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President's Weekly Perspective, 2007_09_10

David Schmidly

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Monday Morning Message
September 10, 2007

Good morning.

It was a wild weekend in Albuquerque. Thanks to all of you who came out to support our Lobos in their home opener against the Aggies. That was a high-scoring, antacid-inducing barn burner. Thankfully, the Lobos prevailed with a strong finish. Next up: Arizona.

Other than on the playing fields, UNM and NMSU have a cooperative relationship that is getting stronger. The Regents of NMSU joined UNM Regents for an informative and productive meeting Saturday morning. It was discussed and agreed that the missions of our two universities are quite different from any of the other higher education institutions in New Mexico, so they should be treated differently when it comes to the formulas that determine how much money we get from the state. Both boards will be asking a state legislative task force to study and recommend formula changes specific to our two universities.

There are a number of cooperative ventures between the two institutions already in the works, with more being planned. The Health Extension Rural Office would put UNM health care professionals in NMSU cooperative extension offices around the state. This would be a great service to all of New Mexico. Also, in conjunction with CNM, both institutions are planning programs for the Rio Rancho campus, including hospitality management and a post graduate program for nurses.

I thoroughly enjoyed the evening spent last week at the awards dinner for La Tierra Sagrada Society, which promotes the UNM School of Medicine out in the community and has also awarded more than \$265,000 in medical student scholarships and community-based grants since 2003. Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients: Dustin Richter, Andrea King, Tony Salazar and Elena Bissell. I was also very impressed with the community-based programs that received LTSS awards. Those like the "Medical Students' Awareness of Traditional Native American Values during Pregnancy" help health care providers better understand their patient's needs by understanding their cultures. In our richly diverse community, it is with programs like these that UNM can and does excel.

Our international students have asked the regents and my office to secure the funding and location for a cricket pitch. They've been at a disadvantage in competition with other schools because UNM does not have a place where they can practice regularly. VP for Student Affairs Cheo Torres is working on this and it will happen. Before too long, some area on Johnson Field will be turned over to a cricket pitch and we can all learn more about a sport growing in popularity here.

Finally, it was an honor to visit with all of the new inductees into the UNM Alumni Lettermen Hall of Honor, including our Regents' President Jamie Koch. Join me in also congratulating the Hall of Honor Student Athletes of the Year – Jodi Ewart, Ashley Lowery and Lars Loseth. Go Lobos!

Have a good week.
David J. Schmidly

