



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

I am sure that this weekend was exciting and full of celebration for many of you. Two incredible University graduations and a plethora of college celebrations; on Saturday morning Humble Lukanga delivered, undoubtedly, [one of the best commencement addresses in 2014](#). Humble, a two-time Lobo degree holder, and child survivor of genocidal hate and poverty in Uganda, told the class of 2014 to measure their lives in the gratitude they experience. If you were not there, take a few minutes to watch his comments. For those of you who enjoyed Humble's talk, I'd like to offer a tip of the hat to my son Daniel. Shortly after I was appointed president, Daniel, who knew Humble through his work with professional athletes, came to me and said "Dad, Humble is the type of Lobo everybody at UNM should hear about." I think Daniel was right.

To our new alumni and our students who have completed another rigorous semester, take pride in what you have accomplished throughout the past five months and have a wonderful summer!

Collaborative Research Leads to New Discoveries

Our faculty at UNM are active scholars and researchers, who enhance the academic environment of our students and collaborate across academic disciplines to provide comprehensive research solutions to complex and multidimensional problems. Professor Yemane Asmerom and Research Scientist Victor Polyak, in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, grabbed international attention last week with their role in determining the age of a [human skeleton discovered in the Yucatan Peninsula](#). They were members of a team of 15 researchers from around the world, who determined that the bones found in 2007 were more than 12,000 years old. This research, which was published in the journal *Science* last Thursday, is fascinating considering the discovery was made in part from data collected from a single tooth and the mineral deposits left from dripping water. I commend Yemane and Victor on their dedication to this project. This discovery exemplifies the outstanding scientific outcome of collaborative initiatives with other leading research institutions.

Staying Ahead Over the Summer

With graduation fresh in our minds, this is a great time to consider the advantages that summer courses at UNM have to offer, such as tackling a difficult class or completing a core requirement. Summer course registration is open for close to 2,000 classes in more than 100 undergraduate and graduate subjects. As I mentioned in a recent column in the *Albuquerque Journal*, a big factor in students graduating on time is keeping academic momentum, and taking a summer course is a great way to do that. [Summer courses](#) offer an opportunity to earn academic credits in eight weeks, or less through half-term classes. Beyond the classroom, specially themed institutes or field schools, internships, immersive writing and foreign language experiences are designed for a distinctive and rewarding academic experience.

Reflection and Thanks on Memorial Day

Universities encourage diversity of ideas, freedom of opinion and the search for new ways of thinking. We are able to do so because of the service and sacrifice of the heroic men and women who defend our nation's constitutional rights. Next Monday, please take a moment of pause to remember the brave members of the armed forces who have given their lives in conflicts through the years so that we might remain a free nation.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob