

# Plame Wilson greets students, faculty

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The article was published in the *New York Times* and indicated that White House officials had exaggerated the truth concerning Iraq's ownership of weapons of mass destruction to justify going to war.

Plame Wilson said that the Bush Administration was upset with the column and subsequently leaked her secret status.

"It felt like I'd been sucker punched," Plame Wilson said. "We were called liars. We were called traitors."

She said that Cheney played a big role that led to her outing.

"We had a vice president that still had a chip on his shoulder from Watergate, who is concerned about a decline in public trust of presidential administrations," Plame Wilson said.

Plame Wilson resigned from the CIA in 2006 in order to move to Santa Fe, N.M.

She said that she loved that area and it was a great place to raise her twin children, a boy and a girl, who are now nine years old.

Plame Wilson said that moving to New Mexico has "given me a time to sit back, relax and say, 'What the hell just happened?'"

Had her status and identity not been publicized, she said that she thinks she would still be with the CIA and working overseas. Now that her name is public, she said that she's feared for the life of herself and her family.

"I could no longer



Valerie Plame Wilson signs autographs and poses for pictures after speaking to 500 people in GPAC Nov. 3 as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series.



Photo by Glory Attaochu

The former CIA operative spoke about how she lost her job after being named in a column by Robert Novack in 2003. She also spoke on her journey in getting her book published and moving from Washington D.C. to New Mexico. Plame Wilson also commented on how her life has changed from being a private person to a public figure.

function in any job overseas," Plame Wilson said. "Even though it's been six years [since being outed], it feels like six seconds."

Prior to delivering her speech, which lasted nearly an hour, she ate dinner with Chancellor Charles Jenkins, Vice Chancellor

for Student Affairs Dr. Diane O. Jones and other distinguished guests.

## Editorial:

# Student committee members face intimidation

By Wade Allen  
Editor

When I first arrived at UNCP in fall 2006, I was scared to death. I was afraid to get involved because everyone was a stranger. All I remember is that I just wanted to go to class and return to my dorm room.

Those memories are vivid even now as I reflect on my involvement in pol-

icy-making decisions at UNCP after nearly four years here.

Currently I'm a mem-

## Opinion

ber of the GPAC board of directors, the Friends of the Library board of directors, the student fee committee, the student computing requirement committee, and I'm chairman

of the GPAC student advisory committee.

You can see how I've really come out of my shell and got very much involved.

Somehow I manage to juggle all of these responsibilities with my classwork and editor responsibilities.

Let me set the record straight by saying that I enjoy representing the student body on these

boards and committees and truly wouldn't have it any other way.

### Student spot

On many committees around campus, there is a spot for a student representative. Some have one appointed by the Student Government Association (SGA), some have other students serving in that capacity and some do not have one at all.

The minutes of many committee meetings can be located online. They usually include who was present at the meeting and who was absent.

### Trend

Recently I've noticed a trend - many committees have a seat for a student representative, but it is either not filled or the committee member does not regularly attend the meetings.

The curriculum subcommittee has a seat for a student representative, according to the 2009-2010 UNCP student handbook.

That is a very important committee, especially for students. But no student is a member.

Many committees are just like this one - critically important but no student being appointed to serve.

### No student

Before I began service on the GPAC board, there had not been a student member appointed, although the seat was available.

This alarming trend made me wonder, "Why would students not want to have direct input on many of these important committees that directly affect them?"

Well, the answer struck me like a bolt of lightning on Nov. 3 when I was in a student computing requirement committee meeting in room 213 in the U.C.

There are three students on that committee - SGA President Arjay Quizon, an SGA senator and myself.

Looking around the crowded table at the other committee members, I noticed that 90 percent of them had doctoratal

areas.

The associate professor cut me off at the pass and made me feel inferior when I had finished speaking. In other words, the associate professor made me feel like my comment was not necessary.

I'm always one to admire leadership potential. Many people serving on this committee, and others that I'm a member of, are current or former faculty senators. One can conclude that these folks know the ins and outs of important meetings and I respect their wisdom greatly.

### Other students

It occurred to me that maybe other students had felt the way I did at some point in their service on a committee at UNCP.

Student representatives are appointed to committees for a reason, and that is to act in the best interest of the student body - after all, without students, there would be no need for professors.

I want to encourage faculty, staff and administrators to go out of their way to make students feel like their suggestions are understood and appreciated. Try to put yourself in the shoes of the student - it could make a big difference.

When committees meet, remember that we're all volunteering for that committee and we're all in it for the same reason - to make this University the very best it can be.

If students had a more respected voice on committees and boards, I believe that students would be more eager to serve on them.

UNCP has wonderful potential for continued growth let's all work together and try to care more about the issues and ideas and less about who gets the credit.



Wade Allen  
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