

# *The Scoop*

2017

A photograph of a news studio set. In the background, three news anchors (a man and two women) are seated at a large wooden desk. The man is wearing a dark suit and tie, and the women are wearing professional attire. Behind them is a large screen displaying a cityscape. In the foreground, the back of a person's head and shoulders are visible; they are wearing a large black headset with a microphone. To the left, a red square with the number '2' is visible on a piece of equipment.

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# Letter from the department head

Hello all alumni, faculty, staff, and future alumni:

After last year's '50th Anniversary' issue, I have received lots of emails from alumni.

I appreciate all those emails and encouragement from alumni. I promise that we, faculty and staff, will do our best to make this department the best.

Last year, our faculty did lots of research and creative works. They presented at academic conferences or through exhibitions, and they published them in high-quality journals. This performance shows how great faculty of this department are and how much valuable they are to this university.

There are some changes from last year because of an unexpected situation within the department. We hired one professor in PR, but unfortunately, she left NMSU after one year. This was a huge loss for the department because the number of

PR students is growing. We plan to hire a new professor as soon as possible, so students get the right education.

One of the most important things I want to point out is the donation from Mr. Cy Cress of \$1.2 million for the department. As you all know through media coverage, this is the biggest donation by anyone to one department, in NMSU history. The department will use that money to give scholarships to many students, in order for them to continue to do higher educations.

I also want to thank all those alumni for their cares of this department and for their support of this department.

I also like to give my thanks to those students who worked for this year's Scoop.

Thank you and hope to see you all in the next Scoop.

*Hwiman Chung, PhD*



# Times are changing for the department

*As New Mexico struggles with the budget, NMSU journalism students cope with cuts*

Without a doubt, this past school year has been a difficult one. Budget cuts are not only affecting our journalism department, but the university as a whole.

A hiring freeze has stopped the Department from obtaining a new public relations professor, which has really given our professors an extra workload. From a student point of view, I see how budget cuts affect everyone in the department, especially us, the students.

It is crucial we keep in mind that having the best and latest equipment does not guarantee us to have the best program in the nation. But in today's quickly-evolving media world, having the latest

equipment sure does help. Not only to get a better education, but it also makes us more marketable when we step out into the real world and look for jobs.

Still, we continue to graduate successful broadcasters, photographers, multimedia journalists, public relations and advertising professionals who are a step ahead of the competition. I have seen my fellow classmates put countless hours into their work. We stay in the media labs for hours editing photos and video, News22 packages, multimedia presentations and writing countless stories. Some of us go to other labs around campus when our labs close. The work never ends.

Our students are hard-working, and they want the best for themselves and their classmates. Working on the Scoop magazine has allowed me to talk and meet a lot more people in our department. It is defiantly an experience I will never forget. My classmates and I have put countless hours to make this year's magazine like no other.

I hope you enjoy reading this year's Scoop. Thank you for supporting our department, until next year,

*Vladimir Avina*  
Editor





Students Mike Vigil (Left) and Zak Covert anchor and floor direct during News22.



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**A THANK YOU FOR READING THIS  
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*Student Celina Quintana  
does the national weather  
forecasts during News22.*



# Nancy Howell: A fond farewell

*After thirteen years as the administrative assistant in the journalism department, Nancy packs up for retirement.*

By Yazmen McCaskill

As she took a break from boxing up her beloved Mickey Mouse plush dolls, Nancy Howell reflected upon her career as the Department of Journalism's administrative assistant for the past 13 years.

"It's with regret that I leave the department, but I feel it is the right time to move on to new challenges and concentrate on my personal life in Alamogordo," Howell, who is retiring on May 1, 2017, said.

Originally a native of Tacoma, Wash., Howell came to the Land of Enchantment in 1970 and has been here ever since. After experiencing the warm and sunny state of New Mexico, Howell knew she had found a home in Alamogordo.

Her first job in New Mexico was an unusual one for a woman.

Howell began laying sheet metal in 1984 for a construction company. Ironically, Howell helped lay the roof in her current place of employment, Milton Hall. She also helped install some of the building's duct work.

"I never guessed that someday I would return and retire from NMSU," Howell said. "There were very few females working in the construction business back then. It was fun, I enjoyed it."

Howell began her journey at New Mexico State in 1999 in the Arts Sciences advising office under the



direction of then-Dean Jeffrey Brown. She made the transition to the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications in 2004 after being snagged by the then-department head, Dr. Frank Thayer.

"It was my pleasure to steal her from the Dean's office, with a nod from three [journalism] faculty members," Thayer said. "I think they would all agree that it was my best hire during my tenure as department head."

Although Howell will miss her time with the students and NMSU faculty she is excited to spend more time with her son, his wife and her grandchildren back in Alamogordo. Howell said she is excited to be with her family on a more permanent basis and looks forward to traveling to her grandson's hip hop dance tournaments and attending the other grandchildren's

bowling games.

Howell acknowledges she will miss her close relations with the Department's students and faculty. She said she has enjoyed watching broadcasting students produce the News 22 newscast and has enjoyed viewing the articles and photographs that students have published in local newspapers and magazines.

The faculty is slowly coming to terms with Howell's departure.

"We are really going to miss Nancy; she's been running this department for over a decade," Associate Professor Roger Mellen, said.

Assistant Professor Lourdes Cardenas concurred.

"Nancy is key to our department," Cardenas said. "She keeps everything organized and very willing to help guide you in the right direction. When I came here

she was very helpful with providing me with the things that I need. I'm going to miss her and her willingness and kindness with us."

Replacing Howell will be difficult, Cardenas adds. Students concur.

"Nancy always had a welcoming smile on her face when people went into the front office," student Kylie Coffman, said. "She was always willing to help with whatever she could and take care of holds on the students' accounts when it was crunch time during registration. She will really be missed in the office."

To honor Howell prior to her retirement, the journalism faculty selected her as the Department's "star" for the College of Arts and Sciences' Starry Night fundraiser. The event recognizes faculty and staff for their state, national or international contributions.

"Nancy truly was a strong supporter of the students and the Mass Communications and Journalism department," Dr. Christa Slaton, the former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said. "She is a good spirit who loved her job and was dedicated to that department. She will be missed."

Caught by surprise, Howell said it was an honor to be chosen as a star for the department.

*See Nancy on page 24*

# Before the Election... **KRWG questions the power of the press in political elections**

*By Matthew Legarreta*

*At a time of intense political discourse, KRWG sat down with professors and journalists to determine just what impact the media has on the democratic process.*

In the midst of the hotly debated Presidential election back in Fall 2016, KRWG TV brought together New Mexico State University faculty members and working New Mexico journalists alike to discuss the impact that the media has upon the election season.

As part of their recurring “Issues and Answers” series, KRWG put together a special panel discussion about the role of the media when it comes to political elections, focusing both on the responsibility the media has to inform voters, and the ethics by which it explores this responsibility.

The panel cast a wide net of industry experts: NMSU Journalism Assistant Professor Nick Miller, Government Associate Professor Christina Medina, Albuquerque Journal Staff Writer Lauren Villagran, and Las Cruces Sun News Editorial Editor Walt Rubel.

“It was important to have a diverse panel because the media is so diverse,” said KRWG Director of Content Fred Martino in an interview before the taping of the panel. In addition to coordinating the event, Martino also served as the moderator of the full hour long forum. While a few questions

were asked to the panel at the start of the show, Martino was primarily looking towards the audience members to lead the discussion.

“I hope what the show will do is allow our audience members to tell us in the forum what is important to them,” Martino said. “And also access how we are doing. Are we doing a good job fulfilling the needs of the public?”

The needs of the public were the prevalent issue throughout the forum, especially when it comes to getting people to vote come election day.

“Vote for someone,” Christina Medina said when confronted with the issue during the panel. “Activism is preferred to apathy. As citizens, we should vote.”

The program also touched upon the impact that cable television has had upon the nation’s impression of the media, and how creating an echo chamber of the same opinion has created a sharp line between people of different political views.

“That kind of [echo chamber] is dangerous,” Nick Miller explained during the forum. “If that’s the only thing you seek out...then you’re not getting the full picture.”



*Lauren Villagran of the Albuquerque Journal and Walt Rubel of the Las Cruces Sun News wait for “Issues and Answers” to begin in the KRWG studio*



*(Left to right) Nick Miller, NMSU Journalism Assistant Professor; Christina Medina, Government Associate Professor; Fred Martino, KRWG director of content; Lauren Villagran, Albuquerque Journal Staff Writer; Walt Rubel, Las Cruces Sun News Editorial Editor.*



*(Left to right) Nick Miller, NMSU Journalism Assistant Professor; Christina Medina, Government Associate Professor; Fred Martino, KRWG director of content;*

*Photos by Jenny Marin*

The show’s focus then shifted to the future, as panelists explained the growing influence of social media and how it may impact elections down the line.

“I could tell you guys how we’ve done it for the last 30 years, and I could tell you how we’re doing it now,” commented Walt Rubel, “but I’m not sure how we’re going to be doing it 10 or 15 years from now. But I can tell you it will be on social media.”

“A lot of the coverage

has played out because of things happening on social media,” replied Lauren Villagran. “It’s another venue where life is playing out, and it’s something that has to be paid attention to.”

The full hour-long forum, which also touches upon the idea of mandatory voting, the impact of the Hispanic vote, how the media covers the country post-election, and many other topics, is available to view in its entirety on the KRWG website.



After the Election...

# Sunshine week tackles 'The Presidency and The Press'

By Matthew Legarreta

***With a new and very different president in the White House, a panel of experts breaks down the impact he may have on journalism and free speech itself.***

For the past five years, Zuhl Library and the New Mexico State University Department of Journalism and Mass Communication have been teaming up to present special lectures in topics related to freedom of information. In 2017, the tradition continued with another roundtable discussion centered around fake news, freedom of the press, and the wide reach of new President Donald Trump on it all.

Lectures like these are created in promotion of the awareness program, known across the United States as Sunshine Week.

"Sunshine Week is a nationwide event that was established to inform the public about the importance of open government and freedom of information," Mary Lamonica, journalism Professor, said.

News organizations, universities and schools across the country have participated in raising awareness for freedom of information during the week, and the NMSU Department of Journalism and Mass Communication has been no different.

"The 2017 program will officially be the 5th anniversary of the Sunshine Week program, which is exciting for us," said April Atnaya, Director of Development for the NMSU Library.

Anaya works alongside Tim Parker, an alumnus of the NMSU Journalism department, in organizing and promoting these lectures. Parker himself funds the lectures, further proof of his commitment to the ideals of Sunshine Week.

"Tim believes the work journalists do means nothing if it is not preserved and made available to others," Anaya said. "This is how the Sunshine Week program began."

Previous Sunshine Week lectures have focused on topics such as open government, and the state of mental health care audits in the state. Other topics discussed in the past included the role of police officers in working with the press, and the impact of outside influence on local elections, the latter of which was featured as the centerpiece of last year's event.

This year's program was held on March 9, 2017, and was



Journalism Assistant professor and former department head, Frank Thayer

branded under the title "The Presidency and the Press: Will Free Speech Survive?" This of course made the focus of the event President Trump himself, and whether any of his actions in his first days in office can truly dismantle the power of the press in this country.

"We are struggling, I will tell you," Walt Rubel, the Regional Opinion Page Editor for the Las Cruces Sun-News, said during the event. "We are making our way through this brave new world, and figuring things out as we go."

Though the outlook on the future of the press in the Trump Administration was at some points grim during the panel, others believed that things would eventually stabilize.

"The president cannot control the press," said panelist Frank Thayer, a Professor Emeritus at the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication. "He will try – every president tries. But it can't be done."

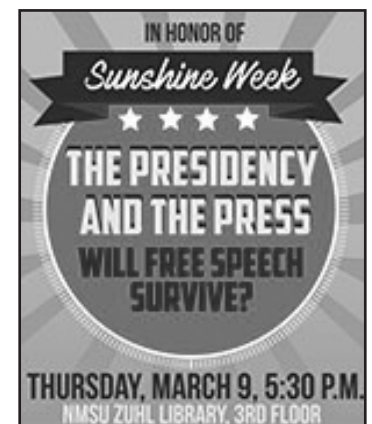
Joining Rubel and Thayer during the event were David Irvin, the Business Librarian for the NMSU Library, and Nelson Goodin, a native New Mexican and County Attorney. The panel was moderated by Peter Goodman, a NMSU alum who has seen both sides of the debate as a lawyer and a journalist.

Together, the panel spent over an hour speaking to a

rapturous crowd, who were also able to voice their viewpoints in a lively Q&A at the end of the program. Though the panel was heavily centered on the actions of the Trump Administration, the event also touched upon hot button topics like the spread of "fake news," the rise of social media as the ultimate news provider, and the changing landscape for print and broadcast journalism.

All these topics combined made for a far-reaching event that, ultimately, touched upon the very reason that Parker chose to fund the panel series in the first place—building an awareness of the importance that transparency and information has in both the political and journalistic world.

"Without transparency, there is no true democracy," Tim Parker said following the conclusion of this year's panel. "You can't make decisions based upon falsehoods, or ignorance."



# Aggies take Utah

*By Rebekah Baca*

The NMSU Broadcasters' Club's mission statement reads, "To forge an allegiance of Broadcast Journalism students," and that is exemplified in the club's activities over the past year.

They meet every other Tuesday with people working in broadcast news and multimedia, most of whom are Aggie alums. Some of their guests from this year include DJ Phat-Tony of Las Cruces; Nadine Gries and Wiebke Keuneke who work as freelance journalists in Germany and were here through a host

program with KRWG Director of Content Fred Martino; and Russ Lewis of KHOU, the CBS affiliate in Houston.

Members of the club, including Senior Tannya Barba believe seeing how students who have graduated from NMSU have succeeded in the field after graduation gives current students confidence.

"Students get the opportunity to speak to professionals in a less formal way," Barba said. "Students are

*Continue on next page*







*The club stopped at the Colorado-Utah state line. From left to right: Mike Vigil, club Vice-President; Javier Gutierrez; Rebekah Baca, club President; Evelyn Sandoval; and Ryan Bermel, club Secretary.*

*Photo by Roger Mellen*

# The broadcasters' club heads out of town

able to grasp how the work changes after college.”

It also creates a network for students that is based not only in their planned profession, but in the community that NMSU and the Journalism Department foster while students attend school. And that network has proved useful for many students over the years, but more recently for December 2016 graduate Jesse Walden.

The final meeting of the fall semester was an alumni meeting which was crucial in creating that community-based network of past and present NMSU students. Alumni including Jo Galvan, Chris Ramirez, and Nicole San-Roman were all there to tell students about what their careers after college were like. Ramirez and San-Roman were there to help create a pipeline of talent from NMSU directly to KOB Eyewitness News 4 in Albuquerque.

“Chris and Nicole were great,” Walden said. “They invited me to have a tour of KOB and that’s kind of how it all meshed together.”

Walden now works as a full time video editor for KOB.

“It’s because of the Broadcasters’ Club that I made the connections I needed,” Walden said. “I loved working with the producer, Javier Gutierrez, and the news director, Nick Miller to make sure that all the stories are covered in a creative visual way.”

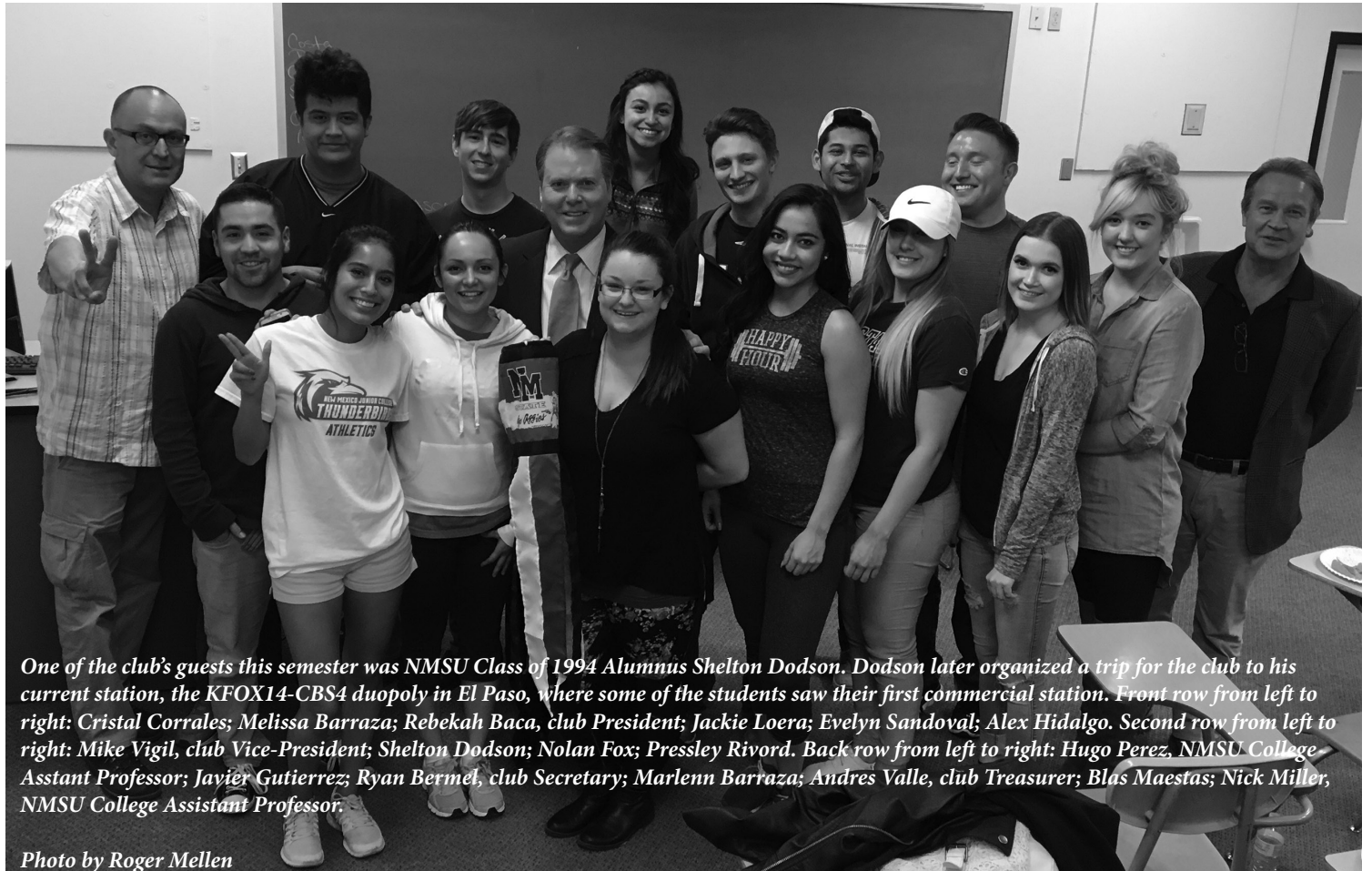
Another great opportunity the Broadcasters’ club brought to its members this year came in the form of a trip to the Society of Professional Journalist’s Region 9 Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah during Spring Break. Region 9 includes Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico.

Five students, Mike Vigil, Ryan

Bermel, Evelyn Sandoval, Rebekah Baca, and Javier Gutierrez, along with the club’s advisor, Roger Mellen, attended the conference. It was a day and a half of panel discussions about legal issues, multimedia reporting, cell phone photography, and the difficulties of reporting on marijuana in states where it is legalized.

Club members met other student journalists and professionals from all four states, and some even had a chance to get their resumes and portfolios reviewed.

“I talked to the wnews director at GOOD4Utah and it was a nice to get a fresh perspective on my work because a lot of times we can get attached to our work so it’s nice for someone else, who isn’t familiar with me and the Las Cruces area, to see what advice they can offer,” Mike Vigil, the Clubs’ Vice President, said. “It was very helpful.”



One of the club's guests this semester was NMSU Class of 1994 Alumnus Shelton Dodson. Dodson later organized a trip for the club to his current station, the KFOX14-CBS4 duopoly in El Paso, where some of the students saw their first commercial station. Front row from left to right: Cristal Corrales; Melissa Barraza; Rebekah Baca, club President; Jackie Loera; Evelyn Sandoval; Alex Hidalgo. Second row from left to right: Mike Vigil, club Vice-President; Shelton Dodson; Nolan Fox; Pressley Rivord. Back row from left to right: Hugo Perez, NMSU College Assistant Professor; Javier Gutierrez; Ryan Bermel, club Secretary; Marlenn Barraza; Andres Valle, club Treasurer; Blas Maestas; Nick Miller, NMSU College Assistant Professor.

Photo by Roger Mellen





*Left: (From left to right): Ryan Bermel, Broadcasters Club Secretary; Mike Vigil, Broadcasters Club Vice-President; and Javier Gutierrez ride the Salt Lake City TRAX during spring break.*

*Photo by Rebekah Baca*

*Right: On their way to Salt Lake City, the club stopped at Arches National Park to look at the natural rock formations.*

*From left to right: Javier Gutierrez; Rebekah Baca, club President; Ryan Bermel, club Secretary; Mike Vigil, club Vice-President; and Evelyn Sandoval.*

*Photo by Roger Mellen*



*Left: Members of the NMSU Broadcasters' Club enjoy dinner at the Grand American Hotel in Salt Lake City during their spring break trip to the SPJ Region 9 Conference. From left to right: George Severson, Good4Utah's News and Local Content director; Rebekah Baca, club President; Javier Gutierrez; Roger Mellen, NMSU Professor; Mike Vigil, club Vice-President; Evelyn Sandoval; Ryan Bermel, club Secretary; and Carol Neilson, NMSU Class of 2015 Alumna.*



*Andrea Tauai during a game at the Pan American Center. Photo courtesy Grew Owens*

# End of a journey for a New Zealand Aggie

*By Jianna Vasquez*

Many 18-year-olds chose to go away from home to attend college in another town. Most, however, don't travel 7,000 miles to do so.

Andrea Tauai did.

"It was a big step, but I was super excited about the experience," Tauai said.

The Tauranga, New Zealand native left her home country with only one 50-pound bag of her belongings to start her academic journey in a new country. Boarding the plane and saying goodbye to her family wasn't easy. She recalls not being able to breathe because she was crying so hard, but that soon changed.

"I walked through the gate [at the airport] and then I saw Justin Bieber," Tauai said. "I immediately stopped crying and called my mom."

Tauai took this as a good sign and said she knew she was on the right path. She boarded the plane for her 12-hour flight to the United States to play college volleyball in Tampa, FL., at Hillsborough Community College.

During her freshman year, Tauai said she often thought about going home to New Zealand. Americans played volleyball more rigorously than what she was used to playing. Tauai went from practicing twice a week to practicing six days a week for almost six hours a day when she was in Florida.

"At the time I didn't realize that it's just the culture of American Volleyball, but I look back at it and I'm so glad I didn't quit because I wouldn't have met the people that I've met and I wouldn't have grown, not only as a person but also as an athlete," she said.

Tauai said she appreciated her two years at Hillsborough because they helped her become stronger as an individual. Being away from her family forced Tauai to make new friends and to try new things.

"Andrea is a self-driven young lady and when she sets her mind to doing something she'll follow it through," Irene Tauai, Andrea's older sister, said.

Tauai finished her two years at

Hillsborough where she earned her associate's degree in Liberal Arts, but her journey was far from over. She was offered a full-ride scholarship to play volleyball and to continue her education at New Mexico State University.

Like many people her age, Tauai did not know what career she wanted to pursue when she arrived in Las Cruces. But after picking up a catalog and seeing journalism as a degree choice, Tauai decided to study for a career in broadcasting.

"When I came to New Mexico and took a few journalism classes, I loved it," Tauai said.

Tauai said she has learned a lot in the two and a half years she has been at NMSU but admits to not knowing what to expect when she began studying journalism.

"I came to NMSU not really knowing what to expect from the classes, but all the professors have made my time

*See New Zealand Aggie on page 24*



# Degrees are great, but internships make a difference

*By Salina Madrid*

Internships are not just a step toward career success, they also provide experiences that never occur in the confines of a classroom.

Journalism student Tannya Barba experienced this reality first-hand while interning at KWEX Univision Channel 41 in San Antonio during the summer of 2016. She was assigned to help cover shootings on the East side of San Antonio on July seventh. Meanwhile, a 25-year-old military veteran who had served in Afghanistan, opened fire on a crowd that was peacefully protesting police violence in Dallas. The sniper killed five police

officers and injured nine others. Two civilians were also injured during the attack.

“The night of the Dallas shootings, I was in San Antonio covering a crime vigil at city hall,” Barba said. “The crew that I was with that night was waiting on a call so we could go cover (the Dallas shootings).”

She said the subsequent coverage experience is something she will never forget.

“I was able to work alongside some great anchors and reporters and even photographers,” Barba said. “I was able to

expand my knowledge in different areas.”

But the application process wasn’t easy.

Barba had to put a lot of time and effort into being selected for this internship.

“I, of course, had to send in my resume as well as my demo reel,” Barba said. “I kept calling and kept speaking to the news director, which got my resume sent to the general manager.

Her persistence and dedication really showed, which helped her get selected for the internship.

“My favorite part about the internship was that I got to work alongside some great journalist that all came from different backgrounds and I was able to learn a lot,” Barba said. “I also got to report, film and edit a few news packages.”

Barba had been preparing herself for an internship like this one since her freshman year, and to do so, she had dedicated her time to KRWG TV News 22 at NMSU, where she anchors.

“News 22 has taught me everything I knew when it comes to broadcast journalism,” Barba said. “It has helped me become a better reporter, and has taught me how to produce news and sports stories, it has also taught me a lot about time management.”

But Barba also acknowledged that internships are crucial for career success.

“I think students should do internships because it is important to learn more about your career from the real world,” Barba said. “I can say that the past internship that I’ve had, especially this one, have definitely help me in my career.”

“They all really gave me great advice on how efficiently I worked, and areas that they felt I should work on before I graduate college,” Barba said. “After graduation, my goal is to start working at a news station to begin my sports broadcasting career.”



*Graduating senior Tannya Barba anchors sports during News22, a JOUR 302 student mans a camera.*

# J-student by day; DJ by night

*By Nicholas Aria*

Most college students would normally go to a concert to see their favorite DJ on the stage playing dance music. But Luis 'Luigi' Finston isn't your average college student.

The senior recently went to the Red Hawk Golf Club for a wedding. But he wasn't eating cake or dancing with the family; he was the one making the music. 'DJ Cykloid' is the name he goes by when he's scratching disks and playing his turntables, but to others, he is simply known as 'Luigi'.

"Things were pretty slow in the first two years and I didn't get a lot of opportunities," Finston recalled. "I started off doing house parties for the first two years. It was way to get my name out to my friends. Eventually, it progressed to weddings and quinceañeras."

Finston is a creative junkie both outside and inside of the classroom. A journalism student at New Mexico State University, he is studying Public Relations.

Finston relates his music career with public relations work. He said they go hand in hand because of how they both deal with self-promotion, advertising, and knowing how to talk to people. Finston stresses that it's important for him to make connections with people and establish relationships so they remember him and assist in mutual promotion.

In his work, Finston tries to think outside the box in his writing and problem-solving in his classes. Finston also works at NMSU's school newspaper, The Round Up and at the campus radio station, KRUX. In both his jobs, he finds new ways to express himself when writing about something or talking about music on his radio show, "Cykloid Sounds."

Outside of the radio station, Finston has been making a name for himself by DJ'ing multiple events for the college, as well as for other events throughout Las Cruces.

"Spring of 2013 is when I bought my first set," Finston said. "So this coming year I will have been DJ'ing for about four years. It's matured me over the years and has shown me the good side of music and the bad side of music."

He has a promoter who helps him get events and publicize his name. Finston is also experienced in promotion as he utilizes social media to put his face out there.

"My first big break came when I was introduced to Matt Espinosa, DJ ESPY, the DJ at Dublin's (Street Pub)," Finston said. "He pretty much agreed to take me under his wing. ESPY was a part of an organization called Party Tenders, Inc., a party promoting organization, and the manager there had me open for other DJs at parties and events. In spring of 2015, I got my first opportunity as one of the main acts at Graham Central Station for the St. Patrick's Day Neon Paint Party."

Finston has also been involved in many other extracurricular activities, including baseball, guitar classes and soccer, which he still plays today. Finston said he has always been busy, even as a kid, because he was involved in so many different classes, camps, and activities with his parents and the community. He joined a rock band during high school and later ventured off into his own musical direction.

A resident of Las Cruces for about 12 years, Finston said he has met a wide variety of people who have inspired him. Sal Melendrez, Finston's old coach and a teacher from his church, is one of those mentors. Melendrez, who is now a campus minister

for the Catholic church to NMSU, has known Finston since he was 5-years-old, and has watched him grow over the years.

"As a kid, he was very rambunctious and spirited," Melendrez said laughing. "He was very articulate as a young kid and he's grown in those ways but when I knew him, when he was a child, he seemed a little more advanced than the other kids. He spoke his mind more freely than others kids. If I were to trace that out to how I know him now, I think it's evident in his creativity. He seems very sure about who he is and what he wants to do. He's pretty confident in wanting to experience life in different things," Melendrez added.

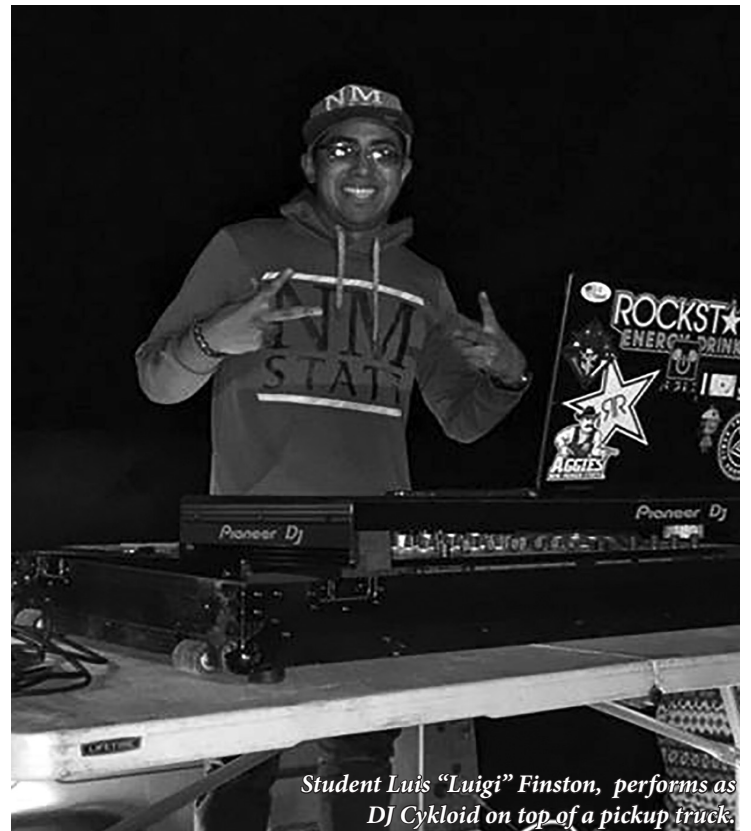
Melendrez said after watching Finston grow up, he has seen Finston mature as a person while keeping the qualities he had as a child.

Another close friend, Jesus Duran, who has known Finston since elementary school, said that his friend has bettered himself over the years.

"Luigi has changed since we first met, but at the same time hasn't changed," Duran said. "He's gone through a lot of problems like being bullied . . . but he really has bettered himself and is someone that I admire for being able to come so far after all the stuff he's been through."

Finston said that through his music career as well as in person, he hopes he can be an inspiration to others.

"I've made a lot of mistakes in my life, some small and irrelevant, and others life changing," Finston said. "Through those experiences, both negative and positive, I like to think that I'm an example. If someone has a question then I can tell them if it would be a bad decision or a good decision."



*Student Luis "Luigi" Finston, performs as DJ Cykloid on top of a pickup truck.*





*DJ Cykloid mixes music on his  
turntables at an event*

# From the classroom to the real world

By Javier Gutierrez

Many journalism students at NMSU take advantage of the many programs offered by the department. However, some students take the opportunity to fine tune their skills, outside of school.

A few students run photography and videography businesses on the side. Two of those students who are making grand moves in their own field are Ximena Tapia and Zak Covert. They are paving their own trail, doing the thing they love: photography.

Covert's love for photography did not begin at NMSU. The El Paso native began his journey at El Paso Community College, where he began learning the art of taking great pictures. Like many EPCC students, Covert then moved on to NMSU, where he has continued to perfect his art.

Covert's side business has covered a wide range of clients. He has taken pictures for weddings, Quinceañera and other events.

"I have spent some time working with families taking wedding photos, quince photos and some graduation ones lined up," Covert said. "I am fixing to be really busy."

As a full-time student, Covert has to find time to stay on top of classes, homework and his photography work. "It is a struggle sometimes," he says laughing. "It's something I love to do, so it's always fun."



Ximena Tapia

He is also expanding his range of ability. His outstanding photography has led to some good work with videos. Recently, he did some video work for and El Paso acupuncture business, HealthMasters Hand and Physical Therapy. They were surprised, at how professional and collected he was.

"It was funny, I guess they didn't know I had my own equipment, and when I showed up with my stuff, they said they were just going to have me use an iPad," Covert said.

*"Being able to create memories that will last a lifetime for them is very fulfilling."*

But as a young professional, Covert said that sometimes he struggles with people taking him seriously.

"It can be a struggle sometimes out here man," Covert said. "It can be awarding to impress people and excel their expectations."

In addition to his work as a part-time photographer, Covert is also out improving his video skills. He works at News22, the student run newscast. He is behind the scenes working with audio, graphics, server and floor directing. This has allowed him to see and work with video up-close and personal. Seeing different types of video shots and editing techniques has given Covert the means of creating his own ideas. He used what he learned when he worked on the

physical therapy video.

Ximena Tapia, another journalism student at NMSU, has also started her own photography business. She is just in the beginning stages of creating here name in the Las Cruces community. For her, the word photographer is a little strange.

"It's always weird calling myself a photographer," Tapia said. "I'm just getting started, so I am simply one who takes pictures for others."

Her business has started off small. Taking photos for weddings, small events and quinceañeras. She loves capturing images for others and the looks on faces when customers' pictures come out the way, the customer wants.

"I enjoy capturing people's emotions," Tapia said. "Being able to create memories that will last a lifetime for them is very fulfilling."

These students are taking the initiative in establishing careers. Covert and Tapia are not the only ones taking their future into their own hands. Many NMSU students are doing the same, not only with photography. Some are having their work published in magazines and their videos are being recognized. So the next time you need some work photos, videos or stories done, ask a NMSU Journalism student. They are more than qualified and are ready to take on any challenge.



Zak Covert





## *In the new age of digital media, Kokopelli helps students expand their online portfolios*

*By Javier Gutierrez*

Promoting NMSU students' work is one of the things that the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications does best.

News22, The Scoop Magazine, the AdFed Club and the Dodge and Burn Photography Club actively help students produce and publish their media work.

A newly-revamped news website written and edited by students, called *Kokopelli*, now provides another opportunity for students to hone their skills. *Kokopelli* has two NMSU Journalism professors at its helm. Both Professor Lourdes Cardenas and Prof. Darren Phillips are sharing the job of showing students the ropes of multi-media website creation and management.

"*Kokopelli* was created for the multimedia classes," Cardenas said. "And the idea was to create a website, where students could display all their multi-media work."

One student, Abel

Carrillo, recently uploaded his feature story on El Paso's "Springfoot" marathon.

"When a story is published, there are quite a few benefits," Carrillo said. "You are able to attach the story to your Facebook [page] and you get more people reading your work. Anyone is able to read and be critical of your story."

Features are common on the website, but hard news stories, sports coverage and photojournalism also can be found.

Although the website is virtual, its student creators are about to gain some new physical surroundings. A new newsroom is under construction and a new class for the production of *Kokopelli* has been established. That class will be similar to the News22 class. Students will use class time to collect, produce and edit stories in an environment that is very similar to a professional newsroom.

"We will have an

editor; we are going to have writers; we are going to have photographers; we are going to work like it is a newsroom," Cardenas said. "They will need to publish."

The effort involved in producing a full-scale news website led the Department to hire Darren Phillips in August 2016. A former photography for NMSU's University Communications and Marketing Services, Phillips has extensive media experience at American and South African newspapers.

Phillips took the initiative to re-purpose a former computer lab and turn it into a newsroom. He repaired computer equipment, obtained furniture from the university's recycling program and spent time fixing some of the chairs and buffing out scratches.

Phillips will teach the *Kokopelli* course in August 2017. He said the news site will include multi-media and social media. In the ever-

changing social media world, Phillips said it is imperative for students to be familiar with all the current communication tools.

"Social media is definitely going to be a part of it," Phillips said. "As time goes on it might take a more prominent role, but at the heart of our operations, really is storytelling and its' news gathering."

Both Phillips and Cardenas are confident that the production value will rocket in the next year. Students who have taken prerequisite journalism classes will be eligible to take the course.

"The more people we can get involved in *Kokopelli*, the better," Cardenas said.

Phillips said he wants the best for *Kokopelli*.

"I want this to be something that we can show off at national events and give students work that they can use when they leave NMSU,"

*See Kokopelli on page 24*

# Working on dreams may lead to new career

By Vladimir Avina



Darren Phillips working in the Kokopelli newsroom

He knew he wanted to tell stories for a living after traveling the world with the U.S. Navy, but a couple of years prior to pursuing journalism, he was chasing the rock star dream in the clubs of San Francisco.

Now, Darren Phillips is the new assistant professor in the journalism department. He teaches courses in news writing, photography, multimedia and media design, and is also the faculty advisor for Kokopelli.

He attended San José State University where he graduated with a bachelor in journalism and earned his M.A. in journalism at the University of Missouri.

He came to NMSU in 2001 as the chief photographer in the University Communications and Marketing Services department. Phillips taught on an adjunct faculty based in the journalism department for four semesters between 2006 and 2008, before joining the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication in August 2016.

Prior to his time at NMSU, Phillips was an editorial photographer, reporter, and copy editor. He worked for publications in

California, New York and even crossed the globe to South Africa. His work has been published in The Washington Post, USA Today, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated, Nature and Forbes.

But excelling in the field of journalism wasn't his original goal.

"To be honest, I dreamed of being a musician," Phillips said. "I studied classical piano for many years when I was a kid and later played in a couple of rock bands. I knew I didn't have what it takes to be a concert pianist, but I dreamed of playing professionally in a band or perhaps working as a recording engineer. I started performing in nightclubs in San Francisco when I was 16 or 17."

Phillips said the experience was a good one because it showed him at a very young age what a tough business music can

of high school and traveled the world," Phillips said. "I saw abject poverty for the first time, crazy environmental abuses, you name it. I realized at that point I wanted to tell stories for a living. That experience showed me the importance of journalism. It sounds corny, but I decided at that point I wanted to be a voice for the voiceless."

After the Navy, Phillips enrolled in college as a literature major.

"I started out as a lit major and only dabbled in journalism, first as a writer and later as a photographer," Phillips said. "I have always been interested in writing and photography and I excelled in language and visual arts in school growing up, so journalism was a natural fit, but it really wasn't until I traveled abroad and then started taking journalism courses in college that I realized I could actually make a living doing this stuff."

Teaching the Introduction to Photography class as adjunct faculty gave Phillips a grasp of what it took to be a professor, and he knew it would be challenging. During graduate school he also was a teaching assistant.

Although he had some experience and had an idea of what to expect, the transition to a full-time professor wasn't an easy one.

"Unfortunately I didn't have a lot of time to prepare for my courses before I started," Phillips said. "My last day at my last job was on August 12, which was a Friday and I started here on Monday the 15, and I was trying to wrap up, in my last job I had been in that position for fifteen years and so there was a tremendous amount of work to do, to get that wrapped up. So I didn't really have enough time to think about this job because I was working 50 or 60 hours a week towards the end, and then I had to change gears."

Although Phillips said the switch to a full-time professor was a rough one, his students say he is

doing a great job.

Alex Ramirez is a student in the Creative Media Institute (CMI), but

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*"I feel like I'm making a difference in people's lives"*

---

be. And fortunately, he had not invested too much time in it. However, he knew from an early age that he had a desire to have a career in doing something creative.

"I enlisted in the Navy right out

*See New Career on page 24*



# Obtaining that first job

By Xchelzin Pena



## Maryann Parga

Once students graduate from their academic careers, many have hopes of getting a job, especially in a profession that they've studied.

Maryann Parga, 2015 graduate, is the video editor at KFOX 14 and CBS 4 in El Paso, Texas. When she left NMSU, Parga was feeling distressed about not being able to find a job.

"I was desperately looking for a job," Parga said. "I had applied to at least six stations around the country, including Albuquerque. I would go everyday on the websites of local news stations to see if a job opening would open up. It took me a month after graduation to get a job."

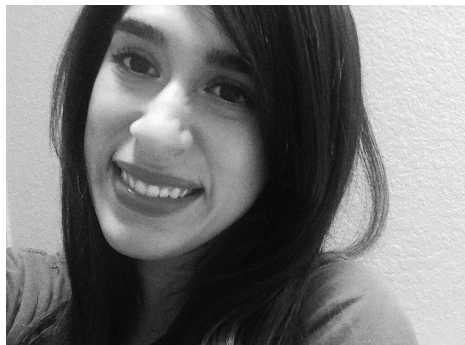
A position opened up a week after New Year's Day and right away, Maryann applied.

"It took them about two weeks to give me a phone interview and two days for an actual interview," Parga said. "The next day they called me to tell me that the position was mine."

As a video editor, Maryann is in charge of the videos for primetime shows. She makes sure the videos look and sound good.

She is also the, "second set of eyes for our producer," Parga said. "As I'm cutting videos, I'm making sure they match out scripts. That's very important because we want our viewers to see our stories visually."

Maryann she loves her job and what she likes about it is that she is able to watch her work shown on air, especially after crucial deadlines and hard work. She has been a video editor for over a year now.



## Fernanda Teixeira

Fernanda Teixeira, 2016 graduate, is a Digital Media Specialist for the American Association for Respiratory Care, a non-profit organization in Dallas.

Fernanda is in charge of their social media platforms. She does it all: from e-mailing and marketing to newsletters and website updates. She also occasionally writes articles and shoots photographs for their sites.

She started working around mid-September and really enjoys her job.

"I really love it so far," she said. "Since the staff amount is so small, I have a lot of room to grow. Their benefits are amazing and they pay in full for your medical insurance. I get eight percent of my 401K which is unheard of, apparently."

There are some other great perks that come with this position as well.

"What's super awesome is even though I'm at entry level, I already am getting to travel for work." Said Teixeira. She traveled to San Antonio for five days in October.

Fernanda said the tasks she does are growing the more they see what she is able to do.

## Ileana Martinez

Ileana Martinez, 2015 graduate, is now the Communications and Marketing manager for Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest.

Ileana said there is more to the job than just cookies. She is the writer/editor, graphics designer, brand specialist, video editor, social media manager, council correspondent, photographer



and sometimes, manages the Information Technology department.

Before getting the job, Ileana said she felt nervous and anxious about whether or not she was actually ready to take on a real career.

"Was I prepared? Did all those nights studying endlessly pay off? After searching for a while, I was coming to terms with the fact that I wasn't going to get that post-graduate job I wanted right away. A lot of my friends who graduated before took almost a year to find jobs they were actually happy with," Martinez said.

It took Martinez five months to find a job and it all happened when a friend tagged her on a job posting on a site for the Girl Scouts organization in El Paso.

"I didn't think about it too much and decided to apply because at this point, hey, what's the worst that could happen?"

Martinez said she was unaware that she was signing up for a managerial position until the end of the application process. So sure enough, her doubts began to come through again.

"My mentality was set on 'I don't have enough experience.'"

A day later, Martinez received e-mails and phone calls from the Head of Human Resources department, she was eager to set up an interview with Ileana.

"I applied and they had me do an informal interview with my predecessor and he really like me," Martinez said. "The next day was the actual interview with the CEO of the council and she really liked me and she offered me the job two hours after the interview. That week was a whirlwind of emotion."

Martinez said she is the head of her department and loves seeing people enjoy her work.

"I've had a few editorials published and every time I see something I created get picked up by local media, it's such a rewarding experience because these were experiences I worked and fought for."

Martinez has learned a lot and has discovered that there are jobs out there, but it takes time to get used to rejection and the waiting game. She said the trick is to never give up.



# Berman's Sabbatical

This past spring semester was a quiet one in the halls of the journalism department.

That's because photography professor Bruce Berman has been on sabbatical traveling across the United States. He plans on doing similar work like in his Russell Lee's Road project. A project where he was photographing small-town America in the spirit of the 1930s Farm Security Administration photographers.

Berman also has had a great deal of his photography work presented at exhibitions all over the country. At the beginning of 2017, he had a one-person exhibition entitled "Los Musicos" on display at the El Paso Public Library. In May, Professor Berman had another exhibition titled "Walking Juarez" hosted at the Camera work Gallery in Scranton, Penn. He also released a book of his photography under the same title on April 1.

Professor Berman reruns at the start of the 2017 fall semester. Till then, he will continue with his sabbatical work.

*Professor Bruce Berman stands in front his "Los Musicos" gallery at the El Paso Public Library.*

*Photo by Cassandra Trejo*



# Faculty Accomplishments



## ***Mary Lamonica, PhD – Associate Professor***

Professor Lamonica published two scholarly journal articles in 2016, and an article in a newsletter aimed at media historians. She also presented two research papers at conferences, one of which won a top paper award. She publishes as Mary M. Cronin. She has also published a book titled *“An Indispensable Liberty: The Fight for Free Speech in America”*.



## ***Roger Mellen, PhD – Associate Professor***

Professor Mellen presented a talk for the College of Arts and Sciences Global Connections series on something well outside of my scholarly expertise- “Mont St. Michel and Chartres: Monuments to Medieval Faith,” given in person and Live on Facebook on Oct. 12, 2016. The talk was the subject of a news story in the *Las Cruces Sun-News*. Mellen also has a history article on “Representation of Slaves in the Eighteenth-Century Virginia Press,” which was published in *Journalism History* last November 2016.



## ***Hugo Perez – College Assistant Professor***

Professor Perez has been chosen to participate in the RIAS Berlin Commission comprehensive journalism fellowship. As part of the fellowship, Professor Perez will spend a week in Berlin during the summer, working alongside 12 other journalists and educators chosen from all across the United States. Professor Perez also plans to stay in Germany an additional week to document the story of refugees who have made Germany their new home.



## ***Pam Porter – College Assistant Instructor***

Professor Porter published a book titled *“Tortugas at 100: Steps in Time and Grace”*. She shot many of the photographs which focus on the Tortugas community and their history. Professor Porter gave the community many prints and tribal members gave her images, as well. When asked about the prints she said, “We make pictures but we also take pictures and I’ve always had a feeling that if you take something, you need to give something back”.



## ***Hwiman Chung, PhD – Professor – Department Head***

Professor Chung published two papers in the last year: one in the *Journal of Promotion Management*, and one in the *Journal of Advertising and Public Relations*. He also presented a paper at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Conference.



## ***Lourdes Cardenas – Assistant Professor***

Professor Cardenas published a book titled *“Marihuana: El Viaje a la Legalization,”* which is Spanish for “Marijuana: The road to legalization. The book was written to inform the general public about process of legalization.

# Cy Cress' donation helps students pay for college

*By Yazmen McCaskill*

Floyd "Cy" Cress, a world-traveling freelance journalist and World War II veteran whose sizable donation to the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication will fund numerous scholarships in the years to come, died January 27, 2017, at the age of 96.

A quiet, unassuming man who lived simply in Deming, Cress had no educational ties to New Mexico State University, but nevertheless chose to donate his estate to the university. A hardworking man who made careful investments, Cress was born in Low Point, Ill., on March 10, 1920.

"His gift was a wonderful donation to the College of Arts and Sciences," Frank Leto, the former Publisher of the Las Cruces Sun-News, said.

About three years ago, Cress' estate handler, Jag Chema, got in touch with the Office of Advancement at New Mexico State University. The Advancement staff

then brought in Dr. Christa Slaton, who was the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the time. Conversations about visiting Cress in Deming lead to an encounter with a man whom Slaton said was one of the most remarkable people she had ever met.

Although Slaton's meeting with Cress focused on how the retired journalist wanted his money to be allocated, the Dean discovered that she was fast establishing a relationship with Cress. Her bond with Cress was not formed as a typical donor relationship but instead focused around how Cress' simple approach to life warranted him to live adventurously.

Cress lived without a car or a telephone. He chose to be disconnected from the amenities that most Americans take for granted in order to fund his travels.

Slaton recalled that at their first meeting, Cress told the former Dean about his life in Hawaii—the very state

where Slaton earned her Ph.D. in Political Science. When Slaton mentioned the popular novel entitled *Hawaii*, written by James Michener, Cress told Slaton he was more than familiar with Michener and was, in fact, a close friend of the author.

Slaton said she was amazed at how often their stories overlapped at this first meeting. The Dean said she saw the passion that Cress held for journalism in the stories he told about his travels.

"He really valued journalism as a degree and really wanted [his] money to go journalism," Slaton said.

Now NMSU students will benefit from Cress' frugal lifestyle.

The bond that developed between the donor and the Dean after just a few hours prompted Cress to reconsider his first idea to divide the funds between the NMSU Athletics and the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications. Cress decided to give his estate to benefit



*(Left to right) Cheryl Harrelson - former Vice-President of University of Advancement; Branch manager of Wells Fargo Bank in Deming; Cy Cress; Christa Slaton, former Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Jag Cheema, executive at Wells Fargo Bank*



future journalism students.

Slaton said she was completely blown away by Cress' alertness, his joy of living and the way he conversed with her. She said Cress was quick-witted, clever and had a dry sense of humor.

"He's sharp as a tack," Slaton recalled after meeting the nonagenarian. And, she said, he had a great sense of humor. Mr. Cress

Cress traveled all over the world, working as a freelance journalist for numerous magazines following his military service in the Pacific during World War II. He devoted his life to living simply as a means to fund his travels. Along the way, Cress' frugality and his careful investment choices led him to save more than \$1 million. When his age and health

finally led Cress to retire, he selected the small, quiet community of Deming as a fitting place to settle down. His anonymity and quiet nature meant few residents of Deming knew about his sizable estate.

The selflessness in Cress spoke to how the money he donated will be distributed to journalism students. Although Cress' modesty led him to be adamant that neither his name nor his scholarship fund be revealed until he died, Cress' estate manager wanted students to benefit from the money as soon as possible. With Cress' blessing, Chema began turning over \$25,000 per year for scholarships.

Although student recipients sent Cress heartfelt thank you letters for the past three years, none actually met Cress,

who preferred to remain as anonymous as possible. Slaton said she respected Cress' privacy but said she wished students could have met the man behind the donation to see what kind of individual he was.

The entire journalism faculty are excited and overwhelmed by the enormity of the Cress' scholarship donation. The funds are now accruing interest with the NMSU Foundation. Approximately 30 scholarships will be awarded each year starting with the 2018-2019 academic year.

"Although none of us ever got to meet with Mr. Cress, we will always remember his humility and his generous spirit," Mary Lamonica, Ph.D., journalism department associate Professor, said. "His devotion to bettering the lives of students he never met is exemplary."

# Journalism Department student scholarship winners 2016 - 2017

<b>CRESS EXCELLENCE</b>		
<i>Mendoza, Cynthia</i>	<i>Rutter, Melissa</i>	<i>Torres Flores, Melissa</i>
<i>Fox, Nolan</i>	<i>Vigil, Michael</i>	<i>Trujillo, Carlos</i>
<i>Kilbane, Katie</i>	<i>Ruiz, Claudia</i>	<i>Coffman, Kyle</i>
<i>Blanco, Ione</i>	<i>Corrales, Cristal</i>	<i>Gonzalez, Lesley</i>
<i>Eischen, Alexandra</i>	<i>Tapia, Ximena</i>	<i>Trejo, Jasmine</i>
	<i>Barraza, Melissa</i>	<i>Castillo, Joshua</i>
<hr/>		
<b>PASTERNAK, STEVEN R. MEMORIAL</b>	<b>NEWS 22 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP</b>	<b>MC.CLENEGHAN ENDOWED</b>
<i>Morrow, Emerson</i>	<i>Corrales, Cristal</i>	<i>Vigil, Michael</i>
<i>Trujillo, Carlos</i>	<i>Quintana, Celina</i>	<i>Mata, Sierra</i>
<i>Torres, Julio</i>		
<b>PAGE, BARBARA K. JOURNALISM</b>	<b>EBERHARDT, CHARLES MEM</b>	<b>MANATT JOURNALISM ENDOWED</b>
<i>Watson, Rosa</i>	<i>Watson, Rosa</i>	<i>Sator, Linda</i>
<i>Gonzales, Derek</i>		
<i>Mata, Sienna</i>	<b>BALLARD, ANN &amp; JIM MEM-JRNL</b>	<b>KOCH, TAMARA E. SCHOLARSHIP</b>
	<i>Covert, Zak</i>	<i>Morrow, Emerson</i>
<b>DONALDSON, SAM A. SCH.</b>	<b>PHILLIPS, GUY MEDIA END SCH</b>	<b>BATKIN BROADCASTING END SCH</b>
<i>Vigil, Michael</i>	<i>Escobedo, Josue</i>	<i>Tarin, Jessica</i>
<i>Baraza, Melissa</i>		
<i>Cox, Sheraya</i>	<b>PERRY, DANIEL R. END SCH</b>	<b>CLOYD, JAMES T. MEM. SCH</b>
<b>JOURNALISM &amp; MASS COMM SOPH</b>	<i>Newberry, Whitley</i>	<i>Kilbane, Katie</i>
<i>Tapia, Ximena</i>	<i>Fox, Nolan</i>	
<i>Blue, Sky</i>	<i>Mata, Sienna</i>	
<i>Watson, Rosa</i>		

# Students thrive with internship opportunities

*Throughout the spring and fall semesters, several students got the opportunity to intern with local TV news stations, magazines and sports teams. The following students share their stories about how they got their internship and what they learned.*

*By Xchelzin Pena*



*Jesus Rodriguez*

Jesus Rodriguez, a recent graduate and former media lab monitor, took on an internship at ABC-7 KVIA.

The internship ultimately led him to become a producer at KVIA.

At first, Rodriguez was looking for any internships he could get his hands on. He applied to different locations like KFOX and others out of the local area.

"I wanted to do newspapers originally, like an internship at a newspaper," Rodriguez said. "I tried El Paso Times, but they weren't taking interns."

NMSU Journalism Professor Hugo Perez got in contact with Rodriguez a couple of days after the 2016 spring semester had ended. Perez informed him about an opening for a news producer intern during the conversation.

"Hugo told me that it was going to be paid, so I said why not?," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez sent his resume and samples of his work to KVIA. He got an email response that they were interested in conducting an interview. After the interview, they said they would call him back if he got the job. A few days later, they did.

"I was the chosen one," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez is in charge of creating the stacking order for the show. He decides the order of the stories, and has the liberty to determine just how he wants the broadcast to be organized. He chooses what interviews and videos he wants to display, and works alongside the reporters.

"Let's say there is a reporter shooting something," Rodriguez said. "It's a good idea to get in contact with them by asking how they are doing, if they have any questions, if they were able to get a shot, if they were able to get an interview, if they were able to get a question asked. The producer has to work with all of that, and it's a pretty tough job."

Deadlines need to be met, and sometimes, breaking news happens minutes before the show starts. For this reason, Rodriguez suggests that, in order to be a producer, you have to be a very fast writer, and be capable of staying very calm.

"Try to keep your head focused on what you're doing, otherwise, you'll fail," Rodriguez said.



*Melissa Barraza*

Melissa Barraza is a junior who reports for NMSU's Noticias 22. She took an internship opportunity with the Spanish news station, Telemundo, in El Paso.

Barraza was not assigned to one specific job, however. In the internship, she worked in all sorts of different areas.

"I pretty much was able to do everything," Barraza said. "They have a segment that is called 'En el mundo,' – it's kind of like world news. I looked for the stories, wrote them, edited them, and aired on the show. They also had me in the production side, in the control room.

There, I was able to edit other things for the show, do prompter, anything they needed me to do."

Melissa was also able to go out and shadow the reporters, learning their techniques.

"We pretty much learn it here at the journalism department," said Barraza. "This is a really good program because we kind of get wet or sprinkled with all of this, and then once we get over there, we kind of get more of the knowledge of how it is in the real world."

While interning, Barraza learned that Telemundo usually personalizes

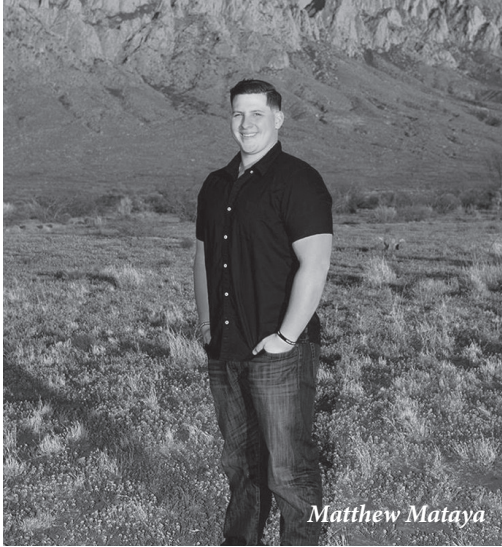


stories. The size of the city is too big and, at times, reporters cannot localize the stories. Instead, they seek individuals that related to the segment's topic to illustrate what they want. When this happened, Barraza would be along for the ride during the interviews.

"That I kind of struggled with the most...at first I was a little bit shy at interviewing people, but I've learned how to take that shyness away," Barraza said.

Melissa interned at Telemundo for about two and a half months, from mid-June to August. Her advice to other journalism students is to not doubt yourself when applying for these opportunities.

"Do not hesitate, get yourself out there and don't think, 'Oh my god, I don't know anything. How am I going to be interning at a news station?' No. We have to take that mentality or scare out. I mean, we are pretty much journalists already."



Matthew Mataya spent the summer of 2016 as the announcer for the Albuquerque Isotopes, the triple affiliate of the Colorado Rockies baseball team. He also was the master of ceremonies on the field.

The job forced Mataya to step out of his comfort zone by talking to 12,000 fans every night.

"As a public address announcer, you never really get to see the fans, and they never get to see you," said Mataya. "But they hear your voice."

Once Mataya shifted roles to become the emcee on the field, things changed.

"It pushes your comfort zone to know, man, all eyes are on me,"

said Mataya. "But you know that your experience within journalism and communications has helped you to be okay with talking with crowds."

For the announcer position, Mataya had to meet and greet fans, work the scoreboard, and control the videoboard. As an emcee, he had to run and host the fun games between innings.

Mataya's goal for the future is to get his Master's Degree in marketing management. He wants to help businesses meet their goals to succeed.

"I want to move out to the west coast, and find a job with some business or firm. I just want to help them market and advertise their business and achieve the success they may need."

# *We want to hear from our alumni*

Tell us where you're working, what projects you have going on and where in the country you are living. For next years *Scoop* magazine, we want to write about our alumni and their activities.

Send us your information:

Milton Hall #186  
MSC 3J, P.O. Box 30001  
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001

# New Career

decided to take a photography class with Phillips during the spring semester. He said Phillips really knew how to not only show students how to work a camera, but also what it takes to make great photos.

"[Phillips] a great professor, for new students and advance," Ramirez said. "He explains everything and organizes it. If you don't even know the basic steps, he will show you."

Ramirez said Phillips made him appreciate journalist photos a whole lot more.

"He showed us how to take real photos," Ramirez said. "To capture images without having to let the person know, or change the environment and to be good and stealthy at doing it right away to capture the best photo."

Phillips said his goal is to motivate students as they have motivated him to be the best he can be and improve as a teacher.

"It's been a little difficult transitioning to teaching full time it's a lot different from what I was doing before, but the students are great, and I feel like I'm making a difference in people's life's, so that's important to me," Phillips said.



*Professors Darren Phillips and Ana Cardenas work in the Kokopelli newsroom.*



## Nancy

"She works hard and is understanding," Hwiman Chung, Department Head, said. "It is sad to see her retiring."

Howell's said her philosophy has always been to be friendly and exhibit a lot of patience. Working with students from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day, Howell said she has noticed that many students are away from home for the first time. Howell said she is a firm believer that the Department's office is meant to help and, sometimes, console students, in order to make their college experiences happy and memorable.

Howell's favorite quote, from the late writer Maya Angelou, reflects the kind of professionalism that she has embraced in Milton Hall: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

## New Zealand Aggie

here enjoyable," she said. "I have become the young journalist that I am today because of them."

Tauai's journey as a college student concluded when she graduated Dec. 10, 2016.

The road to graduation wasn't only hard for Tauai, but also for her family.

Months before she embarked on her journey to the United States, Andreas' older sister, Amanda, died. Although Amanda's death left the family grieving, Tauai said her parents and surviving sister stood behind Andrea's decision to study abroad.

"The most difficult thing as a mother is having your children all leave at the same time, but we are so proud of her," Andreas' mother Toa said.

The loss of her sister motivated Tauai to push herself to accomplish her dreams.

"I felt like my sister would have wanted me to come over and get a college degree, play volleyball and do what I love," Tauai said.

Her mother agreed. "Her sister would have proud," Toa said.

Tauai is the first member of

her family to obtain a college degree. She admits that she couldn't be any more proud of herself.

"I'm super excited to see my hard work pay off and their hard work too because they have supported me throughout my whole college career," she said.

Tauai's parents traveled from New Zealand to see their youngest daughter graduate and accomplish the first of many dreams she has for herself.

"She has grown to be an independent young lady and more responsible," Toa said. "We are so proud of how she's worked really hard to succeed at what she was trying to achieve and proud of how she's managed to stay away from our family for four years."

As Tauai's college journey ends, a new one begins. She plans on moving back to New Zealand after graduation, where she had an internship at Sky Sports network over the summer.

"My plan, for now, is to enjoy the time with my family after graduation and keep an eye out for jobs, but I will also continue to report and shoot news stories," Tauai said.



# Donate to the NMSU Journalism Department

Thank you for reading the 2017 edition of The Scoop. Every year, there are new reasons to celebrate what the department is doing. And that is what The Scoop is meant to do: highlight the accomplishments of the NMSU Department of Journalism, both faculty and students alike. And a lot of what the students and faculty of this department do would not be possible without the donations of our alumni. We ask that you join the group of valued alumni who have already donated. Your donations to the NMSU Journalism department assure that future students will have the same opportunities you had during your time at school.

You can mail your checks or money orders directly to the NMSU Journalism department at:

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You can also donate online at [www.journalism.nmsu.edu](http://www.journalism.nmsu.edu)

Thank you for helping to make this department everything it is.

Sincerely,

The Scoop Staff

## Kokopelli

Phillips said.

Students already involved with *Kokopelli* are not only gaining experience but also practice the ethics of reporting needed to strive in the world of multi-media reporting.

"You're held to a high standard of factual reporting," Carrillo said. "I take pride in every story I [write] because I know anything I write is the truth."



Professors Phillips and Cardenas at the Kokopelli newsroom



Students Cristal Corrales and Savanah Hernandez out on a shoot for News22.

Photo by Hugo Perez



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