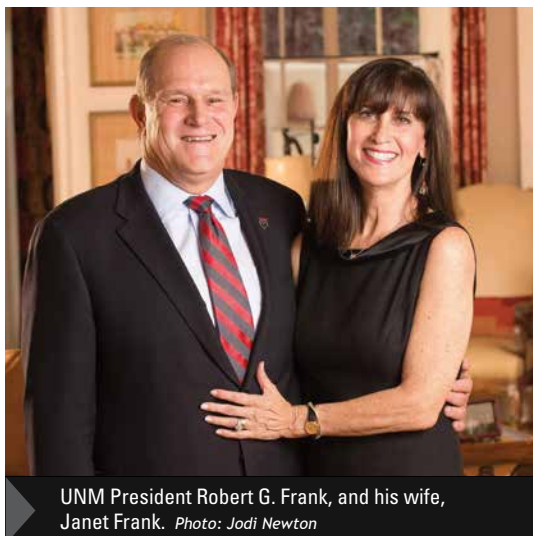


## UNM President's Club Helps Launch Innovation Academy

The UNM President's Club is the bridge between the University of New Mexico and the greater community. Its members include distinguished alumni and community leaders who have joined together to support UNM's key initiatives. This group of influential donors is committed to the success of our students and ensures that the University is able to seize great opportunities as they arise.



UNM President Robert G. Frank, and his wife, Janet Frank. Photo: Jodi Newton

UNM President's Club support has been responsible for the success of many worthy programs such as the Freshman Learning Communities (FLC), which led to dramatic improvements in the success rates of first-year students. FLCs have since become self-sufficient. Members' support has assisted students to study abroad throughout the world, and to intern in Washington, D.C. in the offices of New Mexico's five-member congressional delegation for a semester. Equally as important as program support, President's Club funds give UNM the ability to respond directly to emerging student needs. A perfect example of this is the Stay-A-Lobo fund, which provides emergency grants to keep students from leaving UNM for financial reasons.

Currently, the focus of the UNM President's Club is to help launch the Innovation Academy. The academy is the academic component of Innovate ABQ, an economic collaboration project spearheaded by UNM to create a high-density innovation center and economic development district in downtown Albuquerque. The academy allows students the opportunity to engage in entrepreneurial efforts while still enrolled at UNM. It offers an outstanding curriculum along with the resources to help students solve societal problems as well as establish new businesses to contribute to local economic development.

For more information or to join the UNM President's Club, please contact Jalen Dominguez at [Jalen.Dominguez@unmfund.org](mailto:Jalen.Dominguez@unmfund.org) or (505) 277-2816. ◀

## Former UNM Honors Program Becomes College

"One goal in becoming a college was to accommodate more students in Honors," said Dr. Kate Krause, dean of the new UNM Honors College.

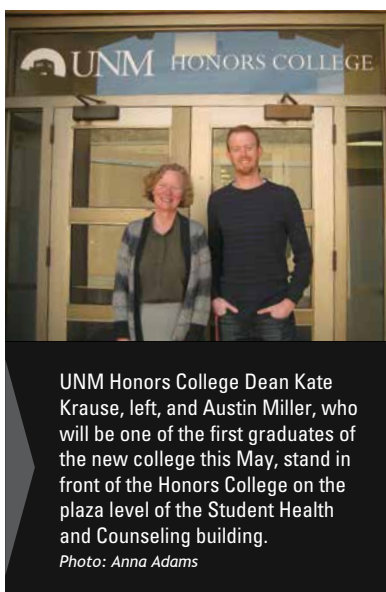
The UNM Honors Program, founded in 1957, is now in its second year as a college. Transitioning from a program to a college had been discussed for many years, but this particular effort began in 2010. The new college offers a wider variety of classes including all core courses except for languages. The former program offered core curriculum credits only in the humanities.

"Most of our students came from the College of Arts and Sciences. We wanted to offer courses that fulfilled degree requirements to provide pathways for them," Dean Krause commented. In addition to satisfying core requirements, students may now earn a minor or major in Honors.

