



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

May 23, 2012

Transparency: The first phase of the UNM Sunshine Portal goes live on Friday, May 25. Information regarding purchasing contracts, and employee positions and salaries will be made available on the portal. The second phase, which will be added later this summer, will include budget, additional financial information and a search function. For more info please visit <http://it.unm.edu/sunshine/>. For other academic data and information, please check out the Provost's Dashboard at <http://dashboard.unm.edu>. The Dashboard's official launch date is June 1, 2012.

Tracking the Trackers: When you go online, much of your browsing is being tracked. Worse yet, if you watch the Ted Talk at: http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/gary_kovacs_tracking_the_trackers.html you will also find out that your browsing traffic is being sent to other sites without your consent. If you are using Firefox, you can actually track those who are tracking you using the Collusion software: www.mozilla.org/collusion/.

Graphing America: I recently stumbled across this wonderful site that displays useful information about the U.S. in an efficient way: <http://www.npr.org/templates/archives/archive.php?thingId=151202820>. Check out for example the link on student loans: <http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2012/04/18/150909686/what-america-owes-in-student-loans>.

Interim VPR Search: The search for our interim VPR is on. For full posting details and application instructions please refer to the following UNMJobs link: <https://unmjobs.unm.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=67745>. All nominations should be sent via email to spx02@unm.edu. The position will remain open until filled. For best consideration submit application by June 5, 2012.

Feedback: As part of my review, some of you remarked that I often use my iPad during meetings. I plead guilty and while I do take notes on my iPad, I am trying to stop using it and obey meeting etiquette.

Summer Instruction: Our summer semester starts on June 4, 2012. This year, more courses than ever are available during our summer session in order to help our students make up classes, catch up, and graduate on time.

Whistling Vivaldi: Following a recommendation by Chancellor Paul Roth, I just finished reading the book "Whistling Vivaldi: And Other Clues to How Stereotypes Affect Us" by Claude Steele. The book "offers insight into how we form our senses of identity and ultimately lays out a plan for mitigating the negative effects of 'stereotype threat' and reshaping American identities." As a non-psychologist, I found the design of experiments in the book ingenious, and many of the prescribed solutions promising.

Sincerely,

Chaouki Abdallah, Provost & Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs

A PDF version of this communiqué is available at: <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/index.html>. Your feedback and input are welcome at: provost@unm.edu or at the electronic town hall: <http://connectu.unm.edu/>.