

# The Acting Provost's Weekly Brief

**April 5, 2017**

Greetings! I hope you're having a good week. As we near the end of the semester, the number of student events and awards banquets is starting to ramp up. These are all excellent opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff. Today's report includes a sample of the events that took place over the past week.

On a different note, we are in somewhat of a "holding pattern" regarding the budget until we get more guidance from Santa Fe. We are hopeful that we will be able to take steps to mitigate as much of the impact on faculty and staff as possible. The Budget Leadership Team has built contingency amounts into its projections; however, we won't know the accuracy of these estimates without further information. I will pass along more information as soon as possible.

As always, if you have any questions or comments please let me know.

## **Division of Genomic Resources Expansion**

During the recent annual Museum of Southwestern Biology and Department of Biology's annual open house, there was a celebration of the expansion of the biological material repository for the Division of Genomic Resources (DGR). Funded by a combination of grant and UNM capital funds, it involved the installation of several frozen nitrogen repository tanks to protect this world-renowned collection.



DGR is the largest wild mammal frozen collection worldwide (ten times the size of the Smithsonian's), top ten largest bird and parasite frozen collections, and largest frozen collections of fishes, amphibians and reptiles in the Southwest. With excellent representation of more than 2000 species of vertebrates

and their parasites (fleas, ticks, helminth worms) from western North America, Asia, Africa, and throughout Latin America, this resource is essential to studies of emerging pathogens, genomics, climate change, molecular evolution, conservation genetics, environmental informatics, and stable isotope ecology. This collection has established UNM as an international research leader in biology and is the basis for collaborations with the private sector and multimillion dollar grants from NIH, NSF, DOD, USDA, & CDC. DGR is instrumental in natural resource management and also tracking emerging pathogens in the US, Panama, Chile, Europe and East Asia. The open house was a part of UNM Department of Biology's 2017 Research Days.

A number of dignitaries were in attendance at the open house, including (in the photo at right, from left to right): Dean Mark Peceny, Karl Johnson, MD (discovered both Ebola and Hantavirus), State Senator Cisco McSorley, former UNM President David Schmidly and Director of the Museum of Southwestern Biology, Joe Cook.



## UNM Business Plan Competition

The [UNM Business Plan Competition](#) was held last Friday. The competition was the culmination of seven months of preparation. The process involves a series of "boot camps" and mentorship training, leading to





the competition. Student groups earn prizes for delivering the best presentations. Then, the student groups implement their plans and begin start-up ventures. Afterwards, the new companies are assisted with follow-up support. This year, the winning teams were awarded over \$90,000 in prize money to help implement their plans. Congratulations to Sul Kassicieh, Alberto Solis, and all the participants on an outstanding event. We wish all the teams well in their efforts to start a successful business and grow the New Mexico economy!

### Shared Knowledge Conference

The [Spring 2017 Shared Knowledge Conference](#) kicks off at 9am tomorrow in the Student Union Building (SUB), Ballroom C. Throughout the day, you can see poster sessions and LoboBITES competitions—the UNM version of the 3MT (three-minute thesis) event—two formats that challenge researchers to explain their work concisely and to general audiences. Information on the poster sessions and LoboBITES heats can be found on the [Office of Graduate Studies event page](#).

### Global and National Security at the 2017 Spring Symposium

The [sixth symposium](#) of the [National Security Studies Program](#) was held yesterday and today. Titled “Global and National Security Challenges and Opportunities Facing the New Administration,” the symposium included presentations and panel discussions on current national security topics covering a range of global regions, such as Russia, China, North Korea, Iran, and Syria. Yesterday morning, I had the pleasure of listening to the keynote lecture by Greg Treverton (pictured at right), Former Chairman of the National Intelligence Council.



## **Board of Regents' Academic/Student Affairs & Research Committee**

The Regent's ASAR subcommittee meeting is tomorrow. The link to the agenda book is [here](#). It includes action items on Native American Studies, the Albuquerque Institute for Mathematics and Science (AIMS), and Emergency Medical Services; and information items on the Global Education Office, and capital projects (Farris Engineering, the McKinnon Center, and the Physics and Astronomy Interdisciplinary Science Building).

## **Outstanding Staff & Workgroup Awards**

Awards season is open. Last week I highlighted the Louie Awards for Student Affairs staff. This week, I'd like to highlight the Provost's Committee for Staff "Outstanding Staff & Workgroup Awards." You can [submit nominations](#) for excellent and deserving staff and workgroups through Monday, April 10. Take a moment to think about the people you work with everyday that make your life easier, and the university a better place.

## **Goldwater Scholars**

The [Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program](#) winners [were announced](#) for this year, and the list of 240 recipients (out of an initial 1,286 nominees) included two UNM students. A third UNM student received an Honorable mention. Congratulations to Jonathon Cordova, Randy Ko, and Jane Nguyen. Cordova, a senior majoring in biochemistry, is pursuing biomedical research in cancer genomics. Ko, also in biochemistry, intends to study nanomaterials as part of a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering. Jane Nguyen received an honorable mention for her work as a senior majoring in chemical engineering.

## **Ray Monk and the Responsibilities of a Biographer**

This Friday, Ray Monk will give a lecture in Mitchell Hall, Room 102 at 3:30 p.m. Monk is a professor of philosophy at the University of Southampton, and he has published biographies on Robert Oppenheimer, Ludwig Wittgenstein, and Bertrand Russell. His lecture will explore the responsibilities of the biographer toward his subject, the public, and the truth.

## **Craig White**

**Acting Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs**

A PDF version of this weekly brief is available on the [Academic Affairs website](#). Your feedback and input are welcome at [provost@unm.edu](mailto:provost@unm.edu).