



## PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

### LoboThon

The third annual [LoboThon](#) was a great success this weekend. I truly admire all the students who had the energy and altruism to make this fun, philanthropic event possible. The dance marathon, which had over 400 attendees, raised nearly \$26,000. Over the past three years \$95,317.77 has been donated to the UNM Children's Hospital.

### Student Employee Week

Thousands of student employees work in research, administrative support, and student support. The University benefits greatly from their skills and their insider knowledge of how to help other students. In jobs such as advising, tutoring, scheduling, recruiting, and orientation, student-staff members make UNM a welcoming environment and help everyone to excel. Furthermore, on-campus employment is a great way for students to stay engaged and make good progress toward their degrees.

Next week is [National Student Employee Week](#), and UNM will be kicking the week off with a carnival on Monday, April 11 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The festivities are sponsored by our Graduation Task Force Student Engagement Committee. Also, the annual student employee of the year awards ceremony will be held on Friday, April 15 in the SUB. Please help us to recognize our excellent student employees this week -- and remember to show your appreciation throughout the year.

### Human Origins and Italian Apes

In case you missed it, UNM Associate Professor of Anthropology, Sherry Nelson, had a great mention last week from the BBC. The article, Europe was once home to a wild ape like no others was sparked by joint research done by Dr. Nelson and Dr. Lorenzo Rook, from the University of Florence, Italy, on an ape that lived over seven million years ago in what is now Italy, called [Oreopithecus](#). I encourage you to check out this story, which analyzes the similarities and links between Europe's last ape and Africa's first hominin.

### Scholarly Excellence

Congratulations to two UNM students who have been nationally recognized through the Barry [Goldwater Scholarship](#) and Excellence in Education Program. Julian Vigil, a Chemical Engineering student in the School of Engineering, is a scholarship recipient who hopes to conduct research related to energy conversion and storage and teach at the university Level. Biochemistry student Randy Ko received an honorable mention from the organization. The recognition of these two students speaks volumes about their ambition and education. I am proud to see that UNM students have once again received this national distinction.

Bob