



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



April 24, 2023

Good afternoon, Lobos --

[Lobo Athletics](#) is a proud part of our shared UNM experience, with more than 400 student-athletes representing our university across 16 teams, competing in the [Mountain West Conference \(MWC\)](#). We're a conference where the competition is fierce, but friendly, and I'm honored to serve as the Chair of the MWC Board of Directors, with the other 11 university presidents represented by our league.

Over the last week in particular, there has been a lot for Lobo Athletics to be proud of. First, [our Women's Golf Team clinched their tenth Mountain West title](#)—the most in MWC history—when they won a thrilling come-from-behind victory over San Jose State in the final round of the championship tournament in Rancho Mirage, California. After trailing the nationally-ranked Spartans by four shots, our Lobos eventually finished at 11 under par—a championship record score—to win by five shots. Congratulations to head coach Jill Trujillo and the entire team—it was an exciting finish to a terrific conference season, and we'll see you next at the NCAA Regionals in early May.

And last week brought us not just one conference title, but two, as [our Men's Tennis Team won the MWC regular season title](#) with an exciting—and loud—victory over San Diego State. It was the third title for the team since 2019, as well as the first Lobo title for new head coach Chris Russell. With the title clinched, and after beating UNLV over the weekend, they'll move directly to the semi-final round of the MWC Tournament, which begins on Wednesday in Las Vegas. Congratulations, Lobos!

And here at home, I had the pleasure last week of cutting the ribbon, with Vice President/Director of Athletics Eddie Nuñez, New Mexico Mutual's CEO Kellie Mixon, and many others, on [our newest facility for Lobo Athletics, the New Mexico Mutual Champions Training Center](#). Located in the South End Zone of University Stadium, this state-of-the-art, 11,312-square foot facility will allow all Lobo athletic teams—including multiple teams at the same time--to have a new space in which to continue athletic performance training. I am grateful for community partners like New Mexico Mutual, who are helping us ensure our student-athletes have the support and resources they need to succeed.

## **Lau Leaves Lobos for LSU (But It's His Alma Mater, So It's Okay.)**

Big changes and new adventures are coming for Eric Lau, dean of the University of New Mexico's Honors College and University College, who has [accepted a position as dean of the College of Music & Dramatic Arts at Louisiana State University \(LSU\) in Baton Rouge](#). While the entire Lobo community will miss his leadership, his enthusiasm, and his saxophone playing, I certainly can't begrudge him this decision; LSU is his alma mater! Congratulations on your new position, and your homecoming, Dean Lau; the Lobos are sorry to see you go, but I know the Tigers are delighted to have you back.

## **Two Lobos Named as Fulbright English Teaching Assistants**

Earlier this month, I announced our latest Fulbright Scholar for the 2022-2023 academic year; three weeks

later, I have the pleasure of telling you about [two more Lobos who have received Fulbright honors](#), giving us our seventh and eighth winners for the academic year. The entire Lobo community congratulates UNM senior **Charlotte Gates** and master's student **Lauren-Martin Alasandagutti**, who have been designated as Fulbright English Teaching Assistants by the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Both will be participating in the largest U.S. exchange program to teach English abroad, with Gates going to Germany and Alasandagutti heading for Cameroon. Our two students are among the ranks of 1,900 winners serving more than 140 countries worldwide.

### **UNM Honors Lost Lobos at Student Memorial Ceremony**

The University of New Mexico community will take time to remember and celebrate our Lobos who passed away during the last year at a [Student Memorial Ceremony](#), which will be held on Monday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Union Building, Ballroom C. The formal ceremony will include the calling of the names of the students as well as remarks from UNM administrators, a moment of silence and meditation.

### **2023 UNM Employee Engagement Survey Coming to an Inbox Near You**

Lobo staff should [be on the lookout for the 2023 UNM Employee Engagement Survey](#), which will be offered from May 1 to May 15. This survey provides employees with an opportunity to confidentially make their views known on their own workplace experience and will be used to help The University of New Mexico focus on our objectives under [Goal 4 of UNM 2040](#) to ensure a sustainable and high-quality workforce. Watch for an email invitation in your inbox from Gallup--[the consulting and polling firm](#), not our branch campus—which will ask you to take part in the survey. Your input, as always, is vital to helping us make UNM a great place to work and thrive. Your participation is appreciated.

### **Floats Are Served**

As we get closer to final exams week, I hope you'll take a moment for a break and join my husband Jeff and me this Wednesday at the Cactus Garden, where we'll be serving root beer and orange soda floats. We'll start dishing things up at 11:30 a.m.--and while the event ends at 1:00 p.m., floats tend to go *fast*, particularly if the weather is warm, so stop by as soon as you can! Not sure where the Cactus Garden is? Look for our tent between Zimmerman Library and the Duck Pond. I look forward to seeing you there.

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

Garnett S. Stokes  
President