



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



August 12, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos --

With a week to go before we begin the fall semester, I'm excited to watch our campus fill with students and families and returning faculty, joining those who remained on campus during the summer. Many Lobos will be moving into residence halls this week—by the latest count, nearly 500 have already moved in—and for our newest UNM students, these first weeks provide some great opportunities to explore our campus and get to know new classmates. I encourage students to reach out for any [assistance, directions, or advice they may need to find their way](#)—our faculty and staff are here to help.

The [UNM Student Activities Center](#) has an exciting series of events planned for our [Welcome Back Week](#), kicking things off with Friday Night Live on August 16 from 7–10 p.m. at the Student Union Building (SUB). The Sunday, August 18, [Class Crawl](#) is aimed specially at our newest students, who can gather at the SUB north mall to print their schedules, then find their classes during a personalized campus tour; later that evening, [all students are invited to Johnson Field for a Movie on the Field and a showing of the film IF](#).

Meanwhile, the [UNM Global Education Office](#) (GEO) is [welcoming our incoming international students by inviting them to its annual picnic](#) on Saturday, August 17, from 1 to 4 p.m. on the lawn near Scholes Hall and the Duck Pond. The picnic is open to the Lobo campus community at large as well—but if you'd like to attend, please bring a sharable dish.

Finally, I hope you'll also let me help you start your first week off right by joining me, my husband Jeff, and UNM leaders on Monday, August 19, at the President's Ice Cream Social. Starting at 11:45 a.m., we'll be at the northwest corner of Zimmerman Library serving vanilla, strawberry, and chocolate ice cream for you to enjoy as you stroll the booths packed with valuable information from UNM Schools and Departments about campus programs, services and resources. Information booths are open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., and we plan on giving out ice cream and non-dairy options like popsicles until 1:00 p.m.—but everything tends to go fast, so come by as soon as you can!

I look forward to seeing everyone and hearing all about your first day experiences!

Film & Digital Arts Offers Indigenous Scholarship, Welcomes Noted Diné Filmmaker

As we work to meet the needs of one of the fastest growing industries in our state, UNM's Department of Film & Digital Arts continues to make its resources available to even more aspiring filmmakers by funding [a new scholarship to support Indigenous Native students, as well as offering a new course titled *Indigenous People on Screen*](#). Both the scholarship and the new course are funded through a generous gift from Lobo alumna Katrina Parks and The Bertha Drabkin Goodwin Leviton Foundation. *Indigenous People on Screen* will be taught by journalist Tara Gatewood, an enrolled citizen of the Pueblo of Isleta/Diné.

But there's more good news: [Ramona Emerson, noted Diné writer, filmmaker, and Lobo alum](#) ([Media Arts](#),

['97\), is joining the Film & Digital Arts Department as an assistant professor.](#) As a videographer, writer, and editor, Emerson is at work on her eighth film, *Crossing the Line*, as well as the documentary film [The Historic Election of Congresswoman Deb Haaland](#), chronicling the successful bid for Congress by Lobo alum, and current U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland. Professor Emerson is an exciting addition to the department, where she is certain to help guide countless filmmakers in bringing their unique visions and voices to the screen.

Latest Student Basic Needs Report Released

Meeting the educational needs of our students is about more than providing a world-class academic experience. We know that food and shelter are also basic educational needs, and that when our students are food or housing insecure, it can lead to lower grades, poor health, and less engagement with campus life and campus services. [The latest Student Basic Needs Report](#), from a statewide study conducted by Associate Professor Sarita Cargas and a team of faculty and students, [provides an eye-opening look at food and housing insecurity and their impact on the academic success and mental health of students from 27 participating institutions across our state.](#) The report reveals that an alarming 58 percent of college students in New Mexico are food insecure, while 39 percent have very low food security—the most severe category. [The report](#) also offers some long and short-term solutions and discusses some of the ongoing efforts around our own campus to address food and housing needs. As always, I am grateful to our team for their hard work, which is helping to inform discussions on food insecurity and poverty within our state and beyond. More results from the study will be coming this Fall.

Endowed Chair Established at UNM Law School

The University of New Mexico School of Law was recently honored by [a \\$2.5 million donation from the Martinez, Hart, Sanchez & Romero P.C. law firm to establish the F. Michael Hart Chair in Children's Law](#), honoring Mike Hart, a partner in the firm and a leader in children's advocacy. This endowed chair will empower future legal professionals to pursue careers that help protect children's rights and ensure the School of Law continues to strengthen its commitment to children's law. I am grateful to David B. Martinez, Kelly Stout Sanchez, and Julio C. Romero for this generous donation on behalf of their esteemed colleague.

UNM-Gallup Leads Local Collaborative on Hands-On Job Training

I was inspired by the latest news from our UNM-Gallup branch campus, where Karla Baldonado, the new director of the UNM-Gallup's Center for Career and Technical Education, is spearheading [a collaborative effort with area high schools to provide hands-on, career-focused education programs.](#) The collaborative focuses on high-demand, high-skill jobs in the region and works to give students the practical knowledge they need for a job in addition to the required academics. It's yet another way our Lobo educators are working to address the needs of local economies, spark student achievement, and [advance New Mexico.](#)

Kerr Wins Silver in Paris; Kelati Finishes Strong in Olympic Debut

Congratulations to Lobo track & field alum [Josh Kerr, who won the silver medal in the Men's 1,500m](#) last week at the Summer Olympics in Paris. Running for Great Britain, Kerr finished just behind Team USA's Cole Hocker and edged out his archrival, Jakob Ingebrigtsen of Norway, in [a thriller of a race.](#) With his terrific showing in Paris, Kerr became the first Lobo Track & Field alum to win medals in two different Olympics.

Congratulations, Josh, on an exciting race, and on yet another major achievement.

Former Lobo runner [Weini Kelati made an exciting Olympic debut in this year's 10K Final](#) at Stade de France, where [she finished eighth among a highly-competitive pack of runners](#). Kelati was the first member of Team USA to cross the finish line, trailing the gold medalist from Kenya by less than seven seconds. As one of the most decorated athletes in Lobo history, it was a joy to watch her compete so successfully on the world stage.

And finally, former Lobo golfers Manon De Roey, Victor Perez and Gavin Green all made strong showings in Paris, with Perez notably finishing just one stroke away from a bronze medal for his home country of France.

Thank you for a memorable Olympics, all of you.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President