

Monday Morning Message
May 5, 2008

Good morning.

I want to once again thank everyone who made the past week so inspirational for this campus. In a memorable exchange of ideas, more than a quarter of the UNM faculty showed their passion for their university and its future. I thoroughly enjoyed the discussion, which showed once again that UNM should always be a place where we listen to one another with respect and seek common ground. Then we were inspired in our Town Hall by examples from departments that have used the strategic framework to guide their future planning. It was heartening to see the many ways an engaged campus can carry forth its mission, contribute to the vision and live its values.

We continue the journey this week by beginning to build capacity, specifically strengthening a culture of openness and communication. I've invited deans, directors and chairs to join my leadership team in a seminar and workshop focused on communication through the media. We'll be hearing from a number of top-notch editors, reporters and public relations professionals about their expectations in what is a two-way process.

In the spirit of communication, here's a note to faculty from the UNM bookstores: Please remember that your textbook orders are due. By turning those orders in now, the bookstore will be able to offer students more money for their textbooks during Buyback. This helps put money into our students' pockets now and also next semester when more used books are available. Let's work together to keep the costs down.

Please join me in offering campus-wide congratulations to the UNM College Bowl Team for their outstanding performance in the National College Bowl Tournament. Team members Jason Zuffranieri, Vanessa Gatsch, John McCulloch, Chad McCoy and John Ogren showed the nation that our students can compete with the very best. They came in second behind the University of Rochester but smoked the rest of the competition, including Ohio State, Arizona State, Florida State, Rice and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Great job!

Finally, even in death our great friend Terry Yates is still raking in awards. The American Institute of Biological Sciences posthumously awarded Terry its Distinguished Scientist Award, which honors individuals who have made significant scientific contributions to the biological sciences. You'll remember that he was best known for his groundbreaking research that isolated the source of hantavirus. Terry's wife Nancy will accept the award at the AIBS annual meeting in Virginia on May 12.

Have a good week.
David J. Schmidly