



COLLEGE OF  
ARTS & SCIENCES  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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## MARCH 2025 ISSUE

## WELCOME TO THE A&S NEWSLETTER

[Share your news and announcements for an upcoming newsletter](#)

**Dear Arts & Sciences community,**

This month, the College celebrated the *three* A&S alums honored at this year's [Alumni Awards](#).

Congratulations to:

- **Dr. Cynthia Chavez Lamar**, recipient of the **Bernard S. Rodey Award**
- **Iliana Limón Romero**, recipient of the **James F. Zimmerman Award**
- **Associate Professor Leola Tsinnajinnie Paquin** (UNM Native American Studies), recipient of the **Faculty Teaching Award**



*Dr. Cynthia Chavez Lamar (front row left), Professor Leola Tsinnajinnie Paquin (front row right), and Iliana Limón Romero (back row, second from right) pictured alongside other 2025 Alumni Award recipients)*

## **About This Year's A&S Alumni Award Winners**

- **Dr. Cynthia Chavez Lamar** (Ph.D. '01) is the Director of the National Museum of the American Indian. Chavez Lamar received the Bernard S. Rodey Award in recognition of her leadership in Indigenous museum curation and scholarship.
- **Ilana Limón Romero** (BA. '03), the first Latina sports editor to serve at a major U.S. newspaper, was honored with the James F. Zimmerman Award for her groundbreaking work in journalism.
- **Dr. Leola Tsinnajinnie Paquin** (Ph.D. '11), Associate Professor in UNM's Native American Studies program, was recognized with the Faculty Teaching Award for her dedication to Indigenous education and student mentorship.

□ Professor Tsinnajinnie Paquin is the keynote speaker for this year's CTL UNM Spring Teaching Conference in April. See below for registration information.

Congratulations again to these inspiring Lobos!

## **Opportunities to Learn More About Federal Government Changes**

Thanks to all who attended last month's open forums on changes from the executive branch.

We're sharing two additional opportunities to connect with University and College leadership and learn more:

### **□ Spring 2025 A&S Community Meeting**

- □ **March 26**, 1:30–2:30 p.m.
- SUB Ballroom C

Connect with colleagues and hear updates from **Provost Holloway** and **Dean Malat**.

### **□ Spring 2025 A&S Town Hall**

- □ **April 16**, 2:00–3:00 p.m.
- SUB Ballroom C

Join us for conversation and College updates and share what's on your mind.

## A&S Takes Part in "The Pack's Got Your Back"



Amanda Munk, DA for Chemistry



Sushilla Knottenbelt and Alice Hollow Horn,  
Dean's Office

The College heard your concerns about students' well-being at the Open Forums and shared them with the Office of Student Affairs.

["The Pack's Got Your Back"](#) is a new initiative created to support our Lobo community and foster a sense of belonging on campus. It was a direct outcome of your feedback and some wonderful cross-campus collaboration.

The College partnered with Student Affairs, SHAC, University College and other offices to set up tables across campus over three days, offering healthy snacks, Lobo coloring pages and some words of encouragement.

Thanks to all who volunteered!

## Spring Commencement Volunteer Wanted



Do you know someone who's graduating this spring? **Volunteer** to serve as the College's banner carrier and get a front-row seat at Commencement!

- **Undergraduate University Commencement** | Saturday, May 16, 6 p.m.

No regalia? No problem: the University Secretary's office can provide regalia if needed.

- Email [Erin Elkins](#) by Friday, March 14 to volunteer!**

Thanks to everyone who donated to this year's Big Give. UNM raised **102%** of its Big Give

goal, and your generosity helps support scholarships, student opportunities and the new **Humanities Facility**.

## A&S Dean's Office Staff



# GOOD NEWS & UPDATES

## The Humanities & Interdisciplinary Units: **Anna Nogar**

¡Felicitades to these Humanities faculty and departments for their outstanding work!

**Dr. Sarah Hernandez**, associate professor in the Department of English and Director of the **Institute for American Indian Research**, received an honorable mention for this year's MLA Prize for Studies in Native American Literatures, Cultures and Languages for her book [We Are the Stars: Colonizing and Decolonizing the Oceti Sakowin Literary Tradition.](#)



**Dr. Osman Umurhan**, associate professor of Classics in the **Department of Languages, Cultures & Literatures**, has been appointed Chief Reader for the AP Latin exam, a prestigious four-year role that will shape Latin instruction nationwide.

## The Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Units: **Keith Hunley**

Kudos to Research Assistant Professor [Angelyn Bass and the Department of Anthropology!](#)

Professor Bass's conservation and mapping work for Mummy Cave, Tsé Yaa Kin, in Canyon de Chelly is featured in the March 2025 issue of [Smithsonian Magazine](#).



## Natural Sciences & Mathematics: **Peter Fawcett**

I'm excited to share these recent research updates from our departments.

Congratulations to:

**Distinguished Professor Scott Collins (Biology)**, whose research on the role of grasslands in ecosystem resilience and drought recovery was recently published in [Nature](#).



NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellow **Elizabeth Lombardi (Biology)**, in collaboration with teams from the **Museum of Southwestern Biology** and the **Biology Department**, published [an article](#) exploring New

Mexican botanical collections dating back to 1812, with applications for promoting biodiversity and future conservation efforts.

**Professor Mitchell Newberry (Biology)** is the senior author of "[Scaling in Branch Thickness and the Fractal Aesthetics of Trees](#)," a study that examines tree structure through mathematical, artistic and biological lenses.

## Research & Graduate Studies: Sharon Nepstad

The College is pleased to announce the recipients of the Spring 2025 Event, Subvention, and Supplemental Travel awards. Congratulations to all!



### Event Fund Recipients

- Aleman, Jesse (English)—Hector A. Torres Memorial Lecture & The American Literary Studies Seminar Symposium
- Atterbury, Daisy (American Studies/WGSS)—Kundiman Southwest: Hybridities Panel
- Barron, Darcy (Physics & Astronomy)—Cosmology with CMB-S4 and Next-Generation VLA Conference
- Carey-Webb, Jessica (Spanish & Portuguese)—Querencias 2025: Intercultural Education and Identity in the Hispanic-Lusophone-Brazilian Space
- Feezell, Jessica (Political Science)—Western States Political Psychology Conference
- Hernandez, Bernadine (English)—Border Feminist Consortium
- Herran Avila, Luis (History)—Book Launch by Ricardo López-Pedreros and Lina Britto
- Murphy, Ann (Philosophy)—Cavell Centenary Conference
- Rodriguez Nazario, Ilia (Communications & Journalism)—The Storytelling of Diasporic Writers in Troubled Times: A Talk with Palestinian Writer Saeed Teebi
- Santiago-Diaz, Eleuterio (Spanish & Portuguese)—The Politics of Blackness in the Poetry of Nancy Morejón
- Syed, Mubarak Hussein (Biology)—Annual Southwest Developmental Biology Meeting
- Trentman, Emma (LCL)—Festival of Languages
- Vallury, Rajeshwari (LCL)—Networks of Power, Visibility, and Technicity
- Wang, Xiaoyang (Economics)—Summer Conference of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists

### Subvention Fund Recipients & Project Titles

- Aleman, Jesse (English)—*Latinx Civil Wars*
- Brown, Renee (Biology)—*MDV ClimEx: A User-friendly Application for Visualizing Climate Extremes in the McMurdo Dry Valley of Antarctica*
- Davis-Secord, Jonathan (English)—*Trans Possibilities in Early Medieval England*
- Howard, Natasha (GES/Africana Studies)—*Black Geographies in the Land of Enchantment*
- Leon-Moreta, Agustin (SPA)—*Cities' Investment in Infrastructure Systems across Regions*
- Townsend, Sarah (English)—*Irish Drama and Coming of Age in the Periphery*
- Vallejos Yopan, Rosa (Linguistics)—*Morfosintaxis: Una Mirada desde las Americas*

### Travel Fund Recipients

- Bolin, Lana (Biology)
- Carey-Webb, Jessica (Spanish & Portuguese)
- Davis-Secord, Jonathan (English)
- Garcia y Griego, LM (History)
- Lu, Yan (Math & Stats)
- Roybal, Sara (Sign Language Interpreting Program)
- Sonntag, Melanie (Center for Social Policy)
- Traxler, Loa (Museum Studies/Anthropology)
- Twitchell, Paul (Linguistics/Sign Language Interpreting Program)
- Ragan, Daniel (Sociology/Criminology)

We're pleased to share some great news for New Mexico's tech landscape.

Quantinuum, a quantum computing company that originated with Honeywell, announced plans to open [a new R&D center in New Mexico](#).

This expansion strengthens New Mexico's role in innovation and quantum research while creating new opportunities for UNM students and researchers.

Join us in welcoming **Daniel Stergios**, our new Contract & Grant Administrator.



Daniel has worked in grant administration, nonprofit development and administrative support since 2016, with experience across the nonprofit, government and higher education sectors.

Before moving to New Mexico in 2024, Daniel worked in Salt Lake City, including roles at the University of Utah and Salt Lake County's Zoo, Arts & Parks program. Daniel is excited to support faculty in securing research funding and the A&S research team with proposals

Also, please congratulate **Vince Sarracino** on his new role at UNM's College of Nursing. Vince has been with the College since 2018 and will be missed! Best wishes, Vince, in your new position.

## Student Success: **Sushilla Knottenbelt**

### *Celebrating A&S Student Success*

Political Science major [Chase Jacques-Maynes has been selected as a Truman Scholarship finalist](#). He is one of only 201 students chosen to interview with the Truman Foundation's regional review panels. Best of luck and congratulations, Chase!

### *Enhance Your Teaching with a TELS Classroom:*

Deadline to apply: 3/21



Are you looking for a fall classroom designed to help you boost student engagement?

If you teach classes with 40–126 students, consider requesting a [UNM TELS classroom](#). TELS classrooms are specifically designed for collaborative learning in any discipline.

### *How to Request a Fall TELS Classroom*

The simplified application process for requesting a TELS classroom is open until April 4, with best consideration by **March 21**.

[Submit your proposal here](#)

## Arts & Sciences Staff News

### **Amanda Munk Wins PCA Kindness Award**

**Amanda Munk**, DA for Chemistry, won the [Provost Committee for Staff \(PCA\) Kindness Award](#). Munk was nominated by two graduate students and became the first

A&S staff member to receive this award.

**Congratulations**, Amanda, and thank you for all you do for your department and the College!



**SHARE YOUR NEWS**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Spring 2025 Monthly Mingles

- Wednesday, April 2
- Wednesday, May 7

All Mingles start at 12 and will be on the Ortega Hall 2nd Floor Patio or in Ortega Suite 335.

- **The Department of Anthropology, Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, and the Feminist Research Institute invite you to take part in a celebration of Women's History Month:**  
[Check March events, scholars, speakers, resources and events here](#)
- **Dr. Evan Ashworth (Lecturer and MA Director for Communication & Journalism) invites you to graduate-student workshops on:**

*"Communicating with Your Students"*

Communication is central to our work as educators; this workshop will offer strategies for engaging with the most important aspects of communicating with students, creating a safe learning space, offering feedback and providing timely interventions.

- March 21 | 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- In person in C&J 116 and [livestreamed on Facebook](#)

*and "Maximizing Your Lesson Plans"*

The lesson plan is one of the most important components of teaching; using them

effectively leads to increased engagement and attendance. This workshop will offer strategies for making the most of class time by balancing lecture, activities, and discussion.

- April 18 | 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- In person in C&J 116 and [livestreamed on Facebook](#)

- **The Language Learning Center invites you to:**

*A Rakugo Presentation*

Join us for a special rakugo presentation with **Dr. Lorie Brau**. Rakugo is a traditional form of Japanese storytelling known for its humor and punchlines. Dr. Brau will share her experience apprenticing with a professional storyteller, demonstrate key performance techniques and introduce the art of *kobanashi* (rakugo jokes). Don't miss this engaging cultural event!

- March 24 | 3 p.m.
- LLC Lab 6

- **The International Studies Institute, along with the Departments of History, Anthropology, Languages, Cultures & Literatures, Political Science, & the Religious Studies Program invite you to:**

*The 2025 Middle East Lecture Series—Thought-provoking discussions with visiting scholars on minority communities and migration in the Middle East*

- March 25–April 29
- [See ISI Web site for speakers, topics and dates](#)

- **The College's Diversity, Equity, Accessibility & Inclusion Committee (DEAI) invites you to its upcoming listening sessions:**

*Session 2: Privilege and Immunity*

- April 1 | 3–4 p.m.
- In person in Mesa Vista 1064 or on Zoom | Fancy snacks provided | [RSVP](#)

*Session 3: Feeling Valued (A Staff Listening Circle)*

- May 6 | 12–1 p.m.
- In person in Mesa Vista 1064 or on Zoom | Lunch provided | [RSVP](#)

- **The Department of Anthropology invites you to:**

["Colombia Revisited: A Conversation."](#) Historians **Dr. Lina Britto** (Northwestern University) and **Dr. A. Ricardo López-Pedreros** (Western Washington University) will discuss their newly edited volumes exploring history and democracy in Colombia.

- March 25 | 3 p.m.
- History Common Room (1104) in Mesa Vista Hall

["The Primate Origins of Human Cognition."](#) The Anthropology Colloquia with **Dr. Alexandra Rosati** (Departments of Psychology & Anthropology, University of Michigan)

- March 28 | 3:00 p.m.
- Hibben 105

[The Ruth Kennedy Public Talk with Nada Neff](#) on "Nutritional Adaptations to Early Maize Cultivation: Earliest Isotopic Evidence of Maize-Based Animal Husbandry in the Neotropics"

- April 9 | 4:30 p.m.



## A&S IN THE UNM NEWSROOM

- [UNM Celebrates Women's History Month](#)
- [Wanna Bet? Psychology Professor Joshua Grubbs Studies the Correlation Between Sports Gambling and Drinking](#)
- [Maxwell Museum Opens New Exhibit on Fermentation](#)
- [Political Science Professor Loren Collingwood's Research Shows No Correlation Between Crime and Sanctuary Cities](#)

### Recent Episodes from UNM's "It's Not Rocket Science" Podcast Featuring A&S Faculty & Students

□ [Black History: The More We Know, the More We Grow](#)

Join **Africana Studies Adjunct Professor Marsha Hardeman** reflect on her personal journey, teaching experiences and research on the 48th anniversary of Black History Month's official recognition.

□ [And the Oscar Goes to UNM Students](#)

Listen as **Political Science Adjunct Professor Lawrence Jones** and his Constitutional Law students share their proposal to the Academy Awards for gender-neutral Oscar categories.



## REMINDERS & LOOK AHEADS

### REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

#### UNM TEACHING CONFERENCE: TEACHING, LEARNING & WELL-BEING AT UNM

April 9—Conference, Day 1 & Teaching Excellence Awards Ceremony  
April 10—Conference, Day 2 (via Zoom)

"Faculty Well-Being as Pedagogy: Building a Sustainable Community of Practice"

Keynote speaker: **Dr. Leola Tsinnajinnie Paquin, Associate Professor, Native American Studies & UNM Presidential Teaching Fellow**

[Register by March 25th](#)

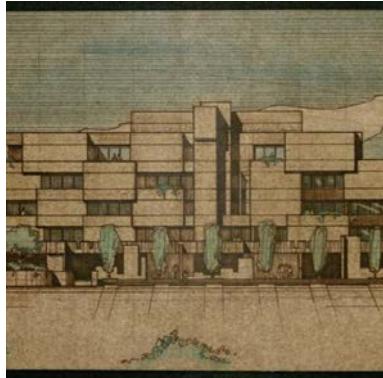
THE EVALUATION SUMMER INSTITUTE

- June 2–6
- UNM Rotunda

Join the [UNM Evaluation Lab](#) for a 5-day intensive course covering all aspects of evaluation. At the end of the Institute, attendees will have a plan of evaluation activities to review with their organizations and tools to begin the evaluation process.

This course can be taken for 3 graduate class credits and is covered by tuition remission!

[Learn more and register](#) | Questions? [Email Emma Tomingas Hatch](#)



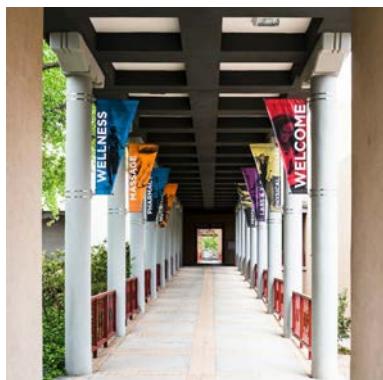
## HUMANITIES PROJECT UPDATES

### Save the Date: Humanities Facility Architect Billie Tsien Will Address SOAP April 28

- Billie Tsien of [TWBTA](#), one half of the architecture team that will design the new Humanities Facility, will deliver the UNM School of Architecture & Planning's 50th Anniversary Lecture
- Hear **Billie Tsien** speak on 4/28 from 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Event will be in person and livestreamed: check next month's newsletter for additional information

### Humanities Project Timeline

- Jan. 2025: Building vacated
- Spring 2025: Abatement begins
- Fall 2025: Demolition concludes
- 2028: New building opens



## LATEST GUIDANCE ON FEDERAL EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

- [Read the latest Joint Communication from the VPR \(2/21\)](#)

**Have you or a colleague received a stop work order for a federal research contract?**

Get in touch with OSP for guidance and support: email Erin Fitzgerald at [efitzgerald@unm.edu](mailto:efitzgerald@unm.edu)



## REMEMBERING OUR A&S COLLEAGUES



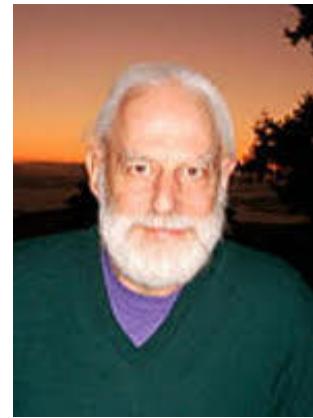
### Professor Horton Newsom, Earth & Planetary Sciences

Over 30 E&PS, NASA and LANL colleagues, former students, UNM leaders, friends and family gathered in Northrop Hall on March 1 to remember Professor Horton Newsom and his legacy of service and scholarship.

Professor Newsom was an E&PS faculty member for 40 years. He played a key role in funding a renovation of the UNM Meteorite Museum, and a crater on Mars was named for Dr. Newsom in honor of his work identifying a landing location for the 2012 Curiosity Rover mission.

Professor Newsom's family has established the Horton Newsom Memorial Fund in his honor. The fund will create a fellowship to allow a future graduate student to work at the Meteorite Museum half-time while also supporting their research.

The College is grateful for Professor Newsom's 40 years of service and sends its condolences to all whose lives were touched by his teaching and love for his field.



### Adjunct Research Professor Ian Maddieson, Linguistics

The College extends its condolences to the friends, family, and students of Adjunct Professor of Linguistics Ian Maddieson, who passed away on February 24.

Professor Maddieson was a distinguished linguist who helped establish the UCLA Phonological Segment Inventory Database (UPSID) in the 1980s and who coauthored the 1996 *The Sounds of the World's Languages* with Peter Ladefoged. He was also a dedicated ultrarunner who completed the Western States Endurance Run many times.

Professor Maddieson was known for his kindness as well as his scholarship and mentorship of students. He will be missed.

## Principal Lecturer Mitchell (Mickey) Odom, Physics & Astronomy

**Mickey Odom, Principal Lecturer Emeritus of Physics & Astronomy**, passed away on January 29, 2025 after a battle with cancer. Odom led introductory labs in Regener Hall and was a valued Lecturer with the department for many years. Professor and department chair Richard Rand shared that Odom "went about his work with kindness, consideration, and humility" and that "he will be greatly missed." Our thoughts are with his family, friends, colleagues and students.



## NEWS FROM YOUR UNM LOGO LIASION

### UCAM Help Resources for Staff & Faculty

Do you need to update a brochure or order a promotional item for your department? UNM branding guidelines can be complex, but you don't have to go it alone.

[University Communication & Marketing \(UCAM\)](#) offers design reviews and branding support if your material:

- Will be printed professionally or used in paid advertising
- Has a 'shelf life' of longer than 2 weeks
- Has an external (non-UNM student, staff, and faculty) audience

UCAM will review your design and provide feedback within 2 business days for most documents. You can also ask questions and get branding support in [UCAM's monthly brand labs on Zoom](#).



## THE COLLEGE'S 2024–25 STRATEGIC PLAN

Stop by the Dean's Office for a hard copy of the College's strategic plan or use the link below for an electronic copy.

*Thanks to all who contributed!*

[READ THE STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

**SHARE YOUR NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We want to hear from you! Share your news, awards, accolades, events and job opportunities with the College.

**SHARE YOUR NEWSLETTER SUGGESTIONS**

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