Mr. Guthrie,

You will most likely not remember me. I was in the accounting program back in 1999-2001. Since then, I have spent 9 years and counting in the Army. I currently instruct at the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School of Excellence.

Recently, I was admitted into the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University for my MBA and a MS in Finance. I have started Accounting and Finance this semester. This made me think of you. Your extremely challenging classes have provided a solid foundation that makes these classes a breeze, even 10 years later. I want to thank you for challenging me and your courses even though I did not fully appreciate them at the time.

Jay Wilson
SSG, USA
IFT Instructor, AIT Squad Leader

We are very thankful for the many donors who have partnered with New Mexico Junior College Foundation in supporting the mission of NMJC and the educational goals of NMJC students. Over the past 17 years, NMJC Foundation has provided over $1,000,000 in scholarships and work study to NMJC students and funded over $330,000 in assistance for NMJC programs.

For students who plan to attend NMJC in Fall 2011 and/or Spring 2012, the Foundation Scholarship Application is now available to apply for scholarships. The deadline to submit the application to the Foundation office is April 1, 2011. (575) 492-2780

Student Honor Society Inductions by Dr. John Grallton, Vice President for Instruction

- Mu Alpha Theta
On Monday, November 15, Mu Alpha Theta, the college’s mathematics society, conducted its induction ceremonies at which time eleven new members were admitted to this prestigious society. Ms. Shyla McGill, Professor of Mathematics at New Mexico Junior College, along with chapter officers, presided over the ceremony reception.

- Phi Theta Kappa
On Tuesday evening, November 16, the college conducted the induction ceremonies for Phi Theta Kappa. Thirty students were admitted to this honor society for which a minimum grade point average of 3.50 must be earned in order to receive an invitation to join. Ms. Maria Vick, Ms. Terry Holloman, and the chapter officers presided over the ceremony and reception.
New Student Orientation by Dr. Michele Cibagian
Dean, Enrollment Management

At NMJC, College Orientation is traditionally scheduled at the beginning of each semester; however, NMJC recognizes that students apply for admission and enroll for various parts of the term throughout the year. To accommodate students’ needs, Orientation is available online and on-campus. Beginning this semester, traditional face-to-face Orientation sessions are being offered several times a month in the Student Activites Room in the Ben Alexander Student Learning Center.

Mandatory for all new and transfer students, Orientation is designed to provide essential information, both academic and non-academic. It introduces students to the T-BirdWeb Portal, which allows them to access their transcript, financial aid information, billing statements, and other student records online. Most of all, it is intended to help new students connect with the campus community and to be well prepared for success, although, all students are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

“I recommend that all students attend Orientation. I connected with some services that I was unaware the college offered. It makes life easier to get important information the first semester that you are here rather than the last semester,” said Katy Shed, a freshman from Hobbs.

Students can access the online Orientation module at https://www.nmjc.edu/currentstudents/orientation.aspx. For more information about online and on-campus Orientation, please call Connie Hanson at (575) 492-2587.

Energy-Plex by Philip Roybal, Nuclear Regulatory Commission Program Manager

Because we are witnessing a new energy renaissance in our country — especially in southeastern New Mexico, which is also known as the Energy-Plex — NMJC continues to enhance its Energy Program for students in the credit and non-credit sectors. The newest addition will be the addition of ten wind turbines as well as photovoltaic solar panels. Several different makes and models will be installed in the near future to give students more exposure to different modules. The solar and wind project will also supply about 80% of the electricity for the western portion of campus.

Online LPN Program Kicks Off by Jeff McCool
Dean, Training & Outreach

An online practical nursing program (LPN) began last semester at NMJC with 23 students. In this three-semester program, instruction and communication occurs online, while laboratory/clinical practice sessions occur face-to-face. Students completed 90 hours of laboratory/clinical practice sessions with students demonstrating competence in Fundamentals of Nursing, Dosage Calculations, and nursing skills. During the spring and summer semesters, students will complete Medical- Surgical nursing and Pharmacology courses, along with 225 hours of clinical practice in local hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes. Graduates will be eligible to apply for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN), which is required in order to obtain licensure as an LPN or LVN.
The NMJC Nursing Program is pleased to announce the achievement of a 100% pass rate by the Registered Nursing (RN) Class of 2010. Each of the 19 nurse graduates passed the National Council Licensure Examination on their first attempt. All nurse graduates are employed in healthcare facilities and are working to meet the healthcare needs of our local communities.

The NMJC mission of “success through learning” is demonstrated through excellence in student and faculty performance. This perfect pass rate clearly reflects successful student learning and achievement of excellence in nursing education.

Another example of excellence in nursing education was recently demonstrated through successful evaluation of the NMJC Nursing Program by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). The program successfully met all performance standards mandated by the NLNAC for continuing national accreditation as a nursing education program. The NLNAC visiting team recommended that NMJC Nursing Program receive the maximum continued accreditation period of eight years. The NLNAC visitors referred to the NMJC Nursing Program as a “gem in the desert.”

Congratulations to the graduates, faculty, and staff of the NMJC Nursing Program!

The Fall 2010 Student Activities and Intramurals Program at New Mexico Junior College provided opportunities for students to get involved on campus. There were many activities available for students to enjoy and explore, such as custom dog tags, air brush t-shirts, digital caricatures, NMJC t-shirt raffle, custom mouse pads, and D.U.I. Simulator (save-a-life bands). It was a great fall for intramurals, which included flag football, dodge ball, 2-on-2 volleyball, 3-on-3 basketball, 8-ball pool, ping pong, Play Station, and racquetball.

For NMJC Student Support Services (SSS) participants, the highlight of each semester is taking a 3-day trip to tour a university campus and catch a performance that students would not normally see in Hobbs. SSS students traveled to Albuquerque over the Halloween weekend to tour the University of New Mexico campus and attend a cultural performance at Popejoy Hall. Thanks to 2008 NMJC graduate and former SSS student Angel Valdez, students received a tour of the UNM campus, which included the student center, theatre and film productions, various class rooms, and the athletic center. Students then attended an evening performance of “Cirque Mechanics Boom Town,” where music, dance, and amazing acrobatic feats told the story of the discoveries and events of 1865 prospectors and adventure seekers in an Old West mining town.

SSS trips are designed to help students decide on a transfer university after completing their NMJC degree. These trips allow SSS staff members to get to know their new freshman students better, while also helping students to form support systems to help each other reach their educational goals.
Mammoth Discovery in Lea County by Calvin Smith, Executive Director, Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame

Almost two years ago, Delbert Sanderson brought a bone to the Museum to be identified. In the middle of a two-rut road, he had picked up a heavily fossilized bone that was obviously broken out of a much larger piece. Although the rest of the exposed material had been eroded and driven over many times, this particular portion was in good shape. When he showed it to me, I recognized it immediately as the only thing it could be: from its thickness, it was a mammoth!

The mammoths we have throughout the southern half of North America are not “Woody” mammoths but *Mammuthus columbi* or Columbian mammoths. We have excavated a femur, tibia and fibula, a carpal, and we are just now exposing some additional bone material. Therefore, if we are at the bottom of the specimen, we will be finished with this endeavor soon. However, if we are on top of him or her, it will take at least another year to complete the excavation.

Everything that comes off the site is sifted through a 1/4" screen, and that material is saved for water flotation processes. A window screen catches the remaining sifted debris, which is likewise saved for further investigations. We have already identified three species of snails in the soil surrounding the bones, none of which were large enough to be caught in the 1/4" screen, with the smallest about the size of the head of a pin. All are aquatic and will help us in determining the health of the lakebed when the mammoth was deposited (by whatever cause) in its death bed. The lakebed in which the bones were discovered rests on the Judkin formation, which was deposited 18,000 years ago. It is commonly known in our area as the “hardpan.” It is a very hard-packed, tight, fine-grained, reddish quartz sand layer from which we get a majority of our “sandhills” in the Queracho Plains between the Caprock and the Pecos River. The top of the calcareous silt (our lakebed) produces Paleolithic artifacts dating back to 13,000 years ago. So there is a chance that this particular animal may have encountered humans in its last hours and succumbed to the technology of the period.

We are ever vigilant, always working with our trowels and brushes, looking for any flint flakes where these people might have sharpened a tool or accidently dropped a knife or scraper, and we are always excavating toward and up to the bone so we won’t scratch or scar the remains as we are also looking for cut marks or tooth impressions from scavengers like Dire Wolves, Short-Faced Bears, or the Saber-toothed Cats and/or humans. The ideal, most desirable outcome of the Sanderson Mammoth Site would be a complete Columbian mammoth skeleton with – just maybe – the accident-prone Paleo-Indian who stumbled and fell with his prey right on top of him!

Basketball Team Helps at the Fair by Chris Tittt, Professor, P.E./Head Men’s Basketball Coach

The New Mexico Junior College men's basketball team participated in the annual St. Helena Family Fair in Hobbs recently. The Fair has become a local tradition for families in southeastern New Mexico and West Texas. The Fair provides an environment for families to enjoy carnival-style games, fresh food, athletic competitions, and live entertainment.

Every member of the T-Birds men's basketball team participated in the Family Fair in an effort to reach out to the community that has been so supportive of not only the basketball program, but also of all the athletic teams and NMJC as a whole. Team members ran booths, helped cook hamburgers, handed out popcorn, and inevitably manned the basketball shooting competition.