



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



June 13, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos --

This Sunday, June 19th, is the 157th anniversary of Juneteenth, commemorating the day in 1865 on which Union soldiers arrived in Texas to deliver the news that the Civil War had ended and that the Emancipation Proclamation had freed nearly four million from chattel slavery. We mark this occasion not only to celebrate the liberation of our fellow Americans, but also to [reflect on the progress that has been, and remains to be, made](#) to ensure that Black Americans have genuine access to freedom, opportunity, and self-determination. Here at The University of New Mexico, it is also a time for celebrating the contributions of Black voices, scholarship, research, and art to our wonderfully diverse New Mexican culture and honoring the Black Lobos in our community who make our lives and experiences at UNM that much richer. Next weekend, as part of our community's Juneteenth activities, [the City of Albuquerque is organizing Juneteenth at Civic Plaza](#), spotlighting Black entrepreneurs and artists, and featuring great food, music, plenty of art and culture, and an opportunity to sit down with local Black leaders to talk about community issues.

ACS Grant to UNM Cancer Center Grant Covers Patient Travel, Lodging

As one of just 51 facilities in the nation designated by the National Cancer Institute as providing world-class comprehensive care— and the only one in New Mexico -- the [UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)(UNMCCC) is a vital part of New Mexico's health care system. But New Mexico is a big state, and for many families, the costs of traveling to and staying in Albuquerque during treatment can be out of reach. To help, [UNMCCC recently received a grant from the American Cancer Society that it will use to help cover the costs of travel and lodging for patients](#). Dr. Jill Schulke, director of Patient Family Services at the center, estimates this funding will serve nearly 300 patients this year, ensuring families have easier access to our center's compassionate, quality care. When it comes to supporting our patients' lives, UNM is truly [delivering more](#).

Lobo Graduate Student Wins Chateaubriand Fellowship

In a first for our Lobo physics students, [UNM graduate student Easwar Narayanan was recently selected to receive the prestigious Chateaubriand Fellowship for the 2022-23 academic year](#). This fellowship, offered by the Embassy of France in the United States, supports outstanding Ph.D. students from U.S. institutions who wish to conduct part of their doctoral research in France. Narayanan will spend much of the next academic year at the Irene-Joliot Curie Laboratory in Paris, where he will participate in the development of detectors destined for the Large Hadron Collider in Bern, Switzerland. Congratulations, Easwar—and on behalf of the entire Lobo community, *félicitations et bonne chance!*

UNM Anthropology Spotlights Pride Month

As we continue to celebrate Pride Month in New Mexico and across the nation, UNM's Department of Anthropology has once again compiled [a comprehensive one-stop shop website of Pride-related history, events, research, and news](#). If you missed the Pride parade over the weekend, Anthropology's website can help you find

plenty of other ways to celebrate in and around the Lobo community, including a series of lectures, fundraisers, blog posts, and other special events brought to you by [UNM Hospital](#) and the [Maxwell Museum](#). You can also contact [UNM's LGBTQ Resource Center](#) for more information.

UROC Competition Winners Announced

Some of the major benefits of being the state's only Research 1 institution are the everyday opportunities our students are afforded to work closely with faculty mentors on innovative research across a wide range of disciplines. Each year, our students take the opportunity to showcase their research as part of the [Undergraduate Research Opportunity Conference \(UROC\)](#) and compete in two major competitions: the UROC 180, in which students are provided just 180 seconds to present their research, and the UROC Research Story, which encourages students to convey to the general public the stories behind their research.

[The winner of this year's UROC 180 is Ryla Cantergiani](#), who recently received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry, while [the winner of the UROC Research Story is Samantha Morowski](#), who just graduated with her BA in Speech and Hearing Sciences. Congratulations to Ryla and Samantha for their extraordinary work, and my thanks to all of our students who participated in this year's conference. You are all truly inspiring.

Track and Field Earns All-American Honors at NCAA

There was exciting news from Eugene, Oregon, as [15 members of our Lobo track and field team achieved All-American honors at the 2022 NCAA Outdoor Championships](#). First Team All-Americans are **Elise Thorner** and **Adva Cohen** (both 3000m steeplechase), and **Gracelyn Larkin** (5000m). Four more Lobos earned Second Team awards, including **Stefanie Parsons** (1500m), **Emma Heckel** (10K), **Rivaldo Leacock** (400m hurdles) and **Amelia Mazza Downie**, who did it twice, ranking in the 10K and 5K. Six more Lobos received Honorable Mentions. All in all, it was a terrific showing for our Lobo track and field team; congratulations to our athletes and coaches!

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President