



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

To our students, you are almost to the end of the semester, and my advice right now is to study, study, study! I hope everyone does well on their finals this week and leaves for winter break with confidence and pride in your work this fall semester..

Fall Commencement Ceremonies

Congratulations to the fall graduating class of 2014! Welcome to the large, worldwide Lobo alumni family. I hope to see all of you at the [graduation ceremonies this week](#). The graduate commencement ceremony for doctoral and master's degrees is Thursday, Dec. 11, while the undergraduate commencement ceremony is Friday, Dec. 12. [Both ceremonies](#) begin at 6 p.m. at The Pit. The Presidential Awards of Distinction will be presented at the undergraduate ceremony on Friday. Congratulations again to our recipients, Governor Susana Martinez and Dr. Howard Yonas.

We have two outstanding speakers to look forward to this year, both Lobo alumni who have accomplished much since their time here. James Ellis, dean of the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California, will speak at the graduate ceremony and Shane Evangelist, president and CEO of U.S. Auto Parts Network, Inc., will speak at the undergraduate ceremony. Jim was on our varsity golf team and graduated with a BBA in 1968, then went on to receive an MBA from Harvard. Shane is a former UNM athlete as well and was president of ASUNM, leading the effort to begin the Student Fee Review Board, which still serves UNM in guiding fee decisions. He earned his BBA from Anderson School of Management in 1997 and his MBA from Southern Methodist University. I have no doubt that our speakers will inspire the students graduating this week to do so much after leaving UNM.

Valued & Valuable Staff

A few weeks ago I asked for stories of staff, faculty and students who go above and beyond in serving UNM and the New Mexico community. I have already received numerous stories of Lobos held in the highest regard. I look forward to sharing these excellent stories each week, and wanted to start by recognizing Wendy Kalberg, who has clearly left a lasting impression on everyone she has worked with. I received a packet of letters about her!

Wendy is a clinical research assistant with the Center for Alcoholism, Substance Abuse & Addiction (CASAA) and has been a part of UNM for more than 25 years. In the email sent last week, Research Associate David Buckley described her as "an exemplary staff member, supervisor, mentor and colleague to many fellow Lobos," and that easy to see after reading several letters about her character and contributions. Thank you Wendy for representing UNM so well, and for working diligently to improve the lives of many individuals, especially children and family members.

I also want to thank CASAA, one of our phenomenal centers, for the continuing research and services that make New Mexico and the world a better place.

WisePies Arena, aka The Pit

As many of you know, last Monday we announced the naming of the WisePies Arena, aka The Pit. One of our great student writers at the Daily Lobo made some excellent [clarifying points in a column last week](#) about the how this will benefit the University without devaluing The Pit. It is fantastic that there are so many proud Lobo fans with a passion for our basketball arena. It is one of our most iconic buildings and, as many pointed out, it will always be recognized as The Pit. With the new name we will keep The Pit's nationally recognized identity while creating strong ties to New Mexico businesses that aspire to be great national businesses.

This arrangement is great for the University, not only because of the significant donation to the University, but because it will bring WisePies Pizza & Salad so much attention. By working with a local business, we are upholding the same ideals that sparked Innovate ABQ: when New Mexico businesses thrive, so does UNM.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who attended the Hanging of the Greens last week, the Mortar Board Senior Honor Society for coordinating the entire event and UNM Student Activities Association for all their hard work. The luminarias looked wonderful, and the event was a huge hit, as always.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob