

EL ATRISQUEÑO

VOLUME TWO | ISSUE ONE | FEBRUARY 2009

Photo courtesy of www.marblestreetstudio.com

Gathering of Heirs

Our second annual Gathering of Heirs event held in October was the perfect chance for all of us to socialize, see old friends and take in wonderful food and entertainment for the afternoon.

More than 1,000 heirs attended this year's event held at the National Hispanic Cultural Center's spacious plaza. We set up the big tent and heirs were treated to Flamenco dancers, guitar and mariachi music. Door prizes were also given out, including a Paul Sanchez painting and several gift certificates to Coronado Mall and area restaurants.

New this year was the debut of our video histories project. Heirs were able to see the histories on the big screen inside one of the cultural center's theaters.

We hope you enjoyed the event with us and look forward to seeing you again this October. The Atrisco Heritage Foundation is pleased to sponsor this gathering so that we can continue to remember and recognize our heritage as heirs to the Atrisco Land Grant.



Left:
Lydia Barela,
and Rose &
Chris Sanchez
during the event.

Right:
Dancers
with Niños
Flamencos

Heir Registration

In 2008, the Atrisco Heritage Foundation had a landmark year for registering heirs. We registered more than 1,500 new heirs and that meant many more people who benefited from our programs and services. However, our goal is to reach many more of the 50,000 heirs of the Atrisco Land Grant.

Since our programs are geared towards the needs of our heirs, registering is very important. By giving us the basic information during registration, we can help tailor programs to fit the needs of our heirs. We can also contact you when necessary to let you know about the latest news and information.

It is currently very important for anyone interested in being awarded a scholarship to register. Only Atrisco Land Grant heirs are eligible for the scholarships, and it is now a requirement for heirs to be registered in order to be awarded a scholarship through the Hispanic Scholarship Fund.

continued on page 2

inside:

- ⊗ Higher Education Opportunities
- ⊗ Cervantes Institute Spanish Classes
- ⊗ Atriscosas
- ⊗ HF Scholarship Recipients
- ⊗ Heir Profile: Dr. Felix Garcia
- ⊗ Heir Profile: Young Chef Luke Saiz
- ⊗ AHF Honors Rudolfo Anaya
- ⊗ Viva New Mexico, and Hispanic Cultural Center Partnerships
- ⊗ Santa Clara Cemetery Improvements
- ⊗ Water Discovered on West Mesa in 2008
- ⊗ Atrisco Video Histories Project
- ⊗ ¡Aplausos!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



There's no doubt that hope is the word of choice in our country as we begin a new year, transition into new leadership and enter a new chapter in our history. For Atrisqueños, I would like to add another word for the year—opportunity. As you will read in the pages of this, our first newsletter of 2009, there's no better way to seize opportunity than through a strong education.

If you sense an education theme throughout this issue of El Atrisqueño, you are not mistaken. As you will see in our heir profiles of Dr. Felix Garcia and of esteemed author Rudolfo Anaya, education has forever been a central theme in their lives. Both of these men attribute their successes to the education they were provided growing up in New Mexico. For both, their life's work has been dedicated to furthering the education of this community, and we are all better off because of their tireless work and commitment.

A new generation of Atrisqueños is also making the most of the educational opportunities afforded to them. In the short biographies of our Atrisco Heritage Foundation scholarship recipients, it's clear that continuing and completing their education will unlock some amazing opportunities for our talented youth. Our more than \$80,000 in scholarships will help them realize their dreams in their chosen professions. And as we layer one educated generation onto another we strengthen ourselves as a community. *But this effort begins at a ground level.*

In these pages you can find out how the Atrisco Heritage Foundation can provide to you, the heirs of Atrisco, more educational opportunities. We have formed partnerships with Central New Mexico Community College (CNM), the National Hispanic Cultural Center and the world-renowned Cervantes Institute. At CNM we will help defray some of the costs of books and lab fees to the many degree programs offered at Albuquerque's community college. At the Hispanic Cultural Center our heirs, young and old, will be offered classes to further enrich their lives. And our elementary school age heirs can start learning Spanish through the Cervantes Institute this upcoming spring. We also offer educational opportunities to students who live outside of the Albuquerque area through our Education Conference Program. Check out our website at www.atriscoheritagefoundation.org for additional information.

Let me share with you these timely words recently shared with me by heir Lucinda Sanchez from Tularosa, New Mexico. She recently wrote a letter to me thanking the Foundation for making education a priority. She also sent me her grandson's report card—it was a great one! In her letter Mrs. Sanchez profoundly stated “La Mejor Herencia es La Educacion” or “The Best Inheritance is Education”. She's correct. Education provides not only hope but more importantly opportunity. *Now is the time—seize your moment.*

*Peter Sanchez, President
Atrisco Companies*



1730 Montañó NW, Suite B
Albuquerque, NM 87107

505.836.0306
www.atriscoheritagefoundation.org

Non-Profit
US Postage
PAID
Permit #762
Albuquerque, NM

Tax Info On the Way

Before filing your 2008 taxes, please wait for an official K-1 tax document, which will be mailed out on or around March 1, 2009 by Atrisco Oil & Gas LLC. The document has financial information for unitholders, and is necessary for completing their 2008 taxes.



This tax document will come to you because you are a unitholder of Atrisco Oil & Gas, LLC. As one of the many unitholders, you will share in the income and expense of this operation. An LLC (Limited Liability Partnership) is treated for income tax purposes, like a partnership. Unlike a corporation, the LLC (partnership) does not pay tax on its income. The income is divided up among all of the members, and each member pays tax on their share of the income, and deducts their share of the expense on their own personal tax returns.

The LLC (partnership) does file a tax return. The tax return includes a form (K-1) for each unitholder, which will show your share of the income, expense and distributions. The K-1 form will be distributed to you after the tax return has been prepared by our accountants at or near March 1, 2009. The IRS deadline for the distribution of the K-1 tax forms is March 31, 2008; however, we will make our best efforts to mail them by March 1, 2009 as indicated above. You should not file your personal tax return until you receive this K-1 form.

You are a unitholder if you owned Westland shares, or were conveyed Atrisco Oil and Gas units in 2007 or 2008. The shares were sold in 2006 to SunCal, and as part of the agreement for the sale, former shareholders retained certain oil and mineral rights, which the Atrisco Oil & Gas company oversees.

If you have any questions, please contact Peter Sanchez or Carolyn Ortega at 505-836-0306, or by e-mail at cor-tega@atrisco.org or psanchez@atrisco.org.

Heir Registration continued from page 1

To register by phone, please have birth dates and basic information for all children under age 18 and graduating seniors. We will need phone numbers and addresses. Call Anita Lucero, Program Administrator, at 836-0306 to register or visit the Web site at www.atriscoheritagefoundation.org.

"It's so exciting to talk to heirs who call to register from all over the United States," Lucero said. "We're reaching so many people and our family of Atrisquenos is growing."

Lucero also said she would like to thank all the heirs who have already registered and who continue to spread the word through their families about the importance of registering as heirs.

