

PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

I want to welcome everyone back after the holiday break. I hope you enjoyed your time off with family and friends and have returned back to campus rested, recharged, and ready to finish the semester. There is much to look forward to.

Hanging of the Greens

The university's oldest student tradition, the [Hanging of the Greens](#), will be held this Friday, Dec. 1. Student groups will work throughout the day, on Friday, to decorate the campus with thousands of luminarias, which will light the way that evening for the crowd of carolers through campus. The festivities begin at 5:45 p.m. at the UNM Bookstore on main campus, where the crowd can warm up with hot chocolate and biscochitos. From there, walk to University House, singing along the way. After the students present the official wreath to hang at the University House entrance, my wife, Catherine, and I will join the group and carol to Hodgin Hall for the holiday lighting of the "U." We'll conclude with a reception at Hodgin Hall from 6:30 until 8 p.m.

Reception attendees are encouraged to bring an unwrapped children's book to place under the tree at Hodgin Hall, as a donation to UNM Children's Hospital. The Mortar Board invites you to take luminarias home on Saturday morning. The luminarias will remain out until noon when the student organizations begin collecting them. Thank you to the Mortar Board Honor Society for organizing this iconic Lobo tradition.

Lady Lobos Win Thanksgiving Tournament & Set School Record

Congratulations to the Lobo women's basketball team, who have started off with a 7-0 season, their second-best season start. At its annual Thanksgiving tournament, the Lobos trounced Illinois to win the tourney for the first time since 2008—setting a school record for 3-pointers. Please join me in cheering on Coach Bradbury and these stellar student-athletes throughout the rest of the season.

McFadden Recipient of Kirk Bryan Award for Excellence

I would like to extend my adulation to Professor Emeritus Leslie McFadden, of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, who is the 2017 recipient of the [Kirk Bryan Award for Excellence](#), awarded by the Geological Society of America (GSA). This annual award is given for "a publication of distinction, advancing the science of geomorphology or Quaternary geology." Congratulations to Professor McFadden.

2017 Mandatory Training Reminder - Dec. 1 Deadline This Week!

The Dec. 1 deadline for the 2017 Mandatory Training is rapidly approaching. With just a few days left, there is very little time for all regular faculty and staff, temporary faculty and staff, on-call staff, and student employees (including graduate students), to complete the three designated university-wide mandatory

training courses. Go to Learning Central and complete your training today. For more information, please visit [Mandatory Training](#). To see who has and has not completed the 2017 Mandatory Trainings in your area, go to Learning Central for direct reports and HR Reports for your department and organization.

UNM Gives

Thank you to everyone who generously made a pledge to the United Way or the UNM Foundation during the [UNM Gives Campaign](#). Because we have received several requests from those who didn't have a chance to pledge, we are still accepting paper pledge forms through Dec. 21. Chancellor Roth and I still plan to each make a personal pizza delivery, if one department reaches a noticeable level of monetary donations, both on Main Campus and at the HSC. Paper pledge forms and instructions can be found at [UNM Gives](#).

Until next time.

Chaouki Abdallah

Interim President

Follow me on Twitter [@chaoukita](#)

There is so much more that happens on the UNM campus than can be conveyed in a weekly message. To find out about the latest stories and events, please visit the [UNM Newsroom](#), the central source of news and information for the UNM community.