



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

This week marks the last of the spring semester. For many of you, that means exams, papers and projects, and perhaps a sentimental last walk through the campus. Best of luck on your finals! For our students who are completing their degrees this week, my most sincere congratulations! This is a moment of great pride for you, your family and friends who have supported you in your educational pursuits, and for all of us at UNM. Whether you are an advanced degree candidate or an undergraduate member of the class of 2014, you are graduating from a distinctive university: distinguished in specific disciplines, but also incredibly broad; engaged with new ideas; culturally connected; home of the Lobos; and the flagship university for the State of New Mexico. I urge you to embrace change by being a part of what shapes it, and use your creative spirit to find opportunities within the challenges you will face.

To our nearly 4,000 new graduates, you are now a part of the [UNM Alumni Association](#) that is more than 160,000 Lobos strong. You have demonstrated your commitment to education and the betterment of yourself, and I have no doubts that you leave here prepared to lead the pack wherever you go. Whether you continue to grow your roots here in New Mexico or explore opportunities around the world, you will forever be a part of the Lobo family.

We are also honoring some special degree recipients this weekend. The History Department, with the help of the Office of Graduate Studies, is awarding [John Henry Hodges a "retroactive" master's degree](#), which will be dated 1938, the last year he attended UNM. Not only did Mr. Hodges study history, he lived it and documented his experiences in a journal. As a soon-to-be Centenarian, he is the embodiment of modern American history, and we are proud to recognize that contribution. Larry and Dorothy Rainosek will be awarded the honorary degree of Doctorate of Humane Letters at the commencement ceremony on Saturday. The Rainosek's, who own the Frontier and Golden Pride restaurants, have been a part of the UNM community for 30 years, and have contributed to it in many ways. They are well recognized for their strong work ethic and passion for philanthropy. This distinction is a reflection of the high regard in which they are held by UNM, and their true Lobo spirit.

I would like to extend a special thanks to our outstanding faculty and dedicated staff, who have challenged our students to be courageous, dedicated and innovative, and to leave their mark on the world. For those students who will be returning, and to those who will join me in working here throughout the summer, thank you for your tireless efforts during the semester and I look forward to seeing you over the next few months or upon your return in the fall.

Congratulations once again to the class of 2014, have a great week, a wonderful summer and, as always, Go Lobos!

Bob