



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



August 21, 2023

Good afternoon, Lobos --

Welcome to the beginning of the Fall 2023 semester! This is always a particularly exciting time of the year, as our campuses fill with new and familiar faces, and everyone adjusts to new classes, new schedules, and new experiences as Lobos. It was great seeing such big crowds at our First Year Convocation on Sunday and at today's Ice Cream Social where I had the opportunity to speak with many of you and hear your stories. And I really loved reading the *Albuquerque Journal* story following [one of our first-year and first-gen students as he moved into Hokona Hall](#).

I have seen how involvement in the Lobo community can transform and add immense value to a student's university experience. Whether it's through student organizations, community service or service-learning, Greek life, or student employment, I encourage you to make the time to connect with your fellow Lobos and [explore some of the many opportunities](#) to learn more about yourself and our community.

In the coming days and weeks, I hope you'll familiarize yourself with the [wide variety of resources, services and programs available to you](#), from career services and counseling to advocacy groups and student support organizations. And as we talk about the excitement of beginning a new semester, we also know that stress and anxiety can be a part of the experience. At The University of New Mexico, we're proud to make [a wide range of mental health services available](#) to our students, faculty and staff who may need it.

Our annual [Welcome Back Days](#) events and programming continue throughout the week--and there will also be plenty of opportunities to celebrate Lobo life as the semester continues, so be sure to [grab a Student Activities Calendar](#) for the most up-to-date listing of activities for Fall 2023. You can pick one up at the Student Activities Center in the Student Union Building (SUB) or [download a printable version](#). You're going to love what we've got in store for you this semester.

No matter where you're attending --Albuquerque, Gallup, Los Alamos, Rio Rancho, Taos, Valencia or virtually--we're thrilled to have you as part of our Lobo family.

Lobo Athletes Back in Action

[Lobo football season officially begins in 12 days](#), as our team travels to College Station, Texas, to take on Texas A&M on Saturday, September 2 at 5 p.m. The Lobos will be back in University Stadium for the home opener against Tennessee Tech the following weekend, Saturday, September 9, at 6 p.m. Show up in your Lobo gear and make some noise!

Later this week, you'll find our [women's soccer](#) and [volleyball](#) teams in action, with the soccer team taking the field at the UNM Soccer Complex at 7:30 PM Thursday to compete with Cal State Fullerton, and the volleyball team playing Seton Hall on Friday night in Irvine, California, for their first game of the ICU Invitational.

Full-time student tickets are free, whether it's for one game or the whole season—just [access your Paciolin account](#) if you've got one set up or create a new one with your student credentials. And don't forget to download the [Lobo Sports app](#) for live broadcasts, ticketing, and up-to-the-minute scores and stats for all our teams. It's going to be a terrific year for Lobo sports!

New Leadership at PATS, Career Services

Following an extensive search and several open forums, [UNM Institutional Support Services](#) has selected [Shawn Arruti as the new director of UNM Parking & Transportation \(PATS\)](#). With an extensive background in public service and law enforcement, Arruti has served as a UNM PATS Parking Enforcement supervisor and as a public safety officer in Nevada. He comes to the job as we begin to address the parking challenges of our constantly evolving campus landscape, especially as we move toward the parking needs articulated in our Integrated Campus Plan.

Over at the [Division of Student Affairs](#), a familiar face moves into a new leadership position as [Autumn Collins takes the helm as the new director for Career Services](#). Collins will be responsible for overseeing the department's efforts to provide students with the resources and support they need to succeed in their careers, and will work to build key relationships with employers and other partners in the community to create opportunities for students.

My congratulations to both Shawn and Autumn on their new roles; we're fortunate to have you as Lobo leaders.

Lobo Researchers Explore Quantum Computers, Speech Sound Disorders

As New Mexico's only Research 1 institution, innovation is part of our Lobo DNA, informing how we look at the world, and look at life. From peering out to galaxies light years away to examining microscopic life on our own planet, no question is too big, or too small, for our Lobo researchers to contemplate and explore.

In our School of Engineering, **Milad Marvian**, an assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and a member of the Center for Quantum Information and Control (CQuIC) at UNM, has [received \\$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy for his research on quantum computing](#)—one of only 15 projects selected nationally for funding. The CQuIC is one of the largest and most active quantum information science research centers in the world, and Professor Marvian's research will help to make quantum computers more practical and efficient.

Meanwhile, a new study by UNM Speech & Hearing Sciences Assistant Professor **Carlos Irizarry-Pérez** has found [a novel approach to treating speech sound disorders in bilingual children](#). Irizarry-Pérez found that by focusing on complex sounds that are similar in both languages, he was able to help children generalize their speech skills across languages. His [published study](#) has the potential to improve the lives of bilingual children and their families—another example of Lobo research having a very real effect on the everyday lives of New Mexicans.

UNM-Taos is a Bee Campus USA

Our northernmost campus, UNM-Taos, was buzzing with excitement at the news that [it has been officially designated as a Bee Campus USA](#) by the [Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](#). As a [Bee Campus](#)

[USA](#). UNM-Taos will advance its education and conservation efforts and enhance its campus pollinator habitat by increasing the abundance of native plants and providing nest sites. As scientists and researchers explore the vital role of bees in global food production, UNM-Taos will continue to inspire others to take steps to conserve pollinators through education and outreach.

Spots Available for the President's Traveling Office Hours

I enjoy having the regular opportunity to talk about The University for New Mexico with those who understand it best: you. During the school year, I regularly hold traveling office hours, which provide me with the privilege of coming directly to you to learn more about your concerns and aspirations for our university, and I'm always inspired by the opportunity for a meaningful conversation about life as Lobos. Traveling office hours happen on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., and if you'd like to invite me to come visit your department, please [submit a request to my office](#). Slots tend to go fast, so I encourage you to get your request in as soon as possible. I can't wait for our next conversation!

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President