

*June 2025*

FROM THE DESK OF THE  
**Vice President for Research**

Lobo researchers,

I hope everyone is enjoying a much-needed summer “break” (please no broken bones this summer!). I also know that summertime is the opportunity many of you take to ramp up research activities whether that means conducting field studies, finishing that book you've been trying to complete all semester, or putting the final touches on a one-of-a kind art piece.

I encourage you to approach your summer projects with intention and passion, immersing yourself in activities that not only advance your professional goals but also enrich your personal well-being. Surround yourself with people (and animals, of course) that inspire joy and creativity, and let this summer be a time of growth, exploration, and fulfillment. Your dedication and hard work make our community thrive, while bringing joy to everyone around you. I look forward to seeing and hearing all about the remarkable accomplishments you achieve during this vibrant season.

With that, here are some important summer research updates!



*Ellen Fisher, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Research  
Professor of Chemistry*

## June Safety Spotlight

Since the beginning of 2024, when I started sharing Safety Spotlights in our monthly newsletters, I am constantly looking for topics to include that are both interesting and relevant to our Lobo researchers. This month is no different. So when I read a [news story](#) about a recent graduate of Rollins College, I knew we had to shine a spotlight on this heartwarming safety story! This *tail* made me *paws* for several reasons, and not just because the graduate, Cecilia Hernandez, was a chemistry major who is now headed to graduate school in organic chemistry.

More remarkable, was that her service dog, Canela, has been by her side the entire time and also “graduated” from Rollins. From a safety perspective, it was so awesome to see that the school had smoothed out any *ruff* edges to ensure that Canela would be safe as she accompanied Hernandez in all of her academic endeavors, including laboratory courses.

Canela is well-versed in the wearing of PPE, from her safety glasses to booties to a de-shedding vest. We can all take a lesson from both Hernandez and Canela – Doggone! Congratulations to both researchers on their recent graduation and we wish them every success in their graduate studies!

## Research News

### Grand Challenges Level 1 Concept Teams

Last month, we announced the addition of six new dynamic teams. The newly formed cohort of innovative teams has been competitively selected to embark on the exciting journey of the Grand Challenges Level 1 program for the upcoming year.

Congratulations to the following teams:

Children’s Language  
Disaster Resilience  
Gaining Time  
Perinatal Care  
Safer Streets  
Trustworthy AI

During academic year 2025-2026, each team will receive \$8,000 that can be utilized for team building, convening, and planning. They will also participate in team development and building workshops to enable innovative solutions to wicked problems facing New Mexico and the world.

### Call for 2025 Annual Research Lectureship for Career Achievement

The call for nominations is open for the Annual Research Lectureship (ARL) for Career Achievement Award. The submission deadline is Monday, Sept. 15. The ARL is one of the highest honors that UNM can bestow upon a faculty member in recognition of their scholarly activity.

Please review the [call for nominations document](#) for full details and requirements. Email Gena Garcia at [majsmom@unm.edu](mailto:majsmom@unm.edu) with any questions.

## ADVANCE and FRDO Webinar Series

As policies, procedures, and expectations related to federal funding opportunities continue to change, [ADVANCE at UNM](#) and the [Faculty Research Development Office](#) (FRDO) are hosting [a series of workshops](#) this summer for researchers dedicated to finding ways to diversify funding sources.

As part of this series, ADVANCE and FRDO hosted a workshop in early May on Partnering with the Explora Science Center for Broader Impacts. As part of the event, there was a conversation on developing new NSF proposals based on updated federal priorities. Videos on both topics are posted on the [new web page](#), where you can also access resources and register for the upcoming events.

## Provost Holloway

As many of you may have heard by now James Paul Holloway, who has been provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at UNM since 2019, has been selected as president of the University of Toledo and will begin his new role on July 15.

Provost Holloway has been a steadfast advocate and tireless champion of research at UNM. It has been my pleasure to work alongside him over the past four-plus years as we pursued our shared goal of strengthening and expanding the university's research enterprise. His leadership has made a lasting impact and will be deeply missed by researchers across our campuses. The University of Toledo researchers are fortunate to gain such a dedicated and visionary leader. Best wishes, Provost Holloway, as you embark on this exciting new chapter!

## Research Events

### Nuclear Engineering Camp

The University of New Mexico School of Engineering is gearing up to host its first-ever nuclear engineering camp next month for high school students .

[Experience Nuclear Engineering 2025](#) is a free opportunity for students ages 15 to 18 to live on campus and learn about nuclear engineering through supervised, hands-on experiments with the UNM nuclear reactor, radioactive materials, radiation-generating particle accelerators and high-voltage plasma devices. Current UNM Nuclear Engineering undergraduate students will serve as residential advisors.

Hope this is the first of many to come!

## Research Celebrations

### Undergraduate arts research award winner

Evany Lopez, an art history major, is the winner of this year's UNM Excellence in Undergraduate Arts Research Award. Lopez conducted research in Mexico looking at the social, political, and historical aspects of protest art that occurs during International Women's Day to bring awareness to the



femicides happening in Latin America.

For this award, arts in various mediums are considered such as music, theater and dance, and film and digital arts.

Lopez is also a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow. The fellowship program provides research opportunities, financial support and mentoring for undergraduate students looking to develop their research skills.



## Research Reads

This month's selection, *The Horse on the Sidewalk*, is a collection of interwoven short stories by Baker Morrow, a professor of practice in landscape architecture at UNM. Set in late 1950's Albuquerque, these stories provide insight into protagonist Gil Wheeler's adolescent dreams of independence – a motorcycle! But it's also so much more than that. Gil navigates bullies, an alcoholic father, and the fickle attentions of junior high school girls, basically rolling with the punches (literally) and focusing on getting through each day as best he can.

I finished reading *The Horse* early on Memorial Day; serendipitously, my mother texted me minutes later wondering what I was up to on my day off. Inspired by the stories I'd just read, I suggested the two of us go on a "razoo", which is what my late father, a Vietnam veteran, used to call going for a drive with no real destination in mind – just to get out and about. Something Gil Wheeler also liked to do on his beloved motorcycle. Ultimately, we razooed (yes, it can be a verb as well as a noun) to the east side of the Sandias, wandering up Highway 14, stopping several times to take in the views and do a little hiking and bird watching (and skunk spotting!). We also talked about my dad and reminisced about when we lived in Albuquerque in the 60's, when Juan Tabo was just a dirt road on the eastern edge of town, just like in Morrow's stories.

Overall, it was a splendid way for the two of us to spend Memorial Day, and I am grateful to Morrow for providing the nudge that made it happen. As with all the books I have read this year, I highly recommend it. But this time I can say my 88-year-old mom is also going to read it!