

The University of New Mexico Foundation Developments

SPRING 2017

REWARDING COLLABORATION

Former UNM Educators Support Two Colleges Engaged in Multicultural Arts Integration

BY HILARY MAYALL JETTY

Albuquerque's International District is home to large populations of native New Mexicans, settled immigrants and recently arrived international refugees. It is culturally wealthy, yet economically impoverished. In the midst of this kaleidoscope of diversity, two UNM colleges are collaborating at La Mesa Elementary School in a unique educational pilot program that delights David and Mary Colton.

David served as dean of the UNM College of Education (COE) from 1980-89. Mary is an educator and accomplished weaver, and following her husband's tenure as dean, they both taught at the COE. Their passion for education, love of art and music, and deep concern for children in economically challenged circumstances led them to support TECLA, the Teacher Education Collaborative in Language Diversity and Arts Integration.

TECLA engages student teachers in Art Education at the UNM College of Fine Arts (CFA) and Elementary Education at the COE who are interested in bilingual education and TESOL (Teaching English to Students of Other Languages). Mentored by faculty from both colleges, these future educators blend artistic creativity and cultural sensitivity into mathematical thinking, scientific inquiry, social studies, literacy and other core subjects in La Mesa's classrooms. Learning becomes a joy, as youngsters demonstrate their comprehension through art, writing, drama, music and special projects.

This was a perfect fit for the Coltons. "There are far too many children living in poverty in New Mexico," David stated. "We decided to look for a program to invest in that involved these at-risk kids and the arts. TECLA is remarkable because the team understands that learning in school has to relate to kids' cultural heritage."

Although the English, Spanish and Navajo languages are taught at La Mesa, dialects from Africa and other continents are also represented in the student body. Teacher candidates are trained to appreciate their students as individuals with abilities that reflect knowledge they have gained through their community, heritage and daily realities.

Rebecca Sanchez, associate professor in Teacher Education and Educational Leadership and Policy, is a TECLA coordinator at the COE.



During Literacy Week at La Mesa Elementary School in Albuquerque, children bring to life an Aboriginal creation tale from the book *Sun Mother Wakes the World*.
Photo: Katie Williams, UNM Communication and Marketing

She values the Colton's active engagement with the program. "They are both educators, and it's exciting to have truly meaningful conversations with them," Sanchez explained. "Their generosity supports professional development for our students and the classroom teachers they work with. It also bolsters our research plans so we can collect data, as well as document and disseminate knowledge gained from this experience."

The Coltons enjoy attending events at La Mesa. Mary was particularly impressed by "classroom museum" projects, where students delve into a specific topic from different academic perspectives. Students create visual aids, exhibits and performances to help them present what they've learned to other classes as well as visiting adults.

(Continued on page 3)

A FAMILY TRADITION OF HISTORY

Couple's Endowment Honors Founder of New Mexico Historical Review

BY ANNA ADAMS

"Lansing Bloom pursued his own research agenda in archives in Mexico, Spain, Italy and Washington, D.C.," said Durwood Ball, editor of the *New Mexico Historical Review* (NMHR) and associate professor of history at UNM. "He recovered long-forgotten Spanish and Mexican documents on our region and brought copies to our archives at UNM."

Bloom was a renowned New Mexican historian who taught at UNM from 1926 until his death in 1946. He brought the NMHR with him to UNM from Santa Fe, where he worked as one of its founding editors. To honor his father's memory, John Bloom and his wife, Jo Tice Bloom, have created the Lansing B. Bloom Family Award at UNM to support the NMHR. John is on its editorial board.

"John has carried on in the field his father worked," said Ball. "He sets high standards for himself and others. I have the utmost respect for him as a historian and editor."

Both John ('47 BA) and Jo hold doctorates in history and have been active in the New Mexico Historical Society for many years. In addition, John previously served as a president of the Western History Association.

After graduating from UNM, John went on to earn his MA from George Washington University and his PhD from Emory University. A highlight of his extensive career in historical research was his longtime work as an editor of the *Territorial Papers of the United States* for the National Archives in Washington, D.C.



John Bloom

"My dad died before I finished my BA," said John. "By example, he guided me in my career. He was very devoted to his work."

Lansing Bloom started out as a missionary and later worked on documentation of New Mexican participants in WWI. He was dedicated to historical research on New Mexico and took many research trips to Spain and Mexico.

Jo shared her admiration for Maude E. McFie, Lansing's wife, who was also a historian. "She helped him with translation. Her Spanish was better than his, so she translated the documents faster than he could," said Jo. "They were a team."

Jo has led her own distinguished career in history with a special interest in women's education. She received her BS in education from Northwestern University and went on to earn her MA and PhD from the University of Wisconsin. She taught U.S. history for many years, including at New Mexico State University (NMSU) in Las Cruces, where she and John reside.

"I came up through the ranks at a time when there were very few of us," said Jo. "Women should follow their own interests. They can do anything they want to do."

"From Albuquerque and Santa Fe to down here at NMSU, we are a family with deep roots in New Mexico history," said John. "I believe the *New Mexico Historical Review* is one of the most important, if not the most important, publications to promote New Mexico history. We created our endowment at UNM to continue the strength of its position."

"And," said Jo. "To commemorate the work of Lansing B. Bloom." ■



Jo Tice Bloom
Photo: Courtesy American Association of University Women - New Mexico

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RUNNING TO KEEP AHEAD OF CANCER

Architecture Alumnus Creates Memorial Run to Benefit UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center

BY MICHELLE G. MCRUIZ

By any account, Polly Rogers was a remarkable woman. A first-grade teacher, runner, cross-country and track coach, wife, and mother of three, Polly dedicated her life to helping others succeed. Those under her tutelage, including her sons, learned that excuses wouldn't get them far.

"She taught us to never settle on anything; she never let us quit," said her son Joshua Rogers ('12 MS). "There was no room for slacking in her life."

Nor was there room for illness, but pancreatic cancer doesn't discriminate. Polly was stricken with the disease in 2008 at age 55 and succumbed to it 11 months later. After her death, her sons Josh, Chris and Ben, and her best friend Sally Machacek, conceived a way to honor her memory while helping the fight against this particularly lethal illness.

Polly's sons and Sally started a fundraiser in 2009 to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer and support pancreatic cancer research. The fundraising event is Polly's Run (pollysrun.com), a 5K run/walk now in its eighth year. In 2016, the fundraiser donated tens of thousands of dollars to the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"I've always had a notion to keep things local," said

Josh, who earned a master's degree in architecture at UNM and is a development manager at Titan Development in Albuquerque. "We decided that keeping our money here could have a big impact in the state of New Mexico and give people the best cancer treatment they possibly could get."

The Cancer Center is grateful for the support, especially because pancreatic cancer is considered largely incurable. Its five-year survival rate is only 7 percent, according to the American Cancer Society.

"The UNM Cancer Center is extremely grateful to Josh for his dedication to raising funds to support pancreatic cancer research in honor of his mother, Polly," said Dr. Cheryl Willman, director and CEO of the center. "He has done an outstanding job, and we are honored to be a part of Polly's legacy."

Polly started running in her late 20s. "She was a crazy runner," said Josh, "doing sub-20-minute 5Ks. As kids, my brothers and I followed her on this sport, and she got us to love it. We went all over the country to track and cross-country meets. It was a great experience for us. My mother really loved to touch young lives."

Josh is pleased with the corporate sponsorships and approximately 500 participants that Polly's



L-R, Sally Machacek, Justin Schroer, Joshua Rogers and Nancy Bowles pose during a check presentation ceremony. Photo: Courtesy UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center

Run has year over year. "We have a lot of repeat people who have made this about their loved ones," he said. "It gives people hope to know that there are others out there doing things to make this disease go away." ■

A FRIEND FOR LIFE

Former UNM Student's Gifts to UNM Honor an Abiding Connection to New Mexico

BY HILARY MAYALL JETTY

When Tom L. Popejoy was president of UNM, he traditionally invited students who made the Dean's List each semester to a banquet at the Student Union Building. One evening in 1963, William Partridge, a student in the (then) College of Engineering, had the honor of being seated at Popejoy's table. It is a memory he still cherishes, along with many of his UNM experiences.

"The general atmosphere on campus was always so friendly and accommodating," Partridge recalled. "I always felt like I was not just part of an institution, but part of a large and very supportive university family."

His family had moved from Ohio to Farmington, N.M. when he was a teen, and he graduated from Farmington High School before enrolling at UNM. A love of model trains and an interest in his father's career in civil engineering led Partridge to major in mechanical engineering. Two years later, he returned with his family to Ohio. He continued his engineering studies at Ohio State University, but soon discovered a passion for dentistry. "I could still make bridges," he quipped, "they were just different."

Currently, Partridge mentors and trains military dentists in comprehensive dental and oral surgery techniques at the U.S. Army base at Fort Hood, Texas. He joined the Army after dental school and retired as a full colonel in 2000, after a distinguished 26-year career that included serving as officer in charge of six dental clinics in the United States and Germany, and commander of a medical battalion.

He now enjoys learning about advanced techniques and materials. "I'm fascinated with modern bioengineering," he said. "Now we have three-dimensional x-rays and do a lot of implant restorations."

Although his education at UNM was interrupted, Partridge has maintained an enduring connection with New Mexico, and his philanthropy reflects his appreciation for the University's positive influences on his development. He has sponsored a scholar, often from the Farmington area, through UNM's Presidential Scholarship Program (PSP) for more than 30 years. He has also endowed a scholarship at the UNM School of Engineering and is a member of the New Horizons Society, which honors donors who include UNM in their estate plans or planned giving.

"One of my best investments in society is my investment in PSP, because we all benefit," he stated. And although he stresses the importance of academic achievement, he encourages students to broaden their horizons through service and travel. "I ask them to look at education as a holistic experience," he explained, "as part of their lives, including involvement in their communities."

Over the years, Partridge has occasionally returned to New Mexico to ski, get his "chile fix," and attend PSP events. His life took him far from UNM, but UNM is never far from his heart. ■



William Partridge, DDS

AN ENDURING PARTNERSHIP FOR FAMILIES

Smith's Food and Drug Stores Continue Longtime Support of UNM Children's Hospital

BY ANNA ADAMS

For more than five years, beginning with a major gift in 2011, Smith's Food and Drug Stores has provided steadfast support to UNM Children's Hospital in Albuquerque. To date, this exemplary corporate citizen has donated more than \$1.6 million to the hospital.

"Our company founder had a strong passion for helping kids within his community's children's hospital," said Marsha Gilford, vice president of public affairs at Smith's. "We later expanded that support to include New Mexico."

This focus dates back to the company's founder, Dee Smith, who collected pennies and delivered them to a nearby children's hospital in the 1940s. The company is now entering its 25th year of formally supporting Primary Children's Hospital in Utah, where the Smith's corporate office is located. Annual fundraising is now conducted for UNM Children's Hospital; St. Rose Dominican Hospital in Las Vegas, Nev., and Renown Children's Hospital in Reno, Nev.

"We support hospitals that accept children regardless of their families' ability to pay," said Gilford. "By contributing to UNM Children's Hospital, we touch our customers and associates with some hope at a time when their families feel vulnerable."

After that initial corporate gift to UNM Children's Hospital in 2011, Smith's extended its commitment to supporting the hospital during the ensuing years by broadly expanding its New Mexico fundraising efforts to include 24 stores across the state.

For four weeks starting at the end of each April, Smith's stores host fundraisers for UNM Children's Hospital. These fundraisers include collecting loose coins at check stands in addition to hosting in-store events. Associates sell balloons and host games and raffles, often raffling their own handmade quilts and other products. In addition to these efforts, every spring Smith's hosts a charity golf tournament in Salt Lake City, which shares some of its proceeds with UNM Children's Hospital.

Smith's associates are also encouraged to make one-time employee contributions. There are more than 2,900 associates in New Mexico alone.

"Our associates have a love for UNM Children's Hospital, and they give generously to this cause," said Gilford. "It takes a team effort to bring success to our annual fundraising, and I am always proud of their results to benefit our community."

UNM Children's Hospital is New Mexico's only comprehensive children's hospital, treating nearly

60,000 children each year, over half of whom live outside of the Albuquerque area. The hospital provides multiple care services from general well care to care for trauma, chronic diseases and disabilities. Many of the hospital's patients come from low-income families and often cannot afford medical care.

"We hope to alleviate some of the pain families feel," said Gilford. "Of course, we wish we could do that through good nutrition alone, but we're pleased to be able to provide some comfort for New Mexico families by supporting UNM Children's Hospital and others." ■



Employees of Smith's, their family members and UNM hospice nurses pose with gifts donated for the company's second annual Albuquerque holiday toy drive to benefit UNM Children's Hospital's Mariposa Program. From left: Bryan and Natassia Gyger, Cheryl Minns, Maureen Peralta, Arturo Martinez, Trish Hathoot, Marlo Otero and Daniel Smith. Photo: Courtesy Smith's Food and Drug Stores

UNM People Changing Worlds



The UNM Division of Neonatology assembles for a group photo. Back row, L-R: Tara Dupont, Kristi Watterberg, Janell Fuller, Beatrice Stefanescu, Carmen Herrera, Jessie Maxwell and Lu-Ann Papile; front row, L-R: Jean Lowe, Robin Ohls, Catherine Milner and Jennifer Rael. Division neonatologists not pictured are Rebecca Moran and Vlad Ianus. Photo: Annie Chavez

A FIGHTING CHANCE

Neo Wellness Fund to Benefit Premature Infants at UNM Children’s Hospital

BY MICHELLE G. MCRUIZ

A newly established fund at the UNM Foundation will improve the odds for UNM Hospital’s tiniest, most fragile patients—not only for thriving, but also for surviving. And the fund’s founder and champion, Robin Ohls, MD, is determined to be a voice for these babies, who cannot speak for themselves.

Ohls is chief of the Division of Neonatology within UNM’s Department of Pediatrics. She has been on its faculty since 1995. Her clinical focus is fetal and neonatal hematology, and her division is comprised of top-notch physicians dedicated to providing the best neonatal care while pursuing research projects that will lead to improvements in the lives of infants.

As financial resources become scarce, Ohls is determined to prevent lean financial times from affecting the health of critically ill newborns.

A Natural Source

Ohls established and is the first donor to the Neo Wellness Fund, which will provide, among other things, human-donor milk for premature infants. Human milk is vital, said Ohls. Beatrice Stefanescu, MD, is the division’s director of NICU (Newborn Intensive Care Unit) Quality Improvement (QI), and her QI assessment and findings supported previously reported studies that human milk results in better premie health. “The fact that we weren’t providing human milk put us behind the curve” of other NICUs, Ohls said. Stefanescu purchased human-donor milk with her own research funds as a means to provide the service.

Human milk is the standard for preterm infant nutrition as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. It reduces the likelihood of a devastating disease called necrotizing enterocolitis, in which bacteria invade the wall of an infant’s intestine, severely injuring the tissue and results in intestinal necrosis (death of the intestine), perforation, severe infection, and sometimes death. While rare in full-term infants, necrotizing enterocolitis occurs in up to 10 percent of premature babies.

“Until now we were providing premature formula, or mother’s milk, if the mother could breastfeed,” Ohls said. Donor milk is available, and pasteurized donor milk banks exist across the United States (the nearest one is in Denver). However, human-donor milk is four times as expensive as formula, and the funding simply isn’t available. The knowledge that UNMH is the only hospital in New Mexico that doesn’t provide exclusively human-donor milk to its babies stung. So, Ohls declared, “We’re just going to raise the money and provide the milk ourselves.”

Doing Much with Little

Ohls gave a cash gift to the fund and has pledged to continue donating via payroll deduction. “I will just keep building [the fund],” she said, “and I’ll take any amount of money. We have neonatal needs to spend it on every single week.”

Ohls and her colleagues also intend to use the fund to pay for important research projects and research equipment. “We have internationally renowned researchers here changing the lives of babies,” she said proudly. “We do a whole lot with few resources. Everyone has areas they shine in.”

“We are truly grateful to have talented, compassionate and generous faculty members like Dr. Ohls,” said Executive Vice Dean of the School of Medicine Martha Cole McGrew, MD. “Her commitment—to her work and through her gift—is critical to the success of our programs and patients.”

World’s Greatest Job

Neonatology is a “hard job,” Ohls acknowledged, due not only to the clinical challenges of caring for such vulnerable patients, but also caring for their families as well—answering tough questions, allaying fears, and, at times, giving families bad news. “It’s really rewarding, and stressful, and sometimes sad,” she said. In fact, she was drawn to neonatology because of its challenging nature.

While an undergraduate in human biology at Stanford University, Ohls took a course on ethics in pediatrics. At the end of the semester, the class visited the Stanford NICU. Ohls saw two residents doing a lumbar puncture on a baby. This procedure, also called a spinal tap, is unpleasant for even the most stoic adult. The infant was bright red and screaming. “I started to feel a little woozy and started looking for a place to sit down,” she said, “and I walked right into a wall and fainted. I figured anything that knocks you on your butt like that has got to be the world’s greatest job.”

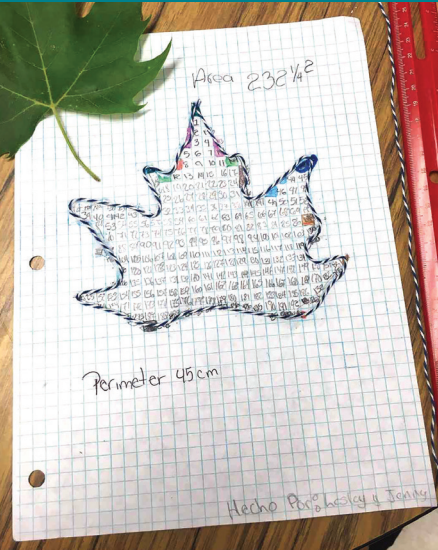
The Neo Wellness Fund provides a buffer against lean financial times, concluded Ohls, and allows the division to build resources they wish for but don’t often have—as well as giving the neonatology team the ability to do start-up research. “Times are tougher and tougher,” she said. “We want to do the very best we can to have the best outcomes.”

To make a gift to the Neo Wellness Fund, please contact School of Medicine Director of Development Megan Dugan at (505) 313-7621 or megan.dugan@unmfund.org. You may also make a gift by visiting unmfund.org/fund/neo-wellness ■

Rewarding Collaboration

(Continued from page 1)

“One class studied chocolate,” Mary noted, “and each small group in that class became specialists in an aspect of the topic, like how or where the [cacao] plant was raised, and the various stages of chocolate production. They also wrote a poem in Spanish, and one young girl nearby recognized that we didn’t understand it. She spontaneously translated it into English for me, and that was a wonderful example of her own understanding of a cultural situation.”



Fifth graders in a bilingual classroom at La Mesa Elementary School in Albuquerque used a leaf to learn how to determine the area and perimeter of an irregular object. Photo: Courtesy UNM College of Education

“One of our hopes,” David said, “is that the ‘powers that be’ can be nudged past their preoccupation with test scores and STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering and Math], because these kids are going to have to deal with a bigger world. We think if they can be engaged through the arts it will help them stay in school.”

