

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



*January 2024*

Happy New Year, Lobos!

I hope all faculty, staff, and students are feeling rejuvenated and ready to take our research endeavors to the next level. I know you're all up to the task. Last year, we celebrated so many research highs. In the face of all the debate around creating resolutions, I have set a few New Year's resolutions for the OVPR and for myself. Although I am not going to reveal all of my resolutions, here are a couple to which you may hold me accountable this year. First, I will continue to meet with departments, junior faculty, and research support units to learn more about - and be responsive to - the needs of our researchers. Second, OVPR will further institutionalize some of our already successful programs from our graduate student fellowship program, Zancada, to our WeR1 faculty success programs including LIFT, FaST, and PERC, with the overarching goal of growing and enhancing the entire UNM research enterprise. Finally, a friend recently gifted me a knitting starter kit, so one of my personal resolutions is to figure out how to knit something recognizable!

Now, mark your calendars for Monday, Jan. 29! I hope every Lobo has plans to make the trip up to Santa Fe for UNM Day at the New Mexico State Capitol. It's vital that our state legislators know how our student and faculty researchers are changing the world. UNM is an R1 institution, and we are committed to producing cutting-edge research that positively impacts the people, culture, and communities around us.

I hope to see everyone in the New Year!



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

# Research Celebrations

## 2024 State of Research

Join us for the 2024 UNM State of Research.

It's been a very busy and productive year for all UNM researchers – faculty, students, and staff. I truly believe research is at an all-time high at UNM and the numbers prove it. We have so much to celebrate from the launch of two new Category 3 Research Centers to welcoming three new Level 2 Grand Challenges teams. And so much more!

The presentation will also include a 15-minute Q&A session and a reception. Food & beverage will be provided. Stay-tuned for an invite and set date!

## ARL Honoree

University of New Mexico Distinguished Professor Felisa Smith has been named the honoree for the 68th Annual Research Lectureship for Career Achievement award.

The ARL is one of the highest honors the University bestows on its faculty members in recognition of research and/or creative activity of exceptional merit.

Smith is a distinguished professor in the UNM Department of Biology, and her research successes reach far beyond our university community. Smith has a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of California Irvine. She is a mammologist, focusing her research interests on paleoecological and evolutionary research—specifically the effects of current global and past climatic change and biodiversity loss on mammals. We look forward to Dr. Smith's lecture later this spring. Keep an eye out for additional details.

## Research News?

## 2023 Research News Year-in-Review

University Communication and Marketing (UCAM) annually compiles a Year-in-Review highlighting its general and research news and feature stories across campus during the course of the calendar year based on UCAM's Google Analytics. Click the link below to view the list of the top 2023 research stories highlighting UNM students, faculty, staff and alumni accomplishments.

## New Faces of the OVPR

Welcome to the team, Jim O'Brien.

O'Brien joins The UNM Foundation as a senior director of development for the OVPR. He is an experienced fundraising professional with over 25 years of global experience in healthcare and higher education institutions. Most recently, O'Brien was the director of foundation relations with Sarah Lawrence College. He will be focusing on building foundation and corporate relations, primarily for the Grand Challenges teams and the Category 3 centers.

O'Brien has a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Notre Dame. He enjoys hiking, biking, cooking, and the arts.

## Lobo Living Room: Moon Exploration

Join UNM Professor Charles "Chip" Shearer for the next Lobo Living Room as he presents about how space exploration has entered a renaissance with humans reaching beyond the edge of our Solar System and seeking to explore the Moon and build an Earth-Moon space economy.

Shearer is also one of the lead conveners for the Sustainable Space Research Grand Challenge team. The UNM Alumni Association is hosting the event Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 6 p.m.

Register here.

## SAVERS Winner

We are excited to announce the inaugural winner of the SAVERS pilot program, UNM Research Professor Su Zhang. Zhang also serves as the program operations director at the Earth Data Analysis Center.

The SAVERS program supports acquisition of shared enterprise software licenses that enable major endeavors to advance discovery, creativity, and innovation across campus.

Zhang's proposal, "Unlocking Insights: Planet Labs Imagery Licensing for Enhanced Research and Education," marks a significant stride in satellite imagery research. His project is set to revolutionize multidisciplinary studies at UNM, utilizing Planet Labs' high-resolution satellite imagery for diverse fields including Anthropology, Biology, Engineering, and Earth Sciences.

Congratulations Research Professor Zhang. We look forward to reviewing more proposals for the next SAVERS program call in March!

## Did you know?

Did you know there is a University listserv dedicated to principal investigators at UNM? Receive information about limited competitions, funding announcements and opportunities, and newsletters from the OVPR. Sign up below.