The NMSU Board of Regents approved the merger of the Research Park Corporation and the Arrowhead Center, expansion of the master lease agreement between the university and the Arrowhead Center from 15 to nearly 200 acres, and extended the term of the lease out to 2075. The Center has had preliminary discussions with several developers about building out the park, which will provide opportunities for students and faculty to work with park tenants that otherwise might not be available to them.

Remembering the university’s statewide mandate, the Arrowhead Center worked with the Las Vegas San Miguel Economic Development Corporation at New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU), which was able to attract a new company to the area, immediately employing 50 students and expanding to perhaps 150 in two years or so. Tremendous job by Luis Ortiz, Director, and the NMHU students who assisted him on the project.

The College of Business is working with the New American Alliance to establish a partnership for internship and career placement of students. The New American Alliance is an organization of American Latino business leaders committed to leading the process of Latino empowerment and wealth-building by expanding the forms of capital most crucial for economic advancement, including economic capital, political capital, human capital, and philanthropy. Danny Villanueva is spearheading this effort together with Martin Cabrera (a Business Advisory Council member). The goal is to place between 15-20 students for summer of 2007.

The MBA Office, in conjunction with the Committee on Student-Athlete Academic Reform, has developed a WebCT for Athletes portal very similar to the WebCT portal for MBA students. This portal will be used to improve communications among student athletes. It was demonstrated to McKinley Boston, Athletic Director, and James Hall, Assistant Athletic Director. Content in the WebCT for Athletes portal will include the Athletes Student Handbook, important deadlines, software resources and important contact information.

Three Eisenhower Fellows from the College of Business—Bharath Katragadda, Richard Hernandez (both MBA students) and Zack Springfield (Master of Accountancy student)—attended the Transportation Research Board annual conference sponsored by the Department of Transportation. The conference was held in Washington, DC, and included over 2,800 presentations in 500 sessions. Attendees included students, policy makers, administrators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions. This year’s theme was "Transportation Institutions, Finance, and Workforce: Meeting the Needs of the 21st Century." The students were awarded $10,000 fellowships from the Department of Transportation in Fall 2006 as a result of an interdisciplinary collaboration between the Honors College, the College of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences. The students are to complete their transportation-related research projects in April 2007.
Dr. Marta Remmenga met with Dr. Karin Wiburg of the Educational Research Center to work on the National Science Foundation-funded Gadsden Math Initiative and the Mathematically Connected Communities (MC-squared) grants. Both grants create partnerships between middle school and high school math teachers, principals, district superintendents and mathematics faculty at NMSU to improve the quality of math education in the public schools. Dr. Wiburg has also asked Dr. Remmenga to be involved in a new grant aimed at improving the educational evaluation and assessment in New Mexico.

The Doctorate of Economic Development program has been approved and an implementation plan is being developed. New Mexico State University will be the first university in the United States to offer a Professional Doctorate in Economic Development degree. The program is designed to provide advanced graduate-level training to people already in the economic development field and will complement efforts in creating new economic development opportunities in New Mexico.

The New Mexico State University Student Managed Investment Fund will receive $5 million. Business students will be allowed to manage the investment of $5 million of the state’s funds (currently valued at nearly $14 billion) in conjunction with the State Investment Council. Students will handle a portfolio of commonly traded stocks and bonds and will make recommendations for investments. Staff at the State Investment Council will carry out the transactions or, if necessary, veto student investment decisions. Any earnings on investments will stay in the portfolios managed by students, allowing the $5 million pool to grow over time. Computers and other equipment have been donated to the school to assist students in researching and analyzing possible investments. The program will help train students for jobs as money managers in the financial industry as well as in business management positions.

New Mexico State University will soon be home to the Western States School of Banking (WSSB). The WSSB is a school designed to train professionals in the skills necessary to advance their careers in the banking industry. School leaders said they chose NMSU as their new site after close consideration of numerous locations throughout New Mexico and Colorado. The WSSB’s board of directors put a high priority on affiliation with a college or university that actively partners with private industry, particularly one that seeks such a partnership with banks throughout the west. Their plans include greatly expanding student participation and, in the future, adding a graduate program in banking. The WSSB plans its first classes at NMSU to begin in Summer 2007.
Othman Almulla was the low qualifier for the 2007 Dubai World Golf Tournament. When asked about the experience Othman replied, “This week has been a dream.” Othman was able to play with some of the world’s top players including Darren Clarke. He also spent time with Tiger Woods, Ernie Els, and many other well known players. He has his sites set for the South African Professional Golfer's Association Tour later this summer.

New Mexico State University current PGM student, Othman Almulla, chases a dream!!!

Pat Gavin, Professional Golf Management (PGM) Director and Jason White, PGM Assistant Director, were both elected onto the Sun Country Professional Golfer's Association (PGA) Board of Directors. While this will be Jason’s first term on the Board, this will be Pat’s fifth term.

Pat Gavin received the 2007 Sun Country PGA “Horton Smith Award,” a yearly award presented for outstanding educational contributions. This was the seventh time Pat has received the award.

NMSU’s Professional Golf Management students have been big winners this year:
- Won the 2007 PGA/PGM Jones Cup tournament by 42 strokes—the biggest victory in the history of this tournament.
- Won the 2007 West Coast PGA/PGM Golf Tournament. NMSU has now won this tournament three of the last four years.
- Student Anthony Vitale won the 2007 PGA Paul Runyan Scholarship ($2,500).
- Student Devon Newell won the 2007 Association of Golf Merchandisers Scholarship ($1,000).

NMSU’s Professional Golf Management will have its largest graduating class later this semester. Over 40 students will be graduating into Professional Golfer's Association Class A membership with their Marketing degree. All of these students have secured a position in the golf industry.