

March 17-30, 2017

## Bee hive found in wall of historic UNM building by Rachel Stone

Spring brings a buzz to campus, and sometimes that means visits from local honeybees. Most bees just stop by for a cruise around the variety of flowering flora to collect their valuable nectar, but when they are discovered to have made a permanent home at The University of New Mexico (UNM) campus, great care is taken to protect these furry friends, even if they've nested inside the walls of a UNM building.

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*UNM Biology Annex Building Credit: Rachel Stone*

“About three to four times a year, we find bee swarms and hives on campus, and when we do, we do everything we can to protect them, and in some cases, we call local beekeepers to have them relocated,” says Felix Vallejos, [Integrated Pest Management](#) tech of the Physical Plant Department (PPD) Environmental Services.

Late last summer, a new hive was found established in a column at the front entrance of the historic Biology Annex building. Upon its discovery, it was unknown how large the colony was or how long it had been there. It appeared that the bees had entered through a tiny hole,

smaller than a dime, in the stucco. Scout bees are responsible for locating nesting sites that are safe for the swarm, and ultimately the queen bee. These sites are typically dry, dark cavities located up high. Once the scout feels it has found a secure site, it flies back to where she originated to communicate with the swarm by doing a characteristic “dance.” Together the swarm decides if it’s a good location.

Lisa Roberts, a local Albuquerque beekeeper and spouse to PPD’s own Dennis Roberts (Area 4 plumber), was called in to trap and relocate the colony found inside the wall.

“I keep bee hives at home, and I thought this would be a good opportunity to help these bees relocate safely,” says Lisa Roberts.

Roberts trapped the bees by placing a screen tube to the small hole in the building where it was believed the bees entered. It was then sealed with putty so the bees couldn’t re-enter the building once they’d left. The other end of the tube was placed near a “nuc box” opening, so the returning bees could move into the box when they returned from foraging. According to Roberts, it took about two months to collect all the bees living in the Biology Annex building, including the queen.

“It was apparent to me that this was a new hive of approximately 1,000 bees because a well-established



*Lisa & Dennis Roberts in front of the UNM Biology Annex building where a small hive of bees were found. Credit: Rachel Stone*

Bees continued on next page

### Bees continued...

hive has approximately 50,000 to 60,000 bees. This colony of bees are now living at my house doing what bees do best," says Roberts.

When a hive is found in the wall of a building, it's imperative to have it removed to maintain the building's structural integrity. Moisture from the hive can foster mold and dry rot, and in some cases can damage the wood studs that frame a building. This can be very costly to repair. Hives found outdoors on the University campus, can be left alone if the location of the hive doesn't pose a safety risk to the built environment of the campus or the people within it. There are at least two established hives on UNM's Main Campus that are known by the PPD Grounds & Landscaping staff.



*When bees swarm on the UNM campus, PPD Grounds & Landscaping barricade the area and posts signs to alert people of their presence. Credit: Rachel Stone*

Local honeybees are not considered aggressive and Vallejos says that the bees he's come into contact with on the UNM campus are very mellow and just want to find a safe place to colonize and find food. Swarms can occasionally be found on campus, so the Grounds & Landscaping staff will flag the area and place signs letting the community know that a swarm is nearby and to use caution.

Roberts said beekeepers avoid wearing dark clothing such as black, brown, blue, or red when working with bees because they associate the color with that of bears, especially during bee season. If the bees feel threatened, even by the color of one's clothing, a bee may sting.

"Bees just want to protect their hive, their queen, and their honey, so leaving them alone to do their work is the best thing we can do to help preserve our precious honeybees," says Roberts.

*PPD would like the UNM community to know that if you spot bee swarms or bee hives on campus, contact PPD Work Control at 277-1600 to notify the Integrated Pest Management staff. Never approach a swarm or a hive and it is never advised to spray bees with pesticides.*

*If you are interested in learning more about bees in Albuquerque, contact [Albuquerque Beekeepers](#) or UNM's student organization [UNM Beekeeping Club](#).*

## Deadline for PPD Outstanding Manager Award is Friday, March 31st

The deadline for the PPD Outstanding Manager Award nominations is quickly approaching. This award was developed to appreciate and recognize the qualities of excellence, leadership, and customer service in the departmental managers. Nominations will be accepted until March 31, 2017. Anyone at The University of New Mexico can nominate a PPD manager for this award. Nomination forms can be found on the home page of the PPD website: [ppd.unm.edu](http://ppd.unm.edu).