CONTACT US

Peter Sanchez, President/CEO
Linda Blair, Program Director
Carolyn Ortega, Program Director
Anita Lucero, Program Administrator
Marian Ordoñez, Office Manager

The Atrisco Companies, 1730 Montañó Rd. NW, Suite B,
Albuquerque, NM 87107
www.atriscoheritagefoundation.org
www.atriscooilandgas.com

Barbara Armijo, El Atrisqueno Editor—barmijo@atrisco.org
Ro Saavedra, Contributing Editor
Diana Massengale, Graphic Design—Image Design LLC
Printed by **Covenant Printing**

Higher Education opportunities *in our* backyard

Atrisco Heritage Foundation forms partnership with Central New Mexico Community College

The nationwide recession has hit and good paying jobs are hard to come by. An education, specifically a college education, is the best way to combat tough economic times.

Central New Mexico Community College provides top-notch education in highly technical and specialized fields. The Atrisco Heritage Foundation has announced it will help heirs pay for some of the book and lab fees needed to take classes at CNM.

CNM's South Valley campus is located in the backyard of the Atrisco valley. Located off of Isleta near Pajarito Road SW, this campus is ideal for anyone living south of Central. But there are CNM campuses in each of the four quadrants of the city—one in everybody's backyard.

"Education is the key to empowering our community," Peter Sanchez, Executive Director of the Atrisco Heritage Foundation, said. "One of our goals as a foundation was to further enhance educational opportunities for our heirs. To do that we want to work with partners, such as those at CNM, who share our philosophy on education."

To be eligible for financial assistance, CNM students must be heirs of the Atrisco Land Grant, and they must be registered through the Atrisco Heritage Foundation. To register as an heir, call the office at (505) 836-0306.

Phil Bustos, CNM's vice president of Student Services, said CNM continues to provide training and education for the skilled trades as well as for careers that are currently in demand.

"CNM's mission is to open the doors to college for people who might not be in a situation to attend a traditional four-year college for whatever reason," he said. "Many of our students are working full time providing for their families. Many are returning to college years after they graduated from high school."

CNM offers two-year associates degrees and certificates in many trades and careers. Annette Chavez y DeLaCruz, interim campus director of the CNM South Valley Campus, said these are jobs that have been shown to be in high demand.

"Many of the careers we train people for are in that category of being almost recession proof," she said. "These are the jobs that, no matter what the economy looks like, they are almost always going to be needed in our society."

Health careers include phlebotomists, laboratory technicians, clinical assistants, nursing assistants, veterinary technicians and bio technicians. CNM offers programs in each of those fields and several others.

Chavez y DeLaCruz said that students who complete the programs with career technical degrees have a 95 percent job hire rate, according to CNM surveys of its graduates. CNM students have additional resources to help them complete their programs in order to enter the workforce prepared and ready to earn a good salary.

There are Achievement Coaches in every school at CNM. These coaches provide support, information on tutoring, mentoring and career workshops. The Center for Working Families offers further support for students who need assistance with housing and other services.

Here are some interesting facts about CNM that might make your decision to return a little easier.

- ⊕ The average age of CNM students is 28
- ⊕ Many students go to school part-time and still finish with a degree or certificate
- ⊕ Non-traditional students, such as single parents, are very much a part of CNM's student body.
- ⊕ Student to teacher ratio is consistently around 20 to 1.
- ⊕ CNM offers Saturday classes as well as Distance Learning (online) courses.

Classes at CNM are either tuition free or offered at credit-hour rates far less than the rates at four-year colleges. Student loans and financial aid are also available. The CNM Web site is www.cnm.edu.

A lack of finances should not keep anyone, especially Atrisco heirs, from achieving the dream of a college education and of a high-paying career. Besides the scholarships offered through the Heritage Foundation and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (go to www.atriscoheritagefoundation.org for more information), resources are now available to help pay for lab fees and books. For more information call the office at 505-836-0306 and ask for Linda Blair, Program Manager. She can also be reached via e-mail at lblair@atrisco.org.

Atriscosas is the place for Atrisco items

Would you like some Atrisco memorabilia to treasure or give as a gift to that special Atrisqueno? The Atrisco Heritage Foundation has opened its online *tiendita* at www.atriscoheritagefoundation.org. Of special interest in our *tiendita* is the newest book by Dr. Joseph Sanchez, "*Between Two Rivers*." The book is the history of the Atrisco Land Grant, researched by Dr. Sanchez who has written several other history books, including "*Fernando Duran y Chavez: Land and Legacy*," a book that also documents the rich history of Atrisco and the earliest Spanish settlers in New Mexico.

There is a printable order form online, which can be filled out and mailed to the Atrisco Heritage Foundation office for processing and shipping.

CERVANTES INSTITUTE

Would you like your child to have the opportunity to learn Spanish at one of the world's premier Spanish language schools? The Atrisco Heritage Foundation is pleased to announce it is offering beginning Spanish language classes for students in fourth and fifth grades beginning in March, 2009. This opportunity is free to Atrisco heirs. The classes will be held at the world renowned Cervantes Institute on consecutive Saturdays from 10 to 11:30 am. Class size is from six to 12 students, and a portion of the Spanish-language curriculum will be devoted to the history of the Atrisco Land Grant.

The Cervantes Institute is located in the National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4th St. SW in Albuquerque. Please call Linda at 505-836-0306 to sign up your child. Enrollment will be on a first come, first serve basis.

Scholarship Recipients



RICK ANTHONY AGUILAR has been making beautiful music at Albuquerque High in marching, concert and jazz band. But he didn't miss a beat in his other classes. This freshman at the University of New Mexico says his mother is his greatest supporter, and she makes sure that Atrisco's heritage and "she made sure I understood my culture."



DOMINIC ANGEL APODACA said it will be an honor to be the first person to go on to college right after high school. His father earned his degree while raising a family and working, so Dominic understands that all obstacles can be overcome. This UNM freshman would like to major in criminal justice.

JUSTINE MARIE APODACA expects to get her degree in communications from UNM in 2010. She said as a young Latina she always wanted to focus on her goals while not losing sight of her heritage. "I want to succeed in my education and become a successful journalist." Like every great journalist, math classes have been her greatest obstacle, but she's gone back to school to reverse those Ds to Bs. Way to go.

FELYCIA ANNA ARANDA, a freshman at UNM, has her sights set on nursing and sociology degrees. She gives thanks daily for the spiritual, financial and moral support that she receives from her family, and wants to pass that support on to her siblings. She volunteers at Sunday school for 4 and 5 year olds because she believes our future is in those precious hands.

CRISTINA ANN BACA's studies as a UNM freshmen sound daunting. She's majoring in Kinesiology and Exercise Science with a second major in biology. With such high academic standards, Cristina says she is glad her Hispanic heritage is centered around family and wonderful traditions. It brings balance to her life. And as a Hispanic woman, she pursues excellence in order to keep the work of so many strong women going.



TIFFANY NICOLE BLEA, will get her nursing and biology degrees in 2010 from UNM, and she couldn't be more pleased to begin her career. She says her strong Hispanic family is her greatest blessing, and she says she remembers her grandma's words best. "Mi Jita, always be proud of your Spanish heritage. It makes you who you are today."

JACQUELINE M. CHAVEZ will earn her education and teaching degree in 2011, and also will earn her business administration degree as well from New Mexico Highlands University in 2011. She said her Hispanic family that was willing to give all they had so that she could get a college education. You can never count out Hispanic pride, she said.



