



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



December 2, 2024

Good afternoon, Lobos--

December is here, and with it comes the colder temperatures, shorter daylight hours, and a campus dressed in its winter holiday finery. Whatever holiday you may celebrate this season, I hope it's a happy and prosperous one.

This is traditionally one of our busiest months, with plenty of big events between now and the winter break. Final exams begin the week of December 9—that's next week—and if you're uncertain what your exam schedule might be, you can refer to the [final exams schedule](#)—though as always, please check with your instructor if you have any questions. To help get your week off to a good start, the popular [Late Night Breakfast is being provided in the Student Union Building Ballrooms on Sunday night](#), December 8, from 7 to 9 p.m. You'll also find plenty of academic support available in the weeks and days leading up to finals, so don't hesitate to ask for help. And please also remember that UNM continues to provide [comprehensive mental health services and support](#) if you find yourself feeling stressed or needing someone to talk to.

I am also delighted to see us preparing for the upcoming Fall commencement as we celebrate and say farewell to the Class of 2024. Fall 2024 commencement ceremonies will be held at the Pit – Lobo graduate students will cross the stage on Thursday, December 12 at 6 p.m. and undergraduates on Friday, December 13 at 6 p.m. [Remember to RSVP](#) and to review all instructions to ensure you and any guests you may have invited have a great commencement experience. I look forward to being there with you in The Pit to help grant you your degrees!

Have a safe and successful December, Lobos.

Hanging of the Greens is This Friday

One of my favorite annual Lobo traditions, the Hanging of the Greens, happens this Friday, December 6. [Hanging of the Greens has been a Lobo custom since the 1930s](#) when students would gather greens from the pine forests in the Sandia Mountains and use them to decorate our library and Student Union.

Nine decades later, the Mortar Board Senior Honor Society, working in tandem with many other campus organizations, has turned that tradition into something distinctively special—and it just gets more spectacular each year. This year's celebration begins at 5:45 p.m. just outside the UNM Bookstore, with carolers leading the community in a procession across campus, walking among the more than 13,000 luminarias lighting our buildings and walkways. The procession ends at University House, where I have the honor of receiving the ceremonial wreath before we all gather for a warm reception at Hodgkin Hall, including posole and hot chocolate.

The entire Lobo community is invited to attend, and we ask that you consider bringing an unwrapped children's book that will be placed under the tree at Hodgkin Hall and then donated to UNM Children's Hospital. [Maxwell Museum will also be helping to celebrate the Hanging of the Greens by opening its galleries and its courtyards on Friday from 6 to 8 p.m.](#) Come kick off the holiday season and celebrate one of our proudest and oldest Lobo traditions.

UNM Greenhouse Gas Inventory Notes Reduction in Campus-Wide Emissions

The University of New Mexico has published its first Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory in a decade, marking a key step toward advancing our [sustainability goals under the UNM 2040 initiative](#). The [report highlights an 11% reduction in campus-wide emissions since 2006](#), despite an increase in building square footage, with emissions per square foot down 25%. Led by UNM's newly formed [Office of Sustainability](#), the inventory provides baseline data for climate action and engages the campus community in shaping a five-year sustainability plan. Many thanks to Anne Jakle, our Director of Sustainability, for her leadership on this initiative.

Tomorrow is Giving Tuesday; Lobo Offensive Line Leads by Example

Tomorrow is [Giving Tuesday](#), a day of global generosity and giving back to our communities and to each other. The spirit of giving and pride in community inform several of our goals under [UNM 2040](#), including our commitment to enhancing the vibrancy of our campus and the greater Lobo community, "by improving wellness, including food, housing, and physical security."

Giving comes in many forms, whether it's community service or donating to a cause you believe in, such as our [Lobo Food Pantry](#), the [Little Lobo Holiday Wish Fund](#), or the [UNM Gives Campaign](#) to support the United Way of North Central New Mexico. I was incredibly touched by the recent generosity of our Lobo football team's offensive line—the nation's seventh best O-line!—which [donated their own NIL proceeds to help feed some of New Mexico's neediest families this holiday season](#). I am so proud of our linemen who, at the suggestion of co-captain Richard Pearce, are leading by example and embodying the very best qualities of kindness and generosity.

Alumni Association Hosting Senior Send-Off Day

The UNM Alumni Association is inviting all Fall 2024 graduates to a [Senior Send-Off and Happy Hour on Wednesday, December 4, starting at 1 p.m. at Hodgin Hall](#). Celebrate your achievements and prepare for your next chapter with free professional headshots, graduation photos at the U, career advice and resume reviews, a cap decorating station, and more. Graduates can also connect with a number of UNM departments, University affiliates, and alumni resources, offering guidance on everything from graduate programs to transcripts and student loan repayment options. The Happy Hour itself will begin at 4 p.m. and will include New Graduate Bingo, where exciting prizes like diploma frames and alumni gear will be given away. All events are free, but you'll need to [register in advance](#).

Deadline for Basic Annual Safety Training Extended; Live Options Offered

As you work to complete those required Basic Annual Safety Trainings, the UNM Human Resources Office of Engagement and Organizational Development will be [offering opportunities to attend live trainings on Zoom](#), rather than having to complete the trainings on your computer. The deadline to complete all mandatory training requirements has been extended to January 31, 2025, so get those courses finished as soon as possible. It doesn't take long, and each is vital for ensuring we maintain a safe, informed, and inclusive workplace here at UNM.

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

Garnett S. Stokes
President

