

Dates to Remember:

Faculty/Staff
Development Week –TBA

Fall Classes begin August
18, 2014

Labor Day—September 1,
2014 HU closed

Homecoming Week—
September 15 to 20, 2014
Game against Western
University

National Boss's Day—
October 16, 2014

Staff Advisory Senate
Meetings: Monthly -TBA

Fall begins September 22,
2014

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The Pony Express

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2

APRIL — JUNE 2014

SPOTLIGHT



L to R: Sam Salazar, Howard Gurule, Roman Baca, Manny Jones, Michael Shivers. L to R: Renay Cole, Christian Rubalcaba, Mario Fraire, Sheneika Rochester, Lenae Dickinson, Joe Chavez. L to R: Larissa Garcia, Danica Gonzales; Krystol Meyers, Eboni Jacobs. Center: Yvette Wilkes

A message from... Housing Office

A fundamental belief of the staff in the Highlands Housing and Student Conduct Department is that students grow and develop while they live in university housing. To help students achieve their personal and academic goals and become well-rounded individuals, we begin by meeting their basic needs by providing comfortable, well-maintained and safe living communities. But, we all know that there is more to the college experience than meeting “basic needs” and while it may not take a village to accomplish these goals, it does take a committed group of 37 full time regular and student staff to manage this feat.

Continued on page 3

STAFF SENATE UPDATES

From the desk of Margaret Gonzales, Staff Senate President

- Suggestion boxes are available at the following locations on campus:
Student Union Building, Felix Martinez Building, Rodgers Administration Building, Donnelly Library and Ivan Hilton Building.
- All FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS and guests are encouraged to submit constructive suggestions/ comments. Collected monthly, these comments are gathered, separated by area, and forwarded to the appropriate individuals. *Comments/ suggestions deemed inappropriate or in bad taste will not be forwarded.*
- Staff Senate elections are coming up in May. We are still in need of a representative from the technical/skilled membership group. If you are interested, please contact a current member of the staff senate as soon as possible. Representation from this group is crucial to the composition of the Senate.
- As is customary, all staff are highly encouraged to attend the meetings. These meetings are generally held during the academic year on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:30 am . Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 10:30 am.

Please visit the Staff Senate link on the Highlands website for updates on any of the above information and/or minutes from each of the meetings. Staff Senate Advisory newsletters are also posted on the website.

As the academic year draws to a close and anew Senate prepares to take office, this will be the last newsletter from the current senate and newsletter committee. Many thanks to all of the hard work exhibited not only by the current Staff Advisory Senate but the newsletter committee as well.

There is still much to be done: issues to be tackled, concerns to be heard, continued work on the Hay Group Study, updates and reviews of policies and the list goes on. We want to hear from you.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU, AS A STAFF MEMBER, MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE INFORMED. GET INVOLVED WITH STAFF SENATE TODAY!

Join us for:

Faculty/Staff Development Week

August 11 through 13, 2014

Homecoming Week

September 15 through 20, 2014



DEPARTMENT NEWS

Continued from page 1 - SPOTLIGHT NEWS - Housing Office

From the office personnel, to the custodial staff to the frontline residential student staff, each member of this team must make a commitment to doing their best.

The Housing and Student Conduct staff is comprised of Yvette D. Wilkes, director, Renay Cole, administrative assistant, a department secretary, Roman Baca, custodial supervisor, Joe Chavez, lead custodian, Ernest Gutierrez, Michael Shivers, Sam Salazar, Emmanuel Jones and Mario Fraire, custodians. These individuals, along with the office and residential student staff, service over 700 on campus students spread out over five residence halls and two apartment complexes. The office staff processes over 900 housing applications, fields hundreds of telephone calls, email inquiries and walk-in visits a year from current students, prospective students, parents and counselors. The director manages any student conduct issues that arise in on campus housing and neighboring areas. Our custodial staff cleans and maintains the residences and adjacent grounds, and works hard to give our students a sense of pride in where they live.

We are also responsible for providing educational, cultural, and social programming to our residents. These can take the form of an informational bulletin board, a CVPP workshop, SSS tutoring and the ever popular REZ FEST experience each fall and spring, among many other offerings throughout the year. In fact, the residential staff averages 200 programs per academic year. So, if you hear a student say, there is nothing to do, that is very likely not true. Very few people outside of the department know or understand what a time consuming and, at times difficult job this can be. That is why commitment at each level is vital. Our students' development and safety are very important to us and without it, we become just another building where people sleep, a dorm instead of a residence hall. While our efforts are not always appreciated by some, we know many more that have come to realize and appreciate what we are trying to accomplish.

Giving to our students is very fulfilling but what we get in return is priceless. We have had students who were very apprehensive about leaving home and living in a residence hall, unsure about what to expect. In fact, this past August at our check in, we were informed about a new student who had recently lost a parent and was seriously contemplating not coming to Highlands at all. Fortunately, she was persuaded to attend. Our staff found out about this and, along with A'viands Food Service who donated the birthday cake and paper goods, threw her a surprise birthday party in her residence hall, inviting those on her floor with whom she had recently become acquainted; even her professor was in on the surprise. This student went from depressed and scared to knowing there were those who cared about her, priceless.

We are not always the most popular individuals on campus, but we understand how important our job and our residents are and that is why we wear our name proudly. We are Housing and Student Conduct.





MVD is offering NMHU license plates and NMHU vanity license plates.

Support NMHU and get yours today!



Quotes to Live by:

"Experience is not what happens to you; it's what you do with what happens to you."
-Aldous Huxley

Or

"A leader is one who knows the way."
-John C. Maxwell

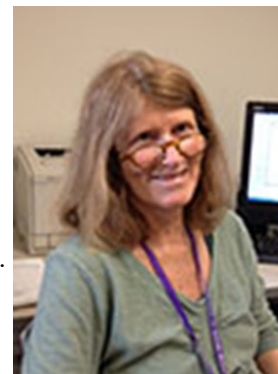
Or

"Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom."
-George Washington

Staff Retirements

Dr. Jill Baker (20 years)

Dr. Baker began her employment with the university on August 15, 1994, as an associate professor of Social Work. She was promoted to full professor of Social Work in 2004. Jill came to Highlands from the University of Nebraska at Kearney where she was an assistant professor of Social Work. Dr. Baker will retire on July 1, 2014.



Delfido Gallegos (27 years)

Delfido Gallegos was hired as a painter in May 1987. He transferred to locksmith in 1990. Mr. Gallegos retired on January 1, 2014.

Robert Garcia (27 years)

Robert Garcia was hired as a painter in May 1987. In May 1994, he was promoted to painter supervisor. In November 2006, he became a locksmith. Mr. Garcia retired February 1, 2014.

These two individuals worked closely together as a team and were well recognized throughout the campus.



Dr. Alfredo Garcia (22 years)

Dr. Garcia was hired as an assistant professor of the School of Social Work in August 1992. He was named Director of School of Social Work/assistant professor of Social Work in January 1996. In July 1996, he became the Dean for the School of Social Work. Dr. Garcia retires on July 1, 2014.



Robert Heidlebaugh (13½ years)

Robert Heidlebaugh began employment on May 14, 2001, as a lab technician. In July 2005, he became a lab manager. Mr. Heidlebaugh retired on January 1, 2014. After being in engineering, he became the chemical store room manager and electronics person in the science building. "In the hard sciences with no calculators, we had to use slide rules and maybe even long division," Robert said. Robert could always be depended on to be at his desk ready to work every day at 7:30 A.M. -Jan (no photo available)

“Under the stars, laying on the beach, or just kicking up your feet - All your choice”

Continued from page 4

Raymond Lopez (32 years)

Raymond Lopez began employment as a utility worker in June 1982. In April 1985, he became an electrician. Mr. Lopez retired on February 1, 2014. Mr. Lopez always had a bright smile and was well known within the university.



Alex Montoya (26 years)

Alex Montoya began employment in November of 1988 as a Heating Plant Plumber. In January 1994, he became the Heating Plant Supervisor for the next 16 years. What Mr. Montoya liked most about working at NMHU was his ability to “meet many people, and have a good time.” He was always in a good mood, smiled when he entered the room, and loved to start singing to the staff. His favorite song to sing was Las Mañanitas. Mr. Montoya would also like to thank Margarito Maes, Geno Maes and Carl Clayton for hiring him, also Gene Gallegos. Alex states, “Don’t forget to say how good looking I am.” Mr. Montoya retired on February 1, 2014 and is missed by many of his friends and colleagues.



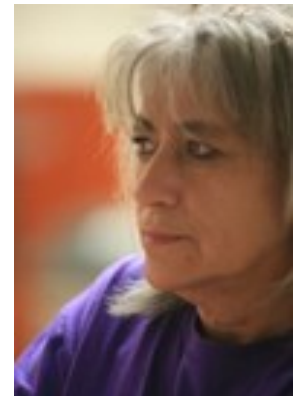
Darlene R. Tapia (33 years)

Darlene Tapia began her career at Highlands in December 1981, as a clerk typist for the Personnel/ Registrar/Housing/Business Office. In December 1993, she became the executive secretary for Finance & Administration. In 1996, she was the executive administrative assistant to the President and Board of Regents. In December 2009, she became the coordinator of Fiscal Services. Ms. Tapia will retire on July 1, 2014. Ms. Tapia says she is much appreciative to all who have given her the opportunity and experience of working at HU, but mostly Mr. Dennis Marquez, Mr. Vidal Varela and Ms. Martha Bustamante when she first started at HU. She stated that she has genuinely enjoyed her employment at HU and will miss all her coworkers. Darlene said she has had some great role models throughout her career and each day has and will continue to be a learning experience.



Andy Lou Ulibarri (27 years)

Andy Lou Ulibarri was hired in September 1986, as a Postal Clerk for the university’s Post Office. In December 1988, she was made senior postal clerk and became the Campus Post Office manager in February 1994. In September 2007, Ms. Ulibarri became the Post Office coordinator. Ms. Ulibarri retired June 1, 2013.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



I would like to recognize our Health Center for their kind and hard work they give to the University. - Peggy M. Sanchez, ITS

Ms. Sharen Maldonado, senior administrative assistant from EOS, became a grandmother with the birth of Josiah Charles Armijo .

Ms. Mary Ortega, administrative assistant from APNM, became a grandmother for the second time with the birth of Kylee Tobee Jones.

Stephen Mathis, son of Prescilla Ortega-Mathis, executive administrative assistant for Provost Office graduated *cum laude* on May 10, 2014, from the School of Communication at The Loyola University of Chicago. He received his bachelor's degree in Advertising and Public Relations and began full-time employment with Elliotts web, a website design and development company, also in Chicago.

Geno Mathis, also son of Prescilla Ortega-Mathis, is majoring in psychology at NMHU, and made the Dean's List in the Spring Semester 2014 with a 4.0 gpa.

Bryan (Campus Security) and Marka (Benefits) Trujillo's son, Brandon, earned a certificate of perfect attendance for 13 years while attending elementary, middle high, and high school. Governor Susana Martinez recently honored him with a certificate for this achievement. He graduated from Robertson High School in May and will attend Highlands University in the Fall 2014.

The Campus Violence Prevention Program, CVPP, has recently changed its name. Effective immediately, our office is now NMHU-CARES, Center for Advocacy Resources Education and Support. We will continue to provide the same services and support to the campus community, but will be expanding to include substance abuse prevention services. We are located in suite 306 in the Student Union Building and can be reached at 505-454-3529. Kimberly J. Blea, Director -NMHU-CARES, Center for Advocacy Resources, Education & Support, (505)454-3445, preventviolence@nmhu.edu

We would also like to say goodbye to Jeff Gallegos, Associate Human Resource Director and Sandra Trujillo, Academic Advisor/Peer Counselor for Support Services.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faculty, Student Research Showcased at Research Day 2014



Cutline: Molly Wright, who will graduate in May with a M.S. in biology, presents her thesis research April 4 at Highlands University's 12th Annual Research Day. *Photo: Margaret McKinney/Highlands University*

New Mexico Highlands University showcased its passion for faculty and student research excellence, scholarship, and creativity during its 12th Annual Research Day April 4.

"Learning and the advancement of knowledge represent the *raison d'être* for any university," said Jim Fries, Highlands University president. "Here at Highlands, this is well represented by faculty and students alike through a wide array of original research in disciplines across campus."

Forestry professor Sara Brown chairs the Faculty Research Committee and coordinated Research Day this year.

"Interdisciplinary sharing of research across campus by students and faculty is the most important aspect of Research Day," Brown said. "Research Day demonstrates that Highlands is making important contributions to fundamental new knowledge through research."

"When we take our students to outside conferences they rise to the top for student research, even when compared to large research institutions. Our students are eager to present their research and always shine when they do," Brown said.

Molly Wright, who graduates with her master's in biology in May, presented her thesis research on the impacts on amphibians of the 2011 Track Wildfire near Raton that burned 28,000 acres. Wright's study examined the native frog species of woodhouse toads, western chorus frogs and leopard frogs, as well as the non-native bullfrogs. Brown was her adviser.

"After the high-severity Track Fire, the amphibians were completely removed – we didn't see them, hear them or catch them in any in traps in our Sugarite State Park study area," Wright, 25, said. "The amphibians still haven't returned. Because amphibians are great indicators of water quality, this suggests a link to disturbances in water quality."

"My research opportunities at Highlands have been incredible and my professors – Sara Brown, Jesús Rivas, Sarah Corey-Rivas, and Edward Martínez – have been phenomenal. The cross-disciplinary collaboration is much better at Highlands than other graduate programs I researched," Wright said.

The oral presentations of faculty research were as diverse as geology professor Jennifer Lindline's geochronology and crystallization study of the Hermit's Peak Granite monolith north of Las Vegas and English professor Donna Woodford-Gormley's study of Cuban adaptations of Shakespeare's *Othello*.

As in past years, students made a strong research showing, presenting 13 oral talks of their studies. In addition, another 40 students presented posters of their research.

Student disciplines represented at Research Day included biology, chemistry, computer science, forestry, geology, natural resource management, education, psychology, social work, sociology, and more.

A few examples of student research include biology graduate student Casey Taylor's study analyzing the urban black bear population in Northern New Mexico; geology graduate student Geno Castillo's study of the paleomagnetic features of the Buena Vista Dike in North Central New Mexico; social work graduate student Barbara Salazar's study on the correlation between community distress and school violence in Española Public Schools; and forestry senior Juan Juaregui's study of deep seed corn planting as a model system to explore extreme drought management strategies in agriculture.

The university's Sigma Xi research society chapter is a major sponsor of the student's research, as well as Research Day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join the NMHU Alumni for a train trip!



We leave Friday, September 12, from Las Vegas, and arrive at Flagstaff that evening. The football game is on Saturday against Northern Arizona University, and then back again to New Mexico on

Sunday morning. We'll be returning by chartered bus.

All the details:

- Transportation is \$275 (Amtrak to Flagstaff on Friday, Coach Bus returning to Las Vegas on Sunday).
- Includes football game tickets (Highlands vs. Northern Arizona, Saturday 6 p.m.)
- Official hotel is Little America. Contact them directly at 1-800-352-4386 and reference "New Mexico.
- Highlands Alumni" for discounted rate – \$159/night/double occupancy.
- Little America amenities: sits on 500 wooded acres, 2-mile trail, pool, hot tub, restaurant, lounge, gift shop, good recent customer ratings.
- Ground transportation: Little America shuttle will pick us up at train station and take us to the hotel.
- Highlands' charter bus will pick us up at hotel and take us to football game.
- Meals and all other transportation is on your own...plenty of cabs and city buses available to explore Flagstaff on Saturday before the game.
- Participants need to reserve and pay for their transportation by July 1.

If you're interested, call Juli at 505.454.3248 to order your transportation package!

Employee Recognition Committee

The Staff Senate would like to congratulate the Employee Recognition Committee for its 15-year milestone of service to the university community.



Front: Jim Mandarino. Back, left to right: Marka Trujillo, Wendy Quintana, Margaret Gonzales, Carolina Martinez, Darlene R. Tapia, Diane Trujillo and Angela Vigil-Juarez. Not pictured: Donna Castro.

15th Annual Highlands University Employee Recognition Awards Ceremony held April 17, 2014

*“You’re Essential To Our Success
Thanks For Your Contributions And Commitment. You Make Us
Stronger.”*

Employee Recognition - cont.



Employee Recognition - cont.



Employee Recognition - cont.



Employee Recognition - cont.



Employee Recognition - cont.



Susan Williams, left, director of the Highlands RN-BSN Program, and RN-BSN professor Karen Brooks with the Outstanding Service Award the RN-BSN Program garnered at the 15th Annual Highlands University Employee Recognition Awards Ceremony and breakfast April 17. In March, the nursing program received word that the Board of Nursing Examiners wrote in its final report that the RN-BSN Program met all four standards for accreditation with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, including mission and governance, resources, curriculum and evaluation. The accreditation will be made official in October. Joni Chavez, administrative assistant for the College of Arts and Sciences, was tapped for the Outstanding Performance Award.



Congratulations

Congratulations to all university employees who received their degrees on May 1, 2014.

Great Job, Well done!

Nathan Maestas, Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice

Dawn Martinez, Master of Business Administration, Human Resource Management

Nichole Martinez, Master of Business Administration, Human Resource Management

Andrea Medina, Masters in Business Administration

Gregory Rael, Masters in Chemistry

Crystal Romero, Bachelor of Business Administration, Management

Leticia Romero, Master of Business Administration, Finance

Marcy Torres, Bachelor of Science in Forestry

Eric Urioste, Master of Business Administration, Human Resource Management



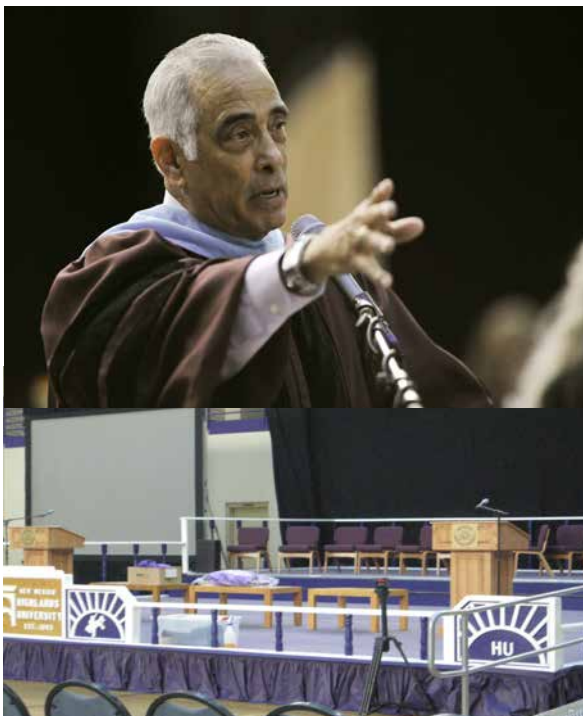
Congratulations also to children of University employees who graduated.

Adrianna Marie Allemand, BA in Sports and Science, HU, daughter of Ida Valdez Allemand, Business Office.

Kiana Gutierrez, LPN in Nursing, Luna Community College, daughter of Ernest Gutierrez, Housing.

Nathan Maestas, Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, HU, son of Susie Maestas, School of Ed.

“My daughter graduated Saturday with a BA in Elementary Education from HU. After being employed here for 31 years this has to be one of my most memorable experiences yet. We are so proud of her and now we have our son who graduated from Mora High School and who will also be attending HU.” -Debra Olivas, Financial Assistance



Highlands University distinguished alumnus Dr. Sylvester Perez, a San Antonio superintendent, was the university's commencement speaker on May 10. Highlands had a total of 876 graduates from the main campus and centers.



Commencement



Commencement – cont.



Commencement - cont.



AT REZ FEST



We Enjoy Hearing From You. Let us know all the great things that happen while at work.

Please send in your ideas, stories, photos, questions and requests. We want to hear about what is

important to you. Submit to any Staff Senate Newsletter committee member.

Read past issues online at: http://www.nmhu.edu/Staff_Senate.

Congratulations and welcome new Staff Advisory Senate Advisory members: Secretarial/Clerical –Reyna Alvizo –Business Office, Doris Gallegos -ITS, Peggy Margaret Sanchez -ITS, **Administrative/Professional** –Elizabeth Ratzlaff -Armas, Dominic Chavez –Business Office and Margaret Gonzales -Campus Life

and a Great Big Thank You to our outgoing members: Alexis Duran –secretary, Richard Griego – member and Darlene Tapia – Parliamentarian.

Staff Advisory Senate

Margaret Gonzales - President 454-3495
 Kimberly Blea - Vice President 454-3445
 Darlene R. Tapia - Parliamentarian 454-3272
 Alexis Duran - Secretary 454-3315
 Dominic Chavez - Treasurer 426-2108
 Doris Gallegos - Member 454-3168
 Richard Griego - Member 454-3260
 Tina Clayton - Member 454-3058
 Vacant - Member
 Vacant - Member
 Vacant - Member
 Vacant - Member

Please feel free to contact any of the above members directly with questions, comments, or general feedback. Thank you for your support and we look forward to hearing from you!

Staff Senate Newsletter Committee

Darlene R. Tapia - Chair 454-3272
 Doris Gallegos - Vice Chair 454-3168
 Yvonne Duran - Member 454-3020
 Carolina Martínez - Member 454-3269
 Prescilla Ortega-Mathis - Member 454-3311
 Wendy Quintana - Member 454-3387
 Irene Romero - Member 454-3499

Please contact any of the above Newsletter Committee members with any ideas you would like to see in the next issue of "The Pony Express."

Be on the look out for our next quarterly issue at the end of September