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President's Weekly Perspective, 2008_10_27

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Monday Morning Message - October 27, 2008

Good morning.

It's been an exciting political season and UNM has been privileged to have both Presidential candidates choose our campus for campaign appearances. I want to take this opportunity to thank the UNM faculty and staff who have gone above and beyond in building the reputation of this University during what has also been a very long political season.

UNM political science professors have been quoted on their fields of expertise in more national and international media outlets over the past several weeks than I have space to list. UNM staff worked hard during the McCain and Obama visits to overcome incredibly difficult logistical challenges and give the public coming to campus as good and fulfilling an experience as possible.

On behalf of the UNM community, I want to thank each and every one of you. And thanks also to our students living on campus for their patience over the weekend. You've learned that it is both exciting and challenging to have a major political event right on your front doorstep.

This coming Saturday night, November 1, Janet and I will be co-hosting the Family Weekend Lobo Tailgate in Tailgate 1, which is in conjunction with our annual Student Tailgate. Join us at 5 p.m. for mini-burgers and green chile stew. We'll even play some horseshoes.

This is also the United Way game, so though the tailgate is free, we will be collecting money for United Way. For just a dollar, you can get your name on a Lobo Paw that recognizes your generosity. These Lobo Paws will be displayed all over campus in the coming weeks.

Just a reminder that UNM's first Family Weekend, this coming Saturday and Sunday, November 1-2, is free and open to all current students and their families. Earlier this year, UNM students chose the theme: "Go Lobos! Go Green!" With that in mind, a UNM committee of volunteer parents, staff and students organized events designed to connect families in interesting, informative ways. You can find out more about the Family Weekend at: <http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/003278.html>.

Finally, we've been watching the state of the economy as closely as you no doubt have. And you are likely wondering how the University will fare. The information we're getting from Santa Fe is that state general fund numbers have declined significantly, so another round of belt-tightening is not out of the question. It's too soon to predict what may happen, but our finance folks will be preparing contingency plans for any and all scenarios. We'll be sharing those plans with you as they are completed.

One week and one day to the November 4 election. Please remember to vote.

Have a good week.

David J. Schmidly