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UNM News Minute #685 – August 26, 2010

THE UNM FOUNDATION raised \$75 million this fiscal year, nearly twice what it raised five years ago. The Foundation is looking toward the future, welcoming incoming Foundation President Henry Nemcik as it continues Changing Worlds: The Campaign for UNM, which has already generated more than \$323 million since 2006. During FY 2009-10, 17,000 benefactors gave more than 38,400 gifts. In addition, UNMF distributed approximately \$15.4 million from the endowment, 98 percent directly supporting faculty and student success. The fund is valued at \$283.5 million. <http://news.unm.edu/?p=2998>

KEEPING AT-RISK children and adolescents free of brain disease is a focus of studies funded by more than \$10.8 million in recent awards to The Mind Research Network (MRN). The funding will also support MRN breakthroughs in the study of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, and the grants will help MRN build what is already one of the most comprehensive brain data bases in the world.

<http://news.unm.edu/?p=3151>

THE AGENCY FOR TOXIC Substances and Disease Registry, a division of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, has announced a cooperative agreement with the UNM Health Sciences Center for a three-year, \$3 million study on pregnancy outcomes and child development in relation to uranium exposure among Navajo mothers and infants living on the Navajo Nation.

<http://news.unm.edu/?p=3344>

UNM HAS RECEIVED a National Science Foundation-funded 'Alliance for Minority Participation - Bridge to the Doctorate Fellowships' award for \$966,438. The award provides complete support for 12 Ph.D. bound minority graduate students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduate programs at UNM. <http://news.unm.edu/?p=3352>

FOR THE NEXT three years, Jed Crandall, an assistant professor in Computer Engineering, and Rafael Fierro, associate professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, will use a \$450,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to come up with algorithms that can track the way information (such as the dumb limerick) flows through computers and the Internet. They are searching for a way they can tag data and monitor the way it moves around without slowing the system it moves through.

<http://news.unm.edu/?p=3063>

THIS FALL UNM will change emergency text messaging systems from TextMe to LoboAlerts. The new system, provided by Rave Wireless, Inc., will be an opt-out system rather than the current opt-in system. This means that everyone with an active Banner record including students, faculty, staff and others affiliated with the University, will automatically be enrolled in the system. Users are encouraged to login to the system to confirm their contact information and preferences. If a user chooses to opt-out of the text portion of the system, they can do so at that site. <http://news.unm.edu/?p=2238>

ENROLLMENT AT THE University of New Mexico grew nearly six percent to 27,700 students at the Albuquerque campus as of Aug. 23, the first day of fall classes. Growth is particularly strong among national scholars, nonresidents, beginning freshmen and transfer students. Students taking online classes grew by a record 59 percent. The numbers will continue to fluctuate as students change their

schedules early in the semester. Official counts are reported after the third week of classes.

<http://news.unm.edu/?p=3189>

AS HEALTH CARE costs continue to increase, UNM's Division of Human Resources is searching for cost saving opportunities to avoid or mitigate the need for cost cutting actions such as benefit reductions and employee contribution increases. One cost saving opportunity that many employers are taking advantage of is dependent eligibility audits. <http://news.unm.edu/?p=3003>

WHILE THE UNIVERSITY faces tough economic times, staff of the Division of Human Resources have come together to support UNM employees across campus. They are the HR Boosters, a group convened in 2009. The group raises funds to support Back-to-School Families, UNM employees with school age children who need a little help affording school supplies, clothes and backpacks, and Holiday Families, UNM employees who need a little help to celebrate the holidays. <http://news.unm.edu/?p=3007>

STUDENTS, FACULTY and staff from the Department of Theatre and Dance became ambassadors to the world when they carried their production of Mac Wellman's "Dracula" to the Asia Theatre Education Centre International Theatre Festival in Beijing, China, in May. UNM was the only invited U.S. delegation to this biannual festival. Other participants included government-run institutions representing India, Japan, Korea, China, Mongolia, Singapore, Vietnam and Australia. <http://news.unm.edu/?p=3018>

FORMER UNM golfer Jodi Ewart was one of two athletes named recently as a recipient of the inaugural Mountain West Conference Male and Female Athletes of the Year Awards. Ewart posted a school-record 72.12 scoring average over 33 rounds played and recorded five top-five finishes last season en route to being named the 2010 MWC Women's Golfer of the Year. She is the first student-athlete in any Mountain West sport to receive four consecutive player of the year honors.

<http://news.unm.edu/?p=3338>

YEKATERINA YUSHMANOVA, a recent graduate of the landscape architecture graduate program, is the first place winner of the Wayne Grace Memorial Student Design Competition, presented by the Landscape Architectural Registration Boards Foundation, a not-for-profit organization supporting landscape architecture education and research. <http://news.unm.edu/?p=3163>

THE CROSS-BORDER Issues Group traveled to Central America this summer in its quest to gain a better understanding of the factors motivating outmigration from the region into Mexico and the United States. <http://news.unm.edu/?p=2928>

AARON SALINGER, doctoral student in Spanish & Portuguese, and Lloyd Merino, an undergraduate, spent a month this summer on the bicycle project in Granada, Nicaragua. Before heading south, they spent a week raising money. With some help from the Department of Spanish & Portuguese, they came up with about \$450. <http://news.unm.edu/?p=3209>

ON APRIL 30, 2006, Zimmerman Library suffered a serious fire that began in the basement in a section that housed journals on Latin America, Native Americans and New Mexico history. More than 30,000 volumes were lost as firefighters tried to reach the flames in a large, dark basement filled with books

and smoke. The disaster response and lessons learned are the focus of a new book issued by the Association of College and Research Libraries, "Comprehensive Guide to Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Recovery," by Fran Wilkinson, Nancy Dennis and Linda Lewis, library professor emerita.

<http://news.unm.edu/?p=2882>

A CELEBRATION of the life of Regents' Professor of History Ferenc Morton Szasz, is set for Friday, Aug. 27 from 2-4 p.m. in Rodey Theatre, in the UNM Center for the Arts. A reception immediately follows the service in the History Department Common Room, 1104 Mesa Vista Hall. <http://news.unm.edu/?p=3300>

THE FAMILY DEVELOPMENT Program, in collaboration with Decade of the Child, a statewide early childhood advocacy coalition, and Native American Professional Parent Resources, Inc., are hosting a "Celebration of Wonder" on Saturday, Aug. 28, at the Old Town Gazebo from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. This innovative family play event for young children and their families will explore how our youngest children see the city. Strong Starts for Children will bring people from all walks of life into dialogues to work together for the success of all children. <http://news.unm.edu/?p=2414>

THE DEADLINE FOR the Popejoy subscription discount benefit is Saturday, Aug. 28. Benefits-eligible faculty and staff can purchase subscriptions to the 2010-11 season for half price. All that is required to become a subscriber is to purchase two shows from the Ovation Series, or to purchase the five-show Broadway in New Mexico package, which includes the blockbuster hit, Wicked. For more information call 277-8010 during business hours or visit: <http://popejoypresents.com>.

THIS WEEK MARKS KNME's first in a series of partnerships with the community on the new and exciting project titled, Public Square. As part of New Mexico In Focus, KNME brings together community members for an impassioned and informed discussion about some of the biggest issues facing our children today. This month's focus is on the importance of early childhood literacy. KNME's one hour public affairs show New Mexico in Focus airs Fridays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 6:30 a.m. on KNME, Channel 5.1. <http://news.unm.edu/?p=3316>