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President's Weekly Perspective, 2007_09_17

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Monday Morning Message
September 17, 2007

Good morning.

I hope everybody enjoyed their weekend. I know I had a great time in Arizona watching the Lobos on Saturday. It was another close one, with the Lobos coming out on top. Next up: Sacramento State at home. I hope to see everybody in red at University stadium on Saturday.

There have been a series of recent incidents involving attacks on some of our international students. I was made aware of these incidents on Monday morning and worked to take swift action. I cannot stress enough how deplorable this behavior is, and as long as I am President of this institution, this type of behavior will not be tolerated. The UNM police department apprehended a suspect Wednesday evening who is believed to be involved in these incidences.

On an unfortunately related note, there was also an incident at the football game two Saturdays ago involving the harassment of Miss Indian UNM, who is an ambassador to the University and to the Native American community. I am disappointed that this type of activity can occur on a campus that values the rich cultural diversity of our student body and I want to reiterate that there is no place for that kind of behavior on the campus of the University of New Mexico or anywhere else for that matter.

Last week the Board of Regents met for their regularly scheduled meeting where a number of important initiatives were discussed and adopted by the Board. Among them was a statement in response to a citizen coalition wishing to restrict certain research activities on our campus. One of the most important things a university does is protect the academic freedom of its students and faculty. The response statement which was unanimously adopted by the Board of Regents does just that.

Coming up this week there are some great University activities I hope many of you will be able to attend.

Today (Monday) is Constitution Day and there will be a celebration from 2:30 to 4:00 in the SUB's Lobo rooms A and B. For more information you can go to <http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/002224.html>.

Also this week are a continuing set of lectures sponsored by the International Studies Institute and the UNM College of Arts & Sciences on the topic of Environment and Sustainability. Lectures will be held at 4pm and 7pm on Monday and Wednesday in Education 103. Lectures are free and open to the public and I strongly encourage everybody to try to attend at least one lecture. For more information, you can go to http://www.unm.edu/~isi/Upcoming_Events.htm.

This week marks another milestone for the Banner HR/Payroll project. They will host their 2nd Town Hall on Wednesday from 10:00 to noon in the HSC Domenici Center Auditorium. This is an excellent opportunity for the campus to learn more about what measures are in place to ensure the security of your data, how they will make sure everyone is paid come January, plus what each of us can do as individuals to get ready for the project go-live.

Lastly, it's that time of year for the United Way Campaign. A presentation was made to the executive cabinet last week announcing UNM's goal to raise more than \$500,000. One of the University's key missions is community service and I feel that giving to the United Way is a critical piece of that mission. I hope that everybody is able to give to a great cause when the campaign begins in October.

Have a great week!

-David Schmidly