MELINDA N. CORDOVA will earn her accounting degree from UNM this May with a 4.0 grade point average! She will be the first person in her family to graduate from college, and it is her family's determination that helped get it done, she says. Hard work on her part, probably had a lot to do with it as well. Congratulations to this 4.0 college student.



MELISSA P. CORDOVA will receive her education/teaching degree in May. She says that having great school experiences in her community helped her decide on her education major. "In our Hispanic culture, education plays such an important role in whom we are and who we strive to be," she says. She switched from pharmacy to education when she realized her true path.

DAVID PAUL DIEDRICH is a freshman at Fort Lewis College in Colorado. While his aspiration is to become a civil engineer, he has a little side interest. "I want to be able to roll fresh, homemade tortillas and cook them on a stove." We love his enthusiasm! In addition to his studies, David, who carries a 3.48 gpa, has always volunteered and supported conservation efforts.

TRACY ANN FIELD is finishing her first year in the dentistry program at Mississippi Community College. She goes to school full time and works part time. She said her Hispanic heritage is something she is very proud of and is pleased to be part of a generation in her family that will attend college and earn a degree. She wants her parents to be proud as she works towards that. We're sure they are very proud.



AMBER MARIE GALLEGOS will earn her criminal justice degree from the University of New Mexico this May. Amber says she wants to achieve her first goal of getting her bachelor's degree and then going on for her master's in criminology. She says everyone here tonight are positive role models to young Hispanics. We think Amber is, for sure.



RICO OMAR GALLEGOS is majoring in chemistry and biology at UNM-Valencia. He plans on finishing his degree work in 2011. Rico says that poverty in the Hispanic community continues to be an obstacle in getting college degrees, but is glad things are finally changing. He enjoys working with the youth of the community to help convince them that obstacles can be overcome.

FRANK FREDRICK GARCIA is graduating with a major in astronomy and a second major in physics at the University of Washington. He said living in the Seattle area means it takes extra effort to keep him connected to his Hispanic heritage. He said, fond memories and stories told to him by his grandfather is a big help. He wants to return to Albuquerque after he graduates to be part of the UNM physics or astronomy department.



ANDREW GOMEZ has set his sights on an electrical engineering degree in 2012. He jokingly calls himself a "hybrid," because of the ethnicities of his parents. While he appreciates both cultures, he says being Hispanic has instilled in him a pride for its rich culture. He carries a 3.92 GPA and we're very proud of this hybrid.



GABRIEL VICENTE GOMEZ is a freshman at UNM who plans on working towards medical school in the future. There is a doctor shortage, and an even greater shortage of Hispanic doctors. Gabriel hopes to change that trend. He has worked in a South Valley medical clinic, where he says he is getting invaluable first-hand people skills. He is eager to give back to the community.



ELIAS GRIEGO is a senior majoring in psychology at UNM where he has a 3.59 GPA. He says his Hispanic family values have "provided me a foundation that will enable me to fulfill my future academic achievements and pass on the Hispanic legacy to his family." He finds time to volunteer and maintain a high GPA as he nears his May graduation day.

MORGAN CHRISTOPHER HARRY is a chemical engineering freshman at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. He says, "You can never forget the people who made it possible for you to be in the position you are in." For Morgan, those people are his family members, especially his grandmother, Rose Marie, who always had a new book for him to read or math flash cards to study every year.



DANIEL JEFFREY LUCERO, is working towards his education and teaching degree at New Mexico Junior College. He will earn his degree this May. He says his Hispanic heritage has been influenced through baseball and education. As a student-athlete Daniel always wanted to do his best on the field and in the classroom for his Lucero family pride.

JOSH MARTIN, a freshman at Brigham Young University Idaho campus, is busy with community service and schooling. He said his grandfather and father have both stressed getting a college education as a way of bettering himself. He hasn't decided on a major, but intends to make the most of his college experience.

MELANIE L. MARTINEZ will get her degree this May in criminal justice from the University of New Mexico. She says she is glad that her Hispanic family always valued higher education. Her great grandfather was a sheepherder and she has always tried to remember how hard he worked to help inspire her during tough times in school. Keeping her family's legacy alive is a priority for her in the future.

MARLEE McMATH, a UNM freshman, plans on a degree in public relations. She says her family has always stressed pride in community and pride in the Spanish culture, especially in her Catholic upbringing. Marlee says that having family all around her in her youth has made her a more compassionate and understanding person. She wants to continue to pass those values on in the future.

SARAH ELISE MENEZ, a freshman in performing arts at Oklahoma City University, is a singer and actress. She said her Hispanic heritage is something she prides and cherishes. Her goal is to pursue a career in these demanding professions, but she said she has many role models in her life who believe in her and she wants to make them proud. She's well on her way.

JOSEPH D. MIANO, a UNM freshman, says a medical career is in his future after his undergraduate studies. He says he has his grandparents and his parents to thank for stressing education in his family. None of them had the chance to go to college, but he said that never stopped them from encouraging him to go further after college. He hopes to make them proud in the near future. I'm sure they're very proud already.



AMANDA MONTOYA, a sophomore at UNM, hasn't declared a major yet. She has volunteered at Casa Angelica, was a student athlete at Valley High School and is 100 percent committed to getting her bachelor's degree. When she decides, she said it will definitely be a degree that allows her to give back to her community and to keep promoting Hispanic pride.

ERICA MONIQUE MONTOYA will get her degree in May in veterinary medicine at New Mexico State University. She said her grandpa, an heir to the Atrisco Land Grant, was an elementary school teacher before going off to war. He was the one who always stressed getting a college degree to his grandchildren. She said his life lessons will remain in her heart forever.



SAMANTHA NICOLE MONTOYA is a freshman at UNM majoring in business administration. Samantha's father always told her that having knowledge means having power. She knows that in order to make a difference in this world and in her life she will need the knowledge to work in a global economy. She would like to pass her father's message on to all young Hispanics.



EDWARD ISRAEL MORFIN is pursuing a nursing degree from Northern New Mexico College and has a 4.0 grade point average. He wants Hispanics to go on to do great things and continue to make great strides in all professional fields. In addition to going to school, Edward works full time at the Los Alamos National Labs and is a volunteer fire fighter.

continued on page 4

Scholarship Recipients

continued from page 3



MARCUS VINCENT ORTEGA is in his second year studying aerospace engineering at Central New Mexico Community College, carrying a 3.0 GPA. He traces his Atrisco roots back several generations. His mother tells him stories of hearing Spanish music being played on guitars by his great grandfather and grandfather, and of how proud they were of their Atisqueno roots. Marcus will be the first in his family to graduate from college in 2011.



ANDREW PADILLA, a business administration freshman at UNM, says after he earns his degree and gets a great job he plans on living in Los Padillas, where his family has long roots. He says it was there that he learned about hard work and to always remember where you came from, then go on to make the community better. He is well on his way.



ROSE ANNE MARIE RILEY is well on her way to a business administration degree at Central New Mexico Community College. In addition she is the busy mom of two school-age children. Rose says that she wants to continue to pass along her culture to her children and to show them that college will help them achieve their dreams.



BENNIE JOE ROMERO is pursuing a geography degree from Central New Mexico Community College. He says that the best way for him to honor his Hispanic heritage is to get his college degree. Bennie says that remembering his Atrisco roots will always propel him to succeed.

DANIEL JAMES ROMERO, a business administration student in his freshman year at Brigham Young University in Utah. Being Hispanic, he said, has influenced him in many ways. For one, he has learned to speak Spanish and finds it his way of promoting and preserving his heritage. He's also read about the Atrisco Land Grant and shares his family's pride in being an heir.

ANITA LUCIA SANCHEZ is a junior at University of North Texas, studying biology. Her paternal grandparents are her inspiration for continuing her education. She said they raised 12 children by working hard, even without benefit of formal education. Anita wants to honor them, as well as her parents, by graduating from college.



MONIQUE NICOLE SANCHEZ is a freshman at UNM who is also working towards medical school in the future. She says that family is the first word she thinks of when asked

to define what it means to be Hispanic. She says her family's unwavering support has helped her achieve many of her goals. She says that the Hispanic community has much to be proud of, and she hopes to continue with that legacy.



SOFIA MICHELLE SANCHEZ is majoring in journalism with a minor in Chicano studies at the University of New Mexico, who plans to graduate in 2010. She has

worked hard this election season doing community organizing and Get out the Vote events in the South Valley for the Democratic Party of New Mexico. She says in addition to education, Hispanics must also do their part to improve their political standing in the country.

PALA-NICOLE SCHOENBERGER is in her second year of nursing at Pima Medical Institute. She finds so much to cherish about the Hispanic heritage—like the food, customs, language and family values. Hispanic pride is something she cherishes, and her long-term goal is to become a certified nurse practitioner serving in poor, rural communities in New Mexico that are in desperate need of health care.

ANDREW MARTIN SHAW is a freshman at Brigham Young University Idaho branch. He's studying business administration. Inspired by a grandfather who came from "humble circumstances," Andrew says he has been encouraged to go to college and to graduate. This long-time Eagle Scout is well on his way to success.



MELINDA ROSE TAFOYA is a senior getting her education/teaching degree at UNM this May. She has a 3.51 GPA and says she got her work ethic from her Hispanic family. She says that growing up she constantly heard this statement: "If you want something bad enough, you must work hard for it." She hopes her influences as a teacher continue to play a vital role in keeping Hispanic values alive.



JACQUILYN TERESE TORRES is a criminal justice major at New Mexico State, where she plans on graduating in 2011. Her 3.57 GPA is the result of hard work and determination. She says she feels the obligation to make her family proud and to achieve her personal goals. As the youngest and only girl in the family, she says she wants to reach her dream of graduating from college.

SCOTT TUREMAN will graduate this year from Idaho State University. He's majored in finance and has already worked in this field while going to school. He said his grandfather stressed "no messing around and receiving a valuable college education." That helped him stay the course in college. His career will be in finance as a Financial Advisor.



MAYO MERCEDES WARDLE is a senior at Southwest Acupuncture College. She is a flamenco dancer and enjoys everything about her Spanish culture. After graduating as an acupuncturist, Mayo would like to work with the Hispanic community to lower the diabetes rates through the uses of Oriental medicine and nutritional education.

DAN CHARLES WILKINSON carries a 4.0 GPA in neuroscience at the University of New Mexico. He has credited his reconnection with his Atrisco roots to his grandmother. He hopes to pursue brain research because it has the potential to unlock the cures to so many diseases. Dan says that he would like to bridge the gap between Anglo and Hispanic populations in Albuquerque.

Scholarship Opportunities

Here are some more college scholarship offers you may want to apply for:

- New Mexico Alliance for Hispanic Education Scholarship. Deadline Feb. 19, 2009. www.hsf.net
- Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce Scholarship. Deadline Feb. 23, 2009. <http://workforce.ahcnm.org>
- HOPE Scholarship. Deadline Feb. 27, 2009. <http://workforce.ahcnm.org>
- LLAVE (PNM) Scholarship. Deadline March 16, 2009. <http://workforce.ahcnm.org>

Unlocking Education's "Intellectual Creativity"

Heir Felix Garcia Helped Reform Education

When Dr. Felix Garcia feels creative these days he might just sit down at his organ and write a melody. Maybe he'll write a poem or a story. And sometimes he might just come up with a joke.

These are not trivial pursuits for a man who over his adult life has helped shape and reform education at all levels. He's been an educator in the classrooms of Madison Junior High, Bernalillo High School and Albuquerque's Rio Grande High School. He's taught at the University of New Mexico, the University of Iowa and most notably as an esteemed professor at San Jose State. Dr. Garcia has taught everything from language arts, English, Spanish, Social Sciences and technical writing.

Before teaching, he made sure his own education was in place. He received a master's degree in education and went on to achieve his doctorate from UNM in 1971. It was through his doctoral dissertation that Garcia's most impressive educational theory was born and published. His dissertation was the curriculum development of what he calls "Intellectual Creativity." The theory was a collaborative process with other educators, but it is something Dr. Garcia continues to value.



The way Dr. Garcia explains it, Intellectual Creativity is a method of teaching that enables students to unlock their creative minds by developing their skills in both written and oral languages. In his theory, metaphorical language helps describe reality. When you use metaphors, you can describe life in a much more vivid and distinct way, said Dr. Garcia.

"Too many times teachers, especially teachers today, would rather have a book they can open to deliver the education," Dr. Garcia said. "We need textbooks,

but what we also need is to make sure that students are not only educated, but indoctrinated into their own learning."

Dr. Garcia, who retired in 1995, lives in Albuquerque's Northeast Heights. He likes to stay busy. His part-time job as a greeter at Sam's Club, he says, is just something to keep him busy and connected to people. Dr. Garcia never stops learning and he never passes up a chance to teach.

"I think that the major weakness in education today is that average is regarded as acceptable," he said. "It's my feeling that if we continue to simply not strive for more, our culture and our society won't survive."

Dr. Garcia, who has been married for 35 years to his wife, Mary Weaver Garcia, said today's youth should seek out their perspective and voice their opinions. He said it's these perspectives—many that are different and contrary to others—that will enrich our culture in the future.

When he is feeling creative, Dr. Garcia sits down at the organ in his comfortable home and starts playing. He has written songs, both the music and lyrics, about his parents, his youth and even his two cherished little dogs, who have since passed away.

But he has a special melody devoted to Atrisco. He can play it effortlessly, but said the words are not quite complete yet. He hasn't put them all down on paper yet. He doesn't call this a creative block, however. And he's not worried that the writing won't materialize.

"That's different, I know, to have the music and not the words," he said. "I'm a writer, I should be writing the words first. But for some reason, the melody came to me now. Must be for inspiration." Because as Dr. Garcia knows, you can't rush creativity.

Rudolfo Anaya's Legacy in Documentary Film

The Atrisco Heritage Foundation is making sure that one of New Mexico's most prolific authors, Rudolfo Anaya, has a permanent place in our state's history.

The Foundation is supporting the documentary "*Rudolfo Anaya: The Magic of Words*," which is being produced by David Ellis and his film company, Ellis Productions, based in New Mexico. Ellis said he wanted the documentary to touch upon all that Anaya has done with words to enrich New Mexico's history and culture.

Ellis had spent 25 years in the film industry in Los Angeles, but returned to New Mexico and undertook the Anaya film. Ellis said he had long admired Anaya's books, which "sensitively explore the cultural complexities of New Mexico and the Hispanic quest for recognition, respect and equality."

"I believe that viewers of the completed film will also be moved by Anaya's personal struggle to overcome poverty, prejudice, and his long creative path to eventual mainstream publishing success," Ellis said.

The Rudolfo Anaya project has three parts: production of a one-hour film designed for national Public Broadcasting System (PBS), a series of three ten-minute video programs for use in public schools in America to teach and inspire students about the Hispanic experience in America (accompanied by a student/teacher's guide); and a radio program created for National Public Radio (NPR) from the many hours of interviews with Anaya, much of which cannot be included in the television program because of time constraints.

"It's an ambitious project and one that the Atrisco Heritage Foundation was pleased to support," said Peter Sanchez, Executive Director of the Foundation. "Rudolfo Anaya's place in New Mexico's literary and educational history is squarely in place. We're honored to be able to offer financial support to the film. Rudolfo Anaya is one of us, an heir, who values our culture, our history and our future."

Telling Rudolfo Alfonso Anaya's complete life story is complex. He was born in the rural village of Pastura, New Mexico. At a young age, his family moved to Santa Rosa, New Mexico. When he was a teenager, his family moved again, this time to Albuquerque, where Anaya graduated from Albuquerque High

School and the University of New Mexico. He worked as a public school teacher from 1963-1970. During that period, he married Patricia Lawless, his wife of nearly 47 years. Afterward, he worked as the director of counseling for the University of Albuquerque for two years before accepting a position as an associate professor at the University of New Mexico.

His wife encouraged him to pursue his literary endeavors, and over a period of seven years, he completed his first and best-known novel, *Bless Me, Ultima*. Getting the novel published didn't come without struggles. His manuscript, which incorporated both English and Spanish words, was not mainstream. Sending inquiries out to numerous publishers, he received back a rejection from all of them, most often because his writing was too Latino in style and language. Finally, Anaya happened on an advertisement from Quinto Sol Publications, a small press in California, inviting authors to submit manuscripts. He sent in *Bless Me, Ultima* and Quinto Sol quickly agreed to publish it. *Bless Me, Ultima* became a reality in 1972, seven years after Anaya had first begun writing the novel.

He has more than 30 published novels and plays. His most recent novels are written for young adults and children, a readership Anaya says has been underserved literarily and educationally in the last several decades. It's something of a passion Anaya is determined to change.

"I ask myself why education is not serving certain communities," he said one afternoon from his North Valley home. "There's a high incidence of young people in prisons. My question now is can we as a society do something to turn that around. Can we teach children to value their education? Will they learn, like I did, to read and unlock new worlds and new dreams? That's our challenge."

The documentary will help deliver Anaya's message and his inspiration to many more people. Ellis and the Atrisco Heritage Foundation would like to invite other heirs of the Atrisco Land Grant to be a part of the project through their financial support, which is needed to complete the project.

Almost all independently made documentaries are made possible only through generous corporate, foundation, and individual contributions. The Anaya film project also depends on these same sources for

funding. Ellis continues to seek donations to complete the film.

The project began production with a significant grant from New Mexico's McCune Charitable Foundation, and was followed by contributions from the New Mexico Film Office, City of Santa Rosa, New Mexico Humanities Council, individual contributors and, most recently, a generous grant from the Atrisco Heritage Foundation.

Ellis is currently filming scenes for the documentary in areas that are part of the Atrisco Land Grant, such as near the Rio Grande bosque and Petroglyph National Monument. Footage of the original land grant declaration, in the archive of Atrisco Heritage Foundation, will be used in the film to help explain the legal and emotional power of the Hispanic connection to the land.

The New Mexico Community Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports projects that are of long-term benefit to the state, is the official sponsor for the Anaya film. To make a tax-free contribution to complete the film contact **Michael Chamberlain**, Chief Operating Officer, New Mexico Community Foundation 505-820-6860, or via e-mail at mchamberlain@nmcf.org

If you know of an Atrisqueno or Atrisquena doing great things, we want to know about them. To send us your story ideas or to submit items for our "Aplausos" section, e-mail barmijo@atrisco.org or call the Atrisco Heritage Foundation office at 505-836-0306.

El Atrisqueno is published twice a year by the Atrisco Heritage Foundation.

WHAT'S COOKING FOR THIS YOUNG ATRISQUEÑO?

Luke Saiz Is Proud of His Heritage and Talents as a Chef



At age 22, you wouldn't expect Luke Saiz to have nine years of restaurant cooking experience under his chef's hat. And you wouldn't expect this young Atrisqueno to have such a clear eye on his future, which incorporates cooking, teaching and returning to his South Valley community to give back.

Saiz, who has been cooking since he was sophomore at Rio Grande High School, is getting his hospitality and tourism Associate's degree from Central New Mexico Community College. He received a non-traditional scholarship through the Atrisco Heritage Foundation in order to pursue his degree. Once he gets the two-year degree he said he plans to earn his teaching certification. Then he said his dream is to teach and run a culinary arts program in a high school. First choice would be returning to his alma mater, Rio Grande High School, which doesn't have a program, but offered enough cooking classes to get his chef interests stirring.

"By the time I was a senior I was a banquet prep chef at the Hilton Hotel and helping teach the cooking class at Rio," he said. "It was such a great experience. But I think Rio and the community of the South Valley really deserves a full-

fledged culinary arts program, and I want to be the one to help start it at Rio Grande."

He has perfected his art in kitchens at Coaches, the 66 Diner, Flying Star and even in Albuquerque Public Schools' cafeterias. All of it, he says, gave him the love of cooking by seeing the joy food brings to people. He said finishing his academic studies is something he would like to do not only for himself but for his parents, Leroy and Theresa Saiz. His maternal grandparents, Faustino and Helen Lovato, are heirs to the Atrisco Land Grant.

Saiz is very proud of his New Mexico roots, culture and the wonderful traditions that are being born in kitchens across the Land of Enchantment. Those traditions paved the path to his talent for preparing food.

"I've had Sushi prepared by a Japanese Master Chef, French Cuisine by a renowned chef," Saiz said. "But when I think about cooking, I think New Mexican food. It's some of the freshest, best cuisine in the world, truly. And for me, a great enchilada or a bowl of green chile stew—now that's great cooking."

To apply for a non-traditional scholarship, call Linda Blair at 505-836-0306. Details and criteria for applying can be found on our Web site at www.atriscoheritagefoundation.org.

ATRISCO HERITAGE FOUNDATION & NATIONAL HISPANIC CULTURAL CENTER: Partners in Creative Institutes for Students



The Atrisco Heritage Foundation (Foundation) is proud to collaborate with the National Hispanic Cultural Center (NHCC) in providing institutes that promote both creativity and cultural heritage through the brush stroke, dance step, musical note, and written word. “We have so much mission overlap with the Atrisco Heritage Foundation in honoring and promoting Hispanic cultures,” said Dr. Shelle Sanchez, Education Director at the NHCC. “What both of our organizations do for youth and families is important, so it’s more productive to put our resources together in accomplishing our missions.”

The following free student institutes (with exception of Circo Latino), most for ages 14-18, are conducted at the NHCC. The Atrisco Heritage Foundation is underwriting the cost for a limited number of Atrisco land grant heirs to participate in each of the programs. As registration in the programs is also limited, call the Foundation at 505-836-0306 well in advance of the programs and deadlines to apply for sponsorship and secure a seat. For further information, visit the NHCC Web site at www.nhccnm.org or call 505-246-2261.

VOCES: WRITING INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH, to be held June 1-26, 9:00 am-4:00 pm, is a four-week writing workshop limited to 30 high school students from throughout New Mexico. Voces develops and refines the writing skills of students, advancing their success in high school and higher education. Accomplished writers and poets provide instruction in various writing styles and techniques. Applications are due by March 16.

MANOA PROJECT: SUMMER PLAYWRIGHT AND THEATRE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, to be held June 8-July 26, 12:00-7:00 pm, is conducted in collaboration with Tricklock Theatre Company. The six-week intensive theatre arts program, limited to 30 students, focuses on the development of ensemble-based work. Students submit one act plays and one is selected for the Premiere summer performance. At the end of July the students also present other original short works in an Albuquerque performance and one other New Mexico location. “We also publish an anthology of the students’ writing and distribute it to schools and elsewhere around the state,” said Dr. Sanchez.

Atrisco heirs, ages 14-18, are encouraged to submit applications, due by March 16. In addition, if interested in auditioning for a part in the productions, call the Linda Blair at 505-836-0306.

ARTE: SUMMER VISUAL ARTS INSTITUTE, to be held July 6-31, 9:00 am-4:00 pm, is a four-week visual arts workshop for up to 16 students from New Mexico high schools. A creative mentor guides the students through an intensive curriculum of art exploration, planning, design, and creation. Each week a different accomplished Hispanic artist will provide instruction to introduce a variety of art-making mediums, styles, and techniques.

Applications to participate in this unique program are due by March 16, 2009 at the NHCC; however, contact the Atrisco Heritage Foundation immediately if interested in a sponsorship.

SCHOOL PROJECT FUNDS FOR ATRISCO SCHOOLS supports schools within the Atrisco Land Grant boundaries and teachers who are Atrisco heirs teaching in New Mexico. The NHCC, funded by the Atrisco Heritage Foundation, is setting aside \$5,000 to underwrite field trips to the NHCC or collaborative arts and cultural events in the classrooms. Teachers of Atrisco schools can request the funds for bus transportation to attend school-day events during the 2009 school year or for special in-school workshops and presentations. (Schools include Atrisco Heritage Academy High School and the following elementary schools: Adobe Acres, Alamosa, Armijo, Atrisco, Barcelona, Carlos Rey, Dolores Gonzales, Kit Carson, Lavaland, Mary Ann Binford, Navajo, Pajarito, and Valle Vista.)

DIGITAL STORYTELLING WORKSHOPS are for Atrisco land grant heirs only and will be held March 7, 14, and 21 and again July 11, 18, and 25. Each class consists of three full days of instruction. The Digital Storytelling Workshop will teach participants to write, refine, assemble and edit a multimedia, digital story of their history and personal triumphs through the use of photographs, music and other memorabilia. This process honors individuals, families, and cultures by giving value to personal experience.

The workshop is open to heirs of all ages who can work individually or in a group of two or three. Parents or grandparents could team up with children or grandchildren.

The workshop is free to Atrisco heirs; however, registration is limited to six individuals or groups, so call 505-836-0306 to sign up as soon as possible.

For younger students, ages 8-13, **CIRCO LATINO**, to be held June 1-19, 9:00 am-3:30 pm, is being offered on a sliding scale cost of \$150 - \$650. Vamos a jugar en Circo Latino! Students will train in basic circus arts and an introduction to Spanish language in this new program. The program includes juggling, stilt-walking, clowning, mask making, and more. The course culminates in a Circus Share Day Performance on June 20.

In addition to youth institutes, the NHCC offers **CANTANDO LA CULTURA**, four weeks of sing-a-long classes, for all ages. The classes teach the background, words, and music of traditional Hispanic songs. Local musicians and performers lead the classes to be held May 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 6:00-7:30 pm in the Wells Fargo Auditorium. The NHCC will host a culminating sing-a-long fiesta for the participants, and anyone else who wants to join in, on June 7 from 3:00-6:00 pm at La Fonda del Bosque. This celebratory fiesta brings together all the musicians and performers and is open to the public.

“We encourage students to participate in the institutes for more than one year,” said Dr. Sanchez. “It’s great fun, fine tunes their skills, and nurtures leadership qualities in the community mentors of the future.”

The Atrisco Heritage Foundation will offer young heirs the chance to attend summer camps at the Albuquerque Biopark. Camps are offered at the zoo, botanical gardens and aquarium. Visit the Foundation Web site at www.atriscoheritagefoundation.org for the schedule when it becomes available.

How to Apply

The 2009/2010 HSF/Atrisco Heritage Foundation scholarship is now available online at www.hsf.net to those Atrisqueno’s who qualify.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Must be a registered heir of the Atrisco Land Grant
- Must have an heir ID number and coupon code from AHF
- Have plans to enroll FULL-TIME in a degree seeking program at a two or four year accredited institution in the U.S., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands or Guam during the 2009-2010 academic year
- Must apply for federal financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Be pursuing first undergraduate or graduate degree



The deadline to apply — Feb. 18, 2009
Award Notifications — July 2009
Verification of Enrollment — Fall 2009
Award Distribution — Fall 2009

Cemetery Renovations

A nonprofit entity, El Campo Santo, Inc. owns and operates three cemeteries on Atrisco land—San Jose de Armijo, Santa Clara, and Evangelico. Low cost burial services are provided to Atrisco heirs at the cemeteries.

As the cemeteries date back many generations, they are in need of some attention. Atrisco Heritage Foundation has enlisted the help of Dr. Moises Venegas, formerly Executive Director of Albuquerque Partnership, to help raise capital for cemetery improvements. Dr. Venegas has a long and proven history as an educator, fundraiser, and facilitator in working with local governments, private agencies, and other organizations in the betterment of communities and the lives of their residents.

While Dr. Venegas is busy writing grants and looking for sources of funding, the renovation planning for the three cemeteries has begun. “Our intention is to improve the condition of the cemeteries and to make them more aesthetic without changing their charm and what they mean historically,” said Linda Blair, Business Manager for El Campo Santo. “We must improve the cemeteries while respecting and maintaining the personality and dignity of each unique plot.”

Santa Clara Cemetery, located at 611 Foothill Road SW, is first in the sight of improvement plans. Landscape design has already been completed which will modify and improve fencing, landscaping and irrigation, as well as provide much needed stabilization to the bluff it is situated on. As you read in the last issue of *El Atrisqueno*, or noted during a recent visit, Santa Clara already has a new entrance gate and improved security and maintenance. The design plan also includes adding paths and stairs to help ease navigation of the hill. The renovation of Santa Clara is an ongoing process, but when it is done it will certainly improve and beautify this precious resting place.

According to Ms. Blair improvements will follow at San Jose de Armijo and Evangelico as capital is raised. Our plan and hope is that renovations will be completed at all three cemeteries over the next several years.

On behalf of El Campo Santo, the Atrisco Heritage Foundation and involved Atrisco heirs are currently considering a variety of fund raising options. If you have an interest in contributing to the renovation of the cemeteries, monetarily or otherwise, please contact Linda Blair at 505-836-0306 or email lblair@atrisco.org. Any and all support from Atrisco heirs is welcomed and appreciated.

Water Discovered on West Mesa Site in 2008

As many of you know, Atrisco Oil & Gas, LLC discovered water at its West Mesa well site last year (2008). Atrisco's water discovery is considered to be a "deep water aquifer" (greater than 2,500 feet beneath the surface). It is the first large aquifer to be discovered in the Albuquerque area and only the third to be discovered in the State of New Mexico. It was Atrisco's hope that this precious resource could quickly be brought to the surface and made usable for the community. However, the process has been more complicated than anticipated as we have encountered several obstacles in our attempts to move to the next stage, which is the testing stage.

A number of issues have hindered the process. We have had to wade through the legal process of water appropriation in this state, which provides little to no regulatory guidance. In addition, we have had to deal with the current economic climate in our efforts to find a financial investor(s). As are all businesses at the moment, we are struggling with this effort.

As many of you may be aware, particularly those of you residing in Albuquerque, SunCal, the developer that purchased Westland Development Company and its 55,000 acres in 2006, has made a claim on Atrisco's water find by publishing and filing a document that copied Atrisco's publication and filing. This event has further complicated our claim because it creates uncertainty around title to the asset. While SunCal purchased the land, the oil and mineral rights were transferred to Atrisco. The former Westland shareholders are now unitholders in Atrisco Oil & Gas. While a deep water find was not anticipated at the time of the SunCal transaction, there now exists a dispute as to who holds water rights to deep water.

In the desert Southwest and certainly within the State of New Mexico, finding new sources of water is of particular importance. Our discovery could potentially be a significant event in the Albuquerque community because the city continues to grow despite its limited water resources. Our discovery could provide Albuquerque and the surrounding area with a new source of water, lessening water resource stresses.

However, water in a desert environment has a history of generating controversy. Our discovery has proven this norm. There have been several published news stories and editorials since Atrisco's water discovery. Much of the discussion and debate has centered around the issue of lack of jurisdiction by the State Engineer's office and the gap in a regulatory process available to discoverers such as Atrisco to aid in securing title to a discovery. In addition, there has been much media coverage about the public dispute between Atrisco Oil & Gas and SunCal concerning ownership of Atrisco's find.

"The history of fighting over water in New Mexico has been a colorful and common theme," Atrisco Oil & Gas CEO, Peter Sanchez said. "We at Atrisco Oil & Gas have found our own struggles to preserve our water rights to be no different. But we are dealing with these struggles pragmatically in the hopes of finding success for the benefit of the heirs and unitholders."

"Getting to a point where we can monetize the water may have to wait until the legal and business aspects involved in securing the asset (e.g. the water rights) are completed," Sanchez said. "The company is actively seeking investors in order to keep the project going. As our heirs know, Atrisco Oil & Gas is not asset rich like its predecessor Westland. We started this company with very few assets and through diligent work we have been able to sustain the drilling efforts and locate an asset that we hope will bear returns in the future. But the process of building this company with its underfunded balance sheet is a challenge."

Sanchez said, "While it's true there is no clear path to success in overcoming existing legal challenges or economic uncertainties." However, he remains encouraged.

"A project can appear bleak at a particular moment in time but then circumstances change and where there was once an obstacle there becomes a clear path," he said. "Credit can loosen, laws can be changed and opponents can suddenly find common ground. It's important to move forward with an opportunistic attitude so when openings arise, we can be ready to take advantage of them. Let's continue to work towards a positive outcome and see what 2009 brings for Atrisco Oil and Gas."

Atrisco Video Histories Project: Update

As reported in the last issue of *El Atrisqueño*, Atrisco Heritage Foundation is sponsoring Phase I of a series of video documentaries called the Atrisco Video Histories Project. Collaborating with the Foundation in producing the documentaries include Arts of Aztlan (AOA), the media company responsible for taping and general production; the National Hispanic Cultural Center; the Resource Center for Raza Planning (RCRP); and participating elder Atrisco heirs.

"Ours is a culture based on old tradition and customs, and we're using modern technology to document and preserve our heritage," said Esteban Rael, cinematographer with Arts of Aztlan.

The videos will feature biographical histories of Isaias Garcia, Louie and Bessie Casias and Sig Sanchez and their families. Besides these four heirs, the films will feature others such as Carlos Baca, Miguel Baca, Betty and Camilo Barela, Lidia Barela, Lorenzo Candelaria, Priscila Candelaria, Ray Candelaria, Ramon S. Herrera, Agnes Lovato, Irene Martinez, Alex Sanchez, Helen Sanchez, Melba Sanchez, Juan Sanchez, Rudy Sanchez, Marianna Sandoval and Rita Zaccardi, as well as the children of Raymundo and Agripina Mares (Olivia Casias, Amelia Encee, Saulo Mares, Bennie Salway, Thomas Mares, Prescilla Garcia, Frances Garcia, Ray Mares Jr., Ramon Mares, Roland Mares, Steve Mares and Tommie Mancha).

Phase I of video documentaries will be completed by the end of March 2009.

In addition to individual interviews, the project will also include thematic videos such as "School Days," "Velorios," "La Brujeria de Atrisco," "Las Acequias," "La Comida de Atrisco," and "Las Hermanas." "The videos are as entertaining as they are informative," said Carolyn Ortega, Program Director with the Atrisco Heritage Foundation.

The collaborative team has spent about 500 hours in the project so far. "People have opened up their homes and hearts to talk about sacred times," Esteban said.

The personal accounts of life in the village of Atrisco are laced with lots of laughter and a few tears—of both joy and sadness. "While these shared memories record the colorful past of Atrisco heirs, they transcend heirship," said Esteban. "These stories are deep seeded in all of us; people throughout New Mexico can identify with these stories."

Esteban found that while the stories repeatedly told of a scarcity of food and other hardships, people didn't realize they experienced lack of anything because of their families, friends, and neighbors who shouldered the tasks of the day together offset the difficulties.

Henry Rael, cousin of Esteban whom he operates Arts of Aztlan with, serves as executive producer of the project under the direction of the Foundation. What Henry finds most enlightening in producing the documentaries is the experience of seeing the joy that people have when attention is given to their lives and story.

Because the Video Histories will be shared with those working on the Atrisco Neighborhood Sector Plan, the personal stories will have a practical application and a life beyond being told.

Approximately 50-100 stories will be captured on video. The next issue of *El Atrisqueño* will provide information regarding the availability of the documentaries for heir and public viewing.

"This project is a reminder that the stories of the Atrisco people are very valuable in shaping the future," Henry said. "They bridge the past to the future."



ATRISCO HERITAGE ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES THE FUTURE

Atrisco Heritage Foundation Executive Director, **Peter Sanchez**, was one of the invited guests to speak at an Open House to celebrate the new Atrisco Heritage Academy high school, which opened in October. About 500 freshmen attend the school in the completed freshmen academy. About 80 percent of the other buildings will be finished by this fall, with the high school to be completed in 2010.

“VIVA NEW MEXICO” BRINGS NEW MEXICO HISTORY ALIVE ON STAGE

“Viva New Mexico,” is a musical production that uses dance, theater and, of course, music to tell our state’s rich history. The result is a visually stunning performance that every New Mexican should see.

“Viva New Mexico” was created by Noberta Fresquez, who also produces and directs the annual production of “A Mariachi Christmas” which sells out at Popejoy Hall in Albuquerque year after year. The Atrisco Heritage Foundation is proud to help bring the latest Fresquez production to a broader audience.

Fresquez is an extremely talented producer, and “Viva New Mexico” is a unique presentation of New Mexico’s diverse multicultural history. Showcasing our rich and colorful past is very important in understanding our own culture today. But presenting history through the art forms of music and dance makes the entire experience more intense. The choreography, costumes and lighting are visually striking. “Everyone is going to thoroughly enjoy this experience,” said Peter Sanchez, Executive Director of the Atrisco Heritage Foundation. “This production brings history to life,” Sanchez said. “Young and old should walk away from this musical not only entertained, but educated about New Mexico’s past, present and future.”

Fresquez describes the production as “a musical based on flags that have flown over our state. We start with a brief narration on the period of our state being under water, later the land of volcanoes. We continue with the early humans, the hunters

and gatherers and continue with Ehecatl, Aztec dancers & drum.” The musical play continues with Pueblo Indians featuring Fernando Cellicion and the Cellicion Dancers from Zuni Pueblo.

“The first non-native flag that flew over our state was the Spanish flag,” Fresquez said. “During this period we feature Alma Flamenca from the National Institute of Flamenco under the direction of renowned Eva Encinias and Marisol Flores.”

For the Mexican period in New Mexico, Fresquez incorporates mariachis and folklorico dancers and singers to tell the story. For the Americana era, the musical comes alive with western music and dancers. The historical figures depicted in the musical include everyone from Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, the early Spanish explorer, to Jack Thorpe, who is known as one of New Mexico’s great cowboy song writers of the 19th Century.

The musical is tied together with flags and culture, as each period is narrated briefly highlighting the gifts that culture or period brought to New Mexico.

The play’s theme song, “Viva New Mexico” was written by composer Rick Huff and arranged by Robert Lucero Jr. “The lyrics to our theme song describes the essence of our message in this musical,” Fresquez said. Fresquez said the musical can be adapted to a shorter version for schools, and the longer version includes a contemporary period that is masterfully done.

Thanks to the support of the Atrisco Heritage Foundation, the musical will be performed throughout the state in various venues this year. The kickoff performance for Viva New Mexico is slated for April 25, 2009 at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. For more information on performance dates, times and venues, call Noberta Fresquez at 505-688-3538. Updates also will be posted on the Atrisco Heritage Foundation Web site when they become available or can be found on the events calendar of the National Hispanic Cultural Center at www.nhccnm.org.

Viva New Mexico

Viva...(aho!)....New Mexico!
viva..arriba!)... New Mexico
viva...yeehah!).... New Mexico
we live in an enchanted land

Together let us celebrate
Together our people proud and brave
Together we honor all who gave
and live in this enchanted land!

We honor our long history!
We honor what we’ve come be!
We honor what is plain to see....
We live in an enchanted land!

¡Aplausos!



GARY CANDELARIA, associate regional director for cultural resources in Midwest Region, has announced his retirement after 35 years of government service. After more than three decades of serving the American people in three agencies and numerous national parks offices, Candelaria said “it’s time for the regiment to saddle-up and ride-on.” Candelaria’s federal service began when he was in college at Oregon State University. He majored in forestry and worked seasonally for the U.S. Forest Service and Bonneville Power Administration, where he received a permanent appointment as a forester in 1974. Since then he has worked in national parks offices in Alaska, Washington state and Nebraska. In retirement, Candelaria plans to study Greek and Latin, “so I can read the classics in their original languages, as Thomas Jefferson recommended.” Atrisqueños offer their aplausos to Mr. Candelaria!



Executive **PETER SANCHEZ** has been elected 2009 chairman of the board of the National Hispanic Cultural Center Foundation. Sanchez is chief executive officer of The Atrisco Cos., which includes the Atrisco Heritage Foundation, El Campo Santo and Atrisco Oil & Gas LLC. “We look forward to Peter’s strong leadership that will guide the foundation to the next level of success on a local, regional and national level,” said Clara Apodaca, president and CEO of the NHCC. “The admirable dedication and commitment of the full board will allow the foundation to continue to achieve its important fundraising goals.” Sanchez called it an honor to be chosen by his fellow board members. “I look forward to working with them and the foundation staff to support the needs of the National Hispanic Cultural Center,” he said.

CAROLYN ORTEGA, Business Manager for the Atrisco Companies, has been elected to the *College Success Network (CSN) Board of Directors*. CSN’s mission is to create a stronger New Mexico by connecting



a network of leaders to ensure our youth have the information, preparation and resources for educational achievement. Ortega also is a Program Director of the Atrisco Heritage Foundation, where her duties include directing and assisting in the development and implementation of programs and services for the Heritage Foundation. Prior joining the Atrisco Companies, Carolyn was a Sr. Accountant for Gap Inc. Corporate Service Center. Carolyn has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting, she also has served as a former President of the board for the ALSA-NM (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association of New Mexico, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease). She has been affiliated with the ALSA-NM since 2001. Her mother died of ALS.



RANDY SANCHEZ, Chairman of the Atrisco Heritage Foundation Board, has been selected to be the *Chairman-elect of the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce* for the 2009-2010 year. In 2010, Sanchez will be the Chairman of the Hispano Board. Sanchez is the Senior General Manager at Coronado Mall. Sanchez has a bachelor of science degree in business with an emphasis in shopping center management and marketing from Columbia College in Missouri. He is a native New Mexican, having been born and raised in Albuquerque’s South Valley, where he graduated from Rio Grande High School.



JULIANNE CALDARERA, a senior at Sandia Prep High School, has been accepted to attend *Columbia University* in the fall. Caldarera said she plans to major in English with a creative writing minor at Columbia. Caldarera participates in many activities at Columbia, including writing for the newspaper and yearbook staffs. Her proud parents are John Caldarera and Donna Mayer.



Camp Invention: A Chance for Young Heirs to Show Off Scientific Minds

Does your child show creative thinking skills, like to invent, research and develop new ways of doing things? If so, your child might be a perfect fit for Camp Invention, a nonprofit science enrichment experience that develops all those skills and more over the summer.

The Atrisco Heritage Foundation will pay for 12 students entering grades one through six next school year to attend Camp Invention. The camp is held June 15-19 at Marie Hughes Elementary School. Atrisco Heirs can apply for the camp by calling Linda Blair at 505-836-0306.

Registrations must be received by March 31, and it is on a first come, first served basis. Participants in the program will get to partake in a Viking Treasure Trek, Comic Book Science, Fantasy Inventions and other exciting hands-on exploration.

Diamantes Luncheon Planned

If you are an heir, age 70 and over, the Atrisco Heritage Foundation would like to celebrate you in grand style. You are one of our special “Diamantes,” the diamonds we cherish in our heritage. If you are a Diamante, you are invited to a luncheon on April 17, 2009 at 11:30 am at the Embassy Suites in Albuquerque.

Please contact Anita Lucero at the Atrisco Heritage Foundation for more information. Her number is 505-836-0306.