As a former NMJC T-Bird, I was able to take advantage of the great educational opportunity we have right here in Lea County. As a young basketball player and athlete, I really enjoyed my years at New Mexico Junior College. In fact, I wish I could have spent four years there instead of two because I so enjoyed my experience there. My teachers, professors, and coaches were great; they were extremely attentive and gave us all the help we needed. They were family, and everything was just like being at home. That’s why I decided to take my talents to NMJC after high school. At New Mexico Junior College, I not only got to play basketball, I also learned how to be a leader, and I even learned a trade and got my welding certificate, just in case I didn’t finish up school and needed something else to fall back on. After all, you never know what curve life will throw you.

My time at New Mexico Junior College was tremendous, and my second year there, the T-Birds even made it to the regional tournament. I’ve always stayed in touch with Coach Ron Black and some of my teammates. Looking back, it was just a wonderful experience for me. Everything that the coaches, professors, and administration did during that time prepared me for life. While I was at NMJC, I learned how to buckle down, do solid book work, and get a real perspective on what was needed to go on to graduate from a major university. I also took summer school classes at NMJC just to get ahead.

I honestly enjoyed my time at New Mexico Junior College; it was a great overall experience. I would encourage anybody with any kind of life-long goals to start fulfilling them at NMJC. Whether it’s a trade you’re wanting to learn or an education you’re pursuing, New Mexico Junior College is the place for you.

– Mike Smith

NMJC Thunderbirds Recap
by Don Worth, Athletic Director

In 2011-12, New Mexico Junior College Athletic Department achieved its most successful year collectively in the history of its storied program. NMJC Athletic Department, with help from the City of Hobbs, County of Hobbs, Chamber of Commerce, and 160 volunteers hosted the D1 NJCAA National Men’s and Women’s Cross Country Championships in November of 2011.

Our Men’s Basketball team qualified for the Regional Basketball Tournament for the first time in 14 years, finishing 2nd in the WJCAC Conference race. The Lady Thunderbird Basketball team were the Champions of the WJCAC Conference for the first time in the history of the women’s program. Our women went on to win the Regional Tournament and qualified for the National Women’s Basketball Championship, finishing 4th in the nation. All historic firsts since the inception of the program.

Women’s Track continued their storied success finishing 5th in the nation at the indoor National Championships and 6th at the Outdoor Championships. A first for the program had Tasha Allen qualifying for the USA Indoor National Championships, with the top three team members qualifying for the USA Olympic team.

Our Men’s Golf team continued to qualify for the National Golf Championships finishing 11th in the nation. The men qualified with a 4th place finish at the Regional Tournament.

Baseball finished 2nd in the WJCAC Conference, qualifying for the Regional Tournament, finishing 4th.

We are proud of our coaches and athletes. We understand our success is due in large part to the support we receive from our Administrators, Board of Regents, NMJC, and the Community of Hobbs. We thank everyone who helped and supported NMJC Athletics.
NMJC Foundation Announces Renee Christman Scholarship
by Tina Kunko, Accountant / Controller – NMJC Foundation

Mr. T.D. Christman of Hobbs recently presented the New Mexico Junior College Foundation with a check for $10,000 to establish an endowment in memory of his beloved wife, Renee. The Renee Christman Endowed Memorial Scholarship will provide scholarship assistance for deserving students in the Cosmetology program at New Mexico Junior College.

Mrs. Christman was born Renee Bohm in Cologne, Germany, in 1930, a turbulent year in that country’s history, which set the stage for the rise of Hitler’s Nazi regime. In 1943, during the height of World War II, Renee’s family was executed by the Gestapo, the secret police of Nazi Germany. The young survivor was sent to Bavaria, which was then home to Nazi headquarters, where she served as a farm slave laborer for the next few years.

After the War ended, Renee went to work in 1946 for the U.S. Post Exchange (PX) in Munich and later married an American soldier. In 1963-64, they moved to the U.S., where she was again employed by the PX, this time at Ft. Lewis, Washington.

In 1973, approximately nine years after the death of her first husband, Renee married T.D. “Chris” Christman. In 1978, in preparation for attending beauty college, Renee earned her GED, and in 1980, at the age of 50, Renee graduated from Clara’s Beauty School in Hobbs. Fulfilling her dream of being a cosmetologist, Renee was able create beauty and loveliness in stark contrast to the devastation, destruction, and tragedy that she had witnessed in her early years.

Renee Bohm Christman died February 12, 2012. She had one daughter, Sylvia, who preceded her in death, and three stepchildren.

According to Tina Kunko of the NMJC Foundation, the memorial gift is a fitting tribute. “Thanks to Mr. Christman’s desire to honor the memory of his wife, recipients of the Renee Christman Endowed Memorial Scholarship will receive assistance in working toward their own educational goals and fulfilling their own dreams. Her story will be told and retold, and her legacy will impact many deserving students for years to come.”

To learn more about the Renee Christman Endowed Memorial Scholarship, please contact the NMJC Foundation at (575) 492-2780.

Hurry! Don’t Miss Out! Register for Summer II – classes begin July 2. Registration for Fall is in progress, too!! Begin your success story at NMJC today!

▼ Student Support Services graduates (L to R): Front row: Joe Tovar, Rubi Martinez, Victoria Guzman (Tutor), Cyndi Stephenson (SSS Staff), Carla Lewis, Jeneeka Evans, Jasmine Wright, Kaitlin Adams (Tutor), Adrienne Beckard, Angela Evans, Melissa Flores, Analeigh Morris (SSS Staff), Monica Melendez, Adora Guillen (SSS Staff), Janella Flores, Victoria Lerman, Dr. Gayle Abbott (SSS Staff), Brittany Calvisano, Jerry Hutton (Tutor)
In Loving Memory

New Mexico Junior College has lost one of its most beloved icons.

Professor Emeritus Jose C. “Joe” Garcia, 75, died in Portales, New Mexico, on May 28, 2012. Garcia, who retired from NMJC in 2010 after 25 years of service here, enjoyed a lifetime of interesting jobs, including Franciscan friar, Air Force chaplain, interpreter, and police sergeant. But Garcia found his final calling in higher education, where he evolved into one of NMJC’s most popular and beloved professors over the years.

Teaching capacity classes every semester both in the classroom and via Interactive Television, Garcia became well known for sharing invaluable lessons about people and life in his own inimitable style. He earned the respect and gratitude of thousands of students over the years, and to this day some former students choke back tears as they tell personal stories of how Garcia convinced them to finish their education or helped them pay for their tuition or books when they couldn’t. Named an “Outstanding Instructor” at NMJC in 2006, Garcia was honored statewide in that year’s fall issue of the Santa Fe-based *La Herencia* magazine.

While he undoubtedly holds a special place in the hearts of students, Garcia also holds a special place in history. As the first single male in the state of New Mexico to adopt children who were not related to him, in 1971 Garcia successfully adopted two young brothers who had been branded “retarded.” With the same attentive compassion he displayed in the classroom, Garcia proved doctors and educators wrong when he helped the boys overcome the physical, mental, and cultural barriers that had set them apart. But Garcia wasn’t done; throughout the years, he and the boys voted to adopt into the family several other boys in need of the same guidance and acceptance. Throughout the years, many a colleague on campus heard Garcia proudly relate how his boys successfully graduated from high school, attended college, served in the military, and raised families of their own. (To read more, go to www.nmjc.edu/whatis happening/focusonfaces.asp?featureid=469.)

According to President Steve McCleery, Garcia’s influence reached thousands of students, including his own daughters. “Joe touched a lot of lives through a lot of years, but most importantly for me, he’s the professor who kept my kids in school,” said McCleery. “Joe Garcia’s dedication to students was always phenomenal.”

Goodbye, Joe, and thank you for the legacy of love, laughter, and learning. Your life touched many of us, and you will not be forgotten.

NMJC Foundation Golf Tournament
by Tina Kunik, Accountant / Controller – NMJC Foundation

On June 9 and 10, NMJC Foundation hosted its thirteenth annual NMJC Foundation Golf Tournament. The fundraiser proved to be a huge success with over 100 sponsors and 74 golfers participating in this year’s event. The tournament winners are Donnie Kirkes and David Mitchell, who finished in first place in the Championship Flight. Proceeds from the annual tournaments are used in support of scholarships for NMJC students and NMJC program assistance. Thank you to our generous sponsors and golfers for your commitment to supporting the mission of New Mexico Junior College Foundation.
FALL CLASSES BEGIN
August 20
www.nmjc.edu

RODEO
September 20-22 @ ENMU – Portales
Contact: Richard Morris (575) 492-2748 or rmorris@nmjc.edu

RODEO
September 27-29 @ Sul Ross State University – Alpine, Texas
Contact: Richard Morris (575) 492-2748 or rmorris@nmjc.edu

RODEO
October 11-13 @ Vernon College – Vernon, Texas
Contact: Richard Morris (575) 492-2748 or rmorris@nmjc.edu

RODEO
October 18-20 @ Texas Tech University – Lubbock, Texas
Contact: Richard Morris (575) 492-2748 or rmorris@nmjc.edu

RODEO
October 25-27 @ Clarendon College – Clarendon, Texas
Contact: Richard Morris (575) 492-2748 or rmorris@nmjc.edu

PTK ORIENTATION
November 3 @ 10:00 am
Watson Hall Theatre
Contact: Maria Vick (575) 492-2850 or mvick@nmjc.edu

PTK ORIENTATION
November 6 @ 7:00 pm
Watson Hall Theatre
Contact: Maria Vick (575) 492-2850 or mvick@nmjc.edu

PTK INDUCTION
November 13 @ 7:00 pm
Watson Hall Theatre
Contact: Maria Vick (575) 492-2850 or mvick@nmjc.edu

Orientation will be held on Saturday, August 18, from 9:00 a.m. to noon on the NMJC campus. All first-time students and those interested in gaining more information about the college are invited to attend. Enrolled students who participate in the required activities will receive credit for PS110, College Orientation. Sessions covering degree plans, transferability of courses, student services, campus life, policies and procedures, distance education, technology, and course information will be offered. Additionally, students will be able to visit individuals representing campus clubs and various community businesses and organizations. Door prizes and giveaways will be provided. “Fall Orientation is a great way for students to get acquainted with the campus and meet faculty and staff in a relaxed atmosphere,” said Brittany Fuentes, a current NMJC student. “I encourage all new students to take advantage of this opportunity to get credit, learn about the college, and have fun.”

HAPPY JULY 4TH
The NMJC campus will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Enjoy a fun and safe holiday.