



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



March 7, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos --

Every week seems to bring more news about the amazing accomplishments of our incredible Lobo students and faculty, who make The University of New Mexico such an extraordinary institution. We are proud that UNM remains a place where each of us defines all of us--where we as a pack take considerable pride in celebrating the achievements of our individual Lobos.

To begin with, I was thrilled to learn that **Darcy Barron**, an assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, has been [presented with a prestigious Cottrell Scholar Award by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement](#). The Cottrell Scholar Award is presented to teacher-scholars for innovation in their research and their potential for academic leadership; in the case of Dr. Barron, she was [cited for her innovative research on new ways of studying our universe](#). Congratulations, Dr. Barron, on this incredible achievement.

I'm also excited about the most recent accomplishment of History professor **Tiffany Florvil**, who just [received the Waterloo Centre for German Studies prize for her research](#), presented in her book *Mobilizing Black Germany: Afro-German Women and the Making of a Transnational Movement*. The Waterloo Centre for German Studies supports and promotes research on all aspects of the German-speaking world, and Prize jurors called *Mobilizing Black Germany* an "immensely important book" that charts new ground in German social history. Well done and Herzlichen Glückwunsch, Dr. Florvil!

Among our amazing Lobo students, I'm pleased to recognize **William Crockett**, presently pursuing a double major in Physics & Astronomy and Biology, who has been [accepted into the Santa Fe Institute \(SFI\) summer research program on complex systems science](#). As part of the ten-week program, William will work with an SFI mentor to develop and carry out an independent research project as preparation for the next step in his academic career, which, he says, includes pursuing his doctorate in computational biology.

And finally, at least for this week, congratulations to the LoboEats team--**Sarita Cargas, Emily Castle, Amiah Dutra, Jane Keth, and Biraj Silwa**--as the winners of the ninth annual Mobile App Contest, which provides students from UNM and Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) with the opportunity to develop and apply coding skills to make useful mobile applications for the community. And I love this: the LoboEats team's winning app connects UNM students with offices that have food left over from catered events, with the dual purpose of preventing food waste and feeding hungry Lobos--the kind of innovative approach to a pressing problem that defines Lobo research and one that creatively merges science and compassion.

As always, I'm impressed by the expertise, enthusiasm, and empathy of our faculty, staff, and students. Your accomplishments are truly inspiring, and our entire pack is proud of you.

Office of International Health Redesignated as WHO Collaborating Center

As the state's only teaching hospital, we proudly embrace our responsibility for protecting public health not just in New Mexico, but across the nation—and around the world. I'm thrilled, then, that the Office of International Health at The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM HSC) has recently been [redesignated as a collaborating center by the World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization \(WHO/PAHO\)](#). Under this designation, UNM will continue to provide training for universities and health programs in member countries that advance social accountability and interprofessional education, another shining example of UNM's health care professionals doing more and doing good.

Chancellor at UNM-Gallup Stepping Down

Since my arrival at The University of New Mexico, it has been a real pleasure to work with Dr. James Malm, who has served as chancellor of UNM-Gallup since 2017, and who has led our branch campus in western New Mexico with determination and vision. Dr. Malm recently informed us that when his appointed term comes to an end on June 30, 2022, [he has opted to step down from his position and return to his first passion—teaching](#). It's certainly hard to compete with that, but we'll miss him and his steady hand on the wheel in Gallup.

Effective July 1, 2022, Professor Sabrina Ezzell, currently Chair of Education, Health, and Human Services at UNM-Gallup, will assume the role of Interim Chancellor as we begin our search for the next leader of UNM-Gallup. My thanks to Dr. Malm for his service and leadership—and especially for his hard work on behalf of our students.

Artoo, Brute?

As New Mexico's only Research 1 institution, UNM embraces a culture of innovation that thrives on diversity and empowers breakthroughs in some unexpected places. The most recent example of this unconventional thinking comes from one of our research teams at UNM's Smart Management of Infrastructure Laboratory (SMILab), which has [created a remote-controlled \(RC\) robot designed to detect potential rockslide danger](#). The RC robot, which researchers have dubbed "Brutus," pinpoints damaged and unstable rocks for roadside safety inspectors, keeping humans safely out of harm's way during potentially dangerous inspections, and helping to make roads safer for drivers. Congratulations to SMILab for this innovative — and dare I say fun? — approach to solving an everyday problem.

Women's History Month Resources

Women's History Month continues throughout March, and as we commemorate and celebrate the role of women in our nation's history, I wanted to point you toward some more terrific resources for information, context, and support. The first is our own [Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program](#), one of the oldest programs in the country, founded in 1972 alongside our [Women's Resource Center](#). Under the leadership of director Scarlett Higgins, our WGSS program is committed to cultivating the skills and sociopolitical engagement necessary to help students navigate their lives and responsibilities as committed and community engaged leaders. There's also our [Feminist Research Institute](#), under the leadership of Francisco Galarte, which cultivates and supports faculty and graduate students whose research focuses on women, gender and sexuality.

And as it does regularly at this time of year, the UNM Department of Anthropology is celebrating Women's History Month with a [comprehensive website packed full of information and resources about women's history, research, videos, and many other topics](#), including a synopsis of the history-making scholars at UNM. You'll also find a thorough listing of related events and lectures happening at UNM, as well as many that may be attended remotely.

Serving Our Servicemembers

I'm proud that The University of New Mexico has again been [rated as a Gold Level "Military Friendly" university](#), recognizing that our commitment to veterans and their families is second to none among Research 1 institutions. One of the best tools we have for ensuring our campus remains open and accommodating to veterans is our regular [Green Zone training](#), which prepares university faculty, staff and students to better understand the experience of veterans, service members and their families. In coordination with our [Veteran and Military Resource Center](#), my office will be holding a Green Zone training on Tuesday, March 22 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the SUB Trailblazer/Spirit Room. If you'd like to participate, you can [sign up here](#).

Good Luck, Lobos!

This week, both our men's and women's basketball teams head to Las Vegas to compete in the Mountain West conference tournament, with the Lobo women taking to the court against San Diego State tonight at 7 p.m., and the Lobo men playing Nevada on Wednesday, March 9, at noon. Good luck to both of our teams in Las Vegas!

A number of Lobo athletes have also qualified for the post-season, including [three divers headed to the NCAA Zone E Championships](#) and [four distance runners going to the NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships](#). Just as exciting, we also had [48 Lobo athletes make the Fall Mountain West All-Academic Squad](#). Congratulations!

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

Regards,

Garnett S. Stokes
President