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University Centers of the San Miguel

Equitable Access to Higher Education is a

Matter of Social and Economic Justice

THE MENTOR

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NEWSLETTER OF THE NON-PROFIT UNIVERSITY CENTERS OF THE SAN MIGUEL

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FALL 2008 COURSES

ACCREDITED COURSES:

- PRINCIPLES OF MARKETING
- ENGLISH COMPOSITION
- ENGLISH LITERATURE
- EASTERN PHILOSOPHY
- EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES:

- SPANISH COMMUNICATIONS
 - IA, IB, IC, IIA
- COMPUTER APPLICATIONS
 - WINDOWS AND WORD
 - EXCEL
- GLOBAL ISSUES SEMINAR: THE FOOD CRISIS

REGISTRATION FOR FALL SEMESTER OPENS AUG. 25 CLASSES BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER

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UCSM Hires a New Executive Director

Since turning Telluride into a "college town" in 2005, the non-profit organization, the University Centers of the San Miguel (UCSM), has added staff and programming each year under the direction of founder and life-long rural community development activist, Sarah Silver. A search for a replacement for Silver began in January when she and husband Dean announced plans to retire to the west coast. "We are very lucky that our search attracted the attention of Robyn Wilson, who has the academic qualifications and personal commitment we sought," reports Silver.

Wilson comes to UCSM from Flagstaff, Arizona, where she

completed dual graduate degrees in community sustainability and multicultural/bilingual education at Northern Arizona University. During graduate school, she managed the Peace Corps recruiting office for Northern Arizona. From 2000 to 2002, Wilson was a Municipal Development Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador. Her projects included disaster relief, reforestation, and education. Her husband, Ryan Wilson, will be the new History and Technology teacher at Ridgway High School. The couple are experienced river guides, film makers, and environmentalists, "a perfect fit for UCSM's mission of affordable and



Robyn Thiel Wilson

accessible higher education opportunities for our rural population, says Carol Dix, president of the organization.

"UCSM is only one of two community-supported, higher-education organizations in the country," explained Robyn. "Ryan and I are grateful to live in a region that places such a high value on education, and are proud to be a part of it."

New Members on the Board of Directors

The UCSM Board is pleased to announce two new members this summer. Heather Exby, Director of Regional Programs for Mesa State College, has served as the liaison between Mesa State College and UCSM from its inception, and is a regular visitor to the Ski Ranches home of her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Dickinson of Montrose. Paula MacMillan of Placerville is a local business and non-profit management

consultant. She has held varied roles as a UCSM student, consultant, volunteer, and avid supporter over the past three years. Sarah Silver, founder and Secretary for UCSM, will remain active on the Board of Directors from her new home in Ashland, Oregon. She expects to continue to work with first generation college students there while pursuing a doctoral degree.

UCSM Board of Directors:

- President Carol Dix, MLIS
- Vice-President Joel Lee, Dr. P. H.
- Secretary Sarah Silver, MA
- Treasurer Lynne Beck, MPA
- Eric Nepsky, MA
- Yvette Henson, MS
- Paula MacMillan, BA
- Heather Exby, ME

BEAR CREEK VORTEX—HALF DAY CLASS INTO EASTERN PHILOSOPHY

Eric Nepsky, MA, UCSM board member and Mesa State Adjunct Faculty, finished off the summer semester with an educational hike up Bear Creek. The class discussed the spirituality of the preserve within the context of the Eastern Philosophies of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Taoism. "Combining spirituality with the local environment increases stewardship and a sense of place," said Robyn Wilson. This class was made possible by the Bear Creek Preserve Foundation and our supporters. Eric will also teach a six week Introduction to Eastern Philosophy class this fall.



New Partnerships Bring Fresh Ideas and New Classes to the Fall Semester

'Intercambio' Spanish Class

The University Centers of the San Miguel is partnering with the non-profit organization One Telluride to bring English language learners and Spanish language learners together. Spanish Communications classes have been popular since UCSM began, but the new partnership will be even more beneficial to both populations of language learners. Intermediate Spanish Communications (IIA) will be taught by Lauren Shaddox, Cultural Outreach Coordinator for the San Miguel Resource Center. She will hold classes for eight weeks this fall on Wednesday evenings. A period of time each class will be dedicated to an 'Intercambio' session where the two groups will be able to practice a specific theme for the week.

Don Mitchell of One Telluride explained, "We have had 'Intercambio' meetings in the past, but they were not organized. By working together, this will be a meaningful experience for both groups of people, and new friendships will be created." Although it is an Intermediate level Spanish class, Shaddox explained that she can work with people at different levels and that she will change the themes to enable people to continue to take the class each semester. This is an excellent opportunity to make cross-cultural relationships. If you are interested, please contact UCSM. Classes start on October 1st.

New Business Class

UCSM is happy to announce a new business education series that will begin in September. Mark Dollard, MS, local business owner, and Mesa State Adjunct Faculty, will begin this new series with the Principles of Marketing. This class can be taken for three Mesa State credit hours for fifteen weeks, or audited through UCSM for eight weeks. "The business community is a large supporter of UCSM, and we strive to offer classes that will be beneficial to them and their employees," said Robyn Wilson. Dollard brings years of accomplishments to the UCSM classroom. He received his Bachelor degree in Finance, and his Master degree in Marketing, both from the University of Colorado. He worked with IBM for six years as a business development manager and information technologies specialist. Currently, he is a successful real estate broker, with a local practice he has been building since 2002. Dollard brings a wide variety of experience from an international corporation to local, small businesses. This experience will prove invaluable when teaching business classes in a world-renowned resort town such as Telluride. The class will combine researched knowledge on consumer behaviors as well as real-world projects. "I believe that every business in the area would benefit from sending employees to this new series," said Wilson. Classes begin on September 9th.

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