



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



February 14, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos --

At The University of New Mexico, we are proud that “each of us defines all of us.” When it comes to our incredible faculty, that has never been truer. A university is many things at once—from cultural epicenter to community oasis—but at its heart, it’s a place for expanding minds, encouraging exploration, and inspiring imaginations. That puts our faculty at the very center of our mission as a university, and they deliver every day. Even as our Spring semester is barely a month old, there is already much to celebrate about our remarkable Lobo faculty.

There are almost too many to count, but I’ll mention a few from just these past weeks, starting with the announcement of the [election by the American Association for the Advancement of Science \(AAAS\) of two Lobo professors to the latest class of AAAS Fellows](#), a distinction granted to honorees who have gone above and beyond in their respective disciplines. Included in this year’s class of only 564 distinguished scientists, engineers, and innovators are UNM Distinguished Professor of Chemistry **Hua Guo**, a theoretical and computational chemist, and **Wirt Wills**, Anthropology Professor and Regents Lecturer, and director of the Chaco Canyon Archaeological Research Lab. Guo was hailed for his “distinguished contributions to the field of computational and theoretical chemistry,” while Wills was celebrated for his “distinguished contributions to the field of archaeology and human land use in arid environments.” Congratulations to our latest AAAS Fellows; they do all Lobos proud.

Two more Lobo professors were honored recently as [the recipients of this year’s Research and Creative Works Leadership Awards](#), **Levi Romero**, associate professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies, and **Richard Antoine White**, professor of tuba/euphonium in the Department of Music. The Research and Creative Works Leadership Awards are presented to faculty who have accomplished outstanding research or creative works in their respective career stage and are selected by the provost after a rigorous external review. I am delighted to see Professors Romero and White honored with this award.

I’m also very proud of English professor **Nahir Otaño Gracia**, who was recently [awarded the 2022 Article Prize](#) by The Medieval Academy of America Article Prize in Critical Race Studies for her article “Towards a decentered Global North Atlantic: Blackness in Saga af Tristram ok Ísodd.” In bestowing this prize, the Academy praised Gracia’s article as, “impressive for its erudition, originality, rigor, and critical acuity”—all hallmark traits of the Lobo pack.

And finally, congratulations to **Nicholas Edwardson**, professor of health administration in the UNM School of Public Administration, who is [serving as the 2022 Professional Development Workshop \(PDW\) Chair for the Health Care Management \(HCM\) Division of the Academy of Management](#). With close to 18,000 members in more than 100 nations, the Academy of Management is the leading professional association for management

scholars worldwide, and Professor Edwardson is bringing global recognition and acclaim to our program in his role as Chair.

These are only a few of the remarkable achievements of our extraordinary faculty, and I continue to appreciate each and every one of you. I am always impressed and inspired by your expertise, enthusiasm, and absolute commitment to serving the educational needs of one of the most engaged and diverse student bodies in the nation. Your compassion and professionalism are a true reflection of our objectives as a university and make me proud to be your president.

Explore Mysterious Inner Worlds at UNM Art Museum

For the first time since the beginning of the pandemic, The UNM Art Museum will open the doors of its Main and Van Deren Coke Galleries on February 18 for the [opening of the exhibit Mysterious Inner Worlds](#). This is the first solo exhibition in New Mexico spotlighting – literally – the work of Anila Quayyum Agha, and [featuring four sculptures activated by light](#), including the large-scale light installation titled Intersections, which uses light and shadow to turn the entire gallery, and all observers, into part of the exhibit. Mysterious Inner Worlds will be on view through July 2, and is, as always, free and open to the public.

Registration Now Open for 2022 UNM Health Hackathon

The [UNM Health Hackathon](#) is back! I encourage those who want to bring their skills and expertise to join forces with clinicians, engineers, entrepreneurs, programmers, scientists, faculty and students to innovate, design, and create unique, marketable, solutions addressing pressing healthcare problems. UNM's Clinical & Translational Science Center (CTSC), supported by ASCEND HUB, Rainforest Innovations, School of Engineering, College of Pharmacy, College of Nursing and the Anderson School of Management, will hold the Health Hackathon on March 25-27, 2022. [Registration is open until March 1](#), and the event is free, but spaces are limited.

New this year is a [Hackathon Jumpstart event](#), which will be held on February 23 from 5:30-7 p.m. at [UNM Rainforest Innovations](#), which will provide information about the Hackathon and how to pitch business ideas, as well as a presentation on the process of design thinking by Nancy Lewis, director of The Canopy for Creative Collaboration at the UNM Innovation Academy.

2nd Annual Team Research Symposium Coming in April

With the overwhelming success of last year's inaugural (and virtual) [Team Research Symposium](#)—which saw nearly 200 attendees from around the nation sharing best practices and promoting the outstanding impacts our research teams have on our communities—I'm pleased we're back again with another symposium. This year's free, campus-wide event, presented by the [Interdisciplinary Science Cooperative](#) and [Grand Challenges](#), will be held April 19-21, and will feature sessions that bring in innovators and stakeholders, from local industry to our alumni. A call for proposals is now open for select sessions, and all faculty are encouraged to apply. A special session for our [alumni](#) is also accepting submissions for presenters, and students are encouraged to enter the [Student Team Research Concept](#) competitions for a chance to win a grand prize of \$2,000 to split among their team. Here's to another successful team building, and community-building, experience.

Celebrating BeKind UNM Week

Our annual [BeKind UNM Week begins today](#), when we spread kindness and give back to those in need in our community. Among this week's notable events are the [Teddy Bear Toss](#) at the Lobo men's basketball game on Tuesday, February 15 at 7 p.m. in The Pit, where fans can bring a new stuffed animal to toss onto the court at the half, to benefit the Albuquerque Police Department and the Albuquerque Fire and Rescue. On Thursday is the [Kindness Carnival](#), from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in SUB Ballroom A, where organizers will be collecting food and toiletry donations for the Lobo Food Pantry.

Your COVID-19 Reminders

Please remember that The University of New Mexico requires all students, faculty, and staff to be fully vaccinated, which includes making sure you've received your booster shot, when eligible. Once you have your shot, let us know by reporting it on the [Lobo Vaccine Verification portal](#). UNM also requires all students, staff, and faculty to wear three-ply (or better) medical/health procedure masks. Complimentary masks are presently available in a variety of locations, including Johnson Recreation Center, the SUB, and high-traffic classroom buildings like Mitchell, Dane Smith, and Woodward Halls, and the Collaborative Teaching and Learning Building (CTLB).

Remember, if you're not feeling well, stay home and please be sure to follow the guidance for [Managing Symptoms, Exposure and Positive Cases](#). Employees may be able to utilize "situational telecommuting," allowing them to work from home rather than coming to campus or taking leave. Employees who aren't able to telework may be eligible for additional paid time off via [UNM's Additional COVID-19 Paid Leave program](#)—staying home when you're feeling sick is a foundational COVID-19 Safe Practice! Thank you for your continued diligence and care for the entire Lobo community.

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes
President