Austin Miller, a student advisor in the Honors College, will be one of the first students to graduate with the new major this May. "It fits exactly what I wanted to do," said Miller. "It's nice for people who have interests that don't fit into other degrees or who are interested in more than one area."

The Honors Alumni Association was launched last fall during UNM's 125th anniversary homecoming week. "Our alumni are loyal. We want them to know that, while Honors is now a college, it retains many of the same characteristics that made the Honors Program so special," said the dean.

The UNM Honors College encourages visits to its Facebook page at [facebook.com/pages/UNM-Honors-College/49419894305](https://facebook.com/pages/UNM-Honors-College/49419894305). ◀



UNM Honors College Dean Kate Krause, left, and Austin Miller, who will be one of the first graduates of the new college this May, stand in front of the Honors College on the plaza level of the Student Health and Counseling building. Photo: Anna Adams

## UNM and NMSU Join Dance Marathon Movement

Nationally founded in 1991, Dance Marathon is a Children's Miracle Network movement at more than 250 schools across the country. The mission of Dance Marathon is to develop awareness of the ill and injured children in the community and raise money for the school's local Children's Miracle Network Hospital. Dance Marathons have become a tradition on college and high school campuses throughout the nation.



New Mexico State University students perform the Morale Dance during their recent Dance Marathon in Las Cruces, N.M. Photo: Kara Clem

Dance Marathon students build a culture of leadership and philanthropy for their school. Each Dance Marathon team spends a year hosting multifaceted fund-raising events. The year culminates with a 12- to 40-hour long event during which students stay on their feet through dancing, games and entertainment. Every hour on the hour, during the event, students partake in a Morale Dance, taking them out of their comfort zone in the dance marathon spirit.

The mission statement for Dance Marathon is "we dance for those who can't." To inspire students to remain standing, local "Miracle" families share their stories, and convey how funds impact the lives of local children.

UNM Children's Hospital, New Mexico's only Children's Miracle Network hospital, is proud to have two Dance Marathons in the state—one at the University of New Mexico and the other at New Mexico State University.

UNM held its inaugural Dance Marathon, LoboTHON, in March 2014 on main campus in Johnson Center. More than 600 students participated in the 13.1-hour event and raised \$25,000. LoboTHON celebrated its 2nd Annual Dance Marathon this past March. LoboTHON hopes to raise \$62,000 this year, symbolizing the 62,000 children treated at UNM Children's Hospital each year.

New Mexico State University hosted its inaugural Dance Marathon, AggieTHON, in late February. AggieTHON is a year-round student organization that raises awareness for UNM's Children's Hospital in the greater Las Cruces area. In November 2014, AggieTHON had a 5K color run and raised more than \$2,000 for UNM Children's Hospital.

LoboTHON and AggieTHON bring students closer to their campus and the community; the students "Do it For the Kids!" ◀

## Planned Giving at UNM: Plan Now to Give Later to Your Favorite Area

Charitable gifts from estate and financial plans play an integral role in the future of UNM. These tax-smart options offer you many different ways to support our educational mission while fulfilling your personal goals.

If you would like more information or you would like to inform us that UNM is already in your will or estate plan, contact Sheila Hard at [Sheila.Hard@unmfund.org](mailto:Sheila.Hard@unmfund.org) or (505) 277-9604.

FOLLOW US!



## Spring! A Great Time to Give to UNM

While the calendar year ended a few months ago, at UNM we use the academic calendar for budget planning. If one of your resolutions for the New Year was to make philanthropy a priority, consider this an invitation to make a meaningful gift to UNM this spring.

Our budget year comes to a close on June 30. If you have yet to give “this (fiscal) year,” please consider becoming a supporter now. We make gift giving easy—just visit us at [unmfund.org](http://unmfund.org), respond to an e-mail or phone call, or use the enclosed envelope for your contribution. You may even give through United Way, payroll deduction, or via monthly sustained giving. Some gifts are eligible for “free money to UNM” if your company has a matching gift program. Please visit [unmfund.org/matching-gifts/](http://unmfund.org/matching-gifts/) for more information.



If you’ve already given this year, THANK YOU! Please know that we also welcome “additional” contributions to all UNM areas important to you. Your support is important, and it makes a difference in the lives of our students and patients.

Strong finances keep UNM solid. We all want our community to thrive and grow, and your gift makes a positive impact. Very soon, over 3,000 UNM students will celebrate their accomplishments and the culmination of their hard work during graduation in May. All giving is important; our students and programs very much appreciate your support.

## Cherry & Silver Society Thanks Loyal Donor

In 2014, the Cherry & Silver Society celebrated its 10th anniversary. The society encourages recent UNM graduates to make a financial contribution to their alma mater within 24 months of graduation, and then at least once every year thereafter. The size of the gifts and their designations are your choice.

One loyal member who has given to UNM since the society’s beginning in 2004 is Carlos Aragon. Thank you for your steadfast support, Carlos!

Carlos graduated from UNM’s School of Engineering in 2003 with a B.S. degree in civil engineering, and he’s currently employed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

A major reason Carlos chose to attend UNM was because he was awarded a Presidential Scholarship, which allowed him to complete his degree without worrying about accruing significant debt. He also received a few smaller scholarships from UNM’s School of Engineering. “Because I received a lot of support while attending UNM, it’s nice to be able to give back now,” Carlos said.

As for what advice he’d give to UNM seniors or recent grads who are considering joining the Cherry and Silver Society, Carlos said, “Do it. Start off with what you can. As your finances allow, increase your support. The Cherry & Silver Society doesn’t stipulate an amount or designation, so it’s a good way to get started.”

For more information about the UNM Cherry & Silver Society, please visit [www.unmfund.org/cherry-silver-society/](http://www.unmfund.org/cherry-silver-society/).



Cherry & Silver Society member Carlos Aragon and his fiancée, Tracy Baker.

# annual giving

Supporting UNM sustainability initiatives: this newsletter is printed by a “green printer” on 100% FCMW 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.

How My World Got a Whole Lot Bigger



UNM and NMSU Join Dance Marathon Movement



Former UNM Honors Program Becomes College



UNM President’s Club Helps Launch Innovation Academy



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## How My World Got a Whole Lot Bigger

by Whitney Whetten

My favorite experience as an undergraduate at UNM was when I got to travel outside of the country. My parents are not wealthy, so growing up, our family’s travel almost exclusively consisted of trips to family reunions or my grandparents’ house. One class I took through the University Honors Program [which is now a UNM college—see article on page 1] covered Latin American music and dance as forms of political and social change.

Along with my classmates, I traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina for nine days during spring break. It was my first time ever traveling on an airplane! We split up into three groups to study various aspects of tango—the architecture, the music, and, of course, the dance itself. Because I love to dance, I was in the dance group. During the days, we would go to museums and dance classes to learn about the history of the dance as well as some new steps. During the nights, we would travel to many *milongas*, or the places where the tango is danced, to continue our research via observations and practice.

One of the most incredible parts of the whole experience was how I felt when I returned to Albuquerque. I remember it distinctly. I felt like the world was much bigger than I had ever imagined. In day-to-day life, we easily get caught up in our own lives—but there is so much going on outside of our own stories. My vision was expanded, so I better understood what it is to be a citizen of the world, and not just Albuquerque. I am grateful to UNM for this experience, and to the sponsors of my Presidential Scholarship.



A Presidential Scholarship enabled Whitney Whetten to graduate in December 2014 without educational debt. Photo: Ryan Whetten

Whitney Whetten attended UNM on a Presidential Scholarship. To sponsor a scholar, private donors provide \$2,600 annually, which is matched by UNM and the funds of a private trust to become more than \$8,000, which pays for a student’s tuition, books and fees. For more information on how to leverage your gift for a Presidential Scholarship, please contact Cathy Bunch at (505) 277-5688 or visit [unmfund.org/PSP](http://unmfund.org/PSP) to see what sponsors say about their experience.