



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

I hope that everyone is settling into the new school year well.

Cherry and Silver Ice Bucket Challenge

The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge has swept the nation, and I am happy to be challenged and, more importantly, to bring the whole UNM community into the campaign. Thank you to my challengers, Mayor Richard Berry, Western New Mexico University President Joe Shepard and Lobo Soccer Head Coach Jeremy Fishbein, for giving me this opportunity because the UNM community has been greatly affected by the disease and it is important that we bring awareness to the cause and donate to the ALS Association.

ALS has had a direct impact on UNM through dedicated Lobos like former assistant men's tennis coach Loren Dils, and the late-soccer player Pat Grange, to name only a few. There are many more in the Lobo family who have battled or supported a loved one battling Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

I will take the ice head on, but this is large cause, so I am challenging the UNM community to raise awareness and donations for our local chapter. I encourage all of our UNM students, staff and faculty to donate through the [Cherry and Silver Ice Bucket Challenge website](#), or donate cash between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in the SUB near Satellite. UNM Administrators will make personal donations to match what is collected between today and Friday, up to \$1,000. Come to Smith Plaza and watch as Lobo Louie and Lucy and the Chaparral Dance Team pour ice on me, Provost Chaouki Abdallah, Vice President of Student Affairs Cheo Torres, Dean of Students Tomás Aguirre, ASUNM President Rachel Williams, GPSA President Texanna Martin and the Lobo Cheerleading Team. The event is Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 10:30 a.m. in front of Zimmerman Library, and cash donations will be accepted there as well. I know this challenge will be uncomfortable, so I know better than to wear a suit on Wednesday.

Thank you in advance to all who donate. This is one of many important causes and I applaud everyone who gives their time or money to the ALS Association or any other organization that works diligently to find cures, solutions and ways to improve lives.

Events to Inspire Change

Two events organized to increase dialogue about the future of New Mexico will happen on campus next week. TEDxABQ will return to Popejoy Hall for [Whispers & Roars](#) on Saturday, Sept. 6. The full day event will highlight several New Mexicans who are passionate about inspiring change in the community. Thanks to our Student Fee Review Board 600 tickets are designated for students at the discounted price of \$25. Take advantage of this opportunity to connect with other innovative students and professionals.

The [Student Success Summit 2014](#) will bring together representatives from New Mexico's research universities to look at undergraduate education at research institutions. This event, which will be held Wednesday, Sept. 3, is free and open to the public. It is an opportunity for us to discuss statewide

successes and challenges, which will help advance higher education in New Mexico. Thank you to the Office of Academic Affairs for coordinating this crucial collaboration.

International Partnerships

Last week we officially opened our Mexico office, the [New Mexico Trade & Higher Education Center of Mexico City](#).

This joint venture between the University, city and state is fantastic because it will create more opportunities for Mexican students to come to UNM and for our Lobos to study abroad at our Mexican partner institutions. It will enhance the international experience that we strive to deliver to all of our students, a UNM2020 goal that also supports President Barack Obama's [U.S.-Mexico Bilateral Forum on Higher Education, Innovation, and Research](#) and [100,000 Strong in the Americas](#) initiative. This will all support the city and state's economic development.

Thank you to Vice President for Student Affairs, Eliseo "Cheo" Torres, for enhancing UNM's presence in Mexico. For nearly 20 years, Cheo has worked to establish and strengthen our relationships with institutions in Mexico and provide innovative opportunities for academic and cultural collaboration. His steadfast leadership expands beyond his role within the Office of Student Affairs to engaging and supporting various faculty in order to provide high-quality international educational experiences for students. I believe UNM was warmly received during our Grand Opening in Mexico City due to his efforts.

Sarah Belle Brown

The University's commitment to community service is carried out by our students, staff and faculty throughout the year. The [Sarah Belle Brown Award](#) was established by former Regent and Anderson School Dean Doug Brown in honor of his wife Sarah, who has devoted a considerable amount of time to numerous charitable organizations. The award, which has been given out for nearly a decade, recognizes people who volunteer to better our community. [Nominations for the 2014](#) award are currently being accepted, and I have no doubt that we will see a long list of service driven Lobo nominees.

Congratulations to Lee De León, Ciara Martinez and The Lobo Club for a very successful "Howl of a Good Time" auction last Friday night. This was the 12th year of the event and the first-ever to sell-out. There were 530 attendees and the event raised more than \$190,000 for student-athlete scholarships.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob