

Lobos,

This summer marks a pivotal moment in our university's journey, a season of both excitement and reflection. As we prepare to welcome a new president, we also take a heartfelt moment to bid farewell to a remarkable leader who devoted years to mentoring faculty, inspiring students, and supporting our staff.

UNM President Garnett Stokes, thank you for [believing in the potential of The University of New Mexico](#) and its people. Under your leadership, we have seen growth in so many different areas including research. We are going to honor the path you set us on and continue to strive to ask and solve the toughest questions. On a personal note, I am grateful to President Stokes for investing in our reimagining of the Grand Challenges program, supporting OVPR initiatives in general, and entrusting me with the leadership of our research enterprise. You will be missed.

I'd also like to [welcome UNM's 24th president](#), Dr. Steve Goldstein. Dr. Goldstein brings a wealth of experience that promises to inspire and elevate our community and our state. We look forward to working with you in the coming months and years to ensure Lobo research continues to make a difference for New Mexico.

Finally, congratulations to Barbara Rodriguez [who was named UNM Provost](#) and EVP for Academic Affairs last week. Barbara has long been a champion for UNM research and the entire Lobo community. We are excited about the possibilities in continuing our collaborations to advance the UNM research enterprise.

Ellen R. Fisher
UNM Vice President for Research
Professor of Chemistry

Safety Spotlight & Compliance Corner

We've discussed many different aspects of research safety and compliance in my monthly newsletter for over two years. This year, I'm also excited to share with you specific examples of your fellow Lobos who prioritize research safety every single day in their labs, art spaces, and out in the field.

UNM Assistant Professor Anisha Shakya in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology consistently demonstrates strong leadership in maintaining a culture of safety within her lab. She shares her everyday practices below.

Lobos, [all the students who join](#) my lab complete necessary safety training before they start any experiments. We keep living standard operating procedures in the lab related to safety risks and practices. I also encourage students to coordinate with me or other lab members, so that at least one other person is present if they need to work in the lab after hours or during weekends.

As with any major equipment in the lab, I appoint a lab safety leader and a deputy leader, who help me institute and maintain best safety practices in the lab. The leaders are present with me during lab safety inspections, help new students navigate safety training, attend departmental safety meetings, and update all the lab members on safety-related issues. The roles are rotated every year among

graduate students, so that everyone is well-trained in safety practices and has a leadership opportunity in the lab.

I believe that success in research goes together with the safety, health, and overall well-being of the lab members. Setting up expectations on lab safety culture and diligently training students on safety practices early on is a very important part of a student's experience in the lab. This helps them feel confident in their environment with the ability to focus on their science. Also, a positive attitude toward following safety practices often correlates with a student's attitude toward integrity and reproducibility.

Research Events

Save the Date: 2026 Research and Discovery Week

UNM R&D Week is officially scheduled for Nov. 3-6 in the Student Union Building and at the Health Sciences Center. Events are open to everyone including undergraduates, graduates, postdocs, faculty, and staff.

Lobo faculty, please consider building R&D week attendance into your fall syllabi. The week is a great opportunity for students to learn more about the world-class research happening across our campuses.

Mark your calendar and be on the lookout for a call for proposals.

Research News

New NSF Data Management and Sharing Plan Requirements

In a landscape of shifting federal requirements in documentation and process for federally funded projects, researchers at UNM can still depend on their Faculty Research Support Officers (FRSO) network and University Libraries colleagues to support them through the changes.

Members of the FRSO network have extensive experience with funding agency expectations and can proactively advise on how changes – like expanding open access demands – can factor into project budgets and proposal strategies. In addition, Research Data Services at University Libraries has created a comprehensive guide of considerations as you navigate [Data Management and Sharing Plan](#) requirements for your grants.

Welcome CARC Director Tyson Swetnam

We are thrilled to announce the newest director of UNM's Center for Advanced Research Computing – Dr. Tyson Swetnam, who will join the Lobo family on July 1. A third-generation New Mexican with deep family ties to the northern part of the state, Swetnam joins UNM from the University of Arizona, where he served as research associate professor of Geoinformatics and co-PI of the NSF-funded CyVerse cyberinfrastructure project. His research spans life, earth, and computational sciences, centering on open-source software, AI, and reproducible research. Welcome back home, CARC Director Swetnam.

CERL Awardee: Steven Walsh

Congratulations to the 2026 Community Engaged Research Lectureship Awardee -- UNM

Distinguished Professor Steven Walsh. Since 1998, Walsh has dedicated his career to UNM and its community of faculty, staff and students. Always with mentorship in mind, Walsh has engaged in and led numerous courses and program development activities that expanded the opportunities for students within The James & Gail Ellis School of Business Leadership (previously known as the Anderson School of Management).

We look forward to celebrating Professor Walsh during Research & Discovery Week in the fall.

Research Technology

Huron Suite Update

Researchers, I'm very proud of the progress we've made in implementing the Huron Research Suite electronic research administration (eRA) system. Our research administrators have worked tirelessly to launch the Employee Compensation and Compliance (ECC) module which went live in March. Our first certification period ended on May 31. Although the new ECC system has helped us complete more certifications and reduce the number of delinquent projects compared to previous periods, we are not yet at 100 percent compliance.

During this certification period, research administrators pre-reviewed 1,833 projects and PI's have certified 1,363. **There are currently 468 projects needing PI certification and 54 projects needing both pre-review and certification.** We ask that research administrators and PIs work to complete these remaining certifications so that we can achieve full compliance.

At the same time, cross-campus teams are working with Huron to build and test modules for Grants and Agreements, Conflict-of-Interest (COI), and Institutional Review Board (IRB). These modules will be deployed in tandem later this year, with our teams working through the summer to ensure a smooth rollout. Please look for additional opportunities to participate in system testing and training to be offered later this year.

Research Radiates

This month, I'm excited to introduce you to UNM Assistant Professor Sarale Ben-Asher. She's a philosopher who sparks inspiration as she's someone who never stops asking questions. This is a trait I truly admire and I've spoken about in recent months, as well as the pride – as researchers – we should always take in the ability to ask good, hard questions about the world around us.

My name is Sarale Ben-Asher, and I am a philosopher. This is my second year at UNM as an assistant professor. My main inspiration comes from Ancient Greek thought, especially Plato, who has been my main topic of study. I focus on his views of human nature and the nature of reality as two inseparable issues: who we think we are shapes our views about everything else, and the world as a whole.

Plato explores and dramatizes a tension I feel within myself. I feel that I must know who I am in order to make sense of the world, both practically and theoretically. His main character, Socrates, thematizes this question: he says he must know who he is before taking up other questions. But how do we answer this without relying on assumptions we absorb from culture, science, and public opinion? Plato recognizes this problem and offers ways of thinking it through.

We are seeing rapid changes across the board, both domestically and globally. During such periods, people are confronted with old questions as they work to make sense of their lives under conditions of uncertainty. The best and most difficult part of my job is to bear the weight of these questions, to find joy and meaning in exploring them, and to help others, especially my students, do the same.