



President's Weekly Perspective

Good morning.

A university campus is the ideal place for the complex issues we face in today's world to be discussed and debated, and the ways in which we express ourselves are just as important the positions we defend. When we use the word civility, it is in the sense of it being a basic personal responsibility – it is saying that I am willing to hear what you want to say, I am willing to listen, I understand you need to say it and I will allow you to do so. Civility is what allows speech to be heard. The values that hold us together as a university – including civility, diversity, and respect in our engagement with one another – are the foundation of the living and learning environment the campus offers our students, faculty, staff, and the communities we serve.

UNM CommUNITY

Earlier this year, I spoke with a number of leaders within the community, campus governance and student services, all of whom have a vested interest in enhancing and encouraging the process of creating opportunities for dialogue and action. In response to their concerns surrounding our campus climate, I called upon Dr. Tomás A. Aguirre, UNM Dean of Students, to chair the UNM Civil Campus Council (CCC). The Council is made up of UNM faculty, staff, student and other community partners and is charged with support civility on campus. Their hard work has produced the “CommUNITY” campus-wide civility campaign. CommUNITY initiatives include: a [civility survey](#) to collect data in order to identify all that UNM does to support civility and address acts of incivility here on the UNM campus; a monthly [Civility Speaker Series](#) developed to explore a broad range of perspectives and practice civility in a safe and welcoming space; and an annual Student “Civil Leadership” Institute open to all students that will be held during the spring semester and will include guest speakers and workshops that focus on activism, grassroots organizing, coalition building, and civil engagement. Please take a moment to visit the [CommUNITY website](#) to participate in the survey and find out more about the campaign.

Congratulations UNM Student Scholars

I would like to recognize two students whose achievements reflect greatly on the quality of our university. [Iric Guthrie and Jake Wellman are finalists](#) for two of the world's most prestigious and competitive scholarships the Rhodes and Marshall scholarships. Iric, an Economics major & Foreign Languages minor, is a finalist for the Rhodes scholarship, awarded to only 32 students nationwide. If he is awarded, he will study Medical Anthropology and Public Health at the University of Oxford prior to entering a medical school in the United States. Jake, our former Student Regent, graduated from UNM in May 2013 and is currently working as a policy analyst at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He is a finalist for the Marshall Scholarship, which is awarded to only 40 students nationwide. If he is awarded, he will study Environmental Economics and Climate Change at the London School of Economics. Congratulations to both our students for being finalists, and best wishes.

Green Fund Survey

UNM students are encouraged to examine complex societal challenges and develop pathways to

solutions, including sustainability. Our students have taken a leadership role in practicing and promoting the creation of sustainable relationship between our societies and the natural environment on which we depend. The University of New Mexico is establishing a Green Fund to promote sustainable projects on campus, such as Installing solar panels, increasing the number of recycling bins, expanding the community gardens, educational programs, implementing energy efficient measures, and starting campus composting. A committee of six students and two faculty/staff members will allocate funds annually on a competitive basis. This committee will be advised by an all-student council, which will aid in determining projects to be funded and corresponding allocations. Your input is much needed in assisting their efforts, so please take the time to complete the [Green Fund Survey](#).

Hanging of the Greens

The Hanging of the Greens is one of UNM's oldest student run campus traditions since Lena C. Clauve, UNM Dean of Women, began it in the 1930s. Back then, students drove to the Sandia Mountains where they would gather greenery that they would use to decorate the Student Union Building. The UNM Mortar Board Senior Honor Society now coordinates the event, where student organizations place more than 14,000 luminarias around campus in an unmatched holiday display. This year the Hanging of the Greens will be on Friday, Dec. 6, 2013. The festivities will begin outside the UNM Bookstore at 5:45 p.m. with hot chocolate and biscochitos. The caroling tour will begin shortly thereafter, making its way to University House where UNM students will present the official wreath to Janet and me. We will hang the wreath over the archway to our house as every president since James Zimmerman has done during the holiday season. In order to accommodate the growing popularity of the event, we will all then continue the caroling procession to Hodgkin Hall for the President's reception and a holiday lighting of the "U." The event drew a crowd of more than 1,000 people last year, so the change in venue for the reception is not only a wonderful way to showcase UNM's first building, but will offer the community a more spacious setting to enjoy music and refreshments.

UNM Students Show their Creative Works

It is always a when we can enjoy a hands-on sampling of the creative works of our students, and this week offers two opportunities to do so. International Education Week concludes today at 5 p.m. with the first-ever [UNM International Cook-Off](#). This is a competitive "Iron Chef" style cooking event hosted by the Global Education Office (GEO), Chartwells campus dining services, and the Student Union Building (SUB), which will showcase students' talents and promote cultural awareness and teamwork. Teams from six different countries will prepare recipes representing Russia, Korea, Mexico, China, Ecuador/Puerto Rico, and Japan. A crowd of hungry participants and judges (including, Janet!) will taste the results, and the team whose cuisine is deemed the best will win.

Later in the week, ASUNM is hosting the [50th ASUNM Arts and Crafts Fair](#). This is a student-organized craft fair run by the ASUNM Arts and Crafts Studio that has drawn 75 vendors from around New Mexico and UNM's student population. The fair will be held on Nov. 20-22 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily, in the Student Union Building Ballrooms.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob