As a professor and an administrator at NMJC, I’ve had the honor of attending 21 commencement ceremonies. I’ve also had the distinguished privilege of sitting on stage with an up-close view of those exuberant, accomplished faces of successful NMJC students as they receive their well-deserved diplomas or certificates. Unfortunately, however, I cheated myself out of that memorable experience at NMJC.

In the mid-1970s, at 18 years of age I was one of those students too immature and clueless to make the most of my first few years of college, including my year at NMJC. The only thing I was successful at was having a really good time with friends—mostly outside of class—as I enjoyed all the extracurricular activities available to college students. Needless to say, by not having any particular goals or direction at that age, along with being the first person in my family to go to college, academically I was not the greatest student. It wasn’t until much later down the road, with lots of life experiences in between, that I finally realized the importance of an education and how valuable this NMJC lesson would be in my life.

After receiving an Associate’s degree in Liberal Arts, I still had no clue what I wanted to be “when I grew up.” With most of my family working in the oil field and with my love of the outdoors and natural things, I finally decided it might be very interesting and lucrative to be a geologist for an international oil company. I hoped it would provide me with the opportunity and the means to travel the world, which was one thing I knew I wanted in life. Finally, I thought, I had it figured out. Newly focused and determined, getting my geology degree proved to be a great experience! I learned to enjoy the classes I took (with the exception of calculus...omg!), all the geology field trips we took, and all the wonderful friends I made. Although my grades would never get me on the President’s or the Vice President’s list, I found that with perseverance and long, long hours of studying, I did have what it takes to succeed as a student.

As luck would have it, the bottom fell out of the oilfield, and after one incredible year of work at Mobil Oil in Dallas and one fantastic trip to London and Paris, I found myself without a job. But as luck would also have it, there was a shortage of math and science teachers, and UT-Arlington was offering an accelerated teacher licensure program. It was actually free if I agreed to teach for one year in Texas. Since I had no job, I took advantage of the program, thinking that I would teach until the oil industry came back around again, and I would have my teaching certificate “to fall back on.”

Never in a million years would I have believed then that, 25 years later, I would not only still be in education but also be very happy that it turned out this way! My first few years were in public education teaching Math and Earth and Life Sciences to 8th and 9th graders. At the age of 29, teaching in Texas, I started work on my master’s degree in Science Education. Oh, what a difference time and life experiences make! My attitude was so much more mature than my first year at NMJC. I literally couldn’t get enough of the incredible science classes that I would have avoided like the plague when I was younger. Oceanography, botany, astronomy, genetics, biology, and ecology were some of my favorites.

When I made the decision in 1989 to move back to Hobbs and take a job at Highland Junior High, I was forced to take a cut in pay. This led me to an informal interview in the NMJC cafeteria with Joe Garcia, who was then the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Director. Joe hired me to teach GED classes at night, which helped supplement my income. After a year, Joe hired me full-time, which began my incredible journey at NMJC. I worked with him for several years and had some great experiences as the ABE Southeast New Mexico Regional Representative, Literacy Coordinator, and GED Instructor. Joe encouraged me to discuss teaching Geology with Gerald Martin, who at that time was Dean over the Science Department. When it finally happened, I had the privilege of teaching not only Geology, but also Math and Physical Education classes as a full-time professor for the next 15 years! Some of my proudest moments as professor was being chosen by my peers to be the “Outstanding Faculty of the Year” along with receiving a “Making the Difference” award from a special student.

So, my first crazy year at NMJC was all part of the divine plan, and there was a lesson to be learned. (This is one cool thing about growing older: you get to reflect back and make sense of it all!) At 18, the classroom wasn’t my favorite place to be, but as it turned out, the classroom today is my very favorite place to be. As an educator, whether a teacher or an administrator, you really can make a difference! I know how important it is, and I hope that over the years as a teacher I’ve been able to encourage and inspire these “directionless” students to set goals and expectations in life and strive for them. I know that if you don’t have anything to aim for, your aim won’t be that great! I hope that as an administrator I have also been able to inspire faculty to be their best and provide them the opportunity to facilitate success in their classrooms.

At NMJC, I have really enjoyed and treasured my years as a professor and administrator. Promoting success in the classroom has been and will continue to be the most important part of my job. To see a student struggling with life issues, succeed, and finally walk across that stage at commencement is extremely rewarding and something I can personally relate to. Although I will never be a well-known and prosperous geologist for a big international oil company, I certainly wouldn’t trade my NMJC career for the opportunity. Thanks, NMJC!!

Kelly Holladay
Dean of Business, Math & Sciences
New Mexico Junior College

Register Now for NMJC’s 2nd Half Term
Begins March 19 and Ends May 4
www.nmjc.edu
Upcoming Events for Student Support Services (SSS) by Dr. Gayle Abaho, Director of Student Support Services

SSS will be taking 18 student participants to College Day at Texas Tech University on Friday, April 20. This trip is for SSS participants who are interested in transferring to Texas Tech after completing their associate degrees at NMJC. College Day at Texas Tech is well designed for transfer students. Participants will be treated to an academic information session, where they will learn about admission requirements, cost of attendance, financial aid, and scholarships. Each student will then be able to visit with an on-site Texas Tech advisor to have their transcripts evaluated and learn more about their chosen program of interest. This kind of event is very useful in helping our NMJC SSS students to make transfer decisions.

After spending the day on the campus of Texas Tech, the students will take in a performance of the touring Broadway show Shrek, the Musical.

Curator’s Corner by Erin Anderson, Museum Curator Western Heritage Museum Complex and Lee County Cowboy Hall of Fame

I do enjoy showcasing pieces that we may take for granted in our daily lives, such as a jug, a plain old brown ceramic jug that seems pretty stereotypical for the time. We have one of these on display from the Virgil and Thelma Linam Collection. Now, the jug itself we may take for granted, but I would rather focus on the material it is made of ceramic.

What are ceramics? Ceramics are inorganic and nonmetallic materials. Mixtures of clay, earthen elements, powders, and water are generally used to make ceramics (http://depts.washington.edu). Once shaped, ceramics are then fired at a high temperature and become a hard, wear-resistant, brittle material. Humans figured out the usefulness of ceramics long ago. According to www.depauw.edu, ceramic materials were used to make pots, and pot-making was one of humankind’s first inventions. Because of this, it remains one of the best records of early cultures including Chinese, Roman, Egyptian, African, and Native American. Styles, shapes, and adornments have changed over the years and vary from place to place depending on what level of technology that civilization was enjoying at the time. The jug that we have in the Virgil and Thelma Linam Collection follows a folk tradition that became “ubiquitous to the American scene”: a small-mouthed, single-handled jug (www.depauw.edu).

Obviously, this style jug is very utilitarian, but ceramics, depending on what they are, can be utilitarian and/or aesthetic. Just a few things today that contain ceramics include tiles, bricks, toilets, watches, snow skies, space shuttles, electrical insulators, figurines, and plates (http://depts.washington.edu).

As you can see, humans have known about ceramics for a long time and have molded them into many different uses. For more information on ceramics, come check out the ceramic Linam Collection in the South Gallery, or look into one of the ceramics classes at New Mexico Junior College. You won’t take ceramics for granted again.
Above: A young student looks at *Eyes on Earth*, an exhibit which explores how satellites study Earth and make heat maps of the oceans so scientists can study how heat travels through water across the earth.

NMJC Professor Vic Berner was the guest speaker on Feb. 1 for the opening reception for *Eyes on Earth*. Below left, Berner demonstrates the different speeds of orbits.

