



THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW MEXICO

Office of the Provost



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

September 18, 2013

Retirees Association: This past Sunday, I visited with the [UNM Retirees Association](#) (UNMRA) during their retreat held at the UNM [Sevilleta Field Station](#). If you have never been there, it is worth a trip and an overnight stay! The UNMRA is an officially recognized University association, and one of the campus groups that serve as advisors to the Board of Regents. It was established to enhance the quality of life for its members. The retreat was a good platform to discuss how the UNMRA can help the University achieve its multiple missions, as well as how to advocate for the retired UNM faculty and staff. There will be some exciting initiatives and outreach activities by the UNMRA throughout the upcoming year.

Nine Questions You Were Afraid to Ask: I have refrained from discussing politics in this Communiqué but have recently come across a very useful posting that provides factual and useful information about an ongoing global crisis. The nine questions listed [here](#) provide, in my opinion, a good and unbiased introduction to a very difficult situation.

UNM Fact Book: Every year the Office of Institutional Analytics (OIA) publishes a UNM Fact Book that displays comprehensive data about the University. This year's Fact Book, as well as previous editions, may be found at the [OIA website](#). Some of the data is displayed on the [Provost's Analytics Dashboard](#).

How to Solve Big Problems: One of my recent PhD students sent me the following interesting [article](#) about one governmental organization that has been punching above its weight. The Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA) model of innovation has three main characteristics: ambitious goals, temporary project teams, and independence. For those who might be unaware, DARPA is the organization that gave birth to the internet, GPS, and telepresence surgery.

UNM Press: The [UNM Press](#) has a proud and glorious history. "Established in 1929 by the Regents of the University of New Mexico, UNM Press is a well-known and respected publisher in the fields of anthropology, archaeology, indigenous studies, Latin American studies, American studies, Chicana/o studies, art, architecture, and the history, literature, ecology, and cultures of the American West. The Press imprint is overseen by a faculty committee, whose twelve members are appointed by the Faculty Senate to represent a broad spectrum of university departments." The press continues to be recognized by national and regional awards, such as: (1) The Alfred B. Thomas Award, which is awarded annually by the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies for the best book on a Latin American subject: Hector Lindo-Fuentes and Erik Ching's "Modernizing Minds in El Salvador: Education Reform and the Cold War, 1960-1980"; (2) The Mexican History Prize is awarded annually by the Conference on Latin American History for the book or article judged to be the most significant work on the history of Mexico published during the previous year: Paul Gillingham's "Cauhtemoc's Bones: Forging National Identity in Modern Mexico"; (3) The Thomas McGann Award is awarded by the Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies to the outstanding book published in the previous calendar year: Steven B. Bunker's "Creating Mexican Consumer Culture in the Age of Porfirio Díaz"; and (4) The Mexico Humanities Book Award is awarded by the Latin American Studies Association for the outstanding book on Mexico published in the humanities: Steven B. Bunker, Department of History, University of Alabama, for "Creating Mexican Consumer Culture in the Age of Porfirio Díaz."

Albuquerque Museum is Free for UNM Students: In partnership with Frontier and Golden Pride, the Albuquerque Museum is proud to announce that UNM students will receive FREE admission to the Museum when they show their student ID during the 2013-2014 school year. If you are a student, or have one in your family, be sure to check out all of the exciting [events](#) and [exhibitions](#) at the Museum during the coming year.

UNM Mobile Application Contest: UNM has launched a mobile application development contest for Fall 2013. This contest is open to UNM faculty, staff, and students, either individually or in teams. Sponsored by the Office of the CIO, the goal of this contest is to promote the Open Event Data Repository, a new collection of event data that is completely open to the general public. The challenge is to code an “app” that uses this open data and displays it in a unique and creative way. Prizes up to \$5,000 will be awarded to top student finishers or teams as judged at the beginning of the Spring 2014 semester. For more information, please see the [contest website](#) or send us an [email](#).

Administrative Support Alliance Conference: The Administrative Support Alliance of the University of New Mexico’s (ASA-UNM) presents its 2013 conference, "Self-Empowerment for Administrative Professionals in a Climate of Change," on Thursday, Oct. 10, in the Student Union Building. Visit [Administrative Support Alliance](#) to register. Early registration ends Thursday, Sept. 26 and closes on Monday, Sept. 30.

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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, here: <http://connectu.unm.edu/>. Please also see the Provost’s Blog at <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/index.html>.