Nancy Pauly, associate professor in Art Education and Art History at the CFA, is one of the founders of TECLA. She notes that the outcomes of arts integration correspond well with the Colton’s philanthropic goals. “We frame our project under the larger term of multiple literacies,” she said. “If children dance or dramatize something or make a visual image, they engage in a way that they can understand it differently. Arts-based learning is proven to improve reading proficiency and contribute to academic and career success, especially for children living in poverty, those with disabilities, and English language learners.”

The Colton’s admiration for teamwork and partnership in academic endeavors also extends to a CFA program in music. Mary created the Thelma Rawcliffe Collaborative Piano Endowment to honor her mother, who was a pianist. Scholarships benefit students in the Collaborative Piano Program under the direction of Associate Professor Pamela Pyle.

“We are grateful for the Colton’s visionary support through their gifts,” said CFA Dean Kymberly Pinder. “Their significant contributions to the art integration program at La Mesa Elementary reflect their deep desire to make a difference in our community through their conviction that the arts enrich the education of Albuquerque’s children.” ■

HONORING A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

School of Law Alumnus Establishes Scholarship to Honor Former Associate Dean

BY ANNA ADAMS

“The UNM School of Law puts an emphasis not just on excellence and academia, but on real-world practice,” said Eric Knapp (’98 Law). “I feel a debt of gratitude to UNM.”

Knapp established The Peter A. Winograd Scholarship in Law with a gift and pledge, making an annual award possible. Since then, other donors have contributed to the fund—including its namesake, Associate Dean Peter Winograd, who made a major gift to the fund—to move it toward a full endowment.

Knapp’s giving honors the career of Winograd, who served while Knapp attended the school. “I have a deep amount of respect for him,” said Knapp. “He was always approachable and engaging. It was more like a friendship than a student-mentor relationship.”

Knapp now has a successful law career in San Francisco as a partner at Squire Patton Boggs, an international law firm with 46 offices across 21 countries. Knapp previously worked for O’Melveny & Myers LLP for about eight years before moving to Carrol, Burdick & McDonough, which later merged with Squire Patton Boggs. His work at Squire Patton Boggs focuses on class-action defense and consumer products.

“Class-action cases have been a deep interest of mine,” said Knapp. “When I started out at O’Melveny & Myers, I got into them early on.”



Eric Knapp
Photo: Courtesy UNM School of Law

Knapp’s first experience in court came while attending the School of Law. Between his second and third year, he participated in its summer clinical program, in which he had the opportunity to intern for the Albuquerque District Attorney’s Office. The program, recognized as one of the top such programs in the country, requires students to take a six-credit hour clinical course and gain experience representing actual clients.

“As a third-year law student, I was in court, which was unusual,” said Knapp. “UNM puts an emphasis on real experience. There are also other opportunities like moot courts and mock trials.” Knapp encourages UNM law students to take full advantage of the many opportunities the school offers.

“I felt contributing to this scholarship matched the mission of the school, pursuing a policy to make legal education affordable,” said Knapp. “My education there afforded me opportunities I might otherwise not have had.” ■

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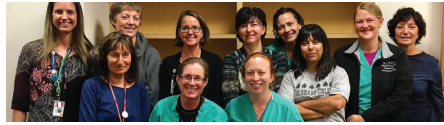
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SPRING 2017 Developments

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Photo: Liz Lopez

The UNM Foundation has a variety of giving societies including:

- The UNM President’s Club, supporting presidential initiatives for enhanced academic excellence and student enrichment through annual, unrestricted gifts.
- The Cherry and Silver Society, recognizing alumni who give within 12 months of graduation and then at least once every calendar year thereafter.
- The New Horizons Society, recognizing donors who have included UNM in their estate plans.
- The Tom L. Popejoy Society, recognizing cumulative lifetime giving of \$50,000 or more.

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