The Charles Dickens 200th Birthday Celebration began with a reception and showing of *The Mystery of Charles Dickens* on February 7. On February 12 *Nicholas Nickleby* was shown. To conclude the month, *Great Expectations* and *Oliver Twist* will be shown on February 19 and 26 at 2pm, respectively.
New Mexico Junior College Head Track & Field Coach Keith Blackwill is proud to announce that sophomore sprint star Tasha Allen will compete at the prestigious USA Track & Field Indoor National Championships in the 60-meter dash on Saturday and Sunday, February 25-26, 2012, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Allen, a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is the first NMJC student to reach the qualifying standard in her event in the program’s history. Allen ran a personal record of 7.53 in the finals of the 60 meters at the University of New Mexico Collegiate Classic recently as she breezed across the finish line to win the event over a strong field of NCAA Division I and II sprinters. In addition to becoming one of the nation’s elite in the 60m, Tasha competed in the 200 meters on Friday evening and placed 3rd, running a national junior college leading time of 24.11, which is also an indoor personal record for her. While the USAT&F Indoor Championships does not contest the 200m indoors, Allen’s personal best of 23.35 in the outdoor 200m has met the “B” standard for the USA Olympic Trials to be held in Eugene, Oregon, this summer.

Another program I am very excited about is being sponsored by John Roley’s Auto Center and General Motors and is available at New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs, New Mexico. If you like cars and trucks, high tech equipment, hands-on activities, and are interested in a career in automotive technology, then this may be a wonderful opportunity for you. On Tuesday, February 21 during enrichment period, Mr. Roley and a representative from New Mexico Junior College will be here to explain to all seniors this unique program, which offers you a chance to “earn while you learn.” After an interview/screening period, one lucky senior from LHS will be selected for this outstanding opportunity.

From a letter to Littlefield (Texas) High School seniors from Ms. Stacy Mason, Counselor
Give a Spit? What's this all about?

What? Bone marrow donor registration
When? Friday, February 17, 2012 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Who? Any healthy person between 18 and 55 years old who meets eligibility requirements
Where? NMJC Ben Alexander Student Center, Theatre Room
Why? Help save a life!

For more information contact Jill Henning, NMJC SkillsUSA Advisor • jhenning@nmjc.edu 575-492-2535

The NMJC Chapter of SkillsUSA is hosting a Bone Marrow Donor Registration on Friday, February 17, 2012, from 9am to 4pm in the Theater Room of the Ben Alexander Student Learning Center. This is done thru cheek-swabbing and not venipuncture (needle-stick) – so nothing invasive is required in order to be placed on the donor registration list. If a person is interested in donating but does not meet eligibility requirements, monetary donations are accepted and used to cover the registration cost of $65. 100% of all donations are used to register bone marrow donors, and all donations are tax-deductible. The most-needed donors are young people between 18 and 24 years old. Any person between 18 and 55 is a potential donor, however.

For more information, please contact any of the following NMJC SkillsUSA Advisors:
Shelby McCorvey, Professor of Cosmetology 575-492-2851
Robin Porter, Professor of Cosmetology, ACTA 575-492-2805
Jill Henning, Professor of Nursing, ACTA 575-492-2535

New Mexico Junior College Athletic Update
by Don Worth, Athletic Director

The NMJC Athletic programs are in the midst of a banner year. Every facet of athletics is on the upswing, from athletics to facilities to the Thunderbird Booster Club. The athletic staff at NMJC is dedicated to the student athlete on and off the court.

For the first time in the history of NMJC Women’s Basketball, we have gone through the first round of WJCAC play undefeated with a conference record of 6 and 0. Our Lady Thunderbirds currently have 22 wins and 2 losses and are ranked 17th in the nation. We continue the 2nd round of conference play with Midland College on the 13th of February with the goal of the WJCAC Regional Tournament playoffs beginning on March 9th in Lubbock, Texas.

Our Men’s basketball team stands at 16 and 7 and are tied for 3rd in the WJCAC conference with a record of 4 and 3 after the first round of play. We are excited about the chances of our men qualifying for the Regional Tournament for the first time in 12 years.

The NMJC Women’s Track team has qualified 12 athletes for the NJCAA Indoor National Track competition to be held March 2-3, 2012 in Charleston, Illinois. Of special note is the qualification of Tasha Allen in the 60-yard dash for the USA Indoor Track & Field Championships to be held in Albuquerque Feb. 25-26, 2012. The top three finishers will represent the United States at the World Games held in Istanbul, Turkey, in March.

Women's History Month

March is Women’s History Month. During the month, each person should have fun wearing hats! On Thursday, March 22, 2012, we plan to celebrate with a “Happy Birthday New Mexico Tea Party” in the Western Heritage Museum and the Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame.

For more information, please contact Dr. Patty Emmerich at (575) 492-2814 • pemmerich@nmjc.edu or Mary Lyle at (575) 492-2679 • mlyle@nmjc.edu

Spring Cut-A-Thon!

New Mexico Junior College Cosmetology Department presents

Saturday, March 31, 2012
Watson Hall, Cosmetology Dept.
9am-4pm • $5.00 per service
Haircuts • Manicures • Pedicures
New Mexico Junior College Cosmetology Dept.
575-492-2848

We can do no great things, only small things with great love.
- Mother Teresa
Sponsors of the 2012 NMJC Automotive Service Technology Invitational Competition on February 9:
NAPA
AutoZone
Home Depot
Wal-Mart
Lowes
Matco Tools
New Mexico Junior College
Desert Sun Auto Group of Roswell/Alamogordo, New Mexico
Viva Chevrolet of El Paso, Texas
Bravo Chevrolet/Cadillac of Las Cruces, New Mexico
Permian Cadillac/GMC/Chevrolet/Buick of Hobbs, New Mexico
Sewell Chevrolet/Buick/GMC of Andrews, Texas
Mustang Country Chevrolet/Buick of Denver City, Texas
Permian Ford /Lincoln of Hobbs, New Mexico
Sewell Ford/Lincoln of Odessa, Texas

Schools Represented:
NMJC ACTA (students from Hobbs and Lovington High Schools)
Artesia (New Mexico) High School
Carlsbad (New Mexico) High School
Denver City (Texas) High School
Dexter (New Mexico) High School
Emery (Utah) High School
Frenship High School, Wolfforth, Texas
Lubbock (Texas) Independent School District
Magdalena (New Mexico) High School
Moriarty (New Mexico) High School
Seminole (Texas) High School
Shallowater (Texas) High School

Congratulations!
1st • Ivan Lunsford
Carlsbad HS
2nd • Jason Coats
Shallowater HS
3rd • Jim Sims
Carlsbad HS

▲ A competitor measures ignition coil resistance in Engine Performance.
▼ Competitors enjoy a car bash (insert).

▲ (L to R): Top 3 schools: Carlsbad, Frenship, Denver City

▲ Suspension components identification (Suspension & Steering)

▲ 9 of the top 10 winners (above) enjoy the generous array of prizes, which were bought with donated money from dealers.
▼ Students identify and measure clutch pack clearance for Automatic Transmissions.
LEA COUNTY CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
February 15 @ 4:00 pm
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: (575) 392-6730 or westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

GED TESTING
February 23
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center, Room 145
Contact: Jerry Hamm, (575) 492-2592 or jhamm@nmjc.edu

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: The Pottery Makers
February 24 @ 11:30 am
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: (575) 392-6730 or westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATOR ACADEMY GRADUATION
February 24 @ 2:00 pm
Watson Hall Theatre
Contact: (575) 492-2720 or kamador@nmjc.edu

LOOK GOOD FEEL BETTER SESSION
For Women in Active Cancer Treatment
February 28
Watson Hall
Contact: Maria Vick, (575) 492-2850 or mvick@nmjc.edu

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: The Pearlers
March 9 @ 11:30 am
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: (575) 392-6730 or westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

MUSEUM OPEN DURING NMJC’S SPRING BREAK
March 12-18
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: (575) 392-6730 or westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

2ND HALF TERM BEGINS
March 19-May 4

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH: HAPPY BIRTHDAY NEW MEXICO TEA PARTY
March 22
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: (575) 492-2814 or 492-2679 or penmerich@nmjc.edu or mmyler@nmjc.edu

GED TESTING
March 22
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center, Room 145
Contact: Jerry Hamm, (575) 492-2592 or jhamm@nmjc.edu

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: The Trail Drivers
March 23 @ 11:30 am
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: (575) 392-6730 or westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

CUT-A-THON
March 31
Watson Hall, Cosmetology
Contact: Maria Vick, (575) 492-2850 or mvick@nmjc.edu

SNMCTA GRADUATION
April 6 @ 2:00 pm
Watson Hall Theatre
Contact: Kelly Amador, (575) 492-2720 or kamador@nmjc.edu

PTK ORIENTATION
April 10 @ 10:00 am
Watson Hall, Room 101
Contact: Maria Vick, (575) 492-2850 or mvick@nmjc.edu

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: The Water Seekers
April 13 @ 11:30 am
Heidel Hall, Room 203
Contact: (575) 392-6730 or westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

GED TESTING
April 19
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center, Room 145
Contact: Jerry Hamm, (575) 492-2592 or jhamm@nmjc.edu

PTK ORIENTATION
April 21 @ 7:00 pm
Heidel Hall, Room 203
Contact: Maria Vick, (575) 492-2850 or mvick@nmjc.edu

PTK INDUCTION
April 23 @ 7:00 pm
Watson Hall, Room 101
Contact: Maria Vick, (575) 492-2850 or mvick@nmjc.edu

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: The Buffalo Soldiers
April 27 @ 11:30 am
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: (575) 392-6730 or westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

COSMETOLOGY PINNING
April 28 @ 2:00 pm
Watson Hall, Room 101
Contact: Maria Vick, (575) 492-2850 or mvick@nmjc.edu

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: The Homesteaders
May 4 @ 11:30 am
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: (575) 392-6730 or westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

FORD ASSET GRADUATION LUNCHEON
May 10 @ 12:00 pm
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center Cafeteria
Contact: (575) 492-2860 or cmarquez@nmjc.edu
Celebrate the Centennial with NMJC's Pannell Library

**Juried Art Fair**
Theme: Enchantment
Submissions from local artists, NMJC students, and NMJC staff: April 22-29, 2012

“Lincoln: The Constitution & the Civil War”
Exhibit on display May 4 - June 7, 2012
“Abe Lincoln” Meet & Greet: May 24, 2012 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Program: May 24, 2012 7:00 pm, Watson Hall Theatre

**Book Discussion: Lincoln and the Civil War**
Discussions with Dwight Pitcaithley:
University Center Rm. 216, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Fall 2012:
September 8 & 22, October 6 & 20, and November 3

**Emerging Writer’s Contest**
Poetry & Short Story Submissions from previously unpublished writers: October 1 - November 9, 2012
Reception & announcement of winners: November 9, 2:00 pm

For more information, please contact Mary Tuytschaever, Director, NMJC Pannell Library at (575) 492-2873 or mtuytschaever@elinlib.org

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**GM ASEP GRADUATION LUNCHEON**
May 11 @ 12:00 pm
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center Cafeteria
Contact: (575) 492-2860 or e.marquez@nmjc.edu

**ANNUAL HOBBS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ART SHOW**
May 12 @ 2:00 pm
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: (575) 392-6730 or westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

**BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: The Wildcats**
May 18 @ 11:30 am
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: (575) 392-6730 or westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

**GED TESTING**
May 24
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center, Room 145
Contact: Jerry Hamm, (575) 492-2592 or jhamm@nmjc.edu

**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

**RELAY FOR LIFE: “Heating Up against Cancer” PTK**
June 2
Contact: Maria Vick, (575) 492-2850 or mvick@nmjc.edu

**NMJC Foundation Golf Tournament**
June 9-10
Hobbs Country Club
Contact: Kim Latimer, (575) 492-2780 or klatimer@nmjc.edu

**SNMLEA GRADUATION**
June 13 @ 2:00 pm
Watson Hall Theatre
Contact: Kelly Amador, (575) 492-2720 or kamador@nmjc.edu

**ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF QUILTS**
June 14-17
Grand Opening June 14 @ 2:00 pm
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: (575) 392-6730 or westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

**GED TESTING**
June 21
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center, Room 145
Contact: Jerry Hamm, (575) 492-2592 or jhamm@nmjc.edu

**GED TESTING**
July 19
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center, Room 145
Contact: Jerry Hamm, (575) 492-2592 or jhamm@nmjc.edu

**GED TESTING**
August 23
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center, Room 145
Contact: Jerry Hamm, (575) 492-2592 or jhamm@nmjc.edu