Kerry Weems, a graduate of the College of Business, now runs the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The budget for HHS is $700 billion and the budget for Kerry’s outfit is $600 billion ($150 billion more than the Pentagon!). One of our graduates is running the largest agency in the U.S. Government. He indicated to Dean Garrey Carruthers that his education at NMSU was second to none.

The “New Mexico Shootout” at Sierra del Rio Championship Golf Course at Turtleback Mountain Resort, Elephant Butte, NM—More than 4,000 golf enthusiasts attended the first match in more than 30 years in New Mexico featuring a competition between Nancy Lopez/Rosie Jones and Natalie Gulbis/Kriti Albers, members of the Ladies Professional Golf Association. New Mexico State University’s Professional Golf Management (PGM) program was prominent, and Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management (HRTM) Director Janet Green, Dr. Keith Mandabach and 25 HRTM students attended as volunteers in all areas of the event. Jack Witt, the developer, intends to hire PGM students to run the course and to use HRTM students in the clubhouse. The “New Mexico Shootout” was sponsored, in part, by the New Mexico Tourism Department.

E. Larry Lujan received NMSU’s annual James Cole Award. Mr. Lujan, a 1976 College of Business graduate, serves as President and CEO of Manual Lujan Insurance, Inc., and Lujan Enterprises, Inc.

New Mexico State University’s Master of Business Administration (MBA) Program is listed in Princeton Review’s “Best 290 Business Schools” which was published the first week in October. The listing is based on a 3-year survey of students’ opinions at some of the best AACSB-International (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) accredited MBA programs in the world. The "Survey Says" section of the profile lists some of the topics about which MBA students respondents were most in agreement, and includes some very positive feedback from our students.

In October, New Mexico State University's (NMSU) Information Systems’ Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) student contingent at the Region 3 conference continued the NMSU AITP tradition of walking away with awards every time they compete. In Application Development, Shondra Freeman and David Navarro took first place out of 18 teams competing. A lot of the credit for this should go to Carlo Mora and Kerry Alt for preparing our students well in JAVA programming. In Database Design, Rob Richie and Shondra Freeman took honorable mention (fourth place) out of 25 teams. There were 149 students competing at the conference, and the judges were professionals in the industry.

Bill Smith attended the New Mexico Society of CPAs “Pride in the Profession” luncheon in Albuquerque where he received the 2007 Outstanding Accounting Educator Award.
Jennifer Kreie was invited to join the Microsoft Enterprise Consortium board. The Enterprise Consortium will provide access to several Microsoft applications for databases, data warehousing, and data mining to member universities. It will also provide access to some real data for instructional purposes from corporations such as Sam's Club and Dillard's.

**Dr. Tony Popp, Department Head, Economics/International Business/ESTAT, 505.646.2113**

From October 15 through 19, 2007, the Center for Public Utilities (CPU) program enjoyed a near-record attendance with almost 160 participants from across the United States and Canada for its four Practical Skills Training Courses in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Participants were regulatory professionals employed by utility companies or regulatory agencies and most are relatively new to the utility regulation world. Four separate courses covered the Electricity, Natural Gas, Water Distribution, and Telecommunications industries. A significant factor contributing toward the near-record attendance was countless hours of effort by Dave Smith devoted toward refined marketing of the courses and redesign of the Natural Gas course.

- Professor Doug Gegax (CPU Director) designed and managed the Electricity industry course and conducted most of the instruction.
- Professor Dave Smith (emeritus) designed and managed the Natural Gas industry course and conducted much of the instruction.
- Professor Tom McGuckin designed and managed the Water Distribution course and conducted four days of instruction.
- Dr. Larry Blank managed the Telecommunications course and served as an instructor for sessions in all four industry courses.
- Jeanette Walter (Associate Director) managed the administrative organization of the event.

**Dr. Liz Ellis, Department Head, Finance/Business Law, 505.646.3201**

On October 25th, Ken Martin and his students in FIN435 and FIN535 made a presentation to approximately 40 New Mexico principals and counselors attending New Mexico State University’s 52nd Annual Principals and Counselors Conference. The topic of the presentation was the SIC Equity Fund, a student-managed investment fund in which students pick stocks to go into a $5 million equity portfolio for the State Investment Council. Dr. Martin and Yvonne Mendoza also staffed an information table about the Stock Market Game for the conference.

**Janet Green, Director, Hotel, Restaurant & Tourism Management, 505-646-2227**

The International Symposium for Personal Spaceflight was held at the Farm and Ranch Museum October 24-25, 2007. Assistant Professor (Hotel, Restaurant & Tourism Management) Dr. Chang Lee chaired the session on Developing Tourism. His panelists included two former astronauts—Michael Lopez-Alegria (STS-73, STS-92, STS-113, Expedition-14) and Dan Barry (STS-72, STS-96, STS-105)—and Ms. Anousheh Ansara, space explorer, whose family donated the $10 million for the X Prize; and several other people involved in space tourism. Janet Green (Director, HRTM) was a panelist for the session “Impact of Spaceports on Communities.” Also on her panel: Bill Mattiace, Mayor of Las Cruces; Lori Montgomery, Mayor of Truth or Consequences; Judd Nordyke, Mayor, Village of Hatch; and Rick Holdridge, Luna County Commissioner and Chair of New Mexico Spaceport Authority (NMSA) Community Advisory Committee.