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UNM News Minute #459 – January 22, 2009

NANCY “RUSTY” BARCELO, foremost authority on equity and diversity, visits the University of New Mexico for a university-wide forum to enhance thinking about diversity, Thursday, Jan. 29. The event kicks off with a student forum in the UNM Student Union Building Acoma rooms A&B from 10-11 a.m. Barcelo, vice president and vice provost for equity and diversity at the University of Minnesota, will make introductory remarks and facilitate the forum. Faculty members are invited to a luncheon beginning at 11:30 a.m. To attend, please RSVP at 277-1481. Seating is limited.

<http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/003550.html#more>

PROPOSED CHANGES to Policy 3440 "Family and Medical Leave" - <http://www.unm.edu/~ubppm/ubppmanual/d3440hl.htm> - are available for a 30-day review and comment period ending February 23, 2009. The changes can be viewed at: <http://www.unm.edu/~ubppm/>.

EACH YEAR, the Division of Human Resources enters into health insurance negotiations with the goal of improving the health and wellness of UNM's employees while holding down costs and protecting the benefits that all enjoy. Significant progress has already been made for the coming fiscal year.

<http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/003538.html#more>

SHORTLY AFTER NOON on Tuesday, Jan. 20, Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States. President Obama then gave an 18-minute inaugural address, talking about the problems that America currently faces and what he will try to do to address those problems as America goes through what he called the “gathering clouds and raging storms.” Political Science professor Gabriel Sanchez watched the inauguration speech and shares his thoughts at the dawn of the Obama era.

<http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/003545.html#more>

THE 2009 SESSION of the New Mexico state legislature began Tuesday, Jan. 20. The UNM government relation's team prepared for the challenge by creating a new web site outlining the priorities for UNM, supplying a legislative calendar and providing a way to receive frequent updates on your computer.

<http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/003511.html#more>

UNM EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGIST Jerry Dragoo will be featured in part of an upcoming PBS Nature documentary titled, “Is that Skunk?” The show will broadcast on Sunday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. on KNME Ch. 5. It will cover a variety of skunk-related segments including Dragoo's sanctuary for skunks, one of only a few. His segment will tell what life is like for Dragoo and his friends at the sanctuary.

<http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/003548.html#more>

RAVINDER K. JAIN, professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering and Physics and Astronomy Departments, has been appointed as a Fellow in the American Physical Society. The honor, which is given only to a small portion of the society's membership, is

in recognition for Jain's outstanding contributions to the field of physics.

<http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/003531.html#more>

GIL GONZALES BRINGS a new vision of information technology to UNM. He joined UNM in August as chief information officer and was previously CIO at California State University, Monterey Bay. Improving customer service to students, faculty and staff on an increasingly limited budget is a challenge for everyone. Gonzales aims to establish information technology as a service as much as a tool.

<http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/003539.html#more>

THE GROUPWISE e-mail system was restored Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 5:30 p.m. Some users with NetIDs beginning with K - Z were unable to receive messages or calendar appointments from Monday, Jan. 19 through Wednesday at 6:30 a.m. Out of the 70,000 e-mail users at UNM, 3,200 GroupWise users were affected overall and some of these users may continue to experience sporadic e-mail problems as system repairs continue.

<http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/003549.html#more>

THE UNM SMOKE FREE Environment Committee will conduct two town hall meetings on Tuesday, Jan. 27, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Santa Ana A&B at the Student Union Building. The second will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 28, from 12 to 1 p.m., in SUB Ballroom B. <http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/003547.html#more>

UNM'S KARL HINTERBICHLER, professor of music, will present a lecture on 13th century Spanish King Alfonso X at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, Spanish Resource Center on Saturday, Jan. 24, at 10:30 a.m.

<http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/003542.html#more>

ON SATURDAY, Jan. 24, the N.M. Museum of Natural History and Science, KNME-TV's "Science Café" will host a discussion of the groundbreaking recent robotic expedition of the planet Mars with Dr. Larry Crumpler, research curator of Volcanology / Space Science with the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science.

<http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/003554.html#more>

THE 2009 NEW MEXICO Legislative session started earlier this week, and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson's influence will be felt throughout the political spectrum. On this week's "New Mexico in Focus" co-hosts David Aire Garcia and Gene Grant will analyze the governor's top priorities for the 60-day session. "New Mexico in Focus," KNME-TV, channel 5's weekly one-hour news show, will air on Friday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. and will repeat on Sunday, Jan. 25 at 6:30 a.m.

<http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/003551.html#more>