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## President's Weekly Perspective, 11/19/2012

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# UNM President's Weekly Perspective

Good morning.

Now that the inaugural festivities of the last week are behind us, I am looking forward to this week's Thanksgiving celebration. This year, I am particularly thankful to be back here at UNM, with our unique New Mexico culture and our campus traditions. There will be green chile on our Thanksgiving table next to the cranberry sauce this year!

I also find myself thinking with gratitude of the men and women serving in our military, especially those who are overseas and far away from their own families. We are thankful for all they do to keep our nation strong and free.

#### Unveiling of the "U"

Our alumni are a great support team for our University. They connect us to the past while also helping us build for the future. Thanks to their support, we have been able to revive a long time tradition.

In the early days of its history, UNM was known throughout Albuquerque simply as "the U." To promote University spirit, a 10-foot U, made of tin and fitted with electric lights, was placed atop Hodgkin Hall in 1922. It was lit up when the Lobos won football games to celebrate victory. That U stayed up until the mid 1930's.

Thanks to the Alumni, we now have a new "U" that we will illuminate not only for Lobo victories, but also for special occasions on campus. As a former Lobo athlete, I am especially honored that the Alumni Association decided to unveil the new U on Sunday at the Inauguration reception. The new U is made of cast bronze and stands in front of the main entrance to the Alumni Center at Hodgkin Hall. If you haven't had a chance to see it, go by and take a look. It is beautiful, and we welcome that tradition again to our campus. Thank you to all the alumni who helped bring our "U" back. Though the "U" was first associated with athletics, I see it as a symbol of all things Lobo - our great research university serving the entire state of New Mexico.

#### Hanging of the Greens

The tradition of the "U" is returning to UNM, but one tradition that we have kept alive since the 1930's is the Hanging of the Greens. Students would drive to the Sandia Mountains to gather greenery to decorate the Student Union Building. This year the Hanging of the Greens will take place on Friday, Nov. 30.

The Mortar Board Senior Honor Society organizes the event, which includes decorating the campus with luminarias. The festivities will start at 5:45 p.m. outside the UNM Bookstore as the campus community gathers for a caroling tour. They will end at U House with the presentation of the holiday wreath.

I remember this tradition from my days as a student, so I am delighted to invite all of you to join Janet and me on the front lawn of U House from 6 – 8 p.m. for cider, hot chocolate and biscochitos. You are also invited to bring an unwrapped children's book to place under the University House tree. The books will be donated to the UNM Children's Hospital. For more information, visit: <http://studentaffairs.unm.edu/events/2012/11/hanging-of-the-greens-.html>.

Have a good (short!) week, and a Happy Thanksgiving.

Go Lobos!

Bob