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Wednesday Communiqué, 5/30/2012

Chaouki Abdallah

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WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUE

May 30, 2012

Thank you: A heartfelt thanks to all of you who sent me their wishes and prayers during my son's hospital stay. I am happy to report that he is back to full health as of this weekend. While I cannot possibly know or thank all who nursed him back to health, I would like to single out Dr. Reyes, Dr. Noel, and Dr. Lin, as well as the many nurses and healthcare providers in the children's hospital who cared for him and for the many other children at UNMH. During this episode, I learned more about the H. pylori bacteria and stomach ulcers than I ever wanted to!

Student Debt: College student debt is still in the news. A recent NY Times article discusses this issue: <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/05/13/business/student-debt-at-colleges-and-universities.html?ref=business>. On the other hand, see this site http://projectonstudentdebt.org/state_by_state_data.php for a discussion of student debt by state. The good news is that New Mexico is one of the states with the lowest average debt, but the bad news is that around 56% of our students incur debt.

Seduction of the Leader: Patrick Sanaghan in his article, Bad Advice, states that, "The term 'seduction of the leader' describes an insidious leadership dynamic that is played out on campuses across the country. This form of seduction occurs when presidents and other senior leaders don't receive honest and thoughtful feedback about the impact of their leadership style or ideas. Followers tend to avoid 'telling it like it is' for a variety of reasons. The unfortunate consequence of this dynamic is leaders who are isolated, ill-informed, and often downright clueless." See:

http://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2011/04/27/essay_on_dangers_faced_by_presidents_who_don_t_get_good_advice#ixzz1wDrKbjtv.

"Thinking, Fast and Slow:" Early in the year, I recommended this book by D. Kahneman. Since then, many of you have communicated with me about the book. One recent e-mail from professor Werner-Washburne however deserves special mention since it provides a link to an interesting talk by Professor Kahneman that may be found at the blog: <http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/05/25/daniel-kahneman-on-the-trap-of-thinking-that-we-know/?ref=science>. And, while you're at it, check out some of the other talks at the 2012 Sackler colloquium this year's theme is, "The Science of Science Communication."

See: <http://events.tvworldwide.com/Events/NAS120521.aspx>.

Interim VPR Search: For full posting details and application instructions please refer to the following UNMJobs link: <https://unmjobs.unm.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=67745>. All nominations should be sent via email to spx02@unm.edu. The position will remain open until filled. For best consideration submit application by June 5, 2012.

News You Can Use: How to use a paper towel is another practically useful Ted Talk: http://www.ted.com/talks/joe_smith_how_to_use_a_paper_towel.html.

Sincerely,

Chaouki Abdallah

Provost & Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs

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