



President's Weekly Perspective

Good Morning.

We have a busy week ahead of us, full of activities and events.

Inauguration Week

I would like to invite all of you to join with Janet and me (and the rest of our family) this week to celebrate the Inauguration. Although the ritual will install me as the 21st president of UNM, the inauguration is about much more than any one person. Inaugurations bring together the entire community to mark a new beginning. We celebrate the university's history and reaffirm its mission, and honor the power of learning to change lives and change the world.

The regalia links us to the long history and tradition of education that extends back through time to the earliest universities. The tradition first began in the 10th century when clerics were also scholars. Robes and hats were worn as a way to keep warm in the drafty halls of medieval Europe. Over time, the robes became associated with learning.

We honor the past through tradition and we honor the future through dialectic. As an academic institution, we mark this time with academic symposia. On Friday, Nov. 16, I invite you to join us for two discussions. The keynote for the morning symposium, is my colleague, University of Tennessee President Joseph DiPietro, whose topic, Inspire: Flagship in Community, will be a discussion of how research universities affect and interact with their communities in the 21st century. Inspire: Flagship in Community, Health Sciences Center is the afternoon symposium and will discuss how academic medical centers affect and interact with their communities in the 21st century. The keynote for that presentation is also someone I have worked with closely, Charles "Chip" Rice, President, Health Services University of the Armed Services. For more information on the inauguration, please visit: <http://inauguration.unm.edu>.

Cover Story

In my inauguration speech, I speak about the quality of our faculty. I returned here because UNM is a great research institution. An example of that excellence will be featured as the cover story in the prestigious journal "Science" this week. The article features long-term research by an international group of anthropologists and earth and climate scientists who took a careful look at the impact of climate change on Mayan Political Systems. Their paper, "Development and Disintegration of Maya Political Systems in Response to Climate Change" explores the effect of variations in rainfall.

UNM contributors to that research were Associate Professor Keith Prufer and graduate student Valorie Aquino, both from the Department of Anthropology, and Professor Yemane Asmerom and Senior Research Scientist Victor Polyak from the Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences. Congratulations - three Lobo cheers to this group! We couldn't be more proud of you. More information about this research can be found at: <http://news.unm.edu/?p=33438>.

International Education Week

We are welcoming former Ambassador to Thailand and UNM alum William Itoh, who will speak on Tuesday at a luncheon during and the International Excellence Awards will be presented. The mission of International Education Week is “dedicated to encouraging our educational institutions, students and communities to become globally competent and involved through education and engagement.” The on-campus activities begin Monday, Nov. 12 and additional information can be found at: <http://studyabroad.unm.edu>.

I hope to see you at Inauguration. Have a good week, and Go Lobos!

Bob