatives to Maximize Student Diversity (IMSD), Undergraduate Opportunities (UNO) and Postbaccalaureate Research and Education Program (PREP) recruited students for jobs in departmental laboratories under the supervision of a mentor. In addition to recruitment activities, the Department hosted a reception that included refreshments (food and ice cream) to welcome back faculty, staff and students to the start of a new academic year. The new departmental chair had a great time handing out ice cream from a pushcart while socializing with fellow Biology Department members.
THE 2009 ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MEETING

The UNM Department of Biology hosted the annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America (ESA) at the Albuquerque Convention Center on August 2-7, 2009. The meeting, last held in Albuquerque in 1997, was organized around the theme of “Ecological Knowledge and a Global Sustainable Society” and was attended by nearly 4,000 ecologists from the U.S. and abroad.

UNM Biology was well represented among presenters (submitting more than 150 abstracts for poster and oral presentations) and played a major role in organizing the meeting. Many UNM Biology graduate and undergraduate students worked as volunteers during the meeting, their efforts (and those of large numbers of students from outside NM) coordinated by graduate student Jen Plaut.

UNM Biology Associate Professor William T. Pockman served as the chair of the Local Host Committee, working with ESA staff to coordinate the development of field trips to local sites of interest. Many of these trips were organized by faculty and graduate students from the Biology Department, including trips to learn about climate change manipulation experiments at the Sevilleta Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) site (Professor Scott Collins, Ph.D. candidate Jen Plaut), lava tube ecology at El Malpais National Monument (Dr. Diana Northup, M.S. candidate Jessica Snider), agricultural ecology of Pueblo and acequia communities (Ph.D. candidate Miguel Santistevan), riparian restoration efforts at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. (Professor Emeritus Manual C. Molles Jr. and Gina Dello Russo, U.S. F.W.S.), Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP, Kimi Scheerer and Kimberly Eichorst), and the ecology of the Valles Caldera National Preserve (Dr. Robert R. Parmenter, Chief Scientist, V.C.N.P. and formerly of UNM Biology and the Sevilleta LTER). Like the meeting itself, these trips were a resounding success and drew more than 10% of the meetings attendees away from Albuquerque to see some of the unique ecological aspects of central New Mexico, many of which showcased past or ongoing research conducted in UNM Biology.

ADJUNCT FACULTY PROFILE: NANCY GRIMM

A recent president of ESA is Dr. Nancy B. Grimm, a Professor of Ecology in the School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University and now an Adjunct Professor of Biology here at UNM. Nancy studies how human–environment interactions and climate variability influence biogeochemical processes in both riverine and urban ecosystems, and collaborates with hydrologists, engineers, geologists, chemists, sociologists, geographers and anthropologists. She is the Lead Principal Investigator and co-Director of the Central Arizona–Phoenix Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) project, a study of the Phoenix metropolis and its surroundings that is one of the first comprehensive investigations of an urban ecosystem.

Nancy earned her B.A. (1978) from Hampshire College in Massachusetts and her M.S. (1980) and Ph.D. (1985) from Arizona State University, and has held research scientist and faculty positions at the latter institution since 1990. She has been a distinguished visiting scholar at the University of Wisconsin (1998), the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (1998–99), Utah State University (2003), Colorado State University (2004), Idaho State University (2007), and the Centre d’Estudis Avançats de Blanes (Spain, 2007).

Nancy is also a past president of the North American Benthological Society, and is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She has chaired and served on several national and international advisory and editorial boards, and currently is the assigning editor for Ecological Applications and an editor for Ecolhydrology.

Over 25 years, Nancy has mentored more than 100 undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral scholars, has worked with more than 120 collaborators, is the author or co-author of more than 120 scientific publications, and has been awarded more than $28M in federal research funding. Nancy was a contributing author of the recently released synthesis report, Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States.

We welcome Nancy and are delighted to have her associated with the department.
NANCY DAVIS AND ROY RICCI NOMINATED FOR THE GERALD W. MAY AWARD

UNM established an endowment from funds earmarked by former UNM President Gerald W. May specifically for staff recognition. A matching amount was made available from the Regents’ Endowment Fund, designated at the end of President May’s tenure, in recognition of his service and assistance in creating the UNM Staff Council. Income from the endowment is used by the Office of the President to recognize outstanding staff members who have made significant contributions to the University. This year, the Department of Biology was pleased to nominate Nancy Davis and Roy Ricci as recipients of the Gerald W. May Award.

As a System Administrator, for more than nine years, Nancy Davis has provided computer systems support services to more than 100 people within the Biology Department. Her service to the people working in the department, however, has far exceeded the requirements of the job. Nancy’s dedicated service to the Biology Department and the UNM community in general has been extraordinary. Nancy’s routine duties include maintaining the department’s servers and setting up new computers for the department’s Main Office personnel, but in service above and beyond her expected responsibilities, she helps people when their computers are suddenly hacked by increasingly sophisticated and stubborn viruses, helped to design the department’s newest Web site, chairs the UNM-IT monthly meetings, and has served on the University’s implementation committee to upgrade all campus buildings to a wireless network. In addition to her daily tasks, Nancy supervises her part-time assistant, and is a role model of administrative and health of the many animals used in our teaching and research. Roy also supervises a part-time Animal Technician for this facility. Truly, Roy is an person who improves the environment for those 100+ people in our department. Roy constantly smiles, is friendly with everyone, and always makes time to chat and joke with folks. Although Roy’s formal position involves maintenance of the Animal Facility, he makes an extra effort to oversee the research component of the facility; in this regard, Roy performs above and beyond his job expectations. Roy has long been a member of the Biology Department, and he has long been involved in community activities. Most notably, he has served as an Intel Science Fair judge for 16 consecutive years, underscoring his commitment to mentoring and education.

The recipient of the May Award will be known in early December. The Biology Department congratulates both of these outstanding nominees.

IN MEMORIAM: KENDRA LIPINSKI

Our friend, colleague and student, Kendra Lipinski, passed away on May 21. Kendra was an exceptionally mature and intelligent student, thoughtful, independent and resourceful. After completing her undergraduate degree at Pomona College, she stayed for a couple of years here in Albuquerque, where she has family. In the summer of 2008, she defended her M.S. thesis, “Gene Duplication and Deletion During Adaptive Recovery in Caenorhabditis elegans,” with distinction. Kendra played an important role in laboratory experiments aimed at measuring the genome-wide gene duplication and deletion rates in C. elegans. She also was chosen to represent the graduate students on a Cell and Molecular Biology faculty search committee.

Kendra had a seemingly boundless enthusiasm for science and life in general. She sang with the University Choir, loved dancing, music, and many outdoors activities, including caving and mountain climbing.

In the fall of 2008, Kendra moved to San Diego for a future that those who knew her was certain to be bright and exciting. We are deeply saddened by her unexpected passing and miss her quirky sense of humor, her enthusiasm and her kindness.
We most sincerely thank our donors for your generous gifts in 2008–09. Your continued support of the Department of Biology allows us to provide resources needed to sustain students and faculty through scholarships, research funding, capital project improvements, and other general needs. Much of your donations and contributions of this past year supported our students’ research.

Dr. Theresa Anaya
Dr. Lisa Arciniegas &
Dr. William Gannon
Mr. David Armstrong
Dr. Susan Atlas &
Dr. Stephen Boyd
Mr. Peter August
Drs. Robert & Laura Baker
Ms. Zonia Balasch
Mr. & Mrs. W.P. Barbeau
Ms. Sharon Barefoot
Mrs. Patricia Barlow-Ilk &
Mr. John Irick
Dr. Luanna Bartholomew
Mr. Timothy Base
Mrs. Dorothy Bealmead
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Dr. Dale Alversion
Dr. & Mrs. David Beck
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Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Behrend
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Mr. John Blake
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Mr. William Briggs
Mr. Carson Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Brown
Dr. Patricia Bryant &
Mr. Richard Bryant, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Carter
Mr. & Mrs. William Chang
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Dr. Scott Collins
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Cook
Dr. John Corliss
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Costanzo
Ms. Lee Couch &
Dr. Donald Duszynski
Dr. Joel Cracraft &
Dr. Lori Zakowski
Dr. & Mrs. Clifford Crawford
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Ms. Rosalie D’Angelo
Dr. & Mrs. John Davanzo
Dr. William Degenhardt
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dierling
Dr. V. Alton Dohner
Ms. Patricia Dolan
Ms. Paula Dowler &
Mr. Robert Stratford
Dr. Jennie Duffy &
Mr. Robert Duffy
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Dunnum
Ms. Helen Dvorachek
James Mills & Barbara Ellis
Elmer J. & LaVonne Finck
Ms. Penelope Firth
Russ & Ann Fisher-Ives
Dr. William FitzPatrick
Mr. Mark Fitzsimmons
Dr. Orcilla Zuniga Forbes
Mr. Jose Frances
Dr. Jennifer K. &
Mr. Timothy C. Frey
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Gardner
Dr. & Mrs. Scott Gardner
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Genoways
Dr. Sarah George &
Dr. Richard Ford
Mr. & Mrs. John Gessel
Dr. & Mrs. Frederic Giere
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Gordon
Mrs. Rhea Graham &
Dr. Clifford Dahm
Dr. & Mrs. Ira E Greenbaum
Ms. Adrienne Greene
Mrs. Jean Hafner
Dr. Wendy Halpern &
Mr. Aaron Halpern
Col. & Mrs. Paul Harden
Mr. Kyle Harms
Ms. Virginia Hayssen
Dr. Bruce Hayward
Dr. Janet Hoagland-Sorensen &
Mr. James Sorensen
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hovingh
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Hughes

Mr. Robert Ivey
Mr. Andrew Johnson
Dr. & Mrs. Karl Johnson
Ms. Tamara Johnson
Dr. & Mrs. Kirkland Jones
Miss Sheila Jordahl
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Kane
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Keller
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**Congratulations to This Year’s Scholarship Winners!**

### Undergraduate Scholarship Winners

**THE COCALINA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** assists women students in their pursuit of science. This year’s recipient is **Diane Pater**.

**THE ROSALIE DOOLITTLE SCHOLARSHIP** funds undergraduates pursuing studies in botany. **Diane Pater** is this year’s awardee.

### Graduate Scholarships

**THE MELINDA BEALMER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** is awarded to attend and present at conferences. The award winner for this year is **Susan Mirabal**.

**THE CRAWFORD RIO GRANDE SCHOLARSHIP** assists those conducting research related to the Rio Grande Bosque. This year’s award winner is **Trevor Krabbenhoft**.

**THE DR. LYNN A. HERTEL GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD** was established to support the research program of those completing their thesis or dissertation. This year’s award recipient is **Trevor Krabbenhoft**.

**THE DR. HARRY WAYNE SPRINGFIELD SCHOLARSHIP** provides funds to conduct research in plant ecology. The year’s winner is **Kathleen Chuchra-Zbytniuk**.

### Undergraduate/Graduate Scholarships

**THE ALVIN AND CAROLINE GROVE SCHOLARSHIP** awards those who show scholastic and academic achievement in their primary research field. This year’s award recipient for the Doctoral scholarship is **William Dunn**. The award winners for the Summer scholarship are **Kathleen Chuchra-Zbytniuk**, **Jennifer Hathaway**, **Andrew Hope**, **Sally Koerner**, **Jolene Rearick** and **Mason Ryan**. The Grove Research Scholarship winners are **Brittany Barker**, **Traci Grzymala**, **Angela Hung**, **Jordan Okie** and **Rhiannon West**.

**THE JOSEPH GAUDIN SCHOLARSHIP** is awarded to students studying mammals, in particular members of the cat family (Felidae). The scholarship winners are **Ivy Brown**, **Andrew Edelman**, **Jacob Greenberg** and **Wenyun Zuo**.

**THE THELMA EVANS TRUST SCHOLARSHIP** provides support for those pursuing a career in veterinary medicine. The recipients this year are **Lia Hulsbos**, **Stacey Real**, **Jennifer Rodriguez**, **Hagit Salamon**, **Melissa Smith** and **Patricia Warne**.