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President's Weekly Perspective, 3/25/2013

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President's Weekly Perspective

Good morning.

Big investments involve risk and reward. We do not generally talk about the risk of attending college, but it is a big investment for students and their parents. Taking this risk does not mean being reckless or random. It means exploring one's options and passions, assessing one's prospects, and from there, making balanced decisions. It means seeking advice, actively listening, and weighing the outcomes of any decision before taking the plunge.

What we do at UNM to prepare our students throughout their Lobo experience for individual goals, for a career and for their roles as global citizens is the reward that makes this risk all worthwhile. I talked about losing sight of the shore in my [convocation speech to the Class of 2016](#). In it I emphasized the challenging nature of our academic, political and social environment requires us to step out of our comfort zones, to change, and to take chances in order to survive. How one approaches risk is what matters, both as individuals and as an institution. We must continue to explore and cultivate that "how" at UNM, creating a social environment that encourages diversity, experimentation, risk-taking, and combining interdisciplinary and experiential learning. Indeed, the "how" is important in other ways too. Dov Seidman, in his book *how*, said "information unlike land and capital, is not zero-sum; it's infinite. The more I have, the more you can have, too. And unlike money, it is elastic; a dollar is worth a dollar no matter how much you desire it. Knowledge, in contrast, becomes more valuable directly in proportion to your need or desire for it (p. 20)." That desire for knowledge does come with some risk, but the rewards are infinite.

Al Nahmad ('62) Doesn't Just Do Well, He Does Good

America's best businesses started out because they were inspired by an idea - an idea that led to risking time and investment to reap the benefits of revolutionizing an industry. When I meet fellow Lobo alums, I have come to notice that many of them have taken such risks and succeeded, both on small and grand scales. A few weeks ago, I had the fortunate occasion to meet Al Nahmad, who graduated from UNM in 1962 with a degree in mechanical engineering. Al is now the CEO and founder of [Watsco](#), a multi-billion dollar international company that is the largest distributor of air conditioning, heating and refrigeration equipment in the HVAC/R industry. For those of you who follow Mad Money on CNBC, Al has been an occasional guest of Jim Cramer. His belief that businesses are built on acquisitions has made him a stand "out" in a tear apart business culture.

On March 18, Al returned to UNM to give a presentation to students, faculty and staff. Al and his colleagues from Watsco discussed the company's growth, business philosophy, and career opportunities for high-achieving students. Al Nahmad is an exceptional role model for students. He demonstrates that UNM students can make it on Wall Street or any street in America.

Not on Our Campus

When faced with intolerance and uncivil behavior on our campus, the greatest risk we face is that of not acting. Recent incidents here at UNM have precipitated several forums and initiatives that have a two-fold approach of preventing and combating [hate and bias on campus](#), as well as fostering the development of the UNM community. We are dedicated to providing the necessary resources and

educational training to combat hate and bias at UNM, as well as actively seeking partnerships and collaboration among various organizations with similar concerns.

Outcomes include encouraged dialogue from within the campus community to initiate a coordinated strategy to effect change, and providing the resources to address hate and bias-related incidents on campus. To that end, The Office of Equity and Inclusion will be holding a *[Not On Our Campus](#)* event in late April, which is part of the original Not In Our Town film and social movement. Ongoing dialogue will continue, as we are committed to addressing the issues of hate and bias as well as creating healthy living, learning and working environments for members of the UNM community.

@Lobo_Pres on Twitter

Speaking of ventures and risks, I have just recently begun my public plunge into social media and have created a Twitter account [@Lobo_Pres](#). I am hoping to connect with those of you who would like to interact with me on a more personal, intellectual and social level. I am interested in responding to your interests in news, higher education and trends on campus, and in turn will offer my own ideas and shared insights on the same. My first tweet was during the Lobo basketball game last Thursday during the NCAA tournament, where we played hard after an outstanding season. Many thanks to the 243 who have decided to follow @Lobo_Pres and for the many kind welcomes – I'm looking forward to keeping up with you!

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob