



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

September 14, 2011

Correction: In last week's communiqué, I quoted W.G. Bowen and referred to him as an ex-president of Columbia University. As many of you have remarked, he was actually the president of Princeton University (1972-1988), then the president of the Andrew W. Mellon foundation between 1988 and 2006.

9/11: On Sunday, I was asked to speak at a student-led event commemorating the 10-year anniversary of September 11, 2001. The event was organized by the Student Veterans of UNM, Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, and ASUNM. As I contemplated what I would say, I remembered a poem by Seamus Heaney, known as "When Hope and History Rhyme" which is an excerpt from *The Cure at Troy*. A copy of the poem can be found at: http://www.panhala.net/Archive/The_Cure_at_Troy.html.

UNM Rome: The UNM Rome Program is now accepting applications for its spring and summer 2012 study abroad programs. In its fourth year, UNM's Rome Center is housed in the heart of Rome's historical center and birthplace of Western civilization near the Capitoline Hill. It offers participants a curriculum focused on art, art history, Italian language, history and culture. Rome's museums, churches, archaeological sites and squares serve as an extended classroom, where students live as the Italians do while they study historical works of art and architecture. Weekend field trips offer an opportunity to visit ancient cities such as Tivoli, Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Paestum as well as the Renaissance centers of Florence and Venice. As part of the program, students are housed in fully-equipped apartments in Trastevere, one of the oldest neighborhoods in Rome. With the exception of the Italian language course, all of the classes are taught in English.

Students are eligible to enroll in a maximum 18 UNM credits during the semester program and 12 UNM credits during the 4-week program. Most forms of financial aid may be applied to the UNM Rome Program and there are also study abroad scholarships. The application deadline for Spring 2012 is October 15, 2011 and the Summer 2012 deadline is February 1, 2012. For more information, contact the Rome Program Director, Dr. Lori-Ann Touchette at ltouche@tin.it, or go to <http://unm.abroadoffice.net/internal-program-description-UNM-Rome-Program-semester--27176-120.html>. There will be a Study Abroad Fair this Thursday, September 15, from 10am-2pm in the SUB where you can hear from past Rome program participants about their experiences.

In Praise of Diversity: Does diversity trump ability? A book by Scott E. Page of the University of Michigan titled, *The Difference: How the Power of Diversity Creates Better Groups, Firms, Schools, and Societies* demonstrates that in many cases, "diverse perspectives and tools enable collections of people to find more and better solutions and contribute to overall productivity." This is especially true in complex organizations like universities. During this academic year, the Provost's Office will work with the President to assemble a campus-wide team to develop a diversity and excellence plan. For an example of similar efforts at other institutions, please visit: <http://www.diversity.umich.edu/about/bp-summary.php> and <http://web.mit.edu/provost/raceinitiative/>. As always, I count on input from the university community on this important initiative.

A PDF version of this communiqué is available at: <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/index.html>

Your feedback and input is welcome at: provost@unm.edu

Sincerely,

Chaouki Abdallah

Interim Provost & Executive Vice President