

The Interim Provost's Weekly Brief

November 10, 2017

Good afternoon. I hope you have had a good week. In honor of Veterans Day, I am participating in two events today recognizing current and former Lobo service members.

There was a Veteran's Day ceremony this morning at 9 a.m. at the Alumni Chapel. Later this afternoon, we are dedicating a new space for the Student Veterans Association. Our current student and alumni veterans are an important part of the UNM community. They represent tremendous diversity in terms of experience, age, race, gender and affiliation. Their presence on campus is representative of their dual commitment to education and national service, and we all benefit from the experiences and contributions they bring to our classrooms and workplaces. Our alumni have served and continue to serve across the globe and we honor all our Lobo Veterans. Thank you all for your service!



Alex Gonzalez

Earlier this week our long-time friend and colleague Alex Gonzalez passed away. Alex was a part of the UNM community for nearly three decades, beginning in 1988. He was both a student and employee, working most recently as the Registrar, a post he held for almost eight years. Alex was a kind and generous co-worker, and a dedicated advocate for students. Information on memorial services will be forthcoming.

Patrick Nagatani

We also mourn the loss of Professor Patrick Nagatani, who came to UNM in 1987 and taught in the Department of Art and Art History until his retirement in 2007. He was an [esteemed photographer and teacher](#), and was named a UNM Regents' Professor in 2003. He was also a key contributor to the international reputation of the Photography Department. His creative works and generous personal relationships have created a lasting legacy at the University. He passed away on Friday, Oct. 27.

Shared Knowledge Conference

The Shared Knowledge Conference was held on Wednesday at Hodgkin Hall. I had the opportunity to attend the afternoon portion, including the LoboBITES competition on the third floor, at the end of which I had the pleasure of handing out awards. The Shared Knowledge Conference is always an outstanding and well-organized event, and this one was no exception. It embodies many of the values that we hold collectively: the importance of research, collaboration and discussion, and the support and celebration of our many talented students. The event also benefits from the hard-working staff members, a number of volunteer reviewers, and competition judges. This year, the final round judges were Maria Griego-Raby, Principal, Contract Associates (and former UNM Regent); Jim Novak, Sandia National Laboratories; Jessica Dyer, Albuquerque Journal; and Janice Ruggiero, Deputy Athletic Director, UNM.



Julie Coonrod, dean of Graduate Studies (left), and Dana Allen, executive director of the UNM Alumni Association

Here were the winners of this year's LoboBITES awards: first place:

James Fluke, for "Characterization of Bacterial Impairment along the Rio Grande near Albuquerque;" second place: Cristabelle De Souza, for "Tackling a tumor suppressor gone rogue: Can we OVARcome ovarian cancer?"; and third place: Erin Watson-Chappell, for "Exploring snail immunology using the common garden snail." If you'd like to see abstracts of the LoboBITES presentations or the poster presentations, they are available in the [digital repository](#).

Craig White

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