The winner will be announced in April 2017, and their name will be added to the permanent plaque that will reside in the Service Building. They will also receive a smaller plaque to keep in recognition of their outstanding leadership at PPD.

## PPD Safety Award Winners

There were two Safety Awards given this month for recognizing, reporting, and/or correcting safety hazards found on campus. Each award winner will receive 8 hours of leave in recognition for their efforts in keeping our campus safe. If you'd like to nominate a PPD employee for a safety award, please click below:

[PPD Safety Award Nomination Form](#)

[Premio de Seguridad de PPD](#)

Congratulations to both of you! You're "One Safe Lobo!"

Juan Hernandez, irrigation tech with PPD Grounds & Landscaping, received a Safety Award because he noticed and reported a loose tile (paver) on the south side of Zimmerman Library. Raised, loose tiles can be a tripping hazard. Great job, Juan!!

Frank Salcido, turf tech with PPD Grounds & Landscaping, received a Safety Award and Certificate for identifying an open telecommunications vault at Communication and Journalism, and an open electrical box at the City water pump house at Yale and Central Ave. Salcido set up a safety barricade to protect others from injury.

## PPD Director search update

The search for the new PPD director is underway, with a committee of seven individuals from around the UNM campus. There were 43 applicants who met the application submission deadline of February 25, 2017. Out of the 43 applicants, a total of seven applicants were selected to interview with the hiring committee via Skype. The seven applicants were selected for these interviews based on their qualifications and meeting the "preferred qualifications" for the job. Some of those minimum qualifications included:

- Ten or more years of experience directing a facilities management organization
- Proven ability to collaborate with a diverse group of individuals
- Considerable technical knowledge of the maintenance of buildings and related systems, building codes, and safety and environmental regulations.

The Skype interviews began last week, and will be completed this week. After the Skype interviews are complete, five applicants will advance to the next round where in-person interviews will be held at the UNM campus. The committee hopes that a new PPD director will be selected by the end of April.

# ISS Social & Happy Hour

You're Invited!





@ The University Club

Spring 2017 Schedule

<b>Wed 29</b> <b>March</b> <b>4:30PM</b>	<b>Wed 26</b> <b>April</b> <b>4:30PM</b>	<b>Wed 31</b> <b>May</b> <b>4:30PM</b>
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A great way to network and get to know your fellow ISS colleagues. Relax, mingle and enjoy complimentary appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages.

Beer, Wine and Cocktails Also Available for Purchase

## Building Coordinator Meeting Scheduled

The Physical Plant Department (PPD) will host a Building Coordinator meeting on Wednesday, April 5th from 9 - 10:30 am in the Bobo Room at Hodgkin hall. All PPD managers are highly encouraged to attend the meeting.

Any UNM employee who has been appointed as a contact for building issues and communications are encouraged to attend. PPD holds a Building Coordinator Meeting every semester in order to educate and collaborate on a series of important facilities topics: safety and emergency preparedness, building maintenance, how to place a work order, and general facility management operations, to name a few.

This spring meeting will cover the following topics:

- An introduction of the PPD Management Team: Shirley Mitchell, Chris Vallejos, and Jason Strauss
- PPD Engineering & Energy Services will discuss the wide variety of LED lighting projects they have completed on campus and the benefits of LEDs.
- PPD Sign Shop will discuss their process and services available to all UNM departments
- Tabia Murray Allred will discuss the reorganization of the Remodel unit
- Institutional Support Services (ISS) Information Technologies (IT) will highlight their projects involving security cameras on campus

The Physical Plant Department is excited and motivated to engage this community and to provide the needed resources to aid in the success of the UNM campus.

For more information on this meeting, contact Rachel Stone at (505) 277-7831 or [racheld@unm.edu](mailto:racheld@unm.edu).

## PPD employees will be recognized at Service Awards Ceremony

Every year, UNM employees who have reached a 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, or even a 50 year milestone in their career, are invited to a Service Award Ceremony on April 18, 2017 in the SUB Ballrooms. There are many PPD employees who were invited to attend this ceremony because of their dedication to the University of New Mexico, many of them being in the Physical Plant Department all those years. Here is the list of employees who reached these milestones in 2016. Take a moment to congratulate them on this achievement!

### **15 years**

Mary Clark, manager, UNM Sustainability

Sue Van Cleve, IT officer

### **20 years**

John Couch, supervisor of Maintenance & Construction, Area 2

Robert Easley, utilities electrician

Juan Quesada, lead custodian, HSC

### **25 years**

Kenneth Rawls, sr. technical drafter, PPD Engineering & Energy Services

### **50 years**

Irvin Romero, custodian, HSC

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## Kudos

Hi Dave,

I just wanted to thank Martin McPherson for organizing the roof repair and Greg Diaz for last minute installation of about 15 stained ceiling tiles in the hallway here at Physics.

We had a student open house Friday, and I did not want to make the ceiling tile request until the roof had been repaired, which also happened Friday. Your work, as always, is much appreciate here at P&A.

Again, we really appreciate Greg's quick response, and Martin's consistent help.

Sincerely,  
Gary

Gary G. Harrison  
Facilities Services Manager  
Department of Physics & Astronomy

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Hi, Diana,

Will you please relay to whomever how much we love Rodolfo [Sanchez Moreno] on Saturdays? I hope he comes back after today, because someone vomited in the women's bathroom and he had to take care of that. (I was SOO grateful, because I have had to do that before . . .)

He's always friendly and he does a great job. The Music Prep School and the Lab School love him!

Julia Church Hoffman  
Director, UNM Music Prep School

## Walk out on work Wednesday is scheduled for April 5th

The first Wednesday of April is The American Heart Association's National Walking Day. To promote awareness of cardiovascular health, Employee Health Promotion is sponsoring a campus-wide, Walk Out on Work Wednesday (WOWW) event on April 5, 2017.

Employee Health Promotion is encouraging staff and faculty at the University of New Mexico to become more active. By using their break time to add physical activity into their day, employees can make strides to improve their overall health and wellbeing. Walking is one of the easiest ways to start becoming more physically active, and requires very few additional tools or resources.

Be a Wellness Walk Leader in your area/department. Be sure to get supervisor approval and, better yet, have them join the walk! The length, route, and time of day is up to you. If you would like to be a Wellness Walk Leader, [email EHP](#) with your meet up time, location, and length of time/distance you will be walking for. EHP will provide WOWW stickers for distribution to participants after completion of the walk event. Walk Out on Work and lead your walk on April 5th!



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## What is Rocky Mountain APPA?

Rocky Mountain APPA, or RMA, is a region within APPA, the international organization, and every staff member at PPD is already a member of both. Why does UNM invest in being a member of this organization for PPD employees? There are many benefits that members receive in being associated with a professional organization. According to Monster College, there are five benefits members receive from professional organizations:

Jobs: APPA's website has job listings for facilities management positions all across the country.

Mentoring: RMA has an award-winning mentorship program called the 14ers Club.

Professional Development: All of RMA's initiatives keep this in mind. There are webinars, Drive-In Workshops, and Supervisor Toolkit trainings consistently taught around the region. These opportunities can be found on the professional development calendar on the RMA website.

Networking: The RMA Annual Conference is a great place to meet other facility professionals in our region. The next RMA Annual Conference will be held in Jackson, Wyoming on September 18-20, 2017.

Scholarships: RMA is all about giving back to the membership. Every year, several scholarships are given out to attend the APPA Institute and Leadership Academy, and also the RMA Annual Conference. To learn more about the RMA scholarships and how to apply, [click here](#).

For more information about the RMA, [click here](#).



## Staff as Students

The Staff Council Student Success Committee is hosting the bi-annual Staff as Students event on Monday, April 10th from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm in the SUB Ballrooms A & B. This is an event where the registration process is made available to staff before it is opened up to other students at UNM. This allows for the opportunity to register early and speak with advisors from specific academic departments. Come learn about the Education Benefit Program and how to take advantage of it to develop both academically and professionally. Representatives from Admissions, the Bursar's Office, The Office of the Registrar, and many academic advisors from various colleges/schools/departments will be on hand to talk one-on-one. Also, register for academic, professional development, and personal enrichment classes.

Please visit the [Staff Council website](#) ([staffcouncil.unm.edu](http://staffcouncil.unm.edu)) for more information.

If anyone has any questions, please call Mary Clark at 277-1142 or call the Staff Council Office at 277-1532.



MSC07 4200  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Phone: 505-277-2421



[ppd.unm.edu](http://ppd.unm.edu)

**The Physical Plant Department's mission is to consistently deliver effective programs and efficient facility service based on sustainable and collaborative outcome aligned with The University of New Mexico's core mission.**

**The Physical Plant Department's vision is that our community, state, and national peers will recognize The University of New Mexico's Physical Plant Department as a leader in campus sustainability and facilities stewardship.**