



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

October 19, 2011

Quantum Information and Control: UNM is proud to be home to the Center of Quantum Information and Control (CQuIC). The Center was established through a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to UNM's distinguished professor Carlton Caves, Professor Ivan Deutsch and colleagues from the University of Arizona. Research at CQuIC focuses on quantum information, quantum control, quantum metrology, and quantum optics. The Center has made UNM one of the most visible universities in this interesting research area, and has led to major collaborative efforts with Sandia National Laboratories. For more information see <http://www.cquic.org/>.

From Complexity to Simplicity: Must complex be complicated? Not generally. In fact, complexity is not always easy to spot, and it sometimes leads to simplicity. As described in the work of Eric Berlow, it is sometimes better to resort to complexity in order to display information. This is illustrated towards the end of his Ted talk (http://www.ted.com/talks/eric_berlow_how_complexity_leads_to_simplicity.html), when he shows that the infamous Afghanistan COIN chart (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1269463/Afghanistan-PowerPoint-slide-Generals-left-baffled-PowerPoint-slide.html>) may be better understood using complex systems theory.

Future of State Universities: Are state universities doomed to limit access and raise tuition/fees in order to survive? And, are state research universities becoming obsolete? On October 17, the UNM Office of eScholarship hosted Dr. James Duderstadt, President Emeritus and University Professor of Science and Technology at the University of Michigan to address this very issue. Dr. Duderstadt spoke about reinventing the research university to serve a changing world, and on the need to find different models to sustain higher education. A report by McKinsey & Company (<http://mckinseyonsociety.com/winning-by-degrees/>) recalls that, due to decreasing state support and increasing costs, higher education tuition and fees rose by 439 percent between 1985 and 2005. By comparison, healthcare costs rose by 251 percent during the same period. A recent report suggests that traditional universities, such as UNM, are ripe for disruption:

<http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Search§ion=Publications2&template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentFileID=8913>. I bring this to your attention because, as we start our academic planning discussions this year it is important to firmly establish the mission of UNM, while also focusing on building a sustainable funding model to support our goals. Some thought provoking ideas may be found in the videos at: www.futureofstateuniversities.com.

A PDF version of this communiqué is available at: <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/index.html>

Your feedback and input is welcome at: provost@unm.edu

Sincerely,

Chaouki Abdallah

Interim Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs