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APRIL 2025 ISSUE

WELCOME TO THE A&S NEWSLETTER

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

Dear Arts & Sciences community,

This month, we celebrate remarkable faculty and student achievements—from national honors to new publications and events

We hope to see you at the **Teaching Excellence Awards Ceremony** tonight at 4 p.m. in the SUB, where we'll recognize outstanding faculty across the College. ***And don't forget to join us on Wednesday (4/16) at 1:30 in SUB Ballroom C for the A&S Spring Town Hall with Provost Holloway and Dean Malat..***

Celebrating Administrative Professionals Day

Finally, **April 23** is **Administrative Professionals Day**—thank you to all of our incredible A&S staff. Your care and commitment keep the College running—we're grateful for all you do.

Professor Melissa Emery Thompson Receives Lifetime Honor

Professor and Associate Chair Melissa Emery Thompson (Anthropology) has been named a *2024 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)*.

One of the scientific community's most prestigious honors, the AAAS fellowship recognizes Professor Emery Thompson's 25 years of work using noninvasive and community-centered means to study aging in wild chimpanzee populations in Uganda.



Emery Thompson's work contributes to our understanding of human evolution and has significant implications for the current day, as the global population continues to age at a historic rate.

[Read more about Professor Emery Thompson's award.](#)

Spring A&S Town Hall Next Wednesday

Join us for community and updates from **Provost Holloway** and **Dean Malat**.

Spring A&S Town Hall

- April 16, 1:30 p.m.
- SUB Ballroom C
- [RSVP](#)

We look forward to seeing you there.

A&S Dean's Office Staff



GOOD NEWS & UPDATES

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

I'm excited to share a few recent accomplishments from our humanities and interdisciplinary colleagues—please join me in celebrating them.

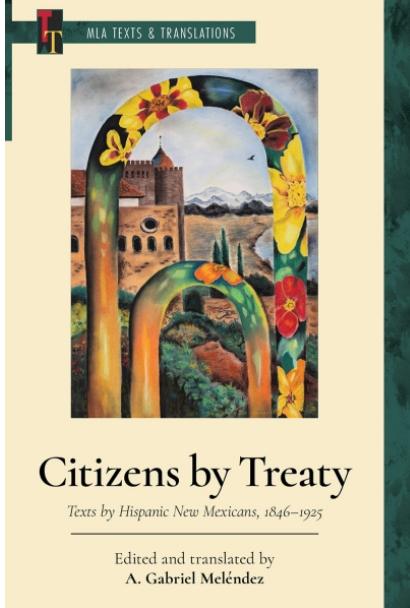
- **Dr. Nahir I. Otaño Gracia** (English) has just published [*The Other Faces of Arthur: Chivalric Whiteness in the Global North Atlantic*](#) with the University of Pennsylvania Press. A major milestone —congrats, Nahir!
- **Dr. Damián Wilson** (Spanish & Portuguese) has been appointed Director of the [Center for Regional Studies](#). We're thrilled to see his leadership guiding CRS into the future.



- **Dr. A. Gabriel Meléndez** (American Studies, Emeritus) received the 2025 MLA Prize for Studies in Native American Literatures, Cultures, and Languages for [*Citizens By Treaty: Texts by Hispanic New Mexicans, 1846–1925*](#).

The text is available in English and Spanish and is a significant contribution to the field.

Also, congratulations to the Department of Chicano & Chicano Studies for successfully cohosting the 50th convening of the [National Association of](#)



Chicana and Chicano Studies in Albuquerque last week.

Thank you to all for the incredible work you do across disciplines!



The Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Units: Keith Hunley

Greetings. Here are a few exciting updates and recognitions from the Anthropology Department:

- **Dr. Catherine Rhodes** will present her new book, [Undoing Modernity: Linguistics, Higher Education and Indigeneity in Yucatan](#), in a virtual event cohosted by Anthropology and LAII.

April 10 | 3:00 p.m.
 [Zoom](#)

- **Dr. Heather Edgar** has been honored by both the [American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the Dental Anthropology Association](#)—well-earned recognition for her contributions to the field.
- **Andrew Kennedy**, one of our doctoral students, was awarded the [Albert A. Dahlberg Prize in Biological Anthropology](#). This national award recognizes his outstanding scholarship.

Thanks for all you do to advance our disciplines and support one another.

Natural Sciences & Mathematics: Peter Fawcett

This month brings some exciting news from Biology and Earth & Planetary Sciences.

Dr. Syed Mubarak Hussain (Biology) has been awarded the [2025 Society for Developmental Biology \(SDB\) Early Career Investigator Award](#), a national honor recognizing outstanding research in developmental biology. He was also selected as a 2025 Kavli Fellow by the National Academy—an exceptional achievement.

Dr. Eric Lindsey (Earth & Planetary Sciences) contributed to a recent [Washington Post](#) article on what the recent earthquake in Myanmar may mean for California's San Andreas Fault.

Kudos to both!



Research & Graduate Studies: **Sharon**



Erickson Nepstad

The Research Team is pleased to share these upcoming opportunities and updates for April.

Support for Undergraduate Research

ASSURE—Deadline extended to April 16
\$3,200 stipends available for 2025–26 academic year

Do you know a student ready to dive into research? The Arts & Sciences Support for Undergraduate Research Experience (ASSURE) offers yearlong support for undergraduates working with mentors on research.

ASSURE especially encourages applications that:

- Engage early-career (lower-division) students
- Include students from underrepresented backgrounds
- Demonstrate clear outcomes for undergraduate researchers

Each selected student receives \$400/month for eight months, totaling \$3,200 in direct support. Faculty may submit one primary and one secondary application (funding permitting). Students must apply with a faculty mentor and submit a resource letter outlining project support.

- Apply by 4/16 via InfoReady: [ASSURE Application](#)

Research Development Support

- Faculty impacted by federal grant closures, including Awards for Faculty at Hispanic-Serving Institutions, are encouraged to contact FRDO (email frdo@unm.edu) for support in finding alternative funding.

Request support early via [this FRDO form](#) as the research team is managing a high volume of work.

Support UNM Undergraduate Scholarship

- **UROC 2025: Undergraduate Research Opportunity Conference**
- April 11 | SUB

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Conference (UROC) provides undergraduate students with a platform to share their research with the UNM community.

Faculty support—through mentorship, judging, and attending—is crucial to the event's success. Please consider dropping in, [volunteering](#), or [serving as a mentor in the future](#).

If you receive notification of a stop work order, termination, or reinstatement of a federal research grant, please:

- Notify the **Office of the Vice President for Research** AND
- Send the notification to awards@unm.edu and CC **Sharon Nepstad** (nepstad@unm.edu)

Student Success: Sushilla Knottenbelt

UNM 2040 Goal 2 Fellows Application by April 11

Do you regularly teach a high enrollment general education course and want to explore the full resources of UNM to improve student outcomes?

Consider applying to join the Faculty Student Experience Project (FSEP). This collaborative initiative will support teams of faculty in redesigning general education courses to improve student and faculty experiences.

Participants will receive a **\$4,000 stipend**.

- Applications are due **April 11**
- Questions? Email [Pamela Cheek](#) or [Sushilla Knottenbelt](#)
- [Learn more + apply](#)



Apply to be a SEP Fellow by April 20

Looking for a lighter lift opportunity to support the students in your class? Learn the foundations of the Student Experience Project with some summer training, a full set of resources and an optional survey tool to help monitor student experience.

- Applications are due by **April 20**
- [Learn more + apply](#)

Apply for Peer Learning Facilitator (PLF) Support for Your Fall Classes by April 11

Looking to create more opportunities for active learning in your classes?

Apply to the Peer Learning Facilitator (PLF) Program to be matched with a trained undergraduate student who can support small-group discussion and in-class engagement for your Fall 2025 class.

Faculty who previously worked with PLFs reported increased:

- Student participation (especially in large or introductory courses)
- Sense of class community

- Proposals due by **April 11 (priority deadline)**
- Questions? [Email Tim Schroeder](#)
- [Submit your proposal](#)

Proposals for CAS Assessment Grants Accepted Through 4/18

The College invites proposals from all disciplines for CAS Assessment Grants, which provide up to \$2,000 to support teaching goals and advance learning outcomes through innovative assessment approaches.

Grants can support either General Education or Academic Program assessment for undergraduate or graduate degrees.

- Proposals due by April 18
- Submit to assessmenttas@unm.edu
- [More details and application material](#)



Why Lecturer Diana Torrez (Sociology) Teaches in TELS Classrooms

I chose to teach in the Learning Studios because the classroom design not only facilitates a student-centered learning environment, but it also increases instructor-student interaction.

Students are aware that their contributions in the classroom are as important to the learning process as the instructors'. Importantly, this form of active learning increases students' achievement of course learning outcomes.

→ Interested in teaching in a TELS classroom next spring or observing one in action? Email

Upcoming Teaching & Learning Workshops

CTL is also hosting several [upcoming workshops](#) if you're interested in exploring or enhancing your course design:

An Introduction to Transparent Assignment Design

Date: April 18

Time: 11:00 a.m.–noon | Location: Zoom

[Details & registration](#)

Pedagogies of CARE

Date: April 23

Time: 11:00 a.m.–noon | Location: Zoom

[Details & registration](#)

Enhancing Your Inclusive Teaching

Date: May 1

Time: 10:00– 11:00 a.m. | Location: Zoom

[Details & registration](#)

Cultivating Long-Lasting Learning through Authentic Assessment

Date: May 5

Time: 2:00–3:00 p.m. | Location: Zoom

[Details & registration](#)

Arts & Sciences Staff News

Welcome (Back) to Karyth Becenti!

The College is excited to welcome **Karyth Becenti** back to the Dean's Office as our new Supervisor of Administrative Support.

Here's a little more about Karyth:

Karyth Becenti earned her undergraduate degree in English from UNM and a master's degree in Communication from Purdue University. With a background in marketing, writing, and editing, she has contributed to local publications and worked extensively in brand development and digital strategy. Her professional interests include branding, goal setting, and digital marketing.



Welcome, Karyth!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Monthly Mingles

- Wednesday, May 7

The final spring Mingle will begin at noon and will be on the Ortega Hall 2nd Floor Patio or in Ortega 335.

Spring Events

The Department of Chicana & Chicano Studies invites you to:

Guest speaker [Dr. Divana Olivas](#) on "New Mexico Food Cultures & Ecologies of Belonging."

- April 11 | 4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.
- [On Zoom](#) | Passcode: APR11

The Departments of English, Communication & Journalism, & American Studies and AfroMundo invite you to a conversation in honor of National Arab American Heritage Month about:

"The Power of Diaspora Storytelling" with Palestinian-Canadian Writer [Saeed Teebi](#) (Western University).

- April 14 | 12:00 p.m.
- Ortega 335
- Lunch provided
- [RSVP](#)

ADVANCE, CTL, & the Offices of Academic Affairs & the Vice President for Research invite you to a [UNM Faculty Lightning Lounge](#) featuring:

"Watching Brains Make Choices" ([Dr. Jeremy Hogeveen](#), Psychology) and "Shared.Futures: Exploring Possible Futures Through Artscience" ([Dr. Yolanda Lin](#), Geography & Environmental Studies).

- April 16 | 4:00–5:00 p.m.
- Ortega 335

The Latin American & Iberian Institute invites you to:

"[Women and the African Diaspora in the Films of Aída Bueno Sarduy](#)," a talk by [Aída Bueno Sarduy](#).

- April 17 | 12:30–2:00 p.m.
- Ortega 335

The History Department invites you to the 2025 C. Ruth & Calvin. P. Horn Lecture in Western History & Culture on:

"[Comekala and Ranald MacDonald: Making Pacific Worlds through Indigenous Exploration](#)," a presentation by [Dr. Joshua L. Reid](#) (University of Washington).

- April 17 | 5:30 p.m.
- Hodgin Hall, Bobo Room
- Light refreshments & book signing to follow

The Feminist Research Institute invites you to a talk on:

"Aesthetics of Survival, Arts of Repair: Travesti-Trans Politics in Argentina" with [Dr. Cole Rizki](#) (University of Virginia).

- April 17 | 3:00 p.m.
- Sandia Room (SUB)

The Global Education Office invites you to:

International Festival 2025: Food, crafts, performers, & fun.

- April 17 | 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
- Cornell Mall

The International Studies Institute invites you to join its 2025 Middle East Lecture Series (MELS) as part of National Arab American Heritage Month:

["Denied Citizens: Baha'is in the Post-1979 Revolution of Iran."](#) A talk by **Dr. Saghar Sadeghian** (Willamette University).

- April 17 | 3:30–4:30 p.m.
- Ortega 335

["The Jewish Exodus from the Muslim Middle East: Is 1948 Rightfully Taken as the Breakpoint?"](#) A talk by **Dr. Lior Sternfeld** (Penn State).

- April 22 | 3:30–4:30 p.m.
- Ortega 335

["Supporting Refugee Communities from the Middle East in Albuquerque."](#) A talk by **Dr. Jessica Goodkind** (Refugee & Immigrant Well-Being Project).

- April 29 | 3:30–4:30 p.m.
- Ortega 335

The College's Diversity, Equity, Accessibility & Inclusion Committee (DEAI) invites you to a three-part event series, "Bridging the Arts & Science Divide:"

Keynote and Q&A With [Dr. Willi Lempert](#) (Bowdoin College).

- April 22 | 12:00 p.m.
- PAIS 3205 and on Zoom
- Lunch provided

The Power of Methodology—A Roundtable Discussion

["From Interstellar Imperialism to Celestial Wayfinding: Prime Directives & Colonial Time-Knots in SETI!"](#) Dr. Lempert & UNM faculty respond.

- April 23 | 4:00 p.m.
- Ortega 335
- Snacks provided

Guided Visit—The Works of [Raymond Jonson](#) (1891–1982)—space is limited.

- April 24 | 2:30 p.m.
- UNM Art Museum
- [RSVP](#) for Zoom links. ASL interpretation provided for all events.

The DEAI Committee is also hosting a **staff listening session** on feeling valued.

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

The Department of Chemistry & Chemical Biology invites you to:

"Superprotionics For Sustainable Electrochemical Energy Technologies," the **2025 Milton Kahn Endowed Lectureship**, presented by [Dr. Sossina M. Haile](#) (Northwestern University).

- April 25 | 4:00 p.m.
- Clark Hall 101
- Reception to follow in Clark 105

- [Professor Marissa Greenberg \(English\) Wins Barbara Hodgon Award from the Shakespeare Association of America](#)
- [Professor Sarah Hernandez \(English\) Wins 2025 Sarah Belle Brown Community Service Award](#)
- [History Doctoral Student Jonathan Seyfried Wins Alan DuPont Breck Award for Research on King Joan I of the Crown of Aragon](#)
- [Distinguished Professor Emeritus Enrique Lamadrid \(Spanish & Portuguese\) Coauthors Water for the People: The Acequia Heritage of New Mexico in a Global Context](#)

UNM's "It's Not Rocket Science" Podcast Features A&S Faculty

[How a Higher Alcohol Tax Could Save Lives](#)

Economics Professor Brady Horn shares research on the relationship between alcohol taxation and the incidence of drunk driving.



REMINDERS & LOOK AHEADS

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

THE EVALUATION SUMMER INSTITUTE

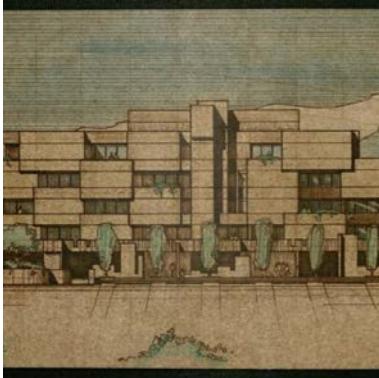
- June 2–6
- UNM Rotunda

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](#)

HSS PROJECT UPDATES

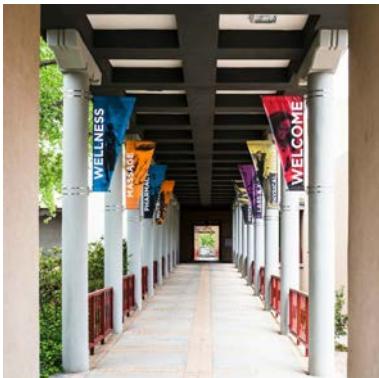


HSS Facility Architect Billie Tsien Will Address on Campus April 28

- 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. in [George Pearl Hall](#)

HSS 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

Updated 3/6/25

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

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

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 news, awards, accolades, events and job opportunities within the College.

[SHARE YOUR NEWS](#)

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