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## President's Weekly Perspective, 2007\_09\_24

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Good morning.

It's Homecoming Week – one of the most festive times of the year. UNM's Alumni Relations office and the Homecoming Committee have a full slate of activities scheduled for you, so please take advantage of them. Here's the rundown, <http://www.unmalumni.com/homecoming/index.php>, with all events leading up to the big UNM-BYU game Saturday night. The Lobos are definitely on a roll, so let's go out and support them.

Toward the end of the week, inauguration festivities will commence. Remember that this inauguration is not a celebration of Dave Schmidly, but of the UNM community. The theme is "Connect," and I want students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends to celebrate the connections we have with one another. There will be much to celebrate and learn: <http://www.unm.edu/inauguration/events.html>.

We begin this Thursday with the two-day symposium, "Forty Years of Community Activism, 1967-2000: Civil Rights Reform Then and Now." I extend to all of you an invitation to the installation Sunday, Oct. 7, at 2:30 p.m. at Popejoy Hall, followed by a reception at University House. Please go by either UNM ticket office to pick up your tickets for the installation. There are still some available and they are free.

One of the inauguration symposiums will feature NCAA president Myles Brand, talking about the connections between athletics and academics. Strengthening those connections is what we've done with some of the changes we've made in athletics here at UNM over the last couple of months.

As you know, UNM is currently investigating allegations of NCAA violations involving our football program from several years ago. We are fully cooperating with the NCAA and if the allegations prove to be accurate, we will take swift and appropriate action. I also assure you that those administrative changes that more closely connect UNM athletics and academics will prevent the likelihood of any academic-related violations occurring in the future.

It saddens me that I must once again address an incident that has upset and angered the UNM community. Last week's incident of flag desecration is a deplorable act. There are other ways to express dissatisfaction that do not involve the willful destruction of a nation's symbol.

We've learned that a series of miscommunications may have led to the incident, but mistakes, even those innocently made, cannot excuse an intolerable act. It is crucial that the new office of Institutional Diversity, as well as Student Affairs and the Office of Equal Opportunity, continue to proactively lead the discussions and actions that address the concerns of all of our communities.

On a happier note, my trip last week to Gallup and the Pueblo of Zuni was instructive and enjoyable. It was also gratifying to see how both communities strongly support UNM-

Gallup. Thanks to Beth Miller and her team as well as the communities of Gallup and Zuni for their warm welcome.

It's Homecoming and 'Everyone's a Lobo!'

Have a great week.

David J. Schmidly