

# Academic Dispatch

**May 14, 2020**

## **Endings and Beginnings**

This is the end of term. Our students are completing their classes, and, despite the extra challenges of the term and the uncertainties of the summer, looking forward to the conclusion of this chapter of their academic lives. Some of our students are graduating, some 4700 of them in fact, and moving on to that next chapter beyond UNM. Congratulations to all our Lobos!

I must also take this moment to thank and congratulate some remarkable leaders who have served UNM and our students in roles as deans of our academic schools and colleges, and now are moving on to new chapters in their lives as well.

Shaw Berman, Interim Dean of the Anderson School of Management will be stepping down June 30, 2020, and returning to his faculty role as professor of business and society. Berman has ably steered the Anderson School as dean since January 1, 2019. He has focused much of his work on business ethics and on more strongly connecting Anderson with the New Mexico business community, through many venues including the Anderson Foundation Board and the Anderson Alumni Council. Shawn brings a positive leadership approach to everything he does, and has been a pleasure to work with during my first year as provost. As an example of his positive, people-oriented perspective, Dean Berman and the Anderson School partnered with Suits Unlimited and the ASM Foundation Board to provide a full-size run of suits and accessories to Anderson students and graduates unable to get their own professional attire due to time or budgetary constraints. Thanks, Shawn, for everything you have done for UNM. We look forward to seeing what you do next!

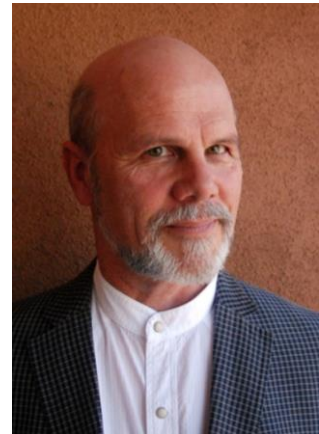


Deborah Riftenbary has served as Interim Dean of the College of Education, now the College of Education and Human Sciences, since July 2019. She and I essentially started on the same day! Dean Riftenbary brought to conclusion the multi-year process to change the name of the college to better reflect the full scope of activity within their community of scholars. She described this change as critical in developing “an interdisciplinary approach considering all the changes taking place in education, not only focusing on the cognitive and intellectual aspects, but considering the social and emotional aspects of the whole child, the family, and the community.” Deb also was central in bringing together her college’s work around Native



American education, special education, and English-language learner education, including creating partnerships that are launching bachelor degree completion programs for educational assistants, based at the UNM branch campuses and in Albuquerque. These programs provided a concrete realization for the state's Grow Your Own Teacher Act and the Teacher Education Affordability Act. Deb was a wonderful collaborator with all the deans, and I have greatly valued our time together. Thanks, Deb!

Also beginning in July 2019, Mark Childs took on the role of Interim Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning. He immediately focused on three objectives: positioning the school to attract the best possible new dean; spreading the word about the many impactful projects and community engagements the school was pursuing; and strategically identifying the strengths of the school that would provide new opportunities going forward. Check, check, check! During his tenure the school has achieved much. They hosted Alberto Kalach as both a speaker and jury chair for the Jeff Harnar Awards, launched a competition for writers and visionaries to reimagine the Albuquerque Railyards, and expanded their recruiting activities including through a design education workshop for local school children. Mark has been an outspoken (in a constructive way!) member of our dean's council and a voice of wisdom in our many debates. I can always count on Mark to speak up with good ideas, and with a word of advocacy for the design disciplines of UNM. Mark steps down from his interim dean role at the end of June. We will be forever grateful to Mark for his service.



Richard Clement is a man of the archives! Clement, Dean of the College of Libraries and Learning Sciences, has shaped the UNM libraries during his tenure and brought us into a modern digital age. The ability of the library to serve us through online services, so important over the last few months, has been a critical contribution of Dean Clement to UNM. Among other initiatives he brought UNM into the HathiTrust, providing access to over 5 million online digital volumes. He has also ably overseen the UNM Press, and made wise decisions to allow it to continue serving academia even in a time when many other university presses were closing. Richard will step down as dean at the end of June. While Richard came to us from the University of Utah, his heart is now with his granddaughter in Kansas, where he expects to move upon his retirement in September. Thanks, Richard, for all you have done.



Regina Carlow has served as Interim Dean of the College of Fine Arts since January 2019. She has been instrumental in creating a unified vision for several proposed capital projects for the College of Fine Arts, as well as encouraging new post-baccalaureate programs. These programs serve as models for higher education as students seek further education beyond their undergraduate degree to develop their talents and differentiate themselves. Dean Carlow has also provided tremendous opportunities for the New Mexico music education community through her work in developing children's choral programs across the state. She moves on now to assume the role of Dean of the College of Fine Arts & Communication at Towson University in Maryland. I wish her the best of luck in this exciting new role. I will miss our partnership, and I know she will keep New Mexico forever in her heart.



Finally, I must recognize Professor Greg Lanier, who will step down as Dean of the Honors College, effective tomorrow, Friday May 15. Dean Lanier oversaw the move of the Honors College from the basement of the Student Health and Counseling Center to Anderson East, after a \$2.1 million renovation. The new space houses the Honors Adobe Creative Flexible Classroom, part of our partnership with Adobe that Prof. Lanier has championed, as well as the Honors Forum, a showcase for creative activity and research projects produced by students. Prof. Lanier has been a strong supporter of a broad vision of honors as a cross-university activity that could be embedded into the core of every school and college at UNM. I learned much from Greg, not only about honors programs and what they could be, but also about the tactics of Roman generals. Thanks, Greg!



On behalf of UNM, I express thanks to all these amazing leaders who have made my first year such a pleasure, coronavirus or not! Thanks also to our wonderful faculty and staff, who have helped UNM do the impossible this year. And finally, thanks to all of our students – you are a credit to UNM and to the future of New Mexico.

### **James Paul Holloway**

**Professor of Nuclear Engineering**  
**Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs**

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