Two of our prominent graduates were presenters for the Garrey E. and Katherine T. Carruthers Speaker Series in Economic Development during the past weeks:

- Julie Dill, President of Union Gas in Canada, gave an outstanding presentation. She discussed her career, starting as an entry level accountant fresh out of New Mexico State University, to becoming the President of Union Gas, a natural gas company based in Ontario, Canada, with 1.3 million customers. She shared the secrets of her success as well as some of the challenges and opportunities in the natural gas industry. Julie was named one of the top 50 Women in Energy by Commodities Now magazine. She is another of our College of Business graduates who maintain her education at New Mexico State University was first rate, as compared to that of her peers.

- Dr. Gloria G. Rodriguez is the Chairman Emeritus and Founder of AVANCE, Inc., a 501.3c non-profit organization. Dr. Rodriguez addressed her social entrepreneurship efforts with AVANCE, which has grown from one center in a low-income neighborhood in San Antonio, Texas, to more than 100 centers across Texas and in California. AVANCE provides parents, particularly Latino parents with young children under the age of 3, with information and support so they can encourage, help and enable their children to succeed in school and in life. Her novel approach has led to an outstanding retention and graduation rate in public schools. Dr. Rodriguez and AVANCE have received tremendous national recognition and numerous awards.

The Los Alamos National Laboratory Information Fair for the College of Business MBA program was held on March 27th. During this fair, we heard from LANL MBA students who will be graduating this summer. The students were very complimentary about the program and stated that it was challenging, yet enjoyable. James “Jay” Johnson, LANL's Chief Financial Officer, expressed the laboratory’s commitment to continuing the partnership with New Mexico State University. As a result of this Information Fair, we hope to have another cohort of 20 to 25 students from Los Alamos, including two students from Los Alamos National Bank beginning the MBA Program in Fall 2007. Dave Reiff, Candle Turner and Andrea Kasiuba did a great job of representing the College of Business and New Mexico State University.
The NMSU Center for Public Utilities hosted their annual Current Issues Conference in Santa Fe over spring break. This popular event is heavily attended by state regulatory commissioners and utility company executives from across the United States. The conference also provides a nice opportunity to market our graduating Masters of Economics students for jobs. The Center for Public Utilities is self-funded through its conferences, training programs, and sponsorships; and it receives no direct funding from the State of New Mexico. The Director of the Center is Professor Doug Gegax and the Associate Director is Jeanette Walter.

Drs. Ben Widner and Ben Matta, Center for Economics and Personal Finance Education, have received notification of two grant awards from the National Council on Economic Education. The first grant provides funding to assess economic knowledge among students in grades 9 through 12 in New Mexico schools using the nationally normed Test of Economic Literacy. The second grant funds the conduct of workshops for high school teachers during Summer 2007.

The Insurance Industry Advisory Board, composed of insurance and financial services executives from around the state, met with Drs. Tim Query and Al Berryman. As a result of their efforts, the endowments to the Center for Insurance and Financial Services at New Mexico State University now total $1,366,023 with an additional $288,750 pledged. The Center also expects to provide approximately $20,000 in scholarships to Insurance students at NMSU for the next academic year, as well as 10 internships in different financial institutions. The Board also assists with job placements and advice on keeping our program current with the needs of employers. The topics discussed at the Board meeting included the growth of the Insurance Studies program at NMSU to 22 students, financial status, the proposed addition of a new course in Risk Management, progress toward establishment of an Actuarial Science Program in conjunction with the math department, scholarships and internships, and the upcoming student trip to the Risk & Insurance Management Society Meeting in New Orleans. Several of our insurance and professional golf management students joined the Board for lunch and golf following the meeting.

New Mexico State University's Insurance Program has been selected to participate in the Spencer Educational Foundation's 2007-2008 "Risk Manager in Residence" program. The Foundation has awarded $2,700 to the university to cover expenses for the visiting risk management professional. Dan Kugler, Assistant Treasurer, Risk Management for Snap-on, Incorporated, will be the Risk Manager in Residence at NMSU. Kugler was named "Risk Manager of the Year" by the Risk and Insurance Management Society in 2002.

At the recommendation of the State Investment Office, Dr. Hari Sankaran attended the third annual meeting of the Structured Products Association in New York City. At this leading edge meeting, Dr. Sankaran had the chance to meet with a few fixed-income folks from Wall Street and they are keen to talk more about investing opportunities for our student managed fixed-income fund. Hari was one of only two academics in the conference (the other was Dr. Ferrell of Harvard Law School), and he reports that our department and New Mexico State University received visibility, great networking opportunities and a warm reception from the industry representatives.
Dr. Bonnie Daily, Department Head, Management, 505.646.1201

The Management Department received a gift of $125,000.00 from an anonymous donor to create the first professorship in their department. The gift will be included in the state's matching program and used to create the John P. Loveland Endowed Professorship in Quality Management.

Dr. Terry Adler was named New Mexico Athletic Association Coach of the Year for Division 2A in District 5. Dr. Adler served as Head Coach of the boy's high school basketball team at Mesilla Valley Christian Schools and his team won the State Championship. This is the first high school boy's state championship for Las Cruces in 31 years (Las Cruces won it in 1976).

Dr. Terry Adler was also named Mesilla Valley “Character Counts” Educator of the Year for 2007, winning the award for his excellence in teaching Las Cruces school children the six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

Mr. Pat Gavin, Director, Professional Golf Management, 505-646-7686

The Professional Golf Management office hosted a very successful PGM Visitors Weekend the last weekend of March. Thirty-eight potential New Mexico State University PGM students and their families from across the country attended the following events:

- Friday afternoon the visiting students and their families toured the NMSU campus and the University Golf Course.
- Friday evening the students and their families met at Garcia Hall for a pizza party, and visited with freshman PGM students and toured their dorm rooms.
- All day Saturday, a golf tournament was held in which two visiting students paired up with two current students for a nice competitive round of golf. Following the golf tournament, a putting contest was held on the putting green, along with a hamburger cook-out for everyone, including family members and all current PGM students.
- Sunday morning a breakfast was sponsored by the PGM Student Association and was followed by a 2-hour presentation/question and answer session.

Overall, the Visitors Weekend was a huge success. As of April 13th, 31 students have submitted their paperwork to attend NMSU in the Fall. The PGM Program expects to have one of its largest classes ever for Fall 2007.