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President's Weekly Perspective, 2/18/2013

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President's Weekly Perspective

Good morning.

Presidents' Day is as much about the celebration of Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays as it is the celebration of the rich history of our nation's inspirational heads of state. In considering why we celebrate those who have and do lead our country, I think it is equally important to look at the accomplishments of our own leaders here at UNM, some of whom carry official titles and some of whom simply just forge ahead.

Lobo Governance Demonstrates Passion, Dedication and Creativity

At UNM, our students are being prepared to be the innovative professional leaders of the 21st century. For those students who choose to represent and advocate for their peers through student government at UNM, there is a great commitment of time and energy to promoting the interests of the students to the University community as well as to maintaining and improving the Lobo experience.

Over the past month, your student leaders have been working tirelessly on fee and budget planning, on legislative issues that impact the financial ability of present and future Lobos, and on campus-wide safety initiatives, all while trying to balance their academic and personal lives – and they do so with optimism, passion and compassion.

I would like to especially recognize the efforts of Student Regent Jake Wellman, GPSA President Marisa Silva, and ASUNM President Caroline Muraida, in working closely with their respective governing bodies and constituents, as well as with me, to make the student voice heard and remembered.

I am also grateful for the strong leaders and members of our faculty, staff, alumni, parent and foundation boards who contribute to the culture of our community.

UNM's First Gates Cambridge Scholar Hopes to Improve Lives

It is truly my pleasure to congratulate UNM senior Shaina Saint-Lot, who is studying International Studies and Economics, for being the first UNM student to receive the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, one of the most prestigious international scholarships in the world.

Shaina is one of 39 U.S. students selected to attend University of Cambridge for a full-time postgraduate degree and will begin her master's in Development Studies there in the fall of this year. She was chosen based upon her intellectual ability, leadership capacity, and commitment to improving the lives of others. Visit [Cambridge Scholars](#) or [Shaina St. Lot](#) on [UNM Today](#) for more information.

I'm sure we can all look forward to contributions that Shaina will undoubtedly make as she takes her Lobo experience and applies it globally.

UNM's Future Picture is Becoming Clearer

[UNM2020](#) was formally introduced to the Board of Regents last week, putting forth a set of seven goals – or timeless aspirations – that have been developed over the past several months for the Board's consideration at their March meeting. At this time, 26 corresponding objectives will be introduced for consideration during the April meeting.

It has been a remarkable experience to see an entire community of very diverse people, with incredibly varied backgrounds and ideas, come together to produce a shared vision for the future of UNM. Since we began this journey last fall, more than 1,000 members of our community – faculty, students, board members, alumni, friends, business and political leaders – have lent their thoughts and engaged in conversations about the type of institution that we want to build together.

The [UNM2020](#) process has tasked us with identifying our future picture of UNM, informed by the realities shaping our society, our economy and higher education. I believe we have collectively integrated these insights into what I hope you will find a concise, inspirational and aspirational road map to get us to the UNM we want to become by 2020.

Celebrating the Service of Regent Don Chalmers

Don Chalmers, who stepped down from the Board of Regents last month, has truly represented professional excellence and community leadership as a UNM Regent. I would encourage you to join me in honoring Regent Chalmers' service to the University this afternoon between 3:30 and 5 p.m. at the Student Union Building (SUB), Ballroom C and enjoying some light refreshments.

Final Thought on Leadership

Our nation's first President once stated...

“Remember that it is the *actions*, and not the commission, that make the officer, and that there is more expected from him, than the *title*”

While the title of UNM President is one that I hold dear and with great respect, I hope that my tenure here is marked by my actions and that what is expected of me is always more than the title.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob