Groundbreaking of the Arrowhead Research Park was held on August 31st. Arrowhead Development, LLC, will begin building on the first 11 acres of land between Interstates 10 and 25. The research park will provide a space for companies interested in moving to New Mexico State University to work with faculty, employ students and develop intellectual property. The first phase will have up to seven buildings and 120,000 square feet of office and lab space. There is potential to add 2.5 million square feet of class-A office and lab space, and from five to six thousand people will be able to work at the park. Many thanks to Dr. Kevin Boberg, President Martin, Kathy Hansen, Maureen Camuñez, Pam Woods, Bruce Kite, Ben Woods, Jennifer Taylor, Sharon Jones, Janice Wright and a legion of other folks who worked on this project.

At the end of August, Dean Carruthers and Dr. Kevin Boberg represented New Mexico State University at the President Bush/Senator Domenici event in Albuquerque. Dean Carruthers visited briefly with President Bush, who knew about Coach Theus moving to Sacramento and was most interested in how our football and basketball teams were going to perform this year.

Kevin Johnson, Microsoft's President of Platforms and Online Services Department, visited New Mexico State University for the Carruthers Speaker Series in Economic Development. Kevin has overall responsibility for Microsoft’s product development, marketing and strategy for the Windows system (a $15 billion business). Along with Bill Gates and six others, Kevin serves on Microsoft’s Senior Leadership Team, setting overall strategy and direction for Microsoft. Kevin met with a group of 20 students for an informal discussion as well as made a presentation open to the public, attended by approximately 100 people. Kevin and his wife, June, also visited with the student recipients of their Information Systems Mentorship endowment. A 1981 New Mexico State University and College of Business graduate, Kevin also participated in taping and interviews for an NMSU television, radio and print ad campaign promoting NMSU and the College of Business.

An evening of honors and dancing in an Academy Award setting…. The College of Business celebrated its 10th anniversary Hall of Fame on September 28th, inducting Christine Dupnik Aguilera (class of 1986) and Roy W. Mall (class of 1983) as Hall of Fame members. Also honored for ongoing dedication and exceptional service to the college were Dr. Jim Bullock and Dr. Edward Lujan, who were presented with Trader’s Awards. Local paparazzi (students from NMSU student organizations) welcomed over 300 attendees (including 18 of the 26 living Hall of Fame Past Inductees) as they walked the red carpet into Corbett Center for the festivities. The Jelly Roll Kings provided dancing music and the evening ended with attendees waving confetti batons, festooning the room with Aggie maroon and white confetti. The college raised over $30,000 for the event.

New Mexico State University’s Masters of Business Administration Program has reached a new milestone with 300 students admitted, 100 of which are new to the program for the Fall 2007 semester. The off-site MBA Program is also expanding, with two new cohorts beginning the program this fall. The new cohort at Los Alamos is comprised of 21 students, including six employees from Los Alamos County. A new cohort at Carlsbad is comprised of 15 students. President Martin assisted with the recruiting efforts at Carlsbad.
Dr. Bill Smith, faculty advisor for the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance & Accounting, reported that New Mexico State University's Student Chapter team successfully competed in the 2007 ALPFA National Accounting Case Competition held in Orlando, FL. The NMSU team members—Diana Telles, Maria Carrillo, Harry Shatzer, Bernadette Barnecol, and Lorraine Tangonan—gave a strong performance, and accordingly, NMSU should be invited back next year to showcase our strong accounting program and outstanding students. All the “Big 4” public accounting firms were heavily involved in the national competition with KPMG serving as the lead sponsor. Based upon last year’s competition, only 25 universities were invited to compete in the 2007 National Case Competition. NMSU was included among other universities such as University of California at Berkley, Colorado State University, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Arizona State University, University of California-Los Angeles, and University of Texas at Austin to name a few.

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$1.5 million grant funded. Dr. Marta Remmenga and Naomi Schmidt helped write a grant proposal to study the Las Cruces District's current initiative to increase mathematics achievement in Kindergarten through 8th grades. The research team just received word from the National Science Foundation that their $1.5 million dollar grant titled "Scaling Up Mathematics Achievement" was selected for funding.

Serving on behalf of the New Mexico Attorney General’s office, Drs. Larry Blank and Doug Gegax met with owners of commercial and industrial businesses from Santa Teresa, representatives from El Paso Electric Company (EPE) and Gov. Richardson’s office as well as Secretary Fred Mondragón of the New Mexico Economic Development Department and Director Juan Massey of the Office of Mexican Affairs and Trade. Secretary Mondragón chaired the September 18th meeting, which took place in Santa Teresa. The purpose of the meeting was to listen and respond to business concerns regarding EPE’s recent rate increase. Drs. Blank and Gegax provided an independent explanation of the factors leading to the spike in customers’ July electric bills and of the characteristics in EPE’s fuel and purchased-power adjustment clause.