



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

November 6, 2013

University Rankings: Someone eventually had to rank the college rankings and at least two organizations did so as described in the [recent article](#) in *The Atlantic*. My favorite is #9 on [the Slate list](#), but a more relevant one was conducted by [GraduatePrograms.com](#). This one was a ranking compiled by graduate students, “enumerating the best graduate programs in the country in a variety of fields based solely on ratings and reviews from current or recent graduate students posted on [GraduatePrograms.com](#). Program rankings, compiled using data gathered between Sept. 1, 2012 and September 30, 2013, encompass reviews posted by more than 40,000 students participating in over 1,300 graduate programs nationwide. Ratings are based on a ten star system (with one being the worst and ten being the best).” According to this list, our own architecture program ranked in the top 25 in the US.

UNM Wellness Center Planning & Open Forums: In keeping with the University’s commitment to support and promote the health and wellness of all students, faculty, and staff, a planning group has been working over the last several years to explore the possibility, including financial feasibility and campus support for, building a new Wellness Center on campus. The proposed Wellness Center has the potential to be a vital new facility that provides easy access to health and wellness resources for the entire UNM community. A planning effort of this scale requires input from the entire community, and I want to encourage you to join us for upcoming informational and open forum sessions where you can learn about the proposal, offer feedback, and join the discussion about the future of health and wellness at the University. This discussion will contribute directly to the efforts of the planning group as they seek to create a proposal that meets the needs of the community. The open forums will take place in the Student Union Building main level from 11-2:00 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 11 and 12. Additional opportunities for input will be advertised as they are scheduled.

The Repurposed Ph.D.: “According to a 2011 National Science Foundation survey, 35 percent of doctorate recipients — 43 percent of those in the humanities — had no commitment for employment at the time of completion. Fewer than half of Ph.D.s are expected to land tenure-track jobs. And many voluntarily choose another path because they want higher pay or more direct engagement with the world than monographs and tenure committees seem to allow.” Now, some have taken matters into their own hands in order to [provide multiple paths](#) for post-doctorate employment and life. The UNM Department of History has already begun to explore wider career paths for history Ph.D.s, as a partner in a “History at Work” initiative, sponsored by the American Historical Association.

Let Them Eat MOOCs & Other Opinions: It has been a while since the Massively Open Online Courses (MOOCs) fever swept across our campus and beyond. Two recent articles take opposite views on the subject. The [first](#) provides for a principled stand against the MOOCs business model, while the [second](#) makes the case again that online education in general, and MOOCs in particular, are following in the footsteps of other disruptive technologies and should be carefully monitored. At UNM, we are discussing the internal agreement between UNM and the faculty (through the faculty senate committees) on how to share in the financial revenues (if any). One UNM course will soon be released into the COURSERA platform.

The Language of Architecture: [Daniel Libeskind](#) is an internationally-acclaimed architect whose buildings include the Jewish Museum in Berlin, the Imperial War Museum North in Greater Manchester, and the Ground Zero Master Plan, NYC. On Thursday, Nov. 7, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in Woodward Lecture Hall, he will be giving the [2013 George Anselevicius Memorial Lecture](#). The School of Architecture and Planning Alumni Association will host a reception at George Pearl Hall following the lecture at 7pm.

Microaggressions: Dr. Derald Wing Sue, author of the book “Microaggressions in Everyday Life: Race, Gender, and Sexual Orientation,” and professor of psychology and education in the Department of Counseling and Clinical

Psychology at Teachers College and the School of Social Work, Columbia University, will serve as [the keynote speaker](#) for the 4th Annual Presidential Luminaria Awards on Friday, Nov. 8, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in the UNM Student Union Building Ballrooms A and B.

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Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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