



THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW MEXICO

Office of the Provost



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

December 14, 2011

UNM Presidential Search: By the end of the day, the campus community will have met the last of our presidential finalists. Information about the finalists and their public forums may be viewed at: presidentalsearch.unm.edu. I greatly suggest that you to make your voices heard by sending your feedback to search@unm.edu.

One More Glass: Last week, I mentioned the book titled, *A History of the World in 6 Glasses* and received lots of appreciative feedback. Dean Brown of the Anderson School of Management remarked that we might be on the cusp of a 7th period, namely the era of bottled water. (For those you of you have not read it, I recommend you do, it is an interesting book).

Re-CAPTCHA: If you want to digitize books, create internet art, or even to learn a new language, check out this talk: http://www.ted.com/talks/luis_von_ahn_massive_scale_online_collaboration.html. The speaker inspired me to look for efficiencies in everyday activities. In fact, you may already be working for the speaker without knowing it!

What is a University? According to Wikipedia, “The word *university* is derived from the Latin *universitas magistrorum et scholarium*, which roughly means community of teachers and scholars. By 19th century, the German and the French university models had arisen. The German, or *Humboldtian* model (after Friedrich Humboldt) that was adopted by Harvard and then by other US institutions, was conceived by Wilhelm von Humboldt and is based on liberal ideas pertaining to the importance of freedom, seminars, and laboratories in universities. The French university model involved strict discipline and control over every aspect of the university.” Friedrich’s younger brother, Alexander von Humboldt, was equally famous, as a naturalist and scientist, and the Humboldt fellowship (recall last week’s message) is named after him. Since the university is a community of teachers and scholars, teaching would seem to be one of the primary functions of the university. However, a 1995 article in *Change Magazine* titled “From Teaching to Learning” by Barr & Tagg, makes the point that for undergraduate education, shifting the emphasis from teaching to learning may be required. The article is a precursor for recent emphasis on output measures.

Grading & Commencement: Please make sure to submit your grades on time! An e-mail on 12/09/2011 from Alec Reber, Associate Registrar, spells out instructions and deadlines for submitting grades.

UNM fall commencement will take place on Friday, Dec. 16, 6 p.m. at the PIT. The commencement speaker will be Mr. Edward Lewis, a respected publisher and a UNM Alumn. About 1,641 students are projected to receive degrees from UNM’s Albuquerque and Branch campuses. I hope to see many of you there!

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 for Academic Affairs