



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



August 7, 2023

Good afternoon, Lobos --

Congratulations to Lobo track & field/cross country runner [Amelia Mazza-Downie, who was just named the 2022-23 Mountain West Female Athlete of the Year!](#) The annual male and female athlete of the year awards, created by the Mountain West Conference in 2010, honor student-athletes who have demonstrated not only superb athletic achievement, but also strong academic success and exceptional character on and off the playing field.

Mazza-Downie's run as a Lobo has been one for the record books. As the winner of four All-American honors last season—in cross country, indoor track & field in the 5,000m, and outdoor track & field in both the 5,000m and 10,000m—her accomplishments are almost too many to count. In 2023 alone, she was named the Mountain West Female Outdoor Track & Field Athlete of the Year and won back-to-back Mountain West titles as she helped [lead the Women's Cross Country team to its 15th straight title.](#) Just as exciting, she earned first-team Academic All-American honors and recently graduated with a degree in psychology.

This is a fantastic way for Mazza-Downie to cap her remarkable career as a Lobo, and I know the entire Lobo community joins me in celebrating her achievements. Congratulations again, Amelia; you are an inspiration.

UNMH to Provide Medical Services for MDC

As New Mexico's only academic health center, we are often uniquely situated to help with the health care challenges facing our community. Last week, I proudly stood alongside Kate Becker, CEO of UNM Hospitals (UNMH), Dr. Doug Ziedonis, Executive Vice President, UNM Health Sciences, and CEO, UNM Health System, Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller, Bernalillo County Commission Chair Barbara Baca, Bernalillo County Manager Julie Morgas Baca, and many other Bernalillo County officials and UNM leaders as we officially announced that [UNMH will be the new health provider at the county's Metropolitan Detention Center.](#) This collaboration with MDC [builds upon our successful and ongoing relationship with Bernalillo County,](#) as we work together to attend to the vital medical and behavioral health needs of our fellow citizens who are at this facility. When we say we are committed to tending to the needs of all New Mexicans, we truly mean it; it is our obligation and our privilege to share our people, our expertise, and our skills to help make our state better, stronger, healthier, and safer for everyone.

Physics & Astronomy Receives NASA Grant for Exoplanet Research

With the help of a grant from NASA, [Lobo researchers are looking to the stars not only for inspiration, but for confirmation of the presence of exoplanets,](#) which are planets that orbit around other stars. [The University of New Mexico's Department of Physics and Astronomy, under the leadership of assistant professor Diana Dragomir, has received a \\$750,000 grant from NASA](#) to support the ongoing work of confirming and measuring the periods of longer-period transiting exoplanets, with the help of TESS, the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, that can observe a wide expanse of sky. The hope is that learning more

about planets outside our own solar system will help us understand more about our own planet's origins and journey through the universe, a noble cause entirely worthy of our Lobo research team.

Harwood Museum Celebrates Its Centennial

One of our northern institutional gems turns 100 years old, as the [Harwood Museum of Art of The University of New Mexico celebrates its centennial throughout 2023 and 2024](#). The Taos-based museum will commemorate its role as a steward of Western history and American art with [Harwood 100, a series of exhibitions](#) filling all nine of the museum's galleries, and will also host a regular series of community programs and activities. As part of the Harwood 100 Centennial programming, the museum will host a playwriting competition for the production of [up to eight original 10-minute plays](#) addressing the theme of Harwood 100: Reflecting on Our Legacy. Envisioning the Future. Aspiring playwrights aged 13 and up are encouraged to [submit their plays for consideration](#) by September 10, 2023. For more information, Harwood Education Coordinator Christina Neubrand will host a free play exploration workshop open to all interested writers on Sunday, August 20. Interested participants can [reserve a spot online](#).

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President