



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon!

Research and Exploration

Grant funding for research and academics is critical for advancing our mission. Grant recipients have opportunities to study, innovate and create. It is important that students know the benefits of grants, and how to obtain them.

To teach students how to apply for and win outstanding research grants, National Geographic representatives will be on campus offering a [Young Explorers Grants Workshop](#). The workshop will be held this Saturday, Sept. 19, in Lecture Hall 163 in the Anthropology Building. The event is free, but students must register in advance to attend.

The same day of the workshop, National Geographic presents "[An Evening of Field Research and Exploration](#)." Two esteemed explorers will speak about their expeditions and discoveries in the same lecture hall at 7 p.m. Thank you to the UNM Department of Anthropology for organizing and hosting these events.

I want to point out that the National Geography Young Explorers grant is just one in a long list of grant sources, and this workshop is one of many opportunities available for students to learn about the grant process. [GPSA](#), one more source of student grants, opened the [Fall Grant Cycle](#) last week, and [Graduate Studies](#) provides great support and information to students about grants and other funding options. I encourage all of our students and researchers to become more aware of and involved with the offices and programs that provide these critical resources.

Tobacco-Free University

In 2009, UNM became a tobacco-free campus except for certain designated smoking areas, which were to be phased out over time. A new task force has been reviewing the existing [Tobacco-Free Campus Policy](#) and the designated smoking areas. They have been discussing how UNM, including the branches, can better implement the policy and help those who smoke to quit. I would like to congratulate two members of the task force who work at the [Campus Office of Substance Abuse and Prevention](#) (COSAP) for receiving funding to further this initiative.

John Steiner, principle investigator, and Michele Cruz received the award from the Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Program of the New Mexico Department of Health for their proposal titled, "Reducing Adult and Youth Tobacco Use through Environmental Strategies." Thank you to, John, Michelle, the rest of the team at COSAP, and all the task force members for their hard work and innovation. The funding from this award will help us promote the health of our entire campus community, as well as that of other college campuses statewide.

Dr. Karen Abraham Courtyard

I am excited to announce that on Friday the [Board of Regents approved the renaming of the Hodgin](#)

[Hall Courtyard](#), east of Hodgin Hall, as the Dr. Karen Abraham Courtyard. Abraham is retiring this year from her position as executive director of the UNM Alumni Association and associate vice president of Alumni Relations. Over the past 45 years, Karen's contributions to this university have been incredible. The renaming of this area in her honor is just one way to thank her and recognize her outstanding service.

I want to point out a few of the highlights that led to the approval of this proposal. Karen has overseen two renovations of Hodgin Hall, the latest in 2005 at a cost of \$2.5 million. If you have attended events at the building or visited for any reason, I think you will agree that this is one of the most beautiful and iconic locations on campus. More recently she developed and oversaw the construction of a new outdoor chapel patio space, the [Alumni Memorial Chapel Garden & Celebration Wall](#). Karen also organized and planned the [U Project](#), the 12-foot bronze structure east of Hodgin Hall that is lighted in color to celebrate special occasions. Thank you to the UNM Alumni Association Board for the proposal, the UNM Naming Committee for presenting this renaming and most of all to Karen for everything she has done to support UNM.

Call for Honorary Degrees

Honorary Degree recipients are individuals who have contributed significantly to the cultural or scientific development of the Southwest, or to the spiritual or material welfare of its people. The Office of the Secretary requests nominations for honorary degree recipients. Strong candidates will be eminent individuals and scholars whose contributions are of general significance, and transcend geographical limitations. A successful nominee must have an exemplary record of academic or public accomplishment in keeping with the university's standards of rigor, quality and significance. Honorary degrees are awarded at spring commencement.

Honorary degrees are granted with great consideration, and the recipients are held in high esteem. Previous recipients include philanthropists and proud Lobo supporters Larry and Dorothy Rainosek, Senator Jeff Bingaman, and former University Architect Van Dorn Hooker, to name a few. More information about the [nomination process as well as the history of the award is available online](#). The deadline for nominations is Friday, Oct. 16.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob