



## President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

### The Future Martian Man

Last Friday I met with [Mars One astronaut candidate Zach Gallegos](#) and Senior Research Scientist Horton Newsom at UNM's Institute of Meteoritics. They took time out of their day to explain their studies to me, to show off some of the institute's amazing specimens and to give me a tour around Northrop Hall. I cannot express how impressive it was.

Zach's dedication to Mars exploration is amazing. What is even more remarkable is this clear demonstration of the power of mentorship. Zach's passion matches that of the professors he works with, and he benefits greatly from their years of experience and wealth of knowledge. This is what it means to be a top research university. These are the outcomes of connecting ambitious students with accomplished researchers.

### LoboTHON comments

On Saturday, my wife Janet and I attended the [LoboTHON](#), a dance marathon fundraiser held in Johnson Gym for UNM Children's Hospital and Children's Miracle Network. This project has been one of Janet's favorite projects since Kyle Stepp asked her to become involved. I often write about different ways to give back to the community, because the Lobo community is a generous one. On Saturday, about 1,000 students created one of the more exciting and inspirational events that I have seen on this campus.

It is great to recognize acts of kindness and generosity, but it is much more impressive to see philanthropy in action. Thank you to everyone who participated in LoboTHON, and to all who contributed. If you would still like to make a contribution, go to <http://www.LoboTHON.org>.

### The Toy Factory vs the Fairy Tale

Two teams of UNM students in the School of Architecture and Planning are competing in the [Parade of Playhouses](#) as a part of a studio class lead by Matt Gines. The houses will be auctioned off to raise money for [New Mexico Appleseed](#), an organization "focused on improving the lives of the poor and underserved through systemic change."

I would like to wish the best of luck to both the [Toy Factory Team and the Fairy Tale Team](#), as they design and build their themed playhouses. I also want to thank the students and Matt Gines for the work they are doing in this studio, blending education and community service in such a fun way. Playhouses have come a long way since my boys were young.

### Lady in Red Brings International Recognition

Another UNM faculty member, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology Lawrence Straus, has captured

worldwide attention with the almost 19,000-year-old remains of the "[Red Lady](#)". Professor Straus and his students discovered the red-ocher-stained bones in 2011 inside El Mirón cave in Spain.

Congratulations to Professor Straus, who was honored last summer for a lifetime of commitment to the research of ancient human life in Spain. It is also worth pointing out that his discoveries offer valuable insight about the ancient people who lived on the now trendy "[Paleo diet.](#)"

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob

Provide feedback on the President's Weekly Perspective through an [online survey](#) that will be open through April 7th, 2015.