Garrey E. Carruthers, New Mexico State University’s Vice President for Economic Development and dean of the College of Business, has been named by Governor Bill Richardson to head a small committee dedicated to “right sizing” the New Mexico government. Governor Richardson wants the committee to evaluate consolidations, program reductions, and the possible abolition of programs. Economists from NMSU’s Arrowhead Center will assist the committee with financial analyses. All members of the committee are seasoned financial experts, most having an affiliation with either the Legislative Finance Committee or the Department of Finance and Administration, or in some cases, both.

*Senator Pete Domenici’s Legacy—The Proceedings from the 2008 Pete V. Domenici Public Policy Conference*, edited by Jon Hunner, wins 2009 book award. Each year, the New Mexico Book Awards Program honors New Mexico authors/publishers for special contributions to New Mexico’s book community. *Senator Pete Domenici’s Legacy* was a winner in the category of “Anthology (individual or collection),” and was sponsored by Printer’s Press. The book is published by Rio Grande Books and is available at the NMSU Bookstore.

The 11th annual Technical Analysis and Applications Center (TAAC) Conference concluded in December 2009. Kathy Hansen, a co-founder of the Center, reported that more than 400 people attended the conference, with another 100 on the waiting list. Topics covered in the open sessions included access to airspace, civilian applications, military unmanned aerial systems (UAS) applications, enabling technologies and UAS demonstrations. The Unmanned Aerial Systems TAAC was established in 1999 with the mission to promote safe integration of UAS in the National Airspace System.

New Mexico State University’s Arrowhead Center will be participating in New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS) individual State Labor Market Information Improvement grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor. The grant provides the resources to frame and answer questions about green employers, demand for new skill sets, emerging green occupations, and educational and training opportunities available across the state. NMDWS recognizes the immediate needs for data and analysis of the workforce continuum in the four key sectors of renewable energy; green clean manufacturing; energy efficiency; and research, development, and administration. Over an 18-month period beginning in January 2010, the grant will support 8 graduate assistants as well as covering other operating expenses for the Arrowhead Center’s portion of the contract.

In November 2009 the Entrepreneurship Institute at New Mexico State University’s Arrowhead Center hosted the Entrepreneur Round-Up, part of Global Entrepreneurship Week/USA 2009. The event featured MBA students from the Arrowhead Center holding one-on-one sessions with current and prospective entrepreneurs. Global Entrepreneurship Week was founded by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and the Make Your Mark campaign.

KPMG has formally extended an invitation to New Mexico State University’s Student Chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting to participate in the 2010 National Case Competition in Orlando, FL, August 1 and 2, 2010. NMSU is one of only 27 universities invited to compete.
On November 2, 2009, Richard Oliver traveled to Chaparral Mid School to present a hands-on exercise in pandemic virus spread and hypothesis testing. The audience was the GUTS (Growing Up Thinking Scientifically) club of the mid school. Handheld Palms are used to simulate the spread of a virus throughout a population. Students were asked to form hypotheses about the spread of the virus and to propose experiments to confirm or reject these hypotheses. Approximately 25 students attended the exercise. The GUTS program is the mid school feeder program for the New Mexico High School Supercomputing Challenge.

Dr. Tony Popp, Department Head, Economics/International Business/ESTAT, 575.646.2113

In December 2009, Abby Train, a student in the Doctor of Economic Development program, was awarded an honorable mention in the 24th Annual Charles M. Tiebout Prize in Regional Science competition of the Western Regional Science Association. The title of Train’s paper is “Urban to Rural Migration Patterns and the Creative Class: A U.S. County-to-County Study.” The competition attracts entries from around the world. Train has been invited to present her paper at the Association’s meeting in February 2010. Anil Rupasingha of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business was her faculty advisor on the project.

Dr. Liz Ellis, Department Head, Finance/Business Law, 575.646.3201

The Finance Department presented departmental awards to three outstanding graduating finance majors and one outstanding graduating student in the insurance program. Florence Babcock received the Faculty Award for Outstanding Achievement in Finance (and was the department’s nominee and ultimately the recipient of the Alumni Association Outstanding Business Student Award for the College). Maria Villa received the ConocoPhillips Award for Outstanding Achievement in Finance. Cole Smith received the Peter Wichert Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Finance. In addition to the departmental awards, we presented the “Outstanding International Student” award for the College of Business to Finance Major Jingzi Ji (who was selected by International and Border Studies Program as the Outstanding International Student for the University).

Dr. Bonnie Daily, Department Head, Management, 575.646.1201

On November 16, 2009, David Boje presented outcomes and recommendations from the WHAT’S ART Convention and Street Festival to the Las Cruces City Council. The WHAT’S ART projects consisted of 60 service-learning projects conducted by students in Boje’s Management 448/548 small business consulting class with local artists.

Dr. Janet Green, Director, Hotel, Restaurant & Tourism Management, 575.646.2227

Chef Maurice Zeck, Chef John Hartley and their students in the Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management program, prepared and donated various soups to the 17th annual “Empty Bowls” event for the El Caldito Soup Kitchen. Dr. Keith Mandabach donated his time by serving soup. The Potters’ Guild of Las Cruces raises funds for El Caldito by handmaking over 1,000 bowls each year. Local restaurants donate soup, and ticket-holders enjoy a soup lunch and take home a hand-made pottery bowl. HRTM participates in this event each year. Chef Zeck and his students also participated in the White Sands Missile Range “Thanks Team WSMR” event held October 22, 2009. Eleven restaurant organizations provided food booths and were recognized as sponsors of the event, designed to say thank you to the men and women stationed at White Sands.