



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



July 26, 2021

Good afternoon, Lobos –

We've arrived at the final week of the Summer 2021 semester, and I want to thank our entire faculty and staff for making this a safe and extraordinary semester for more than 6,300 Lobo summer school students.

As in 2020, the Summer 2021 semester was conducted mostly online, with options for some carefully managed hybrid instruction. I know it has been a long 16 months of interacting with each other on laptops, desktops, phones, and tablets, but as we begin to return to some sense of normality, I want all of you to know that it has been a privilege to watch you learn, work, live and thrive under some incredibly unusual and often difficult circumstances. I continue to be inspired and impressed by each and every one of you.

We are still working hard to prepare our campus for a successful return to full operations and in-person instruction for the Fall semester—and you can do your part to ensure we reopen safely by getting fully vaccinated and encouraging others to do the same. With the goal of protecting our entire community, we're continuing to offer some great [incentives for students, faculty and staff who show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination](#). As of this afternoon, more than 7,500 of you have verified proof of full vaccination; thank you for taking care of yourselves, and each other.

If you haven't done so, please [register for vaccination](#), and [look for a convenient location near you](#) to receive it. It's easy, it's safe, and it's free—and it's also the best thing you can do to protect our pack and help us get ready for an incredible Fall semester. We are also continuing to monitor the latest guidance from federal, state, and local sources, and if our policies or protocols change, we'll let you know immediately. As always, keep watching your inboxes and referring to our [Bringing Back the Pack website](#) for the latest information on a safe return to campus.

In the meantime, congratulations to our Summer 2021 students, faculty, and staff as you bring a successful semester to a close.

Cancer Center Scientist Explores Resurgence One Cell at a Time

As a cornerstone of New Mexico's only tier 1 public research (R1) institution, UNM's Health Sciences Center is home not only to compassionate caregivers and remarkable educators, but also to some of the world's most innovative, cutting-edge researchers who are studying problems and asking questions that improve lives. Dr. Sara G.M. Piccirillo, an assistant professor at the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center, with the help of \$850,000 in grants from the American Association for Cancer Research and the Ben and Catherine Ivy Foundation, is leading a team [conducting exciting research in the spread of brain cancer cells, with a focus on residual disease](#)—that is, the cells that are left behind and continue to spread

even after surgery and cancer treatment. Notably, Dr. Piccirillo is using new technologies at UNM that allow her to dissect tumors at the single-cell level, allowing for more precise cellular analysis. This is a potentially groundbreaking study in the treatment of brain cancer, and it is only the beginning for Dr. Piccirillo and her team.

Exercise Physiology Lab Helps Prepare Lobo Athlete for Summer Olympics

Given our altitude and great weather, gifted athletes from all over the world can often be found training at UNM's state-of-the-art athletic facilities. For one athlete, however, Albuquerque's often moderate temperatures and low humidity was the last thing he wanted; instead, former Lobo runner and current Olympic athlete Josh Kerr wanted a place where he could prepare for the often brutal and sticky weather conditions in Tokyo, and [our Exercise Physiology Lab was happy to help](#). Utilizing an environmental chamber that has been used in the past to train firefighters and military personnel working in adverse conditions, the lab has been able to simulate the humid conditions under which Kerr will be competing. Kerr is one of [ten former and current Lobo athletes and staff who will be representing a variety of nations at the Olympics in Tokyo](#).

New Information Security Controls Coming in 2021-2022

In response to global trends and other emerging threats related to information security, I have instructed our Chief Information Officer (CIO) to make a focused effort on accelerating our security controls in 2021-2022. Additional details will be coming from the Office of the CIO shortly, so please continue to watch your inboxes. Protecting our systems and users from cyber threats remains of the highest priority, and I appreciate your support for this important initiative.

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes
President