The 21 Club
Social, Dinner and a Talk
Monday November 12, 2012

The second meeting of the Fall Semester will begin at 6:00 PM at Los Equipales restaurant (4500 Silver Avenue SE). The meeting will consist of a social hour and dinner with cash bars and an after dinner talk given by Scott Collins, Regent's Professor of Biology and Loren Potter Chair of Plant Ecology at the University of New Mexico (Abstract on Page 2).

At the restaurant you can choose a mixed salad and your choice of *Pollo en Mole* (a quarter leg of chicken cooked in a vegetable and aromatic spice broth, smothered with an authentic poblano mole sauce and served with rice and beans), or *Snapper Veracruz* (grilled snapper fillet basted in garlic butter and white wine and served with poblano rice and vegetable of the day), or *Vegetarian Fajitas* (grilled vegetables including tomatoes, avocado, onions, poblano peppers, guacamole, rice and beans and served with corn tortillas). Coffee, tea, soft drinks and flan for desert.

To pay online go to http://21club.unm.edu/organization/LosEquipales.html and click the Meetings link or mail your check for ($22 per reservation) to:

The 21 Club
Physics and Astronomy MSC07 4220
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Note: to guarantee your reservation(s) your online payment or your check (payable to “The 21 Club”) must be **received** on or before Friday, November 9, 2012.

Searching for Ecological Generality:
Grassland Response to Fire and Grazing in North America and South Africa

Scott Collins
Regent's Professor of Biology and Loren Potter Chair of Plant Ecology
The University of New Mexico

Savanna grasslands in North America and South Africa are dominated by plants with growth forms: large, clonal, perennial grasses with scattered trees and shrubs. Both systems are also subjected to a common disturbance regime: frequent fire and grazing by mega-herbivores. However, one important contingency is evolutionary history. Extant North American grasslands are thousands of years old whereas African grasslands are millions of years old. Our research investigates how this difference in evolutionary history affects plant species diversity and ecosystem functioning in response to similar disturbance regimes.