



# UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

*cultivating excellence*

## SHEPHERD NAMED U.S. PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

**P**rofessor Ursula Shepherd, a biologist in Honors, has been named U.S. Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation, a first for a UNM professor.

Sponsored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, the award is the only national program to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring.

Shepherd teaches a variety of interdisciplinary courses in the University Honors Program including This Wondrous Land: the Biogeography of the Arid West. Many of her courses include significant field study. Shepherd's background is in ecology, evolution and biogeography of arid landscapes.



Ursula Shepherd

"I believe every student who passes through my classroom has the ability to be outstanding. It's my job to help each of them find what they are passionate about and to show them that it is possible," she said. Her students attract many accolades, including Goldwater and National Science Foundation fellowships.

Shepherd uses highly interactive teaching methods, including guided discussion with full participation and frequent field research. She often teaches both lecture and lab to better integrate the two. She designs "each course in ways that make students responsible for the learning we are undertaking," she said.

"If students are to love what they are doing, they must have the space to ask the questions that excite them and to learn that the things they have read in their texts and been asked to memorize are hard won by real people, and sometimes may even be wrong."

Shepherd is the organizer of the University Honors international field study program Biodiversity of Australia, which exposes students to habitats not found in North America and helps students become familiar with the unique biology of the Australian continent while learning the basics of field biology research. The program is made possible through gifts to Honors from alumni and donors. ■

## ALUMNI NEWS

**E**va Angeli graduated from UNM School of Medicine in 2008 and is working as a Primary Care Chief Resident.

Robbie and Samantha Ortiz were married in June, 2011.

Chris Wright is currently playing soccer for 1FC Magdeburg in Magdeburg, Germany.

Susan Mirabal is working as a cancer researcher at UNM.

Alyson Wilson is in the University of New Mexico School of Medicine.

Astrid Winegar has completed her currently untitled Hobbit cookbook.

Chris Hicks is currently attending the University of Arizona for a JD in Law.

Peter and Bevin Ver Brugge were married on May 28th, 2011.

Anna Nogar and Peter Marlantes were married last October. ■



Chris Wright

## IN MEMORIUM

**J**ackson Kirk Felsman passed away on May 22, 2011. He graduated from UHP in 1972 and later earned an EdD in Child Psychology from Harvard University. He dedicated his life to marginalized children all over the world: those who had been displaced by war or disaster. He most recently served as a senior advisor for USAID's Regional HIV/AIDS Program in South Africa.

## Message from the Director



Rosalie Otero

Saludos to our UHP Alumni and Friends of Honors. This academic year, 449 new students joined the Honors Program.

Dr. Ursula Shepherd was named U.S. Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. We are most proud of Dr. Shepherd.

We also welcome Sarah Feldstein Ewing, our new Assistant Professor in Honors. Sarah completed her Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of New Mexico. She has been working with the MIND Institute in the research of addictions.

Students participated in the Honors Program Conexiones en España program last summer. The program, organized and led by Dr. Celia Lopez-Chavez and Margo Chavez-Charles, included courses taught in a renovated 16th century convent. You can always see the descriptions of all of current classes on our website: [honors.unm.edu](http://honors.unm.edu)

Last year the Honors College Task Force, formed by the University Provost, unanimously recommended the establishment of an Honors College at UNM. The proposed creation of an Honors College would demonstrate the importance of honors education at the University of New Mexico. The chief academic officer would be a Dean who would sit as a member of the Dean Council and report directly the Provost. Currently, an Honors College Planning Committee chaired by Senior Associate Provost Mike Dougher is hard at work considering and planning various aspects of the College. If you have feedback, please email me at [otero@unm.edu](mailto:otero@unm.edu)

Thank you to those of you who keep in touch, email being the fastest vehicle. But now you can join Facebook: Go to our website at [honors.unm.edu-alumni](http://honors.unm.edu-alumni). Under that tab, you will find the map for joining. We would love to hear from all of you.

- Rosalie Otero, Ph.D.

*The University Honors Program has three areas of focus for donor support. The first is for discretionary funds that allow the Director to seize opportunities.*

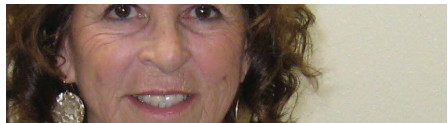
*The second area of philanthropic focus is for experiential learning for students, including service learning, field study, research, project-learning and study abroad.*

*The third area of focus for private gifts is Scribendi, a literary and arts magazine published by Honors students with submissions from students in the 13 states in the Western Region.*





Shepherd named  
U.S. Professor of the Year



Message from the Director



Conexiones



Charles Price

## CONEXIONES



Last summer, 20 UNM Honors students participated in an intensive study of Spanish language and culture in the medieval city of Trujillo in Spain’s Extremadura region. They were taking part in Conexiones: Spain, a joint project between the University Honors Program and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Conexiones was established in 1982, and alternates summers between Spain and Mexico, and more recently, Nicaragua.

Students studying in Trujillo lived with host families and participated in weekly excursions to other parts of the country. They attended classes in a 15th century restored convent, the site of the Fundacion Xavier de Salas, an institution created to study the connections between Extremadura and the Americas.

## ENDOWED CHAIR BRINGS VISITING MUSICOLOGIST TO UNM HONORS

This year’s Distinguished Garrey Carruthers Chair is Charles Price, PhD. He is a professor emeritus at West Chester University of Pennsylvania and was awarded three National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships and a French Government Fellowship in musicology.

Price is spending the 2011-2012 academic year in the University Honors Program. His classes include Form and Style in the Arts, an interdisciplinary class that traces the history of literature, visual arts, music, film and dance from Paleolithic times all the way to the modern period. He also teaches Rock Films, which covers all movies that were influenced by rock music, particularly in the 70s and 80s, including concert films and rock bios.

For Price, seminar classes are an excellent opportunity to get to know students. He teaches a seminar called The Rock Generation: Popular Music and Culture between 1954 and 1974, which is a particular interest of his. “That period is when rock and roll music developed and we had a transformation of popular culture in America,” he said.

“I wanted to get across that connection between music and the culture it comes from,” said Price. “In rock music, that is a very dynamic period. The 50s and 60s were a period of great turmoil and also great creativity. Music then was connected to culture in a way that earlier popular music and subsequent popular music hasn’t been. It’s a period of time where music is more connected with what’s going on politically and socially.”

The Carruthers Chair was established in 1990 with a \$1 million gift from Burlington Resources, now part of ConoccoPhillips. ■



Charles Price, PhD

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