



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



June 20, 2022

Good afternoon, Lobos --

The first goal of our UNM 2040 multi-year plan strives to address the “quality of life, growth, prosperity, and advancement of New Mexico and of human societies across the globe.” At The University of New Mexico, that means endeavoring not only to enrich minds, but also to feed the soul—and perhaps nowhere at UNM do we take that job more seriously than in our [College of Fine Arts](#). As [CFA Dean Harris Smith](#) has remarked, “you can’t underestimate the impact the arts have on the human condition—not just to engage, but to help find our story and tell it.”

Helping to tell that story is **Jeannette Martinez**, a second-year Ph.D. student in the art history program, who recently [received the prestigious Crossing Latinidades Mellon Fellowship Award](#). As a Fellow, Jeannette will, among much of her other work, conduct archival research and oral history interviews, as well as organize a peer-reviewed journal publication, to advance the history, art, and culture of Latinx populations. Congratulations to Jeannette for this distinguished achievement. We look forward to seeing more of your work.

We are also honored to have a [team of UNM artists spotlighted at the 2022 Venice Biennale](#) as part of its [Personal Structures exhibition](#), which runs through November. UNM’s exhibition, titled “a Library, a Classroom, and the World,” is spearheaded by co-curator and Professor of Art & Ecology **Subhankar Banerjee** and includes on the artistic team recent graduate Art and Ecology MFA student **Alexandria Zuniga** de Dóchas and Art History Ph.D. student **Jackson Larson**. This is a remarkable exhibit in an extraordinary venue, and I am always excited to see the work of our amazing Lobo artists in front of international audiences.

My thanks as well to all of our artists for continuing to help us find our story and tell it.

Masks Recommended at Albuquerque, Gallup and Valencia Campuses

With Bernalillo, McKinley and Valencia counties now categorized as “high COVID-19 community levels” by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The University of New Mexico is recommending that [masks be worn indoors at its Albuquerque, Gallup and Valencia campuses, effective June 21](#). We are continuing to monitor conditions in Los Alamos and Taos counties. Thank you, as always, for doing your part to keep our campuses safe and our campus communities healthy.

UNM-Taos Nurses Post Perfect Pass Rate

Congratulations to our nursing students at UNM-Taos, who just raised the bar on defining Lobo excellence. [All 12 of our students in the Associate Degree in Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs](#) recently [achieved a 100 percent first-time pass rate on the National Council Licensure Exam](#). This perfect pass rate exceeds both the national average pass rate of 82 percent and the state of New Mexico’s average pass rate of 83 percent. We’re proud to educate and train such highly qualified health care providers, and we are especially grateful that so many of our nursing graduates go on to serve in their local communities where their unique brand of compassionate care is needed and appreciated.

Your Latest Pride Month Reading

As we continue to celebrate Pride Month across our community, I want to call special attention to the work of Assistant Professor **Belinda Deneen Wallace**, whose article [“Our Lives: Scribal Activism, Intimacy, and Black Lesbian Visibility in 1980s Canada,”](#) was recently [awarded the 2022 Prize for Best Article by the Canadian Committee on the History of Sexuality](#). Her article, which appeared as part of a series on “Queer Canada,” was hailed for “shed[ding] much-needed light on the significant contributions of Black lesbian creativity, visibility, and community.” Congratulations to Professor Wallace for her work, and for this recognition.

UNM Physical Therapy Unveils Women’s Health Residency Program

When you’ve got hip pain, the last thing you need is to be on a long waiting list to see a good physical therapist. Thanks to a new residency program announced by The University of New Mexico Division of Physical Therapy, more help is on the way. [The newly created UNM Women’s Health Physical Therapy Residency Program will help feed the pipeline of much-needed physical therapists specializing in women’s and pelvic health](#). This 12-month residential program will concentrate not only on treating patients with pelvic floor dysfunction and obstetrical health care needs, but also on other aspects of women’s health, such as the psychology and sociology of gender health. In this way, UNM Health Sciences Center continues its proud tradition of truly [delivering more](#).

Lobo Student-Athletes Score in the Classroom

For our student-athletes, Lobo pride doesn’t just translate into success in their sport; it also means excellence in the classroom. [For the 28th straight semester, our Lobo athletes have accumulated a grade point average of 3.0 or higher](#), recording a 3.33 GPA for Spring 2022, the fifth-best in department history. This past semester also saw 71 athletes attain a GPA of 4.0 or higher and marked a program-best for the women’s volleyball team, which achieved a teamwide GPA of 3.81. Among all programs, the women’s golf team turned in the best GPA for the semester at 3.98, the seventh straight semester with a 3.9 or better. I am also pleased that, for the 12th year in a row, [every UNM sport has passed the NCAA Academic Progress Rate](#), which looks at both eligibility and retention. I’m proud of everything our student-athletes have achieved this season, and I appreciate the support of the coaches, trainers, mentors, teachers and everyone who helps them succeed inside the classroom--and beyond.

Witkiewitz Named Director of CASAA

At UNM, we’re proud to offer a wide range of [comprehensive health resources and support services](#), including those available from our multidisciplinary research center, the [Center on Alcohol, Substance Use, and Addictions](#) (CASAA). The caliber of assistance we provide through these programs is due in no small part to the quality of the leaders we have at the head of them—and I am delighted to announce that we have recently [selected Professor Katie Witkiewitz as our newest CASAA director](#). Professor Witkiewitz is a longtime Lobo who presently serves as a professor of psychology, with a joint appointment at CASAA, and was selected as one of our distinguished Regents’ professors in 2018. She begins her service as director on July 1, following the retirement of current director J. Scott Tonigan. My thanks to Professor Tonigan for his service, and I am pleased to welcome Professor Witkiewitz to her new role in the university community.

Traveling Office Hours Return this Fall

My traveling office hours provide me with some of my best, and most interesting, opportunities to engage in an ongoing dialogue with those who understand Lobo life the best: you. I am presently scheduling traveling office hours for the Fall

2022 semester—usually on Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:30—and if you'd like me to come to your department for coffee and conversation, [sign up now to arrange for a visit](#). I look forward to seeing you.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President