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President's Weekly Perspective, 4/1/2013

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President's Weekly Perspective

Good Morning.

As time seems to increasingly propel us forward at an accelerated rate, I want to emphasize the importance of recognizing both the individual and UNM milestones that mark our progress as an institution, and are vital to communicating who and what we are as a university.

Celebrating University Libraries' Three Millionth Volume

A library is central to the life of the university as a community; it nurtures its citizens and is in turn nurtured by those who appreciate both its reflections of the past and the doors it opens to the future. Although this is true of any community and its library, it is especially so at UNM. We are fortunate to have this demonstrated in the acquisition of the [three-millionth volume for our University Libraries](#).

This significant volume is a 1882 signed edition of "The Authentic Life of Billy, the Kid, the Noted Desperado of the Southwest, Whose Deeds of Daring and Blood Made his Name a Terror in New Mexico, Arizona and Northern Mexico," written by Pat Garrett, sheriff of Lincoln County. It is most appropriate that this rare and important book in the history of the Southwest has been selected for this honor. Notably, this special contribution comes from the community, a generous gift from the William A. Keleher Family. Our celebration today is therefore not just to mark a milestone in the remarkable development of the University Libraries; it also is a celebration of the contributions that many individuals have made to our success.

Prestigious Scholarships Reflect Quality of UNM Student Achievement

It is that time of the year when nationally competitive scholarships are announced and student futures are planned. This past week Udall Scholarships were awarded to three UNM students who are committed to careers related to the environment, tribal public policy, or Native American health care. Of the 50 scholarships awarded, UNM had the most students represented by any institution. Congratulations to Clint Brayfield, Homer Hubbell & Lia Abeita-Sanchez, and to honorable mention Ryan Herrmann.

Additionally, UNM also had two Goldwater Scholar honorable mentions for their academic achievement in mathematics, the natural sciences, or engineering. Kudos go to Michael Channer and Veena Samir Patel. These national honors reflect not only our students' talents and abilities, but also the countless hours of hard work they have dedicated to achieving excellence and reaching their goals. We are extremely proud of their accomplishments.

A Solid Foundation for Lobo Men's Basketball

As many of you have already heard, our men's basketball coach, Steve Alford, has accepted a coaching position at UCLA. I would like to thank Coach Alford for his contributions to UNM and to our men's basketball program. We have a very bright future and I am confident that we will find a replacement who will continue to build on our tradition of excellence. Associate Head Coach Craig Neal is an excellent choice to assume the interim head coach position. He has been involved in all aspects of the program's operation and will provide a smooth transition to the next phase of Lobo basketball.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob

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