New Mexico State University’s College of Business named Peyton Yates as its first “Executive in Residence,” a position for those who are successful in the business world to help and mentor NMSU business students. Yates is a former president of Yates Petroleum Corporation and currently serves on the company’s board of directors. He is also president of Yates Drilling Company. Yates began his duties as executive in residence during the current spring semester. In addition to mentoring and helping students with business projects, he will lend his expertise to NMSU’s Domenici Institute and other programs where his knowledge of business and energy is valuable. Yates also plans to ask his friends in the business and energy fields for their assistance in working with students and solving problems. More than 25 Yates Petroleum employees are NMSU graduates, and many of those graduates now have children attending NMSU.

New Mexico State University students heard about energy policy from former Sen. Pete Domenici and Peyton Yates, former president of Yates Petroleum Corporation, in a leadership course taught by Garrey Carruthers, dean of the College of Business and former New Mexico governor. Domenici, along with Senator Bingaman, were the architects of the 2005 Energy Act which represents current U.S. energy policy. Domenici repeated his strong support of nuclear power. Yates reminded the students that all energy sources are dangerous and that petroleum would be the energy source for the near (40 years) future, as we bridge to other sources.

New Mexico State University has named Garrey Carruthers, dean of the NMSU College of Business and vice president for economic development, as the first director of NMSU’s Domenici Institute. The institute is named for former Sen. Pete Domenici who retired last year as the longest-serving senator in New Mexico history. The institute is comprised of the defense and public policy institute and Arrowhead Center for Economic Development. As part of the institute, Sen. Domenici’s papers are housed and managed by NMSU’s library. The institute will focus on issues championed by the senator during his time in office, including economic development, energy, national security, natural resources, behavioral health and nuclear nonproliferation.

Delta Sigma Pi’s 2009 “Cream the Deans” fundraiser was a hit! Garrey Carruthers, dean of the College of Business; Michael Morehead, interim dean of the College of Education; Steven Castille, dean of the College of Engineering; and Robert Rhodes, interim dean of the College of Health and Social Services took part. Cream the Dean is an annual fundraising event orchestrated by the Epsilon Upsilon chapter of Delta Sigma Pi. It is an opportunity for students, faculty, and alumni to “cream” the deans of the various colleges at New Mexico State University by throwing a pie at them. The 2009 fundraiser collected more than $2,200 for the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico, a fund that was set up to be distributed to any non-profit organization registered with the Community Foundation to assist those organizations through the economic downturn.

The Forensic Testing Laboratory, a spin-off of the Genetics Testing Laboratory partially owned by the New Mexico State University Arrowhead Center, is now nationally certified and ready to do testing in criminal and/or medical research. FTL, one of only nine full-service forensic testing labs in the nation, is fully accredited to handle criminal evidence and has already helped the Las Cruces Police Department and the Doña Ana County Sheriff’s Office with cases. The DNA lab can dramatically reduce wait time for evidence to weeks or less.
The Entrepreneurship and Outreach unit of Arrowhead Center, along with New Mexico MESA Inc., hosted the 2009 Innoventure Competition. This year’s theme was adaptive products, devices and other things used by little people to better adapt to a big world. Mr. Matt Roloff, star of the hit TV show “Little People, Big World” was the keynote speaker at the Innoventure dinner. More than 35 middle school and high school teams from around New Mexico met Roloff and demonstrated their ideas for products. The teams were judged on various components, including general idea, feasibility and presentation. Roloff said it was very fascinating to witness not just the entrepreneurship, but the students having a chance to get established in a formal way early on in their education. He suggested that the Innoventure program should be modeled around the United States. Walking away with the first prize of a Wii game system was CC Snell Middle School from Bayard and the MMNC team from Chaparral High School with the project “Stair Port.” Four hundred guests attended, two hundred of those students.

A recent article entitled “The Master of Business Administration: Is the MBA Worth the Time, Effort, and Cost?” (http://www.quintcareers.com/MBA_degree.html) indicates that during economic downturns, both recent graduates and displaced workers head back to school to earn their MBAs. This appears to be true of New Mexico State University’s MBA Program, where enrollment has reached a record 350 students, a 6% increase over the fall 2008 semester. The MBA program is averaging 100 students graduating per academic year with 38 students expected to attend the spring commencement in May 2009.

The Energy and Economic Development Conference was a great success. The conference, conducted by the New Mexico State University Arrowhead Center, is part of an on-going project sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory. Principal speakers included former Sen. Pete Domenici who delivered the keynote address, Tom Clifford of the Tax Research Institute, Jim Manatt of Providence Technologies and a former Regent, and Leo Delgado, College of Business alum and Arrowhead employee. Presentations and additional information are available on the conference website at http://business.nmsu.edu/~energyconference.

New Mexico State University’s College of Business appointed Dr. Michael Hyman as the first chair holder of the Stan Fulton Chair. Dr. Hyman has set forth an extensive plan of mentorship and research activities as part of his 3-year appointment.

A simulation of Dr. Collin Payne’s research on Chinese buffets and obesity was filmed on the Food Network’s “Food Detectives.” Dr. Payne is an Assistant Professor in the College of Business Department of Marketing. Dr. Payne’s and Dr. Brian Wansink’s article “The Joy of Cooking Too Much: 70 Years of Calorie Increases in Classic Recipes” now appears in the Annals of Internal Medicine. Payne was also interviewed regarding his research on marketing and obesity by the L.A. Times, NY Times, Associated Press, and local papers, TV and radio stations.