



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



March 1, 2021

Good afternoon, Lobos -

As we make our way into March, we note with pride that this is Women's History Month, a time for commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history. Inspired by a 1978 Women's History Week celebration that began in California and was quickly taken up by other communities across the nation, President Carter issued the first proclamation to declare a week of March 1980 as National Women's History Week. By 1987, the week had been extended to a month—and that's still an awfully short amount of time to celebrate the accomplishments of so many extraordinary women in our nation's history.

Countless names deserve to be better known—like Susan La Flesche Picotte, the first American Indian woman to earn a medical degree in the United States. Dr. Picotte graduated from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1889 and returned to practice medicine on the Omaha reservation, where she traveled widely, caring for patients in the remote reaches of the reservation, and fought for reforms in public health care.

If you've ever complained about your computer having a bug, you're channeling computer scientist—and rear admiral—Grace Murray Hopper, who coined the term in the 1950s while hard at work on a compiler to translate the English language into computer code. She also led the team that developed the computer language COBOL, and later developed standards for debugging—that is, testing computer systems and components. When your phone apps update overnight, you can thank Hopper for making sure they work.

I'm also inspired by Dr. Ellen Ochoa, who became the first Latina in space when she flew on the Space Shuttle Discovery in 1993—her first of four flights. A former researcher at Sandia National Laboratories, Dr. Ochoa would become the first Latina director of NASA's Johnson Space Center when she was named to the post in 2013.

And, of course, thanks to author Margot Lee Shetterly, we've learned of the remarkable Black women mathematicians—Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson—who were pivotal in the efforts to send Americans into space. Clearly, women have been on the front lines of our history for as long as we've been a nation—though many of their achievements remain anonymous or uncredited to this day, still awaiting the writers and researchers who will discover them and tell their stories.

Here at The University of New Mexico, we're writing those stories now, through the many inspiring women we call our students, colleagues and leaders. The pioneering efforts of [Advance at UNM](#), our initiative to recruit, retain, and promote women and minorities in STEM, has also promoted the success and vision of countless remarkable Lobo faculty. In fact, Advance is presently [calling for proposals](#) to fund a variety of research projects for women faculty in UNM's STEM fields, and I'm delighted we can support, and reward, their dedication and excellence.

Finally, I'm also grateful for the continuing support provided by the UNM [Women's Resource Center](#), which has been advocating for women since 1972. The resource center provides valuable services such as counseling, programs on protection from violence, mentoring, and—when conditions permit again—even a safe and family-friendly computer pod, stocked with plenty of toys for children to use while you work.

This month, I hope you'll take a moment to reflect on the known and unknown contributions of women in our history and in our own lives—and if you're so inclined, [check out one of the many related books available from UNM Press](#).

Multi-Factor Authentication Will Be Required for Many UNM IT Services

To provide additional protection for your sensitive personal and financial data from cyber threats, [UNM IT will be requiring multi-factor authentication \(MFA\) for all Main Campus NetIDs \(unm.edu\) beginning March 23](#). If you have already registered a device to your Bursar Account Suite or Loboweb, no further action is needed. If you haven't yet registered a device, you will need to add this additional verification to your unm.edu account by [registering it here](#). To reduce the number of times you'll be asked for MFA, once you've verified your account, many services will provide the option of staying logged in. Given the recent cyberattacks on some of our largest government- and private sector entities, it is vital that we work together to protect our pack by adding this additional layer of protection to online accounts and information. For more information on MFA, please visit [FastInfo 7823](#). For assistance with UNM IT services, you can contact UNM IT Customer Support Services at 277-5757.

UNM Geography Professor Offers Insight on Mapping Mars

As we continue to watch the dramatic images—and even hear the sounds—being broadcast from the NASA Mars Perseverance rover, [Dr. Maria Lane, a UNM professor of Geography, is likely able to pinpoint exactly what we're seeing](#). Her book, [Geographies of Mars](#), offers a history of Martian mapmaking, a fascination that began as early as 1877 in Italy and continues today from the surface of the red planet. Dr. Lane provides additional insights and context in a [recent article in National Geographic](#)—and you won't believe how contentious Martian mapmaking can be.

Lobo Student Among Finalists for Truman Scholarship

I was delighted to learn that one of our Lobo students, Emma Hotz, was recently announced as a [finalist for the 2021 Truman Scholarship](#). Presented annually by the Truman Foundation to honor the 33rd President of the United States, the Truman Scholarship is awarded to students who plan to attend graduate school to prepare for careers in public service. Hotz, who is studying political science and sociology and has been an active leader in student government, plans to complete her MPP and JD, with concentrations in Human Rights and Social Justice. She'll be interviewed by the Foundation later this month, and I know the entire UNM community joins me in wishing her well.

Team Research Symposium Opens for Registration

As the state's only Carnegie-designated Research 1 institution, the innovations and opportunities being developed here are one of the greatest stories we have to tell as the University for New Mexico. To support and promote the research efforts of our faculty and students throughout campus, [UNM's Grand Challenges](#) and the [Interdisciplinary Science Cooperative](#) have joined together to present the inaugural [Team Research Symposium](#), which will be held virtually from Tuesday, April 20 through Thursday, April

22. [Registration opens today](#) and a [call for presenters](#) will be issued shortly for those interested in presenting their work during select sessions. The Team Research Symposium promises to be an annual point of pride for the University that celebrates and strengthens research outcomes throughout our community.

As always, here's your regular reminder to please make sure you've [registered with the New Mexico Department of Health to receive the COVID-19 vaccine](#) when it becomes available. In the meantime, please remain diligent about wearing your mask, washing your hands, and maintaining a safe, physical distance from others.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and let's go, Lobos!

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes
President