



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



November 8, 2021

Good afternoon, Lobos -

This Thursday is Veteran's Day, a time when we celebrate and commemorate, reflect on and remember our nation's veterans and their families. At UNM, we traditionally mark this occasion by gathering in the [Alumni Memorial Chapel](#), which was dedicated in 1962 to honor our fallen soldiers. In fact, if you look at the south wall of the chapel, you'll see the names of every member of our Lobo family lost in our country's wars. It is a list that continues to lengthen almost yearly, a somber reminder of our responsibilities as a nation, as well as our continuing respect for and obligations to our veterans, their families, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of our country and the common good.

We are honored to have so many veterans as part of our Lobo family and the UNM campus community. We are privileged to be named as [one of the nation's Top Military Friendly Schools](#) - and we're proud that our [Green Zone Training](#) helps ensure that UNM is a supportive environment for veterans and their families.

The families of veterans also serve in their own ways. I grew up with a father in the military, and I remember vividly the day I came home from school in 1969 - I was in ninth grade -- and my mom told me that my dad was going to Vietnam and that we would live in Georgia while he was gone. We left Arizona for Georgia exactly one week later, and my father left for Vietnam soon thereafter. So, I know about leaving one's school or community when a parent or spouse has a change in assignment—and of the uncertainty, one feels knowing a family member might be called away to serve or may even sacrifice their life in service to the nation. To all the families of veterans everywhere: we recognize the sacrifices you have made, too, and honor you as well.

Finally, [take a moment to remember the countless veterans](#) who are unable to join in on Veteran's Day events because they're still out there performing their duty, serving in deserts and tundra, jungles and oceans, communities and countrysides. They may be thousands of miles away, but they will always be close by in our thoughts, in our prayers, and in our hearts.

Celebrating Our 2021 Sarah Belle Brown Award Winners

Every year, I have the honor of recognizing one student, one faculty member, and one staff member as recipients of [UNM's Sarah Belle Brown Award](#), which was created and endowed by Regent Doug Brown to honor his wife Sarah, and others like her, who generously devote themselves to improving their communities. This year's Sarah Belle Brown Community Service Awards dinner on November 17 will be a special one, as we're not only back together for an in-person gathering, but we'll also be joined by our [three winners from 2020 who we were unable to](#) honor with a dinner in 2020 due to COVID restrictions.

Our 2021 winners are celebrated for their impactful community service and volunteer efforts, emulating Sarah Brown's ongoing commitment to helping those in need. This year's winners are Wendy S. Greyeyes,

Assistant Professor of Native American Studies; staff member and financial analyst Celeste A. Cole; and our student winner, graduate student Rick Rockett. Congratulations to these remarkable Lobos, who serve as examples of social responsiveness and who reflect The University of New Mexico's public service mission.

School of Engineering Kicks Off "Our Time" Initiative

The University of New Mexico School of Engineering has officially launched its ["Our Time" fundraising campaign](#) to invest in student empowerment and faculty excellence. This initiative aims to increase scholarship funding for students, provide new fellowship opportunities for graduate students, and invest in an endowed chair and professorships. The campaign was announced on November 3, at the celebration of the grand opening of the Dana C. Wood Formula Society of Automotive Engineers (FSAE) Racing Lab and Garage—a facility made possible by the generosity of donors. The Our Time campaign hopes to [raise \\$50 million by 2025](#).

Willard Lecture Explores Tony Hillerman's Literary UNM Roots

This year's [Willard Lecture](#) features award-winning biographer James McGrath Morris discussing the life and work of UNM journalism professor and mystery novelist Tony Hillerman, creator of the acclaimed mystery series featuring Navajo police officers Jim Chee and Joe Leaphorn. Morris, who spent several years digging through various UNM archives, will discuss the legacy of Hillerman, and how his experiences working for UNM President Tom Popejoy and serving as a faculty member shaped his work as one of the most successful mystery novelists of the 20th century. Hillerman's papers and manuscripts – including those for his influential novels *The Blessing Way* and *Skinwalkers* -- are digitized at the Tony Hillerman Portal project at UNM's College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences. Morris's lecture, [How UNM Turned Hillerman into a Novelist](#), starts at 6 p.m. on Thursday, November 11, in the historic west wing of Zimmerman Library, and is free and open to the public.

New Security Updates Coming to LoboMail, UNM Servers

This past July, in response to global trends and other emerging threats related to information security, I asked UNM IT to fast-track improvements to our internal security controls. Within the next few weeks, two major initiatives will be implemented. The first update, based on industry best practices, will [enhance the safeguards protecting LoboMail](#), while the second will implement [Endpoint Detection and Response \(EDR\) on University workstations, servers, and devices](#) to better detect and respond to cyberthreats. For the next few weeks, I ask all Lobos to please be patient as we deploy these updates. If all goes as planned, you should hardly notice a thing--and I appreciate the hard work by IT to put these safeguards into place quickly.

Native American Heritage Month Celebration Continues

As part of UNM's ongoing observance of Native American Heritage Month, our Department of Anthropology is making available [on its website](#) a wide variety of resources and information to spotlight the Native American experience and celebrate the history and culture of Indigenous people. The website recounts the history of Native American Heritage Month and provides site visitors with links to Native American history, scholars, events, research, news and organizations.

We're also very excited to share [more information about our Bachelor of Arts in Native American Studies](#), one of the most unique degree programs in the nation. Senior Student Success Specialist, Catherine Montoya, Ed.D. (Diné), very thoughtfully explains the history of the program, why UNM's program matters,

and how it prepares students for any number of career opportunities, from policy to sociology.

Meanwhile, keep checking our calendar of events for regular updates on [activities commemorating Native American Heritage Month](#) on campus and in our community.

Sign Up for Free Bench Seats to Lobo Home Basketball Games

With Lobo basketball season officially underway, and loud crowds returning to The Pit after more than a year away, I'd like to offer our hardworking faculty and staff the opportunity to attend a game in person. The Office of the President has several bench seats in Section R, Row 32 for all men's games, and in Section M, Row 16 for all women's home games—and I'm offering you the chance to take two seats for any home game this season. Faculty and staff may [sign up for one slot \(which is two tickets\) for any one men's or women's home game](#). To ensure tickets are available to as many people as possible, please limit your selection to just one slot for only one game. There's no catch and no cost – but it's first-come, first-serve, so if there's a particular game you'd like to see, grab the seats now.

Soccer Team Locks Up Mountain West Title

We had exciting news out of the Mountain West Tournament in Boise this weekend, as our [Women's Soccer Team beat Boise State in overtime to clinch the 2021 Mountain West title!](#) Congratulations to Coach Heather Dyche and the entire team for what has been a thrilling year. Their 14-4-2 record sets a school record for the most wins in a single season. Next up, they'll play BYU in the first round of the NCAA College Cup.

Please remember The University of New Mexico presently requires all students, faculty, staff, and visitors to wear masks at all times in UNM buildings, unless they are eating, drinking, or in an office alone. Please help us continue good public health practices (handwashing; staying home when ill; physical distancing, when possible; mask-wearing, etc.) so we all stay safe and healthy. As always, I appreciate your continued care and diligence in looking out for yourselves and our pack.

Have a good week, and let's go, Lobos!

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes
President