



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and a restful break. Now it is time to gear up for the home stretch of the semester with finals only a week away.

Janet and I were fortunate enough to share our Thanksgiving dinner this year with five faculty members from universities in Mexico. They were part of a group of 96 (20 university faculty and 76 university students) here until Dec. 6 for the Proyecto Cien Mil, or the 100,000 Strong in the Americas project initiated by Mexican president Pena Nieto to bring 100,000 Mexicans to study in the U.S. Our visitors are studying intensive English as a Second Language in UNM's CELAC program. Now that they are officially members of the Lobo family, we wish them success in their studies and hope they will return to visit and study with us again.

Congratulations to UNM Scholar

I would like to recognize Ryan Roco, a UNM undergraduate studying political science, who was awarded one of the most prestigious scholarships in the world. [Ryan will receive a Marshall Scholarship](#) for graduate study at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. The scholarship goes to no more than 40 Americans each year to study at any British university academic program, so the competition for this kind of honor and opportunity is intense. Ryan is UNM's second consecutive Marshall Scholar recipient, which says great things about the intellectual caliber and dedication of the students studying at UNM.

Hanging of the Greens

Please join me, Santa and Mrs. Claus, Lobo Louie and the UNM Mortar Board Senior Honor Society for the University's oldest student tradition, the [Hanging of the Greens](#). The holiday tradition began in 1930s, when students drove up to the Sandia Mountains to collect greenery for Student Union Building decorations. It is now an unparalleled event for which dozens of student groups decorate campus with more than 14,000 luminarias. The festivities will begin this Friday, Dec. 5 at 5:45 p.m. in front of the Bookstore where you can enjoy hot chocolate and biscochitos. The Bookstore is also giving coupons to carolers for 30 percent off Lobo apparel so everyone can bundle up. From there, everyone will carol across campus to University House. After the students present the official wreath to hang on the University House entrance arch, I will join the group and carol to Hodgin Hall for the holiday lighting of the "U." We'll conclude with a reception and food for all who attend.

This is my favorite Lobo holiday tradition. It is distinctly New Mexican and entirely student organized! Thank you to the Mortar Board Senior Honor Society for coordinating this event, and to all of the students who will be setting up the luminaria displays throughout campus. Carolers are encouraged to bring an unwrapped children's book to leave under the Hodgin Hall tree. The books will be donated to the UNM Children's Hospital. One of the other great benefits of this event is that you are encouraged to take the luminarias on Saturday morning before noon to decorate your own home. Recycling and "re-gifting" is a great way to extend the tradition!

United Way Campaign Extension & Competition

The [UNM United Way Campaign](#) deadline has been extended to Monday, Dec. 8, one week from today. UNM has done well in our giving commitments, but we want to give it one final push in the home stretch to meet our goal and help United Way charities as much as possible. As an added bonus, UNM Athletics has donated suite tickets for a men's basketball game to the department with the largest percentage increase from what they gave last year to what has been given or committed this year. I know that our employees are compassionate and give a lot, and we want to reward the department that most exceeds its giving goal. For questions about this competition, please contact Kenedi Hubbard at kthubbard@unm.edu.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob