I got my start at NMJC. I was working full-time as a manager at Gibson’s at the same time I attended NMJC during 1970-72, and I was lucky enough to have Mary Hagelstein as my first two-year instructor. She’s the reason I got into accounting. She was able to take academics out of it and show us how to “make it real.” She’d tell us, “This is something you can always use in life. This has a real-life application.” She was an excellent instructor in the way she made us understand how it applied to us on a personal level. What I learned in Mary Hagelstein’s classes were lessons that took me a long way throughout life.

Whatever their field of interest, students nowadays should take the time to be fully prepared and even more importantly, be willing to pay their dues. A lot of students these days want immediate gratification, but they need to realize it can take years to have the kind of success they envision for themselves.

In my opinion, there’s no reason for students not to begin their higher education at a junior college such as NMJC. From the cost perspective and the class sizes, there’s nothing they’re going to gain at a major university that they can’t attain at a junior college. But for something like accounting, an associate degree is just the starting point, because students must have a master’s nowadays. In that instance, a junior college wouldn’t be an end—because they would need to follow it up with a higher degree—but it’s definitely a great place to begin without incurring huge debt. And that’s more important than many people realize.

There are no magic secrets of success. People need to understand that they have to help make their own good fortune. From day one, for instance, I’ve preached the importance of being debt-free to all my clients. I believe that’s critically important. And for me personally, it’s also a matter of incorporating integrity into all you do, especially in a career like accounting. Integrity simply has to be at the top of the list.

As I’m retiring now after 35 years of owning my own practice, I find that life is coming full circle. I’ve maintained my interest in tennis ever since my days at Hobbs High, and I’ve been involved in adult tennis throughout the years. In ‘95, a number of friends and I actually made it to the national finals and missed winning it all by just one set. It’s still a passion, and now that I’m retired and living in Ruidoso, I’ll have lots more time for it again. And for other things, such as touching base with old friends from Hobbs High School. And for all the other things that a successful retirement can bring. We are definitely looking forward to it all.
Zeta Theta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Presents Check
by Tina Kunko, Accountant / Controller New Mexico Junior College Foundation

On December 6th, members of the Zeta Theta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi presented a check for $4,000 to New Mexico Junior College Foundation. The funds will be added to the Zeta Theta Scholarship, which benefits NMJC students seeking degrees in education. The donation was given out of proceeds from the 2011 Beta Sigma Phi Camp, which is a day of fellowship and learning for members from local chapters, as well as those from surrounding areas. We are honored to match their giving spirit with the needs of our worthy students. Thank you, Zeta Theta, for your dedication to helping student achieve their educational goals.

Students may apply for NMJC Foundation Scholarships for 2012-2013 by submitting a NMJC Foundation Scholarship Application by March 9, 2012. For questions regarding the application, students may contact Kim Latimer at 492-2780.

Registration for Spring 2012 is now in progress. Sign up now for the classes of your choice.
(575) 392-4510 • 1-800-657-6260
www.nmjc.edu

Notes from Natalia

Your friends in the Recruiting Office would like to wish you a happy holiday season and remind you to register for Spring 2012. Registration is currently underway through January 16.

Sus amigos en la Oficina de Reclutamiento gustaría desearte unas felices fiestas y recordarte que se registre para el semestre de primavera 2012. El registro está en curso al 16 de enero.

Natalia De Jesus
Admission Specialist
(575) 492-2545
dejesus@nmjc.edu

NMJC President Steve McCleery and Dr. Mickey D. Best, Dean of Arts, Humanities, & Career Technology, share a moment in time at Mickey’s retirement reception. Dr. Best has been employed with NMJC for 22 years, during which he served as a Part-time Professor; Professor of Speech & Drama; Department Chair for Humanities; Dean of Arts & Sciences; and Dean of Math, English, Education, & Transitional Studies.

WE WILL MISS YOU, MICKEY D.!!

Front (L to R):
Debra Brian, Tina Kunko
Back (L to R):
Charlene Valeti, Waynett Lester

Western Heritage Museum
Christmas Traditions from Around the World event, held on December 1.
With the holiday season underway, there are countless Christmas cards and letters being sent across town and across the country. Most Christmas cards are handwritten, but if you include a letter, it is typically typed. These days, people use computers for their typing needs, but not that long ago typewriters were commonplace. We have a wonderful example of a Remington Portable typewriter in the Virgil and Thelma Linam Collection.

Some of the old advertisements say that the Remington Portable was the "smallest and lightest" typewriter with a standard keyboard. While not the first portable typewriter, according to Xavier University, it was the first one with a four-keyboard keyboard. The Remington Portable #1 was manufactured from October 1920-January 1925, and in 1924 cost $60. In contrast to the plain black typewriter, the #1 DeLuxe, with gold-colored sides, cost $75. In order for it to fit into its case, usually made of wood covered in black cloth, the typewriter had a “folding-typebar” mechanism to raise and lower the typebars. The portable typewriter had everything that the desk model had, but they were able to fit it into a sleek box about three inches high (portabletypewriters.co.uk). The small, streamlined size fit well with the Art Deco movement of the 1920’s and 1930’s. The Remington factory had to meet such demand that they boasted they could manufacture a typewriter every minute. The demand for portable typewriters lasted for more than fifty years.

Today, the demand for smaller and smaller computers is much like that of the portable typewriter. People want the freedom to move around and yet take conveniences along with them. Their portable typewriters have turned into our iPads and tablets. Stop by the Western Heritage Museum Complex and Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame to see many of the conveniences of the early 20th century in this area.

PTK Celebrates Christmas for Lea County Kids
by Maria Vick, Professor / Coordinator of Cosmetology

Each year, Psi Theta, NMJC’s chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the International Honor Society, hosts a Christmas party for the foster children of Lea County.

Although this year’s original celebration at the Lea County Event Center was canceled due to a winter storm and subsequently rescheduled for Dec. 28, the 25-member student service organization has collected and wrapped age- and gender-appropriate presents for each of the approximately 85 Lea County foster children.

Maria Vick, PTK co-sponsor, said the organization holds several fundraisers annually to underwrite the substantial cost of the yearly event. “The NMJC campus family pulls together to provide extremely nice gifts for these kids,” she said, “and PTK is very grateful for their support in helping these deserving children at this time of year.”

According to Vick, PTK’s next fundraiser, scheduled for the end of the semester, includes a book drive for texts that will be sold to Better World Books, an organization that helps fight illiteracy. Other events will be announced in the spring.

For more information about PTK or its fundraising activities, please call Maria Vick at (575) 492-2850.
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (CAMPUS CLOSED)
December 22 - January 4

SPRING 2012 CLASSES BEGIN
January 17

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES The Mammoth Hunters
January 17 @ 11:30 am

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES The First Well Diggers
February 10 @ 11:30 am

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES The Pottery Makers
February 24 @ 11:30 am

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES The Pearlers
March 9 @ 11:30 am

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES The Trail Drivers
March 23 @ 11:30 am

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES The Water Seekers
April 13 @ 11:30 am

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES The Buffalo Soldiers
April 27 @ 11:30 am

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES The Homesteaders
May 5 @ 11:30 am

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES The Wildcatters
May 18 @ 11:30 am

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES The New Energy Pioneers
June 1 @ 11:30 am

Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: (575) 392-6730 or westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

Christmas Traditions from Around the World event held on December 1 by the Western Heritage Museum.

Photos by Taylor Elyse Arnold.