

Commencement is Just the Beginning

As UNM graduates cross the commencement stage, the Alumni Association is already reaching out and having contact with its newest family members. “The Association provides a multitude of services for young alumni,” said Sue MacEachen, senior program manager of the UNM Alumni Relations Office. “We intend to build meaningful relationships early.”



UNM young alumni enjoy a 2014 wine and cheese reception outside Hodgin Hall. Photo: Maria Wolfe

Young alumni from 23 to 33 years old make up 35 percent of the 178,000 UNM alumni on record. A recent survey indicated young alumni are most concerned about career development and identifying job opportunities through mentoring and networking.

The UNM Young Alumni Chapter offers business and social networking opportunities such as career events, wine-tasting events, community service projects, and even golf lessons. The chapter also hosts “Pathways to Grad School,” a workshop for current students and new grads preparing for graduate school.

Community service projects often garner the highest participation. “This chapter likes to be involved,” said Sue. Young alumni are encouraged to give back to the community and they do by participating in ABQ Wildlife Federation projects, helping prepare meals for the Ronald McDonald House, and donating children’s costumes to the popular Halloween Costume Drive for Cuidando Los Niños.

The next step is giving back to the University. “We know from our Alumni Association survey that although a large percentage of young alums have never given, at least 36 percent have indicated they plan to give to UNM in the future,” said Sue. “This means we will continue to foster a culture of giving early on by encouraging participation in the Cherry & Silver Society.” (See article on page 2.)

For more information about the Young Alumni Chapter, or to join its listserv, please visit unmalumni.com/young-alumni. ◀

Take the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Challenge!

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UNM has provided academically based non-credit courses and membership benefits to individuals aged 50 and over since 2007. Osher instructors are the best in their fields — current and retired faculty and community experts teaching more than 250 courses in the humanities, science, current events and other topics each year. In 2010, OLLI at UNM surpassed 500 members and was granted a million dollar endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation. Now, with more than 1,200 members, the income helps keep program quality high and tuition low.

OLLI at UNM is pursuing a challenge from the Bernard Osher Foundation, which would make it eligible for a second million dollar endowment. It must raise \$20,000 from at least 240 members by March 2015 to be eligible to apply for this additional endowment.

To date, \$6,500 has been raised toward the \$20,000 goal from more than 100 members. We still have more than halfway to go to achieve these important goals, and **we need your help**.

These additional funds will allow OLLI at UNM to protect against future market downturns and create a sustainable lifelong learning program now and in the future. We hope you will join us in this effort. Your support would be greatly appreciated. You may donate online at unmfund.org/osher-at-unm.

If you would like more information about OLLI at UNM, please visit: ce.unm.edu/enrichment/osher/. You may also contact Maralie BeLonge at (505) 277-6179 or belonge@unm.edu. ◀



In March 2014, the UNM Foundation began its electronic receipt (e-receipt) program. This initiative saves time, money and paper. Please e-mail us at gopaperless@unmfund.org to receive your receipt for your gift(s) via email.

The UNM Foundation’s mission promotes excellence at the University of New Mexico by raising, investing and managing private gifts through the cultivation of long-term partnerships with donors and matching their interests to the University’s priorities.

UNM Children’s Hospital Changes Lives

Each year, Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals names a child from each state with an inspiring story to serve as an ambassador for the millions of children treated at Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals across North America. Each brave kid is called a “Champion Child” and they represent a hospital’s dedication to healing ill and injured children.



2014 Champion Child, Ethan, takes a break from his busy life.

This year, UNM Children’s Hospital, New Mexico’s only Children’s Miracle Network Hospital, has the privilege to announce a kindhearted 8-year-old boy named Ethan as the 2014 Champion Child for New Mexico. Ethan’s remarkable medical story begins when Ethan was only 18-months-old and diagnosed with a Stage 4 Yoke sac tumor, a type of germ-cell cancer. The tumor was the size of a baseball and situated against his left kidney. Doctors also found cancer in Ethan’s liver. Despite repeated rounds of chemotherapy and surgeries, in which three-fourths of his liver was removed, the cancer continued. Eventually, the doctors were able to get Ethan to a stable state so he could undergo dual bone-marrow transplants.

UNM Children’s Hospital staff remember Ethan as the little bald-headed boy riding the IV pole down the hall with tears in his eyes after having an injection saying “thank you” to those he passed. Ethan says his “first friends” were the doctors and nurses at UNM Children’s Hospital. In fact, Ethan called the sixth floor of the hospital his “home.” Today, in remission, he loves Angry Birds, rocks, dinosaurs, creating art and is ready to tell others about his cancer experience. “I had cancer when I was your age,” he told his little brother. “But I’m OK now.”

This November, Ethan and his family will travel to Washington, D.C. and Orlando, Fla. to meet the other “Champions” who represent the 170 Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals in the United States and Canada. Ethan will meet President Barack Obama and visit Walt Disney World Resort to celebrate his heroic journey.

Ethan truly symbolizes the many miracles made at UNM Children’s Hospital every day.

For more information about UNM Children’s Hospital, please contact Kara Clem at Kara.Clem@unmfund.org or (505) 277-4553 or visit hospitals.unm.edu/hospitals/unmch.shtml. Support UNM Children’s Hospital and children like Ethan by donating at unmfund.org/fund/childrens-miracle-network/. ◀



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UNM President's Club & Partnerships Help UNM Succeed

An important theme for UNM is partnerships, and the UNM President’s Club is one of those partnerships. UNM President’s Club members are exemplary partners who financially support our community with annual leadership gifts for University priorities. In addition to donations to the President’s Club Fund, benefactors also support activities in our Health Sciences Center, athletics, academic areas, and financial assistance to deserving students.

Other valuable University partnerships include New Mexico’s junior and community colleges. Thanks to our partners in Hobbs, N.M., many of our BA/MD students have had residential support while serving in southeastern New Mexico. In addition to local and statewide partnerships, our Global Education Office attracts interested students from around the world and helps our students study abroad to experience different cultures and experiences.



Photo: Eric Stenbakken

Albuquerque’s “innovation district,” Innovate ABQ, made progress when the business accelerator “ABQid” was unanimously approved by the city council. Innovate ABQ will work with ABQid to create opportunities for students in our forthcoming Innovation Academy, which has already begun developing and piloting courses.

We invite you to be a part of UNM’s success and join the UNM President’s Club. Visit www.unmfund.org/presidents-club or contact Jalen Dominguez at Jalen.Dominguez@unmfund.org or (505) 277-2816 to learn how you can be a part of the President’s Club and help support UNM’s students and programs.

Cherry & Silver Society Celebrates 10 Years

Established in 2004, the UNM Cherry & Silver Society honors and recognizes alumni who make a gift to UNM every year following graduation. New graduates have 24 months after their date of graduation to make their first gift.

In honor of the Society’s 10th anniversary, our goal is to increase the current 756 person membership by 10 percent. If you are a current member, thank you for your continued support and participation. If you are a recent graduate, we encourage you to join today. The amount of your contribution and the UNM program you choose to support is your decision because **every gift counts, every year.**

Since 2004 the collective membership has given \$2,193,377 to the University of New Mexico. All alumni can make a difference in the University experience for students, faculty and patients. With increased membership and participation, we can raise the bar of success at UNM!

In addition to donations to the UNM Cherry & Silver Society Fund, members also support UNM’s Health Sciences Center, athletics, academic research areas and scholarship assistance to students in need.

To learn more or make your gift, please visit our website at unmfund.org/cherry-silver-society. You can stay current with the UNM Cherry & Silver Society and other UNM Foundation News by following us on Facebook (facebook.com/UNMFoundation) and Twitter (@UNMFund). For more information contact Margaret Ortega at (505) 277-0689 or Margaret.Ortega@unmfund.org.



Graduation day — hooray!

annual giving

Supporting UNM sustainability initiatives: this newsletter is printed by a “green printer” on 10% PCW recycled paper, FSC certified, domestically produced and printed with vegetable-based inks that are low VOC (volatile organic compounds). To support UNM’s sustainability programs, please contact the UNM Foundation for more information.



You, Too, Can Change a Life

UNM Children’s Hospital Changes Lives

Take the OLLI Challenge!

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You, Too, Can Change a Life

by Karen Nordquist, Presidential Scholar Alumna and Sponsor

The UNM Presidential Scholarship Program keeps our state’s best and brightest students in New Mexico. This program is not only focused on funding a student’s education; it builds relationships between students and their sponsors and trains the next generation of leaders.

These outstanding students are not only focused on their academic achievements, but they also give back to their community and are eager to make a difference. These dedicated young people bring this same attitude to their communities long after they graduate from UNM.

Your gift of \$2,600 a year, combined with a match by UNM, results in a total scholarship package of almost \$8,000 per year. Where else can you leverage your money like that and make a significant change in someone’s life?

Presidential Scholar Lainey, says “I have changed and grown and your contribution to my education has been a part of that.” You, too, can change the lives of New Mexico scholars.

Do you know how easy it is to provide this scholarship? For about \$200 a month, you provide an almost \$8,000 Presidential Scholarship to a deserving student. This small amount provides an outstanding education and creates relationships that benefit our future!



Presidential Scholar, Elena Delgado (left), and Karen Nordquist. Photo: Jodi Newton

The Presidential Scholarship Program makes it easy to give. There are numerous ways to make a gift: the United Way 2014 Campaign Giving, credit card gifts, Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT), UNM Staff/Faculty payroll deductions, online gifts at unmfund.org, or a personal check. Also remember, if your employer has a gift matching program, your gift will be worth even more.

Whichever method you choose, please be a part of keeping the best and the brightest in New Mexico. To hear directly from scholarship donors about why they support this program, please view our video at unmfund.org/psp. For more information about the Presidential Scholarship Program or how to give, contact Cathy Bunch at (505) 277-5688 or Cathy.Bunch@unmfund.org.