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President's Weekly Perspective, 1/7/2013

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 **UNM President's Weekly Perspective**

Good Morning and welcome back. I hope everyone is rested and ready for a new year that promises to be full of challenges and achievements at every level of the UNM community.

Government Relations

We are about to embark on a 60-day session at the New Mexico Legislature. Thanks to the work of our Government Relations team, headed by Marc Saavedra, we have established a good foundation for UNM's legislative priorities since I arrived in June. There are a number of challenging issues before us, but I am confident that we have the resources to effectively convey our goals to the Governor and the Legislature. As you know, the halls of the Roundhouse are very dynamic and fast-paced, so I would like to ask for your support for anything that Marc and the Government Relations team might need during the session.

On the federal front, I am pleased to announce that we have contracted with a new firm to represent us in Washington D.C., the Madison Group. They will be on campus this week to meet and work with us on our federal priorities. With the retirement of Senator Jeff Bingaman, we have lost a strong advocate in Congress and we have much work to do to strengthen ties with our New Mexico delegation. With more than 180,000 Lobo alumni we need to assert the power of the Cherry and Silver and be assured that our federal delegation thinks of UNM whenever it considers legislation. My goal as President is to build strong positive relationships with our New Mexico delegation.

UNM Researcher Seeks to Advance Knowledge of Mars

UNM had an exciting discovery that became a global news story last week in the form of a 2 billion year old Martian meteorite. "Black Beauty," found in the Saharan desert, was brought to Dr. Carl Agee, director of the Institute of Meteoritics at the University of New Mexico, for examination by a private collector. He found it to be a rare sample that could be vital to unlocking answers to whether life on Mars ever existed. Agee led a study just published online in the journal Science. We should all be proud of the level of varied and esteemed research expertise that we have right here at UNM. To read the story, visit: <http://news.unm.edu/?p=34570>.

Have a great week, and Go Lobos